

Can't Wait for Christmas!

By: Robin Lewis

8-17-22

CAST:

LUKE: Main Character. He is questioning Jesus and uncovers things he never knew before. (3 Songs, plus end Reprise)

LUCY: Luke's big sister. She is very happy and encouraging. Very Excited for Christmas. (5 Songs and end Reprise)

MAX: Kid character addicted to sugar. (3 Songs plus end Reprise)

JACOB: Luke's best friend (3 Songs plus end Reprise)

SAM: Little Kid Character (3 Songs plus end Reprise)

SALLY: Kid Character (3 Songs plus end Reprise)

MOM: Luke and Lucy's Mom (1 Song, plus end Reprise)

DAD: Luke and Lucy's Dad (1 Song, plus end Reprise)

GRANDMA: Luke and Lucy's Grandma (End Reprise)

PASTOR: Christmas Eve Church Pastor (End Reprise Optional)

LOTS OF KIDS OF VARYING AGES: (In 3 Main Scenes with 3 Songs, plus end Reprise. There are lines within the scenes that they will say together)

SCENE 1: BUILDING A SNOWMAN

Stage is outside with snow, trees and snowman right in the middle. Snow machines running. ALL KIDS (dressed in snow gear) enter at the beginning of the song from backstage and start to make the snowman (have it in parts so they can assemble during the song) and play in the snow (Hand motions and blocking to be taught for song). Song begins...

SONG 1: TobyMac "Can't Wait for Christmas" (ends at 2:04, reprise at end of play with the rest of the song)

Can't Wait for Christmas (by: TobyMac) 2:04

LUCY: I don't know about you
But I love this time of the year

SALLY: Me too

LUCY: I love the lights, the trees, the giant parades
I love the joy, I feel around the holidays

SALLY: I love the snow that falls and covers the Earth
I love to sing songs of the Savior's birth

ALL KIDS: Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas

LUCY I love the way Main Street, looks at night
I love the sparkle that I see, in everybody's eyes

MAX: The claymation shows, take us back in time
And then we watch Elf, at a minimum twice

ALL KIDS: Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas

JACOB: I love snow days **ALL Kids shout!**: (no school!)
We head to the hill
Pile three on a saucer, can bet on a spill

SALLY: Stacking gloves on the furnace, at the end of the day
And as we sit by the fire, tell me who wouldn't say

ALL KIDS: Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas
'Cause when you think it's gonna end
It's coming back around again
Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas
'Cause snow is falling everywhere
And love is always in the air

Can't wait for Christmas
(Can't wait for Christmas)

Snow is falling everywhere
Love is always in the air
(I can't wait for, I can't wait for)
I can't wait for Christmas snow is falling everywhere love is always
in the air
I can't wait for, I can't wait for
I can't wait for, I can't wait for

SOUNDS: ends with extended children laughing

Kids playing in the snow and building the snowman excitedly while talking to each other. Luke is quiet and skeptical this year about Christmas.

SALLY: Oh, I just love Christmas time!

MAX: Me too!

SALLY: What's your favorite thing about Christmas Max?

MAX: Ummmmm, I think it would have to be all the sugar!

ALL KIDS: *(laugh and agree)*

MAX: I mean most of the time my mom is telling me I eat too much sugar and then Christmas comes around and it's like I get to eat all the sugar I want.

JACOB: I know! I had hot chocolate three times this week just because my mom said I must be cold after coming in from the snow. If playing in the snow means hot chocolate, I say bring on the snow.

SALLY: Yeah, I like all the sugar too, but I also like the presents.

ALL KIDS: *(Varied)* Oh me too!

JACOB: I asked for a Nintendo Switch this year and I really hope I get it.

SAM: I asked for a Bike!

SALLY: I asked for Legos!

MAX: I asked for a stocking full of sugar and I'm pretty sure I'm gonna get it.

ALL KIDS: *(laugh)*

LUCY: I asked for a new Bible. *(Everything comes to a screeching halt. Kids all just stare at her.)* What? My old one is a children's Bible and I'm growing up. I need a grown-up Bible. I mean isn't that why we celebrate Christmas in the first place? Because of Jesus!

