

A close-up photograph of a person's torso and arm. The person is wearing a blue polo shirt and dark denim jeans. They are holding a thick, black-bound Bible in their right hand. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a bright sky. The text 'SAVING NINEVEH' is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

# SAVING NINEVEH

The Original Stageplay

**CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT**

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## Sample Script



## Scene 1

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**LIGHTS UP**

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

*June and Donald enter SL coming in from church. They move quickly to the door and fumble with the keys looking over their shoulder.*

*They quickly enter, locking the door behind them and breathing a sigh of relief.*

**DONALD:** Made it!

**JUNE:** I can't do this, Donald. Nineveh is not a community civilized people should live next to.

**DONALD:** Are we gonna have this conversation again?

*Donald is removing his jacket.*

**JUNE:** I am tired of sneaking into my own home and constantly looking over my shoulders.

**DONALD:** Let's talk about church today.

**JUNE:** Let's not talk about church.

**DONALD:** Was it that bad?

**JUNE:** I don't know. I fell asleep.

**DONALD:** I thought the message was good.

**JUNE:** It was boring.

**DONALD:** Why are you being so negative?

**JUNE:** We have been following the same traditional routine for the past fifteen years.

**DONALD:** How long have you been falling asleep in church?

**JUNE:** Fifteen years.

**DONALD:** What are you trying to say?

**JUNE:** While you insist on preaching every Sunday for two and a half hours...the church is dying.

**DONALD:** And that's my fault?

**JUNE:** You are the pastor.

**DONALD:** I have been trying to start a revival in that church for years. The members are non-responsive. Nobody wants to do anything. If they are dying or dead, it's their fault...not mine.

**JUNE:** So, you do agree with me that the church is dead?

**DONALD:** I didn't say that.

**JUNE:** Yes, you did.

**DONALD:** All this talk is making me hungry. How about you go start dinner?

**JUNE:** How about you cook today?

*Pause.*

**DONALD:** So, seriously... How about you go start dinner?

**JUNE:** Donald, we have been married for twenty-three years and you have never even fried an egg.

**DONALD:** That's why I got married.

**JUNE:** You seriously expected me to cook for you for the rest of your life.

**DONALD:** Of course not. That's why we had a child.

*Pause.*

**JUNE:** What do you want for dinner?

**DONALD:** What are my options?

**JUNE:** Well, we have chicken....chicken and I think there is chicken.

**DONALD:** I will have chicken.

*June turns to exit.*

**DONALD:** Can I get a cup of coffee?

**JUNE:** That you will have to make for yourself.

*June exits.*

**DONALD:** *(calling offstage)* Sarah.

*Sarah enters carrying a cup of coffee.*

*She gives it to Donald.*

**DONALD:** What is this?

**SARAH:** Coffee.

**DONALD:** How did you know I wanted coffee?

**SARAH:** Well, you have been drinking coffee every time you come from church for the past fifteen years.

**DONALD:** Am I that predict---?

**SARAH:** And yes, you are that predictable.

**DONALD:** Do you see that as being boring?

**SARAH:** Yep.

**DONALD:** Do you think I need a new approach to how I do things?

**SARAH:** Yep.

**DONALD:** Do you think your mother has the same perceptions?

**SARAH:** Yep.

**DONALD:** Talking to you is so much fun.

**SARAH:** So, I heard.

**DONALD:** Your mother told you the same thing?

**SARAH:** Nope. Some guy I met the other day.

*Pause.*

**DONALD:** A guy?

**SARAH:** Yeah.

*Pause.*

**DONALD:** That's new. (*patting the seat beside him*) Wanna talk to your old man about it?

**SARAH:** Nope.

**DONALD:** Why not?

**SARAH:** Cause, you can't handle young people stuff.

**DONALD:** Try me.

*Sarah considers. She sits beside him.*

**SARAH:** So, I can talk to you about anything?

**DONALD:** Anything.

**SARAH:** Anything.

**DONALD:** Anything at all. (*takes a sip of his coffee*)

**SARAH:** Can I talk to you about sex?

*Donald spews the coffee out of his mouth. It takes a while for him to recover.*

**SARAH:** You said we could talk about anything.

**DONALD:** Anything but that.

**SARAH:** So, who do I talk to?

**DONALD:** God.

*Pause.*

**DONALD:** Look, there is nothing in my book about talking to my daughter about....that.

**SARAH:** Which book is that?

**DONALD:** Parenting for dummies.

Pause.

