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“Rooty’s Christmas Wish”

by
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SYNOPSIS

Rooty is a little evergreen tree with a big Christmas wish: He wants to know the true meaning of Christmas! He looks for the meaning on a trip to Tinseltown but is that truly where Christmas can be found? Or is the little road that leads to Bethlehem the road that will grant his final wish even if it's the road less taken? Join Rooty and his evergreen friends and follow them to the end and discover that with Jesus, who you are will always be enough. No need for flounces and fluff.

CAST

Narrator: Female or Male, a strong storyteller. This is the largest role with the most lines that can be memorized or read as though reading a storybook if needed/wanted. Could be split into multiple roles if desired.

Rooty: Male. He's a young "sapling" tree, which makes him a kid. Probably a pre-teen age. He's reserved but not shy. Sweet and good intentioned. Strong actor in every scene.

Juniper: Female. A sapling friend of Rooty's. She's bubbly and bright-eyed. Strong supporting actor.

Fir: Female sapling friend. Cheery and a strong supporting actor.

Hawthorne: Male sapling friend. He's a little hoity-toity for a kid. Strong supporting actor.

Branchy: Male sapling friend. He's a "follower" who just wants to be part of the action but he's kind and a strong supporting actor.

Holly: Female "adult" tree. She's Rooty's mom. Supporting role in 2 scenes.

Douglas: Male "adult" tree. Rooty's dad. Supporting role in 2 scenes.

Myrtle: Female "old" tree. Supporting role in 2 scenes.

Elmer: Male "old" tree. Supporting role in 1 scene.

Willow: Female "old" tree. Supporting role in 1 scene.

Pageant MC: Female or male "adult tree". High energy game show host sort.

Mary: Young female woman. Jesus' mother. Supporting role in final scene.

Joseph: Adult male. Jesus' father. Supporting role in final scene.

Extras: Including "adult" tree STYLISTS (suggest 3), "adult" tree Store Clerk(s) (suggest 1-2), "adult" and "teen" tree Previous Pageant Winners, "child" and "teen" tree Pageant Contestants (Specifically, although they have no lines Ever, Olive, Red, and Hickory are

mentioned which are supposed to be two girl and toy boys respectively. You can have more or less depending on your casting abilities or needs.), "adult" tree Judges (suggest 2-3)

WHEN

Present day but sort of on the day Jesus was born too. It makes sense once you read it.

PROPS AND COSTUMES

Well, everybody is an evergreen tree. Yep. An evergreen tree. (That is, except Mary and Joseph who are, in fact, human. The Narrator is also intended to be human) And because the majority of the cast are trees, all evergreens should be dressed in...green.

You could make felt Christmas tree costumes attached to cardboard, trees sandwich-board style, just dress everyone in green (green pants, shirt, scarves, hats, gloves, earmuffs, shoes, etc.) Whichever you choose, use various shades of green to add depth and dimension to the costuming since it's mostly green. You will also need lots of tree "accessories". Tinsel, bows, ornaments, garland, etc. These will help distinguish one tree for another especially as it comes to Juniper, Fir, Hawthorne, Branchy and Rooty. Cues for how these five are dressed are in the text (bows, plaid, etc.)

Dress the "old" trees in décor that's simple and "less is more" and more typical of an older age. Maybe doilies, lace, older style ornaments, etc.

Mary and Joseph can wear traditional biblical garb.

The Narrator can be dressed in holiday wear. A fun Christmas sweater, holiday accessories, light up socks. Or dressed in neutral colors like black, beige or white or dressed in basic red and green.

Your scenery can be as simple or elaborate as you make it.

For the salon- Folding chairs or actual stylist chairs. Coat racks, a "counter" with cash register for the Tinsel Shop or a "wall" to hang items on. Have bins or buckets with different decorations for the trees—tinsel, giant bows, bells, ornaments.

Signpost saying "Bethlehem"

At the pageant- Parade banners with "Tinseltown Pageant Parade". Give the parade goers little pennants or pompoms to wave. The pageant scene could work well to use another platform or choir risers for the contestants to stand on. Bright lights and music could be a nice touch.

The final scene, probably at least a manger with a baby Jesus. But you could have standup donkey, cow, sheep, etc. I would suggest a way of having a bright star hanging overhead. Whatever you can dream up! Think simple or think extravagant. Either or somewhere in the middle will work.

