

## Searching For God

By

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### Theme:

This play conveys the truth that we should all search for a closer walk with the Lord. The play outlines ways for us to find that closer walk, and shows how we usually find other things to get in the way.

### Biblical Reference:

1 Chronicles 28:9

And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

### Approximate Running Time:

25 minutes

### Props:

A Video Camera

**Cast of Characters:**

**Beth:** A contemporary investigative news reporter who is searching for the answer to the question: how does one find God? She is dressed smartly in a dress suit.

**Josh:** Beth's investigative news partner. He is dressed smartly in a suit.

**Brian:** Beth and Josh's camera man. The three have been working as a team for some time. Brian does not have any speaking parts. He spends the entire play trying to get all of the interviews on tape as best as he can. He is dressed in jeans and T-shirt.

**The people (Numbered 1-20):**

Those who are being interviewed by Beth and Josh. They are just passersby within a mall who have been asked to take part in the interview. They are dressed as they would if they were heading out to the mall to go shopping.

**Notes:**

The character names may be replaced with the names of the actors.

The numbers can be replaced with the names of the actors as well.

If you wish to add an additional feature to this play, you could rig a projection television, or a regular TV, on stage which will "broadcast" everything that Brian's camera sees. The audience will be able to see the play take place "live on stage" and be able to glance over to see what the finished product will look like as well.

**Scene:**

As the play opens the stage is set as a mall. All of the actors are walking across the stage in groups as if they were walking around in the mall. Their entrance and exit on stage must be well timed with their line cues. Beth and Josh are trying to get someone's attention while Brian is trying to catch it all on film. The play opens as they are preparing to begin interviewing.

Beth: Are you ready, Brian?

*[Brian nods.]*

Beth: Are you ready, Josh?

Josh: I'm ready when you are.

Beth: 3, 2, 1 - Welcome to this special live news report from channel five news. I'm Beth Roberts...

Josh: And I'm Joshua Adams. We're at the Lakeview Mall to ask some mall goers the question: How does one find God?

*[Beth moves to the first two people, stops them, and begins to interview them. The first two people are a married couple in their early thirties. 1 is a man, 2 is a woman.]*

Beth: Excuse me sir, I'm Beth Roberts from Channel Five news. Would you mind if we asked you a few questions?

1: No, not at all, how can I help you?

Josh: Thank you sir, I'm Joshua Adams, we're looking for some answers to the question: how does one find God? Can you tell us if you've ever searched for God?

1: Yeah, that's something that I've been trying to do: search for God, and I can tell you - it's not easy.

Beth: It's not?

2: No, I can honestly say that my husband and I have spent a lot of time searching for God, or at least trying to search for Him, but for one reason or another we've never been able to get that close to Him.

Josh: So, you admit that you've been seeking a closer walk with God, but you also admit that you can't seem to find the closer walk with Him you've been seeking?

1: That's right.

Beth: What do you believe are some of the reasons why you haven't been able to get that closer walk that you've been looking for?

2: Well, I'm sure that our story is pretty unique. I met my husband while we were in college. Even back then I can remember how we were seeking a closer walk with Him. We would attend Bible Studies from time to time, and go to church once in a while, but it never really seemed to have that big of an impact on our lives. We were searching for something, that closer walk with God, I think, but we were never able to find it.

1: It's not as if it was a new thing, either. We've been searching for a closer walk with God for a long time. We were both raised in Christian homes, with caring and loving parents, who took us to church on a regular basis. It seems as if we've had every opportunity to find that closer walk, but I guess we just thought that our faith would just work itself out.

2: At that time my husband had plans to go into the ministry, actually to be a pastor, but those plans never really panned out for him.

Beth: Can you tell me why those plans never really panned out for you?

1: Well, we got married right after we both finished with college.

Josh: So, would you say that your marriage is what kept you from fulfilling your plans to find a closer relationship with God?

2: Yeah, I guess so. Although we never really planned it that way. We wanted to take a few years off of school before we went back into seminary to study to be a pastor, you know, enjoy our new marriage together.

1: One thing led to another and before we knew it we were settled in a family and a new job and we never really got back on track after that.

Beth: Well, thank you very much for your time. Good luck on your search for God in the future.

1: Thanks.

*[1 and 2 move on and Beth and Josh look for their next interview. 3 and 4 are two young college friends.]*

Beth: Excuse me, I'm Beth Roberts from Channel Five news. Would you mind if we asked you a few questions?

3: Sure, we overheard a bit of what you were asking the last couple, but we didn't get the question.

Josh: Great, thanks for helping us out. The question was: Can you tell us if you've ever searched for God?

4: Wow. That's a loaded question. Have I ever searched for God? You bet. I've been searching for God for years, but for some reason He keeps on eluding me.

3: You're not going to believe this, but at one time we actually had plans of serving God on the mission field.

