

“The GodPhone User’s Guide: AutoPray”

Script 2 in the series

by
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What Wendy desires a deeper connection with the Lord, but her GodPhone seems to be on the fritz. For reasons unexplained, it keeps switching over to AutoPray.

This script is part of the GodPhone series. These skits can each stand alone, or be used as a five-part series that may coincide with Advent, Lent or other seasons of prayer focus

Themes: Prayer, Intimacy, Sin, Holy Spirit, Lent, Student Ministry, College Ministry

Who Wendy
George
Alicia
Brandon

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** 4 Apple smart phones, one for each character

Why Matthew 6:5-13; 1 Chronicles 16:11; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 26:41; Romans 12:2; Psalm 145:18; Romans 8:26; Colossians 4:2

How A video component is key to the action. As notifications from God appear on Wendy’s phone screen, they’ll also ping and appear on a video screen - allowing the audience to see what’s on Wendy’s phone (Wendy will only react to the phone). A ‘ping’ sound effect will accompany each new notification on the screen.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

Wendy, George, Brandon and Alicia enter together, all of them with their faces in their phones. George, Brandon and Alicia sit, consumed.

A ping is heard. On the video screen—replicating the screen of Wendy's phone—these words appear:

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DELETE YOUR MORNING PRAYER TIME TODAY?

Wendy: *(quietly mouthing words from cell screen)* "Are you sure you want to delete your morning prayer time today?" *(pressing screen)*. Yes.

(Ping!) WARNING: DELETING YOUR MORNING PRAYER TIME MAY DIMINISH YOUR PEACE, PERSPECTIVE AND GENERAL RIGHT-HEADEDNESS.

Wendy: *(reading this)* Excuse me?

(Ping!) JUST SAYIN'!

Wendy stares at her screen in confusion.

Wendy: Hey, you guys.

Alicia: *(phone-focused)* Mm.

George: *(phone-focused)* Huh.

Brandon: *(phone-focused)* Yeah.

Wendy: *(still staring at her screen)* I think my GodPhone is, like, on the fritz again.

George: *(phone-focused)* It's not on the fritz.

Alicia: *(phone-focused)* It's a GodPhone.

Brandon: *(phone-focused)* It can't fritz.

George: *(phone-focused)* By nature, it's inerrant.

Alicia: *(phone-focused)* It's inerrantly un-fritz-able.

Wendy: *(staring at screen)* Well, something's up. It won't stop giving me all these notifications.

(Ping!) YOU'RE WELCOME.

Wendy rolls her eyes.

Brandon: *(phone focused)* What's wrong with notifications from God?

Alicia: *(phone focused)* I like notifications.

George: *(phone focused)* I *need* notifications.

Brandon: *(phone focused)* Greatest thing ever.

George: *(phone focused)* The ping...from the King!

Wendy: Well, yeah...but, I mean, come on, not every five seconds, right?

Alicia: *(phone focused)* It's a GodPhone, Wendy.

George: *(phone focused)* What, you want to put it on silent?

Wendy: Sometimes, yes!

Alicia, Brandon and George all look up slowly at her, for the first time.

Wendy: *(backpedaling a little)* Well, I mean, I don't want to turn it off *completely* or anything. I just think it'd be nice to...you know, *mute* it...a little... from time to time.

Brandon: You *wanted* a real GodPhone...and now you want to mute it?

Wendy: See, it sounds bad when you say it *that* way. Of course I don't want to mute God, I mean, no one wants to do that. Listen, I enjoy live streaming from the Holy Spirit as much as anybody! OK?

Alicia: Ok...so why do you want to silence it?

Wendy: I don't *want* to silence it, I'm just...I'm just...I'm just... *(idea)* I'm ... thinking of others, is what it is.

George, Brandon and Alicia stare skeptically at her.

Ping! A face palm emoji appears on the screen. Wendy glances quickly at her phone but tries to ignore it.

George: *(skeptical)* When you mute your GodPhone, it's because you're thinking of others?

Wendy: It...it is! I mean, people are trying to enjoy their life out there. I don't want to be one of those annoying people whose GodPhone is constantly going off right when something important is happening! That's just inconsiderate, right?

Alicia: *(not convinced)* Inconsiderate.

Wendy: Exactly. I mean...when you think about it from a certain perspective, me muting my GodPhone around other people is sometimes a very *loving* thing to do.