WHY

Luke 2:4-20, Matthew 2:9-11, Romans 12:2

HOW

You'll notice that this script rhymes. It's not always traditional perfect meter or perfect rhyme rhyming. Loose meter and loose rhymes are used throughout the script. It's supposed to be obvious that the script has an apparent lilt and characters are indeed rhyming but without always being predictable as to that end.

A series of slashes mark up the text/ so you can see where the next/ rhyme is going to be or the one that went before./ If you do this script, a lot of fun is in store/ for those memorizing their lines./ You'll figure it out in time./

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: The slash marks (/) are to show where a rhyme is made. Challenge actors to not stop at every slash mark as many of them occur mid-sentence

and that would just sound weird and choppy. The challenge is to "hit" the rhyme with a little emphasis by landing on the rhyming word slightly harder, without jolting the listener out of the story because you're speaking the lines all wonky. Sit on the word a little if mid-sentence and quickly move on. You can land harder on rhymes at the end of a phrase or sentence.

This script is designed to be acted by an age-appropriate cast where kids play kids and adults play adults for a kid or an adult and kid audience. However, it can be acted by all kids for kids. All kids for adults or adults and kids. All adults for kids. All adults for adults and kids. Or just for Jesus. ☺

An "After the Story" sheet of a few questions is part of this script to print out and hand out to teachers or families to talk about "After the Story" in the classes, small groups, or in their cars going home or before bedtime with family.

TIME

20-25 minutes

SCENE 1

Narrator enters and grandly addresses the audience.

Narrator: Welcome to all who have traveled tonight/ to hear of a story that just might/ make you see Christmas a little differently. Different than last year and years to come./ And it might even make some/ believe more deeply in the story that's at the very heart/ of the reason our whole little play now has its start./

Enter Rooty

Meet Rooty. He's a young seed. A sweet sapling, it's true./ And he has a Christmas wish! A lot like me...maybe a lot like you./ He wants to find the real reason behind this Christmas occasion/ but he's not quite sure why Christmas is such a big celebration. He loves all the singing, the decorations and yummy food./ He loves Santa, and his reindeer and people doing good./He looks forward to all his family being around/ and most of all, above anything, he loves traveling to Tinseltown./

Every year many of the trees, some young and some closer to old,/ dream about being crowned the Grand Master Christmas tree. The best of them all./ And Rooty, now come of age, has dreamed long for the day/ that this time, when he traveled to Tinseltown he might possibly say.../

Rooty: *(playing make believe enthusiastically)* I'm the Grand Master Christmas tree! Now I must surely know/ the true meaning of Christmas!

Holly: *(entering)* Rooty...are you putting on a show?/

Rooty: Moooom. I'm pretending I got the most presents. I'm the best tree around!/ And I won the star crown/ because I'm the Grand Master Christmas tree!/
AT

Holly: Well, no doubt, you certainly are grand to me./

Rooty: Can I go now? The day is finally here!/
AT

Holly: Not until your Father comes. We still need to bend your ear/ before you go./

Rooty: But mom...

Douglas: *(entering)* We need to remind you about what you need to know./

Holly: *(taking Rooty's hands in hers and looking into his eyes. If taller, she should be on a knee to be down at his level)* You are a special tree already. You have nothing to prove./ You can go off to participate in the

pageant, but win or lose/ you are still a special tree and your heartwood is strong and true./ So remember always there is only one special little tree like you./ And you are enough just as you are./

Douglas: *(hands on Rooty's shoulders)* And though you travel far/ to Tinseltown, remember that even though its streets are sparkling with holiday glitter and flair/ Christmas isn't all about the shiny things you'll see there./ The parade will be festive. The pageant may be fun./ But when it's done,/ Grand Master star crown or not,/ the real meaning of Christmas is not because you got/ the most gifts or by putting on a crown./

Holly: Keep your eyes open and your head up, and don't let your heart get down./ The real meaning of Christmas is always close by and will be found/ by those with the eyes, ears and heartwood to see it./ Do you believe it?

Rooty nods enthusiastically as Holly and Douglas hug him. Enter Branchy, Juniper, Hawthorne & Fir excited. They run and greet Rooty. Rooty waves goodbye to his parents and they all exit.

Narrator: With a kiss and a hug Rooty's journey began/ with his friends who you might imagine were just as eager as him./ Off to Tinseltown they went because they all wanted the chance to be/ this year's illustrious Grand Master Christmas tree./

And you might want to know, when he got there, did he find/ the true meaning of Christmas? Well, stick around awhile. We'll discover that in time./

BREAK: These scene breaks can be used to change scenery, costume, stage, etc. as necessary or you can utilize them to add choirs presenting a song, guest speakers, congregational carol singing, pianist interlude, soundtrack, instrumental or vocal soloists/ensembles, visuals, a short message, donkey racing, etc.

