

"WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?"

By
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Synopsis

Church members are selected to participate in the #1 Christian Game Show in the country, to determine whose responsibility it is to support church ministries and carry on the work of Christ. Unfortunately, none of them provide the correct answers.

Scripture

Philippians 4:15-18

Ministry Lesson:

We often think it's someone else's responsibility to help others and support ministries. However, it's the responsibility of the saints of God.

Ministry Focus

Service and Support

Genre: Comedy

Cast

TV Announcer - Adult male or female
Brother Benson - Man - 30+ - (somewhat militant)*
Sis. Hightower - Female - 50+ - (slightly senile)
Charlene Simone - Female - 17+ - (immature and quirky)*
Host Assistant - Young Female
TV Show Director - Adult male or female (off-stage)
**Strong Urban colloquialism, best played by African Americans cast*

Costumes

Sis Hightower - flowery dress and hat, vivid colors
Brother Benson - dark or military green clothing
Charlene - flashy clothing, big earrings, crazy hairstyle, etc.
Host - Suit and tie

Props

Cane
Poster (with the word "Applaud")
Toy noise makers, (horns, kazoo, whistle)

Time: 10 mins.

Sound Effects

TV Show Theme music - by musician or taped

Director's Note:

We planted the cast in the congregation prior to the beginning of church service. This provided the element of surprise and excitement for the congregation when their fellow worshipper's name was called. Have fun with the characters.

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?

INTERIOR - TV STUDIO - DAY

THE TV ANNOUNCER IS PREPARING TO INTRODUCE THE HOST OF THE TV SHOW. SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE.

TV ANNOUNCER

Okay folks, only 10 seconds to air time.
Please prepare to applaud when you see
the sign.

HOST ASSISTANT HOLDS UP SIGN, "APPLAUD". THE ANNOUNCER ENCOURAGES THE AUDIENCE TO RESPOND WITH THEIR APPLAUSE AND SCREAMS...THE LOUDER THE BETTER.

TV ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Good! Good! Okay folks, we're going to
have a GREAT show today. (*pumps up the
audience*) Are you ready!? ARE YOU
READY!?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Quiet on the set. Ready for taping in 5,
4, 3, 2,

SOUND EFFECT: TV SHOW MUSICAL PRELUDE BEGINS (ON 1)

TV ANNOUNCER

(very enthusiastic)

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the #1
Christian Game Show in the country,
"WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT"!

ASSISTANT HOLDS UP APPLAUD SIGN FOR 5 SECONDS

TV ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

(reading from papers or cards) Our first contestant is a member of the Upward Bound Church of Christ in Jackson Mississippi. Welcome, Sister Anna Mae Hightower.

ASSISTANT HOLDS UP APPLAUD SIGN. SISTER HIGHTOWER STEPS OUT FROM THE AUDIENCE. SHE LIMPS WITH A CANE, BUT GIVES THANKS TO GOD AS SHE MAKES HER WAY TO THE FRONT OF THE STAGE. ONCE SHE IS POSITIONED ON STAGE, THE ANNOUNCER CONTINUES.

TV ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Our next contestant is a member of the First Trinity New Life Church of God in New Orleans, Louisiana. Welcome Brother Benny Benson.

ASSISTANT HOLDS UP APPLAUD SIGN. BROTHER BENSON STEPS OUT FROM THE AUDIENCE AND RUNS TO THE FRONT OF THE STAGE.

TV ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Our third and final contestant is a member of "I Found My Way" Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Welcome Sister Charlene Simone.

ASSISTANT HOLDS UP APPLAUD SIGN. SISTER SIMONE JUMPS UP IN THE AUDIENCE AND SCREAMS WITH EXCITEMENT.

CHARLENE

(frantic)

Oh my God! I can't believe it!

(screams) Oh my God! *(ad-lib)*

HER EXCITEMENT IS UNCONTROLLABLE AS SHE HUGS PEOPLE AND WAVES TO OTHERS AS SHE MAKES HER WAY TO THE STAGE. SHE IS COMPLETELY OUT OF BREATH BY THE TIME SHE REACHES THE FRONT. ALL THREE CONTESTANTS ARE STANDING SIDE BY SIDE FACING THE AUDIENCE. CHARLENE GRABS A MIRROR FROM HER PURSE TO CHECK HER

HAIR, LIPS, AND TEETH.

TV ANNOUNCER

Annnnnnd now for the host of the show,
welcome Bishop A. J. Johnson!

ASSISTANT HOLDS UP APPLAUD SIGN TV HOST ENTERS FROM BACK
STAGE, WAVING TO THE AUDIENCE. RECEIVES MICROPHONE FROM TV
ANNOUNCER.

HOST

Welcome! Welcome to Whose Responsibility
Is It. The first Christian Game Show to
test our contestants on their roles and
responsibilities in today's church.

HOST (CONT'D)

(to contestants) Welcome contestants.
Tell us something about yourselves.

ANNA MAE

(speaking with a squeaky voice)

My name is Anna Mae Hightower. I'm just
holding on one day at a time.

HOST

(compassionately)

That's alright.

