



*Florida General Baptist Convention,
Inc.*

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“Swallowed Up to Be Brought Up”

“Love Lifted Me”

State Congress Youth Rally 2017

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Introduction

Title: Swallowed Up to Be Brought Up

Scriptural Background: Jonah: 1, 2

Theme: “Love Lifted Me”

Play Scenario:

A group of students who are preparing for final exams and the pressure of graduating and getting accepted into college have been thinking about cheating on their finals to have a better chance of increasing their GPA’s and being accepted into prestigious colleges.

Youth Rally Cast

Casey: A beautiful smart girl who is stressed about being accepted into one of the Ivy League schools.

Tasha: A follower and just trying to fit in and stay above water.

Latonya: One of the ring leaders and somewhat of a bully.

Jamal: Very smart and loves God, had a troubled past but is trying to do right.

Tyrone: The ring leader and thinks cheating is the only way to succeed.

Devin: Football star depending on grades and test scores to be accepted into college.

Narrator 1: Speaking parts

Narrator 2: Speaking parts

Scene One: *(At the school standing outside the classroom Tyrone, Devin, and Latonya are talking to each other)*

Devin: *(Anxiously)* So, what are we going to do? Is everyone on board?

Latonya: I know my two home girls are on board because they don't have a choice.

Tyrone: *(Looking surprised)* You got little Einstein to agree to this?

Latonya: *(Laughing)* Yep, we need her! She has the brains. Who else are we going to cheat off of?

Devin: *(Passing out handshakes)* Okay, okay, that's what's up. I need my GPA to be straight, so I can get these football scholarships for college.

Tyrone: As long as everyone is on board, we are good. *(Pausing)* The only thing I'm concerned about is little Deitrick Haddon.

Latonya: *(Laughing)* Okay, because you know he is always coming around with his bible trying to tell everyone right from wrong. That's a true saint.

Devin: *(Nervously)* You think he's going to tell on us?

Tyrone: *(Sternly)* I wish he would. I'm mad he's assigned to our testing room. We wouldn't even be worrying about him.

Latonya: Well we have to convince Jamal to cheat with us or this ain't going to work.

Devin: *(Walking away)* Well ya'll handle that, I have football practice and I got to go.

Latonya: *(Looking at Devin)* You better handle that because I got my two on lock.

Devin: *(With a smirk)* Don't worry, I got this.

Scene Ends

Scene Two: *(In the classroom Casey and Tasha are talking when Jamal walks in)*

Tasha: *(Little shy)* Casey, how are you feel about what's going on?

Casey: *(Nervously)* I'm scared. I've have good grades. I know I can pass this test on my own, but having a little extra help wouldn't hurt my chances to get into an Ivy League school.

Tasha: *(Looking confused)* I thought you were doing this because Latonya was making you do it.

Casey: *(Pausing)* Well she is, I don't have a choice she's mean; and besides she's the only person who talks to me.

Tasha: *(Throwing her hands up)* Duhhhhh, only when she wants or needs something.

Casey: I know, but being the smart girl with no friends gets lonely sometimes. Besides it's not like we're about to kill someone. We're just trying to have a better chance at scholarships and getting into college.

Tasha: *(Sadly)* I guess, I just want to graduate. I'm not as smart as you, so this will at least give me the chance to walk across the stage.

Casey: Wow, well we definitely have good reasons to cheat on our finals. *(Casey sees Jamal approaching)* Ssshhhhh..... Jamal is coming.

(Jamal walks in)

Jamal: *(Smiling)* What's up ladies?

Tasha: Nothing much just getting prepared for senior exams.

Jamal: Yea, I can't believe in a few weeks we will be graduating. Thank you Jesus!!!

Casey: You ready for your final exams?

Jamal: Yes, I am because my bible teaches me in **Philippians 4:13** that, **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."**

Tasha: *(Walks off)* Oh, Lawd here he goes again.

Casey: You sure you don't need a little extra help?

Jamal: *(Looking confused)* What kind of extra help would I need?

Casey: *(Hesitantly)* Maybe like help from others during the test?

