

youthESource Drama

The Dignified Puddle

by Sarah R. Larson

A lesson in preserving each other's dignity in awkward situations.

Key Bible Verses: Romans 12:10; Genesis 3; Deuteronomy 31:8

Characters

STUDENT 1

STUDENT 2

STUDENT 3

STUDENT 4

STUDENTS, extras

Lights up.

STUDENTS 1 and 2 stand on stage left (left side from the actor's perspective) and STUDENTS 3 and 4 stand on stage right (right side from the actor's perspective). Other STUDENTS mingle and talk amongst themselves. Suddenly, STUDENT 1 cheerfully waves to his/her group and walks across the stage towards stage right.

STUDENT 1: *(to group of friends)* Yes. I'll see you at the game!

Suddenly, STUDENT 1 comically stumbles and slides into center stage as if slipping in a giant puddle.

STUDENT 1: *(continued)* Whoa! Whoa! WHOA!

STUDENT 1 crashes to the floor. ALL STUDENTS gasp, stunned. Suddenly, they begin to laugh and point.

STUDENT 2: *(laughing)* Hey, watch out for that soda!

STUDENT 3: *(laughing)* It's only been there *all day!* Didn't you see it?

STUDENT 4: *(laughing)* Didn't you see the sign? The sign that says *wet floor?*

STUDENT 1: *(laughing, to another STUDENT)* Doesn't the janitor have the day off?

ALL STUDENTS laugh and agree.

STUDENT 2: *(laughing)* What an idiot! *Pay attention!*

STUDENT 3: *(laughing)* What a joke!

STUDENT 1: *(to the audience, miserable)* Romans 12, verse 10. "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

STUDENT 2, still chuckling, approaches STUDENT 1.

STUDENT 2: Need some help?

STUDENT 1: *(disgusted)* No. This *idiot* is soaking wet. Isn't that what you called me?

STUDENT 2: Sorry. Forget what I say. *(BEAT)* Now, come on. Get up. Shake it off.

STUDENT 2 offers a hand.

STUDENT 1: *(stubborn, turning face away)* No.

STUDENT 2: *(chuckling, amazed)* Why not?

STUDENT 1: Because everybody's laughing at me now anyway. What does it matter?

STUDENT 2: Of course they're laughing at you! It was funny! *(BEAT, seriously)* Look, they'll be laughing about you next Tuesday if they find nothing else to do. So?

STUDENT 1: So... *(sighing)* Fine. Help me up, and then help me get outta here and away from these people. Just save me some dignity and *don't fall* while you're doing it.

STUDENT 2 reaches for STUDENT 1, but STUDENT 1 moves around uncomfortably.

STUDENT 2: What's the matter?

STUDENT 1: I'm starting to stick to the floor.

STUDENT 2 chuckles, shakes head, and moves to assist STUDENT 1, but STUDENT 3 approaches, laughing. STUDENT 1 and 2 turn to look at him/her.

STUDENT 3: Wait a minute, wait a minute. It's orange!

STUDENT 2: What's orange?

STUDENT 3: *(laughing)* It's orange soda! Hey, do you want us to order you a pizza? You could rub it all over your face. It'll make you *smell* better, anyway. Pizza and orange soda! The perfect Friday night combination. Who needs a football game?

STUDENT 4: *(laughing)* Just ignore him. Ignore it all. Don't even look at him, just leave him there.

STUDENT 3: *(laughing)* Sounds good to me.

STUDENT 2: *(annoyed)* No, I have an even better idea.

STUDENT 3: Huh?

STUDENT 2: Why don't you help me help him?

STUDENT 3: *(laughing cynically)* And fall, too? No way.

STUDENT 2: *(irritated, resolved)* Fine. Just watch.

STUDENT 2 grabs ahold of STUDENT 1 and pulls, but nothing happens.

STUDENT 2: Hey! Why isn't it working?

STUDENT 3: He's/she's too fat.

STUDENT 1: *(offended)* Hey!

STUDENT 4: Look at this mess. He's/she's just sliding around and making it worse!

STUDENT 3, 4 and other STUDENTS start to laugh.

STUDENT 1: I'm stuck!

STUDENT 2: No, you're not. Just help me help you. Brace yourself.

STUDENT 1: I can't!

STUDENT 2: Let's try it again.

STUDENT 2 pulls hard on STUDENT 1 but he/she doesn't budge.

STUDENT 4: *(annoyed)* Oh, forget this. Let me help you.

STUDENT 4 grabs one arm while STUDENT 2 pulls another arm. STUDENT 3 just laughs and shakes his/her head. STUDENT 1 doesn't budge. STUDENT 2 and 4 strain with the effort.

STUDENT 4: *(continued)* This is stupid. What's happening?

STUDENT 2: *Nothing's happening. That's the point. We need more help. (To STUDENT 3) Come on, give us a hand. (To ALL STUDENTS) Come on!*

STUDENT 3 sighs and looks at ALL other STUDENTS. Finally he/she nods. The STUDENTS surround STUDENT 1 and grab ahold of him/her.

STUDENT 2: Ready?

STUDENT 4: Set...

STUDENT 3: Go!

ALL STUDENTS pull and pull.

