

# **LifeLine Productions**

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## **The Box**

### **Introduction**

LifeLine Productions is dedicated to presenting the Gospel message and Biblical truths in an entertaining and thought-provoking form. We aim to plant seeds in the hearts of those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, and to challenge and encourage believers to a stronger walk with their Lord.

We are thankful to you for ordering this script. It is our prayer that your drama group, youth group or whatever type of group you have will be effective with this material and that God will use our collective work for His good. You are on the front-line; you have the opportunity through your performance to touch someone and lead them to Christ. May God bless your faithfulness in this task.

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# The Box

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**Theme:** The importance and urgency of deciding for God now.

**People:** Two.

**Props:** One box. Inside are a letter and two boxes: one marked “Getting to know God better”, the other “\$1,000” and a letter. In the box marked “Getting to know God better” are two envelopes, one marked “Getting to know God better”, the other marked “\$50,000.” In the “\$50,000” envelope, there is a letter. The “Getting to know God better” envelope is empty.

**Scene:** In a couple’s living room.

**George:** (*George walks in carrying a cardboard box.*) Hi honey! I’m home.

**Doris:** (*Doris walks in from the other side.*) Hello dear. What’s in the box?

**George:** I don’t know, it was on the porch when I came home.

**Doris:** Oh. Does it say who it’s from?

**George:** No, it doesn’t say anything, just... “Decisions.”

**Doris:** You don’t suppose it’s a bomb do you?

**George:** (*Shakes the box.*) No, it’s much too light to be a bomb.

**Doris:** Well, for goodness sakes, open it!

**George:** (*Opens the box, and pulls out two smaller boxes.*) What’s this? Two other boxes? (*Reads the large writing on the box.*) “Getting to know God better.” What’s that all about?

**Doris:** I don’t know. This one is marked, “\$1,000.”

**George:** Wait, here’s a letter. “Enclosed are two boxes. One box will enable you to know God better. The other box will enable you to receive one thousand dollars. To make your decision, open the box you wish to receive, and place the other on the porch. In the morning, the results of your decision will be delivered.”

**Doris:** Now who would be sending us a thousand dollars?

**George:** I don’t know.

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- Doris:** It's probably some advertising gimmick from the auto dealers down the street.
- George:** It doesn't say anything about advertising. It just says to open one box or the other.
- Doris:** Well, throw it away, it can't be serious.
- George:** Now, wait a minute! They're not asking us to buy anything. For the possibility of getting a thousand dollars, it wouldn't hurt to open this box and put the other on the porch.
- Doris:** I just don't want to be taken as suckers. That's all.
- George:** Don't be silly. I say, if someone wants to give us a thousand dollars, let them be the sucker. Now put this on the porch and get me a knife.
- Doris:** *(As Doris walks with the other box toward the door, she looks ponderingly at the \$1000 box.)* George.
- George:** *(George is struggling to open the \$1000 box he is holding.)* What? Man, this box is really sealed.
- Doris:** What about this box?
- George:** What about that box?
- Doris:** It says, "Getting to know God better." Don't you think we should consider opening this box instead?
- George:** You can't be serious. Hon, if we open that box we loose the thousand dollars.
- Doris:** But, dear, the box *(points to big box)* said, "Decisions." If we choose your box, aren't we deciding that God is worth less than a thousand dollars to us?
- George:** Doris, we have the freedom to decide about God anytime. This may be our only chance to accept a free gift of a thousand dollars. Besides, when have you, or we, ever thought about God anyway?
- Doris:** That's just it; do you believe there's a God?
- George:** Of course I believe there's a God! Everyone believes there's a God!
- Doris:** If there's a God, then there must be more to this life than just this.

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**George:** For crying out loud, you're not going to get metaphysical on me again, are you?

**Doris:** No, I just think this is the box we should open.

**George:** Doris, we're talking about a thousand dollars here. Do you know what we could buy with this?

**Doris:** I'm sure a lot of things.

**George:** Your darn right a lot of things! It's three more months membership at our health spa, almost six months pool service. If you want to get spiritual, I can send you to another "Your Inner Child" seminar; you can take more yogy classes...

**Doris:** That's yoga.

**George:** Yoga, Yogi, whatever! But we can't do any of that unless you put that stupid box on the porch. Okay?

**Doris:** But George, don't you want to know more about God? Isn't God important to you?

**George:** Of course he's important...

**Doris:** What do you know about him?

**George:** Uh, there's a God, he exists. What more do I need to know?

**Doris:** Is that all there is?

**George:** No. He was born on Easter, died on Christmas, and brought all the animals to the ark two-by-two.

**Doris:** He was born on Christmas, died on Easter, and it was Noah who brought the animals.

**George:** Fine! You know everything you need to know.

**Doris:** No I don't!

**George:** What more is there?

**Doris:** Why? Why did he die? There has to be a reason! And it must be important. Don't you think we should know why he died?