Beth: You were planning on being missionaries?

4: That's right.

Josh: But you never became missionaries?

- 3: No, it seems as if our good intentions were about as far as we got.
- Beth: Can you pinpoint what exactly kept you from becoming missionaries?
- 4: Well, we've been friends since high school, that's where we went to youth group together...
- 3: And that's when we decided that we were going to go to a Christian college and study so that we could serve God on the mission field.
- 4: It seems as if one degree led to a job, and then the job led me to another degree, which led me to another job, and before I knew it I wasn't planning on going to the mission field anymore.
- Josh: And during this time you were still searching for a closer walk with God?
- 4: Yeah, that's always been my goal, but it's been something that I was willing to put off until I could put all my effort into it.
- Beth: But that time never came, did it?
- 4: It hasn't come yet, and I'm not sure if it will come at all.
- 3: I know that it seems foolish to say, but we were both looking for a closer relationship with God so that we could serve Him, but we were putting off the closer relationship with Him until we were ready.
- Beth: We really appreciate your willingness to share from your heart about this tough topic.
- Josh: Yes, thank you for your candid answers, and good luck with your pursuit.
- 3 and 4: Thanks.

*[3 and 4 shake hands with Beth and Josh and then make their way off stage. 5, 6, 7, & 8 move closer to Josh and Beth. They are a group of Godly teenagers from church who are actively involved with their church youth group.]*

5: Are you Josh Adams and Beth Roberts from Channel 5 News?

Beth: Yes, that's who we are, so who are you?

*[Each introduces themselves.]*

Josh: It's a pleasure meeting you. We're looking for some answers to the question: how does one find God? Can you guys help us out?

6: That sounds easy enough.

7: I'm more than happy to help you out. What do you need to know?

- Josh: Can you tell us if you've ever searched for God?
- 7: I sure have, but it's not easy, that I can tell you.
- 8: Yeah, searching for God is one of the toughest things that I've ever done.
- Beth: Where have you been searching for God?
- 5: Well, at church of course.
- 6: Yeah, we go to youth group every week.
- Josh: And is youth group where you're searching for God?
- 7: Well, that's like the best place for kids our age to find out more about God, isn't it?
- 8: We've been going to youth group for a few years, and we've all heard about how important it is to find a closer walk with God, and we've all tried it, but I don't think that any of us got any closer.
- Beth: What kind of things have you tried?
- 5: Well, our youth pastor suggested we try to serve others as a way to get closer to God.
- Josh: And did that work?
- 6: Well, we never were able to serve others, I mean we tried - real hard, but for some reason we never were able to find the time that it takes to serve others.
- Beth: What kind of things were you planning on doing?
- 7: Well, our youth pastor suggested we start by visiting the city mission or by visiting the nursing homes, but that never really worked for us.
- 8: I don't mean to be rude, but do you know what kind of people go to those kind of places? There was no way I was going to go there.
- Beth: Ok, other than pride, what else got in the way of you getting closer to God by serving others?
- 5: Well, if you want me to be really honest with you...
- Josh: That's what we're looking for.
- 5: I was busy watching TV and surfing the Internet - I know that sounds lame, but that's what I'm into and that's what gets in the way, you know, between me and God.

6: Yeah, that and, I'm well, I'm into way too many sports, and that kind'a stuff, at school to take that kind of time off and go to those kind'a places. My schedule is just way too full to do that kind'a stuff.

Beth: And yet you find the time to come here to the mall?

7: Hey, are you guys like trying to come down heavy on us for not doing that stuff our youth pastor told us to do?

Beth: Sorry. I didn't mean to come down heavy on you.

8: I know, there's plenty of excuses we can make for not doing what we know we're supposed to do, but I guess that's just the way that life goes when you're our age, you know?

Josh: Well, thanks for your time, and for speaking from your heart like you did. I really appreciate it, and maybe, sometime soon, you'll be able to find that closer walk with God that you're searching for.

All: Thanks.

*[5,6,7, & 8 move back into the crowd and 9, 10, 11, & 12 are singled out. They're a rock group in the making. 12 is obviously older than the rest. They hope to make it big, but so far they're the only ones singing their songs in the shower, if you know what I mean.]*

Beth: Excuse me, I'm Beth Roberts from Channel Five news. Would you mind if we asked you a few questions?

9: Cool, are we like on TV or something?

Josh: Well, we're not on TV now, but you'll be on TV later if you give us a good interview.

10: Cool, what do you want to interview us about?

Beth: Great, thanks for helping us out. The question we're asking people is: Can you tell us if you've ever searched for God?

11: Wow, that's quite a question to come right out of the blue like that. What kind of answers are you getting?

Josh: Well, most people have been telling us that they've been looking for a closer walk with God, but for one reason or another they just haven't been finding the closer walk they're looking for.

Beth: Do you have a story that you'd like to tell us?