**SARAH:** You are taking advice from a book called Parenting for Dummies?

**DONALD:** It's a good book; by the way, didn't they teach you this stuff in school?

**SARAH:** Ok...I told you this would be a waste of time. Thanks for nothing ,dad.

*Sarah exits.*

**DONALD:** Phew. That was uncomfortable. I don't know what is wrong with these young people these days. All they want to talk about is s-s-s that word, in my day we didn't have time to even think about s-s-s that word. I feel like a sinner just thinking about it.

*Drinks some coffee.*

**DONALD:** Ahhh... *(The coffee soothes him)* God, you called me to shepherd Your people and I haven't had a serious testimony in years. For three years the church has not grown. I need a new experience. I need to feel You; I need to hear You. I want to be so overwhelmed by Your glory that I get lost in Your presence. I am tired of living on the glory of the good old days. God, the church has become a dry and desolate land. Where is Your glory?

**VOICE:** Donald.

**DONALD:** *(startled, looking around)* Who said that?

**VOICE:** I am the Lord thy God and I have heard your prayer. I have seen the desire of your heart and because you have put me first, I will honor your sacrifice as I did for David when he killed Goliath, and for Moses when he delivered my people out of bondage.

*Donald kneels to the floor.*

**DONALD:** Yes, Lord. I am listening.

**VOICE:** Are you willing to go where I send you?

**DONALD:** Yes, Lord.

**VOICE:** Will you do as I tell you?

**DONALD:** Yes, my God.

**VOICE:** And say what I want you to say?

**DONALD:** Yes, Father, Your will be done.

**VOICE:** This will not be easy... and many have died for this same cause. Are you willing to risk your life, and the life of your family?

**DONALD:** Where you lead, I will follow.

**VOICE:** There is no easy way to say this, but I want you to close the doors of the church and have church outside the border of Nineveh.

*Pause.*

**DONALD:** So, seriously, God....What do you want me to do?

*Pause.*

**DONALD:** You seriously want me to close the doors to my church and have a tent meeting outside a community that steals, murders, destroys and has no regard or respect for church?

**VOICE:** Yes.

**DONALD:** I think I will settle for the glory of the good old days.

**VOICE:** What about where I lead you will follow?

**DONALD:** Anywhere else You lead I will follow. Do You even know what You are asking me to do?

**VOICE:** I should think so...considering that I am God.

**DONALD:** You are gonna get me killed.

**VOICE:** I have a young man there. His name is Kurt, and he needs the gospel. The whole community of Nineveh needs the gospel. They will either repent or be destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah. I want them to have a fighting chance. It is not my will that any should perish. Find Kurt and make sure he hears the gospel.

**DONALD:** Can we negotiate...I could lose my life. There must be something else I can do. Somewhere else I can go. Anything else but that.

*Donald listens but hears nothing.*

**DONALD:** God, You there? God! God!

*No response. Donald rubs his head. He stands to his feet and considers. He goes for his Bible.*

**DONALD:** *(Sighs)* Alright book, please don't let me down.

*He finds a scripture and reads.*

**DONALD:** *(reads)* For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. *(slams the Bible shut)* Not good. *(opens the Bible again and reads)* But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams." *(throws the Bible away or back on the coffee table)* Why me, Lord?

