

Walking a Mile

By Michael Leathers

CAST: 2 males

Vince: A man's man who's serious about his bowling. Mid- to late 30s.

Terry: Vince's neighbor, a novice bowler with a fear of germs. Mid- to late 30s.

RUN TIME: 5 minutes

PROPS

- Bright purple bowling ball
- Bright purple shirt for Terry
- Small towel
- Dust cloth
- Latex gloves
- Can of disinfectant
- Small gym bag
- Two pairs of bowling shoes
- An old sock

STORY

Vince enjoys working on his bowling game – alone. His routine is disrupted when his wife insists he take their new neighbor, Terry, with him. It's the last thing he wants to do, but he learns the first step in building new relationships is accepting people as they are, not as you want them to be.

THEMES

Empathy. Judging. Compassion. Patience. Outreach.

Walking a Mile

(We're at a bowling alley. VINCE is seated, frustrated. TERRY enters, elated. A gym bag dangles from one shoulder. He carries a bowling ball wrapped in a small towel)

TERRY

(As he enters)

Success!

(TERRY sits next to VINCE, placing the towel-cloaked ball on his lap)

VINCE

Finally. How long's it take to pick a bowling ball?

TERRY

The choices overwhelmed me.

VINCE

Amy spends less time shopping for clothes.

TERRY

Pardon me, Mr. League Champion. I haven't graced a bowling alley since high school. Never been much of a sports buff.

VINCE

Yeah, Amy says you don't get out much.

TERRY

Guilty. I do tend to be a bit of a homebody. It was so kind of your wife to have you invite me.

VINCE

Yeah, it was.

TERRY

Do thank Amy again for me.

VINCE

Count on it.

TERRY

So what's next?

VINCE

First off, what gives with the towel?

TERRY

Please. All those people handling all those balls? It's a veritable breeding ground for germs. You can't be too careful.

VINCE

That explains a lot.

TERRY

What are you talking about?

VINCE

The first time you came to our home for dinner. You brought your own hand towel.

TERRY

Do you know how many germs fester in the hand towels in the average home bathroom?

VINCE

I got no idea.

TERRY

Millions. Tens of millions. ... I read it on the Internet.

VINCE

What's your shoe size?

TERRY

Ten. Why?

VINCE

You don't wanna know.

(VINCE exits. TERRY unveils his bowling ball. It's bright purple, matching his shirt. He reaches into his gym bag, pulls out a pair of latex gloves and dons them. He goes back to the gym bag and retrieves a dust cloth and a spray can of disinfectant. He sprays the disinfectant on his bowling ball, using the cloth to rub it in. VINCE enters, carrying two pairs of bowling shoes)

VINCE

That's a ... that's a colorful ball, Terry.

TERRY

It brings out the color in my shirt, don't you think?

(VINCE plops a pair of shoes in front of TERRY)

TERRY (cont'd)

What ... are those?

VINCE

Your shoes.

TERRY

Please. I have shoes. Clean ones.

VINCE

You can't wear 'em. These are regulation.

END OF SAMPLE

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