

“Christmas Cards and Carols”

SAMPLE SCRIPT

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Thank you for understanding.)

by Sandi Zimmerman Rebert

Choir enters. Lights up on Choir – center stage. (If no choir is used, keep house lights up.)

Choir or Congregation: Several Christmas Carols of your choice (*those that are not included later in the program*)

Lights down on choir. (If no choir is used, bring house lights down.) Family members in “House Card” take places and freeze. Lights up on Narrator, center stage.

Narrator: Christmas – already? Wow! The year went by quickly, didn’t it? Christmas is a special time of year; a time of joy, reflection, presents, programs – like this one, singing of carols, good-will toward men, and Christmas cards.

Speaking of Christmas cards – do you get yours out on time? That list seems endless, doesn’t it? Friends from long ago, friends from now, coworkers, acquaintances, father, mother, sister, brother, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws...

And then there’s the choice of cards. What kind of Christmas cards do you choose? Are you cheap, like me and buy the boxed cards at the end of the season to send the following year? Or are you the careful, sentimental, thoughtful person who spends an hour looking for that special card to send to that special person or persons in your life? Have you ever thought about the variety of cards that are available? Cards that play music, cards that talk, cards that sing, photo cards - you know, the ones with the cute updated pictures of your kids for everyone to “ooh” and “ah” over then display on their

fridge until the following year when you send another updated photo card. Funny, isn't it, how the kids get older every year, but we never do?

What about the wording of the card? Here's a common one (*holds up large card with "Seasons Greetings" on the front*) – "Season's Greetings." The connotation is generic, non-offensive. It could be appropriate for anyone – a close friend or someone you hardly know, or someone you know well, but would rather not. Someone you care about – or don't. Often it will have a picture of snow and sleighs, presents, or the big man in the red suit. (*tosses it aside*) Nah! It doesn't really convey the true meaning of Christmas, does it? (*Walks over to house scene.*)

Lights up on scene.

House Card

How about this one? It shows a sweet family gathered around the Christmas tree – a nostalgic scene of peace and serenity. You know the kind – it says in big scrolling letters on the front... (*motioning with his hand to the words above the scene*) "From Our House to Yours." (*family comes to life*)

Robert: (*picking up a package and shaking it*)

Mom: Robert, put that down.

Robert: Aw, Mom. I like to guess what's in it. (*pause*) What's in it?

Mom: Never mind. You'll just have to wait to find out. (*rummaging through papers on the table*) Now where did I put that Christmas card list? It was here just a minute ago. (*sighs in frustration*)

Dad: You haven't finished sending the cards?

Mom: No, I still need to buy another box. I'm just glad we finished our yearly letter in time.

Dad: Me, too. (*helping her look*) Last year we didn't get them out until March!

Mom: Actually, that was the year before. Last year it was April!

Angela: (*grabbing the gift from Robert*) That's my gift! Look, it says it right here—Angela. I'll be glad when you can read.

Paula: (*sighing and acting disgusted with her younger brother and sister as she decorate the tree.*) You two are *so* immature.

Robert: It was in blue paper.

Angela: That doesn't mean anything.

Mom: Yes, it does. I wrap his in blue so he'll know which are his.

Angela: But it's *my* present!

Mom: I ran out of *your* paper.

Angela: Which is my paper?

Mom: The one with the cute snowmen.

Angela: (*picking up a package with snowmen and shaking it*) Ooo!

Dad: Angela, put that down. Help Paula finish with the decorating and leave the presents alone! (*to mom*) I'll pick up some more "snowmen paper" on my way back from the office gift exchange.

Mom: Gift exchange! You never told me...

Dad: (*Visibly disappointed*) You forgot!

Mom: I had to bake cookies yesterday, get to the grocery store to buy some fried onion rings for the green bean casserole I'm taking to your Aunt Thelma's on Saturday, start cleaning the house for Grandma and Grandpa...

Dad: Do we have anything around the house I could take?

Mom: How about the tie I gave you last year that you haven't worn yet?

Dad: Very funny.

Mom: Just being practical, dear.

Paula: That reminds me, mom, we're having a gift exchange in Sunday School this weekend.

Mom: Another gift exchange? You didn't tell me you had a gift exchange and... Oh, the Sunday School program. The Sunday School program! Dress rehearsal is tonight! Come on kids, get your coats on. We've got to get going!

Narrator: Wait! Before everyone rushes off... What's going on here?

Dad: *(to narrator)* Who are you?

Narrator: I'm the Narrator...

Dad: The what?

Narrator: I was just telling these people here what a beautiful picture of peace and tranquility your card was.

Dad: Looks can be deceiving.

Narrator: Apparently.

