



THE PUZZLING GAME OF LIFE

Production Notes

A four-act skit, using various game show formats to provide the setting for the main character to progress in her spiritual journey.

SUMMARY: Suzy Christian finds herself on a journey in "The Game of Life." Each game show that she participates in is another step in her spiritual journey, where she faces trials and temptations as well as growth and victory..

THEME: The retreat theme was "God Meant It For Good" and the theme verse was Romans 8:28. The visual theme was puzzle pieces, all fitting together. In this skit, we see puzzling things happening to Suzy Christian, and she doesn't understand why she is experiencing trials. But the skit attempts to show how God is using even those difficult experiences in our life for our good and the good of others.

THEME VERSE: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

CHARACTERS:

(Note: There are only a few main characters in this skit (marked with asterisk ()). All of the remaining characters are minor characters. One person could easily take the role of one of the minor characters in each act. But this is a great opportunity to assign small roles, appearing in only one act, to people and see how they handle being on stage.)*

*Rod Sterling Narrator

*Guy Smiley - *obnoxious game show host, who greatly exaggerates some of his lines (which are capitalized in the script) in a sarcastic manner*

*Suzy Christian - a woman, wife and mother who has recently become a Christian.

Sign holder - having no lines, this person just holds up the "APPLAUSE" sign and the "OOH, AAH" sign at appropriate times.

(Act 1) "Family Feud"

Ms. Johnson - contestant

(Act 2) "Wheel of Fortune"

Lucky Lucy - contestant

Vanna Off-White - letter turner

(Act 3) "Let's Make a Deal"

*Monty Hall

Jay1

Contestant 1

Contestant 2

Contestant 3

(Act IV) "The Price is Right"

Jay 2 (Showcase Announcer)

Model for "Worldly Wear" gown

(Act IV) "The Price is Right" (cont'd)

Model for "Ephesians 6" spiritual armor

SETTING AND PROPS

Tip: Find someone who likes to work behind the scenes to be in charge of sets/props during the performance. While the director and actresses can help, it will be too much for them to remember everything!

The props for this skit can be a little more extensive, and may require some creativity, particularly for the game show sets. Simplify as much as possible! We modeled our game show props from the actual television show, but these game shows are familiar to everyone, and you don't need to be elaborate.

However, because there are props, you need to spend a little more time on rehearsal, with the props, so that everyone on stage knows their place on stage and how to move around the stage and work with the props in place. This is particularly important if your characters are sharing a microphone.

"Applause sign"

- Act I Bell of some sort, buzzer for wrong answers
 "Check" for \$10,000 (large)
 Game board (optional)
- Act II Spinner (optional)
- Act III (3) small bags (we used small cloth drawstring bags)
 (1) small golden bag
 play money
 boxes #1, #2 and #3
 tax form, classified ads from newspaper, wallets
- Act IV Optional pictures of some of the larger prizes
 Sign "Pick or Pitch"
 "Spray and Repent" (spray bottle with name label)
 small make-up tube
 Campbell's soup can
 something to represent the pot roast; could be as simple as a foil pan
 gown
 spiritual armor

TIMING:

- Act I Approximately 15-20 minutes
- Act II Approximately 15-20 minutes
- Act III Approximately 15 minutes
- Act IV Approximately 20 minutes



THE PUZZLING GAME OF LIFE

ACT I "Family Feud"

Rod Sterling Narrator: Meet Miss Suzy Christian. She's recently become a Christian. She thinks she has a normal life—no better, no worse than anyone else she knows. But that's about to change. Miss Christian doesn't know it now, but she is about to embark on a journey--to a dimension of sight and sound, a dimension of mind and spirit. She has crossed over into the "Twilight Zone"—oh, no, (wrong show)--I mean, she has crossed over into "The Game of Life"...

Guy Smiley: It's time for the show "The Game of Life" and I'm your host, Guy Smiley.

(applause sign)

Guy Smiley: Thank you. This weekend we're going to see if our lucky contestant will be successful in this portion of her "Game of Life". The Game of Life begins HERE, but where it ends and how it ends is not always in the contestant's control. The path the contestant follows may be affected by the contestant's choices, but her choices don't always control her path. Sound confusing? Well, YES IT IS! That's the "Game of Life". Unexpected twists and turns keep the game interesting. The "Game of Life" has rules, but not everyone follows the rules. People who don't keep the rules can mess things up for those who do. Sound unfair? Well, YES IT IS! That's the "Game of Life". The "Game of Life" can seem clear-cut and effortless at times--with straight paths heading logically toward a desired destination. Then, without warning, the game board becomes unfairly complicated-- crooked paths, U-turns, delays, diversions and cancellations—not to mention adversaries—and the desired end is no longer in sight. Sound puzzling? YOU BET IT IS! That's the "Game of Life".

