



“Words”

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SCENE 2--Grandma Joyce's living room.

GRANDMA JOYCE: Let's see, Russ, I think we've packed everything. Did you remember sunscreen? Pastor Jason said you guys would be out in the sun a lot. Oh yes, I packed some fresh chocolate chip cookies for you to enjoy on the bus. There are enough for you to share with everyone.

RUSS (sarcastically): Yeah, great. I'm sure that will make everyone want to be my friend.

GRANDMA JOYCE: Honey.

RUSS: I'm just going to camp as a favor to you, Grandma. I don't need and I don't want any friends. I'd rather just look out for myself.

(Grandma Joyce puts her hands on Russ's shoulders or cheeks.)

GRANDMA JOYCE (pleadingly): Please, Russ, I know that you haven't had much reason to trust people. You've seen your parents and others cheat and lie and break the law to feed their own desires. Your parents are trying to fill an emptiness that can't be filled with anything this world has to offer. You have the chance to break that cycle. There is someone that you can trust completely and his name is Jesus. Just go this week with an open mind. Don't shut God out of your life.

RUSS: Like I said, I'm doing this for you. You think everybody is a good person, Grandma, but they're not. Everyone's just out for themselves. They want to feel good and they'll do whatever it takes to get it. God doesn't care about me.

GRANDMA JOYCE: That's not true, Russ.

RUSS: If God really cares about me, why did He give me parents who could care less about me? If believing in God makes you feel good, Grandma Joyce, that's fine for you, but He's never done anything for me and I don't expect anything from Him now.

Knock at the door. Grandma answers the door and Pastor Jason steps in.

PASTOR JASON: Are you ready, Russ? Here let me help you with your bags. (He grabs the suitcase and the box of cookies.) Ms Joyce, is that your famous chocolate chip cookies I smell? Mmmm. I hope there's enough for me to have a dozen or so.

GRANDMA JOYCE (laughing): Yes, there are plenty. (pause) Take good care of my grandson. He's the only one I have.

PASTOR JASON: He's in good hands, Ms Joyce. We'll see you in two weeks. Oh, here's my cell phone number just in case of emergency.

Grandma gives Russ a quick hug. He stands stiffly for the hug then exits with Pastor Jason with a mumbled good-bye. After the door is shut, Grandma Joyce gets on her knees and prays.

GRANDMA JOYCE: Dear Father, You know how much I love my grandson but as much as I love him, I know that you love him even more. Please watch over him while he is at camp. Make Yourself real to him. Take away his walls of hatred and let him trust You. Let the kids from the youth group make him feel welcome and show him Your love. Thank you for your Son, Jesus, who has bridged the gap between us and You. I love you, Lord. Amen

Tour Group exits.)