“God’s Chisel”
by
Eddie James and Tommy Woodard

What This skit shows that God’s discipline, though sometimes painful, is purposeful, and delivered with love and compassion (Themes: Obedience, Sanctification, Discipline, Comparison, Image)

Who 2 Actors

When Present day

Wear (Props) Hammer
Chisel (all metal is best)
Journal page


How Anytime God is portrayed on stage the actor needs to be very careful. God is authoritative, but kind; he is fun, but serious. Do not play Him as either aloof or as a “buddy.”

Time Approximately 8-10 minutes
Tommy addresses the audience.

Tommy: Ephesians 2:10 says that we are God's workmanship, in essence His masterpiece. Now I don't know about you, but when I get up in the morning and look in the mirror I don't see a masterpiece. Maybe a Picasso. But I want to be a masterpiece. I want to be everything that God has created me to be. And so I go to Him and I say, "God, do whatever it takes to get things out of my life that don't need to be there. Mold me into the image of your Son so that I can be your masterpiece."

Eddie: Hi.

Tommy: Whoa. Who are you?

Eddie: I'm God.

Tommy: No you're not.

Eddie: Yeah, I am. You said the prayer so here I am. That's how it works.

Tommy: Okay, okay. If you're God then make it snow in here.

Eddie: If I made it snow in here it'd get kind of yucky and I really don't want to do that.

Tommy: See, you're not God.

Eddie: Why do you say that?

Tommy: God would not say "yucky".

Eddie: Yes, I do. It's a Greek word.

Tommy: Oh. Well, if you're God then what does Lamentations 15:9 say?

Eddie: Lamentations is a really short book. It only has 5 chapters.

Tommy: Why is it so short?

Eddie: I was tired of lamenting.

Tommy: Oh. If you're God then who's going to win the World Series this year?

Eddie: You know what? I'm not so much into playing games. Why are you so into playing games?

Tommy: You are God.

Eddie: What gave it away?
Tommy: You answered my question with a question.

Eddie: I did? *(joking; Tommy gets it)* Yep. I do that *(beat)*...don’t I? *(Tommy laughs)* See? I did it again. Okay, step right up. *(he prepares to begin chiseling)*

Tommy: Hey, what’s this about *(referring to the hammer and chisel)*?

Eddie: These are the tools I’m going to use to make you to my original masterpiece.

Tommy: Oh. Okay. *(beat)* Hang on!

Eddie: Yeah?

Tommy: I thought you were a carpenter.

Eddie: That’s my son. Step right up. Here we go.

Tommy: Whoa, whoa, whoa. How do you know what to chisel and what to leave?

Eddie: I take out all the things in your life that aren’t of me…kind of like dead weight.

Tommy: Oh. Speaking of that, could you just chisel right in here *(referring to his midsection)*. I just can’t seem to get rid of it. The other went away. But I’ve tried exercise and I’ve watched what I ate. I even tried Pilates for a while. That was awkward! But if you could chisel right in here…

Eddie: Alright, are you going to talk or can I chisel? Which is it going to be- talk, chisel, talk, chisel?

Tommy: No, no, no, no! Chisel!

Eddie: Most of my children like to talk.

Tommy: Not me. Bring on the chisel!

Eddie: Here we go. You have a lot of anger *(he hammers the chisel on Tommy’s arm then begins to move slowly around behind him)*, and some pride *(he chisels again on his back)*, you compare yourself to others instead of me *(he chisels again on his back)*…

Tommy: Ow…

Eddie: …you’re lazy *(moving to the other side Eddie chisels again on Tommy’s back)*, but you pretend like you’re really, really busy *(he chisels again)*, you have a problem with lust…
Tommy: Okay, time out! I do not have a problem with lust.

Eddie: You don’t have a problem with lust?

Tommy: No, I can do it anytime I want *(beat; realizing he has a problem)*. Okay. *(Eddie starts to begin again)* Whoa, whoa hang on. Maybe we can take a little time out. I mean, I think I’m doing pretty good.

Eddie: You are doing pretty good, but when you look in the mirror who do you see?

Tommy: I see me!

Eddie: Okay. Then I need to keep chiseling away, because ultimately you and others need to see me. Here we go!

Tommy: Okay, hold on. Don’t take this the wrong way…it’s just that when I start to look more like your Son, people get uncomfortable around me. Even my friends at church are like “oh you’re holier than thou, why won’t you do that?”

Eddie: So what you’re doing right now is that you’d rather play God in certain areas of your life than for me to be God over your whole life.

Tommy: I did not say that.

Eddie: It’s what you meant.

Tommy: Yes, it is. It’s hard to talk to you. You know everything I’m thinking. I’m just saying you’ve done good work, maybe we just take a little break. A little time out. We’ll come back to it.

Eddie: What you’re doing right now is common. It’s called “controlling”. You want to control the things in your life or can I chisel? Control, chisel, control, chisel?

Tommy: No, no! Chisel!

Eddie: Here we go.

Tommy: But can we chisel where I want to chisel?

Eddie: That’s called control.

Tommy: Okay, okay.

Eddie: *(He starts to chisel again)* You’ve been holding onto this for a long time. You ready for this?
Tommy: Yeah. *(Eddie chisels as Tommy winces)* It hurts.

Eddie: This hurts me more than it hurts you.

Tommy: Right. *(Eddie chisels as Tommy winces)* I don't think you understand this pain.

Eddie: Don't talk to me about pain. I know all about pain. I sent my son to die on the cross for sin and for pain. But I also did it for another reason- to give you freedom. Do you know what insanity is? Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and expecting different results. And there are things in your life...even back in high school...that you've been doing that do not work in your life. But you go to these empty wells whenever you're hurting, whenever you're angry, whenever you're lonely and tired...but they do not work.

Tommy: Okay, I'm thinking that maybe-

Eddie: Your thoughts are not my thoughts.

Tommy: Okay, but if we went another way-

Eddie: Your ways are not my ways.

Tommy: Okay, look! I can't be good!

Eddie: You can't be good? I've made you good. Be good! *(Tommy starts to say something, but can't seem to let it out)* What?

Tommy: Nothing. You wouldn't understand.

Eddie: *(beat)* I, God of all the universe, wouldn't understand something that one my children has to say. Try me.

Tommy: It's just...God, I've let you down so much.

Eddie: You were never holding me up. I hold you up with my victorious, righteous, right hand. Don't you forget that. In this relationship, I hold you up.

Tommy: Okay. Chisel away. *(Eddie begins to chisel again)* Just be prepared for what you're going to find in there. I know who's inside there. And because, God, I get up every morning and I look in the mirror and it is this scared little kid who gets up everyday and tries to dress like an adult and act like an adult, but can't. So just be prepared for what you're going to find in there.

Eddie: You have listened to too many voices for far too long that aren't of me. You think you're junk, don't you? You really, really think you're junk.