

7 Days Left to Witness

A novel that will have a lasting effect on your
Christian Witness!

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7 Days Left To Witness is the “what if” story in which the key Characters, Jim Russell, Sharon O’Brien and Marcus Thompson have received a personal message from God. “He is coming back to Earth in 7 days. While he has revealed the time of his coming to each, they are precluded from revealing the day of his coming. “7 Days Left To Witness”, Is the story of the trials they face as they try to lead others to God!

Main Characters

Jim Russell-Age 45:

Successful Businessman-Married to wife-Janet for 22 years-3 Children-David ages 18 Donna age 15 Tyler age 6. Both are active in the church. Jim sits on the building committee. He is a building contractor with his own firm. He employs 25 people of various beliefs and background. While his employees are aware Jim attends the local Baptist Church, he has chosen to minister only when approached by someone in need. He is keenly aware to be careful in dealing with others in a business setting. While he would like to do more for Christ, his position as a leader in the local business and his dependence on public contracts is always in the back of his mind. Janet sings in the church choir, teaches a Sunday School Class, participates in neighborhood witness groups, participates in the Church' Soup Kitchen and is first to volunteer when anyone needs a hand. To say the least if the church door is open, or there is a need Janet is there. Their Son, David attended church at every turn until recently. He considers himself to be a Christian, yet he is confused by feelings he has regarding attending church on a regular basis. He was voted "most popular" student at the local public High School and has friends inside and outside the church. He has come to realize many friends outside the Church are good and decent people. One in particular, Naomi, recently transferred to his high school. She is outgoing and shares David's concerns for other student, but she and her family do not attend church. Donna sings in the youth choir, is on the Cheer Squad at school and has a close circle of Christian friends at the public school as well. Several in the group are active in various school activities and they all use this platform to share their faith. Tyler has not yet come forward. While he is constantly at his

Mother's side and participates in many church related activities, he is shy by nature and Janet prays this all thing that is holding him back.

Sharon O'Brien-Age 25:

Sharon is single and does not attend church. She works as a teller at the local bank. Sharon has a close circle of single girlfriends, they spend their evenings and weekends going on outings looking for 'that special someone'. Through the years some have married and have fallen away from the group, some have remained single and a couple have been divorced and returned to the single scene. Sharon feels fortunate to have these close friends in her life.

Marcus Thompson-Age 55

Marcus is evening news anchor a local Television Station. He has attended church on an occasional basis. While he considers himself to have lead a Christian life, he does not have an ongoing relationship with God. Marcus is not married, as his focus has always been on career. He prefers to be alone when not on the job and does not have close friends. He has a variety of workplace acquaintances and avoids religious discussions at work.

Jim's Story-Scene 1: Contact with God

Setting-Jim's office

Office is typical commercial Construction Site Trailer- Evening 6PM, Wednesday. Dave Thompson, Jim's foreman is speaking. "In order to secure the Davis Project, Jim, we need to be able to assure the county the work will be completed in 6 weeks. With this size project, I think we need to advise the crew there may be some overtime, Saturday and Sunday, too!" Jim takes a deep breath and responds deliberately, "You know how I feel about this Dave! While I try not to be too preachy to our employees, Sunday's are off the table!" Dave begins to speak, knowing

they have been down this road before, this time he needs to convince Jim to listen, “Jim, the Davis Project is only the first step in the county’s long term plan for this development! Several Commissioners have staked their political future on bringing in this development on budget and on-time! If we are unable to complete this first portion of the project on time, we could jeopardize the rest of the contracts! This could cost us millions of dollars of revenue, not to mention dependable work for our employees for the next six months!” While Jim has always been determined his business be operated on a family first basis, he listens to Dave plead his case. He knows Dave has always put the needs of the company first and Dave is right about the community pressure to complete the development on time. He is also right about the future contracts. “Sometimes in life you just have to compromise!” he thinks to himself. Hesitantly, Jim speaks, “You are right about the future contracts Dave, but should the need arise to stay on schedule I will approve some Sunday work. But be sure to try to keep this as voluntary, if possible.” Dave responds, “If we can’t complete on a voluntary basis?” Jim nods his head and answers quietly, “mandatory if necessary.” “Thanks Jim, I’ll see you tomorrow.” Dave responds. Dave leaves the office happy he has finally gotten through to Jim. While he has always respected his boss, this is the first time he has been able to convince him to see the big picture in the modern working world, at times work has to come before Church.

After Dave leaves the office, Jim sits down at his desk and hangs his head. He is tired and confused. He has always managed to keep Sunday off the table as far as business is concerned until now. “Why is God putting him in this position now?” He asks himself.

As Jim hangs his head in his hands a bright glow enters the room, Jim feels the presence, the presence of God! After several seconds, Jim speaks, “Lord?” “Yes Jim, it’s me” comes from the presence. Jim falls to his knees and bows his head. He is unable to move. After another pause,

he is able to speak, “what is it? Lord.” From the presence Jim can hear the voice of God, “Jim, I have come to let you know a wonderful and terrible secret. The rapture is near!” Jim speaks, “terrible secret? Near?” From the presence, “yes Jim, I am coming in 7 days”. Humbled, Jim speaks, “Why me Lord?” From the presence, “Jim, I have given you much over the years. You have been faithful to use the things that I have provided for the good of others. You have been faithful in many ways. There is still something I need you to do. For this is the great commission. There are those in your life whose time is near and they have not yet heard my voice. I need you, Jim, to tell them I am coming! I need you to tell them I am coming soon!” Jim speaks, “Of course I will, Lord, I will let them know I have seen you and we only have 7 days left.” From the presence, “NO JIM, you cannot tell anyone you have seen my face, you must NOT tell the moment of my coming. For only by faith can man be saved.” Jim speaks, “Only 7 days, Lord, and I cannot tell of what I have seen? Who should I tell, how should I tell them?” From the presence, “Tell all that you know, share with any that you meet who will listen. Tell the story of my coming as taught in the scripture. For only those who seek, shall find.” All is quiet for a moment. Jim wonders to himself, “where do I begin?” He starts to speak, “But Lo...” His voice trails off as he realizes the spirit is gone. He rises from the floor slowly, trembling, as he stands, he has been in the presence of God. He needs to call Janet. He needs to tell his children, Jesus, is coming in just 7 days. He reaches for the phone...but stops as the words ring again in his head, “You must speak only the words that have been written, you must only share the story of your faith. Only by faith shall they be saved.” He puts down the phone as he thinks, “Jesus is coming. I only have 7 days. For a moment Jim is sad. Sad because he has only 7 days, sad because he knows that few will listen.” Still, he needs to see his family, “family first”, he thinks to himself. As he rushes out the door he thinks, “Wednesday night,

choir practice and youth church, he'll find the girls and Tyler there." He starts the car. The time on the dashboard says 6:35.

