



SUMMARY: *It's finally Christmas break and kids are getting ready to head home from school! Suddenly the sad realization comes that Mr. Keller assigned homework over the break. As the students work together through each part of the assignment, they are brought into a deeper appreciation for the characters in the Christmas story AND the important part they play in shining the light of Jesus.*

MEMORY VERSES:

John 1:9

“The One who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

CHARACTERS

Middle-Schoolers:

Timmy
Tucker
T.J.
Sarah
Ally
Gracie

Live Action Bible:

Mr. Keller, teacher
Joseph
Angel Gabriel
Angel Hosts
Shepherds
Mary
Wise Men
Herod
Teachers of the Law

Other:

Homeless man (or woman)
Homeless shelter staff person
Nursing Home resident
Parent at home
Son or Daughter

SONG LYRICS

“Here Comes Christmas”

Counting down the days since September,
Checking off the weeks ‘till December
Let’s party now, let’s shout it out
Oh, here comes Christmas!

Carols in the air, people singing
Shoppers at the mall, bells are ringing
Look at the signs, oh yeah, it’s time
Oh, here comes Christmas

*Fa, la, la, la la, la
Fa, la, la, la, la, la
Fa, la, la, la, la, la
Here comes Christmas!*

Stringing up the lights on a big tree
Watching “Elf” and “Rudolph” on TV
Stocking are hung, cookies are done
Oh, here comes Christmas

Chorus

Shepherds quake in fear , wise men journey
Angels tell the world Christ is here
Good News has come, Let’s sing and shout
Oh, here comes Christmas!

Chorus

“What a Glorious Night”

The shepherds came to see the Baby,
Stood by His mother’s side.
Here laid the Savior, inside a manger
Oh, what a glorious night!
Oh, what a glorious night!

*I hear the angels singing, “Hallelujah!
Let the earth receive her King!”
I know the Lord has come,
Sing it out: Jesus Christ is born!
Jesus Christ is born!*

The shepherds wondered, they couldn’t hide it
Told everyone in sight.
All were amazed when they heard how God came
Down on a glorious night
God came down on a glorious night.

Chorus

All is calm now, all is quiet
A star shining in the sky
Below in Bethlehem, the King is sleeping
Oh, what a glorious night.
Oh, what a glorious night.

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

God rest ye merry gentlemen; Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

*We’ll sing forever,
We’ll sing of comfort and joy
We’ll sing forever
We’ll sing of comfort and joy*

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood each, others now embrace
The holy tide of Christmas all other does deface
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Chorus

Sing to our Savior, Sing to the Lord
We’ll sing to Jesus, songs forevermore!

“Go Tell is On the Mountain”

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

*Tell of His great love,
Tell of all He's done,
Tell how angels sing His glory,
Jesus Christ is Lord.*

Go! Shout! Sing it out!
Go! Shout! Sing it out!
Jesus Christ is Lord.

(Repeat from beginning)

My God I can't keep quiet,
My heart will sing His praise,
I'll stand and sing forever,
Jesus Christ is Lord!

Chorus

“Proof of Your Love”

*If I sing but don't have love,
I waste my breath with every song;
I bring an empty voice, a hollow noise*

*If I speak with silver tongue
Convince a crowd, but don't have love
I leave a bitter taster with every word I say.*

*So let my life be the proof, the proof of Your love
Let my love look like You,
and what You're made of,
How you lived, how you died; Love is sacrifice,
let my life be the proof, the proof of Your love.*

If I give to a needy soul, but don't have love,
then who is poor?
It seems all the poverty is found in me.

CHORUS

When it's all said and done,
When we sing our final song, only love remains

We give you all the glory!
We give you all the glory!
Christ the Lord!

CHORUS

“Waiting Here for You”

If faith can move the mountains
Let the mountains move
We come in expectation waiting here for You.
Waiting here for You.

You are Lord of all creation,
And still You know my heart.
The Author of salvation,
You've loved us from the start

*Waiting here for You,
with our hands lifted high in praise
And it's You we adore,
Singing, “Hallelujah”*

You are everything You've promised,
You're faithfulness is true
And we're desperate for Your presence.
All we need is You.

