

LOOKING for CHRISTMAS

To All Christian Youth Leaders and Bible Club Organizers...

This is a simple Christmas story in the form of a short skit which can be performed by a troupe of tweens or teens, or even young adults. The story is told by seven principal characters – plus a few extras in a small party scene. The focus is on a main character who wanders the stage looking for Christmas. As the action progresses, the characters tell their twisted versions of Christmas and offer up trivial gifts that represent their tales. Eventually we meet a sad girl who has real trouble in her life, and then an angel explains the true meaning of Christmas.

Supplies Needed:

The following props can be **purchased, borrowed**, or – where possible – **made by hand** ahead of time. (Construction can be a project in itself for the group.)

- ◆ Small Christmas tree with a few cheap & tacky ornaments
- ◆ Medium-sized gingerbread house
- ◆ Belt (*aka “e-Belt”*) (*perhaps a little oversize for the main character*)
- ◆ Battery or cellphone charger (*biggish & impressive*)
- ◆ Party hats (*plus a larger one to be handed to the main character*)
- ◆ Small bell (*preferably with a rich ring to it*)
- ◆ Angel stuff – a pair of wings (*not too big*) and perhaps a halo

The set requires **minimal scenery**. (Another project for the group.) Boxes should be **big enough** to allow a person to crouch behind and remain concealed until their turn to speak.

- ◆ Four (or more) boxes, placed randomly and decorated with Christmas paper, garlands, ribbons, etc
- ◆ One box left plain and undecorated, placed near center stage
- ◆ Extra smaller boxes, trees, etc, for stage fill (if space requires)

Costumes are simple: All actors are dressed in typical street clothes, except Sad Girl is a little tattered and the angel looks very neat and dapper.

Director's Notes:

The script (with stage direction) follows on three pages.

The Main Character slowly wanders the stage back & forth – obviously **searching** – and encounters the various hidden characters at their boxes. Each appears and tells their impression of Christmas in a haughty, arrogant, or melodramatic tone, then offers a token gift to our hero, who gets bogged down with all the loot. Only the Sad Girl – someone facing real trouble in life – sounds genuine and caring.

The party scene consists of a few young people milling around and singing a silly song or **nonsensical chorus** (something simple like "la-la-la") in the background. They enter from the sidelines as the scene begins and afterwards they should unobtrusively retreat to the back of the stage area. All other speakers can simply remain quietly at their stations (perhaps kneeling or sitting) for the duration of the skit.

The angel provides the resolution to the story by explaining the real Christmas. For dramatic effect, it is best if he enters the stage walking from the back of the auditorium, so that he appears to come a long way to save the day rather than just being there among the others. He must speak **slowly**, and preferably with a deep solemn voice.

At least one Christmas Hymn is recommended for the conclusion of the skit – choose something appropriate for your group. Topical choices would include: *What Child is This?*; *Go Tell It On the Mountain*; *Away in a Manger*; and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. (Secular Christmas carols like *Jingle Bells* and Santa songs would not be suitable.)

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MAIN: *(Walks around on stage, looking around expectantly.)* I'm confused. People say Christmas is here, but what I'm wondering is... Where? Where do I find Christmas? How do I know I've got it, so I can enjoy it? *(Speaking to audience)* Does anyone know where I can find Christmas? *(From behind the first box, Person-1 pops up, holding a little Christmas tree and some tacky ornaments.)*

Person-1: Hi there! You've come to the right place! I can tell you all you need to know about Christmas! It's all right here *(pointing to tree)*. You see, Christmas is all about Christmas trees! Pine trees, spruce trees, fir trees – whatever kind you like. You decorate the tree real nice, like so... *(Puts an ornament or two on it)*. Voila! You have Christmas!

MAIN: But won't the tree drop its needles and die in a couple weeks?

Person-1: You just get an artificial one instead! A phony tree works even better than a real one. Here, you go right ahead and take this one – it's on me.

MAIN: Thank you... I think. *(Walks away, looking at the little tree.)* I don't know... I still don't feel that I have it quite yet. Have I really found Christmas?

Person-2: *(Jumps up from behind box.)* Hello! You need to be here. Good thing for you I happen to be around, because I have just what you're looking for. Christmas you say? Well, what is Christmas if it isn't a Gingerbread House! *(Pulls one out from behind the box.)* Christmas, you see, is found in a really nice home. See how beautiful my house is?

MAIN: But aren't I supposed to eat this house? It won't last.

