



# DAY 1: PIZZA AND LEMONADE

## CHARACTERS

ZOE RICHMOND (Jackson's cousin, age 11)

JACKSON SNYDER (Valerie's son, age 12)

VALERIE SNYDER (Jackson's mother, Zoe's aunt, late 30s)

HUNGRY PERSON (Adult)

Note: The Hungry Person in the script is portrayed as a male, but the character can be any gender.

## TIME

The present, early afternoon

## BACKSTORY

Valerie Snyder's dream of opening a home for homeless mothers has finally materialized. This place will be called The Mending House, a nonprofit organization. She has purchased a two-story house that accommodates five families.

It is now one week before the opening of The Mending House. Volunteers continue helping to ready the house by doing repairs and yardwork as well donating needed household items and food.

Zoe, Valerie's niece, lives out-of-state and always makes an annual summer trip to visit her Aunt Valerie and her cousin Jackson. When Zoe learned about The Mending House's opening, she was so excited about helping her favorite aunt (her only aunt) that she was willing to miss attending Music Week at her favorite summer camp.

Zoe and Jackson have been close cousins all their lives. Even though Jackson calls Zoe a snooty pest at times, and Zoe says Jackson acts just like an annoying little brother, the two cousins are inseparable during Zoe's visits and ultimately supportive of each other.

SETTING

Outside, front yard of The Mending House. There is a lemonade stand with a sign that says "Fresh-Squeezed Lemonade." A pitcher of lemonade, cups, a small bag of sugar, a few bottles of water, and a paper towel roll are on the stand. An ice chest is nearby on the ground. A cashbox, not visible, is behind the table. There are two chairs behind the stand.

Two large donation boxes are nearby. One box, marked **HOUSEHOLD DONATIONS**, is filled with paper towels, hand soap, lotion, tissue boxes, handwipes, and so forth. A second box, marked **DONATIONS – TOYS**, is filled with a variety of toys, board games, and stuffed animals.

*Zoe and Jackson are behind the stand. Jackson is putting ice in the cups, and Zoe is stirring a pitcher of lemonade.*

ZOE

(Pours cup of lemonade, and proudly holds it up as if giving a toast)

Can you believe we need to make more lemonade? I think this will be the best batch yet!

(Hands cup to Jackson)

Savor the taste.

JACKSON

(Sips and gags)

Eck! This stuff is tart!

ZOE

No, it's not!

JACKSON

(Holds throat as if choking)

Acccck... Somebody, help! My cousin is trying to poison me!

ZOE

(Pours lemonade in a cup and sips; strains to keep from puckering up at the tartness)

Ah...yeah...just a teaspoonful of sugar and it'll be extraordinaire.

*Zoe picks up bag of sugar and pours half the bag into the pitcher.*

JACKSON

(Sits and looks in the cashbox)

Look at all the money we've made today! Mom will be so happy.

ZOE

And I know just what she'd say –

(Changes voice to imitate

Aunt Valerie)

"My dear son and sweet niece, you're awesome!"

*Hungry Person enters.*

JACKSON

(Excited)

Hey, look! Another customer!

ZOE

(Looks in the direction of the Hungry Person)

Customer?

JACKSON

Get the lemonade ready!

ZOE

(Whispers)

That's not a customer! Ewww! Look at his filthy clothes.

*Hungry Person approaches lemonade stand.*

JACKSON

Good afternoon. I'll be happy to pour you a cup of delicious fresh-squeezed, mouth-watering lemonade for just \$1.50.

*Zoe sniffs and shows a look of disgust as if smelling a foul odor and continues to sneer at the Hungry Person.*

HUNGRY PERSON

Sure would love a cup, young man, but...ah...I don't have money.

ZOE

It's not free!

JACKSON

Zoe!

ZOE

We're doing a fundraiser for my aunt that's going to help families.

(Firmly)

\$1.50, please.

JACKSON

But, Zoe! He doesn't have any money.

*Jackson pours a little lemonade in a cup to sample.*

ZOE

(Folds arms)

Nothing's free.

(Looks at Hungry Person)

Come back when you have enough money.

JACKSON

(Sips lemonade)

Ah, this stuff tastes like syrup!

(Looks at Hungry Person)

You don't want this stuff!

*Hungry Person walks away quietly. Jackson adds water to the lemonade, tastes it, and nods to show it tastes better.*

ZOE

(Bops the back of Jackson's head with her hand)

Stop complaining about my lemonade!

JACKSON

(Rubs spot she hit)

Ow! How you treated that man is just as bad as your lemonade! Why didn't you follow my recipe?

ZOE

I did nothing wrong to that man!

JACKSON

Yes, you did! If you don't believe me, let's ask someone else.