Suzy Christian: What do you mean—it BEGINS here? My life has all of a sudden become a game show?

GUY SMILEY: Not all of a sudden, Ms. Christian. The "Game of Life" began for you when you made that decision to follow the Lord. You were on a wide path of destruction and were playing the "Game of Death", and death was the destination. You chose to participate in a different game, the "Game of Life", when you decided to make Jesus your Lord. Now you have a destination of life unto life. Your individual and unique path could take you many different places...but the good work has begun. The end result is Life—abundant and eternal--and the finish line marks the completion of that good work He started in YOU! You'll inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Suzy Christian: I just want to be a good Christian. Do I have to play the game?

Guy Smiley: YES, YOU DO!

Suzy Christian: Well, alright then...Tell me, what's the object of the Game? How do you win?

GUY SMILEY: The Executive Producer of the game, your Lord and mine, has already won the game, Suzy. So, the question is not in the winning—it's how you play the game. The question is whether you will stay faithful and believe that you are on the path of life even when you don't appear to be winning. The question is if you will quit when times get tough, and you can't see the finish line. The question is whether you will finish well.

Suzy Christian: It sure would be nice if you could just give me a map—like a plan for me to follow...

GUY SMILEY: YES, IT WOULD! We would all like to see the plan for our life, but fortunately the Executive Producer has determined that we will only see our daily steps; He doesn't reveal the entire game board to us at once. (And trust me, that's a good thing, Miss Christian!) However, there is a Game Manual to tell you how to play the game. I know you have already been reading that, or you should have been.

Suzy Christian: Are you talking about my Bible (*holds up her Bible*)? Now it's a "game manual"?

GUY SMILEY: YES, IT IS! Consider it your Manual for "The Game of Life".

Suzy: Well, I know the "Game Manual" specifically says that when I play the "Game of Life," all things will work together for the good. It promises that I am more than a conqueror, and that nothing can separate me from the love of God. I guess I don't need to know all the details. Besides, I already have a plan for my life, and goals I plan on reaching.

GUY SMILEY: Okay then, are you ready, Ms. Christian, for our first game?

Suzy: (*uncertainly*) Ummm....I--I guess...

GUY SMILEY: Let's get started, then. It's time to play "The Family Feud"!

(applause sign)

GUY SMILEY: Introducing the Johnson family, who will be playing against the Christian family. And I'm your host, Guy Smiley!

(applause sign)

Suzy: Family Feud? You call that a game? I don't want to play that game. I have a happy family life; My home is a haven of peace and contentment, where we all love one another.

GUY SMILEY: *(laughs obnoxiously--sarcastic)* SURE IT IS!! Now, contestants, you know how we play the game. The family who gets the most points will win \$10,000. But first, let's meet our contestants. Miss Christian, tell us about the family you're playing for...

Suzy: *(unsure)* Well, uh, the family I'm representing is my husband, two children ages 9 and 14, one dog and two birds, and extended family of the normal in-laws and cousins and a crazy aunt or two.

GUY SMILEY: Thank you, Miss Christian. Now, let's meet the Johnson family.

Ms. Johnson Contestant: Hello, the family I'm representing includes an ex-husband, a current husband, one grown child, two teenaged stepchildren and no pets and all the customary in-laws and outlaws!

GUY SMILEY: Okay, we asked a group of 100 people these questions, and the top five answers are on the board. Ready, players? Name the primary cause of family discord.

Suzy: *(Rings bell first)* Money problems. *(answer is #2)*

GUY SMILEY: Let's see "money problems". Good answer. Ms. Johnson, one answer will beat that.

Johnson: *(rings bell second)* Ummm, ummm, blended families *(answer is #5)*

GUY SMILEY: Let's see "blended families". Number 5. Christian family, do you want to play or pass?

Suzy: Guy, we want to PLAY!

GUY SMILEY: The Christian family wants to play. Ms. Christian, what is another cause of family discord?

Suzy: Ummmm.....how about, Religion?

GUY SMILEY: Let's see "religion"

X

GUY SMILEY: You have one strike against you. But don't worry, we have lots of "feuding" left. Name another cause of family discord.

Suzy: Let's try--Disagreements over the children

GUY SMILEY: Let's see "children". (answer is #3) Number 3, good answer. Two more answers on the board. If you get them, the \$10,000 is yours! Ms. Christian, what do you think--the primary cause of family discord .

