

A script from



“The Cost of Christmas”

by

Jennifer Graham Jolly & Lee Chewning

- What** Through an intense competition at work for an upcoming promotion, Mike is able to share the true meaning of Christmas with his coworker Brien.
Themes: Christmas, Salvation, Faith, Belief, Family, Witnessing, Friendship
- Who**
- | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|--|
| Brien | Amanda & Mike’s Kids | Extras (Shoppers, Office Workers, Parents, etc...) |
| Mike | Shelly & Brien’s Kids | Children’s Choir |
| Amanda | Jack Evans | |
| Shelly | Stephanie Reynolds (Steph) | |
- When** Present-Christmas time
- Wear (Props)** Shopping Bags (and other items you may see at a mall)
Bottle of Perfume
Various office supplies (desks, staplers, computers, phones, etc...)
2 Phones
Laptop
Chairs for Children’s Choir audience
Risers for Children’s Choir
Stephanie should be dressed in all out Christmas garb with jingle bells around her neck so that she jingles as she walks
Brien and Mike dress in business suits
- Why** John 3:16, Luke 2:1-16, 1 Peter 3:15
- How** You may go as complicated or as simple with the set as you need. The first scene can either be performed live, or you can videotape the scene at a local shopping mall. Break your stage up into 3 sections, with the two families’ homes on either side and the office set center stage. Lighting can help greatly in distinguishing the different scenes. If your stage has steps that are big enough, they can be used as risers for the children’s choir scene. You may use as many or as little extras as you like in the shopping, office, and children’s choir scenes.
- Time** Approximately 15-20 minutes (more if you choose to add music)

SCENE 1:

Room & step lights up or start video

Amanda & Mike are shopping; Amanda's intent on her list; Mike's just following along carrying bags and looking bored. Choir members could be milling around as shoppers and casually begin to take their place little by little until it's time for the choir song.

Amanda: Come on, Mike!

Mike: Can you believe this madhouse? Who knew it would be this crazy in November?

Amanda: We still need to get something for your dad and for Aunt Clarise. Oh, and did you want to get anything for anybody at work?

Mike: All the decorations and what-not...it seems to be starting earlier and earlier every year.

Amanda: Honey, focus. Anybody at work?

Mike: Is that Santa already?

Amanda: Work, Mike? Do we need a gift for anybody at work – Brien, maybe?

Mike: Whatever you say, honey. I'm just here to spend quality time with you.

Amanda: Okay, then we'll get something for Brien and his wife. I really want to get this finished before the month is over. I don't want to be shopping until the last minute. Ooh, let's get some of that perfume Clarise likes.

Mike: That's perfume? She tries to smell like that? I always thought it was just mothballs or something.

Amanda: Let's stop in there.

Mike: Oh, no. Every time we even walk by there, some crazy sales person starts spraying me with who knows what at every turn. I hate that!

Mike gets doused by Stephanie, dressed in all her Christmas garb.

Mike: Uh, no thank-you, miss.

Stephanie continues spraying other patrons.

Amanda: I'm so disappointed! They don't have it.

Mike: Too bad. Let's get out of here. You take the lead. *(Mike, follows behind Karen, trying to avoid being seen & sprayed by Stephanie.)*

Amanda: Oh, look! A Christmas choir!

Mike is still smelling the perfume and trying to wipe it off.

Choir or Worship Team could perform here.

Amanda: It says here that they're a church group and they're doing a concert in a few weeks. We should go!

Mike: That would be nice. We don't have anything that night.

Amanda: Oh, Mike! You should ask Brien and his family to go! We've been praying for opportunities to explain to them about Jesus. Maybe, this would be a great chance!

Mike: I don't know. It's so strange to bring up church or religion at work.

Amanda: But they're our friends. And you've talked to him about Jesus before.

Mike: I know. But he is so not interested. He says that he has his goals set, he's working hard, and he's on the road to having everything he's ever wanted. He just doesn't see the need for a relationship with Christ.

Amanda: But he's one of your closest friends. You can't give up on him . . . not if you care about him. Aren't you glad that nobody gave up on you? Think how long it took for you to come around.

Mike: You're right. I know you're right. I'll just keep praying for a chance to talk to him again.

Amanda: Oh, no! It's time to pick up the kids at the movies. Let's go!

Mike: Yes, dear.

Lights down.

SCENE 2:

Office setting; Center stage lights up

Mike is at his desk. Brien enters while talking on his cell phone; carrying a travel cup of coffee, and carrying on a conversation about football

Mike: Morning, Brien.

