

A script from



"The Test"

by
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- What** Two school friends learn that everybody's got a story.
Themes: Friendship, Christ-like, Compassion, Helping, Bearing One Another's Burdens
- Who** Sarah- teen
Paige- teen
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Each girl should be dressed in casual clothes. They can carry books or backpacks.
- Why** Ephesians 4:32, Galatians 6:2
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational, being careful not to overact.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

Sarah comes storming in, clearly angry, carrying textbook and notebook. She stops suddenly.

Sarah: *(looks up and speaks with barely controlled anger)* Help me, Jesus. Give me the words to say.

Sarah turns as though she's going to return where she came from. She takes a couple of steps, then stops. She sees Paige approaching from offstage, and turns to walk away as Paige enters, also carrying a notebook and textbook. Paige is upset.

Paige: Sarah, wait. Sarah—don't walk away!

Sarah: *(stops but doesn't turn)* Why shouldn't I?

Paige: I can explain. Let me explain. Please.

Sarah: What's to explain?

Paige: Sarah...

Sarah: *(turns)* What's to explain? How's this for a summary: *(getting progressively louder)* You obviously didn't study for the vocabulary test. You decided it was gonna be easier to cheat off me, because you know I ALWAYS study. You got caught. No... WE got caught, even though I'm innocent! Now we both have detention, and I'm going to be in huge trouble with my parents. Did I leave anything out?

Paige: *(pleading)* I'll explain to Mr. Harrison. I'll make sure your punishment doesn't stick. I bet he'll even let you retake the test.

Sarah: You really think he's going to believe you? Here's some free vocabulary help for you—CHEATER. That's what Mr. Harrison thinks both of us are. Why would he think either of us are telling him the truth?

Paige: *(pause as she considers this)* Sarah... I'm sorry.

Sarah: What good does that do? *(softens her tone, becoming more hurt than angry)* I just don't understand why you'd do this to me. We haven't known each other that long, but Paige, you know I'm a Christian. Honesty... integrity... it's important to me.

Paige: I know. But...

Sarah: But what?

Paige: Never mind. You'll just think I'm making excuses.

Sarah: *(softening further)* But what, Paige?

Paige: *(looks at Sarah, sees she's genuine)* You don't know what it's like at my house.

Sarah: *(slightly confused)* What do you mean?

Paige: *(hesitates)* Never mind. You don't want to know. I'm going to go talk to Mr. Harrison.

Paige turns to leave, but Sarah takes her arm and stops her.

Sarah: Paige. Tell me. What's going on?

Paige: Promise you won't tell?

Sarah nods.

Paige: My mom left two weeks ago. Just...packed up her clothes, wrote us a note, and left.

Sarah: Oh, Paige.

Paige: Dad's trying to hold it together, but I know he cries pretty much every night after my brothers and I go to bed. I've heard him. I never heard him cry before.

Sarah: I'm sorry.

Paige: So after I get home this afternoon I have to watch my brothers until Dad gets home from work, cook supper, clean up, make sure the boys do their homework, fuss at them until they take baths and get them to bed. Then MAYBE I get some time to work on my homework...if I don't fall asleep first. That's what happened last night when I started to study my vocab. Next thing I knew it was morning, and I was already almost late.

Sarah: Paige...why didn't you tell me?

Paige: I didn't want you to know. I don't want ANYBODY to know. Yeah, I'm angry at her, but I don't want people judging my mom, or my dad, or my family. I don't want all the grown-ups giving me the sad eyes and the head tilt when they look at me.

Sarah: You can't do this on your own, Paige. You've got to get some help...for your dad and for you. We've got to tell somebody.

Paige: *(alarmed)* You promised you wouldn't tell.

Sarah: I know...and I won't. But Paige...my parents' Bible study group is always helping people in little ways. I know they'll help some with the housework. And grocery shopping. And babysitting for your brothers.

Paige: Really?

Sarah: Yeah...really. I can help, too. I can help you with your homework. We can study together. Whenever you need.

Paige: Sarah...I don't know what to say.

Sarah: Say yes. Once you say yes, we can go talk to my parents, and then they can go talk to your dad.

Paige: Why would you do that for me? After I got you in trouble?

Sarah: *(shrugs)* We all make bad decisions sometimes. Heaven knows I have. *(Looking for the words)* But since I really gave my life to Jesus, He's been helping me make good ones. He helps me see people...like you...through His eyes. Sometimes I still get mad, and my decisions aren't perfect...but I know that everybody's story is different.

Paige: I just never thought this is how my story would go.

Sarah: *(short pause)* I know. I wish I knew why, but I don't. Here's what I know, though: A couple weeks ago my mom put a Bible verse up on the fridge. It says: "Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ." That's what I'm trying to do. So what do you say? *(Hopeful)* Yes?

Paige: *(hesitates...then with a light smile)* Yes.

Sarah: *(smiles)* Great. It won't be easy, but together, we'll get through this.

Paige: Together. I like that.

Sarah: Together! Come on...let's go. We can find my parents then study that vocab. Maybe I can convince Mr. Harrison to give us both a second chance.

Paige: You think?

Sarah: Maybe. But you've got to study! Let's start with this one: CAMARADERIE—Mutual trust and friendship.

Paige: Now THAT one...I can remember!

Girls exit together, with smiles and laughter