

ADVENT ATTITUDES

by M. K. Boyle



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Advent Attitudes

Sketches for Advent
wreath candlelighting

by M.K. Boyle

INTRODUCTION

The following sketches are to be used on the Sundays of Advent to light the Advent wreath and introduce the sermon. Their themes — stop, look, listen, and prepare — complement the traditional Advent themes of peace, hope, joy, and love. Each sketch runs approximately three to five minutes in length.

This sketch series calls believers to prepare their hearts for the coming Messiah. In four humorous situations, the audience is transported back to the days just before Christ's birth, where characters of the New Testament era face similar weaknesses as we do today: too blind to see, too lazy to listen, too greedy to practice kindness, too overwhelmed to care.

There's a fun blend of the old and new as many of today's customs and gadgets find their way into the biblical settings of the sketches. Amid the laughs, truths emerge about our attitudes and actions in this season of anticipation.

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Adjust the Clock

(First Sunday of Advent)

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THEME: Taking time out for God. Stopping to listen to God’s Word.

The peace of God’s Word.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Luke 2:36–38, Psalm 5:3,

2 Corinthians 14:33.

SYNOPSIS: Anna shares her insights on developing a closer relationship with the Lord amid the distractions of a worn-out mother and her unruly children.

CAST: Narrator, Anna, Rhoda.

PROPS: Two books.

COSTUMES: Biblical robes, headpieces, and sandals.

SETTING: In a kitchen. You will need a table and two chairs.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

NARRATOR: The season of Advent is a time of preparation — a time to examine our hearts and purify our minds for the coming Messiah. In this, the first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace. *(NARRATOR lights candle.)* In Psalm 85:8 David says, “I will hear what the Lord God will speak: for he will speak peace to his people and to his saints.”

Watch as Anna the prophetess brings forth the message of peace to a busy housewife, encouraging her to stop long enough to hear the words of the Lord, teaching the wisdom of Psalm 5:3, which says, “In the morning I will direct [my voice] to you, and I will look up.” *(The NARRATOR exits and the scene begins with RHODA busy around the table. Enter ANNA carrying some books.)*

ANNA: Rhoda?

RHODA: Anna, what a nice surprise! What brings you to my humble home?

ANNA: I noticed that Charlie left his Hebrew books on the temple steps today, so I thought I’d bring them to you.

- 1 *(Hands RHODA the books.)*
- 2 **RHODA:** That boy! He told me the goat ate them. Honestly,
3 **getting him to study his Hebrew is like pulling teeth.**
4 *(Motions to the chair.)* Please, won't you sit down?
- 5 **ANNA:** *(Sits.)* Thank you. I'm afraid I don't move around as
6 easily as I used to.
- 7 **RHODA:** *(Her attention is suddenly drawn out toward the audience*
8 *as she addresses her unseen children.)* Charlie, quit chasing
9 **your sister with that pitchfork!** *(Pause)* I don't care if she
10 **started it!** *(Turns toward ANNA.)* Anna, do you mind if I ask
11 you a question?
- 12 **ANNA:** Not at all.
- 13 **RHODA:** For as long as I can remember, you've always been at
14 the temple, and ...
- 15 **ANNA:** And you're wondering why I spend my days there?
- 16 **RHODA:** Yes.
- 17 **ANNA:** Well, like you, I married quite young. My husband and
18 I weren't blessed with any children. So when he died
19 seven years later, I decided that I would not marry again.
20 Instead, I dedicated the rest of my life to the Lord.
- 21 **RHODA:** But what do you do?
- 22 **ANNA:** I serve when I'm needed. I fast and I pray for our
23 people, and I take time to read and meditate on God's
24 Word.
- 25 **RHODA:** Time? What's that?
- 26 **ANNA:** *(Laughs.)* Anyone can take time out to spend with the
27 Lord.
- 28 **RHODA:** *(To "children")* Billy, do *not* dunk your little brother into
29 the well. *(Pause)* I don't care if he likes it or not! Reel him
30 back up this minute!
- 31 **ANNA:** Even a mother of eight rambunctious kids.
- 32 **RHODA:** It's not the kids so much as the cooking, the cleaning,
33 the family time, the school functions... I mean, every
34 moment is consumed with demands on my time.
- 35 **ANNA:** Then you need to stop time.

1 **RHODA:** *(To “children”)* Ruth Ann, get that branding iron away
 2 from Tommy and tell him to stop chasing the chickens
 3 with it. *(To ANNA)* There goes another day with no eggs.
 4 *(Pause)* I’m sorry, you were saying?

5 **ANNA:** You need to stop.

6 **RHODA:** *(Points outside.)* I know, that’s what I told him.

7 **ANNA:** No. *You* need to stop. Take a break from your day to be
 8 alone with the Lord. Let his Word talk to you on a
 9 personal basis.

10 **RHODA:** How can it do that?

11 **ANNA:** You’d be surprised what the Lord will reveal to you
 12 once you’re open to receiving his Word. Besides, it’s a time
 13 of peace and quietness with God that’s the real reward.

