

BORN AGAIN
Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman

Characters: Peter, Andrew

Scripture text: John 3: 1-21

Props: cup or goblet with water in it

Length: 6 minutes

Setting: indoors—during the scene they will peer through a crack in the door

(Scene opens with ANDREW peering through an implied crack in the door—facing the audience, calls to PETER.)

ANDREW: *(In a stage whisper.)* Pete! Pete.

(PETER enters; he is irritated, ready for bed, or already there.)

PETER: What?!

ANDREW: Not so loud.

PETER: *(An irritated whisper.)* What?

ANDREW: Come here.

PETER: I'm getting ready to go to bed.

ANDREW: Hurry.

(PETER reluctantly moves over.)

PETER: So?

ANDREW: We've got company.

PETER: Who?

ANDREW: Nicodemus.

PETER: Who's he?

ANDREW: Pharisee. Important.

(Pause.)

PETER: Knock, knock.

ANDREW: What?

PETER: Knock, knock.

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ANDREW: *(With reluctance.)* Who's there?

PETER: Nicodemus.

ANDREW: Nicodemus who?

PETER: Nicodemus be the guy we've been waiting for.

ANDREW *(Looks at him.)*

PETER: So it's Nicodemus, the Pharisee.

ANDREW: Right.

PETER: What does he want?

ANDREW: That's what I'm trying to find out. *(Notices that PETER has a drink.)* Let me have some of that. *(PETER hands it over. ANDREW takes a sip—immediately spews the liquid.)* What is that?

PETER: Salt water—I was gargling.

ANDREW: You couldn't tell me?

PETER: You couldn't ask? *(Beat.)* I'm going to bed.

ANDREW: No. This could be interesting.

PETER: Everything is interesting to you.

ANDREW: No really. Why would an important teacher come to see Jesus late at night? Why not just talk to him when Jesus is at the temple or when he's?...

PETER: He doesn't want to be seen.

ANDREW: Exactly.

PETER: Which is why we are spying on him.

ANDREW: Exactly.

(Beat.)

PETER: Okay. *(They both crowd around the "spy hole." ANDREW has the only good view.)* What's he saying?

ANDREW: Hold your pants on.

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****PURCHASE REQUIRED FOR PERFORMANCE AND DUPLICATION****

PETER: He said “Hold your pants on?” That doesn’t sound like him. He might say, “Whose pants do you say these are?” OR “Give unto Caesar, Caesar’s pants.” But “Hold your pants on”... (*ANDREW is just looking at him.*) Oh, you said hold your pants on. (*ANDREW still looking.*) I am. I am holding my pants on. (*ANDREW still looking.*) What?

ANDREW: Are you sure we have the same parents?

PETER: So what’s he saying?

ANDREW: Nicodemus is doing the usual, “You must truly be the son of God because of all the miracles ... blaa blaa blaa.”

PETER: Okay, so he wants something.

ANDREW: He wants to know what he must do enter the kingdom of heaven.

PETER: A Pharisee? I thought they knew everything.

ANDREW: Would you hush up?!

PETER: I’m holding my pants on.

(*ANDREW turns back.*)

ANDREW: Jesus said, “You must be born again.”

PETER: What?!

ANDREW: You must be born again. Before you can see the kingdom of God.

(*Pause.*)

PETER: We’re all in trouble.

ANDREW: What do you mean?

PETER: Born again? Come on.

ANDREW: Peter...

PETER: Think about it. Born again. Auuggg. I mean ... (*Physical enactment of a birth.*) I mean look at you—six four. And me 180 pounds...

ANDREW: Right.

PETER: Okay, 190... (*ANDREW just looks at him.*) 194 but I’m cutting down on the goat cheese.

ANDREW: Peter, you know how Jesus is with words.

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PETER: You know what a birth looks like?

ANDREW: Actually I do...

PETER: It's a mess—and that's with just an 18- inch you.

ANDREW: Yes, I know what the process is like.

PETER: Really? How many have you been at?

(A pause.)

ANDREW: You don't have to have been there to know.

PETER: Uh huh.

ANDREW: I am very well acquainted with the birthing process—as you said it's usually a mess and men should be very far away from the entire operation.

PETER: Okay.

ANDREW: Besides ... I remember what it was like.

PETER: Whose birth?

ANDREW: Mine.

PETER: Nobody remembers their birth.

ANDREW: I do. The secure, warm feeling. Then ... suddenly ... the pull ... the pull out of that safe place. The yelling, the pressure, the pain, the bright lights, the mess...

PETER: You're kidding, right?

ANDREW: No. I can't forget a thing like that. And that vinegar smell.

PETER: Vinegar?

ANDREW: Yes.

PETER: This place was very small.

ANDREW: Of course.

PETER: And you remember the sudden light and a very tight fit.

ANDREW: Yes.

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****PURCHASE REQUIRED FOR PERFORMANCE AND DUPLICATION****

PETER: Andrew, you were two. I stuffed you in a pickle crock, and put you in the closet.

ANDREW: What?!

PETER: You fell asleep, and when Mom opened the door—bright light—bright light and screaming.

ANDREW: You have got to be kidding.

PETER: We had to grease you to get you out—you'd really settled in.

ANDREW: I can't believe this.

PETER: Yup.

ANDREW: Now wait. I distinctly remember a bare bottom being spanked

(PETER raises his hand.)

ANDREW: *(Stunned.)* No wonder I hate pickles.

PETER: So what did Nicodemus say?

(Pause as ANDREW checks.)

PETER: *(Impatiently.)* Andy. *(ANDREW looks in irritation. PETER grabs hold of his pants. ANDREW turns back to scene.)* So what did he say?

ANDREW: So how can a person be born again?

PETER: My point.

ANDREW: Hush.

PETER: Now what?

ANDREW: How can you be a teacher and not know these things?

PETER: So it was stupid question.

ANDREW: Apparently.

PETER: Apparently. *(Pause.)* Hey, Andy.

ANDREW: What?

PETER: How can you be born again?

(ANDREW motions to him to listen to Jesus.)

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***** SCRIPT PREVIEW *****

****PURCHASE REQUIRED FOR PERFORMANCE AND DUPLICATION****

THE END

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SCRIPT
PREVIEW

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