SCENE 2

Enter the Stylist Trees, Branchy, Juniper, Hawthorne, Fir & Rooty last. Juniper, Hawthorne and Fir hop right into the salon chairs.

Narrator: It was a tradition that all those on their way to Tinseltown/ would first stop at the "Primp and Pruning Styling Studio" before heading down/ the road to the festivities./ After all, Grand Masters were only ever beautiful, handsome, sparkling and dressed up trees./

Juniper: Curl up my limbs and streak my branches with pink./ And I think/ a touch of color right here/ *(pointing to her eyes)*. Oh, Fir, won't they all stare?/

Fir: Juniper! You will be beautiful! And as you do mine don't forget to trim up the ends./ Use purple, no yellow. Hmmm. I guess it depends/ on what color my bows will be./

Hawthorne: As for me,/ a clean cut and prune. Just a little bit right here/ (*lifting an arm*). Maybe a splash of that "eu-de-whatever" you've got over there./

Juniper hops down off the chair and Branchy takes her spot. Juniper admires herself in an imaginary mirror.

Branchy: Can you make mine like Hawthorne's? Just a little off the top,/ but not a whole lot./ I'm already one of the shortest in my family tree/ and I don't always want to be./

Juniper & Fir: Oh, Branchy!/
TO

Fir gets out of her chair and joins Juniper. Hawthorne is finished as goes to where Branchy is sitting and is giving the Stylist Trees suggestions.

Rooty: (*timidly getting into a chair*) My mom said she thinks I don't need to fuss/ with all this fancy pruning and prodding, but I'm afraid that just/ being myself really isn't enough./ So, do what you think will get me noticed among an orchard of trees,/ if you please./

The Stylists swarm Rooty and streak him with red and contrasting green streaks then all exit as the Narrator speaks.

Narrator: Now Rooty was styled. As were Juniper and Fir./ And Hawthorne and Branchy were all ready to stir/ out the door to get more trappings. Off to get more stuff. Off to the next stop./ Off to the Tinsel Shop./

BREAK

SCENE 3

Narrator: As if colored streaks and curled limbs and fancy pruning tricks/ weren't enough to *be* enough in the mix/ of all the trees flocking to Tinseltown./ our tiny tree friends quickly made their way down/ to the Tinsel shop. Yes, those little saplings went/ to try to become closer to exactly what they thought Christmas meant./

Enter Juniper, Hawthorne, Branchy, Fir and Rooty last. Juniper and Fir bound hand in hand so excited.

Fir: Buckets of bows./ I need rows and rows/ of pretty bows from the bottom to the very top./ So many you don't know where they begin and if they'll ever stop!/
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Juniper: Sparkly bobs and glimmering bobbles./ Just give me whatever you have that sparkles!/
PURCHASE

Hawthorne: I heard that plaid is really in./ Dress me in plaid and I'm sure to win./

Branchy: *(pointing at Hawthorne)* I want the same as him./

Rooty: *(looking around a little lost and overwhelmed.)* I just don't know. What will impress?/ A little bit of everything I guess./

Narrator: All gussied up and fancy, all dripping with glitter,/ the little trees were trussed up and ready to shimmer/ for the Grand Master judges. Now leaving the Tinsel shop,/ the Pageant Parade would be their next stop./

BREAK

SCENE 4

Enter the Tree Crowd, Juniper, Hawthorne, Branchy, Fir and Rooty. As the Narrator speaks, the Previous Pageant Winners parade one at a time in front of them waving to the crowd and audience.

Narrator: Watch as all these hopeful young saplings turn out to see/ all the previous pageant winners. The former Grand Master Christmas trees./ They paraded down Candycane Lane dazzling in their holiday best/ and just like the rest,/ Branchy and Hawthorne, Juniper and Fir,/ and of course wide-eyed Rooty, all of them concurred,/ that this was a dream that had finally come true. All the fanfare, the fun, the famous Christmas tree faces./ Surely if Christmas was anywhere, it was in places/ like this where strings of lights were followed by miles of garland./ Tinsel by the tons and hot cocoa by the gallons./

Juniper: Oh look! It's so pretty. There's so much to see! Look there, that's exactly like the Christmas tree I want to be!/
WATERMARK

Fir: Look! Look right there! Oh, what a sight./ That's the kind of Christmas tree that I want to be alright!/
AT