(Speaks to audience)

Do you think we should have given that man a cup of lemonade? Who wants to answer this question?

(Crowd Work: Jackson asks one or two persons from the audience to volunteer responses. Jackson and Zoe ad-lib responses according to what the children say. If a child says Zoe did not do the right thing, then Zoe can pout or show dissatisfaction while Jackson might say "Good answer" or "Yes" with his hands raised in victory. If the child says Zoe did what was right, Zoe might respond "Right answer" or high-five the child and say "Smart kid." If numerous children desire to respond, let the children respond by a show of hands. Conclude by thanking the children for their responses.)

*Valerie enters carrying a pizza box.*

VALERIE

Break time, kids! Hot pizza.

*Valerie sets pizza box on the table.*

JACKSON

Pizza! Awesome!

(Opens cashbox)

Mom, look at the money we made!

ZOE

Yeah, Aunt Valerie! Everyone's been giving more than \$1.50. Fives, tens –

JACKSON

And a few twenties too!

VALERIE

Thanks be to God. People have been so generous and kind. And the two of you have worked hard with selling lemonade. My dear son and sweet niece, you are awesome!

ZOE

(Looks knowingly at Jackson)

I told you so!

VALERIE

And Zoe, you even missed Music Week at your summer camp to help with the opening of The Mending House. Thank you, dear.

(Points to the house)

This home will be a safe place for mothers and their children. And you're helping to make that happen.

ZOE

You're welcome, Aunt Valerie.

JACKSON

Let's eat. I'm hungry!

VALERIE

Handwipes first.

*Valerie pulls out a packet of hand wipes. Jackson and Zoe clean their hands with the wipes.*

ZOE

I'm starving!

VALERIE

Zoe, I want you to think twice about using that word. Some people really are that hungry. People right here in our community don't always have enough to eat. They might go for days without eating a good meal.

ZOE

Days?

VALERIE

Yes, Zoe. Many people depend on shelters and churches and other organizations that serve food to get at least one hot meal during the week. That's why it's important to help people in need when we can. We are mending God's world when we feed hungry people.

JACKSON

(Oblivious to the conversation as he opens the pizza box)

Hmm...thick crust, extra cheese, and pepperoni!

*Valerie exits.*

ZOE

Enjoy your pizza.

JACKSON

You said you were starving. Why aren't you eating?

*Zoe sits quietly in deep thought.*

ZOE

I can't imagine going days without food.

JACKSON

Why are you thinking about that?

ZOE

My family has always had enough food. I just never thought about being hungry.

*Hungry Person enters.*

JACKSON

That man is coming back. Zoe, please don't embarrass me and act mean to that guy.

*Hungry Person does not look their way as he passes.*

ZOE

(Calls out to Hungry Person)

Hey, you!

*Zoe picks up the pizza box.*

JACKSON

Leave the man alone, Zoe!

ZOE

(Offers box of pizza to  
Hungry Person)

Would you like some pizza?

*Hungry Person looks surprised.*

Please, take the whole box.

*Hungry Person takes the box of pizza.*

JACKSON

(Stunned)

Zoe?

ZOE

Wait!

(Stirs lemonade, then pours him a  
cup of lemonade)

And here's a cup of delicious fresh-squeezed  
lemonade.

HUNGRY PERSON

(Shocked and grateful)

Thank you...thank you so much.

JACKSON

(Confused as Hungry Person  
walks away)

What happened to you?

ZOE

Mending. It's all about mending. Don't you know,  
cousin? We're mending

(Uses ASL for "mend")

God's world when we feed hungry people.

JACKSON

(Stops eating)

Yeah. Yeah! We're mending

(Uses ASL for "mend")

God's world when we feed hungry people.

ZOE

(To the audience)

Hey, kids, this is the sign language for "mend."

(Signs "mend" slowly)

You got it.

(Signs "mend" slowly again)

JACKSON

Now say it with us.

ZOE AND JACKSON

We're mending

(Use ASL for "mend")

God's world when we feed hungry people.

*Jackson and Zoe begin singing "The Mending Rhyme," using the ASL for "mend" in the first two lines of the song when they sing the word.*

JACKSON

We're mending God's world every day.

ZOE

We're mending by what we do and say.

ZOE AND JACKSON

We're M-E-N- \*D -I-N-G!

*They spell out each letter with an emphasis on D.*

We're M-E-N- \*D -I-N-G!

*They spell out each letter with an emphasis on D.*

ZOE

We're mending God's world when we help  
hungry people?

ZOE AND JACKSON

We're mending God's world when we help  
hungry people.

ZOE AND JACKSON

We're M-E-N- \*D -I-N-G!

*They spell out each letter with an emphasis on D.*

End of Skit.