Brien: Hey, man.

Mike: Good weekend?

- Brien:** Oh, yeah . . . Shelly was at one of her "Thinking for Success" seminars, the kids were at my parents, and yesterday was absolutely perfect golf weather.
- Mike:** Checked your email yet?
- Brien:** Nope. I don't touch that computer until I've had my first strong cup of joe.
- Mike:** Well, clear your schedule. Jack's called "a meeting" and man, is he in one of his moods.
- Brien:** *(Sits down to his computer and scrolls through emails while talking)* Good grief! Do other areas have as many "meetings" as we do? We even have meetings about meetings! What do you think this one could be about?
- Mike:** Rumor has it we've taken on some pretty important new clients.
- Brien:** Heard that, actually. I also heard we might get a little shake-up here in Treasury Services.
- Mike:** Really? Something's definitely up.
- Brien:** Maybe old Jack's finally going to retire now that stock prices are high enough for him to ditch us all and play golf for the rest of his life.
- Mike:** What did you say you were drinking? We'll never get a new team leader. That man will still be taking up office space and reminiscing about the good old days when he's 102.
- Brien:** *(Laughs)* Guess he has been here a while. But that's not to say personnel around here never changes.
- Mike:** Another new admin?
- Brien:** Yeah. Met her yet?
- Mike:** Not yet. Another college student?
- Brien:** Yep. Except this one looks like a Christmas tree exploded on her.
- Mike:** What? It's not even Thanksgiving yet.
- Brien:** Just wait. I'm sure she'll be around soon... *(notices the email)* You didn't tell me the meeting was...well, now. We better get moving. *(Gathers up legal pad, PDA, etc. and begins to rush to boss' office)*
- Mike:** Relax . . . he's going to conference it from here.

Stephanie, dressed in "Christmas clothes," passes as the conference "box" buzzes – Brien & Mike exchange glances – Brien looks at Mike as if to say: "I told you so."

Jack: Gentlemen! Sit down, sit down. (*Brien & Mike look at each other and roll their eyes since they're already sitting*) This won't take long. How are my top two analysts?

Brien: Hanging in there.

Mike: Good, thanks.

Jack: Good, good. Why I remember just a few years back when I was just a young guy working my way up on the weekdays and having a great time on the weekends. (*Want to add some humor? This would be a great place to insert of video of your pastor or some other really visible person in your church at a roller rink in 70's clothes and dancing to a disco tune – especially if you can have some dream-like effects*)

Mike clears his throat

Brien: Uh, sir?

Jack: Oh ...yes, yes. Back to business. You may have heard that we've taken on some new clients. The bank's certainly excited about that.

Brien: Sounds great. Congratulations, sir.

Jack: Yes, and here's a little something you two can be excited about — a Senior Financial Analyst position has recently opened up. I don't need to tell you that the position affords VP status and, of course, financial incentives. What we're going to do, gentlemen, is assign each of you new business units within one of these new client relationships. Mike, you'll be covering Operating Systems and Forms Management. Brien, we'd like for you to take Wholesale Operations and Enterprise. As you work through these projects, I'm going to be closely monitoring your management, interpersonal, and follow-up skills. We'll take my conclusions into consideration, as well the quality of your reports and the feedback of your business partners. After that short evaluation period, I'll be choosing one of you to take that promotion. You're both valuable members of this team, but only one of you will be able to take this next step. The competition's tight, so give us your best. We want to make this decision before the winter holiday.

Mike: Thank you, sir.

Brien: Thank you.

Jack: Miss Reynolds, the new Administrative Assistant will be able to help you with research or whatever you need. Thanks, gentlemen.

Steph: *(Strolls up to Mike & Brien)* AYS!

Mike: Excuse me?

Steph: At your service! I'm Stephanie Reynolds, the new AA, and I've been instructed to stay close by and help you guys out.

Brien: *(Under his breath)* AA could be appropriate here.

Mike: Nice to meet you, Stephanie. You look really familiar. I'm Mike and this is Brien. Are you a UNCC student *(insert whatever college is nearby)*?

Steph: Yep. EBDSBN!

Brien: I'm sorry?

Steph: Employee by day, student by night! Let me know what you need. I'm RATC.

Mike & Brien look at her confused.

Steph: *(Looking annoyed that they don't understand)* That's right around the corner.

Mike: Thanks, Stephanie.

Stephanie walks off with Christmas bells around her neck ringing.

