

Express Yourself!

CHARACTERS: Jeremy, Rachel, Cole and Nick (4 teenagers)

Scene opens stage right with Jeremy on his hands and knees, intently searching the floor for something. Rachel walks by, stops and notices Jeremy.

RACHEL: Hi Jeremy.

JEREMY: (*Not looking up*) Hi Rachel.

RACHEL: What are you doing?

JEREMY: Looking for something....

RACHEL: What are you looking for?

JEREMY: (*still searching*) My faith.

RACHEL: Your what?

JEREMY: My faith, I lost my faith. (*staring back down at the floor*) I think I dropped it right in here somewhere...(*both start walking around searching the floor, COLE enters*)

COLE: S'up?

RACHEL: Jeremy lost his faith.

COLE: No way!

RACHEL: Well, we'll help you find it.

COLE: How big is it? (*continuing to search the floor*)

JEREMY: I guess not as big as I thought.

COLE: (*looking around on his knees, holds something up*) Is it bigger than a dust bunny?

RACHEL: What exactly happened, Jeremy?

JEREMY: (*stands up*) I dunno. I was walking along, minding my own business, when I bumped into that brainiac kid from science class

Lights up Stage Left on Nick Who is Standing Alone

RACHEL: Nick Weber?

JEREMY: Yeah, that's him.

Jeremy Walks into the scene with Nick

NICK: Hey, Jeremy...

JEREMY: Hey, Nick. What's up?

NICK: Nothing, I just wanted to ask you something.

JEREMY: Fire away.

NICK: Well, I been watching you in class and I can't help but notice that you're different. You seem, I dunno, content with who you are.

JEREMY: (*full of self-confidence*) Thanks...

NICK: You seem to have so much hope. So, what's the reason?
I guess I wanna know what you believe?

Jeremy stares at Nick for a stunned moment, his eye begins to twitch, then he flops onto his knees as his bones turn to jello. He pathetically looks up at Nick and tries to speak, it just sounds like baby talk.

JEREMY: Aouiee...euuooohie...flhikmoost...

NICK: (*stepping back*)Huh?

Jeremy clutches his throat, opens his mouth, no sound comes out but a pathetic squeack.

NICK: Hey, it was just a question. Sorry, man...

Nick hurriedly exits, lights out stage left as Jeremy crawls over to Cole and Rachel stage right.

COLE: Whoa dude! You sound like my baby brother after he eats strained peas.

JEREMY: (*stands up*) I couldn't use both consonants and vowels at the same time! My palms got all sweaty, my stomach started to churn, my knees went weak, my eye started to twitch, and I swear my tongue got as big as my feet.

COLE: Dude! No way! Sounds like my first date. No, wait...That was when I tried to eat poison ivy.

JEREMY: Can you believe it? I mean he actually wanted me to TALK about my faith. Ya know, EXPRESS myself! (*trying to justify his behavior*) I mean, I've always tried to let my actions speak for me.

RACHEL: Maybe that's not enough.

JEREMY: Duh! Ya think? So, I can just imagine what'd happen if I really shared my faith with him. He could get really upset. I can see it now...(as he describes it the light comes up on the other side of the stage and its acted out.) He'd be standing there waiting for me...He'd say

NICK: Hey Jeremy? Why are you so different?

JEREMY: And I'd come over and say "Hey, Nick, I'm different because I believe in Jesus."

NICK: (*really angry*) Jesus! How dare you say his name to my face!

In exaggerated slow-motion Nick punches Jeremy with his fist right in the face and Jeremy does an over-dramtic fall to the ground, somersaults backward over to Cole and Rachel, lights out stage left.

COLE: Dude!

JEREMY: (*stands up, brushing himself off*) And I'd have to breathe through the back of my head the rest of my life.

RACHEL: He wouldn't do that. He's not violent.

JEREMY: Yeah...maybe not violent but he could make fun of me. He could do that.

RACHEL: So, I make fun of you all the time.

Lights come up on Nick as Jeremy walks toward him again.

NICK: Hey, Jeremy...Why are you so different?

JEREMY: Hey, Nick. I'm different because I believe in Jesus.

NICK: (*very mocking*) Well, isn't that sweet. So, do we all have to hug each other, hold hands and circle a flagpole? (*laughs mockingly*) I know...turn the other cheek.

In exaggerated slow-motion Nick slaps him and he does the same dramatic fall and somersault. Nick exits as lights go out stage left.

RACHEL: That is so stupid. Would you get out of this crazy notion you have that he is going to do something to you. He probably just wants some answers.

JEREMY: Yeah, but what if I don't have any. He can ask the question but who knows what I'll say. I could turn into this lump of mush again.

COLE: No way! You're making a mound of beans out of a mole hill, Dude!

RACHEL: I agree. You're making much more out of this than there is. He asked to talk to you, right?

JEREMY: Right...

COLE: And, like he said "you are different and he wants to know why."

JEREMY: Right...

RACHEL: Well it didn't just come out of the blue. It's obvious your actions have made a difference. Maybe now it's time to back 'em up with some words.

JEREMY: (*not so sure*) Yeah, maybe.

COLE: Dude, you haven't lost your faith. Maybe you're just looking for your courage. You're not gonna find it looking down at your feet.

(Rachel and Jeremy both turn and stare at Cole.)

COLE (*amazed at himself*): Wow...I'm deep!

RACHEL: Okay, you know what you believe. Right?

JEREMY: Right.

COLE: So, dude, just say what you believe.

JEREMY: I believe Jesus...forgave my sins. All of them.

COLE: Yeah...?

JEREMY: He helped me see...that He loves me no matter what. (*Realizing the reality of his own words*)...that I'm okay, just as I am.

RACHEL: As boring as that is.

JEREMY: (*with a "nice shot" look*) Thanks.

RACHEL: Just trying to keep you humble.

JEREMY: If I hurry, I think I can still catch Nick.

COLE: "Go forward and multiply." (*thinking*) Wrong verse. Go for it, Dude.

JEREMY: Wish me luck.

RACHEL: Who needs luck when you have Jesus.

Blackout