Suzy: I've got it! The husband's underwear on the floor!

GUY SMILEY: Is "underwear" on the board?

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GUY SMILEY: You now have two strikes against you. One more strike, and the Johnson family will get a chance to steal--Johnson family, start thinking. Ms. Christian, Name the primary cause of family discord?

Suzy: Workaholics! (and that's my final answer!)

GUY SMILEY: Excuse me?

Johnson: Psssst! That's the wrong game show!

GUY SMILEY: Let's see "workaholics"!

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GUY SMILEY: No, I'm sorry. That's not the right answer. That's your third strike. Johnson family, you have a chance to steal the points and win the game! There are two answers left... The question again is: What is the primary cause of family discord?

Johnson family: Guy, I have to say---overbearing in-laws!

GUY SMILEY: That's the number #1 answer on the board!

Suzy: Oh, I knew that!

GUY SMILEY: Congratulations, Johnson family--You have stolen the points and won the game and the \$10,000 (holds up check for \$10,000). And what was the other correct answer? Show us #4? Intimacy.

(ooh!)

GUY SMILEY: The Johnson family will go on to play Fast Money. The Christian family leaves with all of the family problems....

Suzy Christian: What! I thought I had a happy family. I really want a delightful home!

GUY SMILEY: SURE YOU DO!

Suzy Christian: Well, I guess we do have some of these issues we need to deal with. I sure could have used that money--maybe it would have paid for some family therapy—at least some help for my husband. I don't need more family problems--this isn't the path I wanted to take!
(leaves, head hung low)

Rod Sterling Narrator: Suzy Christian—involved in family discord that threatens her peace and the peace of her household--family discord she neither wanted nor started... Now she must deal with some strained relationships and family tension. Her game piece moves to the "Glacier of Family Relationships". Those difficult family relationships will cause her to see her great need to be Christ-like. It is there that she will learn to esteem others better than herself, and be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving. She will begin to develop both self-control and patience, and learn that love suffers long and is kind. Love thinks no evil; that love bears all things and believes all things. The path of family discord will drive her to her loving Savior.



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ACT II "Wheel of Fortune"

Rod Sterling: Time never stands still, and "The Game of Life" continues, whether we want it to or not. Where will Suzy's game piece land next? Last time we saw her, she had reluctantly landed on the Glacier of Family Relationships. Cold and shivering, now carrying the added burden of family friction, she will attempt to move forward on her game board. But where will she land this time?

GUY SMILEY: Welcome back Ladies and... more Ladies... to "The Game of Life". I'm your host, Guy Smiley!

(applause)

GUY SMILEY: Let's check in on our contestant Suzy Christian. Good morning, Ms. Christian. Glad to see you're back to continue your travels on "The Game of Life".

Suzy: (*shivering*) Of course I'm back. I have nowhere else to go at the moment. I didn't pack a coat! I sure hope that I'll be leaving these icy glaciers soon!

GUY SMILEY: (*laughs obnoxiously*) SURE YOU DO! Get ready, because today's adventure is going to lead us right to the "Wheel of Fortune".

(applause)

Suzy: Yes! Wheel of Fortune. Alright! I'm feeling warmer already! I always guess the puzzles when I watch at home. We've struggled long enough. Finally, a chance to change our financial future!

GUY SMILEY: Let's meet our contestants. From Plano, Texas, we have Ms. Suzy Christian. Tell us about yourself, Suzy.

Suzy: I'm Suzy Christian, and I think I've heard on TV that God wants me to prosper. I'd like to try prospering for a change--We've always barely scraped by, so this is my chance to change my fortune!

GUY SMILEY: SURE IT IS! Our next contestant is Ms. Lucy Lucky from Las Vegas, Nevada. Tell us a little bit about yourself, Miss Lucky.

Lucy Lucky: I'm Lucy Lucky, and I have to say, I am pretty lucky. I don't really have a secret to my luck, but I sure hope my luck holds out today. I'll keep my fingers crossed.

GUY SMILEY: We have our first puzzle on the board ladies, and our category is "PROVERBS". We're looking for a Proverb from our Game Manual. And may I introduce our lovely letter turner--Vanna Off-White. (a dazzling Vanna steps out to turn the letters)

(applause)

GUY SMILEY: Our puzzle is on the board now, and since we know it is a proverb, we have already shown the letters "P", "R", "O" and "V". Ms. Christian, you have the first spin.