Brien: What language is she using?

Mike: I'm not sure, but she's certainly going to spice up the office a bit.

Both men laughing; both pick up their phones, turn away from each other, and dial. Shelly & Amanda are offstage; we hear their voices only – Brien & Mike speak into their phones in lowered voices.

Phones ring

Shelly: *(Offstage; with effect on voice)* Hello?

Brien: Hey, Shelly, it's me.

Amanda: *(Offstage; with effect on voice)* Amanda speaking.

Mike: Hi, honey.

B&M: You won't believe what just happened!

Center stage lights down.

SCENE 3:

Brien's house and Mike's house; Side stage lights up.

Brien enters his living room where his 2 kids are eating at TV trays & **Mike** enters his kitchen. The following two conversations will overlap as they happen at the same time in two different scenes.

Brien: Hi, honey.

B&M: Sorry, I'm late.

Amanda: Heavy traffic on the way home?

Mike: Horrible!

Brien: I was beginning to think I was going to have to start claiming residency on I-77 (*insert whatever main road is near you!*)

Shelly: Well, I'm glad you're finally home.

Brien: Me, too. I'm starving.

Amanda: I know it's late but we waited for you.

Mike: Thanks.

Amanda: Taylor, come to the table; your dad's home.

M&B: What's for dinner?

Family: Leftovers. (*Everybody sighs together*)

B's Kid: Do I have to eat this?

M's Kid: It's mushy.

Mike: Yes, you have to eat it.

B&A: Think of the starving kids in Africa!

Amanda: I've been thinking about your big news today.

A&S: What a fantastic chance . . .

Shelly: . . .for us! I've been channeling positive energy your way all afternoon. Feel the vibe? Breathe it in, breathe it in . . .

- Mike:** When I finally stopped and took a breather from the excitement of it all, I was beginning to realize that this may just be the opportunity we’ve been praying for. I really want this job. With all those bills we weren’t counting on, we need this job. I’ve been there longer and have been working so hard for this chance. Amanda, I feel like I’ve earned it.
- Amanda:** But just think of the ways God might choose to use this! Maybe, in ways we wouldn’t expect. I just couldn’t help but start . . .
- S&A:** making a list . . .
- Shelly:** . . .of where all we could travel, what we could buy, how our lives would improve! I’m thinking it into being! *(Really animated)* Try it with me!
- Brien:** Whatever, Shelly. You “think” into being, but I have to really work on this. I have to find a way to get ahead of Mike. He’s good – probably better than me; that’s why we’ve worked so well together over the last year or so. How can I make this work?
- M&B:** I just have to figure out how . . .
- Mike:** . . .to keep a right perspective on all this. Yes, the money and position would be great — really great — but maybe, you’re right. Just maybe, this is the thing that God could use to show Brien that money and success are not the only things in life. How do I show him what the most important pursuits in life really are? If he could just understand how a relationship with Christ is the only lasting fulfillment, the only real joy! *(Sighs and pauses)* At the same time, the competitor in me feels more like . . .
- M&B:** . . .it’s me against him . . .
- Brien:** . . .I have to think of my future — our family’s future. I have to do what it takes . . .
- M&B:** . . .to get ahead . . .
- Mike:** . . .can’t be THE most important thing. Can it?
- M&B:** . . .How do I . . .
- Brien :** . . .make this promotion a reality? If I could get this, we’d have enough money to make us all happy. What it must feel like to be that high up on the ladder! *(Pulls out his laptop and “gets to work”)*
- B&M:** . . .Just imagine . . .

Mike : ...what it would be like for him to finally quit trying to "earn" esteem and just rest in feeling valued by the God who made him. I've explained to him about Christ so many times. This could be the way!

S&A: ...*(Sighs)* Sounds good, honey.

Brien: By the way ...

M&B: ...did I tell you about the new girl at the office?

Stage lights down

SCENE 4:

Room & step lights up

Both families enter the room offstage — one from rear and one from side.

Amanda: Here, give me your coat.

Shelly: Son, did you not even comb your hair?

Brien: It's too late now. Hurry up!

Mike: Quickly, go find your spot. Your mom and I will meet you afterward.

Parents run into each other while the kids are taking their place with the children's choir – noisy activity among the kids is "okay" – parents try to talk above it.

Amanda: Well, hi, Mike! Hey, Shelly.

Shelly: Amanda! It's been so long!

To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at SkitGuys.com!

