

“Hindsight is 2020: A Year of Zoom Calls”

by
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What In a series of heartfelt, humorous and honest snippets of video calls, Lucy and her mom recap and process 2020 together throughout the year and prepare for the year to come. Designed to be performed and recorded through Zoom or another video conferencing service.

Themes: 2020, New Year, Family, Prayer, Pandemic, Covid-19, Anxiety, Faith

Who Lucy
Mom

When Present

Wear (Props) Two devices to use for calls (phone, laptop, etc.)
PB & J sandwich
Bathrobe
Towel
Toast
Cup of coffee
Activewear
Pizza
Two potted houseplants (one is named as a calathea orbifolia, but you can change it to whatever plant you have)
Neck pillow
Dress-up costume
Wrapped birthday gift
Dead houseplant
Christmas decorations and/or outfits
Any other props you feel would add something to a scene

Why Psalm 42:11, Isaiah 40:31, Romans 12:12, Romans 15:13, Hebrews 10:23

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How

This script is written to be performed on Zoom or an equivalent video chat service. Each time you see “---” this signals a change of scene/time/conversation. Set aside a block of time (or a couple if needed) for both cast members to Zoom with one another, making sure you prepare all your costumes and props prior to recording. You may wish to also film at multiple points throughout the day so the lighting changes between scenes. Start your call, hit record (Zoom has this function) when you’re ready, perform your scene (most of them are quite short), switch out your costume and props, then do the same for the next scene.

Most of the scenes begin and end mid-conversation, showing only small snippets. Perform them as naturally as you can - try not to sound too rehearsed. Work on a loving, easygoing, comfortable chemistry between your performers. Add in whatever props or costume pieces that will make the scene more natural or more entertaining.

Feel free to customize this script to include references specific to your setting, location, culture, etc., whatever was significant to you and your audience throughout 2020. If you wish to cut down the runtime, several of the scenes can simply be omitted.

Access the saved recording files by going to Zoom>Settings>Recording, then open the location of your recording. These files should be in MP4 format. Use your preferred video editing software (iMovie and Kapwing are good, free options) to cut each clip down to size and edit them into the same video. Keep each clip short and precise, trimming off any unnecessary footage before or after the scene. You may wish to put some background music throughout too. It may help to watch a tutorial of this on YouTube, etc. if you’re unfamiliar with video editing.

Time

Approximately 9 minutes (customizable by removing/adding scenes)

Lucy and her Mom connect on a video call. Lucy waves when she sees Mom's face on the screen.

Lucy: Hey, Mom.

Mom: Happy New Years, honey!

Lucy: You too!

Mom: Did you have fun last night?

Lucy: We watched movies 'til 3 am. Didn't even look at the clock until almost one so we had no idea it was a new year.

Mom: You stayed home? You should have been out with friends.

Lucy: Eh. Christmas was busy. It was nice to stay home for once.

Mom: So, 2020, hey?

Lucy: I know, it's crazy.

Mom: Gonna be a big year for you. New job. Your trip to Europe in August.

Lucy: I know, I'm so excited.

Mom: I'm praying for so many blessings for you this year, Lucy.

Lucy: Thanks, Mom. You too.

Mom: So when are you coming to visit me?

Lucy: As soon as I can get time off work. Brandon's hoping to come too if we can time it right.

Mom: That'll be lovely. I can't wait to see you both.

Lucy: Anyway, I have to go. I'll talk to you soon.

Mom: Love you, honey.

Lucy: You too.

Lucy ends the call. Cut to black.

Lucy waits alone on a video call. After a few moments, Mom joins the call.

Lucy: Hey, where were you?

Mom: Sorry, I was just watching the news. Did you hear about the fires in Australia?

Lucy: Yeah, it's awful.

Mom: Entire towns and forests have been completely wiped out, all over the country.

Lucy: I can't imagine.

Lucy: Okay, so I've booked my flight for late March.

Mom: March? That's so far away.

Lucy: I know, I'm sorry. That's the soonest I could do.

Mom: Well, I'll be counting down.

Lucy holds a half-eaten sandwich.

Lucy: Peanut butter and jelly.

Mom: You're twenty-six years old.

Lucy rolls her eyes.

Lucy: My point is, they've been tearing Meghan apart since before they were even married. I think they're both just trying to protect Archie.

Lucy: No, I heard it came from a bat.

Mom: A bat?

Lucy: Yeah, at a market or something.

Mom: Isn't Brandon going to Singapore in a couple of weeks?

Lucy: Yeah, but I don't think it's an issue there.

Mom: Apparently someone has it in Washington.

Lucy: I heard. Wuhan has 11 million people in lockdown.

Mom: Is Brandon concerned?
Lucy: Singapore only got its first case today, but he's being careful. He'll be back in a week.

Lucy: *(emotional)* His daughter was only 13 years old, Mom. And there were eight other people on the helicopter.
Mom: I can't believe it.

Lucy and Mom are silent for a moment, processing the news.

Lucy: Hang on, I'm confused. So, they're not a part of Europe anymore?
Mom: No, they're still in Europe. They're just not in the EU.
Lucy: That doesn't clear things up.

Lucy: The whole of Italy is in lockdown now. It's gotten so bad there.
Mom: When are you going again?
Lucy: August. If I cancel, my travel insurance won't cover it. That's thousands of dollars. Hopefully it's okay by then.
Mom: Hopefully by then.

Lucy: Mom, they closed Disney World. Disney World!

