

Making it Perfect

One-Hour Ladies' Christmas Program

Melissa Sutter

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Scripture Reading - Luke 2:1-20
3. Prayer
4. Skit
5. Craft
6. Prayer
7. Dismissal

CENTERPIECE SUGGESTION

Decorative Christmas gift bags containing the materials needed for the craft, with tissue covering the supplies, can be set in the middle of the tables. These centerpieces will be colorful and festive, but also helpful in getting the supplies out to the group in an efficient way when needed at the end of the skit.

Skit – The Perfect Christmas

SETTING

There are two “scenes” in the room, one to the left of the podium and one to the right.

To the right of the podium there is a Christmas tree decorated with blinking lights, loaded with “nice” decorations (but almost to the point of gaudy), gold bead strands wrapped “perfectly” around the tree, and a fancy tree-top adorning the tree. Two identical ornaments are hanging right next to each other in view of the audience. There are many wrapped packages around the tree, including a large plastic gift-bag that is “stuffed” and gift-bags placed near the tree with tissue overflowing from the top. Three or four metal folding chairs crammed next to each other are littered with “dirty” paper plates and plastic cups. Near the tree is a big black garbage bag that is stuffed full and has torn Christmas gift wrap sticking out of the top. There are bows and ribbons scattered about.

To the left of the podium there is a Christmas tree decorated with white non-blinking lights, adorned with a modest amount of hand-made or “old” ornaments, strung cranberry and popcorn strands, and a “simple” tree-top. Near the tree is a rocking chair with a quilt draped over it. A small lamp is dimly lit on an end table that has a doily with a Bible on it. There is also a bowl of popcorn on the table. Beneath the tree are three wrapped gifts.

CHARACTERS

Narrator – standing at the podium

Mom #1 – busy, frazzled, tired, frustrated
wearing a Santa hat, Christmas sweater, and watch
has a notepad, date book, and “thick” envelope

Mom #2 – calm, happy, peaceful
wearing something simple like jeans, a sweatshirt, and a watch

Note: None of the lines have to be “memorized”, as Mom#1 has a list in front of her at all times that can actually be the skit lines. Mom #2 has a Bible on her lap that can conceal her lines. However, each actress should be very familiar with her lines to make her words and actions appear to be very natural.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GIFTS GIVEN DURING THE SKIT

angel ornament – handmade angel ornament

extravagant gift – box of chocolates

practical gift – handmade soap

spiritual gift – Christian book with a blessing written in it

THE SKIT

NARRATOR:

So, it's almost Christmas – the time of year so many of us look forward to, the time of year so many of us plan for months in advance, the time of year that brings family and friends closer, and the time of year we relax and enjoy fellowshiping with others as we remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Or is it? (looks to the right as Mom #1 enters the “busy” scene)

MOM #1:

(enters carrying a notepad for her list of “things to do”, a date book, and a very thick envelope)

Look at this mess! Oh – my aching head! (rubs temples aggressively) What?!! There are two identical ornaments hanging right next to each other. Errr! That's what I get for letting the kids help me decorate the tree. (moves to rearrange the ornaments) Next year I should just decorate it myself. Don't they know I want everything to be just perfect for them? (moves a dirty paper plate to sit down on folding chair – obviously stressed)

Well, now that we have one of our last family get-togethers over with, maybe I can relax for a few minutes. Relax!?? Who am I kidding? I have to get this place cleaned up! We're going away tonight. (begins to stuff garbage in bag and then sits down again)

I hope I haven't forgotten anything. I hate it if things aren't perfectly even for the kids. Man! It ends up costing a lot more than you think trying to even things up constantly. Plus, I had so many gifts to buy this year. Every year, it's more and more. Parents, kids, spouse, teachers, friends, friends' kids, friends of friends, people from work, people from school, people from church, mailman, house cleaner – which I could use right now, five dollar gifts for this, ten dollar gifts for that, donations for this, donations for that, money, money, money. That's what Christmas is all about. (looks at the thick envelope she brought in) This Master Card bill will be proof of that. (opens the thick envelope, peeks inside and gasps) YIKES! I think I better wait to show my husband this credit card bill until after Christmas. He is

NOT going to be happy when he sees the minimum amount due is more than our house payment!

I just wanted everything to be perfect. (looks at watch) Look at the time! (jumps up) I guess time flies when you're having....yah, whatever. Look at all of these presents. The kids are going to be so happy, so surprised. Wait a minute! They're not going to have time to open all of these in the morning! My parents are coming over for lunch! I'm going to have to get them up early. Oh! I can't get them up early – we're going to be up late tonight at my in-laws get-together. WELL! The kids are just going to have to open their gifts very quickly and put them away immediately, so the house will look perfect when my parents get here. Plus! I need the tree cleared out so Mom and Dad have a place to put the truckload of gifts “they're” bringing.

(sits down again) I'm glad I have my list and date book here, or there is no way I could keep all of this straight. (acts like she hears something) What? (listens again) No honey, I don't have time to come out and build a snowman with you and the kids. I'm trying to make things perfect here! It is Christmas, you know? Just take a picture and tell me about it later, ok Babe?

(takes Santa hat off and looks discouraged) This is what Christmas is all about, right? It's all about having everything perfect, right? It's all about buying the perfect gifts, fixing pounds of perfect food, sending a few thousand perfect Christmas cards, inviting millions of people over, visiting a billion relatives, and spending trillions of dollars. Yep, really perfect....