(Ping!) WARNING: YOU ARE NOW DOWNLOADING A BUNCH OF MANURE.

Wendy glances at her screen and does a double-take. Alicia looks over Wendy's shoulder at the screen as well.

Alicia: Oh, man... *there's* your problem.

Wendy: What.

Brandon: *(looking also)* Oh, wow. No wonder.

Wendy: What?!

Alicia: *(looking at Wendy's screen)* Right there. You actually signed up for... AutoPray?

Wendy: *(guilty)* I ... whaaaat? No! I would never sign up for AutoPray!

Alicia: Sure looks to me like you did.

Wendy: I-I-I... I would never! AutoPray... *(without really taking a breath)* you mean, where you just pray the same kind of words time after time and don't really think about what you're saying and probably don't really mean what you're saying but you say it with lots of spiritual words and spiritual inflection and just keep saying it on autopilot over and over and over again while you're meanwhile thinking about lunch or shopping or Netflix?

Beat

George: Right. AutoPray.

Wendy: Guys, I swear, I don't know anything about it!

(Ping!) CONVINCING.

Wendy double-takes at her phone. George looks over Wendy's shoulder and takes the phone from her. Wendy will try to get it back as it's handed from friend to friend here.

George: *(staring at Wendy's screen)* Holy smokes! You've got AutoPray switched on for almost all your prayers! Meals...morning times...

Brandon: *(taking phone from George, continuing reading)* ...start of church meetings...end of church meetings...

Alicia: *(taking phone from Brandon, continuing reading)* ...bedtime... intercession... *(gasp)* You turn on AutoPray for *intercession?!!*

Wendy: *(trying to get phone)* I would never!!

Brandon: *(to George)* Waaaiit a minute...didn't she intercede for *you* last week?!

George: *(agape)* She *did!!*

They all stare at Wendy for a moment.

(Ping!) BUSTED.

Wendy: *(reaching for phone)* Come on, you guys, I—

George: *(agape)* You're telling me...that when you interceded for me, you were on *AutoPray?!!*

Wendy: *(desperately trying to get phone)* What?! No, of course not!

Alicia: You AutoPrayed him?! Did you *AutoPray* him?!

Wendy: I didn't!

Brandon: Friends don't let friends be AutoPrayed, Wendy!

Wendy: I know!

Alicia: George was really vulnerable then!

George: Boy. You think you know somebody, huh?

Wendy: Guys, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to!

George: AutoPrayed. AutoPrayed by my own best friend in my time of need!

Wendy: I don't know what came over me!

George: We did VBS together! We went on mission trips together! I suppose you were just AutoPraying for me then, too?!

Wendy: No, those were legit!

Alicia: *(patting George's head on her shoulder)* Sure, sure!

Brandon: *(taking Wendy's phone from George, beginning to scroll)* How many other people have you AutoPrayed, Wendy? Huh?

Alicia: Is there no decency?!

Wendy: *(snatching her phone back)* Come on, I don't even know how AutoPray got into my GodPhone, OK? It must've been downloaded by my parents when I was little. I had no idea it would carry over 'till now...

Brandon: Of course it does. You've got to *disable* it.

Wendy: How do I do that? Tell me!

(Ping!) FIRST OF ALL, STOP PUTTING ME ON MUTE.

Wendy stares at her phone.

Alicia: A GodPhone is meant for *two*-way communication.

George: Seriously. If you're going to put anybody on mute in that conversation, it probably ought to be you.

(Ping!) GOD IS IN HEAVEN, AND YOU ARE ON EARTH, SO LET YOUR WORDS BE FEW. (ECCLESIASTES 5:2B)

Brandon: When you're actually taking the time to listen and respond to God, it's pretty impossible to just AutoPray.

Wendy: Ok, ok, I got it. More listening, less AutoPray. I don't ever want to silence God again!

George: Good.

Wendy: Here's the thing, then. Is there a way to get a different ring tone?

Alicia: A what?

Wendy: A different ring tone. If I'm going to listen to Him more, I need something a little louder and harder to ignore. The only option my GodPhone gives me is this "Still, Small Voice." I have to strain to even hear it.

Brandon: I think that's the idea.

Wendy: *(as they're exiting)* What about this locked one here: "Final Trumpet Blast." I bet I'd hear that one.

Alicia: Yes, I bet you would.

Lights out.