

A script from



"Flying Lessons"

by
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- What** Two passengers on a plane discuss trust and why it's important to know your pilot. **Themes:** Trust, Bible, God's promise of protection
- Who** Bill
John
Pilot- voice only
- When** Present
- Wear
(Props)** Two chairs
Bible
Small Carry-on
- Why** Psalm 18
- How** It's important that the actors move and shift their chairs in unison when they are simulating the plane's movements. Give yourself plenty of time to rehearse this script so that you can choreograph the movement. Keep the dialogue conversational.
- Characters can also be female.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

*Two chairs are set up beside each other on stage. **John** enters carrying a Bible and a small carry on. He stores the bag under the seat and then opens his Bible. **Bill** enters as soon as **John** is settled.*

Bill: Excuse me, that's my seat. I just need to slide past you.

John: *(standing so **Bill** can slip by)* Sure, no problem. *(They settle into their seats and the **Pilot's** voice speaks from off stage)*

Pilot: Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome aboard the Cloud 9 flight to Tampa. This is your captain speaking. We'll be getting underway shortly. The expected flight time today is one hour twenty minutes. There's a storm up ahead, so we will experience a few minor bumps. Please remain seated and keep your seat belts fastened until we reach cruising altitude above the storm.

***John** and **Bill** mime fastening belts*

John: I hate it when a pilot says that.

Bill: Yeah, but it's nothing to worry about. I'm sure we're in good hands.

John: You're probably right. *(Opens Bible and begins to read again.)*

Bill: What are you reading? Anything good?

John: Yeah, it's my favorite book. *(Holds up Bible so **Bill** can see the cover.)*

Bill: Oh, a Bible...you're one of those.

John: One of those what?

Bill: I didn't mean it as an insult. I just meant...well I guess I meant that I've never understood why people would trust a God they can't see.

Both men grab the bottom of their chairs and jump like the plane has just hit some turbulence.

John: Wow, that was a big bump.

Bill: Yeah, but like I said, I'm sure we're in good hands.

John: Do you know our pilot?

Bill: No, I know some pilots, but not this one.

John: But you trust him?

Bill: Well yes, or I wouldn't be flying. That's an odd question.

John: Yeah, sorry. Change of subject. Where are you going?

Bill: You mean when I leave the plane, right?

John: Of course. What did you think I meant?

Bill: Well, you're a Christian, so I figured this was a lead in to you telling me I'm going to hell because I don't *(air quotes)* trust in or believe in God.

John: No, just asking where you're going when you get off of the plane.

Bill: I'm going to visit my folks. My dad's in the hospital and he's scheduled for an operation tomorrow. I wanted to be there for him.

John: I'm sorry to hear that. I hope everything will be okay.

Bill: Oh, I'm sure it will. His doctor is top notch.

John: Oh, he's a friend of yours?

Bill: A friend? No, not a friend. I've never even met the guy. That's a strange question.

John: Not really. You said he was top notch. I just figured you knew him, that's all.

Bill and John grab seats and jump in unison again.

Bill: Wow, it's really turbulent.

John: But you still trust the pilot?

Bill: *(getting annoyed)* Yes, I told you. I trust the pilot.

John: And you trust the surgeon who will be operating on your dad?

Bill: *(exasperated)* Yes, I trust the surgeon.

John: Even though you've never met him?

Bill: What's with all the questions? I told you. I trust the pilot. I trust the surgeon. I trust lots of people I don't know personally. Don't you?

John: Yes, I do.

Bill: Then why are you asking me?

John: Humor me. One more question. How will you get to the hospital when you get off the plane?

Bill: My mother is coming to pick me up.

John: So you will be a passenger in your mother's car

Bill: Yes, and before you ask, I do know her and trust her.

John: Sure. Do you know all the drivers of all the vehicles you will meet as you travel?

Bill: What are you getting at?

John: Well, if you are going to drive on the same road as them, then you need to trust them not to run into you, right?

Bill: Yeah.

John: But you don't know them...?

Both grab their seats and experience about 15 seconds of turbulence.

Bill: Wow, it's getting a little scary up here

John: But you trust the pilot?

Bill: I trust the pilot, I trust the surgeon, I trust my mother and the other drivers. What's with you? Do you have trust issues? Is that why you're asking me all these questions?

John: No.

Bill: Then why?

John: You said you couldn't understand why anyone would trust or believe in a God they hadn't met. But you trust all these people you haven't met and they are people who have your life or the life of someone you love in their hands every day. I was just pointing that out. It seems contradictory.

Both simulate the plane going into a steep dive, rolling left and right and then righting itself.

Bill: Okay, now I'm getting nervous. That was pretty intense. *(Looks at John)* Aren't you scared?

John: No, I trust my pilot.

Bill: But you just made me feel like I was silly to trust people I don't know.

John: I'm not talking about that pilot. I'm talking about my Pilot. The one in here *(holds up Bible)* I know him personally because I read his letters to me every day. They are in here and his biography is in here and his resume is in here. Because I know Him, I trust him completely. My life is in his hands.

Bill and John experience one more round of turbulence and then John hands Bill his Bible

John: Would you like to meet your pilot?

Bill takes the Bible, opens it and begins to read.

Pilot: Ladies and gentlemen. I apologize for any distress the turbulence may have caused, but we've cleared the storm and can expect smooth flying from now on. You may unfasten your belts.

John reaches under his seat and pulls another Bible from his bag and begins to read. The lights fade.