

a script from



WORSHIP

"Birdfeeding Father"

By
Andrew Kooman

- What** Kate enters the garage to discover her husband, John, a pastor and avid birdwatcher, suiting up into protective gear like he's about to enter battle. The funny moment, which she captures for the family group chat, plants a sermon for John about God's love for everyone, and how there's a place for us all.
- Themes: Humor, Faith, Fathers, Armor of God, Belonging, Fellowship
- Who** Kate, a mom in mid-life
John, a dad in mid-life
- When** The present day, anywhere in America.
- Costumes** Kate wears jeans and a T-shirt. John has protective gear covering his body, over his jeans and hoodie.
- Props** A baseball or hockey helmet, protective goggles, garden gloves, a baseball umpire's chest protector, shin guards, and a garbage can lid as a shield. A smartphone and a full garbage bag. A bag of bird seed.
- Why** Ephesians 6:10-20, Psalm 84:3
- How** Kate and John have a fun banter. Their love is solid and so they can easily poke fun, like they're both in on the secret joy of life and blessing all around them. **Note:** depending on your region, change the birds referenced (Cardinals and Swallows) to ones that fit your geography.
- Time** 2-3 minutes

John is decked out in protective gear. Everything is in place except for his helmet. He bends over to pick it up. As he does, **Kate** enters the garage with a full garbage bag and stops dead in her tracks when she sees him. **John** doesn't notice her.

John: That just about does it. Oh, wait-

John stops, flips the hood of the hoodie into place over his head, then puts the helmet on.

John: There.

John bends back down and picks up the garbage can lid.

Kate: Ready for battle?

John jumps at the words, turns quickly and holds up his shield in a protective stance.

John: Kate! You scared me.

Kate: Apparently.

John: How long have you been standing there?

Kate: Not long. I was just bringing out the trash and then I saw you, well... doing *this*. Did you pick up roller hockey again? Or, are you going to ump a Little League game?

John: I'm, uh, going to fill up the birdfeeder.

Kate says nothing. She just silently pulls out her smartphone and snaps a picture.

John: Hey.

She looks at the photo and laughs, then starts tapping her screen.

John: What are you doing?

Kate: This is definitely going into the family chat.

John: Let me see it first.

Kate: Too late.

Kate puts the phone back in her pocket.

Kate: So, Maximus, what bird battle are we fighting today?

John: The cardinals need some help.

Kate: Oh, so you are going to play baseball.

John: No, no. The red birds with the fun little crests. Their feeder is empty.

Kate: And they are going to maul you to death if you don't hurry?

John: Not *them*. The swallows. The mom has new babies. But birds don't maul. They dive bomb.

Kate drops the trash on the ground and turns around.

John: Where are you going?

Kate: I'm gonna go keep cleaning.

John: I could use a spotter.

Kate: Don't let me come between you and your birds. Plus, you know I don't really get the bird thing.

John: I could use a sidekick. That swallow is super aggressive.

Kate: If by spotting you mean film it, then maybe I'll join you in your little mid-life adventure.

John: People of all ages birdwatch-

Kate: Here we go-

John: It's not an age thing!

Kate: Right, it's a totally legitimate hobby for people of all ages.

John: And you know how it helps me get ready for Sundays...

Kate: Yes. I know that it is like a spiritual practice for you.

John: That's exactly right. And I know you're making fun of my deep passion for birds right now. But I'll overlook that because the deep mysteries of God are hidden away and some day I know you'll discover this one.

Kate: Birding?

John: Yes.

Kate: I've lived long enough to never say never, but, on this one-

John: You'll experience new, unexpected joys.

Kate: Thank you for this infomercial. Does the Bird Society of America pay you for these plugs?

John: They probably should. Did you know there's nearly three hundred references to birds in the Bible?

Kate: Believe it or not, I've heard that from you before. So what's the sermon you're working on this week? Ephesians six? Put on the Full Armor of God?"

John holds out his arm and looks at what he's wearing.

John: Oh. Interesting. I hadn't thought of that..

Kate: You're kidding me, right?

John: No.

Kate: Because you're screaming that sermon at me right now. You even have the shield of faith with that garbage can lid. The message is literally writing itself.

John: Huh. I legitimately hadn't been thinking that. But I like it. Maybe in the Fall I can run with that when kids start to prep to go back to school. But I was thinking more "His eye is on the sparrow."

Kate: Oh.

John: Yeah, I'm going to zone in on Psalm eighty-four which says that even the birds have a place in God's house. It's more of a teaching on the loving heart of the Father and his deep, deep care for us.

Kate: I like that.

John: Yeah?

Kate: Yeah. It's something people really need to hear. That they're loved.

John: I know, especially right now. God sees them. There's a place for them. I really want to get that across.

Kate: You will.

John: I'm thinking of calling the sermon "Birdfeeding Father."

Kate: Hmm. I like that. A God who cares for the birds of the air...

John: How much more will he care for you? Yeah.

Kate: Of course, I think it will land better when you're behind a pulpit and not decked out as some thrift store version of Gladiator.

Kate turns to exit.

John: You may have a point. Wait! Where are you going?

Kate: To finish cleaning the bathroom.

John: No seriously, can't you grab that rake and sort of shoo the swallow away when I walk past her nest?

Kate: You're on your own, pastor birdfeeder.

Kate exits.

John: Come on! *(breathing deeply, then talking to himself)* Ok, John, you're a forty year-old, strong, confident man. You can do this.

John slaps the garbage can shield against his chest to summon his courage. He stops.

John: Kate? Hey babe, have you seen that rake?

John exits to end the play.