ALL KIDS: *(agree, except Luke)* "Yes, that's true" or "Yeah, I guess so".

SALLY: Hey that reminds me. Are you guys planning on being in the Christmas Eve Choir this year at church?

ALL KIDS: Ya, oh, ya, I am!

MAX: What about you Luke? Are you gonna be in the choir this year?

LUKE: I don't know.

JACOB: What don't you know? Its super fun and we get to sing songs for Jesus' birthday.

LUKE: I know, its just that I don't know if I should be singing to him this year.

MAX: Why not?

LUKE: Because, because.....*(Everyone looking at him in anticipation)*. It's nothing.

LUCY: What's going on Luke? You sing in the choir every year. Mom and Dad and Grandma look forward to it every Christmas.

LUKE: I know!

LUCY: Than what's the problem?

LUKE: The problem is I am trying not to ruin Christmas.

LUCY: Ruin Christmas? How could you ruin Christmas?

LUKE: Because, because (everyone staring in anticipation again), I'm not sure if it makes sense.

LUCY: Luke, what are you saying?

LUKE: I'm struggling to make sense of Jesus' story this year. We have always gone to church and were told what to believe about Jesus. But I have questions.

ALL KIDS: *(Everyone gasps)*

LUKE: See this is what I mean! I'm ruining Christmas.

LUCY: I'm not worried about you ruining Christmas. And if you have questions then let's figure them out.

LUKE: Ok. You're not mad?

LUCY: Why would I be mad? What are your questions?

LUKE: Well, I overheard someone at the grocery store last week, when I went with mom, and they said that Jesus never existed. That his story is made up. I know that there are other holiday stories that are made up too. It made me upset but then I started thinking, is that true? I mean I hope not. But they said if God really sent his Son then all the world's problems would have been solved by now and we would have peace. But we don't have peace on earth. We have the opposite.

LUCY: Wow, that's a lot to think about.

LUKE: And I thought about Mary and Joseph and wondered why God would choose them to be the parents of His son. They had nothing and he ended up being born in a barn instead of a nice home or, oh I don't know, a castle.

LUCY: I don't think Jesus was looking to be rich and powerful when he came. When I read about Jesus he's more interested in healing people. I mean that's what he did for us by dying on the cross. He heals us from our sins.

LUKE: I just feel like I've lost hope in Christmas this year, and I'm not sure how to get it back.

SONG 2: I Still Believe in Christmas (Anne Wilson)

I Still Believe in Christmas (Anne Wilson) 3:48

LUKE: The choir's singing carols
 Bells are ringing, streets are bright
 It's Christmas all around me
 So why is Christmas hard to find
 December snow is falling down
 Like I am to my knees
 I could use some hope right now
 'Cause right now hope is hard to see

 Help me still believe

LUCY: For God so loved this broken world
 He sent His only son
 To a carpenter and a teenage girl
 To show us all His love
 He left His home in heaven
 To make heaven my home
 My Emmanuel is with me
 And I'll never be alone

Down here my heart can't find much to believe in
But I still believe in Christmas

SALLY: I still believe in healing
For the weary and the hurt
And in a world that's so divided
I still believe in peace on earth
I still believe that love is strong enough
To conquer hate
And in a world that won't believe it
I still believe enough to say

ALL KIDS (*Not Luke*): For God so loved this broken world
He sent His only son

LUKE (*In question*): To a carpenter and a teenage girl?

ALL KIDS (*Assuring*): To show us all His love
He left His home in heaven
To make heaven my home
My Emmanuel is with me
And I'll never be alone
Down here my heart can't find much to believe in
But I still believe in Christmas
I still believe in Christmas

LUCY: I still believe in Jesus
The name above all names
A Savior in a manger
And a star that leads the way
Help us all believe

ALL KIDS: For God so loved this broken world
He sent His only son

LUKE (*questioning*): To a carpenter and a teenage girl?

ALL KIDS (*assuring*): To show us all His love
He left His home in heaven
To make heaven my home
My Emmanuel is with me
And I'll never be alone
Down here my heart can't find much to believe in
But I still believe in Christmas
I still believe in Christmas

LUKE: Thanks for trying to encourage me guys. I'll think about what you said.