CHORUS

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord
Singing, “Hallelujah”

CHORUS

“Here Comes Heaven”

*Angels, let your song begin
Here comes heaven.
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Here come heaven.*

*Children weep no more.
Hope is on the horizon
Weary world behold your promised Messiah*

CHORUS

Now behold His glory
Glory in the highest
All the earth rejoice, for Christ is born.

Over all who mourn break the dawn of salvation
Darkness reigns no more, for Jesus is greater.
He is greater.

CHORUS

SCENE ONE:

Students meet centerstage, with backpacks, lunchboxes, etc.

ALL: *(adlibbing)* Woo hoo! Yeah, Christmas break! Can't wait for Christmas!

T.J.: *(breaking up the excitement, bursting everyone's bubble)* Yeah, but what about that dumb homework assignment?

TIMMY: T.J.'s right! I can't believe that Mr. Keller gave us an assignment over the break!

GRACIE: What was he thinking? It's Christmas!

ALLY: I know! I don't even want to think about school during break!

SARAH: Well, I think it's kinda cool.

ALL: *What?! Are you kidding? You think homework is cool? Are you crazy?*

SARAH: Have you guys actually even read the assignment?

ALL: *Well, no; Why? What does it say? Of course not!*

SARAH: *(pulls paper out of backpack; reading from assignment paper).* Christmas Group Project: CAKE.

TUCKER: Wait, did you say Caaakkee? *(looking around for dessert).*

GRACIE: Oooh, maybe this IS good! *(kids begin talking excitedly among themselves)*

SARAH: Listen! *(reading).* C-A-K-E, The Christmas Acts of Kindness Experiment. This is a group project. As a group... *(Mr. Keller's voice comes in over top of Sarah's)*

MR. KELLER: *(standing on side stage; overlaps with Sarah's line; kids don't react.)* As a group you will read the real story of Christmas story from the Bible. Each of you is assigned a specific passage. From your passage, you are to pick a character from that part of the story to represent. Work together to brainstorm ideas of how you and your group can display an act of "Christmas kindness" that reflects that character. Be prepared to report on how this experiment has affected you and those around you.

GRACIE: Whoa, I almost felt like Mr. Keller was right here with us.

T.J.: Yeah, that was a little creepy.

TUCKER: *(a little disappointed)* Ah, Caakkkee.

ALLY: *(giggling).* Oh, Tucker... it's not THAT bad, maybe we can work in some real cake somehow!

TIMMY: Ok Sarah, so what's the first part?

SARAH: *(takes paper and reads)*. Let's see....Actually, the first passage is for all us -- Matthew chapter 1, verses 18-21.

TIMMY: OK, what's it say?

ALLY: I can read it Timmy. I have my Bible right here. *(reaches in her backpack and opens up to Matthew 1)*

Matthew 1:18-21, 24 This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream....

ANGEL: Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife.

JOSEPH: Who said that! *(nervously)* This is a just a dream, right?

ANGEL: Joseph, I am Gabriel, a messenger from God.

JOSEPH: Ooookkkkkk? What is this about?

ANGEL: Alright, I'll say it again. Don't be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. This is the work of the Holy Spirit of God Himself. Mary's going to have a son, and you will name him Jesus—

JOSEPH: Wait. Why the name Jesus? Why not Joe, Jr.?

ANGEL: Jesus means, "The Lord Saves." This baby will save his people from their sins.

JOSEPH: I will do what you said, no matter how hard it might be.

ALLY: *(finishing the story)*. So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to.

GRACIE: *(Surprised at the dramatic interpretation)*. What in the world? Is this happening to everyone?

SARAH: I'm starting to think this isn't going to be a normal kind of assignment.

ALLY: *(A little unaware)*. It kind of felt like the story was coming to life as I read it.

T.J.: *(Unfazed by the "reading"; still frustrated by homework)*. I don't see how a story from 2000 years ago has ANYTHING to do with us.

TUCKER: Something about CAKE, right!

GRACIE: Not real CAKE Tucker. It stands for something – Christmas Acts of Kindness Experiment. C-A-K-E.

TIMMY: So we have to figure out an act of kindness to do based on that passage. It seems like that part of the story was focused on Joseph.

SARAH: Yeah, Joseph wasn't so sure about Mary. He was ready to call off the wedding!

ALLY: But then he changed his mind, when he heard from the angel.

