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“Christmas for One”

by
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What	As people struggling with loss, grief, and disappointment enter the Inn Restaurant to order Christmas, they discover a place had already been set for them. This skit is a reminder that Jesus makes room for everyone at His table for Christmas. Themes: Christmas, Loneliness, Grief, Single, Fellowship	
Who	Waiter	Alice
	Julie	John
	Ben	4 people including Person 1 and Person 2
When	Present Day	
Wear (Props)	Long Table or Joined Tables with 8 Chairs, Place Settings, and Placeholders with Character Names Podium Bell Clipboard with a Paper 8 Menus Tray Candy Canes Water Pitcher	
Why	Luke 2: 10-11; John 13:34; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 91:15	
How	The waiter should be accommodating and energetic throughout the skit, but politely unhelpful in explaining the situation to characters until Julie’s question at the end. When characters arrive at the podium, the actors already seated at the table can look at the menu, interact quietly, and observe the action at the podium. They should be careful to stay in character and avoid distracting from the dialogue.	
Time	Approximately 10 minutes	

Waiter enters and takes a long last look at the table that has been set for 8 people. He makes a last-minute adjustment and then says...

Waiter: The Boss is going to love this spread.

Julie, looking uncomfortable, enters, walks to the podium and rings the bell. The Waiter turns smiling to Julie and walks to the podium to greet Julie.

Waiter: *(eager to please)* Welcome to the Inn Restaurant! How can I help you?

Julie: Uh, hi. I'd like to...that is...do you have? *(Sighs heavily)* Look, this is awkward. I'm here to order a Christmas for one.

Waiter: Ah yes, of course! *(Picks up the clipboard from the podium)* Your name?

Julie: *(looks concerned)* Actually, I'm sorry, but I didn't make a reservation. I was hoping there would be room—

Waiter: Actually, I'm sure there has already been a reservation made for you. I just need your name.

Julie: I don't think anyone knew I was coming—

Waiter: *(politely prompts)* Name?

Julie: *(unsure)* Okay. I can see you're persistent. My name is Julie.

Waiter: *(putting Julie at ease)* Thank you, madam. *(Looking at clipboard)* Ah ha! Here you are. Absolutely! I have just the thing, Ms. Julie. Right this way.

Waiter picks up a menu from the podium and walks to Julie's seat and pulls out the chair. Julie follows, but looks confusedly at the table without sitting.

Julie: I'm sorry. I think you might have misunderstood. I said Christmas for *(leans closer, embarrassed)* one.

Waiter: *(guides Julie to the seat gently)* Yes, yes. Of course. This is your seat right here.

Julie sits down, picks up the placeholder with her name and looks back up at the Waiter.

Julie: But how did you know—

Waiter: *(interrupting jovially; opens the menu and hands it to Julie)* Ms. Julie, here is our menu this Christmas season at the Inn. *(Gesturing)* As you can see, we offer a wide range of items for our patrons. Starting with the

Advent Section, you can see we have many different celebration options. You can find mistletoe—

Julie: *(interrupts bitterly)* I told you table for one, remember?

Waiter: *(still energetic and happy, unaffected by Julie's comment)* Yes, well, we also have tree lighting, caroling, worship services, and of course our delightful food options from fruit cake *(Julie winces and groans)* to gingerbread cookies? *(Looks expectedly at Julie who nods approval; Waiter continues)* You can also choose to order our yule log and chestnut combo. We have gift package options and even snow by the pound. The Nativity, of course, is our crowning glory at the Inn Restaurant. Just take a look and I can come back in a bit and take your order. *(Waiter starts to walk away)*

Julie: *(realizing she still doesn't have answers)* Wait! *(Waiter turns around)* I think there's been a mistake. Why am I at this big table if I'm here by myself and *(gesturing to name)* why is my name already on this—

Ben glumly enters the stage as Julie is talking and rings the bell, interrupting her. The Waiter smiles widely towards him and looks back at Julie happily.

Waiter: Please excuse me a second, Ms. Julie. I invite you to look at the menu. I'll be back. *(Walks toward the podium to greet Ben. Julie watches the Waiter's retreating back and looks between the newcomer and the menu curiously)* Welcome to the Inn Restaurant, Mr...?

Ben: *(flatly)* Ben.

Waiter: *(energetically)* Mr. Ben. We are so glad you could join us. *(Picks up the clipboard).* Ahhhh...I see you are right here on the list.

Ben: *(frowns at the Waiter)* Right where? Look. I just came in here to get a Christmas for one. I was going to take it home with me. I didn't even really want to do Christmas this year anyway. *(Pauses)* You know what? I'm just going to go. This was a bad idea.

Waiter: Oh my! No, Mr. Ben. *(Puts down the clipboard and picks up the menu)* Please, let me. *(Takes Ben by the arm and leads him toward the table. Ben, too depressed to resist, allows the Waiter to lead him to a seat at the end of the table where his name sits)* You can sit right here.

Ben: *(sits mechanically but looks around and sees Julie)* Look, buddy. Someone else is already sitting here. I told you, I can just go. I'll just be in the way.

Waiter: Please, Mr. Ben. Stay. This is your seat. Look *(gesturing to the place setting and places menu on the table in front of him)*. My Boss would be so disappointed if you didn't stay. Let me get some water for you all while I let you look over the menu.

