

youthESource Drama

My House at the Fork

by Sarah R. Larson

A lesson in discernment and seeking God's will.

Key Bible Verses: 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 121:8; Matthew 7:11; John 3:16; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:8-10; Colossians 3:20; Psalm 51:16-17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Luke 22:19,20; Galatians 3:27

Characters

IKE/IZZY

PASSERBY 1

PASSERBY 2

PASSERBY 3

PASSERBY 4

Lights up.

IKE/IZZY sits inside a makeshift house built out of a cardboard box.

IKE/IZZY: 1 Thessalonians 5, verses 17 and 18. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." *(To audience)* Hello. My name Ike/Izzy. I live inside this box. It's my house. It's comfortable. It's safe. My mom cleans it. My dad mows around it, and I've been here all my life. *(Pointing to the floor around him/her)* And *this* is the road. It's a fork, actually, a road that splits into a lot of different directions. But, I'm having a problem. I don't know which way I'm supposed to go. I'm not lost. I know where all of these roads lead to, and I *do* know how to get there in the end...if I really needed to. But, that's the problem. What I want and what I need are sometimes two very different things. And so, Scripture says to seek the Lord in all things. And I do. I pray all the time. But, now what? I don't want to live in this little box for the rest of my life. I have options, and I want to *live*. But, what is *His* will for my life? What does *He* want me to do? Where does *He* want me to go? I don't know. Anyway, I can't do it. I can't move on without knowing the answers to these questions. I'm just too scared to walk away. What if I do the *wrong thing*?

PASSERBY 1 enters stage right and passes the box, whistling or singing, and carrying a backpack.

PASSERBY 1: Hello.

IKE/IZZY: Wait.

PASSERBY 1 pauses.

IKE/IZZY: *(continued, pointing to stage right)* You just came from there.

PASSERBY 1: Yes.

IKE/IZZY: Why?

PASSERBY 1 looks back stage left.

PASSERBY 1: Because that's where I was. Nice box.

IKE/IZZY: Thanks. It's my house.

PASSERBY 1: You *live* in it?

IKE/IZZY: People live in houses.

PASSERBY 1: I mean *still*?

IKE/IZZY: Yes. I can't decide which way to go.

PASSERBY 1: *(sighing)* Still?

IKE/IZZY: *(rolling eyes)* Yes. *(BEAT, determined)* So my house sits here and in this house sits me until I know which way I'm supposed to go.

PASSERBY 1: Why don't you just pick one?

IKE/IZZY: I can't.

PASSERBY 1: Why?

IKE/IZZY: I don't know. How did you know which way to go? How do you know that...*(pointing to stage left)* that is the way you're supposed to go?

PASSERBY 1 looks down his/her "road" stage left and shrugs.

PASSERBY 1: It's just...a road.

IKE/IZZY: But, that's the road that leads to a certain college.

PASSERBY 1: I know. I picked it.

IKE/IZZY: You just...picked it.

PASSERBY 1: Well, I prayed about it a lot. I pray about everything. The Lord loves me and He cares about the things that matter to me, but yes. Then I just...picked it. I picked that college over others for many reasons, but there are many *other* good colleges, too. So, I thanked the Lord that I had the opportunity to go...and then I just picked one.

IKE/IZZY: Really.

PASSERBY 1: Yes.

IKE/IZZY: *(pointing)* And God was okay with *that* college?

PASSERBY 1: I guess so. I mean, He didn't physically point at it or anything, but I *do* know that He *is* wherever I go. He *is* wherever I am. And He *is* wherever I was.

IKE/IZZY: But, how do you *know* that?

PASSERBY 1: Because He says so in His Word.

IKE/IZZY shake his/her head, confused.

PASSERBY 1: *(continued, pulling out a Bible)* Look. He is present in His Word, in this very Bible, which I take with me everywhere I go.

IKE/IZZY: *(disappointed)* I guess.