Jim's Story-Scene 2: First Contact with Others, Jim Russell

Setting: Outside the church we see Jim arrive. Camera pans to Jim's face

He stops the car and bows his head to pray, "Please Lord, help them to hear the urgency in my voice. Help me with the words." Jim exits the car and heads inside.

Jim's Story-Scene 3-Jim Enters the Church to meet with Janet

Setting: Church interior. Choir is finishing singing, "Up from the Grave He arose!" "He Arose!" they finish. "Have a blessed night everyone", says Fred Johnson, choir director, "Goodnight", the choir starts to disperse. Jim literally runs up the aisle to Janet and speaks. "Janet, honey, God Is Coming!" he says. Janet is surprised that Jim is here, she is confused by what he just said. She looks at his face for clues. "He had the same look on his face, the day he proposed", she thinks. She takes a breath and responds. "Of course he's coming Jim, you know that!" Jim tries again, "Honey, he is coming...Soon!" Now Janet is really perplexed, she knows Jim shares her faith, but has never seen him act or speak with such urgency. There is an awkward silence as a few choir members have overheard them and have stopped to listen. Jim musters his courage and prays aloud, "Lord help them to hear". Janet is about to respond but Fred Johnson speaks first, "Jim, it is so good to hear your words of faith". Janet pipes up, "Honey are you alright? Has something happened?" Jim realizes he really is "preaching to the choir". He remembers the words that he heard, "There are those in your life whose time is near and they have not yet heard my voice, I need you to tell them I am coming." He realizes the urgency of the message is for the lost, those in his life who have not yet heard Jesus voice. He smiles and says, "I just wanted you all to know how much you mean to me and Janet and indeed

something has happened. Tonight, I realized how fortunate we all are to have each other in our lives, God bless you all tonight.” Jim walks away, Janet chases after. She catches him halfway up the aisle, he turns to her and says, “Honey, let’s get Donna and Tyler and head home. Did David come tonight?” “No,” Janet said with some sadness.

“That’s fine honey,” Jim says, “I’ll talk to him as soon as we get home.” Janet just smiles, she is thrilled Jim seems to have found a renewed faith, but she wonders what the kids will think, especially David!

Jim’s Story: Scene 4: Prepare for Tomorrow

Setting: Jim’s car

Setting: Just outside the Church: Jim, Janet and Tyler arrive at the car. Donna meets them there and gets in-Jim thinks of Tyler. He has not yet come forward in Church. He needs to be sure of Tyler’s salvation. He begins to speak. “Donna and Tyler, something wonderful happened to me today. I have come to fully realize the meaning of Christ and his love for us all. Just today, I realized how much he loves us and the Bible is true when it says the time of his coming may be near. I would like us all to be sure to be among the believers at the hour of his coming. Please pray with me.” He bows his head. Donna looks at her Mother with a puzzled look, then, she looks at Tyler. She sees confusion on his face. She reaches to take his hand as she bows her head and her Jim begins to pray. As Jim begins to pray, “God, we thank you for our salvation and pray you will lead all your children to you and to come forward in the next few days.” His voice trails off as he recalls the conversation with his foreman, Dave. “Let’s try to keep the Sunday work to minimum and have it be on a voluntary basis.” It suddenly hits him he has only been concerned for his own family and not others. He finishes his prayer, “to come forward and God let us be a beacon to all that we meet.” Jim reaches for his phone and calls Dave. Dave

answers, “Yes, Boss?” Jim can tell Dave is a little annoyed. It’s bowling night for Dave and some of the crew. He can hear the sounds in the background, better make it quick. “Dave, I hate to bother you guys tonight, but please let everyone know there will be a meeting tomorrow morning at 7 sharp to discuss the Davis Project.” “Sure Jim,” Dave responds and hangs up. He thinks to himself, “This should be an interesting meeting!”

Jim’s Story-Scene 5: First Day of Witness

Setting: Jim and Janet’s Bedroom 5AM-Alarm sounds-

Jim reaches over and turns off the alarm. Stretching to wake from a fitful night of sleep, he thinks for just a moment, “Did last night really happen?” Looking to Janet, he can’t help but notice the contentment on her face. “Always, the peace of God,” he thinks to himself. He feels the presence of God in his heart. He closes his eyes and prays aloud, “Good morning Lord.” He turns to Janet, still sleeping peacefully. “Janet, it’s time to get up,” he says. Janet takes a close look at her husband. He has that same look on his face this morning. She smiles and says, “Good morning.” Jim gives her a kiss and starts to rise from bed. He needs to talk to David.

Jim’s Story-Scene 6: Jim’s First talk with David

Setting: David’s Room

As Jim enters David’s room he decides exactly what he wants to say, but wonders if he can reach him. He approaches David’s bed and says, “Son, it’s time to get up.” David rolls over and looks up at his Father. “Is something wrong?” he asks. Looking down on his son, Jim says, “No, Son. I just wanted to be the first one to get you up today. There is something I need to tell you. Last night I let Jesus take control of my life. I just wanted to let you know that he is real. I wanted to tell you to not let go of your faith. I know how much Naomi means to you and that you are a Christian. I wanted to be sure to tell you to be sure to share your story of faith with her

at every turn. She is a beautiful person, but she needs to hear the words of God.” With that said, Jim simply leaves the room. “I know my Son,” he thinks to himself. David will be curious.

Jim’s Story-Scene 7: Jim Talks to his Family

Setting: Kitchen of the Russell home-Jim pours a cup of coffee and sits down at the counter.

David enters the kitchen first. The rest of the family converges on the kitchen as well.