GRACIE: And it's good he did. Can you imagine Mary having the baby and raising Jesus all by herself? Joseph was a good man and he obeyed God.

TIMMY: Maybe that's why this passage was first. We all need to be like Joseph for this whole experiment; Willing to do some things that are hard and even uncomfortable. Maybe it'll even help people learn about Jesus.

SARAH: Well, I'm excited to give it a try.

ALL: *(except T.J.; adlibbing)* Let's go! This could be fun! I'm ready to do some hard things.

*All exit stage. T.J. is not as enthusiastic, throws up hands and follows at a distance.
Lights down on scene; up on choir*

SONG: "What a Glorious Night"

SCENE TWO:

Students come back in from different directions, each carrying boxes with different items.

ALLY: *(comes in with package of socks)* Hey Timmy! I brought the socks. My mom said you called and asked for them.

TIMMY: Thanks Ally!

SARAH: *(carrying several coats, higher than her head)* And I have coats! *(exasperated carrying her pile)*.... Lots of coats!

TIMMY: Awesome! What's in your box Gracie?

GRACIE: *(carrying hats & gloves)* We had a whole box of hats and gloves in our basement.

TUCKER: *(bringing in packages of chips, crackers, cookies)* Snacks! I've got the snacks!

T.J.: *(carrying a stack of blankets)* My mom said I could bring these blankets.

TIMMY: Great T.J they can go in this box! *(to everyone)* Thanks guys.

SARAH: What IS all this for?

ALLY: Yeah, what are we doing?

TIMMY: Well, my passage was from Luke 2:4-7. Here's what it says:

Luke 2:4-7 Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, since they were engaged to be married. She was pregnant....

MARY: This is crazy, Joseph! No one THIS pregnant should ever travel this far! I feel like this baby's coming any second – we need to find a place A.S.A.P.!

JOSEPH: I'm so sorry Mary. Every place is completely booked. I don't even know who to ask anymore, everyone's turned us away!

INNKEEPER: *(overhearing their frustration).* Is something wrong? Do you folks need some help?

JOSEPH: *(looks up, praying).* Wow! Thank you Lord.

(to innkeeper) Yes. My wife is about to go into labor and we need a place to stay.

INNKEEPER: Well, you know, everything is completely full. There's a ton of people here for the Governor's census. The only space I could possibly offer is the barn out back. We can try to clean it up quick if you want.

JOSEPH: *(unsure, Looks at Mary).* Oh, I don't know. Maybe we'll try to find some other....

MARY: *(butts in, with urgency)* We'll take it! How soon can you have it ready!?

TIMMY: (continuing) And the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

ALLY: Oh no, you too? This IS weird.

GRACIE: Sooo, what are these things for, again?

TIMMY: Well, I think the hero in this part of the story is the innkeeper. Without him, Joseph and Mary wouldn't have had any place to stay. So our kindness can be to act like the innkeeper.

TUCKER: You mean, HE is our cake?

GRACIE: Huh? I don't get it.

SARAH: (*looking around*) This isn't an inn. And why all these things? These aren't items for an inn.

ALLY: Yeah, we don't have an inn! We don't even have a house!

TIMMY: Right. Of course. But when you think about the innkeeper, he didn't have any rooms to give either. But he DID give Mary and Joseph a way to stay warm and keep dry.

T.J.: But we all already have homes to help us stay warm and dry.

TIMMY: Exactly T.J.! We do....BUT there are people in our area that do not have homes. In fact, you might see people without homes in places you don't even expect!

T.J.: (*sarcastic*) Oh yeah, like a (air-quotes) "manger," right?

ALLY: (*trying to ignore T.J.*) How can WE help?

TIMMY: (*pointing to the box*) Like this! My dad helped me find a place in our city called a shelter. It helps families without homes. They can come there and get warm clothes and food and even sleep there!

SARAH: Are we going?

TIMMY: YES! My dad is going to take us over there. We can give them this box of items to give out to help people stay warm!

GRACIE: What a great idea, Timmy! This is definitely a Christmas Act of Kindness.

TUCKER: (*leading the group out*) Come on... Let's go...CAKE!

