

A script from



“Between the Giants”

A Christmas Play
by
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SYNOPSIS:

*The purpose of this Christmas Play is to “call out” people who attend church only on Christmas and Easter **in an affirming way** while challenging believers to be devoid of the very characteristics that push people away from church. The scene is the inside of a coffee shop.*

CAST:

It is important to understand these modern day characters as “archetypes” of their Biblical counterparts. In no part are they supposed to be exact representations, but rather characters encompassing aspects of their Biblical counterparts and allowed creative interpretation for a modern storytelling twist.

Mary – A young woman in her 20’s. She’s pretty mild mannered and well known to be a sweet girl...but Mary has a story to tell that may not be seen just on the surface. Mary should be able to sing as she gives a show on Christmas Eve at the coffee shop and sings a little. If she can accompany herself on the guitar or piano/keyboard, that would be best.

Beth – A middle-aged woman in her mid to late 40’s. She works at the coffee shop, is a believer and mentor to Mary.

Gabe – He owns the coffee shop. Later we find he was the one who helped bring the message of Jesus to Mary.

Walter, Eli, Manuel – All men in their mid 50’s plus. They are “regulars” at the coffee shop often sitting there for hours playing checkers, hearts, chess, etc... Eli and Manuel are jovial and light-hearted. Walter is a little more curmudgeonly as he struggles with the idea of faith, Jesus, and the like. But whether he knows it or not, he’s on a “journey” toward Jesus.

Abby & Shep – They’re married and travelers who just happen to be at a certain place at a certain time and when their flight is cancelled on account of weather they end up spending Christmas away from home...but maybe that’s where they were supposed to end up.

Guitarist/Pianist – Mary gives a show on Christmas Eve where she sings some. If she can’t accompany herself you can find a guitarist or pianist for this final scene.

Extras – Occasional coffee shop customers without speaking roles, but able to interact in pantomime within the scene as the director sees fit.

WHEN:

Primarily modern day, but snippets take place around the time of the birth of Jesus.

TIME:

Approximately 30 minutes. This script is 16 pages long.

PROPS/SET DESIGN/COSTUMES

The coffee shop should be outfitted similar to your local shop. (I know you have one!) Paper cups and lids will work best for serving coffee; coffee making/barista machines; café tables (2 or 3) with chairs; Christmas decorations decorating the shop and some for Gabe to enter with where he enters with them.

A Santa Claus hat, coat and mustache and beard for Gabe; portable chess game and set of cards for Walter, Eli and Manuel; winter coats for all; customers with wallets/bags.

Costumes are two fold for each character. One is of a traditionally thought costume of these characters during Jesus' time. Walter, Eli and Manuel are the three Magi, so headdresses, rich robes, carrying representatives of incense, gold, and myrrh. Mary in a blue robe, very "Mary" as we think of her; Gabe as the Archangel Gabriel with wings and white robe; Beth as Elizabeth, plain robe and appearing pregnant in her first entrance as Elizabeth; Abby and Shep in brown robes with fake beards; Shepherds' staffs.

The second is modern dress. Jeans and a non-distracting, weather and age appropriate tops for Beth, Gabe, Mary, Shep and Abby; khakis or cords for Walter, Eli and Manuel and "Mr. Roger Sweaters" or similar tops; for Mary's show you will need a stool, a microphone and stand, and a guitar/keyboard (or guitarist/pianist).

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

This production can be given straight through from start to finish. Or, it is also designed to allow for things like a song, an offering, communion, a choir presentation, etc. to occur between scene segments.

Want to think bigger? Turn your church or wherever you're putting on the production into a coffee shop setting or have it in a coffee shop! Give out free coffee...good coffee. Have a bake sale of muffins and scones and such with proceeds going to one of your church's local ministries (make sure you say that). Put up signs similar to ones found in coffee shops. In the weeks leading up to your production hand out "invitations" you have designed for your regular church-goers to give out to friends and family who may not regularly attend church. If the name of your church is Crossroads Church, on the invitation, you could even put something like, "You're invited to Crossroads Café for free coffee and a show!" Or something like that. Go with the theme as much as you like. It will add to the experience.