Lucy and Mom both sit in silence. Lucy is crying.

Lucy: I'm so sorry. I should have come earlier.
Mom: You couldn't have known.

Lucy wipes at her tears. Mom tries to mask her own sadness, staying strong for Lucy.

Lucy: I'm scared, Mom.
Mom: Me too.

Lucy is drinking a cup of coffee in her pajamas.

Mom: Honey, it's midday. Get dressed.

Lucy: Why? I can't go anywhere.

Mom rolls her eyes.

Lucy is in a bathrobe, hair in a towel, eating toast.

Mom: Whatcha doing?

Lucy: *(as if the answer should be obvious)* Church.

Lucy is dressed in activewear.

Lucy: It's great 'cause I have so much time to work out. I've been eating super healthy. It feels so good.

Mom: Oh, I'm so glad.

Lucy has a big bite of a pizza.

Lucy: *(through a mouthful)* It's called balance, Mom.

Lucy picks up a potted plant and holds it in frame.

Lucy: This is Stacey. She's a calathea orbifolia.

Mom: That's nice, honey.

Lucy puts the plant down and picks up another one.

Lucy: And this is Humphrey.

Mom: So, you really went all out with the plants, huh?

Lucy holds up a floral cloth face mask in frame.

Mom: Ooh, that one's pretty.

Lucy: It came today. I'm so excited.

Mom: Who'd have thought mask fashion would ever be a thing. How's Brandon doing?

Lucy: Stressed. Work's been full-on for him. He's working double shifts. Covered head to toe in PPE. Meanwhile I'm sitting around not able to do anything.

Mom: Such a strange time.

Lucy: I haven't even seen him for a few weeks.

Mom and Lucy are both praying, eyes closed. Lucy has tears slipping down her cheeks.

Mom: Lord, we pray for your protection over us. Comfort those who are grieving. Strengthen those on the front lines. Only You can see beyond this storm we're in. Only You are sovereign, Lord.

Mom and Lucy sit in silence, contemplating, processing, unable to find words for everything they're feeling.

Lucy: Every time I turn on the TV or look at social media, it's something new. Something terrible. The cyclone in India, the plane that went down in Pakistan, the flooding in Indonesia. All I can do is pray and I feel like that's not enough.

Mom: Don't underestimate the power of prayer, Lucy.

Lucy: *(slowly, in disbelief)* Eight minutes and forty-six seconds.

Mom: How can that be allowed to happen?

Lucy: And why did nobody try to stop it?

Lucy: Can you believe the Olympics were supposed to start today?

Mom: What's with the neck pillow?

Lucy: I'm supposed to be on a flight to Italy.

Mom: Oh, honey.

Lucy: And just like that, 300,000 people in Beirut have had their homes destroyed.

Lucy: I watched Black Panther twice last night. I'm still in shock.

Mom: I'm telling you, honey. You need to get off social media. Take a break. Clear your head. What if, every time you're about to open Facebook, you opened your Bible instead?

Lucy: I should definitely try that.

Lucy is dressed in a costume.

Lucy: Happy Halloween!

Mom is unwrapping a gift.

Lucy: Happy birthday!

Lucy: Happy thanksgiving!

Lucy holds her dead calathea up close to the camera and rotates it.

Lucy: I have no idea how it happened.

Lucy: Okay, so I've decided I need to be more positive.

Mom: Fantastic.

Lucy: So, I came up with a list of all the good things that happened this year. Number one: Derek Hough becoming a judge on Dancing with the Stars.

Mom: Interesting choice.

Lucy: Number two: That I can watch Hamilton in my living room.

Mom: Oh, I didn't much care for Hamilton.

Lucy's jaw drops personally offended by the revelation.

Mom: What's next?

Lucy: That's it. That's the whole list.

Lucy and Mom both have their Bibles open in front of them.

Mom: *(reading)*"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint."

Lucy and Mom both wear something Christmassy and/or have Christmas decorations in the background.

Lucy: Merry Christmas, Mom.

Mom: You too, sweetheart.

Lucy: I can't believe we're not spending it together.

Mom: I told you to come. Or I could've come to you.

Lucy: Yeah, but your doctor said—

Mom: I know.

Lucy: Mom, if you get sick—

Mom: I know, I know.

Mom: So, 2021 tomorrow.

Lucy: I know, it's crazy.

They both go silent, contemplating the year ahead and the year that's been.

Mom: So, what's your challenge for next year?

Lucy: I don't know. To keep my plant alive? To have a better year than this one? Everybody's so excited that 2020 is over. And I can't help but fear 2021 is going to be just as bad. Or worse.

Mom: It's possible.

Lucy: Huh. I was kinda counting on you for something more positive there, Mom.

Mom: We don't know what next year will look like. But this is what I do know. God is sovereign. I know that, because of what He's done for me, I have so much to be thankful for. I know that, no matter how far apart you and I are, I will always, always love you. I know that, while some things are beyond my control, I am in control of my response, of my attitude, of my actions. And that's all I'm responsible for. I know that God forgives. He restores. He heals. He works all things together for the good of those who love Him. I know that He Who promised is faithful. What more do I need to know?

Lucy: So, what's your challenge this year?

Mom: To be joyful in hope, to be patient in affliction, to be faithful in prayer. And to teach you how to keep a plant alive.

Lucy: *(laughs)* Sounds good to me.

Lucy: Happy New Year, Mom.

Mom: Happy New Year, Luce.