LUCY: Hey, it's getting late. We've got to get home. See you guys tomorrow.

SOUNDS: Music for Scene change to Luke and Lucy's Home

SCENE 2: DECORATING THE TREE

Inside Luke and Lucy's house with their parents, getting ready to decorate the Christmas tree. Mom is alone on a ladder putting garland on the tree. Dad is bringing in boxes. She is singing as she decorates.

SONG 3: Winter Snow (Audrey Assad)

Winter Snow (Audrey Assad) 3:32

MOM:

Could've come like a mighty storm
With all the strength of a hurricane
You could've come like a forest fire
With the power of Heaven in Your flame

But you came like a winter snow
Quiet and soft and slow
Falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below

Oh You could've swept in like a tidal wave
Or an ocean to ravish our hearts
You could have come through like a roaring flood
To wipe away the things we've scarred

But you came in like a winter snow
Quiet and soft and slow
Falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below

Ooh no, Your voice wasn't in a bush burning
No, Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind
It was still, it was small, it was hidden

(Luke and Lucy walk in as mom is singing. Lucy joins in)

MOM AND LUCY: But you came in like a winter snow
Quiet and soft and slow
Falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below

Falling, Oh yeah, to the earth below
You came falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below

LUCY: I remember that song. You sing it every time it snows.

MOM: (Teasing) I figured you remembered it because you jumped right in. Oh, and look it's snowing. You guys got home just in time.

SOUNDS: (Prop-Radio, Dad turns on Christmas music) Wordless Christmas music in the background as they decorate.

DAD: You ready to decorate the Christmas Tree?

LUKE and LUCY: Oh Yeah!

MOM: *(Bringing over cups of hot chocolate to Luke and Lucy):* Here's some hot chocolate to warm you guys up.

LUKE and LUCY: Thanks mom!

MOM: How was playing in the snow today? *(Glancing out the window)* That snowman looks pretty impressive. *(She starts handing out ornaments and the family decorates the tree through this conversation)*

LUKE: Yah, it took a couple of us to get the head on just right but we eventually got it up there.

LUCY: And we talked about how excited we are about Christmas. Well, everyone except Luke.

LUKE: *(Upset)* Lucy!

LUCY: What? It's true.

LUKE: I, Uh, I know....but....

LUCY: Mom and Dad need to know.

DAD: Okay, Lucy that's enough. Luke may want to tell us himself.

LUCY: Sorry Luke.

LUKE: It's okay Lucy. *(to mom and dad)* It's just that we were talking about how Christmas is about Jesus and I had a couple of questions about Him today.

DAD: *(nonchalant while decorating)* What kind of questions?

LUKE: Um, we don't have to get into it. Let's just decorate the tree and have a nice family Christmas time.

DAD: We can talk about Jesus while we decorate. He is, after all, what we are celebrating.

LUKE: *(Luke stops and becomes upset)* You don't understand. I can't tell you what I'm questioning because you all know what you think of Jesus and I would be ruining this special Christmas moment.

MOM: What do you mean "We all know what we think of Jesus"? Do you not know what you think of Jesus?

LUKE: *(Matter of Fact)* No I don't.

(Everyone stops and looks at Luke)

DAD: Ok Luke. It sounds like something is going on and I'd like to hear about it.

LUKE: Ok Dad. Well, last week mom and I were at the grocery store and I overheard some people talking about Jesus' story. They said he never existed and if he had we would have peace on earth. But we don't have peace on earth and I've been asking if the story is true or made up. I'm not happy about it. But those people made me think of things I've never thought before.

DAD: Well thanks for sharing that. The truth is we have always tried to raise you both up with the truth of God's word, but there always comes a point where questions will come up, and that's ok.

LUKE: It is?

DAD: Well sure. We can't force you to have a relationship with Jesus. I can do my best to teach you about him, encourage you to learn about him, and pray for you. But you have to decide if you want to choose him or not. You see, at some point in your life you will have to decide on your own relationship with Jesus. Your mom and I have our own, but our relationships with Jesus can't save you. It can only save us. So you have to decide if you believe Jesus' story.

