

# Why Do You Stand Here, Looking into the Sky?

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This drama incorporates themes from the Scripture readings for Easter 7 LW Series A.

Characters: Characters 1, 2, & 3 can be adults of any age. Character 4 should be of the same gender as Character 1 to avoid any unintended implications when Character 1 invites Character 4 back to his/her place. Character 4 should be an older adult.

Character 2 is standing in the middle of the chancel (or whatever staging area you are using), looking up. Character 1 approaches, gets Character 2's attention, and begins the dialogue.

Character 1: My friend, why do you stand here looking into the sky?

Character 2: I'm looking for Jesus to come back. Perhaps He will quiet the cries of the pre-born infants who are being murdered by the thousands in Canada each year. Perhaps He will comfort the cries of expectant mothers who struggle with making a decision about ending the life of their unborn children.

Character 1: But until He returns He has called us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Character 2: How can I do that? I won't know what to say.

Character 1: Jesus promised you the Holy Spirit. In fact He gave you the Holy Spirit at your baptism. He said the Spirit would give us the word we need in each situation where we the opportunity to witness to Christ's gifts of life and salvation.

Character 2: I have felt the need to do something for those caught in this abortion dilemma. That's why I've been looking up to heaven, hoping Jesus would return and set things right. I just didn't know where else to go.

Character 1: Let's go talk to my pastor. I'm sure He knows some opportunities right here in town where we can offer Christian support and Scriptural comfort.

Character 2: That sounds great. Let's go right now.

Characters 1 & 2 walk off together. Character 3 moves to the same position where Character 2 stood and looks up. Character 1 enters and does a bit of a "double-take" (Ham it up!) finding another person in the same position. He/She attempts to get Character 3's attention, finding that more dramatic (and more comical) means are necessary. When Character 1 finally gets Character 3's attention the dialogue begins.

Character 1: My friend, why do you stand here looking into the sky?

Character 3: I'm looking for Jesus to come back. Our society is in such a mess. Canada has abandoned God's Word as a foundation for truth and a guide for right living. The fabric of the family is being ripped to shreds. Marriage is being ridiculed as the biblical definition of marriage is thrown out. Only Christ's return will be able to set all this mess to rights.

Character 1: But until His return He has called us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Character 3: Who am I to try to tackle these huge problems?

Character 1: All the soldiers of Israel felt that way, but through a little boy named David, God conquered Goliath. Jonah felt that way too, but through him God changed the whole city of Nineveh.

Character 3: I know you're right, but as soon as I open my mouth people are going to insult me at best and at worst they will arrest me, take away my reputation, my business, maybe even my life.

Character 1: *(During this last line Character 1 begins humming the tune to A Mighty Fortress)*

Character 3: What are you doing?

Character 1: I'm sorry I couldn't help myself. What you were saying reminded me of Luther's words in A Mighty Fortress, "And take they our life, good, fame, child, and wife. Let these all be gone. They yet have nothing won. The kingdom our remaineth."

Character 3: I hear what you're saying.

Character 1: And God's Word says even more. God tells us that if you suffer as a Christian you should praise God that you bear Christ's name.

Character 3: But what can I do as just one Christian voice in this overwhelmingly secular society?

Character 1: Well, do you know of some Christian teachers in your local public schools?

Character 3: Sure. Some members of our church teach here in this district.

Character 1: How about starting with them – pray for them, send them words of encouragement, maybe even start a small fellowship group for them.

Character 3: They do need support as they struggle to witness to their faith when some of the curriculum they are told to teach is in opposition to God's Word.

Character 1: Absolutely. And how about using some of the materials pastor provided a few weeks ago on the marriage issue.

Character 3: Well I did email our MP last week, but I could take one of those petitions around the neighbourhood.

Character 1: And then you'll also realize that you're not the only Christian voice speaking out on these issues.

Character 3: I'm feeling more and more hopeful all the time. Let's go to see Pastor right now and pick up one of those petitions.

Character 1: That's great. I know he's in his office right now, because I was just there a few minutes ago. As I left he said "See you soon." I wonder if he realized how soon it would be.

Characters 1 & 3 walk off together. Character 4 moves into the same position as Characters 2 & 3. Character 1 enters, showing shock at finding yet a third person in the same position as the other two. Even more dramatic (perhaps "slapstick") means are necessary to get Character 4's attention away from the heavens. When Character 1 gets Character 4's attention dialogue begins.

Character 1: My friend, why do you stand here looking into the sky?

Character 4: Well I don't walk very fast. I don't see very well. I don't hear much of what's being said around me. But I do know that euthanasia is an idea that is growing in popularity in this country. I don't feel safe anymore. I've been looking up to heaven hoping that Jesus would come back and take me home.

Character 1: He is preparing a place in heaven for all who believe in Him and He will come and take us to be with Him forever. But while we are still in the world He has not left us helpless. In His high priestly prayer Jesus prayed that the Father would protect us by the power of His name. That is power that protects you today.

Character 4: That sure helps to be reminded of that. Thank you that word of encouragement. But safety isn't the only issue. I also feel useless. What can I do that can be of use to my neighbour, let alone turn our society back on a God-pleasing course.

Character 1: There are many ways to be Christ's witnesses. You can pray for your church and it's various ministries like Lutherans for Life – Canada. You can support their work with your donations. You can invite the daycare centre in your neighbourhood to bring some children into your home for "grandparent time" when you could tell them Bible stories or maybe just show them Christ's heart in your Christian compassion.

Character 4: Pastor was telling me some of the same things the other day. I wonder if he's in right now.

Character 1: Actually I know he is. Let's go over and see what he has to say. (to the congregation: I hope he doesn't get tired of seeing me today!)

Character 4: Thank you for taking time to talk with me today. I really like your idea about the daycare centre children.

Character 1: Great. Would you like to come back to my place after we get done at the church. We could look up their phone number and call them.

Character 4: Thanks for the offer. But how about we find their email address. I just got this new laptop and I'm anxious to try my new highspeed, wireless, internet connection....

(They walk off together, Character 1 is obviously stunned at the "high tech" activity Character 4 is capable of.)