

live in me

from *think*

by onetimeblind

Running Time: 7 minutes

Themes: Authenticity, being real with Jesus

Scripture Reference: Jeremiah 29:11-14

Synopsis: Four friends are hanging out, guessing movie quotes and telling jokes. They are relaxed and having fun with each other until Jesus shows up. When Jesus tries to have fun with them, they become silent and rigidly spiritual, refusing to go any deeper than a surface level with Him. After three of the friends get bored and leave, the fourth friend finally discovers what Jesus has been trying to tell them all along.

Cast:

JESUS

DREW

LAURA

TONY

KATHLENE

Props:

Joke book

(DREW and LAURA enter from SL, talking. LAURA enters first and stands closest to CS.)

DREW: OK, Laura. I've got one for you. You can get this one.

LAURA: OK, let's hear it.

(TONY walks onstage and joins the conversation, standing to the right of LAURA.)

TONY: Hey! What are you guys doing?

DREW: We're doing movie quotes. OK, Laura, this is an easy quote. You can get this movie.

LAURA: All right. Let's go.

DREW (in a raspy voice, quoting): "It came to me, my own, my precious."

LAURA (thinking): Um . . .

DREW: Come on. Think.

LAURA: I don't know—*E.T.*?

DREW: *E.T.*!

TONY: What? You've seen all three of these!

LAURA: I don't know. What is it?

DREW: *Lord of the Rings!*

LAURA: *Lord of the Rings*? How am I supposed to know that? What did you do—pick the most obscure quote in the movie?

DREW: Obscure quote? That's the premise of the whole movie. You know, the ring?

TONY: Yeah, the whole movie's about the ring. I can't believe you said *E.T.*!

LAURA: OK, fine. I have a quote for you. Tell me what movie this is from.

TONY: Sure. OK.

LAURA: All right. Here it is. (*Disguising her voice to sound like a tough guy with a Chicago accent*) "Hey, Lucy. That guy botherin' you? I know karate." (*Looks expectantly at DREW and TONY.*)

(*DREW and TONY shake their heads in disbelief.*)

DREW (*looking at LAURA like she's crazy*): *While You Were Sleeping.*

LAURA (*excitedly*): Yes! That's right!

TONY: You've gotta be kidding me.

DREW: Laura, you always quote from *While You Were Sleeping*.

LAURA: Well, I like that movie.

TONY: Yes, but every quote you do is from the same movie.

DREW: The object of doing movie quotes is to pick a different movie and try to stump us.

(*LAURA continues to argue with DREW while KATHLENE enters from SR and talks to TONY.*)

KATHLENE: Hey, Tony! Show me the love. (*Hugs TONY, then bumps hips with him while both say, "whoop, whoop." She then walks over to LAURA, hugs her, and they both say, "whoop, whoop" while bumping hips. KATHLENE then moves toward DREW.*) Hey, Drew! (*Acts as if she's going to hug him*)

DREW (*holding up his hand to stop her*): I don't think so.

KATHLENE (*backing off*): OK, that's cool. What are you guys doing?

DREW: We're doing movie quotes.

LAURA: Yeah, and I just had a really good one. They both got it right away!

TONY: That's because you always quote from the same movie.

LAURA: I told you, I like that movie. (*Pause*) OK, I have a different quote. See if you can get this one.

DREW: Try to make it a little harder, will you? Remember, you're trying to stump us.

LAURA: Yeah, fine. All right, here it is. (*Again disguises her voice to sound like a tough guy with a Chicago accent.*) "I got Ice Capades. I know a guy." (*Looks at everyone expectantly*)

(TONY and DREW groan and shake their heads.)

DREW: Not again.

TONY (*loudly*): "You're killin' me. Small!"

DREW (*annoyed*): It's *While You Were Sleeping*.

LAURA: Yes! That's it. You guys are good.

KATHLENE (*taking LAURA by the hands*): Laura, honey, you always quote from *While You Were Sleeping*. That's the oldest movie in the whole world. Nobody watches it anymore! So, really, you should pick a new movie.

LAURA: But I like that movie!

KATHLENE: I know, but ...

TONY (*interrupting*): OK, OK. I've got a joke.

(DREW, LAURA, and KATHLENE turn toward TONY.)

LAURA: OK, let's hear it.

TONY: Why does a milking stool only have three legs?

DREW: I don't know.