ANNA MAE

(very dramatic)

You know the road is rough and the goin'
gets tough, and the hills are hard to
climb, but I started out, a long time
ago, but there's...

HOST CHECKS HIS WATCH

(interrupts) **HOST**
Thank you Sister Hightower.

(perturbed) **ANNA MAE**
Well! God bless you too!

HOST
(looks at Benny) Our next contestant.

BENNY
Wha's up Bro. I'm Benson, Benny Benson.
I'm just chillin' with the Lord. Ya'
know what I mean Bro.?

(thrown off) **HOST**
Ah, perhaps. (to Charlene) How
about our dear sister at the end?

CHARLENE IS FIDDLING WITH HER HAIR AND CLOTHING

(quirky) **CHARLENE**
Hi, I'm Charlene Simone. Am I on TV?
(looking out at imaginary TV camera).
Hi Mom. (waves) Hi Shukeshia and
Latriss. Hey Donte, Pookie, and Quanna.
Girl, I'm on TV! (strikes several
poses).

HOST CLEARS HIS THROAT TO INTERRUPT CHARLENE

HOST

Well, let's get started. As you know,
I'll ask a question about your Christian
service and you will signal if you know
the answer by using one of these sound
devices.

THE HOST ASSISTANT PASSES THE PROP BOX TO EACH CONTESTANT.
IN THE BOX ARE DIFFERENT PARTY NOISE MAKERS (E.G., WHISTLE,
KAZOO, BIKE HORN, BELL, OR ANY OTHER FUNNY SOUNDING TOY).
EACH CONTESTANT WILL SELECT ONE NOISE MAKER. AFTER
SELECTING A NOISE MAKER, EACH CONTESTANT TRIES IT OUT (TO
LET THE AUDIENCE HEAR IT).

HOST (CONT'D)

(to audience) Are you ready?

ENCOURAGE THE AUDIENCE TO RESPOND

(To contestants) Are you ready?

THE CONTESTANTS CHEERFULLY RESPOND

Okay, let's play Whose Responsibility Is
It. *(Pulls out index cards with
questions)* Your first question *(reading)*
Whose Responsibility Is It...to help the
poor?

ALL CONTESTANTS SOUND THEIR NOISE MAKERS

HOST (CONT'D)

Sister Hightower.

ANNA MAE

I think it's the responsibility of the
Missionary Circle of the church.

CHARLENE

(claps with excitement)

Yeah, good answer, good answer, yeah!

HOST

Ah, excuse me, but this is not Family
Feud.

CHARLENE

(embarrassed)

Oh, my bad.

HOST

(To Sis. Hightower) I'm sorry, that's
the wrong answer. Brother Benson, what
do you say...helping the poor?

BENNY

(militant)

It's the Government's responsibility.
Instead of taxing the rich to support
the poor, they tax the poor to support
the rich. It's the 'Reverse Robin Hood'
Syndrome. You see this whole social
economic system is based on a conspiracy
to build more highways than housing,
more bombs than businesses, and...and
more Fruit Loops than Coco Puffs.

HOST

(thrown off)

Ah huh, I see. *(to Charlene)*
Sister Simone, whose responsibility is
it to help the poor?

CHARLENE

(no compassion)

They need to go get a job! Don't nobody
have no money to be givin' away. *(looks
at TV camera to speak to her friends)* I
need somebody to pay my bills.

Ain't that right girls? (*strikes a pose again*)

HOST

Unfortunately, you all gave the wrong answer. The right answer is YOU! It's the responsibility of the saints of God to help the poor. Our next question is, whose responsibility is it to visit those who are incarcerated?

CONTESTANTS SOUND THEIR NOISE MAKERS

HOST (CONT'D)

Sister Hightower.

ANNA MAE

Well, I don't believe a person can be REINCARNATED. When you're dead, you're dead.

HOST

Sister Hightower, the word is incarcerated, to be put in prison, not reincarnated.

ANNA MAE

Oh. Never mind.

HOST

Sister Simone, whose responsibility is it to visit those who are incarcerated?

CHARLENE

Oh I definitely think the baby's mama should take her child to see his daddy while he's locked up.

Then when he gets out on probation, the child will know who his daddy is. So I cast my vote for the baby's mama. (*she smiles for the camera*).

HOST

Okaaaay, uh, Brother Benson, whose responsibility is it to visit those in prison?

BENNY

The lawyers of course. Man, when I was locked up, my lawyer only came by one time. What's with that, Bro? I mean, I know he was a Public Defender, but he still needs to take up his responsibility as an officer in the judicial system. Know wha' I mean Bro.? It's a conspiracy!

HOST

I'm sorry, the correct answer, once again, is YOU! It's the responsibility of the saints of God to visit those who are in prison. Matthew 25:36 says, "when I was in prison, ye came unto me".

Now for our final bonus question for today. Whose responsibility is it to support the work and ministries within the local church?

CONTESTANTS SOUND THEIR NOISE MAKERS

HOST (CONT'D)

Okay, Sister Hightower, what do you
think?

- End of Preview -

Who will win? Will any of these crazy contestants realize it's
their personal responsibility to be the hands, eyes, and ears of
Christ and continue the work of the ministry?