(applause)

"_ O R R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ P P _ _ R _ _ _
_ _ O _ O _ _
_ _ _ _ R _ ." PROV. 23:5

(For riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird. Prov. 23:5)

Suzy: (spins the wheel) "S"

GUY SMILEY: Yes, there are 4 "S's". Spin again

"_ O R R _ _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ S _ P P _ _ R _ _ S
_ _ O _ S O _ _
_ _ _ _ R _ ." PROV. 23:5

Suzy: I'd like to buy a vowel --"A"

GUY SMILEY: Yes, there are 6 "A's". Spin again.

"_ O R R _ _ _ _ _ S _ A _ _ _ _ S A P P _ A R A S
_ _ O _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ S O _ _
A _ _ _ R _ ." PROV. 23:5

Suzy: (spins the wheel) "T"

GUY SMILEY: Again, there 3 "T's". You're doing great, Ms. Christian! Spin the wheel again.

"_ O R R _ _ _ _ _ S _ A _ _ _ _ S A P P _ A R A S
T _ O _ _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ _ _ _ A _ T _ _ _ _ _ _ _ S O _ _
A _ _ _ R _ ." PROV. 23:5

Suzy: (spins the wheel) Big money! Big money! "H"

GUY SMILEY: There are 6 "H's"!

"__OR R__H__S __A__ __SAPP__AR AS
THO__H TH__ HA__ TH__ __S O__
A __R__." PROV. 23:5

Suzy: I'd like to buy another vowel. "E"

GUY SMILEY: You're doing very well, Miss Christian. There are 4 "E's"

"__OR R__HES __A__ __SAPPEAR AS
THO__H THE__ HA__ THE __S O__
A __R__." PROV. 23:5

Suzy: (*considers the puzzle, nods because she can't figure it out*) I'm going to spin again, Guy. (*spins the wheel*) "D"

GUY SMILEY: There are 3 "D's". Seems like you are unstoppable today, Miss Christian.

"__OR R__HES __A__ D__SAPPEAR AS
THO__H THE__ HAD THE __S O__
A __RD__." PROV. 23:5

Lucy Lucky: (*Snores loudly*)

GUY SMILEY: Ms. Lucky, please try to stay awake for the "Wheel of Fortune"

Lucy Lucky: Sorry, sorry. Is it my turn yet?

GUY SMILEY: Not yet, Miss Lucky. But you may want to be studying the board...

Suzy: My turn again?

GUY SMILEY: Spin again, Miss Christian.

Suzy: (*spins the wheel*) Hmmm, let's see. "N"

GUY SMILEY: There are 2 "N's"!

"__OR R__HES __AN D__SAPPEAR AS
THO__H THE__ HAD THE __N__S O__
A __RD__." PROV. 23:5

SUZY: *(considers puzzle for a moment)* I'll spin again, Guy!?

GUY SMILEY: Oh, wait just a minute. I'm sorry, Ms. Christian. You have landed on "bankrupt"

SUZY: What? But I didn't even spin yet!

GUY SMILEY: NO, YOU DIDN'T! Well, I'm sorry to tell you that your husband made that spin for you.

SUZY: *(look of exaggerated shock)* What? But how? He's not even here!

GUY SMILEY: Well, apparently he made a decision, and must have forgotten to check in with you, Miss Christian. Oh, that's too bad! Miss Lucky, it's your spin.

Ms. Christian: Wait! Wait-wait-wait! I want to use my lifeline.

GUY SMILEY: Excuse me?

Miss Lucky: Pssst! Wrong game show!

GUY SMILEY: Miss Lucky, it's your spin.

Miss Lucky: *(spins the wheel)* Ok, here I go. Is there a "C"?

"__OR R__CHES CAN D__SAPPEAR AS
THO__H THE__ HAD THE __N__S O__
A __RD." PROV. 23:5

GUY SMILEY: There are 2 "C's"

Miss Lucky: *(spins the wheel)* "B" —I think I know it! I'm so excited!

"__OR R__CHES CAN D__SAPPEAR AS
THO__H THE__ HAD THE __N__S O__
A B__RD." PROV. 23:5

GUY SMILEY: One "B".

Miss Lucky: I WANT TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE!

GUY SMILEY: OK

Miss Lucky: For riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird. Prov. 23:5!!!

GUY SMILEY: That's correct! Congratulations! You'll get to move on to our jackpot round, Miss Lucky! *(Suzy looks on in shocked amazement)*

(applause)

Suzy: Wait...this isn't fair. I worked hard to get that far along on that puzzle. I did all the work for her. I had it practically solved.

