

**Christmas Cards**  
A One-act Play in Five Scenes  
by Judy Gerlach

**Synopsis:**

Carl and Nancy have invited Carl's boss, Hudson Stonehart (a stingy, arrogant, stubborn man) and his wife Isabelle to join them and their son Trevor for dinner on Christmas Eve. Uncle Chris, Aunt Susie, and cousin Katie are also among the dinner guests. Wisecracking Uncle Chris is not looking forward to spending Christmas Eve with Carl's "scrooge" of a boss, but Carl and Nancy are excited about the prospect of sharing the true meaning of Christmas with the Stoneharts. A collection of Christmas cards unexpectedly provides Carl and Nancy with the perfect opportunity to do just that. Even Uncle Chris finds himself enjoying the fellowship as the family ventures through the Christmas story via Christmas cards.

**Cast:**

CARL: *the dinner host, in his 30s*

NANCY: *Carl's wife, in her 30s*

TREVOR: *Carl and Nancy's son, age 10*

AUNT SUSIE: *Nancy's sister, in her 30s*

UNCLE CHRIS: *Susie's husband, in his 30s*

KATIE: *Chris and Susie's daughter, age 8*

MR. (Hudson) STONEHART: *Carl's boss, in his 50s or 60s*

MRS. (Isabelle) STONEHART: *Hudson's wife, in her 50s or 60s*

FROSTY *the Snowman: optional (non-speaking)*

*(Young family: a father and mother, in their 30s; son and daughter, age range 3 to 10, all non-speaking)*

Nativity characters *(non-speaking)*

**Scenes:**

Scene One: Living room and *(optional)* outdoors. Christmas Eve. Late afternoon.

Scene Two: Living room. Christmas Eve. Late afternoon.

Scene Three: Living room. Christmas Eve. Before dinner.

Scene Four: Living room. Christmas Eve. After dinner.

Scene Five: Churchyard nativity; front of MR. STONEHART'S house. Christmas Eve. After dinner.

**Running Time:** 30 minutes (*without music*)

**Props:**

**SR** - living room walls w/fireplace mantel

furniture (*sofa, two chairs, coffee table, coat tree*)

small decorated Christmas tree w/presents

box of greenery and ornaments

pitcher and cups for cider

board game

collection of Christmas cards

evergreen or holly garland

newspaper

apron

small one-piece nativity in an easy to open gift-wrapped box

fake snow

**SL** – Church front w/churchyard nativity

**DSC** – (*for Scene Five only*) large mailbox on post

3 or 4 suitcases

small risers

**Sound effect:** doorbell

**Costumes:** Frosty the Snowman (*optional*); nativity characters.

**Songs (optional except for Scene Five):**

**Scenes One through Three:** choose festive music as the family prepares for their company to arrive; **Scenes Four and Five:** choose religious carols and contemporary songs as the family tells the Christmas story. Choir should be positioned upstage center.

## Scene One

**Scene:** Living room and (*optional*) outdoors. Christmas Eve. Late afternoon.

**Lighting:** Lights up; if song is used, lights should be up on both outdoor scene and living room. Lights go out on outdoor scene at close of song.

*(CARL, NANCY, CHRIS and SUSIE are in the living room getting things ready for the dinner party. MR. and MRS. STONEHART have not yet arrived. CHRIS is relaxing, reading a newspaper. Optional - TREVOR and KATIE are outside playing in the snow with FROSTY, SL, during "Frosty the Snowman.")*

SONG: "Frosty the Snowman"

*(TREVOR and KATIE come running into the living room immediately as the song ends.)*

TREVOR: That was fun! We saw Frosty the Snowman!

NANCY: Oh you did, did you? *(takes their coats and hangs them up)*

KATIE: Yeah, we did! Honest!

CHRIS: *(lowers his paper for a moment)* And I suppose he was wearing an old silk hat and was dancing around in the snow?

KATIE: Yes, Daddy, he was!

CARL: *(picks up a Christmas card)* Did he look anything like the snowman on this Christmas card?

