



Series of four skits which accompany lessons from the topical Bible study What are You Afraid Of?

FEAR FACTOR or FAITH FACTOR

Skit 1 Script

These skits all revolve around social experiments being conducted on random individual. Each skit can have two different “random” girls, stopped during their daily business (such as a survey taken in a mall), and they are asked to face a virtual situation through their virtual reality glasses so that their responses can be observed.

Characters:

Doctor: white lab coat, nerdy glasses, clipboard, checklist, stopwatch

Girl #1

Girl #2

Props: (2) Virtual reality headsets, barf bag

Doctor: Hello. I’m Doctor Nancy Nerdorf, M.D., M PhD, D.S.W. I chair the Institute of Higher Scientifical Learning and Psychological Probing which is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. We’re here in Plano Texas, conducting sociologic research to test human fear factors. We will systematically observe, collect data, assess and analyze human behavioral tendencies in virtual situations. We will be choosing random guinea pigs - oh excuse me! I mean random individuals--to voluntarily participate in our social experiment today. Today, we will be studying the effect of storms on the human psyche. By controlling the variables, we can then make hypotheses and draw conclusions. Ah, here come some unsuspecting test subjects now. *(two ladies walk in chatting)* Hello, ladies. Could I interest you in the rare opportunity of contributing to the human sciences by participating in a quick and most likely harmless experiment today? Do you have time for a survey to confirm that you qualify? It will only take a minute.

Girl #1: Oh, I don’t know. We’re on our way to anywhere but here...

Girl #2: Oh, we’ve got a few minutes. Let’s at least see if we qualify!

Doctor: Great. Let me ask you two questions. First, are you a human being, born on earth?

Girl #1: Are you serious?

Girl #2: We’re certainly not aliens.

Doctor: So that’s a “yes” for both of you? Perfect! And question two: Do either of you or your relatives work in a meteorological research facility?

Girl #1: Uh....

Girl #2: Since I’ve never heard of something like that, pretty sure our answer is “no” to that one.

Doctor: Great! Good news--you both qualify.

Girl #2: Quite the verification process, Doctor. *(sarcastic)*

Doctor: Each of you take a seat, and we will give you a simulation headset. You're each going to enter into a scenario and it will feel exactly like you are experiencing it in real time in the real world. It is so real, in fact, that we have provided a motion sickness collection apparatus if needed.

Girl #1: I'm sorry--a WHAT?

Doctor: Oh, I need to use the non-medical term. In layman's terms, this is a barf bag.

Girl #2: A WHAT?

Doctor: Don't worry, we just want to be prepared for all contingencies. Once I put your headset on and activate the visuals, please don't touch your headset. We would like both of you to verbally describe what you are seeing and feeling in as much detail as possible. Both of you will be seeing the same things; however, you will not be able to see me. I will be observing and recording what you describe as well as observing and recording your reactions for our worldwide database. You will feel as though you are literally experiencing what you are seeing, and you may even forget that it is not your reality. We expect that and have factored that in our calculations as we note your physical responses. Your headset automatically monitors heart rate, blood pressure and scans other crucial physiological vital signs, so regardless of what you feel you are experiencing, you will not be in any actual physical danger, I'm almost positive. Yea, yea, I'm pretty sure.

Girl #1: So all we do is just sit here, right?

Doctor: Yes, sit there, and communicate what you see and feel.

Girl #2: I can do that.

Doctor: Girls ,here are your head sets.

Girl #1: I had a toy that resembled that once, where I could see pictures of the Grand Canyon.

Girl #2: I remember those...

Doctor: I'm afraid these are significantly more complex than those 1970's viewfinders, Ladies. Ok, here we go. *(puts headsets on)* Now, just relax and tell me exactly what you see.

Girl #1: Wow, that's a big dark cloud

Girl #2: Yeah, did you see lightning in the distance?

Girl #1: Uh-huh...and the wind is picking up

(as if something blows by--both flinch to left)

Girl #2: Watch it! Was that a trash can that blew by?

