

# ***Sunday Players***

## ***Drama Resources***

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# "Maybe Next Week"

by Jim Poling

Summary: Dave is an adult, J.J. a teenager. Dave & J.J. are on the phone. Dave is excited but a bit fearful of his first encounter with the teen. J.J. doesn't say much, but is encouraged.

(J.J. is R, Dave is L.) (J.J. scene is frozen during Dave's opening scene)

(Dave is pacing. Phone in one hand, 40 day challenge card in the other. Nervous)

**Dave:** Wow! What a great opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life. The 40 Day Challenge. Let's see (looks at card) Joseph Landis, Jr. – 17 years old. Man, I got ties older than that!

(starts to dial, sets phone back down)

But, what if I don't get through to this kid? What if he doesn't like me?  
No. This is a chance to make a difference in a young person's life. The important thing is to listen to what he has to say.

(J.J. lounging on chair, vegging, flipping through TV channels.)

**Dave:** (takes a few deep breaths) OK here goes. (Dials phone)

(Phone rings. J.J. answers it.)

**J.J.:** Hello

**Dave:** (into phone) Hi Joseph. This is Dave. I was given your phone number by the church for the 40 day challenge.

**J.J.:** Huh? (trying to come alive a little) Oh yeah, yeah. Wassup? Uh can you hang on a sec?

(J.J. turns down TV, etc)

**Dave:** (to himself) Wow this is so great!

**J.J.:** (back on phone). Hey.

**Dave:** Did I interrupt you doing homework or something?

**J.J.:** Uh. No man... it's all good.

**Dave:** Well, I won't keep you long Joseph – uh Joe – do they call you Joe?

**J.J.:** No, uh, “J.J.” man.

**Dave:** That's great ..J.J.! Well, J.J., I just wanted to call and say if you need any help with the 40 day challenge – I'm here for you.

**J.J.:** Uh huh.

**Dave:** ...and if you ever feel like you need to talk I'm just a phone call away. Let me give you my number. Wanna write it down?

**J.J.:** Uh. Yeah. OK. Hang for sec. (scrambles for pen and pad). Shoot.

**Dave:** (407)555-1478.

**J.J.:** OK

**Dave:** Just call anytime – day or night. Hey what did you give up for the “fasting” part of the challenge?

**J.J.:** Huh? (holds up soda can) Uh..giving up sodas?

**Dave:** Wow! That's terrific. I drink too much soda too. Coke, Pepsi, Dr. Pepper...all that stuff. Is that the kind of soda you like J.J.?

**J.J.:** Uh, Yeah, I guess.

**Dave:** (showing a little panic that J.J. isn't talking much) Have you been writing things in your journal?

**J.J.:** Uh, sorta. Don't know what to write.

**Dave:** Oh. Well maybe I can help you.....or maybe your parents can?

**J.J.:** My parents? Yeah right...as if!! THEY don't care. Look, thanks, I'll check ya later, man.

**Dave:** (realizes he finally hit on something and needs to keep him on the phone - refers to the book – flips through it) Hey wait J.J. Uh, did you know today is “Goliath Day”?

**J.J.:** Huh? Uh, yeah, yeah... whatever.

**Dave:** (reads from book) “Pray and ask God to show you “the modern day Goliaths” which are the biggest problems on your campus”.

**J.J.:** You mean like really big people? Cool dude.

**Dave:** No – not giant people. We’re talking about *modern day* goliaths...problems, like Alcohol and drugs. Have you seen any of these things around the school?

**J.J.:** Well, I don’t know man. I mean, yeah...I guess.

**Dave:** Well maybe you can write that in your journal. You said your parents don’t care – I find that a little hard to believe.

**J.J.:** Yeah, well believe it.

**Dave:** I never thought my parents cared either. But I soon found out otherwise.

**J.J.:** Yeah, well that’s all good.

**Dave:** What makes you think they don’t care?

**J.J.:** Cuz nothing I do is right...or good enough...or fast enough...or neat enough...or clean enough.

**Dave:** Yeah that sounds familiar. I never thought I could live up to my father’s expectations either. But, you know what? I did. I found out that my father had a pretty good idea of what I was capable of doing. If it hadn’t been for his constant pressure I probably wouldn’t be where I am today.

**J.J.:** Yeah, well I think I gotta go now.

**Dave:** Oh, uh...OK then. It was nice talking to you J.J. Can I call you again..maybe next week?

**J.J.:** Sure. Whatever.

**Dave:** OK then bye.

**J.J.:** Yeah, check ya later. (Hangs up)

**Dave:** (out loud to himself) Wow. I don’t know. That was pretty rocky...he didn’t say very much. Oh, and what was I thinking? He doesn’t care about MY relationship with MY father!. What a dum thing to say. Probably thought I was preaching to him! Well...maybe next week.

**J.J.:** (Dials phone. Calling a friend) Hey – what’s happnin’ Gee!! (pause) True. True. Hey you doin’ that 40 Day Challenge at church? (pause) Well I just got a call from my adult sponsor. (pause) Yeah – he was pretty cool. He didn’t try to preach at me or anything. I think this stuff might work if the dude just opens up and talks to me a little. Well, maybe next week...