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“Working It Out”

by
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What Phil and Jason are working out together and end up in a conversation about God, Jesus, and whether they really exist. This can be customized for either Christmas or Easter season.

Themes: Faith, Christianity, Apologetics, Belief, Easter, Christmas

Who Phil
Jason

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** The men should be dressed in modest modern workout clothes.
Weight Bench
2 barbells with weights
Hand weights
Two towels
Water bottles
Text message notification sound effect
Modern and modest workout clothes

Why Christmas: Luke 2; John 1:14
Easter: Luke 23-24; Romans 6:23

How Keep the dialogue natural. Phil is more dedicated to working out than Jason. Jason is more casual and stops to talk. Phil keeps lifting while he talks until it gets to the deeper conversation. This stop is marked in the script. Feel free to add more text notifications as you see fit but be careful not to distract during the “deep” conversation parts.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

The scene opens with Jason and Phil weight lifting. Numerous text message notifications sound with a few "rapid fire" on Phil's phone. Phil ignores them and keeps lifting weights.

Jason: Somebody's Mr. Popular today.

Phil: *(long gruff sigh as he continues his reps)*

Jason: New girlfriend?

Phil: *(abrupt)* No.

Notification sound

Jason: Aren't you going to see who it is?

Phil: I know who it is.

Notification sound

Jason: K.

Three more notifications hit in rapid fire.

Jason: Are you being held hostage in a group text? You can tell me. *(Leaning in and staring into his eyes)* Blink twice if you need sanctuary.

Phil: *(annoyed)* Funny. Although, hostage might be a good word for it. *(Pauses, then reluctantly says)* It's my mom.

Jason: *(surprised)* All of those are your mom?

Phil: Yep.

Jason: Dude. She's got some mad texting skills.

Notification sound

Phil: *(sarcastically)* Yes, she is quite GIFTED. It is especially useful for guilt-tripping her son.

Jason: Got it. Sorry, I didn't realize it was a sore subject. I'll retreat.

Phil: Much appreciated.

Jason: I mean...unless you WANT to talk about it.

Phil: Not especially.

Jason: *(stares at Phil a second and then goes quietly back to his exercise)*

Notification sound

Phil: *(annoyed, he stops lifting, sits up and says abruptly)* It wouldn't bother me so much except she keeps insisting I respect her and her "religious" preferences. She doesn't care how that impedes mine!

Jason: *(confused)* Does this happen to have something to do with it being Christmas *(or substitute Easter)* this weekend?

Phil: Yes. Sorry. My mother's badgering me to go to church with her. She knows I am atheist, but she doesn't care. She just keeps texting me guilt bombs about how much it means to her to have me sitting beside her. *(Small pause)* It might be tolerable if I heard something different, but it's the same message year after year.

Jason: I totally get what you're saying, and I don't want to belittle your frustration. But...to be fair...if the only time you go is Christmas, you can pretty much guarantee you're going to hear about the birth of Jesus, God's One and only Son, born of a virgin, the chosen Messiah, Star of David complete with shepherds, angles and wisemen. That's Christmas. Just like Jesus dying on the cross to pay the sin of all mankind and raising from the dead on the third day is Easter. If you want to hear something different, you need to go on a different day.

Phil: You're starting to sound like my mother.

Jason: Look, man, I definitely have no right to be telling you or anyone to go to church. I'm not exactly the faithful follower poster child, but...

Phil: I get your point. Save your breath. You don't have to confess to me. I'm no priest. *(Pause)* That was a joke. You can laugh.

Jason: Good one *(gives a faint smile)*.

Phil: Hey, don't sweat it. I didn't mean to drag you into my problems. Workouts are supposed to destress you not add more.

Notification sound

Jason: Part of de-stressing is talking it through. I'm a willing proxy if you want to talk.

Phil: No, thanks. I'm good.

Phil stops to look at his texts and Jason starts working out again.

Phil: *(looking at his phone)* So what's your take on this whole Jesus thing?

Jason: That's a good question.