Rooty: They're all decorated so perfectly. They're all just so tall./

Narrator: The Parade made little Rooty feel dowdy and small./

(Changing tones and attention) And nearby the parade route close to where he stood/ Rooty overheard a group of old trees whose creaking wood/ was past its prime./

Myrtle: Remember the time,/ way back when/ before the first Christmas pageant parade ever happened?/
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Willow: Now Myrtle, don't start. We all know it's true./ Christmas isn't the same for these little saps like it was for me or for you./

Myrtle: Willow, just look at all that tinsel. All those trinkets. All the glitter, bobbles and bows./ I remember when Christmas meant traveling down a much simpler road./

Elmer: Dear Myrtle, don't fret it. That road is still there./ And they still print directions to it in the Pageant brochure, right here./ *(lifting a brochure he starts looking through)*

Myrtle: I thought so too, but I couldn't find it anywhere./

Willow: *(reluctantly. She doesn't want to break the bad news.)* I'm sorry to say they stopped printing it. It's not there./

Myrtle: Now, that just isn't fair! Look at these sweet saplings. They've come here to find/ the real meaning of Christmas. And all they'll find, you mind,/ is a bellyache from too many sweets and a sour disposition/ when they wake up on the other side of Christmas day and all these fixins'/ are packed away for another year./

Elmer: The road is still near./ Yes, these days it's harder to find./ But when the pageant is over there will be less here to blind/ anyone who would like to find it. Dear Myrtle, there's still time. Hold tight./

Myrtle: Oh, Elmer. I hope to heaven that you're right./

Narrator: Now Rooty was caught by this curious conversation./ So wrapped up in the old trees' words he forgot the surrounding celebrations/ and his reservations/ and asked them with just a little hesitation.../

Rooty: *(approaching ELMER he speaks to him)* Another road? You said there's another road that leads to where the meaning of Christmas can be found?/ Another road that's nearby and it's *not* here in Tinseltown?/

Elmer: Why yes, son. It's right down.../ *(starts to point offstage)*

Juniper: Rooty! Come on! It's time to go!/
Fir: Now the parade is over and it's time to show/ the judges our branches!

Juniper: What are the chances/ one of *us* will be named the next Grand Master Christmas Tree?!/
Rooty: I'm coming in one second. I just wanted to see.../

Hawthorne: C'mon Rooty, let's go. It's this way! Everyone, follow me!/
Rooty: I'm coming in one second. I just wanted to see.../

Hawthorne: C'mon Rooty, let's go. It's this way! Everyone, follow me!/
Rooty: I'm coming in one second. I just wanted to see.../

Hawthorne motions big for all his friends to follow him offstage and he exits followed by Juniper, Fir and Branchy. Rooty hesitates. He wants to stay, he wants to go. Finally, Branchy turns before exiting noticing Rooty isn't with them, goes back to Rooty and grabs him and they exit.

Myrtle: And so most the world goes, and that little road/ (*pointing offstage where Elmer had pointed*) where Christmas is just waiting remains largely unknown. /

Elmer: Maybe next year, my dear./

Myrtle: Oh Elmer, even fewer, I fear./

Narrator: The parade was all done/ and it had been fun/ but Rooty was distracted by this strange conversation./ Was there really another road to travel, a better destination?/ Was there another way to go to discover the real meaning of Christmas? One that wasn't all show?/ Would he ever know/ the true reason for the season, the true heart of this holiday?/ Well, right now, I can't say./ No, not just yet. Because for now they were all off to perform in the pageant to see/ who would get/ the chance to be named the next Grand Master Christmas Tree!/ Who knows...maybe it will be Rooty./

BREAK

SCENE 5

Juniper, Fir, Hawthorne, Branchy and Rooty enter in a line waving to the audience. They are accompanied by other Pageant Trees who do the same.

Pageant MC: (*with exuberance*) Ladies and gentlemen! Come one and come all/ to the glorious Grand Master Tree Pageant! The place where all/ dream to get the most gifts, wear the Christmas star crown and rule over all./ Now let's begin with our first round of judging to see who is worthy/ of being named the next Grand Master Christmas tree!

Enter the Judges who carry their Santa-like sacks with small gifts in them they begin to walk in and around the Pageant Trees and place gifts at the feet of those they think are worthy of them.