David speaks first, “Dad, what’s going on?” he asks. Jim takes a sip of his coffee. Then he begins to speak. “David, Donna, Tyler, I want you each to know how much God loves you. I want you all to know how much he has done for me. He has given us all so much and I want each of you to know how much he means to me and I want you all to share with your friends the story of what he has done for you. Now, more than ever, I want us all to promise to share his love with all our friends. Can we all do that?” Donna speaks first. “Dad, you know I will.” She says. Tyler looks at his mother and asks, “Mom, are you sure Dad is okay?” David is silent. Jim can only hope he has reached his son enough that he will talk to Naomi. Janet speaks, “Kids, let’s all take a moment to pray with Dad, that everyone will be saved.” She closes her eyes to pray.

Jim’s Story-Scene 8: Jim’s Meeting With His Crew

Setting: Outside the Work Site Trailer-Employees are gathered around-Dave Thompson waits at the top of the stairs for Jim to arrive.

Dave speaks, “Folks, Jim should be here any moment. While we wait be sure to help yourself to some of the Bagels and Doughnuts I brought this morning.” “The guys are getting restless,”

Dave thinks to himself. He is relieved as he sees Jim drive up. Jim gets out of his truck and walks to the top of the stairs. “Good morning, Dave,” he says quietly and shakes Dave’s hand.

“Should be an interesting reaction”, Dave says. Dave is sure the meeting is to announce the

Sunday work. Jim waves his hand to get everyone's attention. As the guys begin to quiet, Jim begins to speak. "Good morning! Thanks again for getting here early today. As I'm sure you've heard by now, the County Commission will be meeting tonight to hear final proposals for the Davis Project. While I have great confidence in the bid Dave and I have put together from a price perspective, the commissioners are also demanding a pretty tight timeline. In order to meet this timeline, it has been suggested we may need to work some on weekends. The suggestion has been made that we assure the Commission we will work Saturdays and Sundays in order to assure an on time completion." Jim takes a moment to let his words sink in. He looks toward Dave. Dave has a determined look on his face, but gives Jim a half grin when their eyes meet. Gathering his thoughts, Jim continues, "After much consideration, it is my decision we should do our best to assure the Commission we can complete the project 100% on time." He takes a moment to draw a deep breath. "However, I will not be promising the Commission we will work Sundays! I will be making assurance to them regarding our willingness to work as many hours necessary for timely completion, except on the Sabbath." Jim takes moment, again to let his words sink in. He knows this is not the announcement many expected to hear. He can see the look of disappointment on Dave's face. "Any questions" he asks. A voice comes from the group, "Why the change, Jim? We've all been hearing how things were about to change. We've heard how important this project is?" Jim takes a deep breath and thinks to himself, "Lord, this is the moment of truth!" "Folks, as you all know I have made it my practice to not be too preachy regarding my belief in God. Last night, that changed. Last night, I came to realize that God has given me much in this life. I have a great family and a wonderful group of people I work with. Last night, I realized the least I could do to thank him is to hold firm in leaving the Sabbath for him. Tonight, I will assure the County Commission that every effort will be made to bring the

Davis Project in on time, by the best Construction Crew in the business. However, I will also advise them that Sundays are off the table. Sunday, for those who believe as I do, is God's day. I will let them know that our company will keep it this way. One more thing, I would like to invite each of you to church this Sunday. Years ago, God came into my life and I have never been the same. I pray you will join me the Sunday, as we worship him. Jim steps inside the trailer and closes the door. He is overwhelmed with relief he has taken a stand. He is also terrified about the future. He prays quickly, "Thank you God, for giving me the strength to stand for you this morning. Please be with me and guide the rest of my day." Jim walks to his desk and takes a seat. He can hear the crew talking amongst themselves as they head off to work. Dave bursts through the door.

Jim's Story-Scene 9: Dave Has Something to Say

Setting: Inside the trailer

Dave speaks, "Jim, I simply don't understand. Last night we agreed Sundays would be necessary!" "Dave, after you left last night I had an incredible experience. I felt the presence of God. I simply cannot require others work on his day." Jim said. "But what if we lose the other contracts?" asked Dave. "Dave, God has always provided a way. He will not let us down if we trust him," he responds. Dave shakes his head and storms out. Jim realizes he will have to try to reach him, soon.

Jim's Story-Scene 10: Jim Goes to Lunch

Setting: Outside Worksite Trailer-Crew members gathered around "Julio's Canteen Trailer"-As Jim waits in line, he can see some bewilderment on the faces of the crew. As he reaches the window we hear him speak.

“I’ll have, Wheat on Rye and a Coke please, Julio.” Jim takes his sandwich and sits down on a nearby pallet. He stops for just a moment and bows his head to pray, “Lord Thank-you for all you have given me. Help me to stand for you.” As he begins to take a bite from his sandwich his Chief Electrician Larry Johnson approaches. “Jim, I hope you don’t mind if I tell you what a big mistake I think it is for us to not commit to Sundays. A lot of the guys feel that way. We have to bring these jobs in on time.” Jim looks up at Larry and smiles. He finishes the bite he just took and speaks, “Larry, I understand your feelings. Just yesterday, I was ready to require the Sunday work. Please understand. All I have been given has come from God. I am compelled to keep His day for him.” Larry speaks again, “that’s fine for you Jim. It’s your company. But for a lot of us guys, we could use the extra overtime.” Jim knows that Larry is right. “No matter how much you earn, it never seems enough. I need to be careful what I say. There are only a few days until Jesus comes.” He thinks to himself. After a pause he speaks, “Larry, you know I respect your opinion and I hope you know how much I care for you and the rest of the crew. That said, I am persuaded that this is the path for us to go. I am committed to my faith. I hope that you and the others will join me in following God.” Larry shakes his head and walks away. Jim is saddened. “Larry has always been willing to listen to different ideas and has never criticized others’ beliefs,” he thinks, “thought he would be easy to reach.”

Jim’s Story-Scene 11: Jim Appears before the County Commission

Setting: County Commission Chambers-Jim steps to the podium to answer questions regarding his companies’ bid.