Girl #1: It almost hit me. Boy, it is windy!

Girl #2: Is that cloud starting to rotate?

(both girls look upward)

Girl #1: Uh oh! Is that the beginning of a tornado? Oh no....oh no....OH NO! Get me out of here!

Girl #2: Duck!

(both duck)

Girl #2: Whew, that was close.

Girl #1: Too close for comfort. This is a really bad storm and it came out of nowhere! Where is the storm cellar? We're not safe! Oh my goodness! So much debris flying around!

Girl #2: Yes, it's bad--Oh, watch out

(hands in front of headset)

Girl #1: The rain is pouring now--is that hail? Ow!

Girl #2: Ow! Ow! It definitely is hail.

Girl #1: I think the wind is going to blow me over! And the lightning is striking close. *(panicked)* We have to find shelter!!

Girl #2: At least I need to brace myself against something solid, and set my feet solidly on rock or concrete.

Girl #1: Oh my goodness, we're going to die. We can't escape this. It's coming right at us--we're going to die. HELP! SOMEBODY HELP!

Girl #2: We're not going to die in this storm. Snap out of it! Calm down! Storms like this pass through Plano quickly.

Doctor: *(looking at stopwatch)* TIME'S UP!

Girl #1: Oh, thank goodness. I forgot where I was.

Girl #2: That's right. This was just a simulation--but wow! It was realistic.

Girl #1: No kidding! I thought I was a goner!

(doctor takes off headsets)

Doctor: Ladies, thank you for your contribution to science. I have recorded important information regarding both your physical and emotional responses. So I need to ask some post-simulation questions. *(to Girl #1)* You thought you were going to die?

Girl #1: I truly did. I can't believe I forgot that this was only a simulation.

Doctor: Why were you so afraid?

Girl #1: I'm not sure. I felt like my life was in danger and that I was helpless. I really hated that wind and hail, and I had no control over any of it! And the possible tornado really terrified me.

Doctor: Hmm...very interesting. Your monitoring results confirm your high level of panic.

Girl #1: I felt so alone and defenseless against the elements.

Doctor: (*turns to other girl*) And you appeared to be much calmer throughout the test, and your monitoring numbers confirm a relatively low fear factor.

Girl #2: It surely did feel real to me--I'm honestly surprised that I'm not soaking wet right now!

Doctor: But can you explain why your fear factor was so low?

Girl #2: Honestly, I was afraid, but I've been through storms before. Storms can be violent and scary, but I know that God is with me and will bring me through.

Doctor: Ahh...the faith factor trumps the fear factor. Interesting.

Girl #2: Well, I know for sure that God is way more powerful than any storm, and He could calm the storm whenever He wanted to, or He may choose to bring me through it. Either way, I'm safe in His care.

Doctor: Interesting. Well, thank you for your participation. You have furthered the cause of science.

Girl #1: Wait--that's it? Don't we get a gift card or something?

Doctor: I'm sorry. Isn't enough to know that you have made a valuable contribution in to the data base of universal knowledge? And...we have no budget...

Girl #1: Surely a Starbucks card would fit in the budget. I went through a lot of stress and anguish to leave with nothing.

Girl #2: How about I buy you a latte, and probably a decaf at this point.

(girls walk away)

Girl #1: Well, at least I learned something about myself. Apparently, I need to raise my level of "faith-factor"

Girl #2: Well, it's the storms of life that do reveal our lack of faith.

Girl #1: No more storms for me--real or virtual! I'm heading home and enjoying a chamomile tea and de-stress. Give me a rain check on that latte.



