



Life with

Chuck

By Russ Randall

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Overall purpose:

Life with Chuck is a Christian sitcom series for local congregations intended for use as a supplement to a pastor's weekly message. Seven episodes with topical themes are used as a basis for the supplementing message to be developed by the local pastor for his specific congregation. Life with Chuck follows the friendship of Chuck and Ted and how God uses this friendship in His redemptive plan for Chuck and his family. The overall idea behind Life with Chuck is to tell the continuing story of how God is working in the lives of the characters over a period of time. This series works best when started at the beginning of the year and ending just before Christmas. Effort should be put towards building a continuing relationship with the audience through the course of the series. It is within this continuing context, that people begin to relate, empathize, and endear themselves to the characters. Life with Chuck is also used as a tool to model effective evangelism technique and mentality within the context of the one on one personal relationship.

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Characters:

The Petersons - Unsaved Family

Charles Peterson (Chuck)

Carol Peterson (Chuck's wife)

Billy Peterson (10 year old son)

Maddy Peterson (7 year old daughter)

The Carpenters - Christian family

Ted Carpenter

Beth Carpenter (Ted's wife)

Jimmy Carpenter (10 year old son)

Emily Carpenter (5 year old daughter)

Main Character Development:

Chuck: Chuck is a rough around the edge, blue collar worker that loves NASCAR Racing. He is a little hard to live with but is overall rather loveable. He loves his wife and family, but feels his life is mostly about him and his needs. Chuck is ignorant of God's purpose for his life. Chuck should be played as a funny and laughable fellow but not a fool. Consideration should be taken in regards to where the story is going and its purpose while playing this role. Read the whole story first! Though Chuck plays to the extreme at times, people need to relate to Chuck at some level to realize their need for God's working in their lives.

Carol: Carol is your typical loving, sweet, supportive wife that accepts Chuck the way he is, regardless of his obnoxious ways. She is a little more polished and dignified than Chuck, but has her sassy, strong side as well. She takes Chuck's lead often, but has a mind of her own as well.

Ted: Ted is portrayed as a middle class Christian man that is authentic in his walk with God, but is not overbearing in his efforts to share God's love with people. God has laid

Chuck on his heart and he endeavors to take a common man's approach in ministering to the Petersons. Ted typically plays the straight man to Chuck's obnoxious and comedic nature.

Beth: Beth is typically the quiet and supportive wife that gives focus to building ministry friendships and "Being Jesus" to Chuck and Carol. Her friendship with Carol is similar and parallel to that of Chuck and Ted's.

Series options: *Holding with the sitcom tradition, Life with Chuck must utilize as many visual and audio resources available to the production team to make the presentation as attractive as possible. An opening theme song or video can be used at the beginning and end of each episode. PowerPoint projection systems should be utilized to help with opening credits, closing credits, background scenes, and scene transitions.*

It should also be noted that Chuck is a big race fan and his favorite driver in the script is Jeff Gordon. His apparel and house are reflective of that with much memorabilia placed around the set. The Peterson house is the setting for a number of scenes. Their home is a "lived in", blue collar, yet still clean and homey place.

A copy of the original production of Life with Chuck is available for viewing to give a better overall picture of the intent of the series. Contact the author for this resource.