



# HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES

*A Puppet or live actor script*

## CHARACTERS

- **BOBBY:** Enthusiastic but literal-minded Christian
- **FRANK:** Bobby's more level-headed friend

## PROPS

- Hedge branch/greenery
- Cardboard sign reading "REPENT! JESUS LOVES YOU!"
- Small gardening tool (optional)

*(FRANK enters from stage right, looking around)*

**FRANK:** *(calling out)* Bobby? Hey Bobby, where are you? We're supposed to go to the church meeting!

*(Rustling sound from below the puppet stage)*

**BOBBY:** *(voice only at first)* Ouch! These thorns are sharp!

**FRANK:** Bobby? Where are you?

*(BOBBY slowly rises up from below, wearing leaves and twigs in his hair/fur)*

**BOBBY:** *(excitedly)* Frank! Perfect timing! Come help me check under this last hedge!

**FRANK:** *(confused)* Check under the hedge? For what? Your car keys?

**BOBBY:** *(earnestly)* No, for people!

**FRANK:** *(stares)* People. Under your hedge.

**BOBBY:** *(enthusiastically)* Yes! I've been at this all morning. Checked four hedges so far. Not a single person yet, but I'm not giving up!

**FRANK:** *(slowly)* Why exactly are you looking for people under your hedges?

**BOBBY:** *(proudly)* Because Pastor Mike's sermon last Sunday! Remember? He talked about Jesus saying we need to "go out to the highways and hedges and compel them to come in!" *(gestures dramatically)* I'm starting with the hedges! Once I finish here, I'm heading to Highway 16!

**FRANK:** *(trying not to laugh)* And what exactly are you planning to do at Highway 16?

**BOBBY:** *(pulls out sign from behind him)* Stand on the overpass with this sign! That way I'll have covered both the highways AND the hedges! *(beaming with pride)*

**FRANK:** *(face-palms)* Bobby, buddy, that's not what that verse means.

**BOBBY:** *(deflating slightly)* It's not?

**FRANK:** No! Jesus wasn't talking about actual hedges and highways!

**BOBBY:** *(looks at hedge branch in hand, then back at FRANK)* He wasn't?

**FRANK:** No! It's a parable! In Luke 14, Jesus tells a story about a man who prepares a great banquet. When his invited guests make excuses not to come, he tells his servant to go to the streets and alleys of the town to invite the poor and marginalized.

**BOBBY:** *(still confused)* So... no hedges?

**FRANK:** *(patiently)* When Jesus says "highways and hedges," he's talking about going to places outside the town - to reach people who might be overlooked or forgotten. It means reaching out to everyone, especially those on the margins of society.

**BOBBY:** *(thinking)* So... instead of looking UNDER hedges...



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**FRANK:** You should be reaching out to people who might be overlooked by others. And instead of holding a sign over the highway...

**BOBBY:** *(light bulb moment)* I should be connecting with people who don't usually get invited!

**FRANK:** *(relieved)* Exactly!

**BOBBY:** *(excited again)* Oh! Like Mr. Jenkins who lives alone at the end of the street! Or that new family that just moved in who doesn't know anyone yet!

**FRANK:** Now you're getting it!

**BOBBY:** *(brushes leaves off)* This makes much more sense. And it'll be a lot less prickly! *(pauses)* Although... I did find a really nice garden gnome under the Thompson's hedge.

**FRANK:** *(suspiciously)* Bobby...

**BOBBY:** *(innocently)* What? Finders keepers!

**FRANK:** Put it back.

**BOBBY:** *(sighs dramatically)* Fine. *(brightens)* But first, let's make a plan to invite people to next week's church's block party! I bet Mr. Jenkins would love some of Margaret's potato salad!

**FRANK:** Now that's a much better way to compel them to come in!

**BOBBY:** *(picks up sign)* So I shouldn't use this on the overpass?

**FRANK:** Definitely not.

**BOBBY:** *(turns sign around to show other side that reads "FREE CUPCAKES AT FIRST BAPTIST")* Not even this side?

**FRANK:** *(laughs)* Tell you what - let's save the sign for the church lawn, and just go talk to people face-to-face instead.

**BOBBY:** *(excited)* Great idea! *(starts to exit, then stops)* Oh wait! I should probably return Mrs. Wilson's garden shears first...

**FRANK:** Yes. Yes, you should.

*(Both exit as BOBBY starts listing all the people they could invite)*

**BOBBY:** *(voice fading)* ...and the mail carrier, and the librarian, and that guy who's always walking his chihuahua...