FEAR FACTOR or FAITH FACTOR

Skit 2 Script

Characters:

Doctor: white lab coat, nerdy glasses, clipboard, checklist, stopwatch

Girl #1

Girl #2

Props: (2) headsets

Doctor: Hello. I'm Doctor Nancy Nerdorf, M.D., M PhD, D.S.W.. I chair the Institute of Higher Scientifical Learning and Psychological Probing which is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. We're here in Plano Texas, conducting sociological research to test human fear factors. We will systematically observe, collect data, assess and analyze human behavior tendencies in virtual situations. We will be choosing random guinea pigs - oh excuse me! I mean random individuals--to voluntarily participate in our social experiment today. Today, we will be studying the physiological responsive behaviors relating to facing an overwhelming enemy. By controlling the variables, we can then make hypotheses and draw conclusions. Ah, here come some unsuspecting test subjects now. *(two ladies walk in chatting)* Hello, ladies. Could I interest you in the rare opportunity of contributing to the human sciences by participating in a quick and most likely harmless experiment today? Do you have time for survey to confirm that you qualify? It will only take a minute.

Girl #1: Oh, I don't know. We're on our way to a movie that starts in just a few minutes..

Girl #2: Oh, we've got time. Our movie doesn't start for 45 minutes. Let's at least see if we qualify!

Doctor: Great. Let me ask you two questions. First, are you a human being, born on earth?

Girl #1: Really? Can't you tell by looking?

Girl #2: We're certainly not aliens.

Doctor: Ahh! Interesting answer considering my next question. Question two: Do either of you or your relatives work in at the Center for Alien and Extraterrestrial Phenomena Observation and Investigation?

Girl #1: Uh....

Girl #2: Since I've never heard of something like that, pretty sure our answer is "no" to that one.

Doctor: Great! Good news--you both qualify.

Girl #2: Quite the verification process, Doctor. *(sarcastic)*

Doctor: Each of you take a seat, and we will give you a simulation headset. You're each going to enter into a scenario and it will feel exactly like you are experiencing it in real time in the real world. It is so real, in fact, that I need to reiterate to you that it is 100% 3D simulation.

Girl #1: I love those 3D rides at Disney and Six Flags. Do we get to wear special glasses? Do we get to keep them?

Doctor: No, no extra glasses or equipment are needed. Once I put your headset on and activate the visuals, please don't touch your headset. We would like you to verbally describe what you are seeing and feeling in as much detail as possible. You will not be able to see me, but I will be able to observe all of your response. I will be observing and recording your reactions for our worldwide database. You will feel as though you are literally experiencing what you are seeing, and you may even forget that it is not your reality. We expect that and have factored that in our calculations as we note your physical responses. Your headset automatically monitors heart rate, blood pressure and scans other crucial physiological vital signs, so regardless of what you feel you are experiencing, you will not be in any actual physical danger, pretty sure.

Girl #1: Pretty sure?

Girl 2: So all we do is just sit here, right?

Doctor: Yes, sit there, and communicate what you see and feel. And, if you're tempted to get out of your chair, please don't for your own safety.

Girl #2: I can do that.

Doctor: Girls ,here are your head sets.

Girl #1: Oh! This is completely different from the 3D Sponge Bob ride at Six Flags.

Girl #2: I remember that ride, and these headsets are nothing like the 3D glasses.

Doctor: I'm afraid these are significantly more complex than those juvenile cardboard red and blue children's glasses , Ladies. Ok, here we go. *(puts headsets on)* Now, just relax and tell me exactly what you see.

Girl #1: What is that? Are those some kind of insect coming toward us?

Girl #2: I can't tell, but they are swarming.

Girl #1: Aaugh! Those aren't insects. What are they?!

Girl #2: Oh look, do you see those over there?

(both turn heads to right)

Girl #1: Are those tentacles? I hate tentacles! It's a monster from the swamp!

Girl #2: Maybe it's an alien invasion. Those are not human, or any kind of creature I've ever seen.

Girl #1: Aliens? Are you kidding? I think they coming after us. They're going to capture us, take us up into their spaceship, suck our brain matter out and maybe they will inhabit our bodies. It's the invasion of the Body Snatchers. It's real. It wasn't just a movie!!!

Girl #2: Calm down - we don't know what they are yet.

Girl #1: Yes I do. Ooooh! They're slimy. How many heads do the creatures have?

