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“Grace: A Word Game”

by
Cierra Winkler

What In this short comedic piece, a new dad and an experienced dad play on a word game show that reveals misunderstandings about grace and the role it plays in marriage and parenting.

Themes: Parenting, Marriage, Fatherhood, Grace, Comedy

Who The Host- any age
Ryan Goodman- late 20's-30's
Bill Waters- 50's-60's

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Setting is a game show, and set can be as simple as a table and two chairs, or as elaborate as you want. The Host is wearing a brightly colored suit and tie and holds a microphone. Both Ryan and Bill are dressed casually. Other props include at least a small table and two chairs, a call bell, and a simple sign that is blank on one side and reads “GRACE” on the other side.

*An easy way to make this prop is to fold a small piece of poster board horizontally so that it can ‘stand’ by itself on the table.

Why 1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 31:10

How This short comedic piece would be great at a Parents’ Night Out, Valentine’s Dinner, or Couple’s Retreat, but it would also be a humorous introduction to a sermon/series on grace, parenting, or marriage.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

Lights up.

*Center stage, The HOST stands behind a small round table. He is dressed in a daring suit and tie and holds a microphone. Sitting on either side of the table are **Ryan** and **Bill**. In the middle of the table is a sign that is blank on one side, and on the other side, "GRACE" is written large enough for your audience to read. The "GRACE" side should be hidden from the audience at this point. There is also a call bell (like you would see at a business' front desk) on the table.*

Host: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first annual (INSERT YOUR CHURCH'S NAME) Word Game!

The Host starts clapping, encouraging the audience to applaud.

Host: My name is Alex Praybek and I will be your host today. Joining us for the first time are our two contestants, Mr. Ryan Goodman and Mr. Bill Waters.

Ryan and Bill wave to the audience.

Host: Gentlemen, welcome to the show! Before we preview today's grand prize, why don't you share with us a little about yourselves. Let's start with you Bill.

Host leans down towards Bill and holds microphone for him, but Bill grabs it from him and taps it a few times.

Bill: Hello, uh, hello, is this thing on? Uh, my name is Bill Waters. I'm father to my two grown kids, Sam and Melissa, who have families of their own now, and my wonderful wife of thirty-four years still puts up with me, so that's good. She and I are the proud owners of our own plumbing company, 'Peace, Love, and Plungers: For Harmony and Serenity after Digestive Insanity, call Bill Waters'. My wife is in charge of marketing. She never got over the 70's.

Host: And what's your wife's name?

Bill: It's Marge, but she prefers to be called 'Flower.'

Host: Alrighty then. (*Turns to Ryan*) And over here we have Mr. Ryan Goodman. Ryan, tell us about your family and career.

Ryan: Um, hi everyone! My name is Ryan and I'm a relatively new father. My wife, Maggie and I just had triplets last November. Three beautiful baby girls.

Host leads the audience in applause.

Ryan: Thank you. Yeah, I'm still learning how to juggle a full-time job with being a good dad and husband. Right now, I'm kinda in the dog house, though...

Host: Oh really, Ryan? Care to expound upon that?

Ryan: Well, a few weeks ago my lovely wife Maggie went on this women's retreat, and it was my first time keeping the girls by myself. So I got through that first day alright. It was kind of like diaper boot camp, you know? You learn fast or you suffer the consequences. But then that night, I went to grab their little onesie pajamas, and I realized that without their pink, purple, and orange headbands on, I couldn't tell them apart.

Host: Uh-oh.

Ryan: So yeah, I kind of had a dad-panic attack.

Host: A dad-panic attack?

Ryan: Yeah, that's when a father gets so confused that it leads to a panic attack, which leads to a bad decision. I learned that from my dad.

Host: I see. And what was your bad decision?

Ryan: Well, I thought if the hair-bows fell out so easily, we needed something a little more...permanent...to tell the girls apart. So I took them to the barber shop...

Host: Oh boy.

Ryan: And he gave the girls their first haircut. Now I just have to look at what number is shaved on the top of their little heads...Number one is Sarah, number two is Jessica, and number three is Jennifer...at least, I hope that's right...

Host: I see, so I bet it's safe to say you have a lot riding on this game.

Ryan: Yes sir, I could really use some hunny-bunny points right now.

Host: *(turns attention back to the audience)* Well Ryan, you're in luck! Because today's winner will receive a fifty-dollar gift card to Tom's Second-Hand Tool and Bucket Shed, now also carrying gently used dental supplies! 'Tom's Tools and Buckets—Shop with us! Everywhere else pales in comparison.'

Bill and Ryan both applaud and nod their heads in approval.

Ryan: Tools? That's perfect. I could finally fix that lop-sided sofa I've been sleeping on for the past two weeks...

Bill: And I could buy me one of those gently used automatic toothbrushes.

Host: Alright, gentlemen, let's get started. Ryan, cover your ears.

Ryan covers his ears and looks away.

Host: Bill, you have sixty seconds to get Ryan to say this word...

Host holds up the sign that reads "GRACE" and shows it to Bill and the audience, but not Ryan.

Host: Grace. Grace.

Sets the sign on the back edge of the table so that the audience can still see it and taps Bill, who looks back toward Ryan.

Host pulls out a stopwatch and pretends to set it.

Host: And...go!

Bill: Okay, Ryan, um, so even though you made your first big mistake as a father when you gave your little girls numbered mohawks, and thereby scarred their little self-images for the rest of their premature lives, your wife comes home that day and, being a kind, merciful woman of God, she shows you...

Ryan: Um, the door?

Bill: No, no, no, okay...when you first found out that you were going to be a father to three precious girls, and you started thinking about all that you have to look forward to, like watching them grow from children to teenagers, and looking forward to sweet sixteen birthday parties, sending them off to college, and planning for three weddings, I bet you prayed that God would grant you love, wisdom, and...

Ryan: *(gulps)* A pay raise!

Bill: Well, yeah, but no. Okay, remember when your wife first told you that she was expecting, and you took her out to a nice restaurant to celebrate, and there you were sitting in the candlelight, with some nice romantic music playing in the background, and you looked over at this beautiful woman who was soon to be the mother of your children, and she was just radiant? You could even say that she was glowing with...

Ryan: Oh, yeah, I know this one! Sweat from a hot flash...

Bill: Uh, no. No, let's try something more obvious.

Host: Only 10 more seconds, Bill...

Bill: Okay, okay. Short and sweet, Ryan: Amazing...blank.

Ryan: Yeah, this is amazing! Goodness gracious, I thought I'd be better at this game...

*The **Host** immediately rings the bell on the table as he and **Bill** cheer for **Ryan**. The **Host** then gives both contestants a gift card and **Bill** and **Ryan** stand up and cheer, holding their prizes in the air for the audience to see.*

Lights fade.