

ASK THE FAMILY

By Rod

This sketch illustrates the need to witness to our families more by the way we live than by what we say. The commentary could be acted out by a suitable cast taking the characters.

- N1. This is the story of A....., B..... and C.....
- N2 All of them were members of a church youth group.
- N1 And all of them had a life changing experience
- N2 They saw something that they had never seen before.
- N3 What was that?
- N1 They saw for the first time how Jesus had died for them, and each of them decided to put their trust fully in Him.
- N3 Eh?
- N2 He/she means that they became Christians.
- N1 Precisely.
- N3 Oh right. So how did their lives change?
- N1 Well, it really began when they got home and found their respective families watching the latest reality TV show:
- N2 "Help, I'm a Celebrity Wrestling in a Kitchen with a Pop Idol on Love Island".
- N3 What happened? Did they all do the same thing?
- N1 No. They acted very differently.
- N2 A.... saw what her family were watching...and went straight to her room, where she started to pray fervently.
- N1 B.... saw what her family were watching, stood in front of the TV and said, "You shouldn't be watching this; its full of swearing. I've just met Jesus and my life has been changed completely."
- N2 C.... saw what her family were watching, and didn't disturb them. Instead she cleared away their supper things and did the washing-up.
- N3 How did their families react?

- N1 All the families were amazed. They noticed the difference right away.
- N2 A....s family said, "What's wrong with her? This is usually her favourite programme. Hope she's not ill."
- N1 B...’s family said, "Whatever's got into her. This is usually her favourite programme. Reckon she's got religion."
- N1 C...’s family said, "There's something different about her. This is usually her favourite programme. How come she's done the washing-up? She doesn't normally lift a finger."
- N3 I'm not surprised by those reactions. What happened next?
- N1 Well, that night they all prayed for their families.
- N2 A.... prayed, "I thank you God that I am not like my family: sinful and worldly. Thank you for opening my eyes to the truth about Jesus."
- N1 B..... prayed, "Thank you, God, for opening my eyes to the truth about Jesus. Help me to tell my family about Him too, so they can realise the error of their ways."
- N2 C.... prayed, "Thank you God for my family – for their love for me, shown over many years. Help me to show your love to them so that they will want to get to know you in the way that I do."
- N3 Those prayers are very different in emphasis. What happened the next morning?
- N1 All of them got up early to spend time in prayer and Bible study before going off to school.
- N2 A..... spent so long studying and praying that she missed breakfast, just grabbing a slice of bread as she rushed out the door.
- N1 B..... was on time for breakfast and took the opportunity to tell them about Jesus; His death on the cross for their sin and their need to come to Him in repentance.
- N2 C..... was early for breakfast. She prepared it for everyone and helped to clear it away.
- N3 How did their families react to that sort of behaviour? Did they notice any difference?
- N1 They certainly did.

- N2 A....’s family said, “What’s happened to her? She normally loves her breakfast. Do hope she isn’t going anorexic.”
- N1 B....’ family said, “What’s happened to her? She’s turning into a religious fanatic. Hope she hasn’t joined one of those strange sects.”
- N2 C....’s family said’ “What’s happened to her? She’s not normally so helpful. She’s really changed – for the better.”
- N3 And what happened in the longer term. Did all three keep up their new found Christian faith?
- N1 Yes, they did, and all of them asked their families to come along with them to the Carol Service.
- N3 That’s very commendable. That’s what Andrew Dow wants us all to do. Did their families come to the service?
- N1 No, not all.
- N2 A....’s family said, “You must be joking. It’s the “BBC Sports Personality Of The Year” on the telly. We don’t want to miss that.”
- N3 Pity.
- N1 B....’s family said, “No thanks. We don’t want to run the risk of being brainwashed into becoming fundamentalist religious fanatics like you.”
- N3 That’s a shame.
- N2 But C’s family said, “Yes, we’d like to come. Church has obviously brought about a big change in you. We’d like to find out more.”
- N3 That’s good news.
- N1 Yes, it is.
- N2 In more than ways than one.

THE END