

Maternity Ward

By Alan R. Hergert

Overview: The challenges of fatherhood are not limited to physical needs.

Time: 3-5 minutes

Characters: Ward – a middle aged fatherly type – calm, comforting
Drew – a new father – nervous, anxious, a little scared
Dave – a new Christian, very excited with lots of energy

Props: A Bible

Lighting: General stage

Sound: Three wireless mics (Optional)

Scene opens with Ward and Drew center stage looking out over the audience as though looking through a window into a hospital maternity ward. Ward is calm. Drew is noticeably nervous, pacing. Ward is holding a Bible.

Ward: First one?.

Drew: Yeah... How about you?

Ward: Oh, I've been here before. This'll be number four for me.

Drew: Four? Wow, that must be great.

Ward: Oh, man, it's wonderful! Which one is yours?

Drew: Oh, that's him over there. (Drew points right - both look to the right.) Third row on the end. His name is David.

Ward: Wow, he's a big one. Looks like he's got his Father's eyes.

Drew: Yeah. I'm kind of nervous about this whole thing.

Ward: At first, I was terrified. I had no clue what I was doing. I wasn't sure I'd make a good father. I was scared to death.

Drew: Really? What did you do?

Ward: Well, I read some books, talked to some other fathers and prayed a lot.

Drew: And things worked out?

Ward: Yeah... Actually, it's been a lot fun. I mean, sure, there were messes to clean up. There always are with newborns. I'm sure I made my share of mistakes but I learned quite a bit along the way.

Drew: Really? Like what?

Ward: Well, first of all, being a father isn't all that tough. The toughest part is just being there. You know, being there when they need you - to pick them up when they fall - to pat 'em on the back when they do good and to clean 'em up when they get messy.

Drew: You make it sound so simple.

Ward: Don't get me wrong, it's hard work. The skinned knees, bruised elbows and broken hearts will hurt you almost as much as it hurts them. Just remember it is all a part of growing up. Before you know it, they'll be out raising kids of their own, if you've done your job right.

Drew: That's what I want to do. Do it right.

Ward: Yeah, I know. Everyone wants to be the perfect father.

Drew: So how do you do it?

Ward: What?

Drew: Be the perfect father.

Ward: I don't know.

Drew: You have four kids. You should have some idea.

Ward: *(Chuckles)* Who said I was a perfect father? I'm still working on it.

Drew: Oh, great. I think I'm talking to Ward Cleaver and I get Homer Simpson.

Ward: *(Thinking)* I guess the key to becoming a perfect father is admitting you're not perfect. Like I said, I've learned a lot being a father.

Drew: Oh, you're no help. *(Frustrated)* It's too bad they don't come with an owner's manual.

Ward: *(Offering Drew the Bible)* Oh, but they do.

Drew: Oh, like the Bible is going to help me...

Ward: *(Calmly)* See you're learning already... *(Drew slowly takes the Bible and begins thumbing through it.)*

Drew: Ha, ha... How am I supposed to use this?

Ward: Read it to him. Read it with him. If it's important to you, it'll be important to him. This book can transform you into the father you want to be. It can transform him into the person any father would be proud of.

Drew: I see. I guess it wouldn't hurt to start here.

Ward: Look at the last part of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” It starts here, it starts now, it starts with David.

Drew: Yeah... You’re right... *(Silence. Ward lets things set in.)*

Ward: *(Looking toward the imaginary David)* Oh it looks like they’re bringing David out to see you. *(Drew looks up toward the imaginary David. Both follow David as he comes around and through the door. Dave enters stage right.)*

Dave: Drew! *(Runs over and gives Drew a big hug.)*

Drew: *(Almost out of breath)* Dave.

Dave: Hey what’s this? *(Grabs the Bible from turning away from Drew.)*

Drew: A Bible.

Dave: Wow, this is awesome! *(Starts looking for a verse.)* Oh, here it is. *(Finding the verse.)* “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” That is soooooo cool! You know what this means?

Drew: Well, yes...

Dave: Me! I’m going to Heaven! You’re going to Heaven! This is so great! *(Walks off stage left – talking as he goes.)*

Drew: Well, I guess I’d better go. *(Shakes Ward’s hand)* Thanks for everything.

Ward: Just remember, the key to becoming a perfect father is admitting you’re not perfect.

Drew: I’ll try to. *(Runs off stage to catch up with Dave.)*

Ward: *(Calling to Drew)* And don’t forget to pray. Happy Father’s Day!*

Fade to black.

* This line can be omitted if not performed on or near Father’s Day.

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