LUKE: How do I do that?

DAD: Research!

LUKE: Oh man! I just got out of school.

DAD: Again, I can't force you to do it. It's everyone's own responsibility to decide what they believe about Jesus. How much work are you willing to put in to see if you believe his story?

MOM: Here honey (*Hands him a book*). This book talks about historical evidence of Jesus. Maybe it's a good place to start.

DAD: And we are always here when you want to talk. Now, hey let's get back to decorating this tree.

LUKE: You guys go ahead. I think I'm going to head off to bed. (*searching for an excuse*) I, uh, we have the annual snowball fight tomorrow and I need to get up early to set it up. (*Walks out thumbing through the book, turns back quickly*) Good Night.

DAD: Okay, well we love you son. Good Night!

LUCY: Good Night Luke!

SONG 4: Somewhere in Your Silent Night (Casting Crowns)

Somewhere in Your Silent Night (Casting Crowns) 3:55

DAD:

All is calm and all is bright
Everywhere but in your heart tonight
They're singing carols of joy and peace
But you feel too far gone and too far out of reach

Somewhere in your silent night
Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried
Hope is here, just lift your head
For love has come to find you
Somewhere in your silent night

From heaven's height to manger low
There is no distance the Prince of Peace won't go
From manger low to Calvary's hill
When your pain runs deep
His love runs deeper still
He has always loved you, child
And He always will

Somewhere in your silent night
Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried
Hope is here, just lift your head
For love has come to find you
Somewhere in your silent night

Lift your head
Lift your heart
Emmanuel will meet you where you are
He knows your hurt
He knows your name
And you're the very reason that He came

Somewhere in your silent night
Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried
Hope is here, just lift your head
For love has come to find you
Somewhere in your silent night

Love will find you
Ooh, love will find you
Love will find you

LUCY: I'm really worried about Luke. What happens if he stops believing in Jesus?

MOM: The best thing we can do for him right now is pray. Not worry. Jesus loves him so much. He tells us if we knock the door will be open to us.

DAD: That's right. If Luke really wants to know Jesus, Jesus will show him the way. We just need to pray.

(Family huddles together and starts to pray)

SOUNDS: Music to change Scenes

Scene 3: SNOWBALL FIGHT

Back to winter scene. Two igloo type barricades are set up with 4 baskets of snowballs. Luke comes out with his book, talking to himself.

LUKE: *(Standing there reading the book)*

JACOB: *(Comes in)* Hey Luke, whatcha got there?

LUKE: Oh, my parents gave me this book about the history of Jesus last night. I haven't been able to put it down.

JACOB: Really? Uh, that's cool. Anything interesting so far? *(He starts to make snowballs)*

LUKE: Yeah, it says you can't believe every story you read. Especially if it has only been written down by one person. It says that in order for a story to be considered true it has to have several witnesses.

JACOB: Well that's cool. So how many people wrote about Jesus.

LUKE: Historians have found over 100 stories of Him outside of the Bible.

JACOB: What? That's insane. Well, at least now you know if Jesus actually existed. Sounds like he did.

LUKE: Yeah, and in the Bible he had 12 close friends and hundreds of followers. Many of whom wrote about his life. Luke, the guy who has a cool name, was a historian and actually interviewed Jesus' mom, Mary to make sure he had all the facts of Jesus' birth right. But then this guy Matthew also wrote about Jesus' birth.

JACOB: Wow, that's really cool.

LUKE: It talks about something else too.

JACOB: Really? What's that.

LUKE: It says that most of his friends were told to stop spreading his story around or they would be put to death or in jail. But they would not stop. Most of them died for his story and some went to jail.

JACOB: Wow, that's crazy.

LUKE: *(Thinking, to himself)* Hmmmm, I wonder. *(To Jacob)* Hey would you go to jail for me?

JACOB: Um, no!

LUKE: Why not? I mean aren't we best friends?

JACOB: Why are you asking me this?

LUKE: I'm just wondering if you would back me if I were lying.