Song: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

During the song, the group goes to the "shelter" stage right and drops off the boxes with the worker at the shelter. Outside of the shelter a homeless man/woman approaches pointing to the holes in her ragged gloves. They give her a new pair and she leaves excited.

SCENE THREE:

Cast enters together to center stage.

ALLY: Wow, that was really cool!

TIMMY: I know. It was so interesting to see how many needs there are right in this city!

SARAH: Yes. I am so glad you thought of that as your act, Timmy.

TIMMY: I love knowing that there are things I can do to help others all the time.

GRACIE: I definitely think that part of the experiment was a success!

TUCKER: Yeah, it was a piece of ... CAKE!

SARAH: *(laughing)* TUCKER! Is that all you think about? *(Tucker shrugs his shoulders)*

TIMMY: So who wants to go next?

ALLY: I will. I have the next passage – Luke 2:8-20.

SARAH: *(Opens her Bible)*. Oh, I'll read it. I love this part!

Luke 2:8-20. There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them,

ANGEL: “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! And I can prove it: This baby is not in a crib or in a nice bed. Instead he’s wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

SHEPHERD1: *(to other shepherds)* Ummm, are you seeing this?

SHEPHERD 2: Did you say manger? This I GOTTA see. *(other shepherds gather around – talking among themselves as more angels make their appearance)*

ALL ANGELS: “Glory to God! Glory in the highest heaven and peace on earth! *(repeat the same words as they circle around and leave)*

SHEPHERD 3: Wow! That was amazing! Let’s go guys! We gotta see this – the Messiah right here in Bethlehem?!

SARAH: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. They told them what the angel had said about the child. When the shepherds went back, they were singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen!

ALLY: I love how both the angels AND the shepherds were singing praises to God.

GRACIE: Of course, you would have an assignment about singing. You LOVE to sing!

SARAH: But how can singing be an act of kindness?

ALLY: Well, I had an idea. When I was visiting my grandmother at the retirement home last week, she was telling me about one of her friends. Her friend's family lives in another state, so she doesn't get very many visitors.

TIMMY: So we're going to visit her?

ALLY: Actually, I thought we could go bigger than that – we could visit several people that don't have family.

GRACIE: But what does that have to do with singing?

ALLY: *We can go caroling in the retirement home!*

SARAH: OH! I get it! Ok, cool!

T.J.: Oh man, you don't want me to sing do you? My voice might get us kicked out. Not exactly an "act of kindness"

ALLY: Don't worry T.J. *(whispers just to him)* just sing quiet. *(regular voice)* Anyway, my mom said she will take us and we can sing and visit with everyone there. Hopefully we can provide joy and show them kindness and love so they don't feel so lonely!

TIMMY: Great idea, ALLY!

ALL: *(pick a phrase)* Let's go! Yeah! We are going to need to make a list of songs. I love to sing!

Song: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

During song, group moves to stage right where the "nursing home" is. They pretend to be singing as a resident listens. Sarah gives her a hug as they leave and pretend to go to visit another resident (exiting back stage or down side aisle)

SCENE FOUR:

*Cast enters together to center stage carrying jingle bells and shakers and instruments.
T.J walks has duct tape over his mouth.*

ALLY: We sang some of my favorite carols!

GRACIE: I know. Mine too!

TIMMY: My favorite part was seeing some of the faces of the people while we were singing.

SARAH: And they gave us such great hugs!

TIMMY: It seemed like that might be their favorite part of Christmas this year.

ALLY: Actually, it might be one of my favorites too! That act of kindness was definitely one I want to do again!

T.J: *(taking the tape off)* Well, count me out. Singing is NOT my thing. I'm with Tucker – let's stick to...

TUCKER: *(with T.J.)* CAKE.

SARAH: Ok, so it's my turn. My passage is from Matthew chapter 2. Check it out....

GRACIE: *(anticipating some extra "drama", bracing herself)* Oh... here we go...

SARAH: **Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11** At the time that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Herod was king of Judea. Some men from Eastern lands who studied the stars came to Jerusalem. They met Herod and the teachers of the law and asked....

WISE MAN 1: *Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews?*

WISE MAN 2: *We saw his star when it came up in the East, and we have come to worship him."*

TEACHER 1: The prophets said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

WISE MAN 3: Then to Bethlehem is where we're heading. Let's go.

