

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

CHARACTERS

OLIVIA - A recent high school graduate who loves "High School Musical"

STANLEY - A recent high school graduate who's a pessimist

FARRAH - A recent high school graduate who has faith in Christ.

(OLIVIA, STANLEY and FARRAH come on stage. It is optional to have them wear graduation caps and "Class of (insert year)" shirts.)

STANLEY: Welp...that's it. We're graduated.

FARRAH: I know. We're really done with high school. It feels like just yesterday we were walking through those halls on our first day freshman year.

OLIVIA: Yeah...high school was nothing I thought it would be.

STANLEY: Yeah.

FARRAH: Me either.

OLIVIA: I mean it was so unlike "High School Musical".

STANLEY: Wait, you cannot *honestly* tell me you thought high school would be like "High School Musical", did you?

OLIVIA: Would Disney lie to me?

STANLEY: Yes! Yes, they would! They sell fluffy sugar coated dreams not hard-core realities!

OLIVIA: ANYTHING can be a reality if you BELIEVE it is! Don't stick to the status quo!

STANLEY: *(shaking head)* How are we friends?

OLIVIA: I would be in the cafeteria, singing and dancing, and no one would join me! No choreography, no harmonies, nothing! I thought we were all in this together!

STANLEY: No way. That's just a line to make you feel good. Out here in the real world, you can't be whatever you want to be.

OLIVIA: Okay, but all the main characters from the best high school movies always ended up finding love, winning the game, and getting everything they wanted by being honest, true to themselves and passionate about basketball and musicals.

STANLEY: None of that is real! You don't always get everything you want just the way you imagined it. At some point reality hits you hard and you have to make scary choices. Troy Barns couldn't be a basketball playing Broadway star!

OLIVIA: But in the movies-

STANLEY: *(sharply)* LOOK, in the real world, we are all on our own. We're all graduated now and we're *adults*. The world will not be kind just because we sing or did well in school or came from one place or another. They'll be cold and heartless to all of us, because that is just how life is: cold and heartless. We have no one to rely on but ourselves.

Olivia looks like she is going to start crying.

FARRAH: I think you both got some bit of extremes there, guys. Life is hard and doesn't always have the picture-perfect endings we see in the movies. But that doesn't mean we don't have hope. There is someone we can always rely on no matter what.

STANLEY: Who?

FARRAH: God.

STANLEY: God? What's he going to do?

OLIVIA: No offense, but God's not really known for always giving people happily ever afters.

STANLEY: We have no idea what's out there! I'm going to trade school and I have no idea what to expect-

OLIVIA: I'm going to college and I won't know *anyone*.

STANLEY: *(points at FARRAH)* And look at you! You have a job, but you don't even *know* what you're doing after that!

OLIVIA: Aren't you scared?

STANLEY: You say to just...trust God?

FARRAH: Yes, I'm scared, but trusting God is exactly what I'm saying. It can be hard to believe, but God's in control. When life is crazy and it feels like God has abandoned us, that's when we need to turn to him most.

STANLEY:...Why?

FARRAH: To start, God loved us enough to send Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so that we can spend forever in heaven with Him. Things on earth might be broken and tough and we will sin, but God loved us enough to make all that right through Jesus' death and resurrection. It might not seem like a happy ending right now, but that just means we aren't to the ultimate happy ending yet!

OLIVIA: That's fine for the end of our lives, but what about right now? If God doesn't care about our lives today, why should we care about Him?

FARRAH: No, no, God *always* cares. He loves us and has a plan for us. God loves us so much that He gives us what we need to love people right now today and into the future in His name. Now, our plan might not match up with what God has in store. We trust and serve Him, knowing that God will give us what we need to do His work wherever we go.

STANLEY: So, he cares about us...by giving us a plan we may *or may not* like? Or might not even understand? I don't like the sound of that.

FARRAH: It's not easy, for sure. But I trust our loving, all knowing God way more than I trust myself. God gives us gifts to help us-

OLIVIA: Oh! Gifts? Like a new car? I need one of those.

FARRAH: Sure, some gifts are physical. In fact, God gifts us everything we have, food, drinks, clothes. God isn't going to drop a car in your driveway, sorry, but God gives us all that we need.

STANLEY: I mean, I'm glad we have pizza and sneakers, but I'm not sure that helps us walk into an unknown future.

FARRAH: God gives us things, but also gives us the Holy Spirit to help us persevere through life's ups and downs, like the Fruits of the Spirit. It's in Galatians 5: 22-23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." God gives these gifts to all His children through the Holy Spirit. Even when we fail, God forgives and helps us to maneuver through this sinful world.

OLIVIA: So, what you're saying is, that even though things are scary with everything being new, we just need to keep our focus on Jesus and God's good gifts.

FARRAH: That is what I'm saying yes.

OLIVIA: You might even say we gotta...get our head in the game- to stay focused.

STANLEY and FARRAH groan

STANLEY: Will you always make "High School Musical" References?

OLIVIA: You can bet on it. *(STANLEY rolls eyes)*

FARRAH: Guys we're all going in different directions, but we're going to be fine.

OLIVIA: Yeah, this is the start of something new...but God will always be the same and always there for us.