Jamal: I don't need help from others because in **Psalms 121:2** its says, **"All of my help cometh from the Lord."** Yes, cometh from the Lord. *(Pausing)* Wait a minute, wait a minute, Casey it sounds like you're talking about cheating.

Tasha: *(Clapping)* Did you get that from the Lord? Because that's exactly what she's talking about.

Jamal: *(Boldly)* The devil is so busy. I don't cheat. Maybe if this was a few years ago possibly, but as a Christian young man, I don't do those things anymore.

Tasha: *(Sarcastically)* Thank you for that testimony, but we don't care.

Casey: Look, we just want to ensure we improve our GPA's and better our chances for college.

Jamal: *(Seriously)* Look, ya'll can cheat, but I'm not. I have come too far to let anything or anyone turn me around from doing what's right and ruining my future.

Tasha: *(Standing up)* Let's go Casey, We'll let Tyrone deal with him.

Jamal: I knew it, I knew it, I knew Tyrone had something to do with this. Ya'll better wise up and know that cheating doesn't get you anywhere but in trouble. I believe that comes from the book of "Get Some Sense" chapter "Right" verse "Now."

Scene Ends (Dance)

Scene Three: *(Back sitting in the school yard a day before the finals; Tyrone, Casey, Tasha, Dervin, and Latonya are talking about what is going on)*

Tasha: *(Looking nervous)* Tyrone did you talk to little T.D. Jakes about our plan?

Casey: Yeah because he wasn't on board when we mentioned it to him earlier.

Devin: *(Upset)* I thought you were handling that Tyrone? Man, we have to do this. I need the best GPA for my scholarships.

Tyrone: *(Sternly)* Even if he is not on board, we can still do what we need to do.

Latonya: *(Nodding her head)* Exactly, one monkey doesn't stop no show.

Casey: *(Sarcastically)* But a gorilla surely will. Seriously, you don't think he will say anything to anyone?

Devin: *(Nervously)* Man he better not.

Tasha: *(Looking)* Ya'll be quiet, Jamal is coming.

(Jamal walks up)

Jamal: *(Looking around)* Why ya'll looking at me like I'm a cheater? *(Pausing)* Oops, no that's yall.

Devin: (Angry) Jamal stop playing with us.

Tyrone: Yeah, I don't find that funny at all.

Jamal: It wasn't meant to be funny. (Pausing) What you guys are thinking about and planning to do is absolutely wrong.

Casey: I told you he wasn't on board.

Jamal: (*Looking surprised*) Ya'll should of known I wasn't going to be on board. Every time ya'll up to no good, I'm always the one telling ya'll don't do wrong.

Latonya: (*Upset*) And we're sick of you telling us not to do wrong. All I'm saying is you better not tell anyone that we plan on cheating.

Devin: (*Agreeing*) Exactly, no one.

Jamal: (*Stern*) I don't know why I'm always trying to stop you all from doing wrong. If you don't care about your futures, neither do I.

Tyrone: Perfect!!! Now we can handle our business without any glitches or snitches.

Jamal: (*Standing up walking away*) Snitch? (*Pausing*) I can be whatever you want me to be, but I know a man who knows all and sees all. So, you may think you're getting away with it now, (pointing at the group) but you all will eventually have to answer for this one day.

Latonya: (*Sarcastically*) Okay, lil Bishop Paul Morton.

Scene Ends (Song)

Scene Four: (*Sitting in the school yard thinking about his finals, Jamal has a talk with God*)

Jamal: (*Sitting with his hands clutched*) Father God, I know as a Christian young man, I try my best to do what is right. I know I have not always been the best and I was a troubled young man, but God I know right from wrong. I know cheating is wrong and what they're thinking about doing is not only wrong but it's against the law. Lord, I know I should keep telling my peers to do right, but they don't listen to me. They laugh at me and call me all kinds of names. I just don't know why I should keep telling them to stop doing wrong when they're going to continue. I know you're a God of a second chance, (*Looking up*) but really four or five? (*Pausing*) Now, I have to ask you to be with me as I prepare to take my exams tomorrow, I'm worried about them, but be with me and guide me through these exams. I ask this is your son Jesus name. Hallelujah.