12: Yeah, we've got a story to tell you, and I'm sure that it's pretty unique, I mean, there aren't many others like us out there.

9: That's for sure. We're a new rock group that's just starting out.

- 10: That's an understatement. We only have a few fans, so far.
- 11: And most of them are related to us.
- [They all laugh.]
- 9: But that's going to change. The Lord's really going to bless us, I just know it.
- Josh: Why do you think that the Lord's going to bless you?
- 9: Because we've really been seeking Him in the music that we play and the lives that we live.
- 10: Yeah, we're really careful where we play and what kind of songs we play.
- 11: Some other groups will do just about anything to get famous, but we're not that dumb.
- 12: Hey, I've been there before.
- Beth: Where have you been before?
- 12: I've been willing to do whatever it took to make the big time fame and fortune road in life. I've done it all, drugs, booze, sex, and whatever it took to "make it," if you know what I mean. But then I got saved and I realized that all of it was a waste of time. I know it's hard to believe, that I was willing to throw it all away just because I met Jesus, but He changed my life and I promised Him that I would never go back to that kind of a life again. Man, that was 10 years ago.
- Josh: And have you gone back?
- 12: No way.
- 9: He heard us singing in our church and asked us if he could play guitar for us.
- 10: We really needed someone who could play the guitar so we gave him a shot.
- 11: He's really good. He came into our band and make a really big impact on our music - and our lives. He's the one that made us realize how important it is for us to give our talents back to God. He gave us the ability to sing and make music, why shouldn't we give that gift back to Him by honoring Him in all the songs that we sing and all of the places we go to sing at?
- 9: Since that day, we haven't sung a song that hasn't glorified God.
- 10: And He's really blessed us for it.
- Beth: So, are you saying that you sought a closer walk with God and you found it?



12: That's what I'm saying. You've just got to give everything up to Him and He'll give you what you're looking for. If you let things like fame and fortune get in-between you and your relationship with God, you'll never find what you're really looking for.

9: Hey, that sounds like it could be a really good song. [*He begins singing.*] You'll never find what you're looking for...

*[The others begin to join him as they walk off to fine tune their new song. 12 turns back to say good-bye as they exit.]*

Josh: Thanks for your interview, and good luck with the song.

Beth: Wow, of all the people we interviewed, I would have said that those were the least likely to have found a closer walk with God. I mean, by the way they looked, I would have thought they were the last ones who would have cared at all about God, but they took Him seriously.

Josh: And it looks like He's chosen to reward them by blessing their music. That just goes to show you that you can't judge someone by the way they look.

*[13, 14, 15, & 16 enter and begin to fool around. They are obvious teenage troublemakers in the midst of making trouble.]*

Josh: Hey, look at those kids over there.

Beth: Just steer clear of them, ok.

Josh: Why, don't you think it would be fun to interview them?

Beth: No. You're not considering approaching them, are you?

Josh: Yeah, why not? We're looking for all kinds of perspectives, aren't we?

Beth: I guess so. I just hope that I locked my purse in the equipment trunk, that's all.

Josh: [*Calling out to them.*] Excuse me, can I speak with you guys for a minute?

13: Hey, we didn't do anything wrong.

Josh: Yes, we know that you didn't do anything wrong, at least that's what we assumed. You haven't done anything wrong, have you?

13: No way, we're clean man.

Josh: Good. We stopped you so that we could ask you a few questions about finding God.

- 14: Oh, I see, in that case. [*Happy to do anything as long as they don't get in trouble.*] We're more than happy to help you's TV news guys out.
- 15: Are we live on the air right now?
- Beth: No, we're taping right now, we'll be live on the air later, and you'll be on the air only if you give us an interview we can use. You can't just say anything, you've got to pay attention to our questions and then you have to answer them - and watch your language.
- 16: Hey, we're cool. We'll give you an interview you can use. What kind'a questions are you looking to have answered?
- Josh: We just have one question, and we're looking for your unique perspective on the answer. Can you please tell me how someone finds God?
- 13: Woah. Wait a minute. I didn't know this was gonna' be no religious thing. Maybe we ain't available for no interview after all.
- 14: Cool it 13. [*To Beth.*] I'll answer your questions.
- Beth: Thanks.
- 14: I did that religion thing. My parents made me go to church when I was a little kid. I never liked it. Then I got older and they made me go to youth group. I never liked that either.
- Josh: But you continued to go?
- 14: Yeah, I made a deal with my parents: I went to youth group, they let me drive the car. Not going to youth group wasn't worth giving up the car. Anyway, the youth group leader guy told me a lot about looking for a closer walk with God, and stuff like that, but I didn't fall for it. I don't know anyone who is looking for a closer walk with God - they just talk about it. Take my parents, for example, they talk about getting closer to God, but they never do anything about it. They spend all their time watching TV, or going out, it's such a joke. If they were serious about it, they'd do something about it. Then they tell me that I have to be like them, but I don't buy it.
- Beth: Wow, it seems as if you've really thought about this.
- 14: Look, I don't do anything half-way. If I'm going to get into this God stuff I don't want to fool around with it, but I don't see anyone else doin' it right.
- 13: Man, I didn't know you were into this stuff.
- 15: Don't you know that it's not cool to hang out with church kids?
- 13: So, what do you think, you gonn'a choose these church kids, or are you gonn'a choose us?

