

"A RECIPE FOR DISASTER"

A Skit by Greg Beastron

Lights up:

Int. Family kitchen - day

There is a bustle of activity as the KIDS are frantically searching for something that has been lost. They are JENNY, SALLY, JIMMY and BOBBY.

JIMMY

(anxious)

It's not here! I can't find it!

JENNY

She gave it to Sally.

SALLY

She did not! She gave it to Jenny!

BOBBY

Well, one of you lost it!

JIMMY

All of you, be quiet! Mom's gonna be home in a few minutes and we haven't even started! Help me find it!

DAD ENTERS smoking a PIPE and holding a NEWSPAPER. Kind of a "Leave It To Beaver"-type of Dad.

DAD

Hey there kids, what're you little mischief-makers looking for?

JENNY

Mom wanted us to make dessert before she got home from the store, but Sally lost the recipe.

SALLY

I did not!

JENNY

Did to!

SALLY

Did NOT!

DAD

Easy, easy you two. We don't need a recipe.

JIMMY

But Dad, if we don't follow the recipe, how will we know what kind of dessert to make?

DAD

Fiddle sticks! All a dessert has to do is make people happy. You can do that with any kind of ingredients. All we need is a mixing bowl, a spoon and an oven.

Dad pulls out a MIXING BOWL and WOODEN SPOON.

BOBBY

You mean we can use whatever ingredients we want?

DAD

Sure, Bobby. Like for instance, what's your favorite candy?

BOBBY

I like Milky Ways!

Bobby finds a MILKY WAY BAR and hands it to Dad. Dad puts it in the mixing bowl.

DAD

Great! What else?

JENNY

I like vanilla pudding!

They add some VANILLA PUDDING.

JIMMY

How about bubble gum!

They add BUBBLE GUM.

SAILY

Can we add some licorice?

DAD

Sure thing sweetheart! All the licorice you want!

They start adding a couple of LICORICE WHIPS, pause, and then add the entire BOX. They all laugh.

DAD

That's all good, but we also need to add some traditional ingredients, you know, so our dessert doesn't make people feel uncomfortable.

BOBBY

Oh, you mean like flour and sugar?

DAD

Precisely.

They add FLOUR and SUGAR -- a WHOLE LOT.

JENNY

And milk?

They add MILK.

JIMMY

And Tabasco?

DAD

You mean like a Cajun dessert. Yeah, I get it! Some people like to live life on the edge! Good thinking Jimmy!

They add a whole bottle of TABASCO SAUCE.

SAILY

Can we add popcorn, Dad?

DAD

Of course we can. Popcorn is the staple of the movie-going public. And we do want people to feel entertained, don't we?

The KIDS AGREE.

BOBBY

I don't know, Dad. This seems like a weird combination. Do you think this is gonna taste good?

DAD

(pauses and thinks)

No. Not quite yet.

Dad pulls out a bottle of PEPTO-BISMOL.

JENNY

Pepto-Bismol?! Yuk!

DAD

You know, Jenny. Some people may not have the stomach for trying something new. This can help. Is there anything else?

The kids all grab various products to add to the mix.

JIMMY

Here's some SODA!

SALLY

I got some COCO PUFFS!

BOBBY

How about CHEESE WHIZ?!

JENNY

Let's add some PRUNES!

KIDS

PRUNES?! Ewwww!

DAD

For regularity. Great, Jenny!

Dad stirs the ingredients together in the mixing bowl.

(Note: Have some novelty GREEN or PINK SLIME in the bowl and pour it into a PIE TIN so the audience can see it. This means you may have to switch bowls quickly without the audience's knowledge.)

DAD (cont'd)

Okay. Let's slide this into the oven, shall we?

SALLY

How long will it take to cook?

DAD

Does it matter, Punkin'? We can pull it out when we feel like it's done. Hey! Anyone wanna lick the spoon? Bobby?

Bobby shakes his head. He's too smart for that.

JENNY

I want to! I want to!

Jenny takes the SPOON and licks it. She begins to SWOON as if she cannot stand up.

JENNY (cont'd)

Look at all the colors!

Dad is concerned and takes the spoon from her.

DAD

Let me try that.

He licks it.

JIMMY

How does it taste?

DAD

(winces but still positive)

This is really good.

(pause)

Sally, dear? Find the number to the Poison Control Center, before Daddy loses consciousness.

SALLY

Okay!

Sally darts away as MOM ENTERS.

MOM

Hi everyone!

KIDS

Hi Mom!

JENNY

(still tripping)

Mom you look like a purple giraffe!

MOM

(smells the air)

My gosh! It smells like a rotting skunk in here!

BOBBY

We made dessert!

MOM

Dessert?! You're kidding! Did you use the recipe I left you?

JIMMY

We couldn't find it.

MOM

It's right here on the stool. You mean you didn't use it?

SALLY

Dad said we didn't have to -- and now, look! Dad's suffering an internal hemorrhage and Jenny's OD'd!

Jimmy pulls the dessert out of the oven.

JIMMY

See? We didn't need the recipe after all! Isn't that the best cake you've ever seen?

SALLY

Cake?! I thought we were making cookies!

BOBBY

No, no -- it's pudding!

JENNY

I think it's Beef Stroganof!

KIDS

HUH?

Jenny pauses, then -

JENNY

Look! I can fly!

Jenny pretends to fly.

DAD

You're all wrong. We made pie. A great, big, luscious pie. Here honey --

Dad dips a COFFEE MUG into the pie tin and scoops up some SLIME.

DAD (cont'd)

DRINK a slice!

MOM

(winces)

What's wrong with you?! Don't you know you can't cook something like this unless you use a recipe?

JIMMY

You can't?

MOM

Of course not! First, you should have spent the time to FIND the recipe, so you knew what to make. Then, you should have FOLLOWED IT in order to make it correctly. You can always TASTE it periodically to make sure it's just right -- but what you guys have done isn't healthy for anyone!

DAD

(thinking)

You know something kids, I think there's a lesson here.

Dad steps FORWARD to address the audience. All the kids surround him interested in what he has to say.

Dad (cont'd)

Maybe this applies not only to cooking, but perhaps to our personal lives as well. Maybe if we knew the recipe to our lives, our families, our businesses, even our church, we could conduct ourselves in such a way as to be pleasing to God and encouraging to those around us. Maybe, just maybe, if we understood who we were and how we could get there, we could experience fulfilling relationships, successful ministry and even a more exciting way of life. Maybe Mom is right, cooking without a recipe can only lead to disaster and, really, cause more problems than it's worth.

Dad pauses momentarily to let his words sink in, then glances at his kids on either side of him.

DAD and KIDS

NAHHHH.

DAD

Come on kids. Let's go build a CONDOMINIUM.

KIDS

YAAAAYYYY.

JIMMY

But Dad, don't we need a blueprint?

DAD

Blueprint?

Everyone LAUGHS and EXITS except Mom. She examines the dessert ad lifts out some SLIME.

MOM

Condominium? Honey, let's think that over

Mom EXITS.

Lights out

END

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