

ROLE MODELS

From *No Limits*

By Jeff Smith

Scripture Reference: Matthew 23:28

Themes: Discipleship, holy living, hypocrisy.

Cast:

WENDY PUTAPON—Female, 18+; fashion expert and commentator for Fish-Fash

JEWEL PULLOVER—Female 18+; fashion expert and commentator for Fish-Fash

4-8 MODELS—All teens stereotyped by the clothes they wear. None of the models have speaking parts. Multiple roles can be played by the same person:

TED—Abercrombie and Fitch, youth worship team leader

SHEILA—Sportswear, Jocks for Jesus

SIMON—Witness wear, active in the youth group

MARY—Casual wear, active in the youth group

MIKE—Gap, son of church elder

VICTORIA—Express and Lerner's, missions-minded youth

CHANDLER—American Eagle, youth worship band

MIA—Gucci and Nieman-Marcus, youth drama team

Setting: The runway of a fashion show. Most sanctuary platform spaces would be fine. Keep audience sight lines clear. A traditional “runway” is not necessary. You only need enough space to walk DS several feet. However, a “runway” can be simulated on stage with a narrow row of carpeting or several plants helping to define the space. Signs and decorations to help identify the event are optional. A table and two chairs are SR of the runway.

Running Time: 4-7 minutes. The playing time varies because the script is flexible enough to allow cast to eliminate or add characters as required.

Production Notes:

This sketch has universal application to every generation. But due to the fact that fads are fickle and change as predictably as the seasons, feel free to substitute brand names and articles of clothing as necessary. Also, feel free to mix and match the characters in any order or to eliminate characters that may not be as “applicable” to your audience. As the sketch begins, I recommend you find some upbeat instrumental music (contemporary) to underscore the dialogue.

WENDY: Welcome to FishFash, the fashion showcase for Christian role models. I'm Trendy Wendy Putapon, your clothes-worthy commentary checking in on what's on and what's going on with Christians and the clothes they wear.

JEWEL: And I'm Cool Jewel Pullover, providing snaps and quotes on today's warlords of the wardrobes.

WENDY: Our “Insider’s Edition” will take you undercover to reveal the lie behind the labels and show it’s not only the clothes that are a put on!

JEWEL: It’s not just the wool that is being pulled over your eyes.

WENDY: Time to walk the talk . . .

JEWEL: While we talk the walk.

WENDY: Let’s runaway to the runway for a look at this year’s collection of Christian role models.

(TED enters. This scene gets repeated with each of the various characters throughout the remainder of the script. The character comes walking out onto the “runway” oozing confidence, appeal, and charm. But as the commentary continues, the character becomes more and more vulnerable, humiliated, embarrassed, or just angry as if they are being exposed in front of the audience. By the end of their “walk” they are crying, running offstage, shaking their fist, or trying to cover themselves up somehow.)

JEWEL: Here’s Ted in a red turtlenecked sweater and a great pair of “stained,” stonewashed jeans from Abercrombie and Fitch. He looks as sharp as he sings on the worship team. Too bad his spiritual life isn’t on a higher note.

WENDY: See, Ted doesn’t really know what it means to be in the presence of God. He’s much more interested in being in the presence of Jessica during the altar call.

JEWEL: Did you say that?

WENDY: Uh-huh, all that hugging and crying is more than enough to take Ted to higher ground. Maybe he should spend more time reading the Bible than the A&F catalogue.

(SHEILA enters as TED crawls offstage.)

WENDY: There’s Sheila looking great in her new Nike sportswear. She’s a great athlete and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

JEWEL: Jocks for Jesus. That “swoosh” Nike logo is Sheila’s trademark in basketball too, where she holds the school record for three pointers.

WENDY: Well, here are three big pointers for you, Sheila: *(counts on her fingers as she speaks)* Love. Your. Neighbor. The thing with Cassy is so over. But you hold on to that grudge like it’s a loose ball.

JEWEL: Let’s hope she finds a better use for those new Filas than kicking her friends when they’re down.

(SIMON enters as SHEILA runs offstage in a huff.)

WENDY: Look at Simon.

JEWEL: So refreshing. Plain and simple in Calvin Jeans and a Witness Wear T-shirt.

WENDY: Check out the cross necklace and the WWJD braided bracelet around his wrist.

JEWEL: We might want to suggest a few other simple, yet important, accessories.

WENDY: I'm thinking the belt of truth?

JEWEL: The breastplate of righteousness?

WENDY: Getting caught up in internet porn and immoral chat rooms makes me wonder if all these signs you are wearing point to anything that's real in your life?