GUY SMILEY: YES, YOU DID! And now you'll be heading away from the "Wheel of Fortune"—bankrupt. *(Suzy puts head in hands, very saddened)*

Suzy: Oh, no. What am I going to do?

Rod Sterling Narrator: Suzy Christian -- besieged with credit card debt and probable bankruptcy—and it really wasn't her fault. She was struggling financially before, but now the family will have to make some sacrifices to find their way out. Some poor decisions on her husband's part brought on these problems, and Suzy could easily be bitter. Move Suzy's game piece to the Money Pit. It is in the Money Pit that Suzy will learn what is truly precious in life, and she will learn the value of giving, and the humility and blessing of receiving. She will learn that her joy is not dependent upon the things she possesses. She will learn the valuable lesson of forgiveness and commitment as she trusts God and submits to a husband that has made a mistake.



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ACT III "Let's Make a Deal"

Rod Sterling Narrator: Suzy Christian, her game piece at the bottom of the Money Pit. Struggling with the embarrassment of bankruptcy and mounting financial stress, not to mention lingering family feuding... She has forgotten that God is her Provider, and she has determined that it is up to her to find answers to her family's serious financial problems on her own. Her game piece is moving to the Valley of Temptation

GUY SMILEY: Welcome back to "The Game of Life". I'm your host, Guy Smiley!

(applause)

GUY SMILEY: Today our contestants are going to visit the marketplace of America that we in Gameshow Land like to call "Let's Make a Deal"--where hundreds of people have come dressed in ridiculous costumes hoping for the chance to trade their integrity for uncertain worldly riches. And now, here's that wheeler-dealer himself, Monty Hall!

(applause)

Monty: Thank you, Guy Smiley. Welcome to "Let's Make a Deal". You all know how the game's played. So right off I'm going to need a contestant.

Contestant 1: Pick me! Pick me!

Contestant 2: Monty! Over here!

Contestant 3: This way, Monty!

Suzy: *(Suzy waves timidly)*

Monty: *(to Suzy)* What's your name, ma'am?

Suzy: I'm Suzy Christian.

Monty: Well, Suzy, may I ask what you are carrying in that little bag?

Suzy: Oh, that? That's a bag of my integrity.

Monty: Well, to start our game off, I'm going to offer you \$500 for that little bag of integrity. **(ooooohh!)** What do you say, Suzy?

Suzy: No way! The way things have been going, it will have to be a lot more than that.

Monty: She's going to keep the bag. Suzy, I'm going to up my offer to \$750 (*holding cash*) for that little bag of your integrity. **(ooooohhh!)** What do you say now, Suzy?

Contestant 1: Hey, over here! I'll do it! Pick me! I'll trade my integrity. I don't have that much anyway.

Contestant 2: No, me! I'll give you my integrity and my reputation (*holds up two bags*) for the cash!

Contestant 3: What about this? I brought my moral purity to trade! (*holds up a small golden bag*)

(ooh!) (*other contestants look at her, shocked*)

Monty: (*to Contestant 3*) We'll talk about that little gold bag later. (*to Suzy*) The pressure's on, Suzy! We have others who are willing to make a deal today...

Suzy: \$750—that's your final offer? (*struggling*)...so tricky...what should I do? Trade the bag? keep the bag...

Contestant 1: Monty, she doesn't want to deal! Give up on her--I'm ready to trade right now!

Suzy: (*decisive*) I'm going to keep my bag of integrity, Monty.

Monty: She's going to keep the bag and trade away all that cash! (*to contestant #1*) Well Miss Contestant. You sold out—hand over your integrity--and here's \$750.

Contestant 1: Woo Hoo! What a deal! I don't think what I had left in that bag was worth much anyway. Thanks, Monty!

Monty: Okay, Suzy, you passed up a great deal there, but don't worry, there are more deals yet to come. Suzy, I want you to look at the boxes where Carol Merrill is pointing. What's in those boxes can be yours for your little bag of integrity.

Suzy: You won't zonk me, will you?

Monty: Would I do that to you? I'm trying to watch out for you. I'm on your side. In fact, to show my good faith...How would you like to see part of what's in those boxes?

Suzy: Could I?

Monty: (boxes numbered #1,#2 and #3) Jay, tell us PART of what is in each of those boxes !, 2 and 3.

JAY1: Box #1 contains..... a tax form. That's right, Miss Christian, all you need to do is fudge on a few numbers...and a huge refund can be yours. And that's just your first gift. And in Box #2 we have—a Sunday job! That extra money you need only requires the very small sacrifice of no longer attending church with your family. And Box #3—inside that box is a whole wallet full of—credit cards. That's right--transfer those balances month after month and get those creditors off your back.

