

PROFESSOR KNOW-IT-ALL

Purpose: This skit will encourage us in realizing that we all can make a difference in someone's life.

Characters: 3
Dr. Jennings (Professor Know-It-All)
Child (Joshua, age 4-9)
Child's Mother (Ms. Barton)

The scene begins with Dr. Jennings (Professor Know-It-All) lower center stage. He addresses the crowd as if he is there to give a lecture.

[Lights on.]

Professor: Good morning. My name is Dr. Xavier Jennings. I'm a professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. When I am not teaching, I am conducting research. My latest project is to study the effects of high-intensity electromagnetic forces on the medulla oblongata. It's a fascinating field of research, I assure you; but I will have to save that for another time.

The reason why I'm here is to relate to you the circumstances behind my becoming a changed man, and forever believing in the power of the almighty God, the Creator of the universe.

My story begins when I was but an embryo in my mother's womb. That's a little joke. I'm not really going that far back.

I grew up in a family that considered a college education just a beginning. My brother has a Master's degree in Clinical Pharmacology. My sister is Chief of Surgery at Seattle Memorial Hospital. It was expected that I, the youngest, would also pursue a graduate degree.

While growing up, I took all the hard courses. I was a year or two ahead of most kids my age. I found science fascinating, and spent most of my spare time reading anything I could get my hands on concerning science fact or fiction. However, during my schooling I was subjected to a very secular education. It was only natural that I would accept such things as the Theory of Evolution and the Big Bang Theory.

With my secular, worldly education, I entered college. I was immersed in secular teachings and new age philosophy. Because of my background and immaturity, I drank it all in. I reasoned that it must all be true – otherwise, they could not teach it.

I went on to get my Ph.D. in neurophysiology. I became quite a prize, and colleges and universities all over the country asked me to join their staff. Because I loved research, I agreed to join the staff at UTHSC – since they agreed to fund my research for at least

Professor Know-It-All

three years. The three years turned in to ten. And I am happy to say that I have helped instruct some of the best medical students and doctors in this country.

About a year ago, I was teaching a class on human brain anatomy. I had wonderful, smart students, who were eager to learn. I remember one in particular. Her name was Ms. Barton. I remember that after class when the other students would stand around and visit, Ms. Barton would leave in quite a hurry. I later found out that she had two jobs and was putting herself through medical school. I didn't realize how hard it must have been for her, until that day I ran into her while in a bookstore.

[Ms. Barton and child enter from upper stage right and cross to lower stage right.]

Professor: [Noticing the woman and child:] Why, Ms. Barton, how nice to see you.

Ms. Barton: Dr. Jennings, nice to see you too, sir.

Professor: [To child:] And who is this young man?

Child: I'm Joshua, but my friends call me Josh. [Pointing:] And this is my mom.

Professor: And how old are you Josh?

Child: I'm six [or seven, etc.].

Professor: And what do you want to be when you grow up?

Child: I wanna be a doctor.

Professor: Good for you, Young Man!

Child: What do you do?

Ms. Barton: Joshua!

Professor: I am a professor at the school your mother attends.

Child: A professor? Oh, you must be Professor Know-It-All!

Ms. Barton: [Embarrassed:] Joshua!

Professor: That's quite all right, Ms. Barton. Why, uhh, yes, Young Man, I guess you could call me Professor Know-It-All.

Child: My mom says you believe in evolution.

Professor Know-It-All

Professor: Yes, young man I do. I'm a scientist, you see. And therefore, I must believe the scientific findings. Don't you believe in evolution?

Child: Nah. I believe in God.

Professor: Well, that's very nice.

Child: Can I ask you a question?

Ms. Barton: Joshua, don't bother the Professor.

Professor: It's all right, Ms. Barton. You may ask me anything you like, Young Man.

Child: Do you believe in God?

Professor: If you are asking if I believe that a single all-powerful being created the universe and everything in it, I would have to say that I don't.

Child: Gee, that's sad. [Pause.] Then where do people come from?

Ms. Barton: Joshua, I think that's enough?

Professor: [To audience:] I then went into a rather detailed, though somewhat simple, explanation into human sexuality - with the mother's approval, I assure you. I thought I might have lost him in the section on endocrinology.

Child: And why do kennicles make us do that?

Professor: [To audience:] I explained that chemicals do what they do because of the inherent nature of their structure. I thought it best to stay away from organic chemistry. I didn't want to over-load the Little Fellow's brain. Then he asked that question adults all over the world dread.

Child: Why?

Professor: [To audience:] I then told him about atomic structure - covering electrons, protons and neutrons.

Child: But why do those things move around?

Professor: Because they have a charge to them.

Child: Why?

Professor Know-It-All

Professor: [Pause.] I don't know. [To audience:] As they walked away, [Ms. Barton and child exit upper stage left] I felt a little embarrassed that I did not have the answer. Surely there must be a reason – I just didn't know it. That little encounter was quickly forgotten as I engaged in my usual busy life.

Then one day, I was asked to give a lecture in Hawaii. I was thrilled! I had never been to Hawaii before. I looked forward to a little rest and relaxation. My flight arrived around 2:00 in the afternoon. I took a cab to my hotel, and unpacked. After having a wonderful meal of mahi mahi and native fruits and vegetables, I decided to take a walk along the beach. I thought that the sea air would relax me.

I cannot express in words the feelings that erupted from within me. [Pause.] It was all so beautiful! The setting sun, its rays flickering on the water. The cool breeze – somehow making me feel refreshed and young again. The sound of native birds and music floating in the air. It was all so beautiful! I realized at that instant, why atomic particles have a charge. Because that's the way God made it! What other explanation could there be! I was happy and sad at the same time. I was happy that I finally knew the truth. But I was sad that it had taken me so long to find it. All the lies I believed. All the years wasted – when I could have been looking at the world through different eyes. I asked for forgiveness of the Lord and right there, on that beautiful Hawaiian beach, asked Jesus into my heart.

The next day I gave a lecture they won't soon forget. I didn't speak from my old perspective, but from a new one. I thought at one point they were going to throw me out. But they didn't. The Holy Spirit gave me the right words to say.

I don't know if anyone was saved that day. If one person listened and took the time to look for the real truth, I am sure they found it.

So, the next time someone asks you a question that you don't know the answer to – the answer just might be “Because that's the way God made it!”

[Lights out.]

THE END