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“Connecting with Mom”

by
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- What** In this duet, a Child calls Mom on video to get ideas for a gift since they are going to be apart this Mother’s Day. The call offers a glimpse at what moms really want. Can be performed on screen, live or prerecorded.
Themes: Mother’s Day, Motherhood, Parenting, Gift Giving, Time, Covid friendly
- Who** Mom- old enough to be a grandmother
Daughter/Son- old enough to have children
- When** Present Day
- Wear (Props)** Casual age-appropriate clothing. Avoid logos or distracting designs and accessories. Mom should have her nails painted, preferable a bold red color.
- Why** Proverbs 31
- How** This script is designed to be done in one of two ways:
- On screen virtually live or prerecorded. The actors are video calling on their phones but we should not see their phones. Rather, the video is capturing their video phone call and they speak to the camera in their computer as if it is their phone. The shot should be a shoulders and up headshot.
- On stage it could be accomplished with the actors facing straight out to the audience as they talk into their phones being sure to keep their phones below their face so the audience can see their expressions. Consider setting up two simple “home” areas with armchairs and an end table or lamp for each, or minimize scenery and props by simply having them standing and talking to each other on their phones. You could have one actor start far stage Right and the other far stage Left and gradually, as they talk, move closer together so they are almost touching Center stage by the end showing that they are, in fact, connecting.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

Child pulls out phone and calls Mom.

Child: Hey Mom.

Mom: *(answering phone, perhaps upside down)* Hello?

Child: Hey.

Mom: *(covering the camera but inspecting the phone)* Sweetie? Are you there?

Child: Can you hear me?

Mom: *(still covering the camera and trying to solve the problem)* What? Are you there? Is this thing connected?

Child: *(getting progressively louder)* Mom. Mom. Mom! Can you hear me?!

Mom: Yes, I can hear you. You don't have to shout.

Child: Mom?

Mom: I can hear you, but I can't see you. Can you see me?

Child: I can see your finger...over the camera...again. Mom...

Mom: I can see you but you can't see me?

Child: Mom...it's your finger.

Mom: I did my nails. Is that what you mean?

Child: No, mom...your finger is over the camera so I can't see you.

Mom: I can see YOU.

Child: Yes, because my finger isn't over the camera.

Mom: I went with a new color this time. Can you see it?

Child: No, Mom...I can't see it. I can see your finger is covering the camera on your phone.

Mom: My finger is covering the camera? Where's the camera again? Are we connecting?

Mom moves the phone around making a dizzying effect for all watching.

Child: Yes, we're connected. Mom. Mom! MOM! Stop moving the phone. You're making me dizzy. *(getting progressively louder again)* Mom. Mom! Mother! *(trying a new tactic)* Is that the fire alarm going off?

Mom: *(whipping phone around to suddenly face her; although she's still not in the frame well, her finger is not covering)* I didn't hear it.

Child: Never mind. *(hiding some mild exasperation)* Hi Mom.

Mom: Hi dear.

Child: Remember the stand I got you? For the phone...to help with the...

Mom: Oh yes. I forgot about the stand.

If on screen, she fumbles to put the phone on the stand, we hear some murmuring and she finally does get it on the stand and eventually frames herself better.

If on stage, you can use a stand or forgo it with a "I'm not sure where it is though" etc. and move on as she rights the phone finally on a stand or no stand.

Mom: There now. Hi there, sweetie. Can you see me?

Child: I can see you now.

Mom: So, you liked the new nail color I tried?

Child: I didn't see your nails, Mom.

Mom: Oh...but I thought you saw...

Child: Show me your nails, Mom.

Mom: *(displaying her fingernails to the camera)* Do you like the new color I tried?

Child: Wow. That's...bold. Very nice.

Mom: Well, you know me. Always up for trying new things.

Child: Yes, you are.

Insert whatever color polish...bold color is recommended if red is not available.

Mom: It's called "Hot Tamale". *(with a bit of a wink and maybe a shoulder shimmy)* Your dad likes it.

Child: *(moving on quickly)* Ok...I wanted to talk to you about Mother's Day. I know we're not able to be with you this year but still wanted to make sure we did something special for you to celebrate. We were thinking

maybe get you a gift card or something to your favorite restaurant. I know you love getting takeout and picnicking in the park.

Mom: Yes. I do like that.

Child: Remember how we used to go to that one spot with the big wooden bridge over the creek? And we would throw sticks off one side of the bridge and then rush to the other side to see who's stick came out first?

Mom: You would play that game for hours.

Child: My kids still play that to this day. Every time we walk over a bridge like that they hunt for sticks and race them.

Mom: Give a child a stick and watch them learn to live life to the fullest.

Child: The kids thought maybe you would like one of those edible flower arrangement things with the chocolate covered strawberries. They always think about you when they eat strawberries because of all the times we've gone strawberry picking together. That's one of their favorite memories.