- 14: Man, I told you I just go to church so that I can get the car. You want me to lose the car?
- 15: No, way.
- 14: Then I guess I do both.
- 16: So, did you get enough for your interview yet? We gott'a jet.
- Beth: Yeah, we got enough. [To 14.] Thanks for sharing from your heart. I really appreciate it.
- 14: No problem. Thanks for listening.
- [They exit in search for more trouble to get into.]
- Beth: I was fooled again.
- Josh: Have you learned not to judge someone by their appearance yet?
- Beth: I guess not, but I don't think I'm the only one who is getting fooled here.
- Josh: I must admit, I'm surprised we got something we could use from that last group. I thought it was going to be a waste of time, but sure learned a lot from that young man.
- Beth: [Looking at her watch.] Why don't we get one more interview and head back to produce the special?
- Josh: Sounds like a good plan to me.
- [17 and 18 are picked out of the crowd. They are a young married couple.]
- Beth: Excuse me.
- 17: Yes.
- Josh: Can we ask you a few questions?
- 18: You're not going to ask us to fill out a questionnaire about the mall, are you?
- Beth: No. I'm Beth Roberts...
- Josh: And I'm Josh Adams, from Channel 5 News. We're looking for some answers to the question: how does one find God?
- 17: Did our pastor send you here to speak with us?
- Beth: No, we're from Channel 5 News.
- 17: I know that's what you said, but anyone could have said that.

- Josh: I assure you, sir, we are who we say we are. Why would you think that your pastor sent us to the mall to interview you?
- 18: He's been giving us a hard time lately about not wanting to join the new cell groups [*"cell groups" is said with disdain*] that our church has started. I know that he'll go to extreme means to convince people in his church that his way is the right way, and we just thought that he might have convinced you to interview us as a means of convincing us to join the cell groups.
- Beth: Well, I assure you that we have no such intentions. We're just looking for an interview for a story we're working on. Why is it that you wish to avoid joining these cell groups?
- 17: It's not as if we're against going to church, or anything like that, it's just that we're already involved with so many other things at church that one more night of church stuff is just too much time out of our schedule.
- Josh: I must admit, I'm not a church goer. Can you tell me what these cell groups are all about?
- 18: You get together with a small group of 2 or 3 couples and have a time of fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. They're called cell groups because they're supposed to grow and divide like the cells of your body. You're supposed to invite friends to come to your group whenever you can. Then, when your group gets too big, you split the group up into two groups and start growing the two groups just like you did the first.
- Beth: And you study the Bible together, just the six or eight of you?
- 17: Yes, and you're supposed to share from your own experiences and from your heart, too.
- Josh: It sounds like it would be a time when you could really learn a lot about being a Christian.
- 18: Yeah, but you have to get really personal, and it takes a lot of time.
- 17: We decided we weren't all that interested in doing either of those things.
- Beth: Can you tell us if you've ever searched for God?
- 18: I guess you could say that.
- Josh: And were you successful?
- 17: No, I don't think that we've ever been able to grow all that much closer to God. I couldn't quite put my finger on why, though.
- Josh: Could it be that you haven't invested yourself into the search?

18: I guess you could say that, but I think you're getting a little too personal for me.

17: Yeah, I must admit, this a bit too personal for a news team story. Are you sure that our pastor didn't send you over here?

Beth: I'm sure.

Josh: I'm sorry if we got too personal with you. I really appreciate the candid way you answered our questions. Thank you for your time.

[17 & 18 exit.]

Beth: I never would have thought an assignment like this would be so interesting. I've really learned a lot.

Josh: Me too.

Beth: You have?

Josh: Yeah.

Beth: What have you learned?

Josh: Well, for one thing, I think it's about time for me to start searching for a closer walk with God. And now I know where not to look, and I know where I should look.

Beth: Yeah, where you gonn'a look?

Josh: I'm going to find out where that last couple goes to church and get myself involved with their cell groups, or at least become involved in their church activities. It sounds to me as if that's one of the best ways to find a closer walk with God.

Beth: All right, Brian, I think we've got enough now. Let's head back and put it all together.


[They put their stuff away and begin to exit.]

Josh: So, Beth, any chance you'll come to the cell group with me, when I find one?

Beth: We'll see. Why don't you find one first, and we can talk about it later.

[They exit.]

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