(hands over ears)

Girl #1: Do you hear that that high pitched, eerie buzzing? Are they trying to communicate? I don't want to be captured and taken to their ravaged planet!!

Girl #2: Neither do I, but settle down. They are a still a ways away. But look to your right

(both look to the right)

Girl #1: I don't see anything. Oh, we're doomed!!

Girl #2: What? There's another swarm right there *(points)*, and they aren't heading for us. I think they are defending us.

Girl #1: But I can't see anything!! *(looks around frantically)*. How do you know they aren't more enemy aliens?

Girl #2: I'm not for sure, but they are more of them than there are of the aliens, and they seem to be eliminating the aliens that were heading our way.

Girl #1: *(squinting, looking frantically)* I just don't see anything! I'm going to die! Death by alien has gotta be the worst way to go.

Doctor: *(looking at stopwatch)* TIME'S UP!

Girl #1: Oh, what??? No aliens! I'm saved!

Girl #2: I totally forgot this was just a simulation--but wow! It was realistic.

(both sigh, exhale, whew!)

Girl #1: No kidding! I thought I was surely gonna be taken hostage by those creatures. Life on this earth for me was over.

(doctor takes off headsets)

Doctor: Ladies, thank you for your contribution to science. You had both physical and emotional responses. So I need to ask some post-simulation questions. *(to Girl #1)* You thought you were going to die?

Girl #1: Not just die--snatched up and tormented and experimented on. Those were not friendly ET kind of aliens...more like the Worm Guys on "Men in Black."

Doctor: Why were you so afraid?

Girl #1: I've seen a lot of alien movies, and it's not pretty. Venemous, slimy, spitting, hairy, tentacled creatures--Ooh!!!*(shudders)*

Doctor: Hmmmm....very interesting. Your monitoring results confirm a high level of panic.

Girl #1: Panic!!? Panic is when you can't find your car keys. I was facing deadly swarms of ravenous alien predators coming after me.

Doctor: *(turns to other girl)* And you appeared to much calmer throughout the test, and your monitoring numbers confirm a relatively low fear factor.

Girl #2: Oh I was definitely afraid; I saw everything that she saw. But for some reason she didn't see the multitude of defending aliens coming to our rescue. In fact, now that I've had a minute to settle down, I'm pretty sure they were legions of angels commissioned by God to protect us. He opened my eyes, and when I saw them I was immediately calmer and relieved.

Doctor: But can you explain why your fear factor was so low?

Girl #2: Like I said, I was afraid, but once my eyes were opened, I knew that those whom God sent were greater and more powerful than us. The overwhelming enemy didn't seem so overwhelming any longer.

Doctor: Ahh...the faith factor trumps the fear factor. Interesting.

Girl #2: Well, all I know for sure is that God is way more powerful than any "alien" *(finger quotes)*

Doctor: Interesting. Well, thank you for your participation. You have furthered the cause of science.

Girl #1: That's it...:thank you, you have furthered the cause of science? Don't you understand what you put me through? I will take Death by Chocolate any day, but not death by aliens!

Doctor: I'm sorry. Isn't enough to know that you have made a contribution to the body of extraterrestrial response knowledge?

Girl #1: No, no it isn't.

Girl #2: *(puts arm around Girl #1)* It's OK. We still have time to get to our movie, but instead of seeing "Stranger Things" we'll buy tickets for that cute rom-com .. I'll buy you a popcorn and some raisinettes.

Girl #1: Okay, I guess. Can you buy me a coke, too?

(girls walk away)

Girl #1: Apparently, I need to raise my level of "faith-factor."

Girl #2: Well, faith is the evidence of things not seen. You didn't see those who were on our side. God's angel army was there all along.



