

AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

By Nancy Hedrick Harper

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Michael is too busy and unconcerned to have any time for God. His twins, Chris and Camille, realize his need for God and are trying to persuade their father to go to the church Christmas program with them, but Michael has flatly refused to go. However, God is at work in Michael's life -- although he does not realize it. With the help of Uncle Matt, a faulty furnace, and his wife, Kathryn, the program is brought to him. Finally, Michael understands his own need for God.

Approximately 50 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 3 w, 1 teen girl, 1 boy, 1 girl, and pageant cast.)

KATHRYN THOMAS: A young Christian wife.

MICHAEL THOMAS: Kathryn's husband, too busy for God.

CHRIS THOMAS: Their eleven-year old son.

CAMILLE THOMAS: Chris' twin sister.

JULIE BROWN: Teenager who baby-sits for the twins.*

UNCLE MATT: Kathryn's uncle.

JOHN SCHRADER: Michael's friend.

VALERIE SCHRADER: John's wife.

JOYCE WRIGHT: Program director.

PAGEANT CAST:

Narrator

Mary

Joseph

Innkeeper

Wife

Angel *(Played by Camille)*

Three Shepherds

Shepherd Boy *(Played by Chris)*

Mother

First Child

Second Child

Amos

Rachel

Leah

Rebekah

*Julie can also take a part in the pageant.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1 - A few days before Christmas

Scene 2 - A day later

Scene 3 - The next day

SETTING

The living room of the Thomas' home. A nicely furnished living room with a sofa at back center stage. A big chair is positioned on each side of the sofa. Down front center are a table and two chairs that serve as a study area for the twins. A small stand at upper stage right holds a telephone. A large Christmas tree stands in the corner of upper stage left. A door upper stage left leads to a hall and other parts of the house. A door upper stage right leads to the kitchen. Lamps and other furnishings can be added as desired and as space allows.

PROPERTIES

School books for twins and Julie.

Newspaper for Michael.

Bible, suitcase, shopping bag and presents, and soft sponge ball for Uncle Matt.

Board game for twins.

Gift and wrapping paper for Kathryn.

Doll for Mary and Joseph.

Costumes for pageant.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The TWINS are seated at the study table, and JULIE is seated on the sofa. All three are studying.)

JULIE: Are you guys done studying yet? Your mother will be home soon.

CAMILLE: I just have a few more math problems to do, then I'll be done.

CHRIS: I don't think I'll ever get this report done on Christmas customs of different lands.

JULIE: Of course you will. Just keep working on it.

CAMILLE: I had mine had mine done and handed in yesterday, and you could have too, if you hadn't put it off until the last minute.

CHRIS: Well, everyone's not Miss Perfect like you, and besides, I had more important things to do.

CAMILLE: Like what?

CHRIS: You'll find out when you need to know. Hey, Julie, what do you want for Christmas?

JULIE: A little boy named Chris to get his homework done.

CHRIS: Okay, I get the hint. But, do you know what I want? More than anything else, I want Daddy to go to church with us.

JULIE: *(Coming over to stand beside CHRIS.)* Of course you do, honey, and maybe this Christmas you'll get your wish.

CAMILLE: I don't understand why Daddy won't go. Julie, your daddy goes with you.

JULIE: Yes, he does. But you know, I really never thought much about it, until I realized how much it would mean to you both to have your daddy go with you. A father should take his children to church ... *(She stops abruptly as if realizing that she's said too much. Then she looks at her watch.)* Camille, let's go to the kitchen and make that salad your mother asked us to do.

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(THEY exit to kitchen, upper right. CHRIS continues working for a beat, then closes his books and straightens up his work. KATHRYN enters from behind him, upper left.)

CHRIS: *(Talking aloud to himself.)* There, now that's all done. After tomorrow we'll have a break for almost two weeks. I can hardly wait!

KATHRYN: So you're glad school's almost out for Christmas vacation? I remember how I looked forward to that, too.

CHRIS: Mom, you're home! Yeah, I'm glad. Just think, no home-work for two weeks.

KATHRYN: *(She tousles his hair and hugs him.)* And what are you going to do for two whole weeks?

CHRIS: Oh, I'll think of something.

KATHRYN: I'm sure you and Camille will find plenty to do. By the way, where is she?

CHRIS: In the kitchen with Julie. I'll go tell them you're home.

(HE exits to kitchen. PHONE RINGS.)

KATHRYN: *(Answering phone.)* Hello ... Why, hello, Uncle Matt. How are you? ... Oh, we're all fine, and looking forward to your visit. ... You're at the bus station already? We didn't expect you until tomorrow. ... No, no, don't do that. I'll come to the station right away and pick you up. ... But there's no need for you to take a cab ... Alright if you insist. We'll see you soon. Good-by.

MICHAEL: *(Who has entered while KATHRYN speaks on phone.)* Was that your Uncle Matt?

KATHRYN: Yes, dear, it was. He's at the bus station and is taking a cab over here. He'll be here soon.

MICHAEL: I don't know why we why we get stuck with him every year at Christmas. Why doesn't he vivist some other family member?

KATHRYN: *(Shocked.)* Why Michael! How could you say such a thing? The children love Uncle Matt.

End of Freeview

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