JACOB: Why would I back you if you were lying. You are so not being a good friend right now.

LUKE: But what if it was really important and I needed you to side with me?

JACOB: Luke, I'm not lying for you.

LUKE: But you don't even know what I'm going to ask you to lie about.

JACOB: I am not lying! Period! I don't want to get in trouble. It's Christmas and you've met my mom. I will not miss Christmas for you.

LUKE: Hey, here come the others. *(Jacob gives Luke shady eyes)*

ALL KIDS: Hi! *(Everyone says hi in their own way)*

(Max comes in with a big lollipop that he will use as a bat in the snowball fight)

MAX: *(Licks his lollipop)* Okay you know the rules. Little Kids on that side and big kids on this side.

SAM: Why can't we even it up? Why is it always the little kids against the big kids. It doesn't seem very fair.

MAX: Hey, I didn't make the rules. I just follow them.

(Kids get in position. Luke steals one of the little kids snowball baskets without anyone seeing and moves it to the big kids side)

MAX: *(Yelling!)* Ready! Set! SNOWBALLS!

(Kids throw snowballs at each other. Little kids get done really early and then get pummeled by the older kids. Sam stomps out in frustration)

SAM: That was not a fair fight! You guys obviously had way more snowballs than us.

ALL KIDS: *(Various arguing)* "No we didn't" OR "Yes you did!"

MAX: *(He walks over to inspect)* Why do you guys only have one basket? You should have had two. *(He walks over and looks at the big kid side and pulls out the extra basket).* Okay!!! Who stole the basket?

(Kids look around to see who looks guilty. Luke laughs and nods at Jacob. Jacob shakes his head in disappointment)

MAX: Who did it? It's not fun if it's not fair.

JACOB: Come on Luke!

LUKE: What are you talking about?

JACOB: I'm not lying for you. You took the snowballs. Just admit it so we can keep playing.

(Luke stands there defiant. Kids start getting angry and yelling at him. He steps out and says...)

LUKE: Okay, pause *(Everyone on stage freezes)*. Okay, so I know what this looks like. I look pretty awful right now. But I wanted to see if I could get my friend to lie for me. Kind of like a social experiment. You know, if Jesus' story was a lie than why were so many people willing to die for it? My friends obviously are not willing to do that for me. Not even my best one. Hmmmmmm...I wonder. Can I get a rewind?

(Snowball fight scene is rewound really fast and ends up back at Jacob and Luke talking)

LUKE: Hey, here come the others.

ALL KIDS: Hi! *(Everyone says hi in their own way)*

(Max comes in with a big lollipop that he will use as a bat in the snowball fight)

MAX: *(Licks his lollipop)* Okay you know the rules. Little Kids on that side and big kids on this side.

SAM: Why can't we even it up? Why is it always the little kids against the big kids. It doesn't seem very fair.

MAX: Hey, I didn't make the rules. I just follow them.

(Kids get in position)

LUKE: *(motions to the big kids)* Hey guys come over here. I have an idea. *(big kids huddle together)*

LUCY: Yeah, what's up Luke?

LUKE: Every year we demolish the little kids in the snowball fight. How about this year we help them out?

MAX: Help them out? Why?

LUKE: I don't know. It's Christmas. Don't you feel like being nice?

LUCY: I think it's a great idea. What are you thinking?

JACOB: I'll try and throw softer, but I'll be honest. It's gonna be difficult.

LUKE: I was thinking we could give them one our baskets.

MAX: A whole basket? A whole basket of snowballs? I don't know.

LUCY: I think it's a great idea. Let's do it.

LUKE: Ok. I'll sneak it over while you're getting everyone ready Max.

MAX: *(Begrudgingly)* Yah, alright. *(starts announcing)* Ok everyone, are you all ready for the snowball fight?

SAM: *(Annoyed)* Yah, we've been ready. Let's get going already!

(Luke sneaks over the basket)

MAX: *(Yelling!)* Ready! Set! SNOWBALLS!

(Kids throw snowballs. Little kids pummel the older kids and its obvious)

LITTLE KIDS: *(Jumping up and down and yelling)* We won!!! We won!!!