FEAR FACTOR or FAITH FACTOR

Skit 3 Script

Characters:

Doctor: white lab coat, nerdy glasses, clipboard, checklist, stopwatch

Girl #1

Girl #2

Props: (2) headsets

Doctor: Hello. I'm Doctor Nancy Nerdorf, M.D., M PhD, D.S.W.. I chair the Institute of Higher Scientifical Learning and Psychological Probing which is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. We're here in Plano Texas, conducting sociological research to test human fear factors. We will systematically observe, collect data, assess and analyze human behavior tendencies in virtual situations. We will be choosing random guinea pigs - oh excuse me! I mean random individuals--to voluntarily participate in our social experiment today. Today, we will be studying the effect of war and battle on the human psyche. By controlling the variables, we can then make hypotheses and draw conclusions. Ah, here come some unsuspecting test subjects now. *(two ladies walk in chatting)* Hello, ladies. Could I interest you in the rare opportunity of contributing to the human sciences by participating in a quick and most likely harmless experiment today? Do you have time for a survey to confirm that you qualify? It will only take a minute.

Girl #1: Oh, I don't know. We're on our way to um anywhere... but here...

Girl #2: Oh, come on, we've got a few minutes. Let's at least see if we qualify!

Doctor: Great. Let me ask you two questions. First, are you a human being, born on earth?

Girl #1: Are you serious?

Girl #2: *(looks at friend, self and doctor)* Yep, pretty sure we are the same species as you.

Doctor: So that's a "yes" for both of you? Perfect! And question two: Do either of you or your relatives work at the Armed Forces Strategic Planning Formation Think Tank located in an undisclosed underground bunker that may or may not be located in Utah?

Girl #1: Uh....

Girl #2: Since I've never heard of that, pretty sure our answer is "no" to that one.

Doctor: Great! Good news--you both qualify.

Girl #2: Shocker! Have you ever had to DISqualify someone? *(sarcastic)*

Doctor: You'd be surprised. Now, each of you take a seat, and I will give you a simulation headset. You're each going to enter into a scenario and it will feel exactly like you are experiencing it in real time in the real world. It is so real, in fact, that you may feel the urge to run for cover. But don't get out of your chair. Do not leave your chair!

Girl #1: Run for cover? You've definitely picked the right person--I don't run anywhere unless there's s shoe sale at Macy's.

Girl #2: Ooh girl, I remember the July 4th sale...I've never seen your feet move so fast!

Doctor: Just remember, stay seated. Don't worry, we just want to be prepared for all contingencies. Once I put your headset on and activate the visuals, please don't touch your headset. We would like you to verbally describe what you are seeing and feeling in as much detail as possible. I will be observing and recording your reactions for our worldwide database. You will feel as though you are literally experiencing what you are seeing, and you may even forget that it is not your reality. We expect that and have factored that in our calculations as we note your physical responses. Your headset automatically monitors heart rate, blood pressure and scans other crucial physiological vital signs, so regardless of what you feel you are experiencing, you will not be in any actual physical danger, I assure you.

Girl #1: So all we do is just sit here, right?

Doctor: Yes, sit there, and communicate what you see and feel.

Girl #2: I can do that.

Doctor: Girls, I have your headsets. They are complex and highly technological pieces of equipment. Ok, here we go. *(puts headsets on)* Now, just relax and tell me exactly what you see.

Girl #1: What am I seeing?

Girl #2: Whatever it is, it's approaching us fast

Girl #1: What is it?!!! *(more concerned)*

Girl #2: Wait--is that a tank? Is that a old army tank from the 1940's?

Girl #1: That's what it is! And it looks like an army marching behind!

Girl #2: I can't make out the uniforms...Watch out! *(both duck down)* Is that the Japanese flag? Where are we? Why is everything in black and white? Whoever they are, they don't look friendly--

Girl #1: I have no way of fighting back. I'm no GI Jane! Even if I had a gun, I've never even shot one! Oh my goodness!

Girl #2: They're getting closer... Why does this place look so familiar?

Girl #1: Get down! Incoming!! *(both put heads to lap)* That was too close! I'm within range! I'm not safe. Why are they picking a fight with us? GO AWAY!

Girl #2: I think this is a World War II battle. Maybe it's Iwo Jima. Volcanos, Japanese flag, rocket launchers--it all fits. I remember this battle from 10th grade history.