*(shows card to kids)*

TREVOR: Yeah! Just like him! That's Frosty all right!

NANCY: Okay you two, enough about dancing snowmen. It's time for Trevor to clean up his room before our company arrives. It's getting late. Katie, why don't you help him? Get busy now. You don't have much time. *(The kids run off. KATIE turns around once before they exit.)*

KATIE: But we really did see Frosty.

SUSIE: Okay, sweetie. I believe you. Now hurry up!

*(TREVOR and KATIE exit behind living room.)*

NANCY: I'd like to put some of these Christmas cards up on the mantel. *(positions a card on the mantel)*

Whaddya think, Carl?

CARL: Great idea. *(thumbs up gesture)*

SUSIE: *(picks up some greenery out of box and hands it to NANCY)* I think a little greenery around the cards would add just the right yuletide touch.

NANCY: *(places greenery on mantel)* There, how's that?

SUSIE: Perfect! *(picks up a card from the table)* You know, Nancy, your house is every bit as beautiful as the house on this Christmas card. There's snow in the windowpanes and the view outside is awesome. *(peers out window)* Everything's oh so Christmassy. I just love this time of year!

NANCY: Thanks, Susie. *(puts more cards on the mantel)* I want everything to be just right for Carl's boss and his wife when they come over. From what I understand, Mr. Stonehart hasn't had anything to do with Christmas for years.

SUSIE: I wonder why?

CHRIS: *(lowers his paper for a moment)* 'Cause he's an old Scrooge, that's why. Couldn't please that man no matter how hard you tried.

SUSIE: Chris!

*(CHRIS rattles his paper.)*

NANCY: I'm not sure why, Susie. I hear he won't let Mrs. Stonehart put up any Christmas decorations either.

SUSIE: That's terrible.

CARL: No one at the office has ever asked him about it. He's been like that for so long that everyone just avoids him at Christmastime. I invited him to our Christmas Eve service, but he said no. So I felt that inviting him to dinner was the right thing to do.

CHRIS: *(lowers his paper)* And I think you need to have your head examined.

SUSIE: Chris! Carl's absolutely right. After all, Mr. Stonehart is a human being, too.

CHRIS: Well, now, that's debatable.

SUSIE: Chris! We have to try and understand people like that. And besides, Carl has to work for him everyday, ya know.

CHRIS: Well now, that's Carl's problem, not ours.

CARL: Ah, come on, Chris, where's your Christmas spirit?

*(TREVOR and KATIE run back into the room. TREVOR is all excited and out of breath.)*

TREVOR: Dad! Dad!

CARL: What is it, son?

TREVOR: Dad, is it true that God made people out of dust?

CARL: Why yes, Trevor. God said to Adam, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Why do you ask?

TREVOR: *(tugs on CARL'S arm)* Oh, Dad, you gotta come quick and look under my bed 'cause somebody's either comin' or goin'!

*(BLACKOUT)*

SONG: (suggested: "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" or "Christmas Waltz")

## Scene Two

**Scene:** Living room. Christmas Eve. Late afternoon.

*(Lights come back up on the living room. TREVOR and KATIE are sitting on the floor playing a board game. CHRIS is still reading his newspaper.)*

CARL: I just love Christmas, don't you, Nancy? The sights, the sounds, the smells, the Christmas cards. Look, honey, here's a card from my mother. *(holds up card)* It says, "Christmas is a family time, a gathering and caring time, a memories and sharing time with those we hold most dear." So true, isn't it? And sharing a delicious meal together – can't beat it!

TREVOR: And don't forget the presents, Dad!

NANCY: Ah, yes, the presents. That's one of my favorite parts, too, Trevor.

KATIE: Me too!

NANCY: And I'm so glad that Mr. and Mrs. Stonehart accepted our invitation to dinner, Carl. I really didn't think they would, especially after saying no to the Christmas Eve service. I sure hope we can bring them a little bit of joy and show them what Christmas is all about.