KATHLENE: Why?

TONY: Because the cow has the udder one! (*Laughs*)

(DREW, KATHLENE, and LAURA groan.)

LAURA: Wow, Tony. Your jokes are getting cornier all the time. You know what? I got you a joke book for your birthday, but I'm going to give it to you early because you need some help, buddy. I'll go get it and be right back.

(As LAURA turns to exit SL, DREW, KATHLENE, and TONY move closer together.)

TONY: OK, I've got another one.

(TONY, KATHLENE, and DREW begin stage-talking while LAURA continues offstage. As LAURA leaves, JESUS, who is walking on from SL, meets her. She sees Him, stops dead in her tracks, and takes the form of the cross.)

JESUS: Hey, Laura!

LAURA (seriously): "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures."

JESUS (with a puzzled look): Uh, thanks, Laura. That's nice.

(LAURA smiles and nods her head.)

JESUS: So, what are you guys up to? Are you doing movie quotes again? I love that game.

LAURA (staring straight ahead): "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me."

JESUS (confused): Yeah, that's a great song. (Pauses, waiting for LAURA to talk to Him, then looks at the others.) Well, I guess I'm going to go say "Hi" to these guys. I'll catch you later?

LAURA: Hallelujah!

(JESUS walks over to the others on SR while LAURA exits SL. JESUS stands close and listens to TONY's joke as TONY, DREW, and KATHLENE begin talking with full voices once again.)

TONY (singing): "I left my heart in Sam Clam's Disco."

(DREW and KATHLENE laugh. JESUS joins in. DREW notices JESUS, runs to the other side of Him, and takes the form of the cross. He calls to KATHLENE and TONY, who then notice JESUS and quickly take the form of the cross.)

TONY (as he puts his arms up): Holy!

(Throughout this section, when JESUS turns His back to a person, that person puts down his or her arms, then snaps them back into place when JESUS looks again.)

JESUS (*looking puzzled*): Did I miss something? What are you guys doing? It's Me. It's Jesus.

(DREW *begins humming a worship song.*)

JESUS (*looking at KATHLENE*): Kat? (*Looks at DREW*) Hey, Drew!

KATHLENE: Lord, we take up our cross every day for You.

TONY: Amen.

JESUS: That's great, but the cross is where it all begins, not ends, right?

TONY: Thou art the beginning and the end, Lord.

KATHLENE: Yes, Lord.

JESUS: Thank you, Tony. Thank you, Kat. Look, I don't get this, guys. I want you to act normal around Me, you know? I want you to be real with Me. (*Looks at DREW who is still humming, then walks over to him.*) Drew?

(DREW *looks at JESUS and starts singing out loud to Him, then smiles and raises his hands in the air.*)

JESUS: Thank you, Drew. Like it when you worship Me . . .

DREW (*interrupting*): Praise the Lord!

JESUS: But right now it just seems like you're putting on a show. It doesn't seem real.

(DREW *stops singing, looks at JESUS, and falls to his knees.*)

DREW (*with hands clasped*): Oh, Lord, forgive me for putting on a show.

JESUS: Drew, I forgive you.

DREW (*jumping back to his feet and into cross formation again*): Praise You for grace!

JESUS (*looking back and forth at everyone*): All right. Look. Say what you have to say, you know? (*Looks at TONY.*) Tony, you don't think I want to laugh? Tell Me a joke.

(TONY *looks wide-eyed at JESUS.*)

JESUS: Just like you did before. Tell Me a joke.

TONY: Um, how great Thou art?

JESUS: That's not a joke, Tony.

TONY: Oh, I'm not worthy.

LAURA (*entering SL, carrying a joke book*): All right, Tony, now this is a good book. Here's a joke for you. Knock, knock . . .

JESUS: Laura! Hey!

LAURA (*looking up and noticing JESUS*): Oh brother. (*Drops the joke book on the floor as she hurriedly takes the form of the cross.*)

JESUS (*staring at LAURA in disbelief, then turning to KATHLENE*): Kat, show Me the love!

(KATHLENE *looks confusedly at JESUS.*)

JESUS (*smiling and moving His hips sideways*): Whoop, whoop!

KATHLENE: Um, love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. Love thy neighbor as thyself?

