

All in a Mom's Day's Work

By

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Theme:

Two teenage kids want to give their Mom a day off as a gift for Mother's Day. They ask her to compile a list of the things that she typically does during an average Friday. She compiles a list and the two attempt to split up the tasks so that they can complete a single day's worth of work for their Mother. Through the errors that they end up making while attempting to complete all of the things on the list, they learn that it's not that easy to be a Mom and they gain a new appreciation for all that she does for them. Let's just hope that the appreciation lasts more than a few weeks.

Biblical Reference:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your Mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

There is a kitchen table set at center stage with two chairs at opposite sides. It can be of any size, but due to the events of the play, a card table will work best.

Two laundry baskets.

A heap of laundry.

Two pairs of distinctively colored socks.

A notebook.

A pen.

Cast of Characters:

Mom: A loving stay-at-home Mother who has devoted her life to meeting the day to day needs of her family.

Josh: A teenage son who has no clue as to the things that his Mother does for him nor how difficult the tasks can be.

Beth: A teenage daughter who is in pretty much the same situation that her brother is in.

Scene:

Mother is sitting at the table that is at center stage. Her daughter approaches her and queries her.

Beth: Mom, can I ask you a question?

Mom: Why sure Beth. What can I do for you?

Beth: Me and Josh were trying to think of something that we could do for you on Mother's Day this year that would be really different.

Mom: That's really nice of you.

Beth: We've decided that this year we're gonna' give you a day off.

Mom: Well that's really nice of you, but I think that I should remind you that you usually give me the day off on Mother's Day.

Beth: Yeah, and we'll do that again this year too, but this year we want to give you the Friday before Mother's Day off too. Josh and I want to do everything that you usually do on a Friday so that you can just relax and do whatever you want to do that day.

Mom: Well, that certainly is something new.

Beth: We think that you deserve it.

Mom: Well, thank you. Do you think that the two of you can handle all that I do around here on a typical Friday?

Beth: Well Mom, there are two of us, and we are almost grown up you know.

Mom: I know, I know.

Beth: Besides, how hard can it be to do what you do?

Mom: *[With a tinge of revenge in her voice.]* I guess you'll be finding that out for yourselves, won't you?

Beth: Yes we will. But don't worry about us. We'll be just fine.

Mom: I'm sure that you'll live through the experience, barely.

Beth: Very funny Mother. All you have to do is make a list of the things that you usually do on a Friday.

Mom: Everything?

Beth: And don't take it easy on us either.

Mom: Oh, I won't.

Beth: Here's a notebook for you to list all of the things that you do on a Friday.

Mom: Do you want me to fill the notebook?

Beth: No.

Mom: Just kidding. How do you want me to list things?

Beth: That's up to you.

Mom: All right. Here goes.

Beth: Well, I'll leave you alone to get your list together.

Mom: Thanks.

[Beth Exits. Mom begins to write her list. Curtain. The stage is left as it is for the second scene. Beth is sitting at the table going over the list that Mother has left them with. Josh enters.]

Josh: You were lookin' for me Beth?

Beth: Yeah. Sit down. Are you ready for this?

[He sits.]

Josh: What you got for me?

Beth: This is the list of the stuff that Mom says that she does every Friday.

Josh: *[Panicking.]* That's the list? You've got to be kiddin' me. Are you sure that you told her to write down what she does in a day or in a week?

Beth: She didn't fill up the whole notebook. Just 24 pages.

Josh: 24 pages? That's a lot of stuff.

Beth: And that's just what she does on a Friday. I can't believe it either.

Josh: She must be makin' stuff up.

Beth: That's what I thought, but it all looks legit to me.

Josh: I had no idea that ma did so much stuff on a Friday. We should'a picked another day.

Beth: Josh, we said that we were going to do this. We have to get it done and we can't complain about it either.

Josh: I know, I know, it's just that I wasn't expecting to have to do a lot of work.

Beth: Mom broke down her list by each hour. There are 24 pieces of paper here. It's not as bad as it looks.

Josh: That's good.

Beth: A lot of these things are pretty easy and a lot of these things are things that we don't have to worry about.

Josh: Like what?

Beth: Well, from 12:00 to 6:00 am she sleeps.

Josh: I can do that for her.

Beth: I know. The next thing she wrote down is that she gets up at 6:00 in the morning.

Josh: I gotta' get up at 6 in the morning?