*He considers.*

**DONALD:** June is not going to like this.

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 2

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### LIGHTS UP

*Roger is waiting by the fence.*

*Sarah sneaks out of the house to meet Roger.*

**ROGER:** Hey, sunshine. Come give me a hug.

*(Sarah comes over and hugs him but she pulls away quickly).*

**ROGER:** Baby, why are you behaving so rash?

**SARAH:** *(ignoring the question)* Roger, I have to study. I can't stay long.

**ROGER:** So, invite me inside so I can help you study.

**SARAH:** Not a good idea.

**ROGER:** Your parents there?

**SARAH:** No, but they will be home soon. By the way, how do you plan to help me study?

**ROGER:** What you mean?

**SARAH:** I am in college.

**ROGER:** So.

**SARAH:** Your primary school education is of little help to me.

**ROGER:** You know I have a good education. I taught myself everything there is in life to know.

**SARAH:** Really! What is Photosynthesis?

*Pause.*

**ROGER:** Something they do with the camera after they take pictures.

*Sarah laughs.*

**ROGER:** Funny!

**SARAH:** You know you can go back to school, right?

**ROGER:** I have better things to do with my energy.

**SARAH:** Like what?

**ROGER:** Try to convince you to let me into your house.

**SARAH:** Why?

**ROGER:** You know why.

**SARAH:** Roger, I'm a Christian.

**ROGER:** Everybody is a Christian. That means nothing. Everybody is doing it. You are the only person not doing it.

**SARAH:** In that case, we should be the only somebodies not doing it.

*Pause.*

**SARAH:** Right, Roger?

**ROGER:** Yes man.

**SARAH:** So can we talk about something other than sex.

**ROGER:** Like what?

**SARAH:** There is more to life than...sex.

**ROGER:** Really. Your God put us on this earth and told us to multiply. There is only one way to do that.

*Pause.*

**SARAH:** Ok, seriously. Let us try to have a conversation that don't involve sex.

**ROGER:** Alright.

**SARAH:** How are you, Roger?

**ROGER:** Never been kissed.

*Pause.*

**SARAH:** Did you watch the news last night?

**ROGER:** I don't watch news. Too much violence and hatred.

*Pause.*

**SARAH:** How was your day today?

**ROGER:** Boring.

*Pause.*

**ROGER:** Like now.

**SARAH:** What do you want to do?

**ROGER:** Let's go lie down in your bed.

**SARAH:** *(totally annoyed)* Roger!

*Sarah rolls her eyes.*

**SARAH:** Roger...I am saving myself for marriage, okay. If you can't respect that maybe you better step.

**ROGER:** Is that your final answer?

**SARAH:** Yes *(folds her hand and look away)*.

*Roger turns to leave.*

**SARAH:** Roger....Where are you going?

**ROGER:** I'm stepping.

**SARAH:** Why?

**ROGER:** Girl, you don't love me. If you did, you would have no problem demonstrating that love. I can't wait on you forever.

**SARAH:** We have been dating for three weeks.

**ROGER:** My point exactly. This relationship is going nowhere. Later.

*Roger tries to leave again. Sarah blocks his path.*

**SARAH:** Roger...I do love you. But what about respect? I am a Christian. What if I want to be counted with the few who don't have sex?

**ROGER:** Where's the fun in that?

**SARAH:** I don't want you to go.

**ROGER:** Saying no to sex is overrated okay. Everybody is doing it.

**SARAH:** I want us to be different and wait.

*Roger thinks and burst out in laughter.*

**ROGER:** You think this is the 70s. I'm going home. If you want to spend some time with this guy ...then come over. If not, lose my number.

*Roger disappears behind the fence.*

**SARAH:** Great....you give God everything and you lose everything.

*Pause to consider.*

**SARAH:** All my friends are doing it. What's the big deal? I will lose the man I love if I don't. What do I do? I wanna be different....but I feel like I am missing out on something. Am I missing out on something?

*Sarah makes a call on her cell phone.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

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