

JAMES REID, late 20's, tall and awkward, steps onto the porch of a large suburban home. He crouches down to miss a hanging fern while approaching the front door. After he knocks several times, RAY, 45, short and skinny, appears.

JAMES

Hi. I'm from Guided by Grace Community Church. Do you mind if I ask you a question?

RAY

Make it fast.

JAMES

Has God ever spoken to you?

RAY

It's funny you should mention that because He's speaking to me right now.

JAMES

Really?

RAY

Yeah, He just told me to slam the door.

The door slams.

JAMES

That wasn't necessary, sir.

Forgetting to crouch, James hits his head on the fern. After swatting the leaves away from his face, he steps off the porch and makes his way to the sidewalk.

JAMES (V.O.)

My name is James Reid and I'm the outreach coordinator for my church. For the past three months, I've had the assignment of walking door to door asking people one simple question: Has God ever spoken to you? I've had every type of reaction imaginable. Some people have yelled and screamed in my face, while others have invited me in

JAMES (cont'd)

for dinner. I've been chased by at

least twenty dogs and on one occasion, someone threw a lamp at my head. I've wanted to call it quits more than once, but the Lord does His best work just before we're about to give up.

EXT. RANCH-STYLE HOME - DAY

James knocking at another door.

JAMES (V.O.)

Oh, did I mention that I had a problem with dogs?

The door opens to a huge German Shepherd. James takes a few steps back as the dog snarls and barks. BONNIE, elderly, five foot, ninety pounds, appears. Her frail arms struggle to subdue the vicious beast.

JAMES

(fearful)

Hi, um, I'm from Guided by Grace Community Church and I was wondering. . .

The dog takes a snip at James and barely misses.

BONNIE

Oh, don't be scared, hon. He's harmless. Just let him smell your hand.

JAMES

I'll come back later.

James backs away. Bonnie whispers to her dog.

BONNIE

Good, boy.

James quickly walks to the neighboring house, regaining his composure.

EXT. NEIGHBORING HOUSE - DAY

JAMES (V.O.)

Sometimes I find myself in a deep scientific debate on the existence of God.

James knocks on the door. TINA, mid 20s, wide variety of piercings and tattoos, appears.

JAMES

Hi, my name is James and I'm going around the neighborhood asking people a quick question: Has God ever spoken to you?

TINA

That would be impossible because God doesn't exist.

JAMES

Yes, He does.

TINA

No, He doesn't.

JAMES

Yes, He does.

TINA

No, He doesn't.

JAMES

Yes, He does.

TINA

How do you know He exists?

JAMES

How do you know He doesn't?

James and Tina stare each other down before Tina shuts the door.

EXT. TWO-STORY HOUSE - DAY

James is standing on a rundown porch. He looks through a screen door and sees, DON, 52, heavysset, watching TV and laughing.

DON

Ahhh ha ha ha!!!

JAMES

Hello, sir. I'm from Guided by Grace  
Community Church. . .

DON

Go away, I'm sleeping.

JAMES

Sir, the door's open. I can clearly  
see that you're not sleeping.

DON

Boy, I said, get!!

James turns around and collides with a hanging fern.

JAMES (V.O.)

Hanging ferns should be outlawed.

EXT. DUPLEX - DAY

James stands in front of a duplex and takes a deep breath before  
knocking on the door. BILL, 32, stocky, appears. The two begin  
conversing.

JAMES (V.O.)

In the midst of all the chaos,  
sometimes I'll have an actual  
conversation with someone.

BILL

I'll be honest with you. I really  
don't think about God and Heaven all  
that much.

JAMES

Let me ask you a different question.  
If you died today, would you go to  
Heaven?

BILL

I'd say so.

JAMES

OK. If you were to stand before God  
and he asked you, "Why should I let you  
into heaven," what would you say?

BILL

I'm a decent person, you know. I'm not perfect, but I always try to do the right thing and I help people for a living.

JAMES

Well, we could never live up to God's standard by simply being a good person. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Honey, you're late for work.

Bill turns around toward the voice and begins to close the door.

JAMES

The Bible also says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free. . ."

BILL

Sorry, I have to go.

JAMES

Wait, there's more to that verse. It says, "but the free gift. . ."

BILL

Have a good one.

Bill closes the door. James slumps away.

INT. BILL'S DUPLEX (KITCHEN) - DAY

Bill looks at a clock while walking into the kitchen. LAURIE, 30, blond, sits at the table.

BILL

Laurie, why did you say I was late for work? I still have an hour.

LAURIE

Oh, I just heard that guy talking to you and thought you would probably want to get rid of him.

BILL

He was a nice guy. A little bit of a Bible thumper, though.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

James moves slowly down the sidewalk.

JAMES

Lord, no matter what it takes, give me another chance to talk with him.

James continues to walk.

JAMES (V.O.)