STUDENT 1: *(rolling eyes)* Guys...

STUDENT 2: Harder!

STUDENT 1: I'm not that fat.

STUDENT 4: Just a little more!

STUDENT 1: Stop!

Suddenly ALL STUDENTS start slipping and sliding.

ALL STUDENTS: *(ad lib)* Whoa! Hang on! (etc.)

All STUDENTS crash to the floor and then sit quietly, stunned.

STUDENT 3: You've gotta be kidding me.

ALL STUDENTS raise their arms and feet in disgust, indicating that the puddle is very wet and sticky.

STUDENT 2: This is disgusting.

STUDENT 3: *(to STUDENT 4)* I can't believe you got me into this.

STUDENT 4: It wasn't my fault. It was *theirs*.

STUDENT 2: This is so embarrassing!

STUDENT 3: Embarrassing? It's worse! Now I need to go home and change my clothes. *Thanks.*

STUDENT 4: No, it's worse than *that*. This is awful. What if my other friends hear about this? I'm gonna go home and never come back.

STUDENT 2: *(surprised, to STUDENT 1)* This really is humiliating, isn't it?

STUDENT 1: Yep.

STUDENT 2: I can't stand it. How can you handle this kind of shame?

STUDENT 1: *(rolling eyes)* You get used to it. You start to accept it.

STUDENT 3: Really? I think I'm gonna be sick.

STUDENT 1: *(impatient, angry)* All right. *That's it.* On the count of three I get you up. Ok?

ALL STUDENTS grumble. ALL STUDENTS hold on to STUDENT 1.

STUDENT 1: Ready? One...two...three...

Nobody moves, but STUDENT 1 strains with all his/her might.

STUDENT 4: This isn't happening.

STUDENT 3: Idiot.

STUDENT 2: No, try it again. I think we're moving.

STUDENT 1: *(breathless)* Here we go. One...two...three...

STUDENT 1 strains with all his/her might but nobody moves.

STUDENT 1 *(continued, breathless, exhausted)*: I can't do it. I can't. Not by myself.

ALL STUDENTS settle onto the floor, still feeling "gross" about their stickiness.

STUDENT 3: *(to STUDENT 1)* Listen, I'm sorry I laughed at you. This is disgusting, and it isn't fun being on the floor.

STUDENT 1: *(sighing)* I know. But listen, I get it. I understand. When you see somebody fall, the *last* thing you want to do is...fall.

STUDENT 3: But I did something far worse...I *made* it worse.

STUDENT 1: Yeah. *(BEAT)* Yeah, you did.

STUDENT 3: I'm sorry.

STUDENT 4 whimpers.

STUDENT 2: I am so pathetic.

STUDENT 1: I am so embarrassed.

STUDENT 4: *(whimpering)* I am so...orange.

STUDENT 3: But we are not *done*.

STUDENT 1: What do you mean?

STUDENT 3: Sticky or not, we can't just sit here for the rest of our lives.

STUDENT 1: So?

STUDENT 3: So, let's figure this out.

STUDENT 1 smiles.

STUDENT 1: Ok. *(BEAT)* Oh, and hey.

STUDENT 3: Yeah?

STUDENT 1: I do forgive you. *(BEAT)* Really.

STUDENT 3 nods and smiles.

STUDENT 3: Everybody link arms.

STUDENT 2: Be careful in the puddle!

STUDENT 3: Hold on tight and help each other stand.

STUDENT 4: And don't fall again because you're only gonna make it worse!

STUDENT 1: No, that's not gonna happen.

ALL STUDENTS look at STUDENT 1 in surprise.

STUDENT 3: It's not?

STUDENT 1: *(laughing)* No. Ok, so maybe we're gonna fall again. Actually, it's pretty much a guarantee.

STUDENT 4 whimpers.

STUDENT 1: But it's gonna be ok. Really. It's not gonna get any worse.

STUDENT 4: *(cynical)* How do you know that?

STUDENT 1: Because seriously...how can it?

ALL STUDENTS look at themselves and the floor around them. They nod in surprised agreement.

STUDENT 1: *(continued)* Now everybody hold on. One...

STUDENT 3: Two...

ALL STUDENTS: Three!

ALL STUDENTS hoist themselves up into a standing position. They shake off their shoes and wipe down their arms and legs.

STUDENT 3: *(to STUDENT 1)* But you're still wet. And I'm still sticky.

STUDENT 1: And we're all still embarrassed. *(BEAT)* But, it's ok. That's not gonna last.

STUDENT 3: So then what about next time?

STUDENT 1: We'll help each other again.

ALL STUDENTS smile and nod and then laugh. ALL STUDENTS exit, but STUDENT 3 remains.

STUDENT 3: *(to the audience)* Romans 12, verse 10. "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

Lights down.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the most humiliating part about making a mistake in front of others? Why?
2. Think about the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you. Have you recovered from the incident? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think it's important to love people in their own personal times of embarrassment or humiliation?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-18. How do these verses help to describe who we are in Christ Jesus? Therefore, what does verse 11 say about how we share this truth and Christ's love with others? How might this unify us as one Body?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. What is the Body? What happens when one or another part is damaged or honored, according to verse twenty-six?

