

# DIRECT LINE TO HEAVENLY INTERVENTION

The scene highlights the fact that whilst the idea of whole-life discipleship is appealing, the realisation is that – although rewarding – whole-life discipleship demands giving our all to God in everything that we do.

**Theme:** Whole-life discipleship

**Cast:** Eddie (the name can be changed if played by a woman), Saint Paul

**Props:** Two chairs, a desk, cardboard clouds, two phones, a pile of paper, a feather pen/quill and a sign.

**Biblical reference:** ‘So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.’ (Romans 12:1-2 MSG)

**Performance notes:** The stage is split into two. Eddie is on the left-hand side with job application papers and a phone. He is reading through the job application to become a whole-life disciple and decides to call the direct line number provided to find out more details.

Saint Paul is on the right hand side of the stage. He is sitting at a desk which has job application papers and a phone on. He uses a feather pen/quill. Above the table is a clear sign that says 'Direct Line to Heavenly Intervention' showing a red telephone on wheels (using the Direct Line logo as reference), but with wings on it. There are also cardboard clouds around the desk to give the illusion of Heaven as the setting.

## Direct Line to Heavenly Intervention

Written by Stephanie Lamplough

**Eddie**

*(Speaking to himself)*

This job application seems too good to be true.

*(reading)*

'Job description:

To be a true whole-life disciple you must demonstrate Christian qualities in all aspects of life. Reflect Jesus Christ in EVERYTHING that you do and make sure that those who come into contact with you are able to see God's love shining through you.'

That sounds like me on a Sunday.

Surely if I took a job as a whole-life disciple, it would just be like being at church on a Sunday, but EVERY DAY?

How easy is that?

No Monday mornings – just Sunday after Sunday after Sunday.

Cool!

It's all a bit vague, though.

*(reading)*

'Job Location: Frontline'

**Eddie**

Frontline? What is that?

Is it some sort of new Territorial Headquarters building in London that I've not heard of?

*(reading)*

'Qualifications: You don't need any specific qualifications?'

*(aside)* Good job. I didn't really do Mondays as a child either!

*(reading)*

'Experience:'

OK, so it says 'Experience valuable but not necessary.'

But it doesn't say experience in what.

Life? I've certainly got that!

*(reading)*

'Date of Interview:'

Not needed – we know everything we need to know already.'

Sounds a bit like 'Big Brother.'

*(in best Geordie accent)*

'Day one in the Big Brother house.'

Hmm, I'm not sure I like the idea of someone always watching me.

Well, I've never applied for a job without actually being interviewed, and I've applied for lots of jobs.

So I don't get to meet the boss then?

This just gets stranger and stranger!

*(reading)*

'Salary: It doesn't list a salary, but says: 'Performance-related increments and rewards available daily.'

I thought all jobs had to have a starting salary? Mind you, imagine getting your rewards daily not annually!

**Eddie**

'Oh yes. I've had a good day today. I may just use my daily increment and buy myself a new car. Or maybe tomorrow I'll use my bonus to go on holiday!'

There is certainly incentive to work hard if that's the case!

*(reading)*

'Start date: You've already started.'

Now that's just weird! And what's this?

At the end it says: 'This job can suit everyone regardless of age, gender, race, past records and bad experiences.'

But surely it can't suit everyone? They're going to have all sorts of riffraff applying!

Oh well, I guess the others might make me look good. (Never thought I'd say that!)

Still, it's a bit weird – maybe it's protocol and they're just trying to cover their backs against discrimination.

Hang on. Right at the bottom there's a phone number to find out more. Should I?

I'm not sure. It's all just a bit too weird.

I've never seen an application like this before. But then again, I've never heard of a job like this either.

No more Monday mornings, every day is a Sunday. If I can do church, then maybe I can do this?

Well, I'm certainly intrigued. I may even have a chance if I don't have to have an interview, and it doesn't even sound as though they are bothered about my dodgy past.

OK, here goes...

*(types number into phone)*

It's ringing!

**Saint Paul** *(using best telephone voice)*  
Hello, you've called Direct Line to Heavenly Intervention.  
Saint Paul here, how can I help?