SAM: Hey wait, we never win. How did we win?

LUCY: Well we helped you guys out a bit. Well, Luke did. He wanted to make sure you guys had a chance to win so he snuck over an extra basket of snowballs.

LITTLE KIDS: Wow! That's so nice of you Luke!

SAM: Wow Luke. Thanks for making it such a great day. I can't wait to go home and tell my family what you did.

SALLY: Yah, Luke that was really cool. I can't wait to tell what you did.

JACOB: Yah man, I guess that was a pretty cool thing to do. My mom sure is going to appreciate what a generous friend I have.

LUKE: Well, you guys don't have to go and tell everyone *(tries to say as everyone says goodbye and starts to head off stage)*

ALL KIDS: *(Talking over Luke)* That was fun! See you tomorrow. Bye!

LUKE: Hmmmm. Everyone is racing home to tell of the nice thing that I did for them. I couldn't get them to not go and tell. Maybe the truth does travel fast amongst many witnesses. *(thinking)* Interesting. *(Opens the book. Reads)* If the story of Jesus was a lie it would have died off a long time ago. Truth has the ability to travel for a long time because so many people are willing to retell it. The story of Jesus has been travelling for almost 2000 years now.

LUCY: *(Comes back in)* Hey Luke, we have to get over to grandma's house. Remember?

LUKE: Oh yah, sorry I forgot.

LUCY: Are you learning a lot from that book?

LUKE: Yah. Hey Lucy? Do you think a lie could be spread so big that people would continue telling the same story for 2000 years?

LUCY: What kind of lie?

LUKE: Like if people were to lie about Jesus. Do you think people would spend all this time writing books and putting him in history and preaching about him for years and spreading the story of his birth and death if it were a lie?

LUCY: If I tell a lie for a day I feel pretty horrible. I'd rather tell the truth, even when its hard. And it usually is hard. Except when its really great news and then its easy to tell the truth. I don't know. Most of the time I see that lies eventually fall apart.

LUKE: I know. I was thinking the same thing.

LUCY: Jesus changes people. For the better. They get forgiven. They get healed. It's like Jesus' miracles never stopped. People tell his story and won't stop because they want other people to

receive those same gifts. And when those people get Jesus' gift they never want to let it go, and they keep telling others because the gift is so amazing.

LUKE: I guess I never thought of it as a gift.

LUCY: That's what Christmas is all about. That's why we get gifts and give gifts. Because God gave us the most amazing gift ever, his Son, so we could be forgiven. So we could be healed. *(Looks at her watch)* Oh, wow. It's getting late. We had better get going. Grandma is going to wonder where we are.

(They head off stage)

SOUNDS: Scene Change Music

Scene 4: Grandma's Cookies

Grandma is at a table with a rolling pin, baking sheet, baking supplies in an apron humming a Christmas carol. Luke and Lucy come in.

GRANDMA: *(Luke and Lucy come in and hug her)* Hi kids. Why don't you guys go and grab an apron and wash your hands.

LUKE and LUCY: Ok Grandma!

GRANDMA: Hey Luke, would you mind bringing another cookie sheet over?

LUKE: Sure Grandma *(He hands her the cookie sheet)*.

GRANDMA: *(Looks at Luke)* What does a gingerbread man use to keep his bed warm? *(pauses for affect)* A cookie sheet.

LUKE: Oh Grandma!

(They laugh)

GRANDMA: I'm glad you kids could come over and bake with me today. I just love making Christmas cookies. It's hard to imagine Christmas without cookies.

LUCY: Especially yours grandma. No one makes them as good as you do.

GRANDMA: Well, that's not my doing. It's this recipe. Did you know that this cookie recipe has been in our family for over 100 years *(Kids look surprised)*. And someday you will get to make them with your grandchildren.

LUCY: How did the recipe stay in the family for that long?

GRANDMA: Well, all I can think is that these are really good cookies. I can't imagine forcing you all to eat something for that long if it was gross. *(She laughs. Lucy and Luke look at each other)* Did I miss something?

LUKE: Your cookies are amazing grandma. I think Lucy and I both just had the same thought.