WISE MAN 1: How will we know where to go once we get there?

WISE MAN 2: *(very excited, points up)* Look! It's the Messiah's star again, showing us the way!

SARAH: They followed the star until it stopped right over the place where the child was. When they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

TIMMY: You got an easy one!

SARAH: I did? How is that easy?

ALLY: Well, they gave gifts! And we all give gifts at Christmas.

T.J.: Yep. Done. That was easy. Next?

TUCKER See? Piece of CAKE!

SARAH: Whoa – wait a minute. I actually don't think it's that easy. Yes we all give gifts. And sure, that is kind. But I don't think that's all there is to this experiment.

ALLY: What do you mean?

SARAH: Well, normally, I just give gifts to my family and friends and teachers. Don't you?

T.J.: Of course, we wouldn't give gifts to some random stranger?

SARAH: Maybe that's EXACTLY who we should give gifts to?

TIMMY: Someone we don't know? Why would we do that?

SARAH: Well as an act of kindness.

TUCKER: CAKE.

SARAH: Right, Tucker. The wise men made a sacrifice is coming to worship Jesus. And then they gave him some really expensive gifts.

T.J.: I don't know, frankinstench sounds kind of lame to me.

SARAH: Ugh, T.J. Frankincense was actually very expensive and was a incense used to worship God. Anyway, they gave really GOOD and meaningful gifts of things His family would need – because they knew that Jesus was the One they had be waiting for.

ALLY: So what does that mean for us?

SARAH: My church actually has a project they do for families in need. These families would not normally be able to have gifts for Christmas. We could pick a family and purchase and wrap the gifts and deliver them.

TIMMY: Really? How would we know what to get?

SARAH: They have a list of things the family needs and wants. They even have clothing sizes and the types of toys the kids like.

GRACIE: Wow. I can't imagine not having gifts for Christmas.

SARAH: Me either, Gracie. But maybe our gifts will be the answer to their prayers.

TIMMY: True. And maybe our small gifts will help them see what the wise men saw – that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

ALLY: We could get things they need for school! And new clothes! Oh, this is exciting!

TIMMY: I have some money from mowing yards that I could use to buy the gifts.

GRACIE: Do we have the list for the family?

SARAH: My mom has it. She said she would take us.

ALLY: What are we waiting for? This actually may be my favorite part of the experiment now!

Laughing as they run offstage as a group.

Song: “Waiting Here for You”

During the song, group move stage right to drop off gifts at a house. Mom or dad and kids meet them at the door to receive gifts. Kids look excited as they pretend to unwrap the gifts. Gifts include a bag of groceries and wrapped presents.

SCENE FIVE:

TIMMY: Wow. I don't think I will ever forget that experience.

GRACIE: They were so grateful.

ALLY: And so excited about everything. Even the little things like the groceries!

SARAH: I'm not sure I've ever been that excited about groceries.

TUCKER: *(nodding)* I have...for CAKE!

(All laughing, T.J. seems uneasy)

SARAH: T.J., I think it's your turn.

T.J.: I know. I don't think Mr. Keller got mine right. My passage isn't even in the New Testament.

TIMMY: Well, this is a group project. Maybe we can help. Whatcha got?

T.J.: The paper says I have Isaiah chapter 9, verse 2. *(fumbles around, finding his Bible)*. Uh, so I brought this Bible from home. Um. Well. Where's Isaiah?

ALLY: Here T.J. I can help you. *(Helps him find the passage)*. Why don't you read it...*(points to the verse)*. Right here.

T.J: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine."

See. That's not even about Christmas. How are we supposed to get an act of kindness from that?

SARAH: Hmm, that is kinda strange.

GRACIE: Maybe my passage can help it make more sense. I have John 1:9. "The One who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world."

TIMMY: Oh, I get it – Jesus is the Light! Without Jesus people are in darkness. But the people in darkness have seen the light of Jesus.

SARAH: Hey, that reminds me of the wise men. They were walking in darkness but they saw a great light – the star.

T.J: *(still confused)* So....What does this have to with our CAKE project?

TUCKER: Yeah, what about the CAKE?

GRACIE: Jesus said that He is the Light of the World.

TIMMY: And what do we decorate with at Christmas time? Lights, right?

SARAH: And?