“Good evening everyone,” Jim says, as he adjusts the microphone closer. “Good evening Jim,” responded Tom Shultz, the Commission Chairman. He leans back in his chair on the dais and speaks, “Commissioner Rice, do you have any specific questions regarding the bid?” Jim turns

toward the other end of the dais. He makes eye contact with the Commissioner, his long time golf buddy Ronald Rice. Jim can tell by the expression on Ron's face, he has already seen the amendment he submitted to the contract. He thinks to himself, "out of the frying pan, into the fire." "Mr. Russell, as I am sure you are aware the bid submitted by your company is competitive in price and may just be the 'best bid' selected this evening. However, you are certainly also aware, the need for timely completion of this project?" "Yes, I am." Jim responds. "Mr. Russell, why is it then you have amended the bid before us?" He asked. Before Jim can respond, he continued, "Please explain to the Commission, this ridiculous addendum regarding Sundays!" Jim takes a deep breath and thinks to himself, "Ron will never understand." But Jim is determined to make his stand for God. "Commissioner Rice, fellow commissioners, the reason for today's amendment to the bid is simple. I have determined it to be important for me and my company to leave Sunday as a day for family and worship. I know this is a change from our original bid and I am willing to accept the final decision of the board. I can however, assure you this. Our company is capable and ready to complete this and any other future projects in a timely and cost effective manner. But, from this contract forward, Sundays are no longer an option." With that, Jim stepped back from the microphone. Looking closely at the expressions on the face of the commissioners, Jim realizes he may have just committed financial suicide. Searching his heart, he realizes he has never been closer to God. After a considerable pause, Ron responds angrily, "Well, Mr. Christian! I guess the commission will have to take this epiphany into consideration!" Tom Schultz speaks, "any other questions, Commissioners?" No one speaks. "Would anyone like to bring a motion to the floor whether we should accept the bid as it is now?" asked Tom Schultz. The chamber is quiet. Then from an unexpected place, "I would like to make a motion we accept the current bid." Jim turned back to

look at Ron. As the vote is held and the motion passes Jim thanks God for giving him a friend like Ron. Even though they disagreed about the very existence of God over the years, Ron was always loyal to his friends. As the meeting is adjourned, Jim makes his way to the dais to speak to Ron. “Ron, please come to church with me this Sunday!” Ron is visibly upset. He says, “That’s a pretty tight spot you put me in, Buddy! Now, you want me to go to church? You know I always play golf on Sunday.” Jim thinks for a moment then says, “Hey look, you come to church on Sunday and I’ll pay for the golf on Saturday.” Ron can’t help but laugh at his old friend. It was his Saturday to pay anyway. “You’ll pay for golf and dinner, too!” He said. “Absolutely,” said Jim. Jim walked away from the dais thinking, “I should have been inviting Ron to church more often.” He was disappointed in himself.

Jim’s Story-Scene 12-PayDay!

Setting-Russell’ Kitchen-Jim, Janet, Donna and Tyler are just finishing their morning breakfast. David enters the room.

“Good morning, Sleeping Beauty,” teased Donna. David shoots his sister a look that could kill.

He is in no mood for lectures this morning. He glances toward his Father. Jim just smiles.

David pours himself a glass of orange juice and takes a seat. He looks again toward his Dad, still smiling? David takes a drink and sets his glass down, slowly. For several moments, no one speaks. Finally, David looks to his Father and asks, “Dad, are you sure you are alright?” Jim smiles even wider as he responds, “Son, I have never been better. Look, I have to get to work early today, so I can hand out the checks to the guys myself. I just wanted to ask you to be sure to invite Naomi and her family to dinner tonight.” “You’re not going to try to ‘convert’ them, are you?” asked David. Jim responds, “Yes David, I would like to take a moment to share with them how much God means to me, if they are willing to listen.” David is torn. He has never

heard his Father speak like this. It was always Mom. Naomi has been such a good friend. He doesn't want his Dad to drive her away. "Dad, I'll invite them over. But please, please don't be too pushy!" Jim looks to his son and smiles, saying, "Son, I do promise to try to share the story of Jesus' love. I can only hope they listen. If they will not I cannot make them and I would never push Naomi away from you." "I sure hope not!" David says, not hiding the underlying threat in his tone. Jim gets up from the table and smiles. "I love you Son. I Love you all. I will see you at 6." Jim leaves the room.

Jim's Story-Scene 13-Jim gives out the checks

Setting: Worksite Trailer-Jim stands in front of the trailer waiting to hand out checks to the crew. Dave arrives first. He gets out of his truck.

"Jim, what are you doing here so early on payday? I usually give out the checks." He says. Jim can tell Dave is a little upset. Still, he smiles and says, "Dave, I know this is probably the most fun part of your job. It's been a long time since I passed out the checks. Here is yours." Dave just shakes his head and walks away. He simply does not know what to make of the "New Jim." As the rest of the crew arrives, Jim begins to hand out checks. He takes the time to shake the hand of each worker and to thank them for their efforts. One or two thank him for taking a stance on Sundays. Jim also invites each crew member to church. As he give out the last check Jim thinks to himself, "Lord, I understand what payday really means. Payday isn't just Sunday and thanking you for the week. Payday is telling others about you everyday."

Jim's Story-Scene 14-Dinner at the Russell's

Setting: Russell Dining Room-Both families are gathered around. There is a buzz of conversation as they eat. As dinner winds down and the usual small talk ends, Jim speaks.

“We really enjoyed having you here, tonight. Janet and I want you to know how much Naomi’s friendship has meant to David and our family. But, I did have another reason for inviting you tonight. I wanted to take a moment to tell you about God.” Jim stops talking. The table is quiet. Naomi’s Father speaks, “Look Jim, David has already told us about this. While I appreciate the compliment about Naomi, I really didn’t come over here to listen to a bunch of religious stuff.” Jim is quiet for a moment then he responds, “John, I would like to share with you my story of what God means to me and our family. But no one has ever been lead to God by making them listen to you talk. So, if you don’t want to hear a bunch of religious stuff tonight, that is alright. I do hope you will give some thought to joining us for church this Sunday.”

Jim’s Story-Scene 15-After Dinner at the Russell’s

Setting: Russell Dining Room-Jim and Janet are putting the dishes into the dishwasher.

“Janet, do you think we have any chance of reaching Naomi’s family?” asked Jim. Janet looks at her husband and smiles, she is grateful to God for the change. It means so much to her to have Jim talk about God. “Honey,” she says, “All we can do is, tell others about God. He will be there if they reach out to Him!”

