

“The GodPhone User’s Guide: Removing the Sin Card”

Script 5 in series

by
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What Wendy desires a deeper connection with the Lord, but her GodPhone seems to be on the fritz. On top of everything else, her sin card keeps taking control of her preferences.

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
Jesus

When Present

Wear (Props) 5 Apple smart phones, one for each character
A cafe table and three chairs

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 8 minutes

George, Brandon and Alicia all enter and sit, with Wendy not far behind them. All have their faces in their phones, and George, Brandon and Alicia are all wide-eyed, with silent expressions of wonderment and awe. Wendy is looking at her own phone, then glancing over at theirs ... then frowning and looking at hers again. Presently, she taps the screen. A ping is heard, and these words appear on the video screen:

PLEASE WAIT.

Wendy frowns. The other three friends continue watching their phones with awe. Suddenly, they burst out together:

Alicia, George and Brandon: *Whoooooaaaaa!!!!*

They all remain glued to their phones. Wendy watches them jealously and then taps her own phone again.

(Ping!) PLEASE WAIT.

Wendy frowns again.

Wendy: Guys?

Brandon: *(phone-focused)* Shhh-shhhhh.

Alicia: *(phone-focused)* Hold on a second—

Wendy: Guys, I think my GodPhone is locked up.

Alicia: *(phone-focused)* It's not locked up.

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

Brandon: *(phone-focused)* It doesn't lock up.

George: *(phone-focused)* You're probably locked up.

Beat. Wendy stares at her phone some more, but it doesn't change.

Wendy: It keeps telling me to wait.

Brandon: *(phone-focused)* Well, yeah, a real GodPhone does do that sometimes.

George: *(phone-focused)* All the time, actually.

(Ping!) THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. Isaiah 40:31

Wendy rolls her eyes.

George: There is one more thing, Wendy.

Wendy: One more thing?!

George: Yeah. Go to 'preferences.'

Wendy stares at him skeptically, then touches her screen a couple times.

Wendy: Fine. Preferences.

George: Great. Now, turn them all off.

Wendy glares at him.

Wendy: Turn off all my preferences.

George: Yes.

Wendy: Every one of them.

George: Every one of them. What you want...when you want it...

Alicia: How you think it should go...what you think you deserve...

Brandon: How you want others to admire you... *(beat)*...what you think *God* should be doing for you...

George: Just switch every one of those to 'off'. And I guarantee you...you'll be amazed at how much clearer the signal from God becomes.

Wendy: *(unimpressed)* So, just turn off every single preference I've got, just like that.

Alicia: That's it.

Brandon: You got it.

Wendy: Uh-huh. *(beat)* Let me ask you guys something, *Are you out of your mind?! If I could switch off all my selfish preferences that easily, then I'd be so holy that I wouldn't need a GodPhone!! You know, I thought with this thing that I'd just be able to dial up God and He'd just...I don't know, be there!*

Alicia: He *is*.

Wendy: He is for *you*, apparently. But when I call, it's like He doesn't even know who I am. You'd think this would come with some decent voice recognition software, you know?

Alicia: *(moving to Wendy)* I promise you, God knows who you are, Wendy.

George: *(moving to Wendy)* It's not a question of whether he has voice recognition.

Brandon: *(moving to Wendy)* It's a question of whether *you* do.

George, Brandon and Alicia exit. *Music cue—something quiet and somber over Wendy's monologue here.*

Wendy looks after her friends forlornly. *She stares at her GodPhone for a long moment and fights back a tear.*

Wendy: *(quietly)* Don't go, guys. *(beat)* Don't leave me here to try to talk to God by myself. *(beat)* I don't know how. *(considers her phone for a long moment, then speaks to it)* I...I don't know if I can do this, OK? I'm trying, God. I...I really am. It's just too hard.

As she speaks this monologue on one end of the stage, Jesus—ordinary guy in plain modern clothing—has quietly entered and sat down at the cafe table, phone in his hand.