Beth: We both do. But the first things on the list are things that we normally do to get ready for school.

Josh: Well, I can handle that.

Beth: During the breakfast hour things are going to be pretty hairy. But I think that, between the two of us we should be able to get everything done.

Josh: All right. Please tell me that it slows down after that.

Beth: Well, it really doesn't slow down again until about 8:00 at night.

Josh: You got to be kidding me.

Beth: Unfortunately, I'm not kidding.

Josh: What have you gotten me into?

Beth: Rather than complain about it, let's just figure out how we're gonna' get all of this stuff done in one day.

Josh: All right. Let's do it.

[Curtain.]

[Scene three begins Josh enters with an armful of clean unfolded clothes. He piles them on top of the table. There are empty laundry baskets on each of the chairs. Josh selects one distinctly, brightly colored sock off of the top of the pile, which has been strategically placed there so that he can easily identify it. He puts the sock in his hand as he tries to dig through the pile of clothes in search of the other one. He alternates the sock between his hands and his mouth as he digs through the pile of clothes in search of the match. He has obviously never folded laundry before. Clothes are falling onto the floor as he continues to search for the match of the sock. Each time an article of clothing falls to the floor he tries to get it back onto the table only to make something else fall onto the floor. He should alternate his efforts to get all of the laundry off of the floor with his efforts to match the sock. Josh should make appropriate noises as his frustration mounts.]

Let the bit last long enough for the audience to get a good laugh out of it, but don't let the humor become stale.

After Josh has looked through all of the clothes, has knocked a bunch of clothes off the table, has picked a bunch back up, etc. Beth enters with another armful of clean clothes and just dumps them out on top of the pile on the table. Beth has that match to the sock hidden in her hand. When she puts the clothes on top of the table she makes sure that she drops the matched sock onto the floor beneath the table. More clothes fall onto the floor as she puts the armful of clothes onto the table.

She leaves the stage to get more of the clean clothes.

Josh digs into the new pile of clothes with renewed vigor. After not being able to find the match on the table he digs into the clothes that fell onto the floor. He finally finds the match in the clothes that are on the floor. In his excitement to find the match he hits his head on the bottom of the table on his way back up and more clothes fall onto the floor. Once standing it is obvious that he is excited about making the match. He now attempts to ball the socks together and in the process he stretches the socks way beyond their normal size. He is unsuccessful at balling the socks up in the preferred manner and ends up tying them into a knot instead. He steps back and shoots a basket into the nearest laundry basket and triumphantly celebrates the score. He then begins to repeat the same process with another brightly colored sock that he picks off the top of the pile.

Beth enters just as he has finished searching the clothes on top of the table and begins to search those on the floor. The above process is repeated, except this time Beth just stands there watching her brother, not believing what she is seeing. After he scores his second basket, she steps forward and retrieves one of the sock balls from the basket and chides him.]

Beth: What are you doing?

Josh: I'm folding the laundry. What does it look like I'm doing?

Beth: Playing basketball. *[Indicating the sock ball that she has in her hand.]* And ruining our socks. This isn't how you fold socks.

Josh: I know. I couldn't get the socks to ball up like Mom does, but this will work. When you open your drawer to get a pair of socks the two socks that go on your feet will be together, won't they?

Beth: Yeah, they'll be together. [*Trying to get the pair apart.*] But I don't think that I'll ever get them apart again.

Josh: Sorry.

Beth: Besides, at this rate we'll never get the clothes done on time. Especially since we had to wash them all twice.

Josh: Look, I'm sorry. So I forgot to put soap in the first time. I don't think that it's all that big of a deal. Just drop it, okay? How much longer do we have to get these clothes folded before we have to head for the bank?

Beth: [*Looking at her watch.*] About ten minutes.

Josh: Maybe we should ask Mom for some help.

Beth: No way.

Josh: Why not?

Beth: Because we've already asked her to help us out [*listing them on her fingers*] making breakfast and lunch...

Josh: We would have done just fine if I hadn't burnt myself on the frying pan.

Beth: ...cleaning the bathroom...

Josh: How was I supposed to know that the [*sarcastic*] tub and tile cleaner would take paint off of the walls.

Beth: ...going grocery shopping...

Josh: We would have been fine if the list had been organized so that I didn't have to go all over the store looking for everything. By the time we found the veggies the ice cream was melted all over the cart. That wasn't my fault.

Beth: ...doing the dishes...