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- George:** Sure, but, can't we learn this later?
- Doris:** George, it's only a thousand dollars, and we both know that the odds of this being real are bleak. If we open this and find out it's not real, I don't think I could live with myself knowing we chose wrong. Please, let's open this one.
- George:** If it's worth a thousand dollars to you, fine, go ahead and open that one. (*Doris opens the box marked, "Getting to know God better."*) Well, what's in there?
- Doris:** Two more envelopes.
- George:** Two more envelopes?!
- Doris:** Yes, one marked, "Getting to know God better", and the other one is marked...(*Doris hesitates as she stares at the other envelope.*)
- George:** Well, what does it say?
- Doris:** Fifty thousand dollars.
- George:** You've got to be kidding. Fifty thousand dollars? Fifty thousand dollars! Do you know what we can do with fifty thousand dollars? We could get completely out of debt; we can add on the workout room, with the spa; we could get the convertible sports car we've been wanting.
- Doris:** You've been wanting.
- George:** Well, okay, you can go on those cruises to Europe; buy all the clothes you want...
- Doris:** Dear...
- George:** I can really upgrade my computer...
- Doris:** Hon...
- George:** We could fire your brother and get a really good landscaper. Wouldn't that impress the neighbors, huh? (*Doris is looking to George, almost pleading with her eyes.*) What? What? No! You can't be seriously wanting to open that other envelope!
- Doris:** George, all my life I've wanted to know truth. If truth is in this envelope, and I don't open it, then what is my life worth?

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- George:** But, Doris, that envelope brings us more questions, more problems. This envelope is the answer to all of our problems.
- Doris:** How many times have you said that before?
- George:** What do you mean?
- Doris:** If I get this job, it'll be the answer to all our problems; as soon as I get this raise, all of our problems will be solved.
- George:** Well, the job and the raise helped support our lifestyle, didn't they?
- Doris:** No, we never did feel satisfied because we went deeper into debt. Oh, yes! We'd have no more problems once we receive your uncle's inheritance. How fast did that go? And then there was the thought that selling all of our retirement stock would be the solution to our problems.
- George:** Wait a minute! It was you who wanted the bigger house, not me. "Oh, my life would be so complete if we just had the room to spread out." A lot of good that did us.
- Doris:** Yes George, I was wrong. I made the same decision we always make, "More is better." Yet, whenever we head down that path, we always have the same feeling of emptiness inside. And now we're facing the same decision. I'm saying we choose this envelope. If God is the creator of the world, then, surely, he must be much more powerful than us. If that's the case, then he must know what's better for us. Let's decide, now, to trust him. Don't you see, we can't have both.
- George:** I don't know what you're looking for. You can't tell me that you haven't enjoyed this house, the boat, the vacations. Well, for the first time, we have an opportunity to pay for all of this, and maybe even get a little more. As head of the household, I do believe that God says somewhere that the male is the head of the household, I have a responsibility to provide for our lifestyle. I'm going to open this envelope.
- Doris:** But don't you also have a responsibility for the spirituality of the family?
- George:** Will you cut this spirituality garbage! I'm a good person, I believe in God, and I don't interfere with anyone's personal beliefs. I don't need to be anymore spiritual than that. But, we do need the money, and I'm going to open this envelope!
- Doris:** Please don't...

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- George:** Forget it! This is my decision! I absolve you of any responsibility for this decision! Once and for all, we are going to find out if this is for real, or just some advertising gimmick! (*George opens the envelope, pulls out a letter and reads to himself.*)
- Doris:** Well, what does it say?
- George:** (*Looks up. He has a look of shock in his face.*) It says to put the other envelope on the porch, and in the morning we will receive...fifty thousand dollars. Doris, this is real. We are really going to get the money. WE HIT THE BIG ONE!!!
- Doris:** (*Doris is puzzled as she goes to look at the letter found in the second box.*) Who is sending us fifty thousand dollars?
- George:** What does it matter? Money is money. We can finally afford to be comfortable for a change. I can buy that new Corvette convertible, wait, this would make a great down payment on a Ferrari. And it's not costing us a dime!
- Doris:** I wish I could believe that.
- George:** Oh, Doris. I wish you'd get off that God stuff. We've made the decision, now let's be happy with all this money. With this money and the equity in our house, we could move into the Manor Heights subdivision. Won't that impress your parents!
- Doris:** (*Doris looks at the letter as if she found something.*) George...
- George:** Wait a minute. You don't suppose this is taxable, do you? Do we have to declare this?
- Doris:** George.
- George:** I can't afford taxes on fifty thousand dollars! I'm still trying to pay off the taxes from last year!
- Doris:** George!
- George:** Maybe nobody knows about this. I won't say anything. I could use part of this to pay our taxes, but then we won't be able to get the house, or my car.
- Doris:** GEORGE!
- George:** Yes? What is it?

