

Christmas Play: The Blessing

Written by Joanna Richards ©

First Performed at Elk Lake Baptist Church, December 2021, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Director Notes: This play was written during the COVID pandemic in 2021, and demonstrates how the birth of Jesus meets our longing for the good life which is misplaced in money, entertainment, the latest fad and easy wins. This play can be easily adapted to the children/teens you have. The age recommendations are just suggestions; a strong young actor can take on a part for an older child. There are no fixed gender requirements for any of the characters. I've indicated where we had girls or boys. Actions and lighting are indicated in brackets and italics.

Actors:

Joey: Role for an 8 year old to teen

Child 1: Role for a 6 year old to teen

Child 2: Role for a 7 year old to teen *girl*

Child 3: Role for a 7 year old to teen *girl*

Child 4: Role for a 9 year old to teen

Child 5: Role for a 10 year old to teen

Child 6: Role for a 10 year old to teen

Child 7: Teen *boy*

Child 8: Teen *boy*

Child 9: Teen *boy*

Child 10: Teen *boy*

Total Actors Required: Minimum 11

Set up and Instructions:

This **play** has **six scenes**, requires PPT projection and can include a movement to music piece to conclude (see notes at the end).

The **stage** can be very simple with all actors dressed in black (no **costumes** required), with the exception of the girls who re-enter in beach wear in Scene 5.

Lights go up and down as indicated in the script.

Scene 1: The Lottery

(Lights come up with a boy on stage. Option: Joey speaks with a New York-style accent)

Joey: I need some good news. You know? Good news. I have always wanted to win the lottery. I think to myself, Joey, you know what you need to do my boy. You need to win the lottery. If you won the lottery Joey, my boy, life would truly be sweet. And then I ask myself, I say Joey, why would life be so sweet if I won the lottery? Well, you see, I say to myself, I say Joey, life would be sweet because you wouldn't have a care in the world. All your worries would be gone Joey because you could have whatever you wanted.

You want that new car? Bam, you can have it. You want that house with a pool? It's yours. You want to have dinner in the nicest restaurants with fancy people? No problem Joey, because you just won the lottery and you can do whatever you want.

(Child 1 runs on stage)

Child 1: Joey, Joey, you're not going to believe this! Joey! You just won the lottery.

Joey: You're kidding.

Child 1: Would I kid you about a thing like this?

Joey: *(looks at him like he definitely would kid about a thing like this)*

Child 1: Ok, well ya, I probably would, but I'm serious. Look, see for yourself. Here's the ticket and here's the numbers *(hands him a ticket and a phone)*

Joey: I did. I won the lottery. I can't believe it. This is the happiest day of my life! Let's celebrate!

(Joey and child 1 run off stage. Lights fade. Child 2 and 3 enter dressed in normal clothing. Actions can be added to go along with the lines. Lights come up).

Scene 2: Fatigue

Child 2: I am tired.

Child 3: I am so tired.

Child 2: I am tired in my bones.

Child 3: I am tired in my marrow.

Child 2: This fatigue is all consuming.

Child 3: This fatigue is making me grouchy.

Child 2: This is exhaustion.

Child 3: This is burnout.

Child 2: I don't really feel like doing anything anymore.

Child 3: I don't feel at all.

Child 2: Numb.

Child 3: Empty.

Child 2 and 3 together: *(big sigh)*

(Child 4 walks in, dressed in business attire, with brochures)

Child 4: (speaking in a *gameshow host voice*) Ladies, ladies, I couldn't help but overhear your conversation just now, and do I have good news for you! I am going to share something with you that is going to make a world of difference. You know what you need? You need a little *you* time. That's right, I have two words for you ladies. Self-care. It's time to make you number 1 for a change. It's time for a trip to the spa at an all inclusive resort! *(She passes them a brochure)* You'll spend your days by the poolside, sipping pina coladas, ignoring the outside world and enjoying the finer things of life. What do you say?

Child 2: That does sound pretty good.

Child 3: I've always wanted to go to this place.

Child 2: *I haven't* been putting myself first.

Child 3: I haven't been putting myself in the *top 5*.

Child 2: Let's go for it.

Child 3: We're in!