14 **RHODA:** *(Looks Stage Right.)* Charlie, I see you trying to sneak
 15 into those cookies. Get back to your chores! *(To ANNA)* It
 16 sounds great for someone like yourself who’s older and
 17 alone in the world, but it really doesn’t apply to me.

18 **ANNA:** The Lord wants so much to show himself if you give
 19 him your time. Why, just the other day he relayed to me
 20 that the Messiah is coming!

21 **RHODA:** *(Looks around.)* The Messiah? Where?

22 **ANNA:** Right here in Bethlehem.

23 **RHODA:** *(Disappointed)* Oh. Right.

24 **ANNA:** In fact, I need to get back to the temple. I don’t want
 25 to miss him when he comes by. *(Gets up from the chair.)*

26 **RHODA:** Thank you again for bringing Charlie’s books.

27 **ANNA:** My pleasure. And I sure hope you’ll consider what I
 28 told you about spending more time with the Lord.

29 **RHODA:** *(To “children”)* Susie, come set the table for supper.
 30 Charlie, make sure Billy and Eddie clean up after their
 31 chores. Ruth Ann, I need help with the water.

32 **ANNA:** Good-bye, Rhoda. See you next time at the temple.

33 **RHODA:** Good-bye, Anna. *(Watches her exit, then turns to audience.)*
 34 Poor Anna. She’s losing touch with the real world. Take
 35 time and read God’s Word? Yeah, like that’ll ever happen.

Pack the Glasses

(Second Sunday of Advent)

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THEME: Hope. Looking for the Messiah.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Matthew 2, Titus 2:13, 1 Peter 1:13.

SYNOPSIS: The star has appeared in the sky. Two wise men understand its significance while one just “doesn’t get it.”

CAST: Narrator, Li Chang, Abdullah, Bubba.

PROPS: A scroll and a telescope. (A paper towel roll covered in aluminum foil works well.)

COSTUMES: Robes optional.

SETTING: Outside among the stars.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

NARRATOR: On the second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. (*NARRATOR lights candle.*) In Titus 2:13, Paul explains that the grace of God teaches us many things, including “*looking* for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and savior Jesus Christ.” Looking ... watching ... understanding ...

This is what the wise men did. They saw the star and understood its meaning. First Peter 1:13 states, “Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Watch what happens when the eyes become blind to the hope of the promise. (*NARRATOR exits. Enter LI CHANG waving ABDULLAH and BUBBA onto the stage. When ABDULLAH stops abruptly, BUBBA runs into him.*)

LI CHANG: Right up there. Look! (*Points up toward the ceiling.*)

ABDULLAH: You’re right. There is a new star!

BUBBA: (*Looking around*) Where, where?

LI CHANG: Up there.

BUBBA: I don’t see it.

ABDULLAH: (*Optional: ABDULLAH hits BUBBA with his scroll.*)

1 Have I taught you nothing? Look west from the North
2 Star. What do you see?
3 BUBBA: Uh ... a bunch of little lights?
4 ABDULLAH: But amid those "little lights" is one that's really
5 bright and really new. What is it?
6 BUBBA: Uh ...
7 LI CHANG: It's so obvious!
8 BUBBA: The moon!
9 ABDULLAH: (*Slaps his hand on his forehead.*) Ach ... no! (*Points*
10 *upward again.*) Look at the North Star. You got it?
11 BUBBA: Yeah.
12 ABDULLAH: Now ... look down three stars.
13 BUBBA: OK.
14 ABDULLAH: Now it's the second star on the right.
15 BUBBA: And straight on till morning!
16 ABDULLAH: (*Clearly frustrated*) No!
17 LI CHANG: (*Hands BUBBA a telescope.*) Here. Maybe you can see
18 it with this.
19 BUBBA: (*Looks through the telescope.*) Hey, this is cool! You can
20 see right into Mrs. O'Leary's living room.
21 ABDULLAH: Up there! Look at the star in the sky!
22 BUBBA: Oh.
23 LI CHANG: Now Bubba, what does a new star signify?
24 BUBBA: (*Lowers telescope.*) Uh ... a crowded universe?
25 LI CHANG: It means a king or someone of great significance
26 has been born. (*BUBBA shrugs and resumes looking through*
27 *the telescope.*)
28 ABDULLAH: I wonder where it could be?
29 LI CHANG: Judging from the star's location ... Israel maybe?
30 ABDULLAH: That looks about right.
31 LI CHANG: A king destined for greatness ... (*Thinks a moment.*)
32 We should pay our respects!
33 ABDULLAH: Are you suggesting a journey?
34 LI CHANG: Why not? We *are* wise men. It is our duty to
35 officially honor the King.

1 **ABDULLAH:** I can see it now. As we enter his court, they'll
 2 announce us as the "Magi from the East. Abdullah, Li
 3 Chang, and ... (*Hesitates*) Bubba?"

4 **BUBBA:** (*Still looking through telescope*) Wow. Did you know this
 5 thing makes the moon look like it has zits all over its face?
 6 (*Pause for effect as ABDULLAH and LI CHANG take a long*
 7 *look at BUBBA and then at each other.*)

8 **LI CHANG:** Your cousin Akeem — is he available?