CHRIS: *(lowers his paper, complaining)* They sure could use some joy. I bet that grumpy old man doesn't even know the meaning of the word. I don't think I've ever met a more persnickety and arrogant man in my life. And that wife of his, with all her furs and jewelry, and...

SUSIE: Chris! Listen to yourself. That's not nice.

CHRIS: Well... *(beat; looks at SUSIE)* I just don't see why Carl has to spoil our Christmas by having an "old goat" like that for dinner.

SUSIE: Honestly, Chris. *(punches his arm)*

TREVOR: *(to KATIE)* Old goat?

KATIE: Yuck!

TREVOR: I'd rather have turkey for dinner.

KATIE: Me too.

CARL: Well, I feel like I did the right thing, Chris.

*(CHRIS rattles his newspaper, resumes reading.)*

NANCY: *(looks at a card)* Hey, Susie, take a look at the wintry scene on this...

*(Doorbell rings)*

CARL: I think the Stoneharts are here! *(starts to get up but TREVOR runs past him)*

TREVOR: I'll get it, Dad! *(exits behind living room)*

SUSIE: Now Chris, please try to behave yourself. *(points finger at him)* And act like you're happy to see them.

CHRIS: *(lowers his paper)* I'll try, but I'd rather have a root canal. *(puts his paper back up)*

*(TREVOR'S voice is heard from offstage as he greets MR. and MRS. STONEHART.)*

TREVOR: Hi! Come on in. I sure hope you're not very hungry tonight 'cause Uncle Chris says we're having an old goat for dinner!

*(All jaws drop in the living room except for CHRIS who bursts out laughing. SUSIE scowls at him.)*

*BLACKOUT.*

SONG (suggested: "Sleighride" or "Let It Snow" or "Winter Wonderland")

### Scene Three

**Scene:** Living room. Christmas Eve. Before dinner.

*(Lights back up on living room. MR. and MRS. STONEHART are just entering the room following TREVOR. NANCY takes their coats to hang on the coat tree. CARL stands by them also while SUSIE stands by her chair, smiling. CHRIS stays seated in his chair, still trying to hide the smirk on his face. Everyone is extremely nervous throughout the entire scene except for CHRIS and the kids. TREVOR and KATIE sit on the floor. MRS. STONEHART begins speaking immediately as she enters the room.)*

MRS. S: Well... I never! *(fans her face with a handkerchief)*

CARL: Oh...uh, Mrs. Stonehart...Mr. Stonehart...you see, Trevor didn't mean...

NANCY: *(interrupting)* Here, Mr. and Mrs. Stonehart, I'll just take your coats and hang them up right here.

*(CARL extends his arm to shake hands with MR. STONEHART, but MR. STONEHART keeps his arms crossed and glares at him.)*

CARL: Mr. Stonehart, Mrs. Stonehart... uh... Merry Christmas! So glad you could come. We've been looking forward to...

MR. S: *(interrupts loudly)* Who, may I ask, is Uncle Chris and what's all this about an old goat?

CARL: Oh...uh...Mr. Stonehart, it seems there was... *(looks around for help)* I mean, there must have been a little misunderstanding. *(clears throat)* Kids these days! I tell you what...you just never know when they're going to get things all mixed up. Chris...uh, Uncle Chris, that is, was just saying how he...

SUSIE: Coat! He had to wear the same old coat to dinner! Right, dear?

CHRIS: *(lowers his newspaper; speaks sarcastically)* Why, yes, dear. My Christmas will just be *ruined* if I don't get a new coat.

CARL: See? There now – easy mistake to make. Right, Nancy?

NANCY: Absolutely... of course it is. *(nods in agreement)*

MR. S: Ahem...well, I dare say.

NANCY: Mr. and Mrs. Stonehart, I'd like you to meet my sister Susie, and that's her husband Chris over there. *(points to CHRIS).*

SUSIE: So nice to meet you. *(shakes their hands, gives CHRIS the evil eye)*

CHRIS: *(from his chair)* Same here. *(gives quick salute)*

NANCY: And that's their daughter Katie.