Girl #1: I wish I was wearing my cammo today. Yikes! Are those air raid sirens? Is that a bomb? We're goners! Look! A convoy of flame tanks is headed our way! HELP! HELP!

Girl #2: I don't think this is our battle.

Girl #1: Maybe not, but they are gunning for us. How do they know we're not the enemy? Where are the allied forces. RETREAT!

Girl #2: Wait! If this is World War II, and we're in the battle of Iwo Jima...
(interrupted by an explosion)

Girl #1: That explosion was even closer than the last one. We've got to get out of here. RETREAT!

Girl #2: It this is Iwo Jima, I know how this battle ends. We're not going to retreat. We're going to stand our ground (sings) "I'm in the Lord's army, Yes Sir!"

Girl #1: You're singing at a time like this. Be quiet!

Girl #2: We're not going to die in this battle. God's going to do battle for us! Let's just watch what He is going to do.

Doctor: (looking at stopwatch) TIME'S UP!

Girl #1: Oh, thank goodness. I forgot where I was. And we're back in full color. Whew!

Girl #2: That's right. This was just a simulation--but wow! It was realistic.

Girl #1: No kidding! I thought I was a goner!

(doctor takes off headsets)

Doctor: Ladies, thank you for your contribution to science. You've had both physical and emotional responses recorded. So I need to ask some post-simulation questions. (to Girl #1) You thought you were going to die?

Girl #1: I truly did. I can't believe I forgot that this was only a simulation.

Doctor: Why were you so afraid?

Girl #1: I knew there was no hope against that military enemy. I've never fought in a war. I just knew we didn't have a chance. They had tanks and guns and who knows what was bringing up the rear. we were no match to them!

Doctor: Hmm...very interesting. Your monitor results confirm your high level of panic.

Girl #1: You think??!! They had bombs, and mortars, and shrapnel flying around. Yeah, I was panicked! Excuse me!

Doctor: (turns to other girl) And you, on the other hand, appeared to be much calmer throughout the test, and your monitoring numbers confirm a relatively low fear factor. Did I hear you singing?

Girl #2: I did sing. The enemy was getting closer, but I realized I couldn't possibly fight them on my own. And I knew that she (pointing to Girl #1) was worthless!

Girl #1: What? (huffy)

Doctor: I would think that would cause more panic.

Girl #2: Honestly, I was afraid, But I knew I had the greatest warrior on my side--God. And He's more powerful! And no weapon they could have formed against us would prosper.

Doctor: Ahh...the faith factor trumps the fear factor. Interesting.

Girl #2: Well, all I know for sure is that the battle always belongs to the Lord. If I'm on His side, an enemy invasion and artillery and battalions--even M2 flame throwers--they can't hurt us.

Doctor: Interesting. Well, thank you for your participation. You have furthered the cause of science todsy. Have a nice day!

Girl #1: Wait! Have a nice day? That's it? You're done with us? How do you plan on treating my PTSD? Do I get some veteran benefits?

Doctor: I'm sorry. Isn't enough that you have made a hefty contribution to the study of battle fatigue, trauma and stress research?..

Girl #1: Surely a banana split isn't too much to ask after all my trauma and stress.

Doctor: *(making more notes)* Very interesting.

Girl #1: Quit saying that!

Girl #2: Come on... I'll buy you dilly bar. You'll be fine.

(girls walk away)

Girl #1: Apparently, I need to raise my level of "faith-factor"

Girl #2: Yeah! It's the enemies we face and the battles of life that reveal our faith or lack of faith.

Girl #1: No more battlefields, bombs or tanks for me--real or virtual! After my Dilly Bar, I'm heading home, to some hum drum boring, peace and quiet. And I'm going to delete "The Dirty Dozen" from my Netflix watchlist.