Josh: Mom didn't help us do the dishes, she just told us where they went after they were clean. I never knew we had so much stuff in our cupboards.

Beth: Well, anyway, she did help us an awful lot today and I'm not going to ask her to cover for you again.

Josh: Why are you making it sound as if I've been the only one messing up today? You've had your share of mess-ups today too.

Beth: Oh yeah, name one.

Josh: We had to do the wash the third time because you put the fabric softener sheet in the washing machine.

Beth: I thought that the clothes would be extra soft if they had more exposure to the softener.

- Josh: Yeah, well the thing broke up into millions of pieces which embedded themselves into our clothes.
- Beth: I'm sorry.
- Josh: And what about how you forgot to put the meat on dad's sandwich? Or how you forgot to put a bag in the vacuum cleaner before you started to clean the house?
- Beth: How was I supposed to know that the bag was missing?
- Josh: The intense cloud of dust that followed you everywhere you went didn't give you a clue?
- Beth: I thought that the vacuum was just burning a little of dust off of the engine.
- Josh: It looked like there was a swarm of locusts surrounding you or something.
- Beth: Besides, Mom said that she's done that before.
- Josh: And now she'll have to do it all over again, too. Let's just face it. We really messed up today. I never knew that the stuff that Mom did was all that hard.
- Beth: I thought that she just sat around all day and read books or something.
- Josh: We wanted to give her a day off and what we really did was just give her more work to do.
- Beth: I don't know how long it's gonna' take her to fix all the stuff that we did wrong today. I feel bad. [*Looks at her watch.*] Ah, shoot, we were supposed to be back from the bank by now. [*Ready to cry.*] Now what are we gonna' do?
- Josh: We'd better just throw these clothes in the dryer and tell Mom that we didn't have time to get to them, or that we just forgot about them and get over to the bank as soon as we can.
- Beth: [*Whining, on the verge of tears.*] It's too late the bank is already closed. Now we won't have any money to take Mom out to brunch on Sunday. Now what are we gonna' do?
- [*Mom enters. She goes to Beth and comforts her.*]
- Mom: It's all right Beth. I just got back from the bank. Everything's all right.
- Beth: I'm sorry that we really messed up.
- Josh: We wanted to do all of your work for you and give you a day off, but I guess that we just ended up making more work for you in the end.
- Beth: We had no idea how much work you do.
- Josh: Yeah, it's way more than we expected.

Beth: I'm sorry that we messed everything up.

Mom: That's all right. You didn't mess everything up.

Beth: We didn't.

Mom: No. Even though you wouldn't have guessed it you two gave me a great Mother's Day gift today.

Josh: We did?

Mom: Yes, you did. One of the hardest parts of being a Mom is not getting any thanks for all of the things that I do around the house. Everyone does their own thing thinking that the things that I do get done on their own, or that they're not very hard to do. But now the two of you know that I do a lot around here.

Josh: And we know how hard it is to do it right.

Mom: You see, Dad can talk about how things are going at work, you two can tell me all about how things are going at school, but nobody wants to hear how well I did with the laundry or how my trip to the grocery store went. It makes me feel left out in a way.

Beth: I'll make sure that you don't feel left out any more, 'cause doin' all this stuff is way tougher than doin' homework.

Josh: Or mowin' the lawn.

Mom: You know what the best part of having you do all of my work today was?

Beth: No.

Mom: The fact that I got to do it all with the two of you. By messing everything up you allowed me to help you out all day long, which is more like having the two of you help me out. I wish that we could do that more often. When the two of you were younger you used to help me out all the time, but now that you're older it's hard for me to get you to help me out like you did today.

Josh: [*As if he just got an incredible idea.*] Mom, I promise that I will make time every week to help you out - and that we can do stuff like this together.

Beth: Yeah, me too.

Mom: [*To Josh.*] I'll let you do that if you promise one thing.

Josh: What's that?

Mom: [*Picking up a 'folded' pair of socks and trying to unfold them.*] That you never try to fold the laundry ever again until I teach you how to do it right.

[*They all laugh.*]


Josh: Deal.

Mom: I'm just glad that they're your socks and not mine. Come on, let's hide these in the dryer and get dinner ready for your dad.

Josh: [*To Beth as he's picking up the laundry.*] See, I told you we should'a thrown them in the dryer.

[*They each exit with an armful of clothes.*]

- CURTAIN -

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with a central, symmetrical, swirling design.

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