PASSERBY 1: You don't sound convinced.

IKE/IZZY: I'm not gonna lie. It's hard to get excited about a book that tells everybody else what to do and where to go, like His people and His prophets and His disciples...but, what about me?

PASSERBY 1: Oh, trust me. You are very much included in these promises. Here. *(Opens Bible to passage)* In 2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 and 17, He says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." I need this sort of promise every day, you know, because I certainly can't figure it out for myself.

IKE/IZZY: So then what about the Sacraments? My parents talk about those all the time.

PASSERBY 1: Yes, He's present in the Sacraments, too. *(flipping through the Bible)* In Luke chapter 22, verses 19 and 20, Jesus promises, "This is my body, which is given for you," and "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." He is present in the bread and wine *still*...and He promises that where His word is, and where it is spoken, He will be. Because He *is* the Word. He is not separate from it. He's *it*.

IKE/IZZY: And Baptism, too.

PASSERBY 1: Yes, Baptism, too. Remember these words? *(flipping through Bible)* Galatians chapter 3, verse 27, says, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Put on Christ! My friend, *closer* doesn't get any closer than that. He is as close to you as He will ever be because of what He's already done on the cross...regardless of what you do or where He leads you to go. And remember, the Sacraments deliver forgiveness, life, and salvation...God's ultimate plan for all believers in Christ. Because of this, we don't need to fear choosing between two paths which might be equally valid.

IKE/IZZY: If He is so with me, then why do I feel so...*unguided*?

PASSERBY 1: I don't know why you feel that way. And I'm sorry that you do. But I *do* know that you are guided every day. With this *(holding out the Bible)* and by His Holy Spirit. I believe that He'll use you, because He is already doing so: through your vocation...your job, through the relationships you have with others, through the testimony I know you have in light of His redemptive love...through all of these things. He'll use you, and He'll use me, too. He has great things for us. He's promised this. He says in Joshua 1, verse 9, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

IKE/IZZY: *(extremely thoughtful)* I see.

PASSERBY 1: Yeah. *(BEAT)* Anyway, I gotta run. Nice to meet you!

IKE/IZZY: *(distracted, thoughtful)* Nice to meet you, too...

PASSERBY 1 waves and moves to exit stage left.

IKE/IZZY: *(continued, suddenly shouting after)* Hey, wait a minute! I have so many questions! Please!

PASSERBY 2 suddenly enters stage left. They greet each other and PASSERBY 1 exits.

IKE/IZZY: *(continued, shouting after PASSERBY 1)* Hey!

PASSERBY 2: *(excited, cool)* Heeeeey.

IKE/IZZY: No, I was just...oh, never mind.

PASSERBY 2 moves to exit stage right.

IKE/IZZY: *(continued, to PASSERBY 2)* Wait!

PASSERBY 2: Hm?

IKE/IZZY: Why are you going *that* way?

PASSERBY 2 looks down the "road" stage right confused, then back at IKE/IZZY.

PASSERBY 2: I'm getting a job.

IKE/IZZY: A job...

PASSERBY 2: Nice box.

IKE/IZZY: Don't touch it.

PASSERBY 2: *(cautious)* Ok.

BEAT

IKE/IZZY: *(sighing wearily)* Sorry. We had a heavy rain last night and it's about to cave in.

PASSERBY 2: So why don't you ditch the box?

IKE/IZZY: I can't leave my house. I don't know which way to go! Yet. Besides...I like my box. It's *comfortable*.

PASSERBY 2: It belongs to your *parents*.

IKE/IZZY: *(irritated)* I know. *(BEAT)* Did you graduate from college?

PASSERBY 2: No. I came from there because I liked reading books and doing other things in many places with my friends who are *in* college...but I never *did* get a degree, and now I'm going over *there* *(pointing stage right)*.

IKE/IZZY: To...get a job.

PASSERBY 2: Yep. What I want to do doesn't need a degree.

