

## Dialogue Sample

### *Family*

by

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#### **Stephen and Parker's House**

Stephen: (Kneading dough on a bread board) What can I do? How can I stop her? She'll come to her senses. She has to. She will. She has to. I won't speak to her I won't. But, how will I persuade her if I can't talk? No brownies for her. (doorbell) If that's Carol-- no brownies. (goes to get door)

Jane: Don't you think we should call first.

Lisa: Nonsense.

Jane: I guess you know best.

Lisa: Of course. Stephen is family.

Stephen: Hi Jane. And our spirit guide.

Lisa: Yes, and I have lots of guidance to offer.

Jane: Oh dear.

Lisa: I have so much to tell.

Stephen: Come in. I have fresh brownies.

Jane: Wonderful.

Lisa: Brownies? Oh God. I've given up chocolate.

Stephen: What! Don't be silly.

Jane: One of the Texas Christians told her that chocolate is bad for her.

Stephen: That's not a very Christian thing to say. They might as well tell you that sex is bad for you.

Lisa: It is Stephen.

Stephen: What's your point? (laughs)

Lisa: Do you have any carob?

Stephen: (laughs again) Lisa, you are so funny. Jane, you haven't given up chocolate have you?

Jane: Not when you are offering me brownies!

Lisa: This is very hard for me.

Stephen: Then, have a brownie. (he waves one in front of her)

Lisa: Stephen.

Stephen: Good luck.

Lisa: In time you will all learn to take me more seriously.

Stephen: (screams with laughter) Oh Lisa!

Lisa: Stephen! (pause) Stephen, what's the deal with Bob.

Stephen: What do you mean? He's your brother.

Lisa: He doesn't take me seriously.

Stephen: He never has.

Lisa: No, this is different.

Stephen: Maybe it's a sibling thing. He's seems fine to me. Unless?

Lisa: Maybe. Doesn't he seem tense?

Stephen and Jane: Bob!?

Lisa: Well, tense for Bob.

Stephen: What a concept.

Lisa: Maybe he's just hyper-critical of my conversion.

Stephen: Well. . .

Jane: Well. . .

Lisa: What?

Stephen: It's just that. . .

Jane: We just kind of worry. . .

Lisa: About what? I'm happy. I have found meaning in my life for the first time.

Stephen: Gee, Lisa. Then, I think that's great.

Lisa: Why can't Bob?

Jane: Maybe he. . .

Lisa: What?

Jane: I don't know.

Stephen: Have you talked to him about your feelings?

Lisa: He makes fun. He belittles me.

Stephen: That's just his way. Remember when You and Carol and I went to the 12 step group? He had a field day.

Lisa: This is different.

Stephen: How?

Lisa: This one is real.

Stephen: They're all real.

Jane: Bob's just being funny.

Stephen: I don't think he understands how important this is to you.

Lisa: Maybe.

Stephen: Have you talked to Carol?

Lisa: She was pretty negative about the boycott too.

Stephen: What boycott?

Lisa: The Baptist boycott.

Stephen: How do you boycott Baptists?

Lisa: Stephen! It's a boycott organized by Baptists against companies that are not family friendly.

Stephen: Oh.

(Enter Parker)

Lisa: I know you and Parker will want to join.

Jane: Lisa. . .

Stephen: Maybe. We'll need to learn more about it, I guess.

Parker: More about what?

Lisa: The Baptist Boycott.

Parker: Yeah, I heard about it on the news. Terrible isn't it?

Lisa: What do you mean?

Parker: I just think it's sad when we finally have a few companies courageous enough to offer health benefits to domestic partners that the Baptists want to make an issue of it.

Lisa: But, the companies are being disrespectful of family values.

Jane: Lisa!

Stephen: Wait a minute. That's it? That's the boycott you want us to join?

Lisa: Yes.

Stephen: What are you thinking?

Parker: (Gently) Lisa, this movement is dangerous.

Lisa: No, your special rights are dangerous.

Stephen: I'm not hearing this.

Parker: We just want equal protection not *special* anything.

Lisa: The Bible says. . .

Stephen: No!

Jane: Lisa, we need to go. . .