Who came up with this Christmas-thing anyway? I know babies are a lot of work, but at least mine are growing up. But, that Baby Jesus has caused me a lot of work for years, and I think He's going to keep causing me work until I die – which, if the way I feel is any indication, won't be long. (yawns) Perfect, just perfect. (unplugs the tree lights and exits dragging the garbage bag with her)

NARRATOR:

(As the narrator begins to speak, Mom#2 goes and sits in the rocking chair, places the Bible on her lap, and opens it to her skit lines)

Wow! I guess we've come a long way since Baby Jesus was placed in that manger. If that lady would have been in charge back then, I bet things would have been a lot different! I can see it now. An artificial blinking star would have been fastened to the top of the roof, the stable would have been swept, vacuumed and sprayed with Lysol. She would have had the manger lined with percale sheets and had a musical mobile dangling at the top of it. Of course, she would have had three or four casseroles baking in case some shepherds or wise men showed up unexpectedly. Actually, she probably would have sent the wise men back to get gifts of equal value. I can imagine her posing the animals, along with Mary and Joseph and their new baby, so she could capture the perfect Kodak moment.

Hmmm...it makes you wonder how things could be... (looks to the left)

MOM #2:

(talking to the audience, but mostly to "herself")

Ah...Christmas Eve – one of my favorite nights of the year. What a perfect time to think of Jesus leaving his Heavenly Kingdom to be born a baby. Now that's love. Love, that's what I think this holiday is all about. There is love everywhere! As I bake the special dishes my mom always made when I was growing up, I *smell* love. Oh...and when I visit the shut-ins from church and give them a goody basket, they give me the brightest smile, that's when I *see* love. While listening to my husband read the Christmas Story from the scriptures, I *hear* love. And, feeling love – well, my husband and kids make me *feel* love.

Memories – memories of love. I have a lot of them. This tree brings back memories. Look at how it's decorated. My kids helped – actually, they did almost the whole thing. It takes us forever to decorate it. It seems every ornament has a story that goes with it. My husband and I tell stories while the kids hang the decorations. I've had some of those decorations since I was a kid and others, as you can see, my children made. Look at this angel. Isn't it beautiful? It reminds me of the angelic host that sang of Jesus' birth. (take the angel and give it to somebody) Here you can have this one. My tree may not be fancy, but it is covered in love. I think it is just perfect.

I can hardly wait for my family to open their gifts. I get each of them three things. It's a tradition that my grandparents started. The wise men brought

three gifts for Jesus, something extravagant, something practical, and something spiritual. My grandparents decided to follow their example.

My kids love trying to figure out what their three gifts are going to be. Oh, of course, their extravagant gift is something they really don't need, but just really want. That gift is always fun for me to pick out, because it seems like they always have quite a few things to pick from. They are more selective when making out their lists though, I must say. Since they only get one extravagant thing, they put a bit more thought into what they "really" want. (take a wrapped, "extravagant" gift from under the tree to a person in the group) Here, I have one for you.

And the practical gift – now I have a good time with that! I always promise socks or underwear. Actually, my husband and I always come up with something they need "and" like. Even practical things can be fun. (take a wrapped "practical" gift from under the tree to a person in the group) I hope you like yours.

I guess the most special thing for me to buy my kids is what I consider to be from the "spiritual" category. It's never really a total surprise for them. I always buy them a Christian book and write a blessing in it. They never know what book it is going to be though. Those books have helped them mature in their Christian walk, and they are just special books to all of us. I still have all of the ones my parents gave me. (take a wrapped "spiritual" gift and give it to a person in the group) May God bless you in a special way this year as you learn to walk closely with Him.

(looks at watch) Oh! Look at the time! Time sure flies, but it has been good! I better call the kids down. My husband and I have been playing with them. We have been messing around with some of the gifts my parents gave them a couple of nights ago. We celebrate with them the weekend before Christmas; that way things don't get so hectic around here on Christmas Day. I just came down to take a moment alone to reflect on what Christmas is all about. Well, that and to get the popcorn ready. We always like to eat popcorn while we listen to the true Christmas Story.

This is such a busy time of year. I want to be sure we take time to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas and that we also take the time to share the love of Jesus with others. Christmas – it's all about God's perfect Son and His perfect love. It's just perfect.

NARRATOR:

The perfect Christmas – what would yours be like? Mark tells us what our priorities should be everyday in Mark 12: 28-31. (read the scripture)

Thank you.

Refreshments – The Perfect Snack

As ladies work on their crafts, have coffee, cider, donuts, and popcorn available for them.

Craft – The Perfect Gift Bag

MATERIALS NEEDED:

plain/neutral colored gift bags
plain/neutral colored note cards with envelopes
holiday rubber stamps
stamp pads

DIRECTIONS:

Have each lady take a bag, note card, and envelope. Spend time decorating the items, and encourage the ladies to use the bag to deliver a little bit of love to somebody who may not be expecting it this holiday season.

Craft – Perfect Alternatives

make tree ornaments
paint the bottoms of clear glass plates to fill and give away
stencil natural or denim totes to fill and give away
have a cookie exchange planned
string cranberries and popcorn for a tree at the church