

“A FATHER’S TIME”

By
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Synopsis

Charles is a workaholic and spends very little time with his family. From the time his son was born to the time his son became a teenager Charles put his job responsibilities ahead of the parenting responsibilities. As a result, he failed to recognize and heed to the warning signs that ultimately lead to the tragic death of his son.

Scripture(s): Proverbs 22:6

Ministry Lesson

The bible tells us in Matthew 16:26, *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”* We can infer a similar truth...“what does it profit a man to gain the success of this world and lose his family”. The point...some things are more important than success and money. In Proverbs 22:6, God admonishes men to be good stewards over his children; *“Train up a child the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it”*. You cannot train someone that you do not spent time with.

Ministry Focus

Family Relationship

Genre: Drama

Cast

Father - Adult male
Wife - Adult female
Son #1 - at Age 5-7
Son #2 - at Age 14-17
Police Detective - Adult male
(note: in the sketch Son #1 & #2 is the same person. Try to use brothers or two boys with similar appearance)

Costumes

Father - suit and tie
Wife - house robe, casual clothes (2 sets)
Son #1 - everyday street clothes
Son #2 - everyday street clothes
Police Detective - suit and tie

Props and Setting

- One chair
- One Desk (office stuff on desk)
- Laptop computer
- Cell phone
- Doll baby & blanket
- Framed picture of son
- Police badge
- Large Date Calendar

Sound Effect

Crying Baby
Knock on door or doorbell

Time: 10 minutes

A FATHER'S TIMEINT. HOME OFFICE

THE HOME OFFICE ROOM CONTAINS A SMALL DESK/TABLE, AN OFFICE CHAIR, A SUIT COAT ON THE BACK OF THE CHAIR, AND A LAPTOP COMPUTER ON THE DESK. THERE IS ALSO A FULL PAGE CALENDAR ON THE DESK FACING THE AUDIENCE DISPLAYING THE WORDS, "YEAR 1"

FATHER ENTERS TALKING ON HIS CELL PHONE. HIS TIE IS LOOSELY TIED AROUND HIS NECK AND HIS SHIRT SLEEVES ARE ROLLED UP HIS ARMS.

FATHER

(Conversation in progress)...

Congratulations Bob on your new position in Houston. (Listens) Well, the next time I'm out that way on business, I'll look you up. (Listen) Oh Yes, Karen had a little boy. I missed the delivery, but that's okay, I really wanted to attend the vendor conference. I made a lot of new sales contacts. (Repeats what Bob says) "Don't work too hard." I'm just trying to keep up with you (Laugh). Hey, don't be a stranger. Let's keep in touch, okay. Bye.

FATHER HANGS UP PHONE AND SITS DOWN AT HIS DESK. HE OPENS HIS LAPTOP AND BEGINS WORKING ON THE COMPUTER.

FATHER

(talking to himself) Karen hates when I bring work home, but I have to make my sales quota this year if I want to be promoted. (starting typing on the computer).

WIFE (KAREN) ENTERS, CARRYING A NEWBORN BABY (WRAPPED IN A BLANKET) AND A PICTURE FRAME IN A SMALL PLASTIC BAG. WIFE IS WEARING A MATERNITY HOUSE ROBE AND SLIPPERS.

WIFE

Hi Honey, the baby is awake.

FATHER

(holds, admires baby) Hey, let me see my boy. Charles Riley Jr. My firstborn son.

WIFE

(disappointed)

I wish you could have been in the delivery room with me.

FATHER

Yeah me too, but I had to work. Did everything go okay? (worried) Is everyone alright?

WIFE

(calms him down) Yes, the baby and I are fine. Look at this. The hospital gave us a picture of the baby and his little footprints. (hands 5x7 framed picture to father).

FATHER

(admiring picture) I know the perfect place for it (sits picture on desk next to laptop). I can look at him while I work. Karen, when I get promoted to Sales Manager, we'll be set. I want our son to have the best of everything.

