

# I LOVE Christmas, I hate Christmas

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## Aim of the assembly

Christmas is not just the time of love, joy and peace which we would like it to be. It is a mix of traditions, family events, stress as well as hopes and dreams for a season of love and goodwill. This assembly presents some of the realities of Christmas in a fun way while pointing back to the first Christmas and the joy of knowing Jesus in a real way.

## Props needed

Lots!! Puppet stage, puppets, teenager outfit, teddy bear, bag of presents, empty wallet, Mary costume, Joseph costume, Anna costume, large telescope fake or real, big artist hat and instrument, "Down with sprouts" poster, scales and two heavy stones, choir song sheets, large Christmas card, large remote control. Reading the script, you might think that you need a whole crowd of actors, but it can be done by two people who are quickly changing costumes and roles. You definitely need the puppet stage or another curtain to disappear behind.

**Scene 1.** *Two team members come in arguing one with teddy bear, pretending to be young!*

A. Christmas, and we are supposed to love each other ... and you don't even want to visit Auntie Margaret!

B. But I don't know her, and my friends are meeting ....and she always wants give me a hug and kiss me. And then she says: "My, hasn't the boy grown!!!" I don't want to go!!!

A. But she is family and that is that, you are coming with us ...

B. (Loud) It is not fair, you always make me do things at Christmas, that is not very loving either. Ahhh, relatives!!! I hate Christmas!

**Scene 2** *bag of presents*

Person with bag of presents – Oh I love shopping, I love presents. The wrapping, the excitement, finding cool things. I love Christmas, this has been one the best years ever for presents. I love Christmas!

**Scene 3** *big empty purse*

Someone with an empty purse – I hate Christmas, I have absolutely no money left now and there are still five more people to buy presents for, what am I going to do? (Pull out lots of string from the purse..) I am on a real shoestring budget now ... Christmas is just stress, I hate Christmas!

**Scene 4.** *Mary outfit and headscarf*

My name is Mary - I love Christmas. God spoke to me and told me that I would have a son. His name is Jesus and he will be the Saviour of the whole world. God sent His son to help us and save us. Christmas celebrates his birthday, I love my son and I love Christmas!

**Scene 5. *Big hat and instrument***

(Singer with instrument)

I love Christmas ... sings "Mistletoe and wine" or something of that type, loud and theatrical, obviously enjoying the sound of his own voice. "Ahh, I love Christmas, performances, singing, crowds applauding...I love Christmas."

**Scene 6. *Puppet and brussel sprouts***

Bah, brussel sprouts - I hate Christmas, I had a very bad experience with a brussel sprout once!! I have now started the "Down with Sprouts" campaign. Will you join my campaign, come on be honest, you hate sprouts too, don't you!! Down with Sprouts, down with Sprouts. I hate Christmas, all they want to do is stuff you with sprouts!

**Scene 7. *Joseph outfit***

My name is Joseph, I love Christmas. It is the birthday of my son. God gave me the most wonderful, amazing son. His name is Jesus. I have known him as a baby, a boy and a young man. He is the most amazing person I have ever known. God has given him power to help people in ways that I have never seen before. I have seen some amazing things, I can tell you ... It makes me very happy to know that he is my son. I love Christmas!

**Scene 8 *scales and two stones***

Someone on scales: Oh nooooo, I have put on two stones over Christmas. I hate Christmas ... (pulls out two stones from their pockets and throws them in a bucket..)

**Scene 9 *Telescope***

I am looking for the true meaning of Christmas, so I got myself this big telescope. I wonder, if it is over there ... no doesn't look like it. Over there? Hmmh, still nothing .. I wonder where I can find the true meaning of it all... What is Christmas really about? People seem to either love it or hate it!

**Scene 10. *Chorus sheets***

At least two people sing Hallelujah chorus ... We love Christmas!

**Scene 11. *Big hat and instrument***

(Singer back)

Last Christmas I gave you my heart, and the very next day, you threw it away, .... That's exactly what happened to me. (In an emotional way, full of self pity...) What good is Christmas if no one loves you? Ooh, I hate Christmas...

**Scene 12 *Hanna outfit***

My name is Hanna. I am so happy, for it has finally happened. For years and years I have waited for the Saviour to be born. God promised us a perfect king, one who would help us always and in every

way. And now I have just seen him. They brought him into the temple. A baby now, but one day he will be a great king for my people! I love Christmas!

### **Scene 13** *puppet with Christmas cards*

Puppet – booh, nobody loves me. Everyone hates me. I only got two Christmas cards – and one was from my dentist!!! And the other one was from Tesco Reward points, boohoo. I hate Christmas.

### **Scene 14** *telescope and remote control, purse and scales*

One of the players comes out with *props* and walks about the stage, talking to himself/ herself, “I wonder what it is all about? Really? I have done Christmas for years now. I know what to do of course...but what does it actually mean, I wonder?” ...when suddenly ...

**Finale:** Intro music then: Voice of angel over PA

“Hello, this is your angel calling, anyone listening?”

Player responds by turning their eyes upwards: “What is that? Where is this voice coming from? Is that you God?”

DO NOT BE AFRAID, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU, HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.”

Player: What do you mean, I don’t really understand!

Angel: Hello, I am your personal Christmas angel! Let me try to explain: “A saviour has been born to you” means that God has sent someone help to you and to everybody! His name is Jesus. It means that you don’t need to worry about how to fix every problem all by yourself, but from now on God will be with you.

Player: I thought Christmas was just about being nice to each other and giving presents ...

Angel: How about looking at it this way: God has a present for all of us: The best present of all is Jesus. Jesus who is with us all the time, Jesus who helps us when we need help, Jesus who teaches us how to live. The best present of all is Jesus.

Player walks forward and other player joins, talk to each other and audience...

Did you hear that, the best present of all is Jesus! We all love or hate Christmas, we love or hate things about Christmas – but from God’s perspective. Christmas is all about Jesus. So what do you think ...

## **End the assembly with...**

Interview/ testimony for one to two minutes ... What does Christmas mean to you?

Sing a carol: “Joy to the world”

Prayer