Lisa: "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination." Leviticus 18, verse 22.

Stephen: (Storms out) Lisa! Oh my God! No!

Parker: You're gonna quote me the Bible? I've seen you wear a silk blouse with a wool skirt, order crab in your salad, eat a hot dog at the ball park, and bear false witness.

Lisa: The Bible says, "abomination!"

Parker: Leviticus 11, verse 12 says, "Everything in the waters that has not fins and scales is an **abomination** to you." (points at her)

Lisa: What does that have to do with homosexuality?

Parker: I thought you'd like to see how selectively your people read their Bible. "And the swine, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed is unclean to you. Of their flesh you shall not eat."

Lisa: I think sexual activity is a little more significant.

Parker: Significance! How about Leviticus 25 where it authorizes owning slaves? Want me to quote that one?

Lisa: Well, anyway, that's the Old Testament. In First Corinthians it says, "neither fornicators or idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Parker: (dismissive) Never uses the word homosexual, in **Paul's letters** to the Corinthians.

Lisa: What?

Parker: And, Paul? He didn't even approve of marriage. He was totally focused on the Apocalypse.

Jane: Oh, I didn't know that...

Parker: Paul wanted everyone to focus on God and the afterlife. He was particularly upset with the Corinthians because they partied like they were in a fraternity.

Lisa: What are you saying?

Parker: Gotta be careful about learning your Bible verses from propaganda pamphlets.

Lisa: What I don't understand is how can you be so well versed and still live like you do?

Parker: What's so hard to understand? I grew up in the South, and learned my Bible. Bible isn't the problem--people like you are the problem. I have been fighting your kind of judgmental moralizing all my life.

Lisa: But...

Parker: Paul is a mass of contradictions. But even I like this one: "If I speak in the tongues of angels, and have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and knowledge and have complete faith, **but have not love**, I am nothing."

Lisa: (on her way out) Let's go.

Parker: Lisa, think about it. Jesus said, "Love thy neighbor as thy self."

Jane: Sorry Parker?

Parker: I know Jane.

(Jane exit. Parker takes a moment. Deep Sigh)

Parker: (shouts offstage) She's gone. You can come down now.

Stephen: (reentering) What's happened to her?

Parker: This is what Bob was worried about.

Stephen: I can't believe I heard those words come from Lisa.

Parker: It's very scary.

Stephen: You handled her well.

Parker: I've had more experience with religious bigots.

Stephen: Lisa's been my friend since college.

Parker: I know.

Stephen: I think I'm going to be sick. (he exits and the phone rings) What now?

Parker: (Polite) Hello. (friendly) Oh hi. . . He just went into the bathroom. . . .Sure. I'll tell him. . . .Great. . . .Okay. . . . Bye.

Parker: Stephen, Carol called.

Stephen: Really?

Parker: She and Bob are on their way over.

Stephen: Why?

Parker: They want to talk to us.

Stephen: How much more of this can I take?

Parker: It's not the same thing and you know it.

Stephen: (he comes into the room) Why do you assume that I would be willing to talk to her?

Parker: *Listen* was my assumption, Stephen. That's what friends do.

Stephen: Friends?

Parker: Well, they are *my* friends and I intend to listen.

Stephen: She called me dramatic.

Parker: Oh well then--gather the wood and light the fire, we'll burn her the minute she arrives.

Stephen: Don't patronize me.

Parker: Don't be such a drama queen.

Stephen: Parker!

Parker: Stephen!

(door bell)

Stephen: I'll be in my room. (exit)

Parker: (goes to the door) And the diva ascends the stairs.

Carol: Hi Parker, I'm so glad you guys are home.

Parker: The queen is in chambers.

Carol: He's still mad at me.

Parker: Sorry. And, well, we just had an altercation with Lisa.

Carol: That sounds polite.

Parker: Anything but--

Bob: I'm sorry.

Parker: You were on target Bob. She's rabid.

Carol: Ouch.

Bob: Anything we can do?

Parker: I wish it were that easy.

Carol (yells) Stephen come down.

Stephen: No.

Bob: It's okay. He'll forgive you soon.

Carol: Bob came up with the best idea.

