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EXT. CHURCH BUILDING/PARKING LOT - LATE MORNING

Joyful CHOIR VOICES are heard inside the building as another vehicle parks in a packed lot.

INT. CHURCH CONGREGATION - LATE MORNING

The joyful sounds continue as the CHOIR SINGS "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE, WE ADORE THEE" and clap their hands as the music accompanies them.

The church congregation stands up and claps with smiles of praise and enjoyment.

LILLY, a wonderfully distinguished, classy African-American lady in her 30s, leads the song with power!

ERIC, her lively African-American teenage son, sits in the pews as he sings and jots down number codes on his church bulletin.

In front of Eric, HOWARD, Lilly's serious, calm husband and CHARLES, her "know-it-all" adolescent son, both African-American, sing along.

As the song ends, MINISTER WALKER, a clean-shaven, youthful, yet mature pastor, walks to the podium.

MINISTER WALKER

Praise the Lord, everybody!

Responses are heard throughout.

CONGREGATION

Hallelujah!

CONGREGATION

Thank You, Jesus!

Lilly, Church Choir, Eric, George, Minister, Church Members

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MINISTER WALKER

A wonderful selection.

(to congregation)

Reminder...our community meeting tonight. We've got to raise college funds for our youth.

MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Amen!

MINISTER WALKER

Praise God. Now on to our lesson today...

INT. CHURCH SOCIAL HALL - EVENING

YOUTHFUL and OLDER CHURCH MEMBERS crowd a muggy social hall. Minister Walker stands up front, at podium.

Eric walks in and stands next to Lilly. He taps her shoulder.

ERIC

Miss much?

LILLY

Only a chuckle or two. They just started.

MINISTER THOMPSON, his wife, MRS. THOMPSON and GEORGE, their teenage son, enter. George walks over to Eric and leans in.

GEORGE

Almost over yet?

ERIC

No such luck.

LILLY

Shh, fellas.

HANNA, a church member, raises her hand.

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MINISTER WALKER

Sister Hanna?

HANNA

Have the young people give a car wash every month. This can generate extra money.

MINISTER WALKER

We'll take note of it.

Lilly raises her hand.

MINISTER WALKER (CONT'D)

Sister Henly?

LILLY

Why don't we have a trust fund set up, write proposals for big businesses to contribute funds for those who are college-bound.

MINISTER WALKER

That's a great idea. Do you have anyone in mind?

LILLY

I'm sure we'll come up with which companies, organizations and people when we put our heads together.

Another PERSON raises his hand. Min. Walker points in his direction. Eric opens an envelope.

PERSON

I can start writing some proposals now. It's gonna take some time to get a response.

MINISTER WALKER

Yes. We'll get those specifics from you. Thank you.

(to crowd)

Any other ideas for help?

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Eric studies RITA across the room, an attractive African-American female in her teens. She smiles and bats her eyes at SAM, a young teenage male.

GEORGE
(referring to Rita)
Not even worth your time, anymore.

ERIC
Sometimes I forget.

He continues watching Rita.

GEORGE
Dig this. You want to go out for some ice cream after we wrap?

ERIC
Make it a fudge sundae with fries and we're on.

GEORGE
That, plus a copy of "School Power Mac Today."

Eric smiles. He pulls a letter out of envelope. George notices.

GEORGE
At home, man.

ERIC
Using time wisely.

He quietly reads letter in his mind as we see the contents.

ERIC (V.O.) (CONT'D)
"Dear Eric Henly, We regret to inform you that your funds for housing have been denied. Unfortunately your parents' income combined is too high to receive the total amount of aid needed and we're not..."

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Eric closes envelope and looks up.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I don't believe it! I'm screwed.

GEORGE

Your parents have more resources
they can look into for...-Fudge
sundae?

Eric pulls out his car keys.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH SOCIAL HALL - LATER

Lilly throws her arms up in disgust while Eric shakes his
head and letter in hand.

LILLY

This is an outrage! I'll get a
hold of the college first thing in
the morning. We may need to write
a funding proposal for you first.