Suzy: Wow! My husband cut up our credit cards.

Monty: Don't worry Suzy....What your husband doesn't know, he doesn't know.

JAY1: That's right, Suzy, when you pick one of those boxes, your husband will love you forever for finding a way to pay off all those bills.

Monty: And if you trade that tiny bag of integrity for one of these boxes, I guarantee that inside you will find even more "creative" ways to get the money you need. Goodbye financial struggles, hello shopping malls. What do you say, Suzy?

Suzy: Oh, to be out of debt! And free to shop, and go out to eat when we want to, and buy gifts for my friends. And I could give more to the church...It's so tempting! Oh, what should I do? *(pause) (soberly)* I know what I should do...Monty, I've got to keep my bag of integrity.

Monty: Are you sure you're not making a mistake here, Suzy? One last chance--Deal or no deal?

Suzy: No deal!

Contestant #2: Pssst! Mr. Hall? That's the wrong game show!

Suzy: *(starts of a little uncertain)* I really do need to pay off some bills. Our financial situation has been so hard. But as much as I want to be out of debt, I don't think it's worth trading my integrity for it. I just keep thinking of some verses I memorized. "A little, gained honestly, is better than great wealth gotten by dishonest means." (Prov. 16:8) "The integrity of the upright shall guide them. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way" (Prov. 11:3). Not to mention "The love of money is the root of all evil!" *(confidently)* I'm not making a mistake, Monty! What you are offering me is not worth what it would cost me! I'm keeping my integrity!

Monty: *(interrupting)* Okay, Okay, Suzy, you wheeler-dealer, I'll tell you what. We'll show you that we're good sports here. Go ahead, keep your bag of integrity. But any time you want to trade it away, all these gifts will be here waiting for you.

Suzy: And I just remembered that our Game Manual also says "My God will supply all of my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Whether I'm poor or rich, He promises that He will supply all my needs. I almost forgot His promises! Goodbye, Monty! I'm out of here!

Rod Sterling Narrator: Suzy Christian—presented with many appealing options that could have increased her bank account, but moved her game piece backwards on "The Game of Life". But she made the choice to hold on to her integrity. Suzy wasn't instantly delivered from the Money Pit and it may be awhile yet before she is free from debt... but her game piece has climbed out of the Valley of Temptation to the Mountaintop of Victory. Suzy's perspective has changed—she has realized that more money is not the answer to her problems. Her life is not based on the abundance of things she possesses. While the Money Pit is difficult, this place of sacrifice will be her classroom for learning not to trust in uncertain riches, but to be content no matter what her financial state. And the next time she visits the Valley of Temptation, she'll be just a bit stronger, knowing that her house is built upon the Word of God. Suzy found her strength in remembering the truths of God's Word. She was tested, and she came forth as gold.



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ACT IV "The Price is Right"

(Suzy is waiting offstage, and barely steps to edge of stage)

Rod Sterling Narrator: Suzy Christian enjoyed the view from the Mountaintop of Victory, but, as the song says, "this old world just keeps spinning round". We don't get to park on the mountaintop, as much as we would like to. Time passes...relationships change, kids grow up, trials come, choices are made, and our circumstances and surroundings are always subject to change... The ebb and flow of life happens —that's what makes "The Game of Life" interesting and unpredictable. We can be certain of life's uncertainty. Suzy's game piece is moving yet again, this time toward the Well-Spring of Wisdom, the final move for this episode of "The Game of Life".

GUY SMILEY: Let's welcome our contestant back to "The Game of Life"—Hello, Suzy Christian!

Suzy: Another game! Can't we just like stay here and play cards? I love the view from the Mount Victory. I don't have to leave now, do I?

GUY SMILEY: *(laughs obnoxiously)* YES, YOU DO! Tonight we'll be playing "The Price is Right"—the game show where the price...is always right.! Standing in for Bob Barker, who is out getting his pet spayed and neutered. I'm your host, Guy Smiley!

(applause)

GUY SMILEY: Jay, tell us who will be playing next on "The Price is Right"..

JAY2: Suzy Christian, Come On Down! You're our next contestant on "The Price is Right".

Suzy: *(Suzy runs to center stage)* Oh, I'm so excited!

GUY SMILEY: You don't know what the word "excited" means until you've seen the first prize up for bid today. Tell us about it, Jay.