Mom: One of my favorite memories too. I've always loved picking strawberries with all of you.

Child: Yeah. I remember as a kid insisting on taking the biggest basket possible and you would always warn me how heavy it was going to get by the end.

Mom: And I was always right about that, wasn't I?

Child: About that? *(pause a little hesitant to concede)* Yes, you were. It took me a time or two but I learned to take that old red wagon with us out to the fields so I could carry as many strawberries as you would let me get.

Mom: You always were smart...like me.

Child: *(laughs a little)* Then when we brought them all home, we went out to the garden and pulled the rhubarb and made...

Both: ...strawberry rhubarb pies.

Mom: I did the same thing with your Grandma.

Child: And now I do the same thing with my kids.

Mom: *(a little surprised)* Where do you get rhubarb? I never see it in the stores.

Child: I grow it. Like you. I mean, it's just two little plants in the flower beds out back. Right between the boxwood bush and the azaleas. It doesn't sound like much but that rhubarb is coming back strong even after the hard months we just had.

Mom: It's been a few hard months for sure.

Child: It's hard for all of us, Mom. I hate not seeing you as much as we would want to.

Mom: But I'm so thankful we can at least connect like this.

Child: When your finger isn't over the phone.

Mom: *(oblivious)* What?

Child: *(suddenly has another thought)* How about something new for your sewing machine? *(oblivious)* Can you buy sewing machine attachments?

Mom: You still don't know a whip stitch from a running stitch, do you?

Child: *(stares at her blankly for a moment)* No, but I can find a good tailor who does. What about something for the kitchen? A noodle maker thing that you stick on your mixer maybe? Although, your homemade noodles are pretty amazing as they are. Why mess with a good thing?

Mom: Maybe I could buy *you* one.

Child: My noodle making skills are clearly not up to par with yours and Grandma's, but you know my motto... "when in doubt, order takeout."

Mom: I guess I can't teach you everything. One thing I've learned as a mom is you can try to teach them...

Both: ...but they still have to learn.

Mom: So, you've heard that one before?

Child: Oh, only about a million times. *(another sudden idea)* What if we get you one of those back massage things that you put on a chair?

Mom: Your brother got us one of those last year.

Child: Or one of those foot spas?

Mom: Your sister.

Child: What about a Netflix subscription? *(replace "Netflix" with "Prime" or "Hulu" etc. based on contemporary popularity)*

Mom: Do you think we've been living under a rock? We've had Netflix for ages.

Director's Note: if desired, insert a Mom line like "I love that _____ show." or "that (insert character's name) from (show name) is a cutie patootie."

*The next few lines the **Child** rattles off a few suggestions barely letting **Mom** speak to any of them before rattling off some more.*

Child: Ok then. How about a new watch or one of those smartbands that keeps track of your heart rate and steps and stuff?

Mom: I don't think I would really use that...

Child: Or one of those custom signs for your mailbox or over the front entryway? Those are nice.

Mom: I'm not sure that I...

Child: We could do one of those birthstone necklaces with all the grandkids on it.

Mom: I do like those, but I already have a few things like that...

Child: A new mug for your tea with pictures of all our faces on it?

Mom: I suppose that would be nice...

Child: We could buy a certificate and name a star after you. I hear that's a thing.

Mom: That sounds a little too fancy for me but...

Child: Or a dog. We could buy you a dog.

Mom: Ummmm...

Child: Or what about—

Mom: *(cutting her **Child** off suddenly)* Honey. Those are all lovely ideas. All except the dog. I love dogs, but don't get me a dog.

Child: Mom, I just want to get you something you'll love. You've been such a great mom. You've always been there for me in the good times and the really bad times and you've taught me so much...and my kids too. You deserve so much. More than we could ever give you. We just want you to know and feel how much we love and appreciate you and what you've done for us and who you are for us in our lives. I don't know what

kind of gift we could ever get you to really show you or thank you for even a fraction of what you've been for us as a mom and a grandma all these years.

Mom: *(a little pause then)* Well... I think that this has just been the best gift ever.

Child: *(confused)* What?

Mom: All I ever really want from any of my children or grandchildren is just this...time together. Even when we're apart we can still find time and ways to connect. We can still talk. We can still share memories *and* make new ones. We can still love each other "face to face" in a slightly different way. And we can tell each other how much we're grateful for one another. And not just on Mother's Day. It's nice to connect on all the other days too. It's the best gift I could ever be honored to receive. So, thank you...for this gift.

Child: Thank *you*, Mom. I love you.

Mom: I love you too, sweetie.

Long pause.

Child: So...does that mean I'm off the hook for buying something for you this year?

Mom: Some new nail polish perhaps?

They both give a look and then.

Lights out.