Jim’s Story-Scene 16-A Saturday, Like No Other

Setting: Russell home-Jim and Janet’s Bedroom-Alarm sounds 6 AM-Jim turns the alarm off and kisses Janet on the cheek. He gets out of bed, turns toward her and speaks.

“Sweetheart, I should be done with my round of golf and back by 1 o’clock.” He says. Sleepily, Janet responds, “1 o’clock?” she asks. “Yes,” says Jim, “I won’t be staying for lunch today, I want to get home and spend my Saturday afternoon with you.” Janet is unsure how to respond. Saturday has always been Jim’s golf day with his buddies. Jim continues to get dressed and turns to Janet when he is ready to leave. “Honey,” he says emphatically, “I cannot think of

anyone I would rather spend this Saturday with!” Janet rolls over and thinks to herself, “What a change!” As she falls back to sleep she can hear Jim say a quick prayer, “Thank-you Lord for this day, help me to be a witness to my friends.” Jim leaves the room and heads toward the garage. As he walks down the hall, he stops in to see Tyler.

Jim’s Story-Scene 17-A Saturday, Like No Other-Jim’s Witness to Tyler

Setting: Tyler’s room-Typical bedroom of young boy who has most everything a kid could want. Toys are scattered about. Tyler is tucked in bed. Jim sits down. Gently, he wakes his son.

“Good morning Peanut,” Jim says softly. Tyler rolls over and sits up. He gives his Dad a big hug and a kiss on the cheek. “Good morning papa,” he says. Jim speaks, “Son, I will be back this afternoon so we can spend some time together. I want to ask you if it would be alright for us to talk a little more about Jesus?” he asks. Tyler rubs the sleep out of his eyes. “What do you mean Dad?” he asks. “Tyler, I want to share more with you how much God has made to me and my life. He has given me you. I want to talk to you about asking God into your heart and whether you might want to go forward in Church on Sunday,” Responded Jim. “Dad,” said Tyler, “I love you and I do love God, but I get nervous in church with all those people.” Jim puts his hand on Tyler’s head and draws him, closer. He kisses Tyler on top of his head and says, “Son, let’s talk just a little more today, alright?” “Sure, Papa,” said Tyler. As Jim left the room he found himself beginning, beginning to understand what it means to be a witness to those you love.

Jim’s Story-Scene 18-A Saturday, Like No Other-God and Golf

Setting: Golf Clubhouse-Jim, his friends Ron Rice, Marty Simpson and Artie Heyward are gathered near the counter, signing in for their round.

Ron speaks, loudly, “Well, Mr. we aren’t working anymore Sundays! Guess my round is on you!” Jim smiles and responds, “Don’t forget, dinner too! I made reservations at your favorite restaurant for our families’ tonight. Seven o’clock sharp!” Ron is impressed. Dinner at Renaldo’s is no cheap fare. Marty and Artie are stunned! Jim has never been one to pick up the tab. Marty speaks first, “Alright, what’s this all about?” Jim responds, “Guys, I had an experience the other day. I have decided to try to follow God in a more demonstrable way. I promised Ron I would pay for everything today if, he would agree to come to church with me tomorrow.” For a moment, no one speaks. Then Artie pipes up, teasing, “Well Jim, I think you better pray that God helps you with your game today. We don’t want to be out here all day looking for lost golf balls! Guess it’s one way to work up and appetite, though.” With that said Artie spins and walks away. Jim looks toward Marty. Marty smiles at Jim and quips, “Well, pay for my round and maybe I’ll come to your church someday, too.” As Marty walks away, Jim turns to Jared, the golf pro and says, “Well Jared, looks like golf is on me today!” He hands him his card.

Jim’s Story-Scene 19-A Saturday, Like No Other-God and Golf-After The Round

Setting: Golf Course Parking Lot-The four friends are saying their good-byes

Ron speaking, “Well, Jim see you tonight!” he says and walks toward his car with his bag over his shoulder. Jim looks at Marty and Artie and says, “Guys, I had a great time today. I know we haven’t been as close over the years as Ron and I are, but I want you each to know that what I told Ron is true. God loves you and wants you to be close to him. Please come to church tomorrow, too.” “Sorry Jim,” said Artie, “Marty and I have a round with a couple of other guys, tomorrow.” As they start to walk away, Jim has another idea. He raises his voice and calls out to them, “Look guys, we have an evening service tomorrow, too!” Jim can hear one of them

chuckle at his suggestion. Jim is sad. He decides he will give them each a call later and ask them to come again.

Jim's Story-Scene 20-A Saturday like No Other-Jim Arrives Home

Setting: Russell Home-Jim enters the front door. He calls out.

"Honey, I'm home!" No response, the house is quiet. "Janet!" Jim calls out louder. No response. Jim walks from room to room, searching. He enters the kitchen and sees a note from Janet. "Jim, I tried to reach you on your cell-phone. We are at Memorial Hospital. Tyler got hurt!" Jim reaches for his cell as he bolts for the door, "Please God, don't let it be too late!" He prays. He looks at his cell. The battery is dead. He slams the truck into gear and speeds off.

Jim's Story-Scene 21-A Saturday like No Other-Memorial

Emergency Room-Jim enters the building. He hurries to the desk.

He says to the Nurse at the desk, "I'm Jim Russell, my wife left a message our son, Tyler was brought in!" The nurse scans the list of patients that have been brought in, on her computer. She frowns and says, "Mr. Russell, he is in surgery. Please wait here a moment and I will get someone to take you up." She quickly exits the admission area through a rear door, leaving Jim standing at the counter. Jim prays to himself again, "Lord, don't let me be too late!" The desk nurse reenters followed by a hospital volunteer and says, "Mr. Russell, please go with Angela, she will take you up."

Jim's Story-Scene 22-A Saturday like No Other-Memorial

Setting: Operating Room Waiting Area-Angela and Jim enter the room. As they enter the room Jim can hear chatter among his family members. Janet is laughing!

