Lillenas® Drama Presents

If There’s Anything We Can Do . . .

A comedy sketch about “being there”

from Reality Check
by Martha Bolton

Characters:
FRANK
CHRISTINE
BETTY
MARY ANN CARTER

Setting:
The front porch of MARY ANN’s home

Props:
Purses for BETTY and CHRISTINE

Costumes:
Modern-day wear

(Sketch opens with FRANK, CHRISTINE, and BETTY approaching the “front door” of MARY ANN CARTER. They knock. MARY ANN comes to the door.)

BETTY (reading from card): Mary Ann Carter?
MARY ANN: Yes?
FRANK: We’re from the church bereavement committee.
CHRISTINE: We came to offer our condolences in the passing of your husband.
BETTY: We’re so sorry.
CHRISTINE: If there’s anything we can do . . .
FRANK: Anything at all . . .
BETTY: Please don’t hesitate . . .
CHRISTINE: We’re here for you.
FRANK: But we can’t help you if you don’t tell us . . .
BETTY: . . . how we can help.

MARY ANN: Well, there is one thing . . .
FRANK: Yes, of course . . .
BETTY: What is it, dear?
CHRISTINE: We want to help out in any . . .
BETTY: . . . way we can.
FRANK: Think of us as family.
CHRISTINE: More than family.
BETTY (takes MARY ANN’s hand): We’re your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

MARY ANN: Well, you know how much I depended on my Ben . . .
FRANK: Of course.
BETTY: This must be a difficult time for you.
MARY ANN: Since Ben’s passing, I’ve had a little trouble getting around, seeing’s how I don’t drive and all.
CHRISTINE: Yes . . .
FRANK: Of course . . .
MARY ANN: Well, I was wondering if someone could drive me to the store tomorrow . . . If that’s not too much trouble.
BETTY: Drive you to the store? That’s no trouble.
CHRISTINE: No trouble at all.
FRANK: We’re just happy we can help.
BETTY: Like we said . . . we’re your brothers and

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sisters in the Lord. . . . wait, did you say tomorrow?

FRANK: Tomorrow’s no good for me.

CHRISTINE: Me either.

FRANK: The kids have a soccer game.

CHRISTINE: And I can’t change my hair appointment at this late date.

BETTY: I wouldn’t want to drive all the way out here alone.

FRANK: Sorry. Tomorrow doesn’t seem to be working out.

CHRISTINE: Actually, driving you around is something your husband should be . . . (Catches herself) Oh, sorry. But if there’s anything else . . .

BETTY: Anything at all . . .

FRANK: We’re here for you . . .

CHRISTINE: You just let us know.

BETTY (to others): Maybe we can make a dinner for her one night.

MARY ANN: That would be nice.

FRANK (to BETTY): Do you cook?

BETTY: I don’t cook.

CHRISTINE: Well, don’t look at me. I haven’t cooked in years.

FRANK: How do you feel about going out?

MARY ANN: That’s fine.

BETTY: I hate crowds.

CHRISTINE: She’s right. And you never know if the service is going to be any good or not.

FRANK: OK, so maybe going out isn’t such a good idea.

CHRISTINE: So then, what are we going to do for her?

BETTY: Who? (A beat) Oh, yes . . . (Looks at card) Mary Ann . . . our dear sister.

FRANK: We’re here to help her, remember?

CHRISTINE: That’s right.

FRANK (to MARY ANN): So, if there’s anything else . . . anything at all . . .

CHRISTINE: Don’t hesitate . . .

BETTY: You need to open up to us.

FRANK: Tell us how we can help you.

MARY ANN: Well, there were quite a few funeral expenses, and you know I’m on a limited . . .

FRANK: Expenses? (To others) Did she say expenses?

(Both CHRISTINE and BETTY clutch their purses protectively.)

CHRISTINE: Sounded like expenses to me.

BETTY: Me too.

FRANK (to MARY ANN): You’re meaning expenses as in expenses?

MARY ANN: Don’t worry about it. I just thought I’d mention it . . .

FRANK: Please, don’t get us wrong. We’d love to help.

CHRISTINE: . . . in any way we can.

BETTY: But . . . well, you know . . .

MARY ANN: Actually, I don’t think I need anything right now.

FRANK: You’re sure?

CHRISTINE: Because we can’t help if you don’t tell us.

MARY ANN: No, really, I’m fine.

BETTY: Well, you know, if you need anything . . .

CHRISTINE: Anything at all.

FRANK: We’re here for you.

MARY ANN (halfheartedly): Thanks.

CHRISTINE: We want you to think of us as family.

BETTY: Better than family.

MARY ANN: I’m fine, really.

FRANK: All right, if you’re sure.
MARY ANN: Thanks for stopping by. (She closes the door.)

FRANK (marks off her name in his notebook): Well, one down, six more to go.

BETTY: I sure love this ministry.

FRANK: I really think it’s our calling.

CHRISTINE: So, who’s next?

FRANK (reading from list): Duane Nicholson. Lost his wife three days ago.

BETTY: What a shame.

CHRISTINE: Let’s hurry over there.

FRANK: I’m sure there’s something we can do for him.

CHRISTINE: I just hope he’s more open than Mary Ann and lets us help.

BETTY: Yes, because we want to help . . .

CHRISTINE: . . . in any way we can.

FRANK: Because we’re family.

BETTY: Better than family.

CHRISTINE: We’re his brothers and sisters . . . in the Lord.

Blackout