Person-2: That's the idea, silly *(shaking head and looking disdainfully at Main)*. That way, you get a new one next year! Christmas doesn't last forever, you know. *(Hands over the house to Main, who walks away, sniffing the house.)*

Person-3: Psssst!! Come over this way. This is where you'll find what you're looking for. Don't be fooled by those other nuts. I can tell you how things really are. Christmas is about... Parties! *(Person-3 looks around the stage.)* Come on out, everybody – let's show our friend how to have a good time! *(A few party-goers come on stage, making a lot of noise, laughing, dancing, singing a silly song.)* Look at how much fun we're having! This is what you've been missing all your life! Where else could you find a better meaning of Christmas!

MAIN: But won't everyone have to go home eventually? Then what?

Person-3: Yeah, so what's your point? Everybody goes home, sleeps it off. Then we come back and do it all over again tomorrow! *(Party-goers suddenly look very tired at the thought.)* Look, just to get you into the spirit, here's a nice party hat for you. *(Plunks a silly-looking party hat onto Main's head, who walks away looking askance [sideways] at Person-3. Meanwhile, party-goers fade away and retreat to the back of the stage.)*

(Main walks and almost collides with Person-4, who has just appeared.)

Person-4: (Arrogantly...) Hey! Watch where I'm walking, will ya!

MAIN: I'm sorry, but I was looking for Christmas. I don't suppose you happen to know where I can find it, do you?

Person-4: Are you kidding me! I've got Christmas, big time! I'm so full of Christmas, I could burst!

MAIN: Oh, finally! I'm all ears.

Person-4: (Sounding like a salesman...) Here's the lowdown, kid: Christmas, as everybody knows, is all about gifts!! Big gifts, expensive gifts, multiple gifts. It's about smart-phones, cool tablets, vacations to places where you can buy more gifts. Why, look here... I even have a gift for you! A nice new battery-operated e-Belt. (Puts the e-Belt onto Main.) See, it holds up your pants, has a smart-phone built in... And it tracks your steps walked too. This gift will do the job for you!

MAIN: (Tries to bend down to look at the e-Belt but can't because of the hat, tree, and house.) It's kind of hard for me to operate it right now. And besides, what happens when the battery runs out?

Person-4: (Now sounding like Tech Support...) No sweat... Here's a charger! Why don't you keep it in that gingerbread house of yours?

(Main walks away, shaking head. Sees Sad Girl.)

MAIN: Hi... Who are you?

Sad Girl: My name is Anna.

MAIN: Why do you look so sad?

Sad Girl: I've been looking for Christmas, and I can't find it.

MAIN: Wow, me too! Why are you looking for it?

Sad Girl: My sister is sick, and there's no medicine. She's really in a bad way. I thought that maybe if I could find Christmas, it would cheer her up.

MAIN: I'm really sorry to hear about your sister. I sure wish I could help. But I've really got my hands full here with this tree, this house, and all these gifts and things. I even have to watch how I walk so I don't lose this party hat. Christmas is pretty demanding...

(From the back of the auditorium, an angel enters, ringing a small bell, and walks up to the stage.)

Angel: Greetings to all. But it seems there's confusion here. *(Pointing at Main's hat, house, e-Belt, and tree...)* What is all of this? Why do you have all these things?

MAIN: *(Looking a bit scared, shocked & amazed at seeing an Angel. Main walks around the Angel, looking in awe.)* Um, um, excuse me, sir. Please don't get mad at me – I'm just a kid. But some people told me I'll find Christmas in these things.

Angel: *(Angrily...)* Well, they're wrong! *(Then much more friendly and forgiving...)* Christmas isn't found in a fancy house, or at a party, or in an expensive gift that you buy at the store. I can tell you the truth – I was present at the very first Christmas – Christmas is about the Lord Jesus Christ, God's perfect Son.

Jesus came to earth as a baby. He wasn't born in any fancy house – he was born in a barn! *(Angel takes away the gingerbread house and sets it on the floor.)* Jesus didn't even have a bed. His bed was a manger – that's where the animals eat their hay and drink their water.

There were no ornaments on a tree *(taking away the tree held by Main)*. Oh, but you should have seen the special star that lit up in the sky!

And there wasn't a big party *(taking away Main's hat)*. But the angels sang as they've never sung before. And you should have seen the joy on the shepherds' faces!

Jesus didn't come looking for gifts, you know... He was and still is the Gift. His power to help us has never run out – not like this... thing. *(Angel removes the e-Belt and charger.)*

Jesus is powerful to help all of those who cry out to Him. *(Angel puts his arms around Main and Sad Girl.)* Now, how does that sound?

MAIN: Wow! Thank you, Mr. Angel. I get it now.

Sad Girl: I get it too! Christmas is when Jesus was given to us, and He's here right now in this place, even though we can't see Him. He is my hope. *(Turning to audience...)* And He can be your hope too if you choose. Merry Christmas!!!

(All the players come together on the stage to sing one or two Christmas hymns.)