JAY2: Well, Suzy Christian, you'll get great gas mileage on your journey on the highway of "The Game of Life", while still being stylish and sporty. It's a NEW CAR!

(Ooh! Aah!)

Suzy: *(gasp)* Oh, boy—we could sure use a new car!

JAY2: It's a 2007 Heavenly Hybrid - it runs on gas and it's powered by the Holy Spirit—getting over 125 miles per gallon! That car is yours if you win our next pricing game.

Suzy: *(excited)* Oh my goodness! *(looks up)* Please! I need that car!

GUY SMILEY: Look over here, Suzy. It's time to play PICK OR PITCH. We are going to show you three sets of everyday products. Jay will describe each of them, and you must correctly PICK which product is the more valuable of the two, and PITCH the other one. Jay, please describe our first set of products.

JAY2: For our first set of products, we have two items often used to take care of that sin in your life. Both are remedies for that dirty grime that sticks to you as you walk the walk, or as we like to say "as you play 'The Game of Life'". The first product is... "**Spray and Repent**"—that easy I John 1:9 solution to the sin that so easily besets us. Spray it on, and the sin is GONE. And the second product is... "**UnderCover Girl Sheer Sin Concealer**"—the little tube that helps you hide and temporarily forget those annoying flaws and imperfections. Its exclusive, flesh-colored formula expertly masks failures, evil doings, selfishness and sin. Coverage lasts up to 16 hours without rubbing off. Fool others and deceive yourself with "**Sin Concealer**"!

GUY SMILEY: Okay, Suzy, it's time to PICK AND PITCH.

Suzy: Well, I have to admit that I've used both of those products and there's no comparison. That "**Sin Concealer**" always wears off by lunch time, while "**Spray and Repent**" gives me a permanent solution every day. I PICK "**Spray and Repent**" and PITCH the "**Sin Concealer**".

GUY SMILEY: Yes, you've made the wise choice! "**Spray and Repent**" is by far the most valuable product. You're a third of the way to that new car!

(applause)

GUY SMILEY: Jay, describe our next set of products.

JAY: Our second set of products comes from the food section of your grocery store. For your spiritual nourishment, we have here "**Campbell's Bible Meal In Minutes for babies**"—just add milk --open and point; made with a convenient pop top for busy people on the go. Remember, a little bit of the Word is better than nothing! Our second product is a meatier, more fulfilling meal--our "**Slow Cooker Read, Ponder and Meditate Pot Roast**". Yes, it takes time, but it satisfies that hunger for strong meat, and carries you through a day of trials and stress. This slow cooker pot roast leaves you with you something to grow on!

GUY SMILEY: Okay, Suzy, it's time to PICK AND PITCH.

Suzy: Again, I have sampled both, and there certainly is a time for milk and a time for meat--but there is no comparison in nutritional value and staying power. I'll have to PICK that "Slow Cooker Read, Ponder and Meditate Pot Roast" and PITCH that "Meal in Minutes".

GUY SMILEY: Again, you've made the wise choice, Suzy.

(applause)

GUY SMILEY: Jay, describe our last set of products...

JAY: "Our last set of products is found in the everyday-wear section of your department store. First we have this lovely gown from Vera Twang's "Worldly Wear" collection. This diamond studded, sparkling gown and matching stilettos don't provide much protection or stability, but this outfit is guaranteed to make you the center of worldly attention wherever you go. And second, from Lord and Taylor's Ephesians 6 collection, we have this sturdy spiritual armor, including the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit, and the girdle of truth

Suzy: I haven't worn a girdle in years!

JAY: But wait, Suzy, there's more! Your outfit is not complete without breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation—have the helmet, not the helmet-hair! This timeless outfit is versatile for any season, never goes out of style and provides protection from those fiery darts! There you have it, Guy—our last set of items to choose from.

GUY SMILEY: Okay, Suzy, what will it be? "Worldly Wear" glamour or "Ephesians 6" spiritual armor? It's time to PICK AND PITCH.

Suzy: Again, I'm familiar with both of those styles. I know that Vera Twang gown has to be expensive. But it is not really feasible for that daily walk. I'd be stumbling all over the place in those shoes, and there is no protection from the elements—or the enemy. But since there is an enemy out there, you can't beat the spiritual mobility and functionality of that "Ephesians 6" armor. So, Guy, I'm going to PICK the armor, and hope that the girdle and breastplate do their job—and PITCH that Vera Twang sparkling, gorgeous gown that I would look great in.

GUY SMILEY: Wise choice, Ms. Christian. You did it! Congratulations! That Heavenly Hybrid is yours! You have won the car!

