



TV Shows That Teach: 100 TV Moments to Get Teenagers Talking
Copyright 2008 by Eddie James and Tommy Woodard

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8 Simple Rules

(COMEDY)

SEASON 1, EPISODE 3: "BRIDGET'S FIRST JOB"

TAG: I AM RESPONSIBLE! I JUST WANT THOSE SHOES...

THEMES: Debt, Handling Problems, Money, Parent-Child Relationships, Responsibility, Secrets, Worth

THE SERIES/SHOW: Comedy *8 Simple Rules* demonstrates what can happen when Mom gets a job, Dad stays home, and three kids enter their teenage years. Things are changing at the Hennessy household, and no one is immune when Cate (Katey Sagal) goes back to work as a full-time nurse and Paul (John Ritter) quits his old job as a traveling sportswriter to work at home and keep an eye on the three Hennessy teenagers. Paul gets more than he bargained for, however, dealing with 16-year-old Bridget (Kaley Cuoco), 15-year-old Kerry (Amy Davidson), and 13-year-old son Rory (Martin Spanjers). Facing the facts that his children are growing up and dating is anything but easy; Paul does the only thing a dad can do by creating the "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter."

THE SCENE: To earn some extra money, Bridget gets a job at the mall at a popular store named Strip Rags. To Paul and Cate's surprise, Bridget takes her job seriously and is a very good salesgirl. Nevertheless, Bridget gets a bit carried away buying clothes with her 40 percent discount and overcharges her account at the store. When her paycheck arrives and she owes \$400 more than she has earned, Bridget panics and decides to put the debt on her emergency credit card until she can figure out what to do. But when Cate tries to buy gas, the card is refused because of the new balance, and she can't use the card. Cate arrives home angry and demanding an explanation from the daughter she thought was so responsible.

START: 0:15:43 STOP: 0:17:38 (TOTAL CLIP TIME: 1 MINUTE, 55 SECONDS)

START DIALOGUE: *(Bridget)* I got paid today. *(Puts envelope by Kerry's nose)* Take a whiff. What's that?

(Kerry) The smell of Corporate America.

STOP DIALOGUE: *(Paul)* That's freaky. That's where Bridget works.

BONUS CLIP: Faced with her parents' disappointment, Bridget attempts to explain the choice to cover her debt with the credit card.

START 0:16:26 STOP 0:17:26 (TOTAL CLIP TIME: 1 MINUTE)

START DIALOGUE: *(Paul)* I am so disappointed in you.

(Bridget) Okay, I bought too many clothes, I ran up a huge debt to the store, I forgot about taxes, it would've taken me forever to pay them back.

(Paul) Why didn't you come to us if you got in trouble?

STOP DIALOGUE: *(Bridget)* Because you were proud of me for, like, the first time ever, and I didn't want to disappoint you.

BY THE BOOK: Exodus 2:11-15, Psalm 37:21, Matthew 6:25, Luke 12:15, Romans 13:8

WHERE TO TAKE IT:

1. If money weren't a factor, how would you want to live your life?
2. Is it a sin to want or to have nice things?
3. Why are we so desperate to gain our parents' approval? Why does it hurt so much to disappoint them?
4. Has there ever been a time when people thought you were more responsible than you were? How did it make you feel to know the truth?
5. What's the biggest secret you've ever kept from your parents? What happened when that secret came out?
6. Are secrets ever a good thing?
7. In Exodus 2:11-15, Moses carries a secret of his own. What happens inside our souls when secrets lie dormant?
8. What does the word *debt* mean to you? What do you think of the concept of being in debt? How are we in debt to God?

Visit www.skitguys.com or www.ysunderground.com for additional elements that might add impact to this clip, including "The Mask I Wear" script.

8 Simple Rules

(COMEDY)

SEASON 1, EPISODE 8: "BY THE BOOK"

TAG: TOUGH LOVE IS TOUGH.

THEMES: Consequences, Discipline, Grace, Morals, Parenting, Unconditional Love

THE SERIES/SHOW: Comedy *8 Simple Rules* demonstrates what can happen when Mom gets a job, Dad stays home, and three kids enter their teenage years. Things are changing at the Hennessy household, and no one is immune when Cate (Katey Sagal) goes back to work as a full-time nurse and Paul (John Ritter) quits his old job as a traveling sportswriter to work at home and keep an eye on the three Hennessy teenagers. Paul gets more than he bargained for, however, dealing with 16-year-old Bridget (Kaley Cuoco), 15-year-old Kerry (Amy Davidson), and 13-year-old son Rory (Martin Spanjers). Facing the facts that his children are growing up and dating is anything but easy; Paul does the only thing a dad can do by creating the "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter."

THE SCENE: Feeling that he's losing control of the girls, Paul resorts to reading a parenting book to get some help. When the girls lie about going to a rock concert, Paul decides to use the suggestions in the book to get them to 'fess up about it, but the girls find out he's been using the book against them and decide to beat him at his own game by tricking Paul into letting them go. Their plan works, and Bridget and Kerry go to the concert, knowing full well that Paul and Cate don't want them there. Paul comes home after looking for the girls at the concert, but soon learns that after the first song was played, the girls felt so guilty that they decided to go home. After a discussion with Cate, Paul goes up to talk with the girls to try to negotiate a cease-fire in the complicated father-child relationship war. As Paul, Bridget, and Kerry share their feelings, they discover that the love between them is as strong as ever.

START: 0:17:55 STOP: 0:20:50 (TOTAL CLIP TIME: 2 MINUTES, 55 SECONDS)

START DIALOGUE: (*Cate*) Without that stupid plan and the book, they would never have gone to that concert. You wouldn't have gone to the concert, and we wouldn't have been worried sick.

STOP DIALOGUE: (*Bridget and Kerry*) I hate you!

(*Paul*) I love you, too.

(*Girls*) We really mean it. We totally mean it.

BY THE BOOK: Deuteronomy 8:5, Job 5:17, Proverbs 3:12, John 15:7-9, Hebrews 4:16, 1 John 3:1

WHERE TO TAKE IT:

1. Have you ever felt that discipline from your parents was unfair? Looking back on that situation, has your perspective changed at all?
2. Do you agree with psychiatrists who say that children need and want discipline from their parents? Why or why not?
3. In Deuteronomy 8:5, the Bible states that discipline and love go hand in hand. How hard is it to grasp this concept?
4. How do you feel that God has been “disciplining” you? Does this discipline make you feel more or less loved by God?
5. What does the word *disciple* mean to you? Read John 15:7-9. How does Jesus see the role of his disciples?
6. How much do you associate your relationship with God to your relationship with your dad? Has your earthly father treated you with the unconditional love you read about in the Bible?
7. What would it take to improve the relationship between you and your dad? How willing are you to submit to his discipline and authority?
8. Would you be honest enough to admit that you have a love/hate relationship with your parents, as Bridget and Kerry express? How is it possible to have feelings of hate for someone you love so much?

Visit www.skitguys.com or www.ysunderground.com for additional elements that might add impact to this clip, including *Family Conflicts* 6.2f, “I Will Ground You...” from *Instant Skits*.