It's no secret to churches...there are people who only attend church on Christmas and Easter, but are they to blame? This play addresses that issue head on to that very crowd in what is intended to be a very affirming way to them. And believers should listen to the reasons that people don't go to church regularly and strive to not embody those traits.

Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

And I John 4:7-12 says, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

SCENE 1A

The scene is a coffee shop. It's Christmas Eve- Eve or 2 days before Christmas.

*Mary is dressed in a traditional Mary the Mother of Jesus way. While **Mary** speaks below she removes her outer costume to reveal a modern young woman. **Gabe** and **Beth** follow the same.*

Gabe: God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. Her name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Mary: "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered the home of her cousin, Elizabeth. Mary greeted her.

Beth: When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Mary: So this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother, Mary, was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. She gave birth to a son. And he was given the name Jesus. Nothing is impossible with God.

***Beth** enters the coffee shop in sort of a tizzy drawing **Mary** out of her speech into the modern scene.*

Beth: Good morning Sweetheart!

Mary: Morning Beth.

Beth: Sorry I'm late.

Mary: No problem. How's the little one this morning?

Beth: Ugh. I'm too old for this. Every day I wonder, "What was God thinking when he decided to give me a baby now...after all these years"?

Mary: He was thinking you'd be a great mom.

Beth: Well, I don't feel so great during 2AM feedings that's for sure. Is Gabe in the back?

Mary: Yeah. He's still digging for more Christmas decorations.

Beth: Christmas is 2 days away and he's still decorating? That's Gabe for you.

Mary: I've never seen someone love Christmas like he does.

Gabe enters carrying decorations and wearing a Santa suit and beard.

Gabe: HO HO HO! Merry Almost Christmas! Like it? What? I thought it would be fun. Maybe bring in some business.

Beth: Or scare it away.

Gabe: *(Itching his beard)* Man this thing is itchy. And hot. *(Takes it off)*

Mary: Why do you love Christmas so much, Gabe?

Gabe: What's not to love? The smell of evergreens through every doorway, popcorn garlands, carolers on the doorstep, families coming together and...what's that thing I'm missing? I feel like I'm missing something. Ha ha ha. Just kidding. I love celebrating Jesus and I love celebrating it with the world in such an overt way! I love sharing that message and what better way to do that then with decorations that honor him and outfits that, well...Santa Claus is a jolly guy, and I'm sure Jesus was too. And he certainly knew how to dole out the gifts!

Mary, Beth and Gabe freeze.

SCENE 1B

*Enter the three **Wise Men** dressed in traditional **Wise Men** garb. While they speak, they remove their outer robes to reveal themselves as more elderly-like modern men.*

Walter: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Eli: When King Herod heard this he was disturbed. He called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

Manuel: "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written.

Walter: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the Shepherd of my people Israel."

Manuel: And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Eli: Then Herod sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Manuel: After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Walter: When they got there, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route having just witnessed God's greatest gift to this world.

Gabe: Good morning Gentlemen!

***Walter, Eli and Manuel** are drawn into the scene as everyone unfreezes and answer together in kind with "Hey""Morning""Same to you"and the like.*

Eli: Gabriel, will you please tell Walter here that he needs to be at Mary's concert on Christmas Eve.

Walter: Now cut it out, will ya?

Gabe: You can't make it, Walt?

Manuel: It's not that he can't make it...he won't make it.

***Manuel, Eli and Walter** start taking out and setting up a table and a game of cards. They play as the following dialogue occurs.*

Gabe: Well maybe he has a good reason.

Eli: If you call reruns of M*A*S*H* a good reason, then maybe he does.

Manuel: Come on, Walter. Join in the Christmas spirit for once.

Eli: You old Scrooge.

Manuel: Besides, if you don't show, you're going to make our little Mary here cry herself to sleep on Christmas Eve.

Walter: Oh, come off it. Mary, am I going to make you cry if I'm not at your little show thingy?

Mary: Well, I don't know about cry...

Walter: See? Mary says it's fine. Now will you lay off me?

Mary: But it may just ruin Christmas morning for me.

Walter: Oh, come off it.

Beth: She may lose the will to open presents.

Eli: Now look what you've done.

Mary: I don't think I'll be able to muster the strength to eat Christmas dinner either.

Manuel: You should be ashamed of yourself.