KATIE: Hi! Merry Christmas! *(waves)*

MR. S: How do you do, young lady?

MRS. S: Nice to meet you.

NANCY: And, of course, you already know our son Trevor.

MR. S: Yes... Trevor. *(clears throat; rolls eyes)* Of course.

CARL: Won't you have a seat right here? *(gestures to MRS. STONEHART to sit on the sofa)*

NANCY: Yes, and Mr. Stonehart, you can sit right here beside Mrs. Stonehart.

MRS. S: Thank you.

NANCY: I'm so glad you could come. Carl and I have been looking forward to this for a long time. We were just reading through our Christmas cards. They tell such a wonderful story of Christmas, don't you think?

MRS. S: I suppose they do. We haven't sent out Christmas cards for years, and we don't even bother to open the ones people send to us.

NANCY: You don't?

CARL: It's one of our favorite things to do each Christmas. We're really happy to share this special time with you.

CHRIS: Speak for your...

*(SUSIE quickly puts her hand over CHRIS'S mouth.)*

CARL: Mr. Stonehart, are you done with your Christmas shopping?

MR. S: No Christmas shopping for me. What a foolish waste of time. Too busy with the company. The work must go on, you know.

MRS. S: Why, I can't remember the last time we put up a tree, or decorations for that matter. *(looks around at NANCY'S decorations)*

NANCY: Oh... I'm sorry. I mean, I love to decorate. *(glances at CARL; shrugs shoulders)*

*(KATIE picks up some cards and walks over to CHRIS.)*

KATIE: Look, Daddy, this card has a picture of Santa Claus on it. And this one has a beautiful Christmas tree all lit up with pretty lights. And there's snow all around. I can't wait for Christmas!

CHRIS: Ya know what, Princess? I can't wait either. *(hugs KATIE)*

NANCY: Mrs. Stonehart, could I get you a cup of hot apple cider?

MRS. S: Yes, that sounds good, dear.

NANCY: And you, Mr. Stonehart?

MR. S: Yes, I believe I'll try some too, thank you.

*(NANCY pours the cider and hands them each a cup.)*

NANCY: *(more relaxed than before)* We want you to feel right at home here, Mr. and Mrs. Stonehart. I'm sorry to hear that you don't find Christmas enjoyable. As you can see, we just love Christmas around this house.



MR. S: As I said before, it's all foolishness if you ask me.

CHRIS: Well, nobody's ask...

SUSIE: Chris!

*(CHRIS gives his newspaper a shake and resumes reading.)*

CARL: Uh...yes...well, Mr. Stonehart, maybe we can help you see Christmas from a different perspective... and maybe even put a little "merry" into it for you.

MR. S: Ha! I doubt that.

SUSIE: *(stands up)* Oh my goodness, look at the time! Well, if you'll excuse me everyone, I'm going to go check on the turkey. You stay here with our guests, Nancy. I'll take care of everything in the kitchen.

*(exits behind living room)*

KATIE: Turkey?

TREVOR: Yay! We're having turkey!

NANCY: Thanks, Susie. *(turns to MRS. STONEHART)* Mrs. Stonehart, tell me...do you have any grandchildren?

MRS. S: Why yes, as a matter of fact we do. *(bursts out crying; dabs eyes with handkerchief)*

*(Everyone looks at each other, puzzled. CHRIS lowers his newspaper to see what's going on.)*

MR. S: *(nervously)* A grandson and a granddaughter. *(frowns at MRS. STONEHART)* Oh, for crying out loud, Isabelle, control yourself! *(MRS. STONEHART sobs louder, then quiets down)* Haven't seen the grandkids in a few years, though. They probably wouldn't know us if they saw us.

*(NANCY puts her arm around MRS. STONEHART and pats her shoulder. MRS. STONEHART continues to sob, but not as loud.)*

NANCY: Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that. If you don't mind my asking, why haven't you seen them?

MR. S: *(irritably)* Well, if you must know, my son and I had a falling out a few years back over the business, and he took his family and moved away from here. Haven't seen or heard from them since.