Wendy: *(still to her phone)* I don't know what to say. *(beat)* I don't know if you can even really hear me. *(beat)* God, I'm so lost. *(beat)* I'm so... heartbroken. *(beat)* God, only you and I truly know how wrecked I am... how scary it is...how desperately I need you. *(beat; then, shouting)* So where are you, God?!!

Beat. Fade music.

Jesus: Trouble with your GodPhone?

Wendy: *(wiping her eyes)* Sorry. Yeah. *(taking a seat)* I guess it's on the fritz.

Jesus: Mm. Not likely. *(beat)* I mean, it's a GodPhone.

Wendy rolls her eyes and slumps.

Jesus: Maybe it's simpler than you think.

Wendy: It isn't.

Jesus: Maybe it is.

Wendy: Trust me, it isn't. Have *you* tried talking to God?

Jesus: Little bit, yeah.

Wendy: Well, whoop-dee-do for you. You must be one of the "anointed."

Jesus shares a look with the audience.

Jesus: *(to Wendy)* You mind if I make a suggestion?

Wendy: Sure, join the crowd.

Jesus: It really helps to turn off all your preferences.

Wendy gives him a look. Jesus smiles.

Wendy: Listen, pal, as far as I can tell, I've got a GodPhone version that doesn't support that. It just doesn't work...not for me. I can't keep jumping through all these hoops, okay?! I'm only human, okay?! I can't turn off every one of my preferences, even if I try! *I've got a SIN CARD, okay?!*

Jesus: I understand.

Wendy: Do you?!

(Ping!) WENDY...

Wendy: *(angrily to her phone)* What!!

(Ping!) YOU ARE SUCH A PRECIOUS DAUGHTER TO ME.

Wendy stares at her phone, stunned, for a long moment.

(Ping!) YOU CANNOT BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE LOVE I HAVE FOR YOU.

Wendy stares at her phone screen.

(Ping!) AND I REALLY AM RIGHT NEXT TO YOU, WENDY.

Wendy looks up slowly from her screen and begins glancing around for God. She looks everywhere except Jesus, and he gives a bemused look to the audience.

Wendy: *(looking back at her phone)* It...it knows my name! *He* knows my name!

Jesus: It's not really a question of whether *He* has voice recognition, Wendy.

Wendy stares at him a moment, and then her eyes grow wide. She points at Jesus with eyebrows raised in a question; he nods and smiles.

Wendy: *(gasp)* You're—you're—you're—!

Jesus: *(reaching out to shake her hand)* Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, how are you?

Wendy: I can't believe it! It's really you! It's—it's really you! *(beat)* Is it really you?

Jesus taps his phone screen without looking at it.

Jesus: *(working on her phone)* But I'm actually going to do something that's even more important. Truth be told, I'm the only one who can do it.

Wendy: What's that?

Jesus: *(holding up a small card from the phone)* I'm going to remove your sin card.

Wendy stands open-mouthed.

Jesus: It's the reason I came, Wendy. It's the whole reason I came.

Wendy: What...what are you going to do with it?

Jesus: Oh, cast it into the sea of forgetfulness. *(handing her phone back)* And now the biggest obstacle between you and your communion with God...is removed for good. *(as they begin to exit)* And now when I walk along beside you...you'll actually be able to see and hear quite a bit clearer. You'll see. It'll be cool.

Wendy: Well...but what if I sin again tomorrow?

Jesus: Just give it over to me again tomorrow. I promise you I'll be here.

Wendy: *(as they're exiting)* Wowwww. Mind. Blown! *(beat)* You know, you showed up just in time. I was about ready to pitch this thing and go trade it in for a Galaxy!

Jesus: No need. I've got several right here in my hand.

Exit

(Ping!) FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER ANGELS NOR DEMONS, NEITHER THE PRESENT NOR THE FUTURE, NOR ANY POWERS, NEITHER HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. Romans 8:38-39

Lights out.