Beth: Oh! You should contact your Congressman and ask him to have Christmas wiped off the calendar forever.

Walter: Well, joke all you want...I'm not coming. Mary, you're a sweet girl and I want to thank you for the invitation, but I think this Christmas I'm just going to lay low and enjoy the twinkling lights of my television.

Gabe: Oh, Walter, you've said the same thing every year since Muriel passed away. It's been years now, friend. Won't you join us just this once?

Walter: No I will not. And I kindly ask you all to stop asking me. Now, who's turn is it?

Beth: I wouldn't count him out just yet, Mary. If I were to put money on it, I would bet he'll show after all.

Mary: I'm afraid I wouldn't be so willing to take that bet. He's just so hard-nosed against it, against all things Christmas and God and Church.

Gabe: Well, do you blame him? I know you don't know much about him, but I do. His upbringing, his life in and out of foster homes, an early life laced with trips in a cop car... there's a lot of anger in him, but he has a mind

as sharp as a tack and heart of gold in there somewhere. Sound like anyone you know?

Mary: Someone I used to know all too well.

Gabe: When Walt met his wife he changed, but it was all for her. Her faith became his. It's what attracted him to her, whether he would say that or not. So when she died, I guess what little faith he had sort of died with her. Walt doesn't know it, but he's been searching for faith in something ever since. That's why he needs to be there Christmas Eve. He needs to hear the story of Jesus...but he needs to hear your story too.

Mary: So, you're saying we should kidnap him and drag him here?

Beth: Gotta love duct tape.

Gabe: But really, just wait and see. Walt thinks he's closed the door on this one. But where a door is closed...

Mary&B: God has opened a window.

Gabe: I've said that before, huh?

Beth: Once or twice.

Gabe: Just look for that window.

*All in the coffee shop freeze as the **Shepherds** enter.*

SCENE 1C

Shep: (Taking off his fake beard) There were Shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night when an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Abby: (Taking off her fake beard revealing herself as a woman) But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Shep: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, • "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to mankind on whom his favor rests."

Abby: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the Shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Shep: So they hurried off and found the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the Shepherds said to them.

Abby: The Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Coffee shop unfreezes and Abby and Shep enter.

Abby: Geez! It's cold out there!

Shep: If you wanted a beach, we should have gotten on a different plane.

Beth: Here, let me help you with that. *(Helping her take off her coat and hang it up.)*

Abby: Thanks. Thank God, for hot coffee, right?

Beth: In this business, we thank him every day for it.

Shep: Do you thank him for this snow? It's really starting to pile up out there.

Beth: I thank him for it when I'm sitting inside in a cozy sweater with a cup of Joe, a warm fire and no place to go. When I'm trying to drive through it or shoveling off my walk...then not so much.

Mary: What can I get you?

Abby: A caramel latte. Extra hot.

Shep: The same for me.

Abby: Remind me again why we didn't go somewhere tropical this time?

Shep: Because last time we did that you got food poisoning. And we've never been here before.

Abby: I'm beginning to see why.

*To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at
SkitGuys.com!*

ENDING:

Pause.

Between the giants of Christmas and Easter an entire life was lived!
Jesus lived. And he lived really well. Jesus didn't come to just be

coddled as a little baby or gawked at on a cross. He came to live life with us. To walk with us. To talk with us. To grab a cup of coffee with us and get to know us. If you just give Jesus a chance, I think you'll find a pretty likeable person, a very loving companion and a most amazing friend.

Pause.

I guess that's all he wants me to say. I love this next song. (She starts singing a popular Christmas Carol and then after the first verse or so invites the crowd/congregation to sing along.) Will you please join me in singing?

*The song continues with **Mary** leading all in attendance in this final Christmas Carol. During the singing **Abby** greets **Mary** and they exchange a hug. **Shep** stands close by then leads **Abby** back to sit down. Then **Walter** makes his way slowly to where **Mary** stands, **Eli** and **Manuel** stand in their place. **Walter** stands looking at **Mary** who slowly walks to him then gives him a hug which he returns. **Gabe** has moved forward and shakes **Walter's** hand and hugs him too. **Walter** has a smile on that hasn't been seen in years. The scene fades to black on the final line of the carol.*

The End.