

Status Update - Part II
by Justin Street

Scripture Reference — *Jeremiah 1:5a NIV: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart.*

A sketch in two parts, for four non-gender-specific characters, and one voice over. The names used are only for reference. Actors may wish to use their own names, or could trade out for a name of their (or the director's) choosing.

CHARACTERS:

CHARLIE
JAMIE
JESSIE
SKYLER
THE VOICE

LIGHTS UP on CHARLIE, JAMIE, JESSIE, and SKYLER spread out evenly across the stage. They are in the same positions as the end of PART I. JAMIE, JESSIE, and SKYLER are awkwardly trying to avoid looking at CHARLIE.

CHARLIE

Can we at least agree that something isn't great about this?

JAMIE, JESSIE, and SKYLER think for a second. Then, grudgingly

SKYLER

Like.

JAMIE

Like.

JESSIE

Like.

CHARLIE

And can we all agree that while we're strangely connected, it's very isolating and lonely?

JAMIE, JESSIE, and SKYLER think for a beat.

SKYLER

Like.

JAMIE

Like.

JESSIE

Like.

CHARLIE

Ok. I'll take that as "yes" - which is also a word, you know. Just throwing it out there. Right. So do we really want to spend our lives living this way? Just, holding ourselves out to the rest of the world for some kind of positive reaction - desperately hoping that it comes?

They think for a beat

JAMIE

Sad.

SKYLER

Sad.

JESSIE

Angry.

CHARLIE

Ok. I'm going to take that as "No" - also a word, by the way. A simple one. Fewer letters than "Sad" or "Angry."

SKYLER

Haha.

CHARLIE

Yea, ok. Thanks for that. So what is it that's missing? What is it that we're not getting?

They think for a beat

JAMIE

Love.

CHARLIE

Yes, I know it's a good question, but what is it...

JAMIE

interrupting

No. That's what's missing. Love.

CHARLIE

But isn't that why we're doing this in the first place? For love? I put something out there, and you let me know it's okay so I can feel loved.

JAMIE

Maybe that isn't love. Maybe that's just approval.

SKYLER

Like.

CHARLIE

So where do we get love?

JESSIE
What if we already have it?

CHARLIE
What do you mean?

JESSIE
There's something I remember.

THE VOICE
Before I formed you in the womb...

JESSIE
Well, maybe not remember, exactly.

They begin to start hearing THE VOICE.

THE VOICE
Before I formed you in the womb - I knew you.

JESSIE
More like...

JAMIE
Realizing something that's just always been true.

THE VOICE
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

JAMIE
We're all out here trying to keep up with each other. Trying to be known.

CHARLIE
Only, we're not really known, are we?

JESSIE
But we are, just not like how we've been doing. Beyond all that. *Before* all that.

THE VOICE
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart.

This time, they all hear it, and they bask in the words for a moment.

SKYLER
Wow.

They regard SKYLER skeptically.

No, I really meant that. I'm not doing the thing anymore.
indicates pushing buttons

CHARLIE
Since before I was formed.

JAMIE
I've been known.

JESSIE
Before I was born.

SKYLER
I was loved.

CHARLIE
And when we know that we're known, really really known - then...

JAMIE
I can know you, and you can know me.

JESSIE
The real me.

SKYLER
Because we're loved. And loved people love people.

CHARLIE
Wow.

SKYLER
Ok, now who's doing it?

CHARLIE
Haha.

SKYLER
Haha... wait...

CHARLIE
You know, if we're going to get to know each other, maybe we should meet in person?

JAMIE
I'd like that.

JESSIE
Same.

SKYLER
Well, until then...

walks downstage and addresses the audience.
I mark myself as seen.

JAMIE

walks downstage and addresses the audience.
I mark myself as heard.

JESSIE

walks downstage and addresses the audience.
I mark myself as loved.

CHARLIE

walks downstage and addresses the audience.
I mark myself as known.

Lights out.