

A script from



“Hidden Lessons”

by
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- What** Adult children are going through the belongings of their father who recently passed away and discover a love for country and much more.
Themes: Patriotic, Memorial Day, Spiritual Journey, Compassion, Family
- Who** Julie
Rob
- When** Present
- Wear
(Props)** Casual clothing
Army cap (fatigue style)
Canteen
Baseball
Slingshot (homemade is fine)
Single sheet of paper like a certificate
Duffel bag
Couple of boxes and bags and/or suitcases
- Why** Micah 6:8
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational and stay on top of your queues, being careful not to let the dialogue drag out too long.
Actors can be changed to two brothers or two sisters. They could also be speaking of their grandfather if they are younger (in their 20's).
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

Julie and Rob are going through boxes, duffel bags, suitcases, etc.

Julie: *(down on knees going through a box)* I knew Dad had a hard time throwing away things, but look...a slingshot? It must be seventy years old...trash.

Rob: No way! *(Grabs it)* I want that slingshot...uh, uh, I mean the kids would love it.

Julie: Sure...the *kids* want it. I think you take after Dad more than you will admit.

Rob: Well, you never know...it might come in handy one day.

Julie: *(says at same time as Rob)* ...it might come in handy one day.

Both smile as if remembering their Dad saying that line often.

Julie: I really miss him.

Rob: Yeah, I still find myself picking up the phone to call him at times. He was so good at listening and giving advice. I guess I just thought he would be around forever.

Julie: *(pause)* You know. I think you should keep that slingshot. It will be a good memory *for the kids*.

Rob: Thanks.

Julie: *(searches again in box or bag)* Hey look, an old baseball...and somebody named Willie Mays messed it up by writing his name all over it... *(Rob quickly grabs it out of Julie's hand)*

Julie: *(smiles)* For the kids?

Rob: I'll take care of it.

Julie: We're going to need a bigger box just for your stuff.

Rob: Keep working!

Julie: *(going through box)* I'm really glad that Beth took Mom out shopping this morning. It would be tough for her to go through some of these things.

Rob: Yeah, she and Dad loved each other so much. I know she's still hurting, but her faith has been strong...while Dad was sick for such a long time...and even now.

Julie: She and Dad taught us a lot about a good marriage, didn't they?

Rob: Yeah. *(Pauses, then picks up a duffel bag)* Hey, this one is marked Army.

Julie: I bet that one is full. He really loved his country.

Rob: Do you remember how Dad had me put the flag up all the time? I would hang it every Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Flag Day, Veteran's Day and whenever he just wanted to fly it. I thought we were going to wear it out!

Julie: He loved those stars and stripes. *(Looking in bag)* Have you seen the stuff in this bag before?

Rob: I think I've seen some of it. Dad didn't talk about the things he brought back from Vietnam very much.

Julie: *(looks in bag and pulls out some photographs)* Look...this must be some of the guys who Dad served with over in Vietnam. They all look so young.

Rob: He made some good friends during the war. I remember he kept up with a couple of them for years after they returned home. The war was difficult for all, but you know I never heard Dad say that he didn't feel like he was doing the right thing. He loved our country and wanted to help defend our freedom and the freedom of others around the world.

Julie: *(pulls out a canteen)* Hey, I wonder why he kept this old canteen? *(Looking it over)* It has names and dates written all over it. *(Trying to read)* Giang...April 28, Huy...May 4, Chi...May 6, Kim-Ly...May 22. *(Pause)* There are names all over the canteen.

Rob: *(takes canteen and looks at it)* I walked in on Dad looking at the canteen once. It's like he was almost in tears. So I asked if he was OK. He told me that when he was in Vietnam, the days were so hot. And it was important for him to keep water with him at all times so he wouldn't get sick. He would go out on patrols and often had to go through villages. He said that many times he would run across children who seemed to be alone and frightened. So he would try to calm them. He would ask their names and if they didn't run off, he would offer them a drink of water. These are the names of those children who he offered water to and the dates he met them.

Julie: Do you think he kept the canteen to remember them?

Rob: It's almost like he used it as a reminder to pray for them. They were caught up in a war that was tearing their families and homes apart. I believe Dad wanted them to find God's peace in their lives.

Julie: *(pulls out paper)* Hey, look...the Army motto...*(reading)* "This we'll defend." I guess that's what kept him going when things got tough.

Rob: Maybe so. *(He reaches in bag)* Hey look, Dad's Army cap. Cool. I don't remember seeing this before.

Julie: I would have loved to see him wear that.

Rob: Hey, I wonder what I would have looked like in the army. Let me try it on! *(Freezes as his eyes see the inside of the cap just before he lifts it to his head)*

Julie: What's wrong?

Rob: *(staring at cap)* It's Dad's cap. *(Pause)* I think it might have been more than just the Army motto that kept him going in the war.

Julie: What do you mean?

Rob: *(holds cap over for her to see)* Look what he wrote in big letters on the inside of his cap.

Julie: *(reading)* Act justly...love mercy...walk humbly with your God.

Rob: He must have read that *every time* he put his cap on while he served in the war. *(Looks at cap again)* Act justly...love mercy...walk humbly with your God.

Julie: *That is* what was on his mind when he walked beside his friends every day.

Rob: And when he saw those children and shared a drink of water.

Julie: And when he served all those years.

Pause

Rob: You know...I think Mom would like to keep Dad's cap.

Julie: I think you're right. It doesn't need to be hidden anymore!

Lights fade.