GRACIE: I have this huge box of Christmas lights. Let's light up the darkness!

T.J.: You mean put lights EVERYWHERE in town? That's a big box, but I don't think it's gonna be enough.

GRACIE: Well, right, I thought that might be a little much for us. But what if our Christmas lights were like that star, shining light on the place where people can find Jesus?

ALLY: The Church!

GRACIE: Yes! We're going to decorate and bring light to the whole city by pointing them to Jesus!

ALL: Yeah! How fun! Let's do it!

*Grab decorations out of the box as song starts and begin decorating.
Preplaced lights on trees can be turned on.*

Song: "Here Comes Heaven"

SCENE SIX:

*During the last chorus of the song, Tucker sneaks offstage unnoticed.
Cast gathers centerstage as song ends.*

SARAH: Ah, this looks beautiful!

GRACIE: We definitely brought light!

T.J.: *(staring, distant, thoughtful).* Yeah.

TIMMY: *(notices T.J.)* Are you okay T.J.?

T.J.: You know, I've been thinking about this whole assignment, and especially my passage. I've had a pretty rough year so far. I kind of feel like I'm in a dark place. I guess I'm the one "walking in darkness." You all seem to be into this church stuff, but it's all new to me. I guess I'm not sure how it all works. It would be awesome if I saw more light in my life.

SARAH: You can T.J. That's what Christmas is really all about. Joseph & Mary, the angels and shepherds, the wise men – they were all part of God greatest act of kindness. The arrival of His Son Jesus into the world.

TIMMY: Yeah. Remember that verse from the beginning? Joseph was to call his name "Jesus" because he would save us from our sins. It's a free gift. We don't deserve God's gift, but He gives it anyway because He loves us!

ALLY: Like the people we've helped this week, the only thing they had to do was receive what we offered. That's how it is with God's gift. We just have to receive what He's offering us – His son Jesus.

T.J.: That seems like exactly what I need.

TIMMY: Why don't you come over here and we can pray about that? *(T.J. and Timmy move over to the side and talk/pray)*

SARAH: Hey, I think there's one more passage. Must be yours Tucker. *(looks around, doesn't see him).*

ALLY: Tucker? Hey! Where did he go?

TUCKER: *(coming in from sidestage carrying/or rolling in a big cake)* I'm here...with CAKE!

ALL: *(laughter).* Of course! Cake! Yes!

ALLY: I knew you would figure out a way to fit a real cake into this!

SARAH: Yeah, Tucker – this is awesome! Can we have some?

TUCKER: Of course! I brought it to share. Let us eat CAKE!

ALLY: But what about the experiment?

GRACIE: YES! I like cake too, but what does this have to do with the assignment.

TUCKER: My passage was Matthew 5:14-16. About the lights, again, only different.

Matthew 5:14-16 *“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

(T.J. and TIMMY come back to the rest of the group)

TIMMY: *(A little annoyed at Tucker)* You think this passage is about CAKE?

TUCKER: Yes, listen – “let your goods deeds shine.” Acts of Kindness. Jesus, the Light, came into the world. And His light is still shining.

ALLY: I’m not sure I understand.

T.J.: The light in the darkness....It’s Jesus in us.

TUCKER: Cake is for sharing. I think the experiment was to help us see that our actions are part of the story.

TIMMY: You mean like the story of the innkeeper and the shepherds and the wise men?

TUCKER: Yes! When we were showing kindness, at the shelter, in the nursing home, and with those gifts, by serving at Church and hanging lights, we were following their examples.

ALLY: How does that make us part of the Christmas story?

GRACIE: I think I get it. What started as a homework assignment became joyful and meaningful to us, because we had a higher purpose.

SARAH: Yeah, we were doing those things because of our love for Jesus. We wanted to share that with others.

TUCKER: Exactly! Those actions back then and today are the proof that we are loved by Jesus.

GRACIE: Wow! I don’t think I’ll ever eat cake the same way again.

T.J.: I KNOW I won’t. Mr. Keller was right! This was the best homework over Christmas I ever did.... Ok, the only homework over Christmas I ever did.

TUCKER: As I’ve said before....

ALL: We know.... CAKE!!!

Songs: “Proof of Your Love”; Curtain Call: “Here Comes Christmas Reprise”