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- Doris:** There was a letter in the second box. We didn't read it.
- George:** (*George responds as if there is a possibility he might lose his money.*) A letter? Let me see that. (*George mumbles as he reads.*) Let's see... You have chosen well... uh... getting to know God is not a frivolous decision... to insure... offered fifty thousand dollars... AH! Here it is! Open the envelope of your choice and place the other on the porch, and the results of your decision will be delivered in the morning. Boy, for a second there I thought we almost messed up.
- Doris:** No George, you've missed it.
- George:** Missed what?
- Doris:** The letter, it's addressed to me.
- George:** Say what? Let me see that! "Dear Mrs. George Walker... You have... chosen... well." Oh. I guess I overstepped my bounds when I opened that envelope. Uh, oh well. I guess since we already opened the other envelope, we have to live with the decision, huh Doris?
- Doris:** It's my decision now. I want to know what is in this envelope. (*Starts to open the envelope.*)
- George:** Wait a minute! If you open that envelope, I won't have my sealed, unopened envelope to put on the porch.
- Doris:** I'm sorry George, but I need to open this envelope.
- George:** But, we've already opened this one. We won't be able to put out an unopened envelope, so, uh, I don't think we have any choice but to keep the money.
- Doris:** You still don't understand. There's nothing they can bring us, there's nothing they can say. This is a decision between God and me. I really feel I need to open this envelope.
- George:** That's it, huh.
- Doris:** What?

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**George:** "I have a need." Every time you have a need, the world has to revolve around you. Like when you said, "I feel empty." We sent you to a "Capturing Your Psyche" seminar put on by some Maj Haraji. For two weeks I had to put up with the smell of incense and the constant throng of mantra chanting. And then a month later, it was, "My life has no meaning." It cost us fifteen hundred dollars for a retreat with an American Indian selling crystals to get over that one. "Who am I?" "What am I?" "What's it all about?" Well, after spending thousands of dollars on beads, crystals, and the "Discovering Your Inner Child" CD series, I had hoped you would've figured it out by now! But, NOOOooo. You want to get to know God. How long is this going to last? Two weeks? A month? In the mean time, it's costing us fifty thousand dollars! For once, Doris, can't you stop thinking about yourself, and think of others?

**Doris:** First off, it's not costing us a dime.

**George:** NOT COSTING US A DIME?!

**Doris:** That's right. We haven't received any money, and there's no guarantee that we will. Furthermore, you are right, I have never been able to stick to one thought or belief for very long. But, if I learned anything, it's that peace, contentment, and joy come from God. There's nothing I can do but accept the gift from Him. If I do not open this envelope, and I accept the money, then this decision will be reduced to the same kinds of decisions I've been making all my life, for I will be saying that money is more important than God. I need to open this so I can prove to myself that I really want to know God. *(Starts to open the envelope.)*

**George:** Wait! \$50,000 dollars is a lot of money. If you keep this letter, you can have just about anything you want, you really won't need God.

**Doris:** That's what I'm afraid of.

**George:** Afraid of what?

**Doris:** George, if I accept the money, I may never trust God again.

**George:** *(As Doris opens the envelope, George is seeing \$50,000 slip through his fingers.)* Wait! We need the money! Don't...AUGH! I don't believe this. *(Doris stares into the open envelope.)* Well, what's in the envelope?

**Doris:** *(Doris says this line just as a matter of fact, perhaps with a touch of peace in her heart.)* Nothing.

**George:** Nothing? NOTHING!? You mean to tell me, that this whole time, we've been arguing over an empty envelope? Well! Don't you feel like the fool!

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- Doris:** No George, not at all. I've decided... no, I've committed. I've given everything to God. My life is in His hands now. Don't you see? Oh George! *(Real bubbly now.)* I feel as if my life is just starting.
- George:** Yeah, I'm happy for you. *(Sarcastically said.)*
- Doris:** Wait! I need to call Barbara! She was always trying to talk me into going to her church. I'm sure she can help me. I bet she has an extra Bible. *(Doris starts to rush around getting her coat and purse. She drops the envelope in the process.)* I'll be gone for a while, don't wait up. Your dinner is in the freezer, four minutes in the microwave, turn, and then two more minutes. *(George has been stationary, preferably near the door, somewhat surprised at Doris' change of heart.)* Oh George, things will be different now, you'll see. That envelope wasn't empty; it was full of all the promises God has made for us. All I had to do was accept them. I love you! *(Doris rushes out the door.)*
- George:** *(George has a puzzled look on his face. He bends down and picks up the empty envelope.)* You know, I wouldn't bet on it, but I swear she's more excited about this stupid envelope than when the Dalai Lama came to town. *(George holds the envelope up to the light.)* I bet they sell these types of envelopes at the local office supply store. Since the envelope's empty, a little blue ink on the outside? *(George grabs his hat and heads out the door.)* Couldn't hurt!

**End**