Child 4: Wonderful! Wonderful! You won't regret it!

(Lights fade, then children exit. Children 5 and 6 walk in, in the dark, then lights come up.)

Scene 3: Name It and Claim It

Child 5: You know what I want?

Child 6: No idea.

Child 5: I want one of those lego sets that fills an entire room.

Child 6: You're kidding.

Child 5: I want it to be intricate. I want individual worlds that combine into one mega world that is complex yet simple.

Child 6: Is that even possible?

Child 5: I want all the instructions to make sense the first time I read them.

Child 6: What kind of fantasy world are you living in?

Child 5: And finally, I want to pay \$5 for the whole thing.

Child 6: You can't even buy one small lego set for \$5.

Child 5: I don't care. That's what I want to spend. \$5.

Child 6: The packaging alone would cost \$20.

Child 5: You know what your problem is? You expect too little. I should be able to get what I want for \$5. That's what I want to pay, and that's what I want to get. Name it and claim it. Boom.

Child 6: Good luck with that. I will be here when you leave the store.

(Child 5 leaves, lights go down on Child 6 on stage. Once lights are down, Child 6 leaves. Children 7 and 8 come on stage. Lights come up)

Scene 4: The Irreconcilable

Child 7: I love eating these little nut bars; they are just the best.

Child 8: Oh really, I think those nut bars are bad for the environment. They're individually wrapped.

Child 7: Sheesh, talk about bad-news-bear. I was just saying I *liked* these nut bars, you don't need to get all judgy.

Child 9: What are you guys talking about?

Child 7: Nut bars. I like these ones.

Child 9: Oh yeah, me too. Little bits of coconut inside, covered in chocolate. Yum.

Child 7: <Insert name of Child 8> here doesn't think they're good at all; he's down on them.

Child 9: Oh really?

Child 8: It's the packaging. Individually packaged things are terrible for the environment. Do you know how long that package takes to break down back in the landfill? 500 years!

Child 10: Hey there, what's up guys?

Child 8: Hey <Insert name of Child 10>, we're just chatting about how bad the packaging on those nut bars is for the environment.

Child 10: Oh yeah, those are THE worst. I can't believe anyone would actually buy those and be able to sleep at night.

Child 7: Well excuse me but I sleep just fine, with my belly full of delicious nuts and mouth watering chocolate.

Child 9: I'm not sure how you sleep with all of that righteous indignation fueling you.

Child 8: I sleep like a baby, knowing my food choices aren't destroying the planet for *your* great grandchildren...and mine.

Child 10: Wait, you're going to have children? (*Takes giant step away*) The world's over populated! We need to pull back. I can't believe you're going to have children. That is horrendous.

Child 8: I can't believe you're *not* going to have children! (*Takes a giant step away*) Children are the only hope we have for the future. Without children, where is the joy?

Child 7: Joy is found in long nights of sleep. I'm with <*insert Child 10's name*>. There's no good reason to burden yourself with the complication of dependents.

Child 8: Haven't you heard about intermittent sleeping? People don't need to sleep in long bursts anymore. We're losing productivity with all this continuous sleeping.

Child 9: Intermittent sleeping? That sounds completely crazy. You've lost it. Now, intermittent fasting, that's something else entirely and very good for the body. Takes us back to how humans used to eat.

Child 10: Do you mean how we ate when we didn't have agriculture? Why would *that* be better? I'm sorry but I just don't see the reason to chase down a squash when I could grow one in my yard.

Child 8: I agree! Why would we eat in a way the humans of yore were trying to get away from? Don't you agree <*insert name of Child 7*>?

Child 7: (*Just about to take a bite of his fruit bar*) Didn't I tell you? The reason I am eating these nut bars is for the keto diet. High fat, low carb. It's the *only* way.

Children 8, 9 and 10: Bah! (*Throw up their hands and walk out*)

Child 7: What? What? Man. People are so judgy these days. I feel like we need someone to come and show us how to live in peace.