Narrator: The judges were meticulous. The judges were tough./ They gave their gifts to show the trees they thought may have the stuff/ and may be enough/ to be named the Grand Master Christmas tree. The first round was quickly done./ And still Rooty didn't have a single present beneath his branches. No, not one./ Round two and I'm afraid it was much of the same./ Rooty failed to impress and so no presents. In fact, he remained/ without a single judge's gift through rounds three four and five./ Poor

Rooty tried his hardest not to break down and cry./ Then the final round came./

Pageant MC: If we don't call your name,/ then thank you, but no. You are not good enough to be/ this year's magically majestic and glorious Grand Master Christmas tree./

As they call the names of those advancing in the pageant each should smile and wave and mime excitement as they then exit offstage.

Narrator: They called the names "Juniper""Hawthorne" and "Fir"./ They called out some other names that Rooty barely heard./ "Ever" and "Olive". "Red" and "Hickory"./ And last but not least they called the name... "Branchy"./

Branchy gives Rooty a reassuring pat or a handshake or hug and exits looking back at Rooty before exiting.

Over the next Narrator lines, any decorations, any tinsel or big décor that represented Tinseltown should be removed and replace with a simple signpost pointing to "Bethlehem".

Poor Rooty, his Christmas wish, it seemed, was not to be granted./ He couldn't understand it./ The true meaning of Christmas was nowhere to be found./ He had dreamed for so long to travel to Tinseltown/ and wear the star crown/ and get all the gifts and be named the Grand Master of all Christmas trees./ But this year, at least, it was not to be./

So sad, so dejected, Rooty wanted to cry.

Rooty: I really did try/ so hard to find Christmas. I tried so hard to be/ like all the perfectly sparkling, perfectly perfect Grand Master Christmas trees./ And now what? Where is Christmas? Is there anything real to be found?/ Or is Tinseltown/ pretty but just this big let down?/

Enter Holly & Douglas who stand together side by side facing the audience.

Narrator: Then Rooty remembered what he always knew and would always remember when he needed to know...

Holly: *(speaking out to the audience as though speaking to Rooty)* Rooty, you are a sweet sapling. A majestic little tree./ And you don't have to be/ anything other than yourself to be loved by your daddy and me./

Douglas: *(speaking out to the audience as though speaking to Rooty)* And you don't have to be sparkling or glittering or tall/ or dressed up in bobbles or tinsel at all./

Holly: You don't have to be all pruned and puffed up. You don't need all that fancy fluff./ Just be you. That will always be enough./ You don't have to be a perfect tree./ You just have to be you. You just have to be...Rooty./

Exit Holly & Douglas

Over the Narrator's following speech, Rooty removes all his Tinseltown trappings and puts them on the floor.

Narrator: And Rooty took off the tinsel. He removed every bow./ Every bobble, every sparkly. He had nothing left to show/ except...Rooty. And with all that glittery stuff piled up on the floor/ Rooty remembered what he traveled to Tinseltown for./

Enter Myrtle who overhears Rooty's next line.

Rooty: I just wanted to find the true meaning of Christmas./ Grand Master tree or not, that was my *one real wish*./

Myrtle: Well, hello there young sapling. I remember you./ Did I hear you say you wanted to know the true meaning of Christmas?

Rooty: Yes, yes I do./

Myrtle: Well, praise God. And you're in luck. Or rather, about to be blessed, I should say./ The real meaning of Christmas can be found down that road, (*pointing the direction of the "Bethlehem" sign*) that way.

Exit Myrtle opposite her entrance.

Rooty: (*looking toward Bethlehem, taking a few steps, then turning back he shouts to Myrtle happily.*) Thank you!! (*exit toward Bethlehem*)

Narrator: Could it be true?/ Will Rooty find the true meaning of Christmas in that little town called Bethlehem?/ Well, if I know you,/ and I think that I do,/ you want to know too./ So, let's follow him./

BREAK

SCENE 6

Narrator: The road to Bethlehem was dark, but not scary./ A bright brilliant star shone overhead. So, Rooty didn't feel wary./ He followed that star to a tiny little stable in that tiny little town./ And when he arrived, do you know what he found?/ There in that stable with cows and some sheep,/ some chickens and a donkey, a little baby was asleep./ All cuddled up in a manger the baby boy was resting./ Beside him, his mother and father sat watching./

Mary: *(looking up, she spots Rooty looking on from a distance, hesitantly standing at a distance but trying to see)* Well, hello there little tree. Look Jesus, more visitors have come to see/ your tiny little sweet holy head./ Come closer, friend./ He's just sleeping in this manger that we've made into his bed./ Joseph, look at this beautiful tree! /

Rooty: *(looking around to see if anyone else is standing around him first)* Are you talking to...I'm sorry...are you talking to me?/

Mary: Yes you. Since our little boy came into this dark world, our little home here has been filled with a special light/ and every visitor we've had tonight/ has had their own special gifts that they bring/ to honor our little newborn king./

Rooty: A king?