(The group walks up on Jamal)

Tyrone: (*Looking mad*) So we don't have to worry about you tomorrow concerning these exams?

Latonya: Yeah, you better not say anything.

Jamal: (*Standing up*) You don't have to worry about me saying one word.

Devin: (*Looking shocked*) Come again.

Casey: Exactly what did you say? You don't have anything to say?

Tasha: So you're not going to tell us like you always tell us to stop being bad and doing wrong?

Jamal: Look, like I told all of you before, why should I care about ya'll futures when ya'll don't even care. If you decide to cheat on that test, that's your business. I wish ya'll the best.

(Jamal Exits)

Casey: (*Looking nervous*) What's wrong with him?

Tyrone: Who cares, we don't need him and it was great not to hear him talking about all of that righteous foolishness.

Devin: So are we good for tomorrow?

Latonya: (*Dancing*) I rather cheat than repeat.....I rather cheat than repeat. (*Laughing*)

Tasha: You play too much. Let's go tomorrow is a big day.

Scene Five: (*The day of the finals, Tyrone, Latonya, Casey, Tasha, and Devin are waiting to take their exams*)

Devin: (*Looking around*) Man, why haven't we started our exams yet?

Casey: (*Nodding her head*) I know right. We have been sitting here for almost an hour. No one has come in here and said anything to us.

Tasha: Yeah, something seems to be going on. We were supposed to start these exams at 8:00 and it's 9:00 already.

Tyrone: (*Looking around*) Ya'll chill out nothing is going on. Maybe the test is just running behind.

Latonya: (*Nodding head*) Exactly, sometimes there are issues with the exams, so ya'll just calm down.

Casey: (*Looking around*) Hey, where is Jamal?

Devin: (*Looking around as well*) Yeah, where is Jamal?

Tasha: He would never miss his senior exams, I wonder where he would be.

Latonya: (*Frustrated*) I know for one thing, he better be home sleep and not where I think he is.

Casey: (*Nervously*) I can't afford to get into any trouble. My college career and life would be completely destroyed if we get caught or in trouble.

Tyrone: (*Loudly*) Just be quiet. Nothing is going to happen. Just chill.

(Enters Jamal with a serious look on his face)

Tyrone: (*Smiling*) I told ya'll to just chill, he probably overslept.

Latonya: Well as long as he is here, I'm good. (*Pausing*) I wish they would come on with this exam.

Jamal: (*Seriously*) We're not taking our exams today?

Devin: (*Looking confused*) Man, I know I wasn't taking a French exam today. What did you just say and please in English and not French.

Jamal: (*Stern*) We're not taking exams today.

Casey: What are talking about? Exams are today.

Tasha: (*Praying out loud*) Lord forgive us because we don't know what we do.

Latonya: (*Angry*) Girl hush.....what are you talking about Jamal?

Jamal: The reason we're not taking these exams is because I told Administration what we were up to, so that's why you guys have been sitting in here waiting on your exams.

Devin: (*Standing Up*) Have you lost your mind?

Latonya: I know I'm being punked. Where is Ashton Kutcher?

Casey: (*Looking Scared*) Why would you do that Jamal?

Tyrone: (*Tense*) It better be a very good reason, or we got a serious problem.

Jamal: The reason I told Administration that we were planning on cheating is because I didn't want to ruin our futures, disappoint our families, disappoint ourselves, and mostly disappoint God.

Tasha: (*Looking confused*) Are you crazy? God what do you mean our plan? You wasn't going to cheat.

Jamal: Exactly, but I knew the plan, but the consequences I was going to face because I didn't follow God's instructions were going to be more severe than any consequence our Principal is going to give us.

Tyrone: (*Upset*) You trying to say you snitched on us because of your relationship with God.

Jamal: (Sternly) Exactly. The bible says in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust God with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Devin: (Frustrated) What does that mean?

Jamal: Simply, I trust God and I didn't first understand why I told the Principal, but I thought about the scripture and I know that God will take care of me and you; and God will change and direct our paths for the better.

Play Ends: Love Lifted Me