FEAR FACTOR or FAITH FACTOR

Skit 4 Script

Characters:

Doctor: white lab coat, nerdy glasses, clipboard, checklist, stopwatch

Girl #1

Girl #2

Props: (2) headsets

Doctor: Hello. I'm Doctor Nancy Nerdorf, M.D., M PhD, D.S.W.. I'm chair the Institute of Higher Scientifical Learning and Psychological Probing which is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. We're here in Plano Texas, conducting sociologic research to test human fear factors. We will systematically observe, collect data, assess and analyze human behavior tendencies in virtual situations. We will be choosing random guinea pigs - oh excuse me! I mean random individuals--to voluntarily participate in our social experiment today. Today, we will be studying the effect of encountering something that cannot be understood on the human psyche. By controlling the variables, we can then make hypotheses and draw conclusions. Ah, here come some unsuspecting test subjects now. *(two ladies walk in chatting)* Hello, ladies. Could I interest you in the rare opportunity of contributing to the human sciences by participating in a quick and most likely harmless experiment today? Do you have time for survey to confirm that you qualify? It will only take a minute.

Girl #1: Oh, I hate surveys. No thank you.

Girl #2: Oh, we've got a few minutes. Let's at least see what it's all about. Sounds like it could be fun!

Doctor: Great. Let me ask you two questions. First, are you a human being, born on earth?

Girl #1: *(looks at friend)* This is your idea of fun?

Girl #2: Why would you ask that? Do we appear otherwise?

Doctor: No, you do look human. But I have to ask. It's on the form. Now, question two: Do either of you or your relatives work for the Center for Nocturnal Extrications and Unexplained Phenomena?

Girl #1: Uh, what?

Girl #2: Since I've never heard of that, pretty sure our answer is "no" to that one.

Doctor: Great! Good news--you both qualify.

Girl #1: Great *(eye roll)*. I was afraid of that.

Girl #2: That verification process itself is unexplained phenomena, Doctor. *(sarcastic)*

Doctor: Each of you take a seat, and we will give you a simulation headset. You're each going to enter into a scenario and it will feel exactly like you are experiencing it in real time in the real world. It is so real, in fact, that we have place a failsafe in your headset that will automatically connect you to 911. But I wouldn't worry, I'm pretty sure it won't come to that.

Girl #1: I'm sorry--a WHAT? (*turns to Girl #2*) Does this still sound like fun to you?

Girl #2: Where's your sense of adventure? I think it sounds interesting.

Doctor: Once I put your headset on and activate the visuals, please don't touch your headset. We would like you to verbally describe what you are seeing and feeling in as much detail as possible. I will be observing and recording your reactions for our worldwide database. You will feel as though you are literally experiencing what you are seeing, and you may even forget that it is not your reality. We expect that and have factored that in our calculations as we note your physical responses. Your headset automatically monitors heart rate, blood pressure and scans other crucial physiological vital signs, so regardless of what you feel you are experiencing, you will not be in any actual physical danger, I assure you.

Girl #1: So all we do is just sit here, right?

Doctor: Yes, sit there, and communicate what you see and feel.

Girl #2: I can do that.

Doctor: Girls ,here are your head sets.

(puts headsets on)

Girl #1: Ooh! It feels wet. It smells musty.

Doctor: These are complex, highly calibrated devices, so let's proceed. Now, just relax and tell me exactly what you see.

Girl #1: What kind of car is this? And where are we headed?

Girl #2: I'm not sure, but the rain is really pounding, and apparently I'm the driver. I hate driving in rain. Where are the windshield wipers (*left hand searching for wiper control*)?

Girl #1: I hate riding with someone who hates driving in the rain. I can't see a thing! It's so dark--turn the headlights on! The water seems deep. Can you see what's ahead?

Girl #2: Not really, but I'm a little concerned about this heavy rain and high water. This water is moving fast.

Girl #1: Are we in a river?

Girl #2: No, I see the street signs. Unless this river is at the corner of Elm St. and 3rd, we're on a road. But I don't feel any traction underneath.

Girl #1: Is this what hydroplaning is like? That's it. We're hydroplaning. It's over!!!! We're done for!!!

Girl #2: It's not over. We're taking it slow.

