

a script from
skitguys.com

“Refocusing Christmas”

by
Katherine McMahan

What A husband and wife reflect on the stresses of Christmas, especially the financial ones, and how they distract from focusing on what (or Who) Christmas is about.

Themes: Christmas, Marriage, Finances, Stress, Family, Materialism

Who Jade
Justin

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Nice clothes, with a coat and heels for Jade, a simple lounge room with a couch, a small Christmas tree, and you could include the “pipe cleaner nativity set” that is referenced if you like.

Why Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:31-34, John 3:16

How Make Justin and Jade’s relationship easy and comfortable, keep the dialogue conversational and reflective, like they’re saying what they’re thinking as it comes to mind.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

Lights fade up on a small, simple living room decorated for Christmas with a small tree. Justin and Jade, a husband and wife, enter from opposite directions, dressed nicely as if they've just been out. They walk softly into the living room.

Jade: *(softly)* You got Bella down?

Justin: Yeah. She's out like a light. Rosie?

Jade: Took her a while to settle, but she was on the verge of sleep when I left the room.

Jade takes off her coat and her heels, then sits on the floor, leaning against the couch. Justin flicks on the Christmas tree lights and joins his wife. They sit side by side in an exhausted silence for several moments.

Jade: Christmas hasn't even started and I'm exhausted.

Justin: Well, we did just get back from your sister's house. She's always exhausting.

Jade elbows Justin and they share a laugh.

Jade: Her house looked amazing tonight. She decorated it so beautifully. And the table settings...

Justin: I know, she had cloth napkins. It doesn't get much fancier than cloth napkins.

Jade: And the twins were in matching Christmas outfits. It was like a Christmas party out of a catalogue. Or Instagram.

Justin: I can't tell if you're complimenting her or having a dig at her.

Jade: *(laughs)* I don't really know either. Sometimes I just look around at our little house, and our tiny tree in the corner, and our third-hand decorations, and the pipe cleaner nativity set that Bella made at pre-school and all I can think is—

Justin: *(interrupting)* I know. And I'm sorry.

Jade: Justin—

Justin: I wish I could give you a bigger house, a grander Christmas tree, and fancy garlands and a roof covered in fairy lights—

Jade: *(interrupting)* And cloth napkins.

Justin: *(smiles)* And cloth napkins.

Jade: Justin, you didn't let me finish.

Justin: Sorry, go ahead.

Jade: I look at everything my sister has, and everything I see in the stores that I have to walk past, and then I come home here and I just feel so...
(pauses, searching for the right word) ...grateful...

Justin looks over at Jade with surprise.

Jade: *(continuing)* ...that Christmas isn't about that. That none of that matters.

Justin: That did not go where I thought it was going. You really feel that way?

Jade: I really do. Not that it's bad to have all that stuff or to go all out decorating your house for Christmas. But if that's what Christmas was about, it would feel so empty to me. Yet this Christmas my heart is so full because I'm reminded that a beautiful baby come into this world all those years ago. And that baby grew up to perform miracles, to show love to the unloved, to heal the sick, to save us from our brokenness, to forgive. And He doesn't care how big our tree is, or how much we spend on gifts.

Justin: You're right. I don't feel like I ever forget that part of Christmas; it's always in the back of my mind when we celebrate. But maybe not in the forefront where it should be. *(Beat)* I just want to give our girls the world, you know? And then I look at our bank balance, and the mortgage payment due next week, and a car that's on its last legs... And then we've got eleven nieces and nephews, and our siblings, and our parents, and we're expected to buy gifts for everyone, and of course I want to. I'm not meaning to complain about it, but it just all gets so expensive. And the gifts are only part of the expense.

Jade: I know.

Justin: And then my parents get offended that we don't go up to visit for Christmas, but I can't get the time off work and we can't afford the flights and Rosie won't cope in the car for that long.

Jade: *(takes Justin's hand)* I know, honey. It's a lot.

Justin: *(nods)* It's a lot. There are so many distractions. I really want to enjoy Christmas. I want to remember Christ's birth, and take the time to be grateful. But I just always feel so...

Jade: Guilty?

Justin: Yeah. Yeah, I guess I do. I just want to provide for my family.

Jade: Justin, it's not your job to provide for us.

Justin: I know, and you provide as well, but—

Jade: It's not our job. God provides. He provides for us. We work hard. And then we trust God to provide.

Justin leans his head back against the couch and closes his eyes.

Justin: You have no idea what a relief it is to be reminded of that.

Jade: Last year I felt the same way you've been feeling.

Justin: *(looks over at Jade)* Really? I didn't know that.

Jade: Bella was counting down the days 'til Christmas. And I was counting down to when it was over. And on Christmas morning, I woke up and I was praying for strength to get through the day. And I just had this thought that Jesus deserves more than that. I should be spending the day celebrating His birth and His life here on Earth, not wishing it away.

Justin: I wish you'd shared that with me at the time.

Jade: I didn't know you needed to hear it. *(Smiles, remembering back)* Last Christmas was the best one I'd had in years.

Justin: I may need you to remind me throughout the day, but I'm gonna refocus this Christmas, remember what—well, actually Who it's really about.

Justin and Jade stand and begin to exit together.

Jade: Hey, if you need a reminder, you can just look at Bella's pipe cleaner nativity set.

Justin: So that's really what that was? I couldn't actually tell.

Jade: Just don't tell her that.

Justin: Oh, I'd never.

Lights down as Jade and Justin exit.