9 **ABDULLAH:** Quick, let's go ask. (*LI CHANG and ABDULLAH*
 10 *make a hasty exit. BUBBA is unaware they left.*)

11 **BUBBA:** Yeah ... yeah, you're right. I can see a lot with this.

12
 13

14 Unplug the Ears

15 (*Third Sunday of Advent*)

16

17 **THEME:** Unbelief. Doubting. Listening.

18 **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:** Luke 2:10–14, Matthew 13:14–15,
 19 Psalm 87:15.

20 **SYNOPSIS:** Communication wreaks havoc in this sketch as one lone
 21 shepherd refuses to acknowledge the message of the Christ child.

22 **CAST:** Narrator, Angel, Jerry.

23 **PROPS:** None.

24 **COSTUMES:** A shepherd costume for Jerry and an angel costume (a
 25 choir robe works well).

26 **SETTING:** On a hillside outside Bethlehem. (Optional: place a chair
 27 On-stage.)

28

29 Lighting the Advent Wreath

30 **NARRATOR:** On this, the third Sunday of Advent, we light the
 31 candle of joy. (*NARRATOR lights candle.*) The angels had
 32 the awesome task of carrying the joyful news of Christ's
 33 coming. In Psalm 89:15 we read: "Blessed are the people
 34 who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the
 35 light of your countenance." And yet, there are those who

1 miss the message of joy, fulfilling the words of Isaiah:
2 “Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and
3 seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this
4 people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing,
5 and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with
6 their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should
7 understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should
8 heal them” (Matthew 13:14–15). Are you *listening* to the
9 message of joy? (*The NARRATOR exits and the scene begins*
10 *with JERRY either sitting in a chair or lying down. His eyes are*
11 *closed, as though he is sleeping. Enter the ANGEL.*)

12 **ANGEL:** Jerry. (*Pause*) Jerry!

13 **JERRY:** (*Opens his eyes and looks around.*) Huh? Who’s there?

14 **ANGEL:** It’s time to wake up. The Lamb of God is born.

15 **JERRY:** Lambing season was last spring. Go back to bed.

16 **ANGEL:** Jerry, I’m serious. The Light of the World is here.

17 **JERRY:** Tell me about it. That star is so bright tonight it’s hard
18 to catch a little shuteye.

19 **ANGEL:** No longer will there be darkness. The light will shine
20 for all to see.

21 **JERRY:** Well ... That’ll make it easier to spot the wolves, but
22 we’ll all have to start putting drapes in our windows.

23 **ANGEL:** The evil one knows his days are numbered.

24 **JERRY:** A good slingshot or arrow will do wonders.

25 **ANGEL:** No ... Jerry, I’m talking about the Devil.

26 **JERRY:** (*Stands.*) Hey, no ghost stories tonight. At least not
27 without the S’mores.

28 **ANGEL:** (*A little befuddled*) No, you don’t understand. The King
29 has been born.

30 **JERRY:** So? I didn’t like the old one anyway. (*Pause*) Hey!
31 What’s that singing I hear over the ridge?

32 **ANGEL:** It’s a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and
33 saying ... (Luke 2:13)

34 **JERRY:** (*Interrupts.*) Will you tell them to keep it down? We do
35 have a noise curfew here. If they were really good hosts,

1 Audience participation may be used to read the lines. We
 2 grabbed the youth group and even encouraged a little pushing
 3 and shoving in the pews. It was great fun.

4 Narrator, Innkeeper, Wife, Joseph, Travelers 1–3, Audience
 5 members 1–6.

6 **PROPS:** Two brooms.

7 **COSTUMES:** Biblical robes, headpieces, and sandals.

8 **SETTING:** At the inn.

9

10 Lighting the Advent Wreath

11 **NARRATOR:** On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we prepare our
 12 hearts as we light the candle of love. Hosea 10:12 states,
 13 “Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break
 14 up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till
 15 he comes and rains righteousness on you.”

16 Breaking ground: Preparing the soil to receive the full
 17 benefit of God’s perfect expression of love ... his Son, Jesus
 18 Christ.

19 As we watch this next sketch, let us take to heart the
 20 words of Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world,
 21 but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (*The*
 22 *NARRATOR exits. The scene begins with the WIFE and the*
 23 *INNKEEPER sweeping the area. Enter TRAVELER 1.*)

24 **TRAVELER 1:** Excuse me, sir. Do you have any rooms?

25 **INNKEEPER:** Of course I do. The price is one hundred and
 26 fifty dollars.

27 **TRAVELER 1:** I’ll take it. (*Enter TRAVELER 2.*)

28 **TRAVELER 2:** Sir? I need a room as well.

29 **INNKEEPER:** I have a room, but it’ll cost you one hundred and
 30 fifty dollars.

31 **TRAVELER 2:** Great! I’ll take it. (*TRAVELERS 1 and 2 give him*
 32 *money and exit.*)

33 **INNKEEPER:** (*To WIFE*) That’s odd. Usually people scream at
 34 my prices and tell me how unfair I am to charge so much.

35 **WIFE:** Haven’t you heard? Ever since the new decree of



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