Janet hears them enter the room. She stops laughing and says, "Honey! I am so sorry I couldn't reach you on your cell! Tyler is fine. Dr. Malek was just in and said Tyler will be in recovery in

about thirty minutes. He was playing ball with a couple of kids down the street and fell. He broke his leg, pretty bad and they had to do a minor surgery to fix it. But the doctor said he will be fine. He'll be ready to go home in a couple hours." Though relieved, Jim still wondered, "So, what were you laughing about?" He asked Janet. Janet shook her head at her almost always too serious husband, she responded, "We were laughing about the time David broke his leg hiking. Remember, you were out playing golf that day, too!" Jim remembered that day well. Janet couldn't reach him that day either. He left his cell-phone at the work site the night before. "Well," he smiled and said, "Guess I need to keep my cell-phone charged and with me so no one else gets hurt!" The family gathers for a group hug. Jim begins to pray out loud, "Thank-you Lord, for not letting our little one get hurt too bad, thank-you, for a loving family."

Jim's Story-Scene 23-A Saturday like No Other-Dinner at Renaldo's

Setting: Interior-5 Star Restaurant-Jim, Janet, Donna and Tyler are there. Ron is there with his wife Alice and their children Dawn and Terri. Everyone has ordered and Jim bows his head and says a silent prayer of thanks.

"God, help me to reach as many as I can in the coming days. Time is short." He prays to himself. Jim looks up and Ron is grinning and shaking his head. Ron speaks with a hint of sarcasm, "So, Jim, now that you've prayed for us all, tell me again how a man of your stature forgets to charge his cell!" Jim laughs, "Thanks buddy," he pokes back, "knew I could count on you to support me." Ron speaks, "Guess God forgot to remind you, too!" Jim has been careful to not force God into the conversation this evening. He wanted God to come up in a natural way, so as not to hurt his message. This was the perfect opportunity. He speaks, "Alice, I am sure Ron has told you all about the change in my life in the past few days. It's true! God has come into my heart in a major way and I am trying to tell everyone I can that he can come into their

heart and they can be saved as well!” After a brief silence, Alice speaks, “Jim, I was saved several years ago. When Ron told me about how close you have drawn to God, I was elated.”

As Alice was speaking, Jim couldn’t help but notice the Joy of God on her face and in her voice. He turned to Ron and spoke, “Ron, my old friend, we want you and the kids to know God’s love. We want you all to invite Him into your heart and life. A moment ago, I was praying to God to help me to reach others with his message. I am proud to call you my friend and hope you will pray to God soon, so he can come into your life, too. For a few moments there is silence around the table. Then Ron speaks, “Honey, Jim, I hear what you are trying to say but I am not ready to change my life right now. There will be time for that later. Jim knows better. He speaks “Ron, please keep in mind no one knows the day of our own passing or the day of his coming. Today is the day of salvation!” Ron shakes his head disapprovingly. “Look,” he says, “I’ll come to church tomorrow like I promised, but please let me enjoy tonight!” With that, Ron picks up his wine glass and proposes a toast, “To tonight!” he says. As they all raise their glasses Jim makes eye contact with Alice. He can see the joy in her smile. He knows there is little time left. As he sets his glass down he says, “Let’s all enjoy tonight. For only God knows tomorrow.” There is an awkward silence as they begin to eat their food. Jim wonders, “Have I pushed Ron away?”

Jim’s Story-Scene 24-“First and Last Sabbath”-Jim Russell

Setting: Kitchen of Russell’ Home-Janet is just finished cooking breakfast-Jim and Donna are sitting at the table-David enters the room carrying Tyler piggy back-both are laughing as they enter the room. His cast protrudes from under the blanket he still has wrapped around himself. Janet speaks, “Be careful you two!” Jim laughs and says, “Have a seat you two nuts!” As the family settles at the table Jim says, “Let’s give thanks to God for this food and that Tyler is alright.” After he prays, “Tyler looks at his father and says, “Dad, if I decide to go forward

today, can you help?” Jim looks at Janet. Their eyes meet. Jim can see the joy in Janet’s face. Janet always said, “Live today like He is coming tomorrow.” He realizes she has no idea she is right. She has no idea this is their last Sabbath together. Jim turns to Tyler and says, “Of course I will!” Jim turns toward David and asks, “David? Are Naomi and her family coming to church today?” David responds, “I don’t think so Dad.” Jim is sad they are not coming. He fears for their mortal souls. He looks to David and says, “Son, be sure to invite them again for this evening.”

Jim’s Story-Scene 26-“First and Last Sabbath”-Jim Russell

Interior of Baptist Church-Jim and his family have arrived early-Janet and the kids have gone inside. Jim waits outside the church in order to greet Ron when he arrives. He also hopes to greet any of his employees who come. As time for the service arrives, Jim is sad. No one has come. Jim thinks to himself, “I waited too long? I am sorry Lord!” he prays. As Jim dejectedly enters the church he feels God’s presence again and hears the voice, “For only those who seek, shall find.” He thinks of Tyler. He looks toward heaven and smiles in thanks to God that Tyler will be baptized on this day. He knows he must not give up. “I’ll give Ron a call later and talk to the crew about God again tomorrow,” he promises himself, next Sunday will be too late.

Jim’s Story-Scene 27-“First and Last Sabbath”-Jim Russell

Setting: Outside Church-Jim and his family are leaving the building-Ron Rice approaches Jim. He is still wearing his golf clothes. “Jim, I wanted to stop to apologize for not making it to church this morning,” he said, “I am not comfortable in church and I was kidding myself when I told you I could attend.” Jim is sad for his friend, but he knows there is hope. “Ron,” he says, “God isn’t found just in the church. God is with us always. If you seek him, you will find him.” For a long moment Ron is quiet. Jim can see the pain in his eyes. He is searching. Finally Ron

speaks, “Jim, can you just say a prayer for me?” Jim puts his hand on his old friends shoulder as they walk away from the church. He says, “Ron, of course I will pray for you and your family. I will pray you will reach out to God. Remember, all you have to do is ask him and he will come to you.” When they arrived at Jim’s car, Ron turned to Jim and said, “Maybe I’ll give you a call, later?” “Anytime,” he responded. They both get in their cars and drive away.

