

“Do You Have That Gift?”

by
Jenny Craiger

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| What | <p>In this skit, parents and two teens share what they want most for Christmas, and their requests are not found in stores. The skit ends without resolution, opening the door for the pastor to share how Christ is the gift that fulfills all our Christmas wish lists.</p> <p>Themes: Christmas, Gifts, Jesus, Needs</p> |
| Who | <p>Girl (teen) Mom Dad Boy (teen)</p> |
| When | <p>Present</p> |
| Costumes and Props | <p>Photo of a Female Teen Broom Piece of Paper Pair of Jeans A Greeting Card A Pen Cell Phone</p> |
| Why | <p>Matthew 11: 29-30; John 14:27, Romans 5:8, John 15:15, Luke 14:27; Matthew 10:31</p> |
| How | <p>The actors and speaker should be motionless when they are not speaking. If possible, a light can be used to spotlight an actor during his or her monologue. Actors should wear everyday clothing appropriate to their character. Of note, the pastor or speaker can choose to enter the stage following the last actor's exit rather than standing on stage during the performance depending on preference and dramatic interpretation.</p> |
| Time | <p>Approximately 5 minutes</p> |

At the beginning of the skit, actors are standing a few feet apart across the front of the stage. The pastor or speaker stands center stage, but slightly behind the actors.

The speaker/pastor has their head down, holding the Bible in a relaxed, but "frozen" position.

The other actors are also unmoving and in different positions.

*The **Girl** is holding the photo down in front of her as if looking at it sadly. The **Mom** is holding the broom in one hand with the jeans draped over her arm. She is holding the piece of paper in her other hand and looking at it with a strained expression. The **Dad** is holding a card and pen as if about to write something and looking regretful. The **Boy** is staring intently at a cell phone.*

Girl: What's on your Christmas list this year? *(Looks up at the audience)* That's what my mom asked me earlier today. Seems like a simple question, right? Normally, I would be WAITING for her to ask. In fact, I would already have started my strategy for optimal gift receiving. *(Becomes slightly more excited as she reminisces)* Buttering up grandma. Dropping hints to my aunt. Practicing my "Wow! For me?!" face *(Poses expectantly with hands on either side of her face)* Then, providing a detailed list to my mom and dad. *(Counts out items on finger)* A cell phone. A new game console. A laptop. A pair of designer jeans. The latest fad everyone is scrambling to get, of course. *(Stops abruptly and becomes less animated as if remembering)* But this year...this year is different. *(Pauses sadly)* It's the first time in my life that the only thing I want no one can buy for me. This year none of those presents matter very much anymore. Not without my best friend. *(Shows the photo to the audience)* Since Abby moved away, I've been so lonely. *(Looks back down at photo in her hand again longingly)* I just miss her so much. Without her, I don't have a close friend to talk to anymore. Someone to share my ups and downs with. *(With slight bitterness)* Someone who doesn't forget her old friends while she makes new ones. *(Sighs sadly)*

So, what do I want for Christmas this year? How about a forever friend? Someone I can trust to be there no matter what. Do you have that gift?

Looks sadly back at the photo and slowly exits stage.

Mom: What's on your Christmas list this year? *(Lifts head sardonically to audience as she wiggles the broom and shakes paper)* Really? You have to ask? Apparently, you didn't see the giant circles under my eyes. I'm exhausted! So, you want to know what I could use? How about someone to take over this to-do list for a while *(Holds up list for audience to see and then lowers it)* Every day, after I get home from work, I get the pleasure of taking care of everything else—the kids, the house, my spouse, the animals. Homework, baths, dinner, bills, sweeping... *(lifts broom)* It all has to get done. And then, when I can

finally crawl into bed, I just stare at the ceiling...thinking and thinking and thinking...about everything I didn't get done and everything waiting for me to do tomorrow. I can't seem to shut it off. *(Pauses as if trying to find the words to explain)* Have you ever been so exhausted that you're too tired to sleep? You know, just numb? Now add the holiday scramble to all of it. The only Christmas shopping I have gotten done this year are these designer jeans for my daughter, *(holds arm up to show the audience, but then drops pants off of arm defeatedly)* who frankly just looks incredibly sad this year. I haven't even started shopping for my anxious son or my grumpy husband, who of course, I just had a huge fight with and...well...I can't take much more. Too much on this list *(holds up list again)* and not enough of me *(points to self with thumb)* to go around.

So, what do I want for Christmas this year? How about a little help and a lot of rest? Do you have that gift?

Looking back at her list, shaking her head as she exits stage.

Dad: What's on your Christmas list this year? *(Looks up at the audience)* Is that what you asked? Ha! That's funny. How about a time machine? Do you have one of those stashed away somewhere? Then maybe I could travel back and start all over again. *(Abashed)* I can't seem to do anything right anymore...not even find the right words for this apology card to my wife *(holds up card and pen, waving it at the audience)*. How do you say that you wish you could take it all back and you'll do better when you know that you never seem to measure up? *(Self-deprecatingly)* Tonight was a perfect performance by yours truly. I was annoyed with work and came home and picked an argument with my loving, exhausted wife. Not only that, but I know our kids heard us fighting. I just want to travel back before I made a mess of the evening. *(Pauses, confessing)* Really, it's more than that, though. I want to be able to fix so MANY bad decisions and hurtful words in my past. I know...I know. No time machine. *(Sighs sadly)* I just have so many regrets. If I could just rewind, reset, and get rid of the baggage, my life...really our life...would be so different. I could send all of this guilt on a long trip and begin with a clean slate.

So, what do I want for Christmas? How about a fresh start? Do you have that gift?

Starts to write in card again, but sighs and rips card unhappily and drops it before exiting stage.

Boy: What's on your Christmas list this year? That's what Dad asked me before he flew off the handle tonight. What do I want this year? *(Looks up from phone toward audience and shakes phone to emphasize)* I WANT my phone to ring. Like, right now! My friend, Dale, is supposed to call me if

his parents say I can come over tonight. I just want to escape from this house and the constant stress. It makes me so tense to hear them fight. I'm so worried about my parents. Mom is tired all the time and my dad just seems beaten. And what in the world is going on with my sister? She's been miserable for days. Just being here makes me anxious. Of course, school isn't much better. I'm constantly on edge. I worry about my grades, my sister, my parents, my friends, and...well everything! I'm nervous all the time. I feel like I can't control any of it. I'm just stuck in this constant tornado and I'm scared of something bad happening.

So, what do I want for Christmas? How about some peace to replace all of this fear? Do you have that gift?

Draws phone to chest with hand and walks nervously off stage.

Pastor or Speaker lifts head and smiles warmly.

Speaker: We have all of those gifts and more in One beautiful package. Let's talk about it.

Pastor/Speaker shares the Christmas message or sermon about how Christ is the gift that satisfies all our needs—a friend closer than a brother, rest for the weary, forgiveness, peace for the anxious, and more.