

## Character Plays

This character play has a valuable message. The play depicts a dialog between Dr. Goodword, a faithful counselor, and Ms. Frances Fault-Finder, who comes to his Spiritual Clinic with a chronic human disorder: being judgmental of others. The help that the doctor gives Frances comes from the Bible as he guides her toward a more Christlike way of life.<sup>1</sup>

The script is short and easy to learn, and with a few simple props and costumes you will be ready to put on a memorable production. Encourage your actors to put feeling into their parts and be sure to have someone behind a camera. Your cast and crew will enjoy watching the play afterward, and so will the rest of the ecclesia. The message never grows old.

### The Case of Frances Fault-Finder

#### Characters

Announcer, Doctor Goodword, Frances Fault-Finder, one or more Bible readers.

#### Props

The setting is the doctor's office. A desk (card table) and two chairs will do. The doctor has a pencil, pad, and Bible on his desk. Give Doctor Goodword a white coat, spectacles, and a moustache. Fancy up Frances and you are ready for the camera(s) to roll.



The doctor is sitting at his desk when Frances enters. Fran has a serious case of Beam-in-myitis.

#### Script<sup>2</sup>

Announcer: Here we are at the Spiritual Clinic of Doctor Goodword, where we find the wise old physician of the soul turning his attention to the case of a certain young Frances Fault-Finder. At the moment the young lady has the floor ...

Frances: *(Standing)* And this friend of mine – she is such a gossip! There isn't a person in the entire ecclesia that she doesn't talk about ...

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<sup>1</sup> The original Dr. Goodword character plays go back many years. The source is unknown. Anyone with information about the origin of these plays is asked to contact [sundayschool@tidings.com](mailto:sundayschool@tidings.com).

<sup>2</sup> The play script has been edited and familiar Christadelphian terms like ecclesia, CYC, and daily Bible readings have been introduced where appropriate.

Doctor: *(Cutting in)* Will you be seated, please, miss?

Frances: Thank you, sir. As I was saying – this friend of mine is just ...

Doctor: *(Cutting in)* Now, let me have your full name again, please?

Frances: Frances Fault-Finder.

Doctor: And your address?

Frances: No.1 Trouble-Maker Street.

Doctor: Oh, yes. That's over in Meddlers Park, isn't it?

Frances: Yes ... and, Doctor, you can't imagine what a neighborhood I live in. Why, the people there are ...

Doctor: *(Cutting in)* Let me see if I have this correct now. Miss Frances Fault-Finder, No.1 Trouble-Maker Street, Meddlers Park. Do I have that right?

Frances: *(Slightly annoyed)* Yes, that's right.

Doctor: Now, Miss, what is your ailment?

Frances: Why, Doctor, you misunderstand me. I'm not here for myself.

Doctor: Not here for yourself?

Frances: Oh my, no! You see, there's nothing wrong with me. I'm just fine. It's my friends I'm concerned about.

Doctor: I see.

Frances: Now, take Cindy Little, for instance. She's a lovely girl. But so selfish.

Doctor: I see. I'll just make a note of that. Anything else you think I should know?

Frances: Let me tell you about Mark Himwell. Now don't get me wrong, Doctor. I think Mark is a very nice boy. The only trouble with him is he's too bossy.

Doctor: Uh huh.

Frances: He wants to run everything all the time.

Doctor: I see.

Frances: And Mimi Furst. I hope you don't think I'm picky, Doctor. It isn't that. It's just that I want you to know about these people so you can help them.

Doctor: Yes, I understand.

Frances: Now, Mimi is the kind of girl who craves attention. She's a terrible show-off. Are you making a note of all this, Doctor?

Doctor: Yes, I have it down. Go ahead.

Frances: Good. And there's Barry Burdens, too. A great talker and all, but he's always complaining about something.

Doctor: It's too bad about Barry, isn't it?

Frances: It certainly is. Poor Barry. I hope you'll be able to help him. ... Did I tell you about Karen Service yet?

Doctor: *(Sounding annoyed)* Let me see. No ... No, I don't believe you did. What's wrong with Karen?

Frances: I don't think I like the way you said that, Doctor.

Doctor: I'm sorry. I meant no offense.

Frances: It sounded as though you think I'm too critical.

Doctor: Go on with your story, Miss. Tell me about Karen Service. What's her ailment?

Frances: Karen is such a fine girl in so many ways. Wonderful leader, hard worker and all.

Doctor: But she has her faults?

Frances: She certainly has! And plenty of them!

Doctor: I recognize the symptoms. It's just as I thought.

Frances: *(Getting excited)* Do you think you'll be able to help them, Doctor?

Doctor: I'll give you a prescription that will do the trick, I'm sure.

Frances: For all of them?

Doctor: For *you*, young lady!

Frances: But I'm not sick! It's these friends of mine that I'm concerned about.

Doctor: Yes, I understand. So, if you will follow this prescription, I'm sure everything will turn out all right. It won't be long before you're back in the best of health.

Frances: *(Getting upset)* You don't seem at all concerned about my friends, Doctor. They're the ones who need help!

Doctor: This will help them, I'm sure. If you follow this prescription faithfully, I'm positive you'll find that your friends improve in no time.

Frances: I don't see how my friends are going to be helped if you give *me* a prescription!

Doctor: I'll give it to you now, and I want you to read it before you leave my office. Then I want you to read it three times a day for the next two weeks.

Frances: Read it? Let me see that prescription!

Doctor: *(Opening his Bible to Matthew 7)* Yes, here it is – all set for you.

Frances: It's from the Bible?

Doctor: Yes, all my prescriptions are from the Bible, Miss Fault-Finder. There's not a spiritual ailment known to man that the Bible doesn't have a cure for.

*(Handing his Bible to Frances)* Read Matthew 7, verse 5, please.

Frances: *(Reading)* "You hypocrite ..."*(indignantly)* Hypocrite?! The very idea!

Doctor: Go on. The prescription will do wonders for you.

Frances: "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Reader: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you" – Matthew 7:1-2.

Reader: "Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door" – James 5:9.

Reader: "So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer" – Romans 14:12-13.

Curtain.