Jim’s Story-Scene 28-“First and Last Sabbath”-Jim Russell

Setting: Interior of Baptist Church-Jim sits with his family in their usual pew. He is talking to Janet when he feels a hand on his shoulder. He turns his head to look, it’s Dave Thompson! Dave is smiling. He says, “I just thought I’d stop by to find out what you aren’t willing to give up on Sunday!” Jim is elated. He thinks to himself, “of all the people I thought might come, Dave would have been the last! Lord, help me to understand your plan for me in the coming days! Help me to understand that I am just, the messenger, it is you who guides the message! It is you they must seek!”

Jim’s Story-Scene 29-Rainy Days and Mondays

Setting: Jim and Janet’s Bedroom-The alarm has sounded and Jim has just gotten out of bed. He peers out through the curtains. It is raining, hard!

“Great,” says Jim to himself, “with this rain I will have to simply let the crew go home for the day. Lord, how do I witness if there is no one there?” Jim shakes his head sadly and heads into the shower. “Time is short,” he thinks to himself, “now what do I do?”

Jim’s Story-Scene 30-Rainy Days and Mondays-worksite

Setting: Interior, worksite trailer-the crew is there, with the exception of Dave Thompson-he has called to say his son is sick-the crew expects to be sent home for the day-Jim asks for everyone’s attention.

“Folks,” he says, “as you can tell if you look outside, we won’t be able to get any work done today. Everyone take the day off and I’ll see you tomorrow.” As the crew exits Jim returns to his desk and hangs his head. “So,” said Larry Johnson. He waited for Jim to raise his head and continued, “Boss, do you think we should plan to work on Sunday, now?” Jim realizes time is short. He doesn’t have time to mince words or miss opportunities. “No Larry Sunday is still off the table. I have faith in God that he will provide as he sees fit.” Larry says, “I wish I had your faith!” Jim suddenly realizes Larry is reaching out. He is reaching out to God. “Larry, faith comes from belief in God and trusting Him to provide.” Larry looks hard at his boss. He wants to believe. “Jim, what was the name of that church you go to. I’ll come by next Sunday.” Jim knows Sunday will be too late! He has to reach out now. “No Larry, don’t wait til Sunday to ask God into your heart. He will come in right now. Let’s pray together.” The two men bow their heads to pray. There are still a couple other workers milling about. Some just shake their heads. They are certain Jim has lost his mind.

Jim’s Story-Scene 31-Rainy Days and Mondays-Visit with a Friend

Setting: Ron Rice Realty-Jim enters Ron’s Office-Ron is pouring over some papers on his desk-
Jim can see the label on the file-“Davis Project”

“Good morning Ron,” Jim says. “I had to send the crew home today with this rain. I thought I’d stop by and buy you lunch.” Slowly Ron looked up from the papers. He is visibly upset. “Jim, you had better find a way to bring this part of the project in on time. Your bid for the entire project is on the line!” Jim looks at his old friend and smiles. He doesn’t respond. “Well,” said Ron, “Say something!” Jim understands why God has provided the rain. “It’s time to witness to Ron,” he thinks to himself. “Ron, let’s go out for a bite. I’d like to buy you lunch and tell you the whole story of how I found God!” Ron is stunned by his friend’s response. It’s like nothing

else matters. But still, he is curious. “Okay, you buy me lunch and I’ll let you talk. But just keep in mind, when you pray today, you better pray it stops raining!” The two men leave the office together.

Jim’s Story-Scene 32-Rainy Days and Mondays-Family First

Setting: Russell Home-Jim arrives after having Lunch with Ron-The kids have just arrived home from school and are all gathered in the kitchen talking-Jim walks in

“Hi Honey,” said Janet, “where have you been, today?” Jim smiles and says, “After I let the crew go home for the day, I stopped at Ron’s office and we went to lunch. He let me tell him all about God!” Janet and the kids look at one another and smile. All is well in the Russell home.

Jim’s Story-Scene 33- He’s coming Tomorrow-How would you spend today?-Jim Russell

Setting: Russell Kitchen-everyone is gathered around the table and they have just finished eating

Jim turns toward Janet. He speaks, “Honey,” he says, “I’m going to get an early start today. I hope to have a few minutes to talk to some of the guys before work.” Janet just shakes her head. She smiles and says, “Jim, it’s not like it’s the end of the world if you don’t reach everyone today.” “I know,” responded Jim, as he headed toward the door. He couldn’t help but think to himself, “Today, no, tomorrow, yes!”

Jim’s Story-Scene 34-He’s coming Tomorrow-How would you spend today?-Jim Russell

Setting: Worksite trailer-Jim is standing outside the trailer and greeting each employee as they stop in to clock-in. We see him greet several employees. He greets each the same way. “Good morning! I just wanted to be sure to thank-you personally today for all you have done for our company over the years. I’m not going to be in tomorrow and I just want you to know that God loves you!” As we see several employees walk away, we see the look of bewilderment on their faces. Dave Thompson walks into the trailer as Jim finishes greeting Larry Johnson, the Chief

Electrician. He shakes his head and approaches his boss. “What do you mean, you are not going to be in tomorrow?” he asks. Jim meets his gaze and says, “Dave, I am staying home tomorrow to spend the day with my wife. For that matter, if you want to let the guys know, I am fine with us taking an unscheduled, “rain day”. “But Jim, we need to keep this project on track,” he says. Jim smiles and says, “Just this once, Dave, let’s not be so worried about tomorrow. Just this once let’s trust God to provide.” Dave just spun and walked away. He wonders to himself if Jim’s new found faith is going to cost them all their jobs.

Jim’s Story-Scene 35- He’s coming Tomorrow-How would you spend today?-Jim Russell
 Setting: Russell home-Kitchen Table-Jim has decided to come home early so he will be there when the kids come home from school. He has his bible open to Revelation. His cell-phone rings. “Hello,” he says. “Jim, it’s Ron Rice,” shouted the voice on the other end, “what is going on! I just stopped by the worksite and have been told you left early and have given the whole crew off tomorrow!” Jim doesn’t reply quickly enough and Ron continues. “Look! I went out on the limb for you at the Commission meeting! I just got off the phone with two other commission members and they have called an emergency meeting tomorrow afternoon at 4:30!” Ron stops to let his words sink in. Jim speaks, “Don’t worry Ron, I will be there! I have some important information I need to share with the Commission members anyway!” With that Jim hangs up the phone and sets it down on the counter. The phone rings again. Jim picks the phone up and sees Ron’s number on the caller ID. He lets the call go to voice mail. He puts his phone back down and begins to read his Bible again. After a few moments we see Janet enter the kitchen with the family in tow. Jim looks up from his Bible and smiles. He is satisfied. He is doing what God is leading him to do.