(both turn heads)

Girl #1: What was that? Was that a picnic table floating by?

Girl #2: Was that a dog on the picnic table? Stay calm, the rain can't continue like this much longer.

Girl #1: We need oars, or a canoe paddle, or an anchor! Do you think this car is equipped with inflatable life jackets? Slow down!

Girl #2: I'm not doing anything. The water is carrying us.

Girl #1: Can you maneuver us under a bridge? Not, that's for tornados. Oh -Stop, drop and roll - no wait, that's for fires! Turn around, don't drown. Yeah, that's the one. Can you turn us around?

Girl #2: I'll try but I just can't control this car in the rain. Look! What is that ahead? Can you make it out?

Girl #1: (*squints*) Is it a person? Is it a ghost? Is it a telephone pole?

Girl #2: I can't tell. Maybe it is a person. Maybe it's the "lady in white"

Girl #1: (*getting more panicked by the sound*) Don't joke at a time like this. Eyes straight ahead. I've heard the legend of the lady in white, and that's not someone I want to encounter. It doesn't look like anything I've every seen before. What's happening??!!! How are we going to get out of the mess? What if the car stalls? What if we drown? What if we get stuck in a drainage pipe? Could we end up in the city sewer system? Ooooo, sewer rats!

Girl #2: Don't let your imagination run away with you. And it's not the "lady in white" - I was kidding. But it definitely has the form of a person. And it has a flashlight. It's motioning us to go.... Can you see it?

Girl #1: I see the light. It appears to be sending us to the left I think. Whatever it is, don't hit it.

Girl #2: I definitely think that help has arrived. God has sent someone to rescue us. I'll try to maneuver us left. Lean left!

Doctor: (*looking at stopwatch*) TIME'S UP!

Girl #1: Oh, thank goodness. (*looking all around*)

Girl #2: What are you looking for? We're okay.

Girl #1: Looking for sewer rats!

(*doctor takes off headsets*)

Doctor: Ladies, thank you for your contribution to science. You have had both physical and emotional responses. So I need to ask some post-simulation questions. (*to Girl #1*) You thought you were in big trouble in the water?

Girl #1: I truly did. I can't believe I forgot that this was only a simulation. The flooding felt so real.

Doctor: Why were you so afraid?

Girl #1: We had no control over the car, and we got so disoriented. And then this unexplained figure appeared. I didn't know if it was meant for help or meant for harm. And I have a really good imagination when it comes to potential disaster. Have you heard of the "lady in white," Doctor?

Doctor: Hmm...very interesting. Your monitoring results confirm a high level of panic.

Girl #1: Wouldn't you be panicked? Fear was my only logical choice in a situation like this.

Doctor: (*turns to other girl*) But you appeared to be much calmer throughout the test, and your monitoring numbers confirm a relatively low fear factor.

Girl #2: It surely did feel real to me--I was driving a car in a flood. It did concern me.

Doctor: But can you explain why your fear factor was so low?

Girl #2: When I saw that unexplainable figure not being moved by the rushing water, I knew it had to be God sending help--maybe a first responder--to guide us to safety. Sometimes God uses things we don't understand to build our faith in Him.

Doctor: Ahh...the faith factor trumps the fear factor. Interesting.

Girl #2: Well, all I know for sure is that God can use unexplainable things to accomplish His will and I know His will is that I have faith and a sound mind, not a spirit of fear when I encounter dangerous situations..

Doctor: Interesting. Well, thank you for your participation. You have furthered the cause of science as we study the human response to positive unexplained phenomenon.

Girl #1: Here's what I am positive about--always carry oars and a life jacket in the trunk of your car!

Girl #2: Or...we could just trust that God

Girl #1: Or there's that. I suppose that would raise my faith factor more than an inflatable yellow vest would.

Girl #2: Let me give you a ride home--on dry land!

Doctor: Thank you again, ladies, for your help today. I'm sure you're leaving here filled with the satisfaction of knowing that your small contribution today will yield huge returns as we study explained and unexplained universal events. Thank you!