



PROMISE BOOTS

(Standing Firm, Being Prepared)

Characters:

Lily - main character shopping for shoes
Tilly - Lily's friend (*voice of reason*)
Shoe Store Saleslady (*Holy Spirit*)
Shoe Model (*temptation*) (*non-speaking part*)

Setting:

Shoe store with a window display. Inside there is a saleslady who suggests the perfect shoe and a shoe model who gives another option.

Props:

Window display with "impractical" shoes
Fancy flip-flops
Sign "Flip-Flops of Fear - the perfect walking shoe!"
Clunky work boots

Summary:

Lily needs a certain type of shoe and heads to the shoe store with a friend. There are many desirable shoes to choose from, but most are not appropriate for her needs. The shoes store has a shoe model who wordlessly attempts to distract Lily from what she came for.

Script:

Lily: Thanks for coming with me, Tilly. I love cute shoes, but today I have to buy some very durable shoes that will make it on difficult and dangerously steep trails, climbing over rocks and even going through water and maybe fire. I have a job that is going to take me into some treacherous areas. How are we going to find a shoe for that that is flattering and cute?

Tilly: Wow! That may require some kind of specialty work boot. Where in the world are you going?

Lily: Well, I just got word that my job will require that I walk through the Valley of Trial and Adversity. There's no way to get around it, so I need to be prepared. I'll never make it without the proper shoe. I am thinking steel-toed boots, extra thick soles, no-nonsense, waterproof and fireproof leather. This shoe needs to be strong and protective. I've been in that area before, and I have to tell you, I was not prepared. I stumbled and fell and got hurt more than once.

Tilly: Where do we go to find a shoe for that?

Lily: Well, first I'm just going back to my favorite shoe store. I got that walking shoe there, and those Faith Flats were perfect too. They carry just about every style that a woman could need for any challenges she might face.

Tilly: Okay, let's try there first. We may have to go to some kind of specialty store, though.

Lily: *(stopping to window shop)* Oh, look at these shoes! Every time I come here, my eye goes straight to those cute shoes. I can see using them in the Valley of Trial and Adversity--I could really cause some damage with a heel like that. Can't you see me ripping my shoe off and using it as a weapon?? *(laughs)*

Tilly: Sure, Lily--and having your shoe in your hand would leave your foot vulnerable. You could end up sliding all over the place in the mud and muck, being burned or injured.... Those shoes definitely won't do!

Lily: I'm just joking!

(walk in the store discussing...)

Salesperson: Hi, ladies. Is there something I can help you with today?

Tilly: Well, my friend needs some shoes that will take her through some very rough terrain.

Salesperson: What kind of rough terrain are we talking about?

Lily: Well, I'm not exactly sure what I will be facing in the Valley of Trial and Adversity...

Salesperson: *(GASPS!)* Why on earth are you going there?

Lily: I have to travel there--there's no way around it. My job is taking me there, and I want to be prepared. It hurts me to say this, but knowing that the area can be filled with danger, I want a shoe that is functional instead of stylish. I'm going to have to be practical, as much as I hate to do it.

Salesperson: Well, those heels in the window that you were looking at won't cut the mustard--I know you realize that. The Valley of Trial and Adversity is known for many dangers. And the path can be steep and uneven. You want to be able to stand firm without slipping, as well as be protected from other dangers. I would suggest a cleated, steel-toed boot. You also want to make sure you have a light for your path.

Lily: You sold me a shoe light a few weeks ago, and I use it all the time.

Salesperson: Good. You can use those on any shoe you own. Personally, I don't know how anyone navigates this life without it.

Tilly: But I think you mentioned cleats. How will cleats help her?

Salesperson: Cleats provide additional traction and stability on soft or slippery surfaces. And I've actually heard of many who backslide in the Valley of Trial and Adversity. There have been many advances in cleat technology which will help you stand fast in the faith.

Lily: Wow! Sounds like I need cleats. What colors do they come in? The itinerary I received reminded me of all the challenges I'll face in the Valley. What about the overflowing waters, the fires, the other dangers?

Salesperson: Don't worry, I think I have some work boots that will prepare you for anything. We call them our Promise Boots.

(model walks by wearing very impractical shoes with a sign saying "the Fearful Flip-Flop - the perfect walking shoe")

Lily: Oh, aren't those cute? They would be perfect if I traveled to the beach?

Tilly: Lily--seriously? I doubt there are beaches to be found in the Valley of Trial and Adversity. You wouldn't want Fearful Flip Flops. They would leave your foot totally exposed, and they give you very little support. And fear is that last thing you need in order to stand firm in trial and adversity. Focus, focus! We are here to buy some work boots.

Lily: I know. I'm just dreaming.

Salesperson: Fearful Flip-Flops are one of our more popular styles, but to be honest, they are not good walking shoes no matter where you are. We carry all varieties of shoes here, but not all are beneficial. Let me bring out some more appropriate styles. Let me see what we have in your size.*(salesperson disappears)*

Lily: You know, Tilly, I have to admit that I am a little fearful the more I hear about the Valley of Trial and Adversity. I don't want to go there! I remember how hard it was. How will I survive?

Tilly: You're not doing this by yourself. You know you are not alone, Lily. And apparently, these work boots come not only with cleats and steel toes--they also come with promises.

Lily: That's what she said...

Salesperson: *(returning with some boxes)* You are going to be excited about these work boots! I really think that these will be your best choice, based on what you've told me about the challenge you have ahead.

Lily: Ooh...so big and clunky!

Salesperson: Yes, but let me show you! These shoes are made with the strongest puncture-proof reinforced leather, and they are lined as well as insulated. Your feet will stay dry and warm. They have steel toes and reinforced ankles. The laces make it a firm fit and the cleats will help you to stand firm no matter how difficult the path. And listen to this promise: "I will be with you, the rivers will not overflow you, the fire will not burn you." That is the ultimate defense against the hazards of trial and adversity. Take a walk around the store, and see how they feel.

Lily: Okay *(puts on shoe/ties)*. My light will fit on this right?

Salesperson: Absolutely! *(Lily puts the light on)*

Lily: I definitely feel steadfast and prepared in these Promise Boots. I sure need that promise where I'm going. *(to salesman)* I think these shoes will be perfect. And my light fits on them just fine.

Salesman: Will that be cash or credit, ma'am?

Lily: Here's my credit card-again! If you don't mind, I think I'll wear these home. They feel so good, and these make me feel more confident walking. His promise will never fail!

Tilly: And if we come across a trial on the way home, you'll just carry me, won't you?