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“Jingle Blues”

by
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What This skit focuses on the difficulties many people face at Christmas and reminds us that Christ came for the hurting.

Themes: Christmas, Depression, Stress, Hope, Shame, Celebrate Recovery

Who Actor 1- Female
Teen
Actor 2- Male or female
Actor 3- Male
Jesus' Voice

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Bells
Christmas Card
Candy Cane
Small Gift Box
Manger
Cross

Why 1 Samuel 2:8, Psalm 34:18, Psalm 68:5, Acts 17:28, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Romans 8:38-39, 1 John 1:9

How The actor speaking Jesus' part should be located out of sight of the audience. Jesus' lines should be spoken with tenderness and attention to timing to include effective pauses for impact. The Christmas Card should include a child-like drawing of a family and a house. Also, a Christmas song (like Lauren Daigle's "Light of the World") can be added at the end of the skit during the last speaking lines for effect.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

As the skit begins, actors are arranged out of speaking order on either side of the manger and frozen in position. The manger is located center stage with the cross inside and visible to the audience. A spotlight can be focused on manger/cross, if available.

Actor 1: *(unfreezes, addressing the audience and cradling the gift box) Whoever sang "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" must have avoided shopping at the mall during the entire month of December. From where I stand, it's the most stressful time of the year AND the most expensive. It's when bills pile up, but I still need to perform financial gymnastics to make sure my kid has a good Christmas. Trust me when I tell you that in this gymnastic routine, I will not win an Olympic medal!*

Laughs sadly and shakes head disgustedly. Looks down at the box, lifting it up to show the audience.

So far, this is all I've been able to afford. One. Crummy. Present. (Cradles the gift box in her arms again). Meanwhile, everyone around me has shopping bags full of the latest toys and designer clothes. No wonder they can happily sing carols and shout "Merry Christmas" to everyone they pass...including me. Sometimes I just want to yell back, "What makes it so merry?!" I'm barely able to feed my daughter and keep the electricity on; I just can't compete. You know what? (Puts present down and backs away from it sadly) Christmas just isn't for people like me. (Freezes in position)

Voice: *My child, I came to "...lift the weak from the dust; to raise the poor from the ash heap to set them with princes and to bestow on them an honored position" (1 Samuel 2:8).*

Teen: *(unfreezes, addressing monologue toward the audience and holding a Christmas card) Who thought a generic Christmas card from some other kid would be a great way to cheer me up? Not sure what I mean? Here, let me read it to you. (Opens card). "Dear Teen Child" (Looks up at audience) Real personal, right? (Continues to read). "I'm sorry to hear you are in foster care. I hope you have a good Christmas. Sincerely, Luke." (Looks at audience again) This is my favorite part. (Shows audience the inside of card) Luke included a picture of a family in front of a house. (Sarcastically) Wow. That makes me feel lots better.*

Closes card disgustedly. Pauses and becomes sad and thoughtful.

You know, for me, the worst part about Christmastime is watching everyone walk around with friends and family while I don't have a real home anymore. Sure, my foster parents are nice, but I miss my sister. I miss MY family. Christmas is just a bitter reminder that everything has

changed, and I don't belong to anyone anymore. *(Tosses the card on the stage in front of him and looks down sadly)*. Christmas isn't for someone like me.

Voice: My son, I came to be a father to fatherless *(Psalm 68:5)*; to make you my offspring *(Acts 17:28)* and adopt you into my family so that you are never alone. In Me, you will always belong.

Actor 2: *(unfreezes, addressing monologue toward the audience and holding a candy cane)* The carolers were nice. See, they gave me a candy cane. *(Holds up the candy cane to show the audience)* To be honest, though, I wish they hadn't stopped by. *(Singing next phrase half-heartedly)* "You better be good." *(Laughs sadly)* Well, it's much too late for me to be good. I'm the person who deserves the coal in my stocking...or worse. No matter what I do, I don't do it right. When I look at my life, all I see is mistake after mistake. I've hurt people. I've broken rules.

I've...I've...Well, I've done things that I don't care to mention. Like the song tells us, Christmas is for good people. *(Puts down the candy cane)* Christmas is not for people like me. *(Freezes in position)*

Voice: My friend, I came to die for your sins and cleanse you from your shame and guilt so that you can be free *(1 John 1:9)*.

Actor 3: *(unfreezes, addressing monologue toward the audience and holding Christmas bells)* Jingle Bells? More like Jingle Blah. Why is everyone so cheery? Did all of their problems go away? *(Grows louder and increasingly bitter as the next few lines are spoken)* Is there suddenly something to be happy about? What's really changed between November and December? You add a few bells *(rings bells angrily)* and some magic pixie dust and it makes everything immediately better? *(Loudly)* Everything isn't better!

Pauses. Begins the next line quietly and sadly.

I still miss my wife. She's been gone now for 2 years this December. Why would this time of year be anything but an awful reminder that she isn't here celebrating with me?

Places the bells softly on the ground in front of him and then looks sadly down.

Christmas just isn't for me anymore. *(Freezes in position)*.

Voice: My Beloved, I came so that "...neither DEATH, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rules, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able

to separate you from the love of God" (*Romans 8:38-39*). I came to be "...near the brokenhearted; to deliver those who are discouraged" (*Psalms 34:18*). To give hope and eternal joy.

Actor 1: (*unfreezes and looks up as if praying*) Jesus, I do wish I could be joyful right now. I wish I could feel like Christmas is just for me.

Actor 2: (*unfreezes and looks up as if praying*) Instead, I just can't seem to shake these jingle blues. I want to celebrate with everyone else instead of feeling this grief and loss.

Teen: (*unfreezes and looks up as if praying*) Jesus, can I connect to a holiday that is full of carols, Christmas cards, and family when I am so alone? I feel like an outsider...like I don't fit in.

Actor 3: (*unfreezes and looks up as if praying*) How can Christmas possibly be for someone wounded and broken like me? Jesus, can you hear me?

As Jesus begins to speak, the actors listen and their demeanors become more thoughtful and hopeful, but not abruptly joyful. They pick up their props, carry them to the manger, and lay them around the cross. Next, the actors kneel around the manger. The actors should have their heads bowed as Jesus finishes his monologue. As Jesus speaks, an appropriate Christmas song can start to play quietly and increase in volume as Jesus' lines end.

Voice: My child, I came to this world to be born in a manger so that you can be free from anything that separates you from true joy in Me. When you look at your life, you only see poverty, grief, depression, guilt, and loneliness. But I see hope, forgiveness, healing, and life abundant. My friend, "my grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in your weakness" (*2 Corinthians 12:9*). My birth and my death were designed specifically for the lost, burdened, and the wounded of this world. So, my beloved, Christmas IS especially for you.

Lights down. Music fades.