

“The Love of Christ at Christmas”

by
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What In this Christmas skit, four people share intersecting stories of how they experienced the love of Christ through the kindness of others at Christmastime.

Themes: Christmas, Kindness, Love, Christ, Jesus, Prayer

Who Jessica, 14-year-old with a lot of energy.
Shirley, Widow in her 70's
Heath, Businessman in his 40's
Sarah, Single Mom in her 30's

When Present

Wear (Props) Each actor can be dressed casually or in Christmas colors. Heath could also be dressed in a suit and carry a briefcase, but it's not required. Actors stand in a row facing the audience downstage.
Heath carries a cell phone.

Why Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 1:18-25, Colossians 3:12

How Each character is having a casual conversation with the audience. They reflect on how God showed his love in their respective situations through the kindness of others.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

Lights Up.

Actors stand several feet apart on stage. They each address the audience as if having a casual conversation. The transition from actor to actor should be seamless, as if each actor is the only one speaking.

Jessica: It was the night before Christmas. Mom and dad let me stay up to watch those old Christmas cartoons. You know, the ones with creepy Santa made out of playdough? Anyway, I turned it off after Rudolph got his wings and said my prayers before bed. I said, "Jesus, what do you want for your birthday? I really want to give you a neat Christmas present, but what do you want that you don't already have?" I went to sleep and didn't think much about it...but apparently it meant something to God, because He answered it, like, the very next day!

Heath: I was frustrated. Angry, even. Been flying the same airline for years, and I'd never missed a connecting flight, but it was Christmas Eve. One of the busiest travel days of the year, and after so many delays and rerouting, it'd be a miracle if I ever saw my luggage again. I was running towards my gate at O'Hare when it happened. One phone call—that's all it takes. One moment to change your entire world. And this was that moment for me.

Shirley: Christmas had always been my favorite time of year. I used to love seeing the lights twinkling in the neighborhood...the snow falling outside...singing Christmas carols by candlelight...but now I hear the songs and I see the beautiful decorations, and it just reminds me that he is no longer here to share it with me—my husband, William. *(pause)* He was a good man. He introduced me to the Lord not long after we met. And ever since that day, I can't wait to get up in the morning and talk to Jesus. Sometimes, I think it's the only way I've survived these last few years—spending time with the Savior.

Heath: The last time I got on my knees? I don't know...maybe never. *(He pulls out his cell phone and pauses, staring at it)* But when you get a call like that, it humbles you, you know? I mean, I'm standing in the middle of Chicago-O'Hare surrounded by thousands of people, but none of that mattered. I wasn't worried about who would point their finger or laugh at me. I'm sure people were watching, but I got down on my knees anyway, and started the most desperate prayer I've ever said in my life. You see, my wife...the appointment...it wasn't good news.

Sarah: Have you ever tried to navigate an airport with a three-year-old who insists on driving the stroller into walls and moving targets instead of sitting inside it like a normal kid? I must have been out of my mind to try it on Christmas Eve. But somehow, we made it to our gate with half an hour to spare. I was trying to keep Jake busy, and that's when I saw him—a man on his cell phone stopped right in the middle of the

terminal. His face turned pale, and I could tell something was wrong—then he fell on his knees, and suddenly my problems seemed incredibly small. I just remember the Holy Spirit speaking to my heart—and I knew that I couldn't just sit there, even if my plane was about to board.

Shirley: My daughter Denise lives just outside of Chicago. She was going to bring my little grandson to visit me, but she missed her flight. So I asked Jesus for His grace to make it through another Christmas alone. I said, "Lord, remind me of the joy of your salvation. Help me celebrate your special day, even in the midst of disappointment."

Jessica: The next morning was Christmas Day! I was so excited to help Mom bake cookies and wrap last-minute presents for my cousins before they arrived, but first she wanted me to take a plate to our neighbor, so I walked across the street and knocked on Mrs. Ethridge's door and you wouldn't believe the smile on her face! I just love old people. She invited me in and told me her daughter wouldn't be coming home this year. When I heard that, I knew exactly what to do. If her family couldn't come to Mrs. E, I would bring Mrs. E to family.

Shirley: I couldn't believe it—one minute I was facing another Christmas alone and the next, that dear, sweet Jessica is introducing me to her fifteen cousins from Albuquerque! We played games, exchanged Christmas ornaments, and made ourselves sick on turkey and dressing. I was so thankful for the kindness of my neighbors. They opened their hearts and invited me in. It just reminded me that God really will restore joy and show His grace when we ask for it. After all the celebration and when my stomach couldn't hold one more thing, Jessica walked me back home, and I knelt in prayer, tears of joy and thanksgiving welling up in my eyes.

Sarah: Tears were flowing from his eyes by the time I gathered my son in my arms and walked across the busy hall. I didn't know what to say, but I just wanted to let him know that he wasn't alone.

Heath: I felt a hand on my shoulder as I prayed. At first, it was just one. Then another. And another. Then a man knelt beside me and started praying too. I didn't know what to say...I couldn't get the words out, but it meant so much to me—people who would stop during their busy day and show that they care, even for a perfect stranger.

Sarah: I prayed that God would work in whatever this man's situation was, that God would show him grace and mercy in facing whatever lay ahead. You know, I ended up missing my flight that night. But something amazing happened instead. In some small way, I got to share the love of Christ at Christmas. I think my mother would understand, even if she didn't get to see her grandson for Christmas.

Jessica: I asked God what He wanted for His birthday, and you know what? He answered my prayer, because something amazing happened! In some small way, I got to share the love of Christ at Christmas.

Health: I felt the love of Christ at Christmas.

Shirley: I experienced the love of Christ at Christmas.

Sarah: And this is my prayer for you...

Jessica: That you would bless others...

Heath: And be blessed...

Shirley: By the love of Christ at Christmas.

Lights Out.