Phil: Thanks. I wrote it myself.

Jason: Look at'chew! That's two funnies. *(Gives Phil a playful punch in the arm. Then quickly composes himself when he sees that Phil is not as amused)* I wish I knew. I think it's a good idea, I mean, someone taking punishment in my place sounds really great. I'm just not sure how I feel about the whole, "All were born into sin and salvation only comes through Jesus" thing. I'm a good person by most standards and don't feel like I'm going to be sent to a place of eternal punishment just because I didn't buy into the whole church thing.

Phil: But, you believe there is a God and a Jesus?

Jason: I'm definitely not an atheist; but I'm not sure I'm classified as a Believer either.

Phil: But, doesn't believing there is a God mean you believe and to believe means you're saved? The church guy said, "Believe Jesus and be saved." I don't understand how you are NOT saved, then, if you believe?

Jason: Well, look who listened in Sunday School. *(Laughs)*

Phil: *(back to working out)* I guess if you hear something enough part of it will stick around. *(Pause, then gets serious)* But, seriously, what's the deal? Are you saved since you believe there's a God? Isn't that the deal?

Jason: I don't know, man. I think if I were a Christian I would feel different, ya know? I mean, I believe in a higher power, but I don't think that's the same as believing IN the God of the Bible. What you're talking about is more...I don't know...SOMETHING. All I know is, I didn't drink the Kool-aid.

Phil: Is that what's in those little shot glasses?

Jason: No, man. *(Laugh)* That's grape juice. It's supposed to be like Jesus' blood. I was just meaning...never mind. It was a bad reference.

Phil: It's all so confusing.

Notification sound

Jason: Ask your mom about it. I'm sure she'd love to answer your questions.

Phil: Oh, she would definitely LOVE to answer my questions...and THEN some. I'd never hear the end of it. If she knew at all that I even thought about this stuff, she wouldn't let up. That's the LAST thing I need.

Jason: So, you have more questions?

Phil: Well, yeah. You hear stuff and see stuff that doesn't make sense and causes the mind to wonder a bit.

Jason: Totally. I get that.

Phil: So, you have questions?

Jason: Of course. Everybody does. How do you not? I mean, science answers some things, but even some of their theories just don't jive. *(Pauses)* Then, on the other side, some of the things about God don't make sense either. I mean, how does someone exist eternally. I can't wrap my head around not having a beginning.

Phil: *(excitedly)* Right! That's nuts!

Jason: But, on the other hand, the Christian mantra is *(using air quotes)* "Salvation by Faith." *(Pause, looks off in the distance)* And, it kinda makes sense that an Almighty Supreme Being Who could create all things from nothing and redeem all people from the depths of disgraceful human lust and selfish passion would be epic enough to not have an origin story. *(Moves only his eyes toward Phil. Then slowly turns his head to him)*

Phil: *(Staring at Jason in bewilderment)* What...was that?

Jason: What? You haven't questioned the origin of God and the state of humanity.

Phil: *(overwhelmed)* Psshhhh, I don't know, man. I'm just trying to get through Sunday and remain in good standing with my text savvy slightly saintly mother.

Jason: You're right. My bad. That was too far.

Phil: Maybe a little.

Jason: Look, bottom line, it's just one Sunday, right? It'd make the mom happy and it surely couldn't hurt with the Big Man...if it turns out He really is there. Plus, there won't be any surprises. You already know the plot, right?

Phil: That's valid. *(Takes a deep breath and let it out slowly)* Thanks man. I better go call my mom before her thumbs get arthritic from texting. *(Starts to walk away, stops and says)* Thanks for the workout. See you tomorrow. *(Exits slowly so he is still on stage for his final line)*

Jason: Anytime. Wait. The gym is closed tomorrow.

Notification sound

Phil: I know. *(Laughs and exits)*
Multiple notification sounds.

Jason: *(looks at his phone)* Phil! Why is your mom texting me? Phil? Not cool man, not cool! Phil! *(Grabs his towel and exits)*

SCRIPT

TO

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