LUCY: Why would people keep telling Jesus' story if it wasn't amazing?

GRANDMA: Well, I know I wouldn't be telling it. Have you ever heard of the word testimony?

LUKE: Isn't that when someone gets up at church and tells a story?

GRANDMA: Well not just any story. The story of how Jesus changed them. How they believed in Him and he did amazing things in their lives that they never thought would happen. Forgave them of all they had ever done, healed addictions, healed relationships and now they have unheard of joy and peace for the first time in their lives. Everyone who believes in Jesus has this kind of story.

LUKE: *(thinking)* Like a witness. Jesus still has witnesses today?

GRANDMA: Yep! That's why his story keeps spreading. People can't stop talking about how Jesus has changed them. Because when you experience Jesus you are changed. Forgiven. Free. It's like nothing else on earth.

LUKE: I'll be honest grandma. I've been struggling this Christmas to believe if Jesus' story is real. Mom and Dad gave me a book that I've been reading and I am starting to understand more than I did before. I do believe his story and that it is true. But I've been wondering, why did God send his Son to such poor people and not to a Royal family where he could have had more money and power to do what he needed to do?

GRANDMA: Jesus was able to do what he needed to do being born poor in a barn with regular parents. That's the plan God laid out for Him. If Jesus were born in a castle he would not have been able to walk among the people. And I don't know about you but I don't think there were any Castles in Bethlehem. It was a sheep town.

LUKE: Bethlehem? Why does that matter.

GRANDMA: Because of the prophecies. Do you know what prophecies are?

LUCY: Isn't that when something is told in advance and then it happens.

GRANDMA: Exactly. And God did that. Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies with his birth, life, death and when he came back from the dead. Let me read some of them to you about Jesus. *(Grabs her Bible and opens to Micah)* Oh, here is the one about Bethlehem:

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth *are* from of old,
From ^[a]everlasting.”

LUKE: Now I understand Bethlehem, but grandma, it says he is supposed to be the “ruler” in Israel and that means he should have been born in a castle.

GRANDMA: This was the same idea that the people of Isreal had at the time. They were convinced the “Messiah” was going to come and take over. And he will one day. This prophesy is a two part prophesy. He would be born in Bethlehem, and we know that already happened. But when Jesus comes again he will come back as King. It hasn’t happened yet.

LUKE: Are you telling me that there are prophesies in the Bible that haven’t happened yet?

GRANDMA: That’s what I’m saying. It’s actually kind of exciting. We are like the people patiently waiting for the Messiah to come....for Jesus to be born.

LUCY: Didn’t they think he would be a king?

GRANDMA: Yep. Swoop in and solve all their problems. And boy did they have problems. Their country had been taken over. They were desperate for Jesus to come and take over how they were being ruled. But that was not God’s plan. He knew the only way to truly “fix things” was by changing hearts.

LUKE: (*Realization*) That’s why he died. He died for our sins so they could be forgiven. That’s how he changed hearts.

GRANDMA: And continues to do so today for anyone who believes on him.

LUKE: So when does he finally get to be the King?

GRANDMA: That’s the day we are waiting patiently for, just like those Isrealites. But he won’t come like a little baby this time. When he gets here we will know it. He will come as a great conquering King and he will make all things right. That’s when we will have peace on earth and we will have it forever.

LUCY: Peace forever. With Jesus as the King? I can’t wait.

LUKE: Grandma, can you read some more prophesies to us from the Bible? I’d like to know what they say.

GRANDMA: Sure, Grab that plate of cookies. Lets start with what King David wrote in the Psalms....

SOUNDS: Scene Change Music

Scene 5: CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR

Scene is in a church. The kids are lined up in the front like a choir in choir robes. Tallest in back and smallest in front. Have a few stand in parents in chairs nearby. Mom, Dad, and Grandma are there too.

PASTOR: Good evening everyone and welcome to our Christmas Eve Service. We are excited to have our children's choir sing for you tonight. *(Looks at the kids and asks them...)* Are you guys ready?

