

DILIGENCE – Week 4 Skit

Definition: Consistently working with all my heart to bring glory to God

Verse: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 (NIV) – “Therefore my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

WEEK 4 FINISH LINE (6/28): God’s work through us is never useless

Scriptures: Jonah 1-4 (Jonah disobeys God)

Characters:

- Server (can be guy or girl)
- Party-goer (guy or girl)

At Home Stage Suggestions:

- Choose an area in your house as the stage. Since the drama talks about a party, you may want to use your dining room or living room.
- For props you will need cake slices (real or pretend), serving utensils, plates, and forks.
- Don’t forget to add costumes! Maybe you could have the Server wear an apron. For the Party-goer, he or she could wear fancy clothes and/or a party hat.

Helpful Hints:

- Stage directions (what the characters are supposed to do) are written in *ITALICS*.
- Have the people watching the skit whistle the song “Whistle While You Work” to begin and end the skit.
- Since the characters are at a party, consider celebrating the end of the month with a treat for the family.
- The script refers to Chef from weeks 1 and 3 so use he or she depending on who played the character.

SFX: Whistle While You Work

SERVER: (*Sulky.*) I just don't understand?! Chef went through all that trouble to make this cake for that baby! He/She was up all night finishing it and making it perfect, and the kid doesn't even want any! He just has icing all over his face. I mean, he's the best chef *ever*... does anyone here even understand how much work he/she did? I'm just glad Chef is sleeping now so he wouldn't be disappointed...

PARTY GOER: Hey there! Wow, that cake is the best thing I ever tasted!

S: I'm glad *someone* enjoyed it...

PG: You bet I did. In fact, is there enough for seconds?

S: Yeah, there's a lot left. Chef made sure there would be plenty for everyone, he's/she's that good!

PG: Yay! Oh, and did I overhear you say that he stayed up all night making it?

S: Yeah, can you believe that? And no one seems to appreciate it. I don't know why he wanted to make a cake for a baby anyway, he could be making them for really important people, like the President! Or be on tv again like he was for the Disney World cake.

PG: Well, it sounds like the Chef wanted to be **diligent** by doing the work he was given with excellence! He put his heart into the job and didn't try to run away from it.

S: Psh! Chef would never run away! But still, I don't see why he even took the job in the first place! It seems really silly to make such an awesome, large cake for such a tiny baby.

PG: Yeah, I suppose a baby can't eat all of that by himself. BUT I think it was meant to be shared, and everyone else here is really enjoying it!

S: There just isn't any point for the Chef to have worked *so hard* when he knew that it was just for this... a baby's birthday party.

PG: Well, I think Chef understood that even though it was for a small birthday party, little Benjamin's parents still wanted to celebrate their baby, whom they love, with a delicious cake that everyone could enjoy.

S: Meh...

PG: Hmm... Can I tell you one of my favorite stories in the Bible?

S: The Bible?

PG: Yeah, God's Word is helpful for any situation! And, I think it will help us understand why Chef works so diligently for really big events, and really small ones...

S: Ok, yeah, then I'd love to hear it!

PG: It's about Jonah...

S: Wait, the guy who got eaten by whale?

PG: That's right! God told Jonah to go preach to the people in Nineveh because they were evil, and He wanted them to repent – that means turn AWAY from their sin and TO God. But Jonah didn't want to! He knew that God was kind and merciful and slow to get angry, and would forgive the Ninevites if they repented. But Jonah wanted God to punish them instead. So you know what Jonah did?

S: Something that ended up with him being eaten by a whale...

PG: He ran away.

S: Jonah tried to run away from God?!

PG: He sure did. He ran as far from Nineveh as he could go! He even got on a boat and sailed the OPPOSITE direction. But God sent a storm that threatened to destroy the boat. Jonah admitted to the others with him that the storm was his fault, and told the sailors to save their boat by throwing him overboard. So they did....

S: And THAT'S when he was swallowed by a whale.

PG: Yep, but when God made that great big fish swallow Jonah, it actually *saved* him from drowning and it eventually spit him back out onto dry land.

S: Woah... I guess I never thought of it that way. Then what did Jonah do?

PG: He did what God told him to do. He went to Nineveh and gave the people God's warning.

S: But they were evil right? That sounds really scary.

PG: It was scary! But... the people listened!

S: THEY DID?!

PG: Yep! Even the king of the Ninevites threw off his fancy robe and sat in the dirt and said that everyone needed to stop everything, pray to God for mercy, and give up their evil ways. See, God cared about the people of Nineveh and wanted them to be saved

from the punishment, power, and presence of their sin. So even though Jonah thought it was useless, **God's work through us is never useless!**

S: So, God used Jonah to go to work in preaching to the Ninevites... and because they listened and repented, they weren't destroyed?

PG: That's right! God showed them mercy. And Jonah learned that **God's work through us is never useless**. God always has a purpose for the work He gives us, even when we can't see it. So we know we can be **diligent** and work consistently with all our hearts to bring glory to God because He has a purpose for it... Do you know how that story fits in with Chef working hard to make the cake for Little Benjamin's birthday party?

S: (*Sigh*)...Not really... Can you tell me?

PG: Sure! I think Chef loves making great cake for everyone because he knows that God loves them, no matter how important other people think they are...

S: Ohhhh.... I think I'm catching on... Chef understands that **God's work through us is never useless**, so diligently making great cakes for everyone, no matter how big or small, is a way for Chef to serve others and show them God's love!

PG: Yes! Exactly!

S: And everyone is blessed with really great cake!

PG: Yep, and Benjamin is blessed with awesome parents who got him a really cool cake for his first birthday! I mean, who has seen anything as awesome as a shark fighting a robot!

S: On the moon! (*Start exiting discussing who would win*) Which one do you think would win?

PG: Definitely the shark...

S: Really? I'm going with the robot...

SFX: Whistle While You Work