Jim’s Story-Scene 36-Judgment Day-Jim Russel

Setting: Kitchen-Russell Home-Jim is at the stove. He is cooking an old fashioned breakfast of bacon and eggs-David and Tyler are the last to arrive-Tyler is riding piggy back and poking his brother in the side-they are laughing.

Jim looks up from his cooking and says, “Good morning, everyone!” The boys stop laughing when they see their father cooking. They know he only cooks on weekends or vacation. David asks, “What’s up with you cooking, today, Dad?” Jim smiles and responds, “Boys, everyone, I asked myself a question this morning. What would I do if today were to be the last day we all have together? The answer was, that for today, I would spend the morning cooking for my family and spend as much time as I can with you all.” “Wow,” said David, “all this love and breakfast, too!” Jim laughed as he turned back toward the stove. He looked upward, closed his eyes for a moment and said aloud, “thank-you Lord for this time with my family!” As he returned to his cooking we see the rest of the family looking at each other and shaking their heads at Jim’s behavior. They smile at one another. They have never felt so much love in their home. They are thankful to God for their father. After a few moments we see Jim sit down at the table to eat. He turns to Janet and says, “Honey, I am going to stop by the worksite for a few minutes around lunch time and then head on over to County Hall. The meeting is at 4:30, I should be at the church by 6:15 or 6:20. I’ll see you all at the church then.”

Jim’s Story-Scene 37-Judgment Day-Jim stops by the worksite-Jim Russell

Setting: Outside worksite trailer-Jim arrives at noon-he wants to let Julio know the crew is off for the day and wants to try to speak to him about God. As he pulls onto the site he is surprised that two trucks are onsite-“My chief electrician and my foreman”, Jim asks himself, “wonder why they are here?” Jim heads inside to ask.

Jim’s Story-Scene 38-Judgment Day-Jim’s witness to Larry and Dave- Jim Russell

Setting: Interior of trailer-As Jim opens the door we hear Larry speaking

“Dave, I don’t know what to think of all the changes going on around here. No matter what Jim says, refusing to work on Sunday will cost us money and contracts. Then, to top it off, he gives everyone off today! Has he lost his mind..?” Dave’s voice trails off as he realizes his boss has entered the trailer. Dave and Larry go quiet. Jim smiles and speaks to his two long time employees, “Guys, it only seems like I have lost my mind. I know you don’t understand, today, but trust me you will understand my stance on this shortly. I haven’t lost my mind. Rather, I have found my faith. I have decided to trust God’s judgment, rather than my own. This includes in matters of business. I want each of you to trust in God, too.” After a moment, Larry speaks first, “Jim, you always said you didn’t think you should mix your God, with your business?” “Yes I did,” said Jim, “I always believed the two should remain separate. But this has changed for me and I pray you will ask God to come into your heart right now. He has changed the very fiber of my being. He came into my heart a few days ago and I will never be the same. While, I won’t cross the line and push him on others, it is His will that I tell others what he has done for me. It is also important that I keep his commandments in my daily life. This means, no Sundays. No matter, what tomorrow may bring, no Sundays.” As Jim finished speaking he felt burdened by the knowledge that today would be the last. Neither man responded. As Jim searched their eyes, he knew it may be too late. Finally, Jim spoke once more, “I stopped by to let Julio know the crew is off today. Dave can you give this envelope to him? There is some money in there to cover his loss. After he stops by, please go home and spend this day with your families.” As Jim turned to leave, Dave asked, “What about the emergency meeting at the Commission?” Jim turned towards Dave. He smiled and said, “I am going to tell them I am a Christian. I am going to leave the rest to God!” With that, Jim turned and left the trailer.

Jim's Story-Scene 39-Judgment Day-Jim confronts the County Commission- Jim Russell

Setting: County Commission Chambers-We see Jim sitting among others in the audience. He is looking at his watch and shifting nervously in his seat. The clock on the wall shows 6:00- We hear Tom Shultz the Commission Chairman speaks, "I apologize to the other members of the commission and the citizens in attendance for the late start to this session. Thank you for staying so we can address this issue. Mr. Russell, just last Thursday evening you stood before this group and assured us and the citizens of Lake County, your firm could be depended upon to complete all contracts in a timely fashion. This, despite your recent stand concerning your firm's refusal to work on Sunday! While we accepted those assurances just last Thursday evening, it has come to our attention you have chosen to grant to your workers an unscheduled day off today! Please explain to this Commission why your current contract should not be terminated, immediately, as your firm is not demonstrating the necessary concern regarding contract completion!" Jim strode to the microphone as the Commission Chair was posing his question. He looked at his wristwatch again. He knew he wouldn't make it to the church in time to be with his family. As he readied himself to answer the question, he thought to himself, "Maybe God wants this to be my Final Witness!" The scene goes dark. After a few moments we see the lights come back up. Jim is in his truck. The dashboard clock shows 6:34.

Jim's Story-Scene 40-Judgment Day-The moment of His Coming- Jim Russell

Setting: Interior of Jim's truck-Jim sits with head bowed, praying softly to God-"Lord, thank you for all...the dashboard clock moves to 6:35-The light of God appears to Jim- "Jim, you have done as I have commanded this past week. You have chosen to speak to others about me and to invite them to believe. Now, go be with your family. For these words were written, "No man knows the hour of my coming!"

The scene fades and we see the face of the narrator-

“We hope you, your family and your church family have enjoyed this series of stories regarding Christian Witness! You see, we don’t know when we may have just, “Seven Days Left to Witness! In fact, we don’t know if we have even one! What we do know is this. Jesus is coming back to Earth one day to claim his children. We also know he wants us each to seek others out to tell His story. We hope these stories have rekindled in you the urgency of his message and opened your hearts and minds to his direction. We pray you will seek new opportunities to witness and let allow God to touch hearts we sometimes miss. May God bless you as you take the next, “Seven Days to Witness!”