Sound Effect: Crying Baby

FATHER (CONT'D)

Looks like he wants his mother now.
(hands baby back to wife).

WIFE

(To baby) Is it feeding time again?
(speaking baby-talk) You hunger
boobee...etc., etc. etc.

WIFE EXITS - CONTINUES BABY-TALK.

Sound Effect: crying baby ends.

FATHER TIGHTENS HIS NECKTIE AND UNROLLS HIS SLEEVES.

FATHER CHANGES CALENDER TO DISPLAY THE WORDS "YEAR 7"

TAKES OUT CELL PHONE AND DIALS NUMBER.

FATHER

Hey Bob, how are you doing? I heard you were in town for a few days (Listens). The family is fine. (Listens) My son...oh he's around 7 years old now. Guess, what...I finally got promoted to Sales Manager a few years ago. I've been working crazy hours, but that's what you have to do to make it to the top. Look, let's get together before you go back. We can stop somewhere for dinner tonight. (pause) Great, see you later.

WIFE AND SON ENTER. WIFE IS DRESSED IN CASUAL CLOTHES

WIFE

Charles, I got another note from your son's teacher today. I think you need to speak with him. (hands Father the note)

FATHER

(To Son) Are you misbehaving in school?

SON #1

No Dad. My teacher keeps picking on me.
She's mean!

FATHER

(Hands note back to wife). It's
probably just some misunderstanding.
I'm sure there's nothing to worry about.

WIFE

(disturbed)

Well, you won't know what it is unless
to give the teacher a call.

FATHER

Honey, I can't. I have too much work to
do.

WIFE

(concerned)

Charles, you really need to spend more
time with your son.

FATHER

Oh, he's alright. (mimic boxing with
son). Look Son, try to do better in
school okay (hands son money).

SON #1

Wow, a \$50 dollar bill!

WIFE

(upset)

Charles, you shouldn't reward your son
for getting a note from the teacher.

FATHER

It's not a reward...think of it as a
financial incentive to encourage him to
change his behavior.

WIFE

(frustrated)

He's your son, not one of your clients.

WIFE EXITS WITH HER SON.

FATHER PUTS ON HIS SUIT COAT.

FATHER CHANGES CALENDER TO DISPLAY THE WORDS "YEAR 16"

TAKES OUT CELL PHONE AND DIALS NUMBER.

FATHER

Hey, Bob, I heard you were back in town
for the National Sales Convention.

(Listens) Yes, I was promoted to Senior
Vice President last year. (Listens)

Yes, Karen and I are still together. My
son...oh he's a teenager now...a real
good boy. Hey Bob, sorry I can't talk
long, but I'm on my way to Chicago for
the stockholder's meeting. (Proudly) I
have a good chance of being the next
President of the company. I'll call you
when I get back.

WIFE AND TEENAGE SON ENTER ARGUING (AD-LIB). FINALLY WIFE
APPROACHES HER HUSBAND

WIFE

Charles, do you hear your son?

FATHER

What now? I have to fly to Chicago in a
few hours.

WIFE

(hands a small plastic bag to husband)
Look, I found these drugs in your son's
room.

SON #2

Ma, you're not supposed to be sneakin'
around in my room.

WIFE

Look, as long as you live in this house, I'll sneak, peep, and creep in any room I please.

FATHER

Everyone calm down. Clearly there has to be a logical explanation. (To Son) As soon as I return from this business trip, you and I will have a talk.

SON #2

Okay, Dad.

SON #2 EXITS

WIFE

(in disbelief)

Now what in the world was that?

FATHER

Karen, I'll talk to him when I get back.

WIFE

No, you need to talk to him now! Your son is hanging with the wrong crowd and he's getting out of hand.

FATHER

You're blowing this whole thing out of proportion.

- End of Preview -

The father continues to misread the warning signs as his son goes down the wrong path. There's an extremely powerful and moving message at the end; which will bring some men to tears. This is a great script for a Men's Conference.