JEWEL: It IS simple Simon. What WOULD Jesus do?

(SIMON exits trying to bury his face in his chest. MARY enters.)

WENDY: Mary is a regular at youth group and church-sponsored youth activities at her school. She's wearing a blue YMCA T-shirt, jeans, and a pair of flip flops she picked up at the local thrift shop.

JEWEL: The sky blue tones and the loose fit of her wardrobe really offset the sad eyes and sunken cheeks, don't you think?

WENDY: I'd say there's something about Mary.

JEWEL: I heard she's been thrifty with more than just her choice in clothes. Lately, she's been thrifty with the truth too; lying about a bout with anorexia and low self-esteem.

WENDY: Sadly, she's never quite gotten over that divorce her parents went through when she was eight; still blaming herself for their split.

JEWEL: God loves you Mary. You are holy because Jesus Christ is in your heart, not because you have a pair of jeans with a hole in them. Talk to someone who can help you with this.

(MARY sighs. She stops and looks at WENDY and JEWEL and smiles weakly. MIKE enters.)

WENDY: Mike is the son of Fred, church elder and pillar. Doesn't Mike look great in that outfit from the Gap today?

JEWEL: Those muscles really stand out in that tight white ribbed tee.

WENDY: But there's another gap in Mike's life.

JEWEL: Oh yeah?

WENDY: How about what he told his parents he's doing tonight and what he actually is planning to do? We think the gap is in the accountability of his dating relationships.

JEWEL: How 'bout flexing a little more muscle in the area of morality and spiritual discipline, Mikey?

(MIKE walks off the runway with a defiant smirk on his face. VICTORIA enters.)

JEWEL: Wow. There's Victoria. She looks great in her black halter top from Express and white capris from Lerner's.

WENDY: Hey, Jewel, didn't she go with the youth on a mission's trip to Peru last year? I heard she rules on the Bible Quiz team.

JEWEL: But here's a rule Victoria doesn't keep: Commandment 4—Honor your father and mother?

WENDY: I thought they didn't approve of her wearing halter tops or shopping at the Express.

JEWEL: Deep inside she resents their middle-income lifestyle and the boorish, old-fashioned Christian ideals her parents have on discipline and raising a family.

WENDY: Let's just call it . . .

WENDY/JEWEL: Victoria's secret.

(VICTORIA is devastated. As she exits, CHANDLER enters, giving her the "thumbs up" as she passes by. But she ignores him. CHANDLER shrugs.)

JEWEL: Chandler is strutting his stuff in American Eagle today.

WENDY: Check out the decking on that porch, would you?

JEWEL: Chandler is a drummer for the youth praise band. But there hasn't been any soaring on Eagle's wings for Chandler since his parents have grounded him for some irresponsible and erratic behavior.

WENDY: Classmates have also noted a change in Chandler's personality, since he started hanging with some of the lowlife at school.

JEWEL: And I heard the Chan-Man was skipping more than just a beat at school.

WENDY: Losing your rhythm, Chandler?

JEWEL: You can't soar on Eagle's wings when you're flying with the vultures. Birds of a feather . . .?

WENDY: Time for new Friends?

(CHANDLER gives a menacing look to WENDY and JEWEL, then slithers offstage. MIA enters the runway.)

JEWEL: Mia is all mix and match today. Her red turtlenecked tank top is from Gucci. But, that very cool black miniskirt and knee-high black boots are

classic Nieman-Marcus. Mia is totally into drama at school and has helped start a youth drama team, which ministers during services.

WENDY: We think Mia is just playing the part of being a Christian.

JEWEL: You see, her new boyfriend, Christian . . . well, he isn't. But, Mia is sure she can win him over in a relationship.

WENDY: Her mother is trying to direct, but Mia says she knows her part.

JEWEL: Here's a line you're missing, Mia. "Do not be unequally yoked."

WENDY: We say, "Listen to Mama, Mia!"

(MIA exits with a dramatic huff.)

WENDY: Well, there you have it from this year's FishFash.

JEWEL: Those labels reveal a little more than just what you wear, don't they? But, no matter where you buy your clothes, your life doesn't have to be a put-on.

WENDY: Walk the talk, don't talk the walk. Model your life after Christ and fashion your faith so that you have nothing to hide behind.

JEWEL: And remember, when you consider styles . . . think LIFESTYLES.

WENDY: I'm Trendy Wendy Putapon . . .

JEWEL: . . . and I'm Cool Jewel Pullover leaving you with this thought . . .

BOTH: What are you hiding behind?

(Music and exit.)



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