JESUS (*frustrated*): All that stuff is true. It's good. Look, I don't want you to just say all these things and act a certain way when I am here. (*Pauses, waiting for a response. When He gets none, He walks to CS.*) Well, if this is all you want, this is all you'll get. (*takes the form of the cross.*)

(DREW, LAURA, TONY, and KATHLENE *silently look at each other, confused by what JESUS is doing.*)

TONY (*in a loud whisper*): Pssst! How long do we have to keep our arms up?

LAURA: Forever!

TONY: Forever?

KATHLENE: Yeah, forever!

TONY: I can't do that! No. I can't do that!

LAURA: Yes, you can.

DREW: You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you! Stay there.

KATHLENE: Right.

TONY (*referring to going to the bathroom*): No, I am telling you, I can't do it! I have got to go!

LAURA: You have to hold it.

DREW: Hold it.

TONY (*putting his arms down*): I'm leaving. My eyes are floating!

KATHLENE: That's disgusting!

(TONY exits SR.)

DREW (*calling after* TONY): You're in trouble.

KATHLENE: Yeah, that's not good.

(DREW, KATHLENE, and LAURA continue holding their arms up, getting bored as the seconds go by.)

DREW (*putting his arms behind his head and sighing*): This is boring. Kat?

KATHLENE: Yeah?

DREW: Do you want to go get a slushy?

KATHLENE: Sure! I love slushies.

DREW: Let's go.

KATHLENE: OK.

(DREW and KATHLENE put their arms down and start to exit SR.)

LAURA: You guys can't leave.

DREW: You just got here. You have to stay.

KATHLENE: No kidding.

(LAURA continues looking straight ahead. She sighs, puts her arms down, and picks up the joke book, which is lying on the floor. She walks over to JESUS, looks at Him and shakes her head, then starts to exit SL. As she leaves, JESUS speaks.)

JESUS (*disguising His voice as a tough guy with a Chicago accent*): "I got Ice Capades!"

(LAURA stops and turns toward Him in surprise.)

JESUS (*shrugging, again disguising His voice*): "I know a guy."

LAURA (*laughing*): I'm sorry?

JESUS (*smiling*): Hey, do you remember that part in *While You Were Sleeping* where Jack asks Lucy to marry him, and his grandma makes him go inside the toll booth? Then she says, "Get down on one knee!" That was hilarious. That is my favorite part of the movie.

LAURA (*surprised*): Your favorite part? You mean You've seen the movie?

JESUS: Of course I've seen it. It is your favorite movie, right?

LAURA: Yeah.

JESUS: And it's important to you?

LAURA: Well, yeah, I guess.

JESUS: You know, they should come out with a collectors' edition DVD. Something that has bloopers and behind the scenes footage.

LAURA: Oh yeah! And interviews with the cast!

JESUS: That was a great cast.

LAURA: They should do a sequel.

JESUS: Sure. *(Pauses, thinking)* They could call it *While You Slept*.

LAURA *(excitedly)*: That's a great idea! Hey, remember that part where Lucy is eating Oreo cookies in her apartment, and she dunks them in her cat's milk? That was so cool.

JESUS: That was disgusting.

LAURA: And then the part where she was decorating her Christmas tree. I love that part because I love Christmas . . .

JESUS *(looking lovingly at Laura)*: I know you do.

LAURA *(continuing her thought)*: With all the lights and cocoa and presents and snow . . . *(Notices Jesus staring at her)* Why are You looking at me like that?

JESUS: Isn't this great? You and Me—talking?

LAURA: Yeah, it's nice.

JESUS: This is the way it's supposed to be.

LAURA: The way what's supposed to be?

JESUS: You. Me. Us. Now we can really dig in deep.

LAURA: Dig in deep to what?

JESUS: Into who you are!

LAURA: OK, Jesus, I already know who I am, so no need to dig.

JESUS: No, I'm sorry, Laura, but you don't have a clue. I know everything about you, Laura. I know things about you that you haven't even discovered yet. But you have this idea that you have to be someone different when we're together. Like you have to say something special or act a cer-

tain way, or put on some kind of a show. I just want you to be real with Me all the time.

LAURA: Well, Jesus, I am. I mean, I am always living for You.

JESUS: Yes, but Laura, I don't want you to live for Me. I want you to live *in* Me. It's when you live in Me that you will understand who you really are, and what you're truly living for. (*Looks at LAURA for a moment.*) Come on. (*Takes her by the arm and leads her off SR.*)

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