IKE/IZZY: But, what if I want to do something that *needs* a degree.

PASSERBY 2: *(points stage left)* Then go that way.

IKE/IZZY: But, how did you know that God wanted you to do *that*?

PASSERBY 2: You mean...*not* get a degree?

IKE/IZZY: Yes.

PASSERBY 2: It's just...what happened. I prayed, and I told the Lord my fears and my concerns and my doubts, and then He reminded me that He is aware of my coming and going, and He says so in His Word. Psalm 121, verse 8 says, "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." That's what He says.

IKE/IZZY: So you just...picked a job.

PASSERBY 2: With careful consideration, yes, but there are a lot of other good jobs to choose from, too. It is through me doing the job, whatever vocation I choose, that I love and serve others in Christ...not just in one particular line of work. This vocation brings me joy, and I know the Lord will use me in whatever I do.

IKE/IZZY: I see...

PASSERBY 2: *(suspicious)* Do you? *(BEAT)* Hey, enjoy the box!

PASSERBY 2 moves to exit stage right as PASSERBY 3 enters. They greet each other.

IKE/IZZY: *(calling to PASSERBY 2)* What do you mean, do you?

PASSERBY 2: I mean, *enjoy the box* if that's where you want to stay! It's okay to stay!

IKE/IZZY: But, I don't want to stay! That's the *point!*

PASSERBY 2 exits.

PASSERBY 3: *(excited, to IKE/IZZY)* Would you look at *that house!*

PASSERBY 3 eagerly inspects the cardboard box.

IKE/IZZY: What are you doing?

PASSERBY 3: I'm looking for one of these.

IKE/IZZY: A box?

PASSERBY 3: A place to raise my family.

IKE/IZZY: I like my box. Please don't ask me to sell it to you.

PASSERBY 3: I'm not asking you to do anything. I'm just looking. Tomorrow I'm getting married... and I like to plan ahead.

IKE/IZZY: *(rolling eyes)* Ha. Well, I hope he/she plans ahead a little bit better than you do. *(BEAT)* Getting married, is that the road you're taking?

PASSERBY 3: Yes. I'm more excited than I've ever been in my entire life about anything.

IKE/IZZY: *(rolling eyes)* I bet you are.

PASSERBY 3: What's the matter?

IKE/IZZY: *(sighing)* Nothing. I just wish I *knew* if that's what I'm supposed to do, too, you know?

PASSERBY 3: Been there.

IKE/IZZY: So then how did you know?

PASSERBY 3: Well...love isn't something you can schedule in your calendar. You've heard it said before: "When you know, you'll know?" You know?

IKE/IZZY: No. (BEAT) I mean yes, I've heard that before.

PASSERBY 3: It's true.

IKE/IZZY: (doubtful) I don't know. A lot of people say that, and then they get divorced.

PASSERBY 3 looks sad and disappointed.

IKE/IZZY: (continued, suddenly apologetic) Oh! But that doesn't mean it'll happen to you!

PASSERBY 3: I realize that. But, that's why I pray for my fiancé all the time...and I always will. And for myself, too. God invites us to bring all of these things to Him, especially when it comes to the matter of loving His people. It's that important to Him.

IKE/IZZY: So He just...pointed at the person and said, "There!"

PASSERBY 3: I think He got my attention in many ways, and when I looked and saw that He had created some wonderful people in the world who love Him and follow Him and serve Him, my eyes were opened. My fiancé just happened to be the person I saw.

IKE/IZZY: So, I'm guessing you *don't* believe that there is *one* person for every person in the world?

PASSERBY 3: I believe that God has some wonderful gifts to give. He says so in His Word. In Matthew 7 verse 11 He says, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

IKE/IZZY: Hm.

PASSERBY 3: Anyway, speaking of fiancé...he's/she's waiting for me.

IKE/IZZY: (thoughtful) Congratulations.

PASSERBY 3: Thank you! Let me know if you want to sell that box!