Mom: You should have been here yesterday. Gift wrap everywhere! And I made four kinds of cookies and... *(to her husband as she peers out at the audience)* Fred, who *are* those people and what are they doing here?

Narrator: This is a Christmas program, "Christmas Cards and Carols."

Mom: If I'd known we were going to have company. *(smooths hair)* Oh, Fred, the house is a mess!

Dad: Relax, dear. It's no different than when we're in a store.

Robert: *(waving to the audience)* Grandma, are you out there?

Mom: Shh...behave, Robert. Everyone's watching.

Narrator: I should think a Christmas card would be used to having people look at it.

Paula: At the store, there's only one at a time, well, sometimes two or three, but...

Angela: Look at them all!

Mom: *(turning away from audience, hiding behind husband)* I'd rather not.

Dad: *(to narrator)* This is...a little overwhelming.

Narrator: Sorry about that. But, I think by the time we finish tonight you'll understand why they're all here.

Dad: Are you trying to tell us something?

Narrator: Actually, I am. It seems that with all the busyness of the Christmas season, you've forgotten the true meaning of this blessed time of year.

Dad: We have gotten off-track, haven't we?

Narrator: I'm afraid so. Tell you what. I know you have lots to do, but, if you don't mind, I'd like you to take a look at the other Christmas cards I was about to show all these folks.

THERE IS EXTRA DIALOGUE HERE WHICH HAS BEEN OMITTED FROM THE SAMPLE.

After the verses are finished, lights come down on house scene. Mary and Joseph take their places and freeze. Lights up on "Nativity card."

Nativity Card (THIS IS A PARTIAL SCRIPT FROM THE NATIVITY "CARD.")

Mary: He's a miracle, Joseph.

Joseph: (*in awe*) Every baby is a miracle, (*pause*) but this Child is a miracle unlike any other.

Mary: “Jesus,” the angel had told you, “thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.” His name *must* be Jesus.

Joseph: (*thoughtfully*) Yeshua – “the Lord is salvation.” Jesus it is.

Mary: People will find it hard to believe that the son of a poor carpenter is, in reality, *not* his son, but rather the Son of God!

Joseph: To think that He would leave His throne above, all the splendors of Heaven, the worship of angels, to stoop so low as this—even to being born in a lowly stable rather than a palace.

Mary: Every Jewish girl has dreamed of being worthy to be the mother of the Messiah, yet, I feel so unworthy. I’m nothing special; I’m human like anyone else. I’m in need of my Child to be my Savior, as much as anyone else needs Him to be their salvation from sin. Yet, God chose me. I’ve often, these last nine months, wondered why. I truly am “blessed among women” for such a Gift as this.

THERE IS MORE OF THE NATIVITY CARD WHICH HAS BEEN OMITTED FROM THE SAMPLE.

(PARTIAL SCRIPT FROM SHEPHERDS CARD. THERE IS DIALOGUE BEFORE THIS SECTION.)

Shepherd 1: Then, perhaps God had a greater purpose than just announcing the birth of His Son by sending a host of angels to *us*.

Shepherd 2: Yes—yes! He had to announce His gracious Gift to shepherds—those who spend their lives watching sheep, some of which will become temple sacrifices. (*pauses, thinking*) God had a divine purpose in choosing shepherds—to introduce to all mankind this little Lamb as the perfect and pure sacrificial Lamb of God Who will one day take away the sins of the world!

THERE IS MORE OF THE SHEPHERDS CARD WHICH HAS BEEN OMITTED FROM THE SAMPLE.

Lights down on shepherds. Shepherds exit. Lights up on House Card.

Mother: “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

Angela: Didn’t John the Baptist say that when Jesus was baptized?

Mother: Yes. Yes he did.

Paula: You know, I don’t usually think about Easter at Christmas.

Father: Christ’s birth and death go hand in hand; His purpose in coming to earth was to die.

Narrator: Your family has come a long way already in gaining the right perspective on this season. There’s just one more card I’d like you to take a look at. *(to father)* Please turn to Luke 2:1-12.

Father: *(turns to the Scriptures and reads the passage)*

Lights down on house. Wisemen enter. Lights come up on wisemen who are “frozen” in their “card” until the end of the song. Lights ups on choir. (If not using a choir, bring up house lights.)

Choir or Congregation: We Three Kings

*Lights down on choir. (If not using a choir, bring house lights down.)
Wisemen “come to life.”*

Wiseman 1: They seemed to be a very poor family. I trust my gift of gold may be used of God to meet some special need they may have.

Wiseman 2: Perhaps they will use it to finance a trip away from here. There must be some reason why the angel told us not to return to Herod.

THERE IS MORE TO THE WISEMEN SCRIPT THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SAMPLE.

Choir or Congregation: O Come All Ye Faithful

Lights down. All card members (and choir) exit.