Rushes off stage to get water pitcher.

Julie: *(to retreating Waiter)* Wait! *(Realizing disappointedly that the Waiter is gone, Julie focuses attention on Ben. Ben is staring unfocused at the menu sitting in front of him on the table)* Hey, Ben is it? *(Ben still doesn't look at Julie. She starts snapping her fingers closer to him to get his attention)* Hey!

Ben: *(looks up at Julie as if realizing she's there again)* Oh. Sorry. Yes. I'm Ben.

Julie: Hi, Ben. I'm Julie. Look, I don't know what's happening here, but something weird is going on. I asked for a table for one. It's just been me after the divorce and I didn't know what else to do with myself. But now I'm at this big table...there was somehow a reservation for me already...and now you're here. Do you know what's going on?

Ben: *(Slightly more interested)* No. I asked for Christmas for one, too. You see, my wife...my wife died last year around this time. Christmas was her absolute favorite time of year. *(Remembering wistfully)* We used to decorate together and go caroling with our Sunday School class. She made the best little gingerbread cookies— *(too upset to finish his sentence and shakes head)*. Anyway, it feels weird not to celebrate something she loved so much, but I just can't seem to do it without her.

Julie: Oh, I'm sorry, Ben. Grief is rough.

The Waiter returns, smiling to find the patrons talking. He fills the water glasses.

Ben: Yeah. It's nice to talk about her, though. Hard, but nice. I'm sure a divorce is no picnic, either.

Julie: True, but I'm just trying to pick up the pieces and this seemed like a way to start. Do you want to order something since we're here? We could share.

Ben: Maybe. What do they have?

Ben and Julie pick up the menu and start to look it over more intently. John and Alice walk toward the podium uncertainly and ring the bell. The Waiter puts down the water pitcher and strolls excitedly toward them. Ben and Julie look at the menu, but also watch the scene together playing out at the podium, curious about the newcomers.

Waiter: Welcome to the Inn Restaurant! Lovely to see you! Names?

John: Oh, no, we don't have reservations. We thought we'd be spending this Christmas with a little one, but it just hasn't happened for us yet. We thought it'd be easier just to order our Christmas from here. Doesn't seem like Christmas without a child to celebrate with us.

Alice leans over to her husband sadly, squeezes his hand, and nods in agreement.

Waiter: Oh, sir! You both have come to the right place. I'm sure you're on our list. What are your names?

Speaking the next two lines at the same time.

Alice: I don't see how—

John: We didn't—

Waiter: Please. *(Picks up the clipboard)*

Alice: *(placating the waiter)* Alice and John.

Waiter: Aha! Right here *(pointing to the clipboard)*. Come this way. *(Alice and John, perplexed, follow. The Waiter seats them between Ben and Julie. He hands them the menus)* This is coming together nicely! Back in a sec! *(Leaves the stage to get candy canes)*

Alice: *(to retreating Waiter)* Wait!

Julie: Don't bother. It won't help. Trust me, I've tried. Hi, I'm Julie.

Ben: And I'm Ben.

John: *(still bewildered)* I'm John and this is my wife, Alice.

Alice: What exactly is going on?

Julie: We're not really sure, but it looks like we're ordering Christmas together this year.

Alice: *(looking a little sad)* We might not be the best company for you guys.

Julie: Yeah, we couldn't help, but overhear. Actually, we all seem to be struggling this year.

John: You guys, too?

Ben: Definitely. *(Looks at John, Julie, and Alice, contemplating)* But, it's actually looking better all the time. Let's get started on this menu.

Ben, John, Julie, and Alice look at the menu, pointing out things to one another that they might want to order when the Jones' party enters laughing and jovial as they head toward the podium. Person 1 rings the bell. The Waiter returns smiling widely carrying candy canes on a tray.

Waiter: Welcome to the Inn Restaurant!

Person 1: We need Christmas for 4.

Waiter pulls out clipboard with free hand while balancing the candy cane tray.

Waiter: Aha! The Jones' party?

Person 1: How did you know? That's amazing!

Waiter: Right this way. *(Puts down clipboard, picks up menus, and leads the party to the remaining seats at the table. The Jones' party takes their seats and talk all at once as they take menus from the Waiter. The Waiter begins to serve candy canes like appetizers)* You all can look at the menu and order anytime you would like.

Person 2: *(opens the menu)* I can't wait! *(Talking to Ben, John, Alice, and Julie)* Hey folks! Merry Christmas! So nice to see you all!

Person 1: Yeah! Have you ordered anything yet?

John: Not yet. We were thinking of ordering something together.

Person 1: We're in!

Ben: Actually, I think I'd like to start. I want to order some Gingerbread Cookies for the whole table. My wife would have liked that.

Julie: *(looking knowingly at Ben she nods her head in approval)* Ben, that's a great idea.

Waiter: Coming right up! *(Starts to walk away).*

Julie: Wait!

Waiter: *(Waiter stops this time)* Yes, Ms. Julie?

Julie: *(looks around the table pointedly)* How?

"Christmas for One"

Waiter: Ms. Julie, the Boss makes sure there's room for *everyone* at the Inn.
Lights down.

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