IKE/IZZY nods and carefully, thoughtfully inspects his/her box as PASSERBY 3 exits stage right. PASSERBY 4 enters stage right reading a Bible.

IKE/IZZY: Hello.

PASSERBY 4: Hello!

IKE/IZZY: I'm guessing you know where you're gonna go.

PASSERBY 4: I have directions, thank you.

IKE/IZZY: I mean...forget it.

PASSERBY 4 slows and turns, concerned.

PASSERBY 4: Are you okay?

IKE/IZZY: No. But, what does it matter? I still don't have any answers, and I'm still living inside this box.

PASSERBY 4: Is there something wrong with it?

IKE/IZZY: No! It's just...I think I'm supposed to go. But, I don't know where. *(BEAT)* What are you doing? Which road are you taking away from this place?

PASSERBY 4: I'm a missionary. I go all over.

IKE/IZZY: *(interested)* Oh. Is it lonely?

PASSERBY 4: Sometimes. But you look lonely, too, and you don't go anywhere at all.

IKE/IZZY: True.

PASSERBY 4: Say...who told you that you had to pick?

IKE/IZZY: What?

PASSERBY 4: Who told you that you had to pick a road?

IKE/IZZY: I don't know. My parents.

PASSERBY 4: Did they?

IKE/IZZY: Sometimes. *(BEAT)* Well, no...not really. Not mine.

PASSERBY 4: Then who?

IKE/IZZY: Isn't this what I'm supposed to do? Pick a road and then go and then *do whatever's* at the end of it?

PASSERBY 4: Do you want to go to college?

IKE/IZZY: Maybe.

PASSERBY 4: Do you want to get a job?

IKE/IZZY: Yes.

PASSERBY 4: Do you want to have a family?

IKE/IZZY: Yes!

PASSERBY 4: Don't you think, then, that the Lord is telling you to...*has* told you...to go and do those things?

IKE/IZZY: But *how?* In what way? Who do I marry? What college to do I go to? What *job do I get?* What if I do *the wrong thing?*

PASSERBY 4: You do not need to be *afraid* of choosing the wrong college or the wrong spouse or the wrong vocation...unless the choice you make is sinful and goes against God's laws.

IKE/IZZY: *(exhausted)* You see? This is it? *This* is why I sit here. I'm too afraid to move because I'm too afraid to make the wrong choice!

PASSERBY 4: Why?

IKE/IZZY: Because I *will* make sinful choices that go against the law of the Lord. I already know that! (*Repentant*) I know I already have.

PASSERBY 4: (*comforting*) We all do. We all will. But, Jesus has covered all of our sins with His blood on the cross and in the empty tomb. In Scripture we read stories of God leading and moving and guiding His people very specifically, yes...but the most important thing He tells His people to do...He tells us to do...is to love Him and others. Consider how your decisions will affect you...and others, too. This is how we love people. We consider the impact our decisions have on *them*. But, regardless of how well we do in this...because you and I both know that we will fail...John chapter 3, verse 16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." You are *free*! (*Beat*) Live!

IKE/IZZY *pauses to reflect, then smiles with peace.*

IKE/IZZY: So...can I stay here a little while longer?

PASSERBY 4: Sure. (*BEAT*) Stay, come, go, lead, follow...and love.

PASSERBY 4 *pats IKE/IZZY on the back. He/she exits stage left reading his/her Bible.*

IKE/IZZY: (*with peace*) 1 Thessalonians 5, verses 17 and 18. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does the pressure come from to make the right choices about your future?
2. In what ways does God speak to us? (*In His Word and Sacraments*)
3. What is pleasing to God? Read Romans 12:1, Ephesians 5:8-10, Colossians 3:20, and Psalm 51:16-17.
4. What is the work of God? Read John 6:29.
5. What are Jesus' instructions to the lawyer in Luke 10:25-37? How does Jesus illustrate His teaching?