

“A Lot of Christmas”

by
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What A family moves towards Christmas with a foot in each boat of past memories and current realities, all ending with a renewed sense of hope of the coming Savior.

Themes: Advent, Christmas, Change, Aging Parents, Family

Who	Janet	Middle aged woman
	Terry	Middle aged man
	Flo	Older woman
	Attendant/Amber	Adult woman
	Stagehands (2)	Nonspeaking set movers

When Present Day

Costumes and Props Variety of un-decorated Christmas trees
One fully decorated Christmas tree
Clipboard
Winter coats, hats over casual clothing
Professional clothing for Amber in Scene 2

Why John 1:14

How Gather a few Christmas trees and place them randomly around the stage. You can get used, artificial trees from Goodwill or other thrift stores. There may also be people in your church who may have extra trees you can borrow. Finally, Christmas tree lots usually have cheaper, real trees to choose from as well. To enhance the effect, show a projected picture of a Christmas tree lot on your screen. You will also then need to have a picture of the interior of an extended care facility, too. These images can be easily found on Google Images, or various copyright free sites.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

At opening, **Janet**, **Terry** and **Flo** enter and start to slowly make their way to center stage. The stage is set to look like a Christmas tree lot. This is what **Flo** is seeing and living in, but **Janet** and **Terry** know and act as though they are touring an extended care facility.

Janet: *(trying to be cheerful, to Flo)* Well Mom, we're here.

Terry: *(with a tone)* Finally. *(gets a look from Janet)*

Janet: *(looking around)* Such a, um, nice and festive place. *(with a tone)* Right, Terry?

Terry: *(turning up the cheerful attitude)* Um, yes. *(waves his hand around)* I'm sure there are a lot of options here.

Attendant enters from stage right and approaches the group.

Attendant: Hi there everyone. We're glad you stopped by today.

Janet: We just got here and still trying to get our bearings.

Terry: *(with urgency)* But we do need to choose something. Soon.

Attendant: I understand. Why don't I go and take care of another customer, and I'll be back.

Janet: Thanks very much.

Attendant exits.

Janet: *(to Flo)* Mom, are you OK?

Flo hasn't said anything and is looking around tentatively. Then brightens.

Flo: *(not responding to Janet. She's somewhere else)* It's all, so, so beautiful. My husband and I came to places like this all the time, every year.

Janet: Yes...your husband. *(beat)* Dad.

Terry: *(uncertain, to Flo)* You, uh, came here a lot, huh?

Flo: *(ignoring Terry)* We'd walk around, searching for the perfect one.

Terry and **Janet** give each other a confused look.

Flo: We would look for just the right one. It had to be, um, familiar. You know, like the ones we used to get in the old days. Not some cold metal thing, but something that is full of life. Not sterile. Full, and

beautiful. *(looking around, walking around the stage as if examining trees)* Oh my. I'm getting a bit turned around here.

Terry: We have you Flo, no problem.

Janet: I'm right here, Mom.

Flo: *(again, not acknowledging them)* Did you know we were in charge of decorating the church for Christmas? We'd come to places like this and get the perfect one. Nothing too good for God's house. My husband, Frank, would be so picky. He said we had to celebrate the arrival of the Savior in a glorious way. Glorious.

Janet: *(gently)* Yes, I remember.

Flo: Oh, and then Frank and that awful janitor, Bob, at the church would get into such arguments! That Bob character would always criticize the tree we got, always saying to Frank that too many needles would drop. My...one year I remember them wrestling around on the platform of the church and crashing into the nativity scene. Shepherds, wisemen, and the baby Jesus went flying through the air like it was nobody's business! One year, the pastor had to wedge a shepherd's crook between them to get them apart.

Terry: *(laughing)* What? Frank and the janitor—?

Janet: Dad?!

Flo: *(continuing)* We found the baby Jesus in the baptismal.

Pause.

Flo: It was fitting if you think about it.

Terry: *(to Janet, laughing)* Did I miss some fun stuff in your family or what?!

Janet: I don't remember any of that!

Flo: *(now addressing Janet)* Oh, I kept you kids in the dark. It wasn't our finest hour really.

Awkward pause.

Janet: OK, well, we need to focus now.

Flo: *(ignoring once more, looking around again)* It was...it was Christmas, you know? Christmas. It was our, well, our anchor...so to speak. We could always count on it being just what we needed. The festivities. The lights. Decorations.

Pause.

Flo: Peace. We'd wait so long, for that peace to arrive. And it did. *(looking up)* He did. Every year.

Pause.

Flo: Now, I don't know. This...this lot. *(goes to one of the trees)* Full of memories, but only memories. And I don't have many of those anymore.

At this point, all freeze and the lights lower, as soft music comes up.

The picture projected switches from a Christmas tree lot to a hallway in what looks like an extended care facility.

*If you have trees on the stage, have **Stagehands** come in and remove all the trees. Then, a **Stagehand** replaces the tree **Flo** was looking at with one that is fully decorated.*

*During this transition, **Janet**, **Terry**, and **Flo** remove their coats, revealing casual clothing underneath. A **Stagehand** takes the coats off stage.*

*Lights come back up, music stops, as **Janet** goes to **Flo** and puts her hand on **Flo's** shoulder.*

Janet: Mom. Nothing's changed. We can make new memories, even here. *(referring to the fully decorated tree)* Isn't their tree pretty?

***Amber**, the same person who played the **Attendant**, enters stage right and approaches the family. **Amber** is dressed professionally and holding a clipboard.*

Flo: *(a bit confused)* Huh? Where are—

Terry: *(aside to Janet)* Umm, we have to choose a room soon.

Amber: Yes, we need to keep moving along. I have other tours to conduct.

Janet: *(ignoring Terry and Amber, speaking to Flo)* Come on, Mom. Let's keep looking. *(to Amber)* We shouldn't be too long.

***Amber** pauses, looks at her clipboard, gives a frustrated look to the family, then exits quickly.*

Flo: *(looking around and now seemingly aware of where she really is. To Janet)* I don't think Frank would have picked this tree, you know why?

Janet: *(gently)* No Mom, why?

Flo: Too many needles still on it. Look how clean the floor is under it!

Janet: *(laughs)* Well, I bet *(waves her hand around the setting)* their janitor, Bob, probably appreciates that.

Flo: I suppose. *(looking around, thinking, then)* Do you think Christmas...? Here? Can still be... *(trails off with questioning tone)*

Janet: What, Mom? Can still be what?

Flo: *(hesitates, then)* Glorious?

Janet: *(touched, then)* Yes. Glorious. Like before. And like now. Let's make it that way. A special gift to the Savior. No matter where we are.

Terry: *(trying to be mildly funny)* Or *(air quotes)* when *(closed air quote)* we are.

Janet: *(ignoring)* Our celebration of Christmas will always be a glorious gift to Him, for His glorious gift to us. To us, together.

Flo: *(considers this, then)* Yes. OK. That works. *(making a decision, then to Janet)* Thank you. Let's go.

Flo, Janet and Terry exit as lights dim with a spot on the tree and music up and out.

Curtain.