NANCY: That's so sad. No wonder you're...

MRS. S: *(interrupts, still sobbing)* I miss them so much! Every year, especially at Christmas, I want so desperately to see my son and my grandchildren, but every time I call them, I get the answering machine,

and he never calls me back. *(beat; raises voice angrily)* Oooo – if only they hadn't had that horrible argument!

MR. S: Isabelle!

MRS. S: *(snorts loudly into handkerchief)* Well, Hudson, it's true and you know it. You didn't need to be such a stubborn old goat!

*(All exchange surprised looks. TREVOR and KATIE giggle.)*

MR. S: *(firmly)* Isabelle! We'll discuss this later!

*(CARL is frantically riffling through some Christmas cards on the table. He finds one and holds it up to read.)*

CARL: You know, this Christmas card speaks of peace on earth.

TREVOR: What does that mean, Dad?

CARL: Well, there have been so many wars and there's been so much fighting. And sometimes we argue among ourselves, don't we?

TREVOR: I argue with Katie all the time.

KATIE: But he's still my favorite cousin.

TREVOR: I'm your *only* cousin.

KATIE: Oh...yeah.

CARL: Anyway, you see, the world is full of sin and sin separates us from God. So God sent Jesus to save the world from its sin. Because of Jesus Christ, God is at peace with those of us on earth.

KATIE: That's why Jesus is called our Savior – right, Uncle Carl?

CARL: Yes, Katie, that's right.

NANCY: Mr. and Mrs. Stonehart, it's my Christmas wish and my prayer for you that you both will find peace with your son and that you will get to see those grandkids of yours again.

CARL: That goes ditto for me.

MRS. S: Thank you. Thank you so much. *(dabs eyes)*

*(SUSIE, wearing an apron, enters living room from back.)*

SUSIE: Hey, everyone - dinner's ready!

*(BLACKOUT. Everyone exits.)*

SONG (suggested: "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" or "Grown Up Christmas List")

#### Scene Four

**Scene:** Living room. Christmas Eve. After dinner.

SONG (suggested: medley of Christmas carols)

*(As lights come up on the living room, the dinner guests trail into the room from the back. They have just finished their meal. MR. STONEHART enters first, followed by CHRIS, TREVOR, CARL, NANCY, MRS. STONEHART, KATIE and SUSIE. CHRIS will not hold his newspaper anymore. Dialogue begins as they enter.)*

MR. S: That was a great meal, ladies! Great meal.

CHRIS: Man, am I stuffed.

TREVOR: I sure do love celebrating Jesus' birthday!

CARL: Me too, Trevor. Celebrating the birthday of our Savior is the greatest time of rejoicing the world has ever known.

*(All should be seated by now. CARL picks up another card.)*

CARL: Look at this, Trevor. The picture on this Christmas card shows the real reason for all of our celebrating.

*(TREVOR goes over to CARL and kneels beside him. TREVOR points to the picture on the front of the card.)*

TREVOR: It's a picture of the Baby Jesus.

CARL: That's right, Trevor. Jesus is God's Christmas gift to us. And look at what the card says. It has the most wonderful Bible verse on it – John 3:16. It says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

TREVOR: What's a "whosoever"?

CARL: Why, you're a "whosoever", Trevor.

TREVOR: I am?

CARL: You most certainly are.

KATIE: And me too, Uncle Carl?

CARL: Yes, Katie, you are, too. Everyone is.

TREVOR: Even Uncle Chris?

*(laughter)*

CARL: Yes, even Uncle Chris. I think you have the idea.

TREVOR: Awesome!

CHRIS: *(picks up a card)* This card says “Jesus is the reason for the season.”

KATIE: Without Jesus, there wouldn’t be any Christmas, right Daddy?

CHRIS: Right, princess.

SUSIE: So when God gave us Jesus on that very first Christmas, He gave us the gift of love.

NANCY: Say, that reminds me – we have a Christmas gift for you, Mr. and Mrs. Stonehart.

MRS. S: A gift for us?

