

## **“Cardboard Jesus”**

by  
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**What** This script, designed for use on a video platform (like Zoom or Google Meet) or on stage, reminds audiences that it's easy to conform to the world and stay in our comfort zones. God wants to transform us if we are willing to break the mold.

Themes: Covid, Virtual, Conform, Transformation, Faith, Trust

**Who** Shirley  
Helen  
Matt  
John  
Jesus

**When** Present

**Wear  
(Props)** Jesus is dressed in all white.  
All other actors dressed casually.

**Why** Romans 12:1-2

**How** The skit can be performed on a video platform like Zoom or done on a traditional stage. Directions are for a Zoom presentation but can be adapted for the stage.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*At virtual curtain, all actors are frozen in a specific pose, imitating cardboard cutouts we see at games these days. Only their eyes and mouths can move initially. Jesus' pose is him smiling with his arms extended forward, suggesting a desire to comfort.*

*NOTE: For the others, just Google 'enthusiastic poses' and you'll get tons of ideas.*

**Matt:** Hi everyone! I really appreciate all of you taking time away from your seat filling duties at the games to be here.

**John:** I'm glad we can still do these support groups. I've gotten a lot out of them.

**Helen:** Me too!

**Matt:** Good. So, anyone want to share how their week went?

**Shirley:** I'll go. Honestly. I don't know if I'm 'cut out' for this! *(she pauses, then)* It's a joke people!

*All laugh halfheartedly.*

**John:** Seriously, I don't know about you, but is anyone else struggling?

**Helen:** What do you mean?

**John:** Well, besides not being able to drive, eat, shower, etc. ... *(pause)* I don't know.

**Shirley:** Whoa, I learned the hard way not to do the shower thing! *(lets her arm dangle a bit then resumes the original position)*

*More halfhearted laughs.*

**John:** *(back to being serious)* I'm, uh, feeling a bit disconnected.

**Shirley:** *(firm)* Wait. I don't want this ending up being the same old sob fest. *(gesturing with her eyes at her head)* It's mindset, people. Mindset. Attitude. *(pause)* And stuff.

**John:** I know, I know. Just feeling disconnected from... *(trails off)*

**Matt:** *(confused)* From?

**John:** You know.

**Helen:** I don't know—

**Shirley:** Uh, duh guys. *(she motions her eyes to the screen where static Jesus is)*  
The big guy?

**Matt and Helen** have a revelation and nod their eyes.

**John:** Well, honestly, I've not, um, heard much. *(pause)* From him. Seems like it's been a long time.

**Helen:** Now that you mention it. I mean, I always felt he knows what it was like to be—

**All:** *(all in unison except for Shirley)* Us.

*Pause.*

**Matt:** *(focus back off Jesus to him)* I'm tired of this rut. Same old same old, you know?

**Shirley:** But it's who we are. That's how you have to think of things.

**Helen:** *(sighs)* Yea. That new normal stuff.

**John:** *(retrospectively)* Actually, maybe I've become too comfortable.

**Shirley:** Huh?

**John:** Too set in my ways. Maybe it's about how I think about this.

**Shirley:** Mindset! Now you're talking!

**John:** I don't know. Thinking differently...there has to be more to it.

**Helen:** For me, I'm always thinking about trying to please others—how not to rock the boat...stay in my lane. All that stuff.

**Matt:** Thinking that someone else will step up. Or tackle that problem.

**John:** Saying one thing but thinking another.

**Shirley:** Whoa! You guys don't get it. We're stuck. This is who we are. Deal with it!

*All ponder, then...*

**Helen:** No. *(she slowly starts to 'un-freeze')* Mindset. Maybe that's why I haven't heard from him. Maybe it's been me all along. How I see things. Not letting his spirit reveal... *(trails off)*.

*John, Shirley, and Matt watch as Helen starts to unfreeze, slowly moving her limbs, stretching, etc. They start doing the same. Jesus starts to as well. Very slowly, matching their 'unfreezing' pace.*

**Shirley:** *(alarmed, stays frozen in original pose)* What are you all doing?!

**John:** *(ignoring Shirley)* This is so, so—

**Matt:** Freeing.

*All except for Shirley agree and continue stretching, etc. Then...*

**Shirley:** *(still frozen)* Wait!! *(they all freeze, including Jesus)* You don't know what you're doing! *(pause)* I tried that. A long time ago. It was great at first, then it got scary. My comfort zone... was gone. I... I didn't know how much I needed it. I asked *(refers to Jesus)* for help. He did. For a while. But then... I couldn't. Couldn't. He got quiet. Well, I got quiet anyway. This *(refers to her frozenness)* makes sense. It's comfortable... to conform. It was calling me back to an easier life. Much easier. *(pause)* You don't want to do this! *(quieter)* Trust me.

*Everyone stops their unfreezing, pondering what Shirley said. After a few beats...*

**John:** *(doubting now)* Maybe I haven't thought this through.

**Helen:** *(hesitant as well)* Yea, I don't want to rush into anything.

**Matt:** *(hesitant)* I guess this life's not all that bad. Maybe... maybe another time.

*They all start to return to their original positions, then re-freeze. Jesus stays unfrozen for a beat, looks around at them, shows disappointment, then returns to his original position. Awkward pause, then...*

**John:** OK, well, um, maybe we better head out. I've got a game—

**Helen:** Yea, they want to pack the stands—

**Matt:** We better play our role. *(to Jesus)* Umm, sorry sir.

**Shirley:** *(scoffs)* Look at him, he's fine. He'll be here when we get back. Great meeting! Until next time!

*They all start to exit the video platform one by one, awkwardly waving their stiff arms. Jesus is the last to sign off. He remains frozen in his original position and then his window goes dark.*