

# PAPER HEARTS

By: Kyle Higgins

**Characters:** Chris, Taylor, Alex

(Chris is busy taping glittery heart-shaped cutouts all over the stage. Taylor and Alex enter, taken aback by what they see.)

TAYLOR

Wow, Chris! Did Valentine's Day come early this year?

ALEX

Buddy, what's with all the hearts?

CHRIS

*(grinning)* Hey guys! I'm prepping for Youth Councils tonight! The theme is love the Lord your God with all your heart, right? So I thought, what better way to show that than by smothering the room with hearts!

ALEX

*(under their breath to TAYLOR)*  
Smothering is a good word for it..

TAYLOR

*(smirks)* Well, you've certainly taken this task... to heart.

ALEX

Pun intended?

TAYLOR

Always.

CHRIS

*(Not noticing)* Exactly! I want everyone to feel the love as soon as they walk in.

ALEX

It's... a lot of hearts. You even covered the instruments.

TAYLOR

And the pulpit!

CHRIS

Time flies when you love what you do!

ALEX

I like the commitment , but do you think this might be a bit...much?

CHRIS

Can you ever have too much heart? Besides, I'm just following the theme.

TAYLOR

I think you might be taking *(does finger quotes)* “with all your heart” a little too literally.

CHRIS

What do you mean?

ALEX

Well, isn’t loving God with all your heart more about what's inside than outside decorations?

TAYLOR

Yeah, it's about sincerity, emotions, devotion—not just paper hearts.

CHRIS

*(pauses)* So you're saying my decorations aren't a good idea?

ALEX

Not if they're just for show. What's important is what's in your real heart.

TAYLOR

Unless you're planning to donate your actual heart, which I wouldn't recommend.

CHRIS

*(laughs)* Yeah, that might complicate things.

ALEX

Maybe we can find a way to express our love that's more... heartfelt.

CHRIS

Like how?

TAYLOR

Like talking to someone who looks left out or asking someone to pray with them?

CHRIS

You might be onto something. I guess I got caught up in the decorations and missed the point.

ALEX

It happens. The heart wants what it wants.

TAYLOR

And sometimes it wants less glitter.

CHRIS

*(smiles)* Alright, let's rethink this. But first, can you help me take down some of these hearts? I may have overdone it.

TAYLOR

*(grabs a heart)* With pleasure. This one was giving me ...heartburn.

*(They start removing hearts, talking and laughing.)*

CHRIS

Thanks, guys. I'm lucky to have friends who keep me grounded.

TAYLOR

And we're lucky you didn't rent a Cupid costume.

CHRIS

*(grins mischievously)* About that...

ALEX, TAYLOR

No!

Blackout.