

The Talk

By David Radcliff

A short skit featuring a teenager sitting her mom and dad down for “a talk” about caring for the earth.

Erin: Mom, Dad, do you have a minute.

Mom: Of course, dear.

Erin: There’s something we need to talk about.

(Dad and Mom exchange glances)

Dad: What is it, honey? You know we’re always there for you.

Mom: We certainly are—and we’re very happy when you tell us what’s troubling you—and always want to help out in any way we can—together, we can get through this. So, tell us, dear, what’s on your mind?

Dad: Yes, we were kids too once, you know—hard to believe, but it’s true—and we went through all the same things. Of course we didn’t have iPods and those other gizmos, but we still faced all the challenges teenagers face...

Erin: Oh, this isn’t about me.

Dad: Well, that’s a bit of a relief. I thought for a minute...

Erin: It’s about you.

Mom: Us?!

(They again exchange looks)

Dad: I don’t think I understand, Erin.

Erin: Yes, I know. And that’s a big part of the problem. You have good intentions, but you just don’t seem to understand.

Dad: Don’t understand...what?

Mom: You’re not embarrassed that I’m on Facebook, are you dear? My yoga instructor said I should have an account, and it seemed harmless enough...

Erin: No, Mom. That’s not it. It’s the earth—and what your generation has done to it—and how that’s going to affect my generation.

Dad: Are you still upset that I put those bottles in the trash instead of the recycling? It was an honest mistake—I get confused—do they take 1’s, 2’s and 5’s? or is it 1’s, 3’s and 6’s?

Erin: It’s bigger than that, Dad. It’s about the oceans, the atmosphere, the rainforest; the toxins in the groundwater, the loss of coral reefs and polar bears, the consequences of global warming.

(Both a bit aghast and at a loss for what to say)

Mom: I don't understand, honey.

Erin: Yeah, I know.

Dad: Where did you get all this stuff, dear? One of those cable channels? Some kind of radical website? Have you been watching Al Gore movies again?

Erin: In Sunday School.

Dad: Oh.

Mom: Imagine that...!

Erin: We're doing a series on stewardship and this was one of the topics.

Dad: But what's this got to do with us?

Erin: We learned that most of the mess we've made of the earth has happened in the past 50 years—and, well, it seems like your generation has kind of been in charge during that time.

Mom: But nobody told us there was anything wrong with what we were doing.

Dad: It all seemed like the right thing to do—the bigger house, a couple of cars, TV's in every room, whatever we wanted whenever we wanted it. How were we to know the American Dream was going to be a nightmare for God's earth?!

Erin: I hear you, Dad. It's not totally your fault. And I'm sure you can change your ways—we'll just have to get you some help.

Mom/Dad: (together) Help?!

Erin: Don't worry—just some reading to begin with. Why don't you start with the first chapter of Genesis, then we'll talk. Because, Mom, Dad—I'm here for you. Together, we can get through this.

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