

# **A Prayer Dialogue**

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Confirmation Retreat

This is a brief conversation between a teenager and God. It is meant to be a surprise to the youth as he/she begins a period of prayer unaware he/she might get what is prayed for. It attempts to affirm what the teen does as "gospel" and an example of daily dialogue with God.

It begins with the youth simply lighting a candle, sighing, and starting to pray with a pathetic "Oh God." Prayer continues and surprise begins when God answers.

Only a candle is needed, and even that is unnecessary. It serves to create a mood and a setting, however. It also provides a logical, neat end to the piece--blow it out!

The teen can come in and sit on a stool. God should be out of sight and be heard to speak boldly. A female voice for God is recommended.

Themes: Prayer, Our Father, Beatitudes, Listening, Social Justice, Affirmation.

# A Prayer Dialogue

Youth enters, lights a candle, and sits down. Exhales:  
"Oh God."

WHAT !

(Shock!)  
"Who's there?"

WHOM DO YOU THINK?

"I don't recognize the voice."

IF YOU'D LISTEN MORE OFTEN, MAYBE YOU WOULD !

(Concerned)  
"Oh God."

WHAT !

"Is this who I think it is?"

I DON'T KNOW. WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

"No, I mean, is this God talking?"

NO, YOU'RE FRED. (pause) I am GOD.

"Oh God."

EXACTLY.

"What do you want?"

**YOU ARE THE ONE WHO CALLED.**

"I did? Oh, I guess I did."

YES. AND YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS CALL ME BY NAME, HUNDREDS OF TIMES EVERY DAY. ALTHOUGH, THE WAY YOU USE MY NAME, I GET THE IMPRESSION I AM THE LAST PERSON YOU WANT TO SEE AT THE TIME. I'M A LITTLE TIRED OF BEING EXCLUDED AS A MATTER OF FACT.

"Excluded."

EXCLUDED. LOOK AT IT FROM MY POINT OF VIEW. I DECIDE TO SHARE EVERYTHING I'VE GOT. I PUT IT ALL TOGETHER FOR YOU. LET YOU RUN IT. ALL I ASK FOR IS A LITTLE RECOGNITION, AND ALL I GET IS AN "*Oh God.*"

"I'm sorry."

IT'S OK. I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY. YOU HAVE PLENTY TO DO, DEALING WITH FOOD AND HOUSING, CLOTHING AND FAMILY.

"Not really. I live in an OK house, and the refrigerator is full. I got clothes. I got family. All my friends do too!"

NOT ALL MY FRIENDS DO. I HEAR FROM THEM ALL THE TIME. THEY WONDER IF I HEAR THEM. THEY WONDER WHERE I'VE BEEN.

"What do you tell them?"

VERY OFTEN I DON'T TELL THEM ANYTHING. I JUST HOPE THEY ARE PATIENT WHILE I AM TALKING TO YOU.

"Me?"

HOW DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GET THEM FED?

"Me?"

CLOTHED, HOUSED, AND LISTENED TO?

"Me?"

YEP. LIKE I SAID. I PUT ENOUGH THERE TO GO AROUND. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CONTINUE TO MAKE SURE THAT ONES WHO NEED IT MOST, GET IT.

"World hunger is a little beyond me. I'm only one person."

YOU BOUGHT SOMEONE LUNCH YESTERDAY.

"She had no cash. And she was kinda cute."

NEVERTHELESS, YOU SAW THAT SHE GOT FED, AND YOU MADE SURE SHE DIDN'T FEEL EMBARRASSED. THAT WAS THOUGHTFUL.

"And what was that you said about clothing the world?"

YOU CAN'T CLOTHE THE WHOLE WORLD ALL AT ONCE. BUT YOU HAD A GOOD START WHEN YOU PARTED WITH THAT WINTER JACKET YOU GAVE TO THE CLOTHING DRIVE AT YOUR PARISH.

"I didn't need it."

AND SOMEBODY ELSE DID, AND THEY ARE WEARING IT NOW. AND THEY ARE WARM. AND THEY ARE GRATEFUL. WELL DONE.

"It was only a coat, and I have another one--a varsity jacket. I don't have to give that away do I?"

NO. THAT ONE LOOKS GOOD ON YOU. WEAR IT WITH PRIDE.

"I promise I will do what I can. Is that enough?"

I WOULD NEVER ASK FOR MORE. TRUST ME.

"I'd like to."

I KNOW.

"I'll give it a try."

GOOD FOR YOU.

"Oh, God?"

YES!

"Do you mind if I start praying now?"

WHAT?

"Start praying, . . .you know, Our Father and stuff like that. . . .?"

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "START PRAYING?" YOU HAVE BEEN DOING JUST FINE FOR THE PAST FIVE MINUTES OR SO.

"But you did most of the talking. I just listened."

THAT'S THE BEST KIND OF PRAYER. . . . AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

"Oh." (pause) "Oh, God?"

YES.

"Thanks."

AMEN. (pause) AMEN.

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