I've learned to be careful what you pray for because you just might get it.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - DAY

PASTOR CHUCK, 58, medium build, is standing on a ladder in an empty sanctuary. He struggles to hold a 3 foot statue of Jesus above the entrance. James walks in.

JAMES

Hey, Pastor Chuck, what are you doing?

PASTOR CHUCK

Oh, hey, James. I'm just hanging our new statue. So, how did it go today?

James hangs his head.

PASTOR CHUCK

Jesus said they'll be "ever hearing but never understanding." You just need to be persistent. Remember, if you only reach one person, it was worth it.

JAMES

Yeah.

PASTOR CHUCK

You know, you're going around asking people if God speaks to them, but has He been speaking to you lately?

James shrugs, non-committed.

PASTOR CHUCK

Before you ask people that question, you have to take the time to hear from God yourself. How long has it been since you've opened your Bible?

JAMES

I don't know, a couple weeks. What would that have to do with hearing God's voice? Look, I'm trying my best to serve Him. If He wants to speak with me, He knows where to find me.

PASTOR CHUCK

Hang in there, James. The Lord doesn't give up on us. Now, will you give me a hand and hold this statue for a second?

James holds the statue while Pastor drills it to the wall. After the last screw is set, he leans back to inspect his handy work.

PASTOR CHUCK

Excellent.

The statue immediately comes loose and falls on James' head, knocking him out cold. Pastor jumps off the ladder, checks James and runs out of the sanctuary while yelling.

PASTOR CHUCK

Clair! Call an ambulance! James just got knocked out by Jesus!

INT. SANCTUARY - MOMENTS LATER

TWO PARAMEDICS kneel over James and wrap his head with gauze. Pastor and CLAIR, 55, petite, stand to the side. DAVE, 41, turns to Pastor as the other paramedic continues to work on James.

DAVE

He'll regain consciousness, but we still have to take him to the hospital for tests.

PASTOR CHUCK

Hey, before you guys head out, can you help me hang this statue?

DAVE

Are you serious? Absolutely not.

Bill, dressed in a paramedic's uniform, stands up next to James.

BILL

You know, this is kind of weird, but I think this is the same guy who was at my house today talking about God.

PASTOR CHUCK

Really?

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

James is on a stretcher being pushed toward the ambulance.

JAMES (V.O.)

The Lord answered my prayer, but definitely not how I expected.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

James opens his eyes and immediately recognizes Bill.

JAMES

Wow, Lord. That was fast.

BILL

What?

JAMES

Oh, I was just talking to the Lord.

Bill turns his head to speak with Dave, who is driving.

BILL

I think he might be delusional.

JAMES

No, I'm fine. I just prayed a few hours ago for another opportunity to talk with you. Here you are.

BILL

Do you think Jesus did this or something?

JAMES

Um, yeah. He fell on my head. So, if it's all right, I'd like to share the rest of that verse with you.

BILL

We have a few minutes. Let her rip.

JAMES

OK. It says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." He took on the punishment for sin by dying on the cross for us. Jesus offers us salvation as a free gift and the way to receive that gift is by asking Him into your heart and then living for Him. It's called being born again.

BILL

I believe in God and all that good stuff, but I've never really understood the whole born again thing. I was born 32 years ago and that's good enough.

JAMES

Yeah, that was your physical birth, but Jesus also wants us to have a spiritual birth. Let's say God Himself spoke to you in an audible voice and said, "You must be born again." What would you say?

BILL

I guess I would ask Him how to be born again because I obviously don't get it.

James retrieves a small Bible from his pocket and begins flipping through the pages.

JAMES

Here's how we become born again. The Word of God says, "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

BILL

You just read that from the Bible. I didn't hear the audible voice of God.

James looks at his Bible and ponders Bill's statement.

JAMES (V.O.)

I don't know if it was the blow to the head or the iv, but something came to me at that moment I'll never forget.

JAMES

What if the Bible is the voice of God?

BILL

It's just a book. How could it be God's voice?

JAMES

Despite all the attacks the Bible goes through, scientists and historians haven't been able to disprove one word of this book. God's voice is on every single page.

The ambulance comes to a stop. Bill opens the back doors. Dave is there to help.

EXT. EMERGENCY ROOM UNLOADING AREA - DAY

Dave and Bill push James on a stretcher toward the emergency room entrance.

DAVE

Bill, you can move the ambulance, I'll take him in.

BILL  
(to James)  
Take care of yourself, man.

JAMES  
I will. Thanks for listening.

Bill smiles and walks back to the ambulance.

JAMES (V.O.)  
It took three months of questioning  
people door to door and a trip to the  
emergency room for me to learn one  
simple lesson: God is always speaking,  
we just have to open His Word and  
listen.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Dave pushes the stretcher into an open elevator. James looks up  
at Dave as the door closes.

JAMES  
Do you mind if I ask you a question?

The elevator door closes.