Stephen: (from above) What idea?

Parker: Imagine that, he's listening.

Bob: Stephen, come down here so we can talk.

(He observes from above)

Carol: This is great. It really is.

Parker: Lets sit.

(They gather and sit--Stephen comes a bit closer)

Carol: Parker, I'm sure Stephen told you that I'm pregnant?

Parker: Yes.



Stephen: (from above) I'm not the one who didn't get the gossip gene.

Bob: Pity.

Parker: Stephen!

Carol: Anyway, Bob and I were discussing it.

Stephen: (comes into the room) It!?

Carol: The pregnancy. We were discussing it, and Bob came up with the best idea. Bob?

Bob: Feels kind of strange to say it. Carol and I. . .

Carol: Stephen--this is your baby.

Stephen: I don't think so.

Bob: She is carrying your baby.

Stephen: Didn't someone have the sex talk with you Bob.

Parker: Stephen, I think they are offering to give us their baby.

Carol: Yes.

### ACT I FINALE

*Stephen: I can't believe*

*Parker: Did you hear that?  
Stephen, we...*

*Stephen: Oh, my God!*

*Parker: It's our dream,*

*Stephen: Parker pinch me!*

*Parker: Our prayers have been answered.*

*Stephen: This is real?*

*Parker: You don't know what this means to us*

*Stephen: And you both are sure?*

*Parker: Oh my God*

*Stephen: All that time...*

*Parker: I'm a Daddy...*

*Stephen: But now.*

*Parker: I'M A DADDY!*

*Stephen: It's our turn!*

Carol: We've thought and talked about nothing else for days.

Bob: We couldn't be more sure.

Carol: Stephen, Parker, we are family.

Stephen: (Excited) Oh my God, its' the greatest gift. (pause, sincerely serious) Carol, I'm sorry.

Carol: I know you are. (Stephen and Carol embrace)

Bob: I honestly think you two will be terrific parents.

Parker: Oh Stephen (they embrace)

*Stephen and Parker: Lovely Auntie Carol and  
Of course, lovely Uncle Robert*

Bob: Bob!

*Carol and Bob: Strolling along through the park  
With our niece, or our nephew,*

*Stephen and Parker: And us.*

Carol: She's starting to fuss.

*Stephen: Here, give her to me.*

*Bob: It's easy to see,*

*Stephen, Parker, and Bob: She's happiest in Daddy's arms.*

*Stephen: We will be the best parents in the world*

*Parker: We will be the best parents in the world*

*Carol: They will be the best parents in the world*

*Bob: You will be he best parents in the world*

*Stephen: Unlike any two before*

*Parker: Unlike any two before*

*Carol: This is so right.*

*Stephen: And an Auntie*

*Stephen and Bob: And Uncle too*

*Carol, Parker: We/They will*

*All: Spoil her rotten.*

*Add it up.*

*One, two, three, four.*

*And together we'll defy the norms,*

*Creating something new.*

*Bob: With a Daddy Stephen.*

*Carol: And a Daddy Parker*

*Stephen: An Auntie Carol,*

*Parker: And an Uncle Robert*

Bob: Bob

*All: This child is very lucky to have you.*

Stephen: I can teach her to cook and bake. We can shop. I can help her with her hair and makeup. I can help her select boys. Men are such pigs--you can't be too careful. And planning her wedding, Oh!

Bob: You were never able to teach any of those things to Carol.

Stephen: I met her too late. I'll have this one from birth.

Carol: What if it's a boy?

Parker We may have to teach Stephen about sports.

*Stephen and Parker: If it's a boy, we'll love him just the same,  
And teach him all that we would a little girl.*

*Bob: If it's a boy Carol will teach him  
About control, power, and corporate America!*

Stephen: No!

*All: And this child will learn that  
Love is what defines a family!*

*Bob: With a Daddy Stephen*

*Carol: And a Daddy Parker*

*Stephen: An Uncle Carol*

*Parker: And an Auntie Bob.*

Bob: Wait!

*All: This child is very lucky to have us.*

*Bob and Parker: This child is lucky to have us!*

(Lights fade)

**INTERMISSION**