(*Child 7 crosses to the other side of the stage and holds out hands in expectation. Lights go down. Joey comes back on stage. Lights go up and stay up for all of Scene 5.*)

Scene 5: Need

Joey: Well, I won the lottery. I thought it would make my life perfect. I thought I would be happy. But it didn't and that's that. Why? Well, I did buy a car, a house with a pool and went out for lots of fancy dinners. But for some reason, I just couldn't feel happy. Maybe it was because my best friend was jealous and didn't want to hang out anymore. Or maybe it was because my brother wanted me to give away all the money to the poor (*pause*), he considers himself "poor." (*uses air quotes*) Or maybe it was the lifetime supply of cheezies I bought and ate in a month. Whatever it was, I still feel like I need some good news.

(Joey crosses to other side of stage, joins Child 7 and holds out hands in expectation, waiting for a blessing)

(Fatigued children (Child 2 and 3) enter wearing sunglasses and beach clothes, holding fancy drinks to indicate they've been at the all-inclusive resort)

Child 2: I'm tired.

Child 3: I am so tired.

Child 2: I am tired in my bones.

Child 3: I am tired in my marrow.

Child 2: I thought I would feel good here.

Child 3: I thought I would feel refreshed.

Child 2: I thought the timeshare pitches would *end* after the first day.

Child 3: I thought the people would be better looking.

Child 2: and Child 3: (*big sigh*)

Child 2: I feel like we need something good that lasts.

Child 3: I feel like we need lasting goodness.

(Children 2 and 3 cross to the other side of the stage, join Child 7 and Joey with hands out in a posture of expectant waiting.)

(Lego buyer enters with her \$5 bill and head hanging low.)

Child 6: Well, how did that go?

Child 5: That depends on your perspective. Do you like the sound of laughter?

Child 6: I think so.

Child 5: Then it went well. They *laughed* me out of the store.

Child 6: (*Listens*) Oh yeah, I can still hear them.

Child 5: Sheesh. I just wanted it to come easy, you know? I didn't want there to be a cost to realize my dreams.

Child 6: Yeah, I get that.

Child 5: I feel like I just need something really, really, really, really good.... for free.

Child 5 crosses to other side of the stage, joins group with hands out waiting. Lights fade.

SCENE 6: God's Favour

This scene is narrated by different voices to images on a screen. It can be narrated live with images on a PPT, or the voices can be recorded into the PPT and you just hit play (simpler). Select voices based on the number of players you have. The more voices, the better!

Image of an old man and his wife

An old man is tired. His wife is tired. But God sees them, loves them, and will show them his **favour** and goodness in his perfect timing.

"Do not be afraid, Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard**. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a **joy and delight** to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

Image changes to one of an old couple with a baby

After this, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his **favour** and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her **joy**.

Image changes to one of Mary alone

A humble young girl has no special status in her culture, but God sees her, loves her and will show her his **favour**.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly **favoured!** The Lord is with you."

Image changes to one of Garbriel and Mary

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found **favour** with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; **his kingdom will never end.**"

Image changes to shepherds in the field

A group of common people are getting through their nightly routine, living in a field, watching over their sheep. God sees them, loves them, and will show them his **favour**, giving them *good news* that is *free* and will last.

Image changes to an angel

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** that will cause great **joy** for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Image changes to a host of angels

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his **favour** rests."

Image changes to a Canadian city during the pandemic, people in masks, or some other scene of chaos

A nation of lost souls grows weary from years living in a state of uncertainty, in a world where it feels as though anger, injustice and disunity reign. But God sees them, loves them and has *already* shown them his **favour**.

Images change to follow the stanzas below ending on the image of the baby Jesus with Mary

God's mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

God has given his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to **shine** on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to **guide** our feet into the path of **peace**.

New voice

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Play <https://youtu.be/BSuwlEaQi54>

Lights slowly come up as four children come out, one by one, and each take the hands of the waiting/expectant players and point them to the image of Jesus birth.

One by one, children start moving to the music - the actions are in tune with the words, building up until all the actors in the play are on stage, acting out the words.

This is a VERY powerful ending. I'm happy to share a video of how we did it.

(Lights and music fade.)

The End.

A Word from the Author

If your congregation has used this script, please consider [donating to my writing endeavours](#). I would *love* to write full time and produce more cheese-free, Christ-honouring content.

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