(applause)

Suzy: (*jumps up and down and hugs GUY SMILEY*) Thank you! Thank you!

GUY SMILEY: Congratulations Suzy, you are going on to today's Showcase Showdown. As today's winner, you get to bid on one of two fabulous showcases. If your bid is close to the actual retail price without going over, you will win your showcase. Rod, tell us what Ms. Christian can win in Showcase Number 1.

Showcase Announcer: Suzy, your first showcase begins with this 52" High Def plasma flat screen TV that you will be watching in...YOUR NEW LIVING ROOM. **(applause)** Yes, this roomful of furniture will be just what you need to entertain those who have crowded around you because of the worldly success and status that will be heaped upon you. The compromises along the way will be forgotten, as you numb your conscience...in your new home theater! **(applause)** Your life of self-denial and sacrifice is over--Live the life of privilege and luxury.

Suzy: Ohhh. Wow. That's so tempting. I've dreamed of living the life of the rich and famous... *(considers thoughtfully)* No, no, no—I've got to pass on that showcase. That kind of success and popularity is fleeting and unsatisfying. Acquiring more things is nice, but they will just break down, or thieves will break in and steal them.

GUY SMILEY: Okay, Suzy, the next showcase is a blessing now—and forever with a promise of a future and a hope...in your new HEAVENLY MANSION **(applause)**.

Showcase Announcer: Yes, Suzy, that mansion is something to look forward to. Furnished with continuous light and angelic surround-sound, located on streets of gold near the crystal sea, your mansion will be more than you can imagine. But in the meantime, before you move to that mansion, you have the anchor of precious promises! **(applause)** Suzy, you can enjoy a heart full of peace and an abundant life right here on earth. You, Suzy, are the adopted daughter of a King who allows you to come boldly to His throne of grace in your time of need. He promises that you can do all things in His strength!

Suzy: Wow! Those are things that don't break and thieves can't steal them. Hey, does that mean no more family feuding, no more money pit, no more temptations?

GUY SMILEY: *(Obnoxious laugh)* NO, IT DOES NOT, Suzy! As long as you are playing "The Game of Life", there will be problems and challenges to face. Those trials and afflictions are what try and prove your faith.

Suzy: *(disappointed)* Ohhh. Well, at least I can look forward to that mansion!

GUY SMILEY: That's right, Suzy. You have a future and a hope. Are you ready to bid on your Showcase?

Suzy: Wow. How do you put a price on all of that? Wow! I'm just going to say, oh, \$50,000...no, \$500,000---no, \$1,000,000—not that's not enough. Oh, this is so hard. OK, I'm just going to say \$2,000,000.

GUY SMILEY: Is that your final answer?

Showcase Announcer: Wrong game show, Guy!

GUY SMILEY: Oops! My bad! Suzy bids \$2,000,000. The actual retail price of today's showcase is PRICELESS.

Suzy: *(look of defeat, shoulders slump as if she lost)* I came so close. I made it all the way to the Showcase Showdown, and now this. I knew it was too good to be true.

GUY SMILEY: YES IT IS (too good to be true)! But wait. It's not over. It is true. You can't lose on this Showcase. Jesus has already paid the price. The showcase is yours. Like I said, on "The Price is Right, the price is always right!"

Suzy: This is just too much! You mean it's all mine—and Jesus paid for it? That's more than I could ever ask or think!

GUY SMILEY: Yes, it is! And that's not all! Before you reach that heavenly mansion, your game piece may land in areas of trial or affliction that you don't understand. Don't think it strange! Instead, remember, your faith is being tested, and all things do work for the good. The Word promises that you will be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding and you will walk worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him and being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" (Col. 1:9-10)—no matter where your game piece lands.

Suzy: WOW! That's some promise. Thank you, Guy! Thank you, Jesus!

Rod Sterling Narrator: Suzy Christian. This part of her journey is coming to an end. Her game piece on the Game of Life has moved through this season of her life, from START to FINISH; she's moved away from the fear of unexpected events of life, closer to an understanding of God's sovereignty and having faith in His plan. Her game piece has moved on in "The Game of Life"—not in a straight line, like she may have chosen, but she progressed forward just the same. Looking back, with eyes of faith, she sees glimpses of how God has used those puzzling stops on her path to bring her to His desired destination. She didn't enjoy trudging through the Glacier of Family Relationships, being trapped in the Money Pit and facing the Valley of Temptation - but like so many other things that have happened to Suzy Christian on this journey, she realizes that all she may ever truly understand is that **GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD.**