KATIE: May I give it to them, Aunt Nancy?

NANCY: Of course, Katie. Here...

*(NANCY hands the present to KATIE. KATIE walks up to MRS. STONEHART and hands it to her.)*

MRS. S: Why, thank you, Katie.

*(MRS. STONEHART opens the gift – a small one-piece nativity scene.)*

MRS. S: Oh, how beautiful. Look, Hudson, it’s a nativity. *(hands the gift to MR. STONEHART)*

MR. S: Why, thank you Carl...Nancy.

MRS. S: Thank you so much. I know exactly where I’ll put it so it will always remind me of the real meaning of Christmas. Look, Katie, here’s the Baby Jesus right in the center.

KATIE: Like Daddy said, Jesus is the reason for the season!

*(Dim the lights on living room during song)*

SONG (suggested: “The Best Gift of All” or “Mary Was the First One to Carry the Gospel”)

*(Lights up on living room. CHRIS is holding a card.)*

CHRIS: Hey, look at this card, Katie. There’s a picture of Mary and Joseph. They’re traveling to Bethlehem.

KATIE: That’s where Jesus was born! *(passes the card to MR. and MRS. STONEHART)*

CHRIS: That’s right.

TREVOR: Why did they have to travel to Bethlehem if Mary was about to have a baby?

CHRIS: They had no choice. You see, Caesar Augustus ordered that a census be taken.

TREVOR: What's a census?

CHRIS: Well – “census” you asked... *(laughter)* A census is when they count all the people and everyone has to pay their taxes. All who belonged to the house of David were required to go to Bethlehem, so Mary and Joseph went there to be counted among their people. It was a long journey for Mary.

SUSIE: And did you know that Jesus lived in heaven before He was born here on the earth?

TREVOR: He did?

SUSIE: Yes, He lived there until the perfect moment in time that God had chosen to send Jesus to earth to be born as a baby in Bethlehem.

KATIE: Wow.

CHRIS: Wow is right, Katie.

TREVOR: *(holds up a card)* This card has a picture of Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus in a stable. Why was Jesus born in a stable instead of a palace? I thought Jesus was a king.

CARL: Oh, but Jesus is a king. He is the King of Kings. You see, God wanted to show us that having worldly riches is not what matters to Him. God looks at the world far differently than we do. Kings and queens in palaces are the same to Him as you and me. That's because God looks at a person's heart. Mary may have been poor, but her heart belonged to God. That's why He chose her to be the mother of Jesus.

CHRIS: *(picks up a card)* Here's a card that says “Emmanuel.”

KATIE: What does that mean, Daddy?

CHRIS: It means “God with us.” You see, Katie, Jesus was called Emmanuel because He was the Word of God made into a human being like us.

SUSIE: The Bible says that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

NANCY: *(picks up another card)* Just imagine what it was like... *(gestures with an upward sweep of her arms)* the star-splashed sky, the stillness of the night, the smell of the animals in the stable. Oh...I can picture Mary wrapping her newborn baby in a blanket and tenderly placing him in the manger bed. And on a hillside not too far away *(gestures with her arms again)* a host of angels singing glorious praises to God

before a group of lowly shepherds... (*points to picture on card*) just like the picture on this Christmas card.

(*passes the card to MR. and MRS. STONEHART*)

MRS. S: What a magnificent sight that must have been!

MR. S: I dare say.

KATIE: I bet the shepherds were really scared when they saw all those angels up in the sky.

NANCY: They certainly were, Katie. But one of the angels said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

TREVOR: Were the shepherds the very first people to hear the good news, Mom?

NANCY: Yes, Trevor, they were. The angels also told the shepherds where they could go to see the Baby. And they hurried as fast as their feet could take them to find this amazing sight. Can't you just imagine how excited they must have been as they searched around Bethlehem for the Baby in the manger?

MRS. S: Ooo... that *does* sound exciting!

TREVOR: Awesome.

