

A script from



“Grace 101”

by
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- What** A Religious Studies professor criticizes his class for failing to understand the central idea of Jesus’s teachings. This script’s surprise ending provides the perfect set-up for a message on grace, or on the character of Jesus.
Themes: Comedy, Ensemble, Grace, Jesus, Discipleship, Mercy, Forgiveness, Theology
- Who** Professor- (written as male, but may be played by a female) Any age, but experienced and authoritative
Students- 3 or more college students (teens to 30s); they have no scripted lines
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Contemporary clothing
Podium
Red marker,
marker board
Table
Trashcan
School desks
School gear (notebooks, laptops, backpacks, etc.)
- Why** Ephesians 2:8; Romans 9:16; Hebrews 4:16
- How** Professor stands at podium. Off to the side is a table with a marker board behind it. “Religious Studies” is written in large letters on the marker board. Students sit at desks angled toward the podium. *Alternative:* Place Students among the congregation/audience and have Professor directly address *everyone*.
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

Professor sits at a table near a marker board, reviewing test papers. The last couple of Students enter chatting and sit.

Professor clears his throat. Students stop talking.

Professor rises and drops the tests loudly into a trash can. Goes to the podium.

Professor: Do any of you actually expect to pass this class? *(Pause)* Not one of you has demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of Christianity. Not one!

Nervous mumbling.

Professor: I'm afraid there's only one way to make you understand. Take out a blank sheet of paper and, in one minute, explain the theological essence of Jesus' teachings. Get this or you fail the course.

The Students panic—loudly—but comply.

The Professor watches, checks the time. One student writes confidently. Another is looking around the class, completely hopeless. Another is freaking out, trying to remember things he/she learned. Etc. Then...

Professor: Pass your papers forward, please.

The Students grumble and moan, but do so. Professor collects the papers from a Student in the front row, then returns to the podium.

Students watch in horror as Professor picks up a marker and flips through the sheets, slashing each with a large red letter.

Professor: *(Muttering to himself)* No... Wrong... What? Not even close! No! Absurd...

The Students groan.

Professor hands the papers to a Student in the front row.

Professor: Pass these back, please.

The Student finds her own sheet and passes the others back. Like popcorn, the Students stand, gasp, and show their papers. Each has a large red "A" on it—this sequence lasts no more than a few seconds—then they turn and look at the Professor.

Professor: *(Writing word on marker board as he says it.)* It's grace. *(Beat)* Class dismissed.

Professor leaves as students stare after him in joyful disbelief.