

A script from



“All This Noise”

by
Curt Cloninger

- What** A very tired teenage boy narrates his own actions, simply telling his story of struggling to hear the voice of God in his noisy world. (Themes: Faith, God's Voice, Busyness, Time, Purpose)
- Who** 3 males- teenager, 2 adults 1 female- teenager
- Either recorded or offstage voices of God
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Step ladder
Backpack
- Why** Jeremiah 29:11
- How** Your main character, the teenage boy, should be energetic and able to connect with the audience. Since it's hard to act with someone you don't see, give yourself plenty of time to practice before you perform the skit so that the voices will be in synch with the actor. Tip: have the voice actors be in the sound booth with headphones on so they can hear the main actor.
- Time** Approximately 4-6 minutes

A very tired-looking student walks slowly out to center stage. His shirt is untucked. His jacket is slung over his shoulder. In the other hand he holds a book bag. He serves as his own narrator and simply performs the actions which he narrates about himself.

Kid: There once was a kid named Pete who lived in the suburbs. He had two okay parents, one okay sister, an okay dog, and an okay girlfriend. He lived in an okay house, drove an okay used Honda Civic and had an okay part-time job at Wendy's. He went to an okay school, where he made okay grades and played second string defensive end on their okay football team. He hoped, when he graduated, to get into an okay college. Every Saturday night he took his girlfriend to an okay restaurant and a movie. Every other night he worked at Wendy's, studied, played video games or watched movies on his plasma TV. In general, his life was ... okay.

But one night in the spring the kid came home from work at Wendy's, walked into his backyard, and looked out over his Dad's expanse of Bermuda grass. The kid slowly sat on a lawn chair and realized that he was very, very tired. And as he sat there he wondered, for just a fleeting moment, if there was more to life than simply "okay". He thought about a guy from school who was religious and who claimed to "hear from God". The kid wondered about that... "hearing from God". It sounded a little weird to him. All he knew is that people who "hear from God" usually wear dweeby clothes or wind up as missionaries in Africa. He didn't want to go to Africa. He wasn't sure he could get cable there. Cable! Ahhh! The kid remembered the MTV awards were on tonight.

As the kid rose from the lawn chair and reached into his pocket for his house keys, he felt a piece of paper wadded up there. He wondered for a second what it was, but then he remembered that the religious guy from school had handed it to him that day after a class.

In the busyness of the day, he had forgotten the note was in his pocket. He unfolded the paper and read this: "You looked really tired today at school. I thought you might want to hear some good stuff from the Bible."

At this point, the scripture is narrated by a "God-Voice". The "God-Voice" is provided by an off stage actor. As the God Voice begins we see a light come onto a six foot step ladder, which is upstage of the kid. The "God-Voice" speaks the scripture, coming in seamlessly from the kid's last line. The scripture is spoken very conversationally, not in a booming or big "GOD VOICE" way.

God: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Kid: The kid's thoughts shifted for a moment from MTV to God. And as he looked at the paper he thought, "Maybe it wouldn't be so bad to actually hear from God." And, for just a second, the kid tried to actually listen.

During the next section and throughout the rest of the piece, the God-Voice is constantly, steadily, but not loudly, repeating the Jeremiah passage. The light on the ladder stays up. There is a short pause before the the God-Voice begins to repeat the passage. The kid "inclines his ear" toward the ladder, as if straining to hear the Voice. Once the God-Voice begins again, it continues throughout the rest of the piece.

God: For I know the plans I have for you, etc.

The God-Voice continues a bit louder for a moment. Then it begins to be overshadowed by the Boss's voice. Then the Boss's voice and God-Voice begin to be overshadowed by the girlfriend's voice. Then the Boss's voice, the girlfriend's voice, and God-Voice begin to be overshadowed by the Dad's voice. After the Boss's first time through his line, the other two voices -- girlfriend, Dad -- get louder and louder, competing for the kid's ear. Eventually the God-Voice is all but drowned out. The kid never sees the other people. It is as if they are simply voices in his head.

Boss: *(Simply an offstage voice, but a light comes up on where he might be standing downstage left of the kid)* Hey Pete! Listen, I need you to work double shifts this weekend 'cause we're gonna be shorthanded. But, you'll make time and a half.

Girlfriend: *(Simply an offstage voice, but a light comes up on where she might be standing downstage right of the kid. She speaks over the Boss and the God-Voice and repeats her lines over and over, just as the Boss and the God-Voice do.)* Don't even ask me about my day! Something blew up on my car. I flunked my chemistry test. My parents told me I have to get a job this summer. By the way, you owe me money for those concert tickets.

Dad: *(Simply an offstage voice. but a light comes up where he might be standing downstage center of the kid)* Look ... Son. I appreciate the fact that you've gotta have a job to pay for your car, but your math teacher called last night. It seems that you're flunking math. What's that all about?

The voices all repeat themselves over and over for a bit, all of them, except the God-Voice, getting louder and louder. After a cacophony is reached, the kid stands up. As soon as he stands up, the Boss, the Girlfriend and the Dad all immediately grow silent, and their representative lights go out. Only the God-Voice continues, as a light from the ladder, softly and persistently. There is a brief moment when the God-Voice is heard by the audience, but then it begins to be VERY slowly overshadowed by a recording of some MTV drivel.