(*Dim the lights on living room during song.*)

SONG (suggested: "Welcome to Our World" or "Strange Way to Save the World")

(*Lights up on living room.*)

TREVOR: I wish I could have been there to see it for myself.

MR. S: Why, I almost feel like I *have* been there tonight. You've all made the Christmas story come alive so well by sharing your Christmas cards with us.

MRS. S: I know what you mean, Hudson. I feel like I was there, too. Who would have thought that we could learn so much from looking at Christmas cards? Thank you everyone. I've enjoyed every minute of it. (*beat*) And you know what? As soon as we get home, the first thing I'm going to do is open up all those Christmas cards that have been piling up on the table. Every single one of them. And I think I'll display them on our mantel just like you did, Nancy.

(*NANCY hugs MRS. STONEHART*)

MR. S: Sounds like a good idea, Isabelle. Christmas means a lot more than I ever thought it did.

MRS. S: Well, dear, we really should go home now. I think it's about time we straighten out some personal family business. *(stands up)* Don't you agree, Hudson?

MR. S: *(stands up)* After all these years, Isabelle, it'll take a miracle.

*(NANCY gets their coats.)*

NANCY: I'm so glad you had a good time, Mr. and Mrs. Stonehart. We've really enjoyed having you over. Don't forget to take your Christmas gift with you. *(picks up the gift)*

MRS. S: Oh, thank you. I wouldn't forget that.

*(MR. STONEHART reaches out to shake CARL'S hand.)*

MR. S: Well, thank you, Carl. This has been a very heartwarming evening.

CARL: Well, you know that ever since that first Christmas night every man, woman, and child who accepts God's gift of Jesus also experiences a change of heart. It's the miracle of His love.

MR. S: I guess I have a lot to think about. Thanks again, Carl. Hey... I'll see you at the office tomorrow.

CARL: But Mr. Stonehart... tomorrow is Christmas Day.

MR. S: Gotcha! *(points finger at CARL)*

*(Everyone laughs. CARL slaps MR. STONEHART on the back.)*

CHRIS: Hey, I think I like this guy!

CARL: Merry Christmas, Mr. Stonehart! Good-bye.

MRS. S: Good-bye!

EVERYONE: Merry Christmas!

*(MR. and MRS. STONEHART exit at back of living room. Lights out on living room.)*

SONG (suggested: "Carol of the Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas")

### **Scene Five**

(Reconciliation)

**Scene:** Churchyard nativity (SL) and front of MR. STONEHART'S house (DSC). Christmas Eve. After dinner.

**Lighting:** Evening. A spotlight will reveal the DSC scene near the end of the song.

*(Lights up, dim, on churchyard nativity)*

SONG (suggested: select a powerful, moving piece)

*(This scene has no dialogue – only silent drama which takes place during the song and is very emotionally charged. Timing is everything. As the song begins, there are no lights on the DSC characters and props, which are positioned in front of the choir. Shortly before the spotlight reveals the waiting family at DSC, MR. and MRS. STONEHART are seen walking slowly across the stage from SL on their way home. They may pause to admire the churchyard nativity. As the song nears the end, a spotlight reveals the following: a mailbox with the name “Stonehart” painted in large letters on its side placed DSC, a small riser representing steps to a house placed close to the mailbox, a few suitcases placed near the steps, a young man (MR. STONEHART’S son) standing next to the steps, the young man’s wife sitting on the steps with their little son and daughter. They have arrived at the house unannounced and are waiting for MR. and MRS. STONEHART to return home. When MR. and MRS. STONEHART are within a few feet of their family, MRS. STONEHART recognizes her son, stops, gasps, and covers her mouth. She looks at MR. STONEHART. The young woman and children stand up to face them. MR. and MRS. STONEHART take a few steps closer. MRS. STONEHART runs to embrace her son, daughter-in-law, and grandkids while MR. STONEHART and his son stare at each other for a few seconds. The men should be standing directly in front of the women and children. MR. STONEHART finally extends his right hand to shake hands with his son, but his son pulls him close and embraces his father instead. They remain in this embrace as the song ends and spotlight fades to black.)*