Joseph: First, these shepherds...these poor shepherds watching sheep on a nearby hill/...they brought us news that while they were watching their sheep, suddenly angels filled/ the skies with light and praises./ They were heaven sent. You could see the light of heaven still dancing on their faces./ And then, these men who traveled from far and from wide/ knelt down right there by my little boy's side/ and gave him these gifts of frankincense, myrrh and gold./ Gifts fit for a king! /

Rooty: Oh, but...I'm sorry. I didn't know./ *(Sadly with head hung low)* I didn't bring anything./

Mary: Oh, little tree. You've come. Just be you. That's enough. With Him, that's all you ever need to be./ *(Leaning over the manger)* Look, Jesus! Your first Christmas tree! /

Rooty: Who, me? But...but...I'm nothing. I *have* nothing. No garland or tinsel. No gifts or lights anywhere on me./ And I didn't win the star crown because...*(defeated and ashamed)* I'm no Grand Master Christmas tree./

Mary: You are as grand as you ever need be./ Jesus isn't into trappings. He looks to the heartwood, kind little tree./ *(She smiles sweetly and compassionately at Rooty then moves and picks up the gold, frankincense and myrrh then placing them at Rooty's feet she stands back)* And now look! Those are no trinkets tucked beneath you, Rooty./ Those are gifts fit for a king. And you frame them so nicely./

Joseph: And I know a star crown may sound like a very nice prize,/ but open your eyes/ and look to the skies./ Could you ask for a brighter star to light up your head?/ A crown might be nice, but doesn't that star make a better crown instead?/

Mary: *(going to the manger, she picks up baby Jesus gently and moves to Rooty as she speaks.)* And no glitz, glimmer or glitter, no jewels, tinsel, garland or more/ could be a better ornament to wear than the one you came here looking for./ *(She hands baby Jesus to Rooty who cradles him and rocks him gently.)*

Rooty: *(a long pause and looking at Jesus)* Christmas, I believe I found you. And not *too* far from Tinseltown./ So close, and yet...so far away. But such a simple road to walk down./ No trappings needed. No star crown from all the pageantry./ Christmas was always here, just waiting to be known by anyone who would know Him...*(pause)* waiting for me./

Spotlight on Rooty as he holds and gently rocks baby Jesus looking very content and joy-filled. As the Narrator speaks the following lines members of the cast enter quietly circling the manger scene.

Some stand while others kneel. The trees begin to take off some of their trappings and drop them on the ground around them. Those who won presents or are wearing crowns take them off and lay them down before Jesus who is still being held by Rooty (like gifts under a Christmas tree).

Narrator: Finally Rooty's Christmas wish came true in that tiny stable, when/ he met his tiny new forever friend./ And Christmas began/ to be about more than his travels to Tinseltown./ Oh, he would still admire the pretty lights, and watch the parade march through town,/ but first and foremost he would always walk down/ that road to Bethlehem./ He invited others to go with him./ And each year more and more would join in./ Because all who came were amazed to see/they didn't need the trappings and trimmings to impress this little baby./ They just needed to come. And be who they are./ And to this day, we still point to that road, that's not too far/ and say that all are welcome there, whoever they are./

So, if you have a Christmas wish to find a meaning that is true/ go down that road. It's waiting for you. God's greatest gift has been given for everybody, every tree./ God's gift for you, for me...for Rooty./

Spotlight on Jesus being held by Rooty then fades to black.

THE END

AFTER THE STORY

What was your favorite part about the story you just heard? Why?

What part of the story do you have a question about?

Why did Rooty want to go to Tinseltown?

What did Rooty do to try and become the "Grand Master Christmas Tree"?

When Rooty didn't win the Star Crown and become the Grand Master Christmas Tree how do you think he was feeling?

Some older trees told Rooty to travel to Bethlehem to find the true meaning of Christmas. What happened when Rooty went to Bethlehem?

How are Tinseltown and Bethlehem different?

Rooty got all dressed up and thought he had to be fancy or something he wasn't to be special enough to win the Star Crown and become the Grand Master Christmas Tree, but in Bethlehem he learned that Jesus loves us just the way we are. Remember, God made you special, just the way you are. Just be you. Wonderful unique you. That will always be enough for Jesus. Merry Christmas!