ENDING:

Brien: Wow. That's *almost* unbelievable. *(Pause)* Yet ...something in me knows that what you're saying is true. In one way, it's crazy! Why would God ever do that for us? But, on the other hand, it makes so much sense. It fills in the blanks that you grow up never really wanting to admit are there. Do you know what I mean?

Mike: I know exactly what you mean. I remember feeling that same conflict just a few years ago when my brother and his wife were trying to help

me understand. I fought it for a long time. One day I would want to relax and just accept what they were showing me in the Bible. Then the next day, all of my upbringing and goals and ideals would kick in and I would think, "I can do this on my own!" or "Who needs it anyway?" But then, on April 5, 2000, I sat down on my bed and told God that I knew He was real and that I wanted to declare to Him that I was "spiritually bankrupt" and I needed Him — really needed Him — to bail me out of my debt. I told Him that I knew Jesus was the only way and that I wanted to quit fighting His plan and accept His gift. I have never been the same since then. You can't believe the difference! I've never for a moment regretted it.

Steph: *(Comes "jingling" in)* Merry Christmas, guys. Mr. Evans has an appointment in a few minutes so he's just going to conference you in a minute. MTBMW!

Brien rolls his eyes.

Mike: Thank you, Stephanie. So fill us in; what's with the BMW?

Steph: MTBMW — may the best man win.

Three woman in the office take their places in a similar pose to the classic "Charlie's Angels Pose" but holding staplers, phones, or other office equipment – would be even more effective as a silhouette – effect is subtle but definitely noticeable and recognizable.

Jack: Hello, angels.

Brien, Mike, & Stephanie looks confused and mouth "angels" -while the 3 women subtly disperse and continue with normal activity.

Mike: I'm sorry, sir?

Jack: *(Laughs)* I've always wanted to do that. *(Clears throat and serious again)* Anyway...we've been very impressed with your work over the last month or so. We can see that we're very fortunate to have both of you. But Brien, it looks like it's your year. Son, welcome to the next level. Thanks, gentlemen!

Dramatic pause

Mike: Congratulations, man. *(Genuinely)*

Brien: *(Doesn't look very excited – keeps eyes on the "box")* Thanks...really, thanks...um, it's funny, though... as much as I wanted this, I...well...I can't believe I'm saying this...it just doesn't seem so important now.

Mike: You get it . . . that's great.

Brien: But, Mike, I've never talked to God — except for maybe, when I'm speeding and catch a glimpse of blue lights in the rearview mirror. I . . . I don't really know how.

Mike: Just talk to Him like you would to me. Here, let me help you . . .

Mike & Brien bow to pray together.

Choir, worship team, or special music could perform here and/or speaker could share the gospel or give an invitation here.

Lights down

SCENE 6:

Center lights up

Everybody's leaving the office for the day – "extra's" are straightening things up, turning off computers and such, and leaving – and maybe saying phrases like, "Good night" and "See you tomorrow."

Last person "turns off the lights" and the stage lights dim but not completely darkened with a spotlight on the speaker box.

*Heard through the speaker box – rustling of papers & a door slams – **Stephanie** is not seen but speaks through the speaker – occasional jingle bells heard.*

Steph: Hey, wait! Oh, man! TSAT – this stinks a ton! How do I get out of here? Hello? H-e-l-l-o??? Is anybody still there? Anybody? Can you hear me? I know you can hear me. I can't believe I did this again. Why can't I just remember that there is a lock on the door. *(Talks to herself)* Okay. Okay. Don't cry. You're going to get out of this. They can't just leave me here. Someone will come back for me, right? *(Addresses "box")* Susan? Mike? Guy with the bad comb-over? *(Talks to herself again)* You know, I wonder why he does that? Does he think that no one notices? Has he not heard of Rogaine? Come on. And what's with his shoes. What'd he do, go shopping with grandpa? Hello, it's 2003 not 1975. Hmm, I wonder what Grandpa is doing for Christmas this year. He usually comes over with Grandma's fruitcake. Ummm. I could use some fruitcake right now. *(Spaces out, then realizes where she is)* Oh my gosh. I am going to be so late for dinner. Fluffy, who will take care of Fluffy? *(Addresses "box")* Hey, is anyone out there? Brien? Brien, if this is a joke, it isn't very funny. And Mike, it also wasn't funny when you said ASAP earlier. I get it now, Another Stupid Assistant Person. That was so mean. And I thought you were my friend. How could you say something like that? I just try to bring a little Christmas spirit and...

Stage lights down. The end.