**Eddie** Er... Hello, Saint... I mean 'P Man'... I mean 'O Heavenly One'...  
*(aside)* This is not going well.

**Saint Paul** Ah, Eddie. We've been waiting for your call. Just call me Paul,  
that will be fine. So what do you want to ask me?

**Eddie** Er, nothing. I mean, everything. Well, it's about this job  
application form.

**Saint Paul** Yes?

**Eddie** Well, don't you think it's a bit weird? It says stuff, but it doesn't  
really tell you anything specific. It's almost as if it's vague on  
purpose. Like you don't know what you're getting into...  
Like the job could change daily...

**Saint Paul** Yes? And?

**Eddie** And... And...  
The salary is worked out in rewards?

**Saint Paul** Mmm. One of the best bits.

**Eddie** *(Looks confused)* And you don't need any qualifications?

**Saint Paul** Nope!

**Eddie** And you can apply if you're a child or if you're a granny?

**Saint Paul** Yep!

**Eddie** And you don't care about my dodgy past?

**Saint Paul** It makes you who you are!

**Eddie** And...  
And...  
And... well, don't you think that's all a bit...

**Saint Paul**

*(Interrupts)* Weird? No... I don't.

To say that anyone can do the job doesn't mean that anyone will do the job. Everyone is capable, but that doesn't make it easy. Many have tried and failed. Often those you would consider the most successful at other jobs are unable to do this one.

This job requires your EVERYTHING, and for many, that is too much to ask for.

Remember Jesus said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'

To be a true whole-life disciple you must first hand your life totally over to God. God must be at the centre of everything that you do, fully involved in every aspect of who you are: at home, at work, when you're enjoying music, food, sport and when you're in other people's company.

ESPECIALLY when you're in other people's company.

The conversations and the way we act will help people to form opinions on whether what we preach is real or fake.

How can we follow God's commandment to make new disciples if we don't practise what we preach?

The people that we come into contact with on a daily basis are our 'FRONTLINE'. This is our place of work, and just as the people who we come into contact with on a daily basis change, so does the work of a disciple – hence the ambiguity.

**Eddie**

OK, I get that now.

**Saint Paul**

And you were right. Being a whole-life disciple is not just about being a disciple on a Sunday. It's about taking that best disciple that we are on a Sunday and using it in everything that we do, every day of the week.

**Eddie** So I don't just repeat my Sunday. I take my Sunday into my Monday. So I still have to do Monday mornings then?

**Saint Paul** Monday mornings are often the hardest time. People forget about Sunday very quickly!

So, Eddie, you mentioned that there was no salary. You need to understand that when you hand over everything to God, money becomes less significant. You know that God will provide you with whatever you need. It may not be easy and it takes some adjusting to, but it's true and the freedom it gives you to focus on other things is truly overwhelming.

Sure, you can get daily rewards, but it often depends on how you are using your discipleship to serve others.

*(Eddie looks confused)*

**Saint Paul** Oh, and the rewards are not monetary.

*(Eddie looks disappointed)*

**Saint Paul** They can be the smile from the person you let go in front of you in the grocery shop.

It can be the 'Thank you' card from the old lady across the street who you invited for Sunday dinner so that she wasn't on her own.

*(Eddie starts to smile)*

**Eddie** But what about my dodgy past?

**Saint Paul** Think back to the first disciples, Eddie. Jesus chose to spend time with the outcasts of society. He saw deeper than the labels that society gave to people and believed in the power of forgiveness of sins. Jesus never judged, and neither should we.

Listen to the ten-year-old girl in your congregation. Don't dismiss her because of her age.

Welcome the smelly guy at the back to sit next to you and

**Saint Paul**

listen to what he has to say.

Day by day, learn to be more like Jesus and you can't go wrong.

**Eddie**

Ah... I'm slowly starting to understand. And you say I don't need an interview? That I've already started? I don't get that.

**Saint Paul**

Remember just last week, when you told your friends that you didn't want to get involved?

*(Eddie nods)*

When what they were doing didn't feel right, and instead of just going along with it, you stood up for what you believed in?

*(Eddie nods again)*

Well, that was being a whole-life disciple. I say to you what I said to the Romans.

'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well formed maturity in you.'

You up for it, Eddie?

*(Saint Paul puts down the phone and looks directly at the congregation)*

And you?

Are YOU up for it?