ALL KIDS: *(Nod and look excited)*

SONG 5: It's Christmas-Medley (Chris Tomlin)

It's Christmas-Medley (Chris Tomlin) 3:58

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

It's Christmas
The angels are singing
And I know the reason
The Savior is born
It's Christmas
The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting
Joy to the world

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray

And bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there

It's Christmas
The angels are singing
And I know the reason
The Savior is born
Yes, it's Christmas
The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting
Joy to the world

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

It's Christmas
The angels are singing
And I know the reason
The Savior is born
Yes, it's Christmas
The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting
Joy to the world
Joy to the world
Oh, joy to the world

(The crowd claps and the Pastor walks back up to the pulpit)

PASTOR: Thanks kids. That was wonderful! *(Addressing the congregation)* Now I know you all came here to listen to me speak tonight *(jokingly)*, but I had an amazing conversation with one of these kids here earlier and he asked if he could share his testimony tonight. I don't see any better way to spend our time here than to hear what God is doing in the heart of this young man. *(Looks over at Luke)* Luke? You ready?

LUKE: Yes, Pastor *(walks out from the choir)*. Hi everyone. My name is Luke and I've never done this before. My grandma says it's called giving your testimony and that means being a witness for Jesus. And that is what I want to be. One of Jesus' witnesses. You see, I was really struggling to believe if Jesus's story was even real. I had always just come to church with my family and for years heard all of the bible stories. But something got me curious this year. I had doubts and I didn't like them. So I shared them with my family and they told me that I had to have my own faith in Jesus and so I needed to knock on his door and ask him about himself and that he would open it to me. And wow did he! I'd love to tell you everything I learned, but instead my sister and I have put together a song we would like to sing for you. *(Lucy walks over)*

SONG 6: Emmanuel (Hannah Kerr)

Emmanuel (Hannah Kerr) 4:22

LUKE: He was not the one we thought would come
We were looking for a King
But He didn't come in glory
The Author of the oceans and the sun
Still he chose to be
Written in our story

So He could fill our flesh and blood
And we could know His love

Emmanuel, A manger for a bed
No crown upon His head
He came like us instead
Emmanuel, He meets you where you are
He holds your heavy heart
Our God is with us all
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

LUCY: It was no mistake that He arrived
Lost without a home
Helpless as a baby
So if we're feeling lost in our own lives
We are not alone
He has felt the same thing

Because he lived in flesh and blood
We can know His love

Emmanuel, A manger for a bed
No crown upon His head
He came like us instead
Emmanuel, He meets you where you are
He holds your heavy heart
Our God is with us all
Emmanuel
Emmanuel

LUKE and LUCY: Oh what an invitation
Oh His only expectation
Is for us to come and offer Him our all
To kneel before the child who shall be called

Emmanuel, a manger for a bed
No crown upon His head
He came like us instead
Emmanuel, He meets you where you are
He holds your heavy heart
Our God is with us all
Emmanuel
Emmanuel

(Crowd claps. Mom and Dad come up and hug Luke and Lucy)

LUKE: *(looking at his parents)* I hope you guys know what this means. I believe in Jesus. I believe He died for my sins and rose again. I want to live for him. *(Excited)* And I have the peace that everyone talks about. I didn't understand before but now I have it. It's my gift from Jesus.

DAD: I don't think there could be any greater Christmas gift. We love you Luke and I don't have any words for how happy this makes me. The angels are throwing a Christmas Party for you right now. Did you know that? It's in the Bible! *(They laugh)*.

SONG 7: Reprise Can't Wait for Christmas (TobyMac)

Can't Wait for Christmas Reprise (By: TobyMac) 1:04

DAD: **We awake to laughter, at the foot of our bed** (rewrite)
MOM *(holding mistletoe over Luke)* Hold up some mistletoe, over my baby's head
LUCY: *(Opening a Bible)* Open the Good Book, and we turn to Luke
LUKE: And read of love coming down, for me and for you
ALL CAST: Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas
'Cause when you think it's gonna end
It's coming back around again
Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas
Can't wait for Christmas
'Cause snow is falling everywhere
And love is always in the air
Can't wait for Christmas
Can't Wait for Christmas!

(The End! Everyone already on stage for bows)

