

**HOW TO HAVE A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
(IN TWENTY MINUTES OR LESS)**

*by Sally Beske*



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**How to Have a  
Merry Christmas  
(in Twenty Minutes or Less)**

A festive ringing, singing and dancing musical

by Sally Beske

## 2 CAST OF CHARACTERS

With Costume Suggestions

(Listed from largest part to the smallest)

**Elizabeth:** Speaking lines, vocal solo, and sings three songs with the complete cast. This is a precocious child of about seven-to-nine-years-old. She is very sweet, vulnerable, and instantly lovable — plus, she has an outstanding speaking and singing voice and a great deal of confidence. Could also be played by a boy of the same qualities. Suggested costume: Christmas clothes.

**The Youth:** (Or the oldest group of young people in your production.) Speaking lines. They sing one song that contains five short solos (solo parts may be combined if desired). They sing or play handbells for one song, and sing three songs with the complete cast. This is a group of five to eleven or more teenagers. They are On-stage the entire performance. Suggested costumes: children's choir robes, choir uniform shirts and pants, or let the kids decide! In the youth group are the following characters:

**Matt:** A philosopher, the oldest and deepest thinker in the group. This enlightened individual could also be played by a young adult or youth leader. This character has a deep understanding of the world and a Christ-like consciousness that makes him stand out among his peers. He is calm, gentle, thoroughly accepting of others, compassionate, and kind. May be played by a girl of the same qualities.

**Gus:** In Gus's high-energy world, everything is great with a capital G! He is the ultimate "can-do" sort of guy. He is so anxious to be helpful that he acts first and thinks second. He gets himself and his friends into situations that could mean trouble, if they were led by anyone other than this loveable "Mr. Personality." This character is lighthearted, fun, loud, happy, and everybody's best buddy. This character's many lines fall into an easy, predictable pattern.

**Adam:** Kind, gentle, quiet, calm, and nurturing. This character has a real connection to the emotional needs of others and a great desire to help fulfill those needs in a soft, soothing sort of way. May also be played by a girl of the same qualities.

**Emma:** Proper, elegant, and tries to appear mature, but is still a secret lover of childlike fun. This character is beautifully groomed and presents herself with a polished air. She has access to information about Jesus that the others have not heard through a connection that is known to members of your audience. She could be a good student in Sunday school, or she could be the daughter of clergy, etc. You can adapt this particular line in the script to fit the person in this role.

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**Rose and Ellie:** Two friends connected at the hip. Rose always speaks first, and Ellie concurs. May also be played by boys.

Smaller speaking parts played by either boys or girls:

**Anjali:** Introduces the performance.

**Mary Jane**

**Josh**

**Michael**

**Snowflakes:** Suggested age is kindergarten through second grade (the youngest children in your production). They sing one song by themselves and three others with the complete cast. Suggested costumes: white tops, black pants, glitter face paint. They could carry snowflake wands (plastic snowflakes glued to dowel rods that are painted white), tape handmade snowflakes to their outfits, or wear snowflake necklaces ... anything that suggests snow.

**Christmas Trees:** Suggested age is second through fifth grade. They perform one piece by themselves and sing three songs with the complete cast. This could be a handchime choir or simply singers. If you have a smaller number of children, they may also be the Angels. They can be a small group of only four to eight children playing a simple descending major scale on handchimes, or a huge group of one hundred or more, singing "O Christmas Tree." Christmas tree costumes can be white T-shirts with a large green felt tree glued to the front with glitter ornaments, or multiple strips of green fabric about two to three inches wide, several feet long, layered and stitched on top of green oversized T-shirts. Pointed tree hats made of card stock may be covered with the fabric strips. Garland necklaces, lightweight ornaments, and beads may be added by the children. Glitter face paint will add to the fun.

**Angels:** Suggested age is third through sixth grade. They sing one song by themselves with one brief vocal solo, and they sing three songs with the complete cast. Suggested costume: angel wings and halos over the top of choir robes (or over white tops) and black pants or skirts. Angel wings and halos are available inexpensively from Oriental Trading Company: [www.OrientalTrading.com](http://www.OrientalTrading.com). Point out to the gentlemen in this group that the most famous angels in the Bible were boys!

## *PRODUCTION NOTES*

**Synopsis:** A Christmas musical with optional handchime choir for child performers of all ages, kindergarten through high school.

After looking outside themselves for happiness and joy in the material world, the children in this musical show themselves and their audience that only when we look within and emulate the loving thoughts and choices of Jesus can we truly bring love and happiness to our world.

This musical is highly flexible. It may be easily adapted from twenty-five to 250 or more performers. The playing time is about twenty minutes ... or less.

**Music:** Contains five original unison songs with piano accompaniment, plus two songs of your choosing (suggested selections: “Joy to the World” and “O Christmas Tree”) and the congregational hymn “Joy to the World.”

**CASTING NOTES:** Replace all the character names in the script with the actual names of the children playing that part.

This musical is easy for children to memorize. The characters speak in a similar order each time and repeat many of the same lines. All speaking parts are played by members of your youth group (your oldest group of children in the production) and one younger child.

**Suggested Text for Publicity:** Are you planning to have a merry Christmas this year? Well, then you do not want to miss our children performing *How to Have a Merry Christmas (In Twenty Minutes or Less)*. On (date), (time), (place), our children will ring, sing, and dance their way through this story of inner discovery. In twenty minutes (or less), you will learn a secret that will help ensure not only a joyful Christmas, but also a more joyful life. Join us!

*SONG LIST*

1. The Snow Dance
2. The Snow Song
3. Shepherds and Kings
4. God Sends the Angels
5. Love Like Jesus
6. Choose Love!

1           *(The stage is decorated for Christmas. Risers that will*  
 2           *accommodate all the children in your production are*  
 3           *Up-stage. Tucked away in the wings are snow shovels (one*  
 4           *for each YOUTH), several shepherds' crooks, and a box*  
 5           *containing crowns. On-stage in front of the risers is a table*  
 6           *with handchimes, set for a performance. This is optional; the*  
 7           *YOUTH may sing instead. A bar stool is behind the tables*  
 8           *for ELIZABETH. When she sits there to say her lines, it*  
 9           *raises her high enough so that she is not constantly looking*  
 10           *up at her older cast mates and makes her more visible to your*  
 11           *audience. Your pianist is in place at the piano. ELIZABETH*  
 12           *is sitting in the audience near the front. The YOUTH take*  
 13           *their performance places at Center Stage or at the table*  
 14           *holding their handchimes.)*

15   **ANJALI:** Good morning! My name is Anjali, and these are  
 16   **my friends: Matt, Mary Jane, Gus, Michael, Adam,**  
 17   **Josh, Rose, and Emma.** *(Use the actual names of the kids*  
 18   *in your youth group. Each person waves to the audience as*  
 19   *his or her name is mentioned.)* **We welcome you to our**  
 20   **Christmas musical, How to Have a Merry Christmas (In**  
 21   **Twenty Minutes or Less).** *(To the YOUTH)* **Is everybody**  
 22   **ready? Let's begin!**

24   **SONG: "Joy to the World"** *(The YOUTH perform this or*  
 25   *another Christmas song of your choosing. If playing*  
 26   *handchimes instead of singing, there is a short and easily*  
 27   *accessible arrangement in the book Begin to Ring 3 published*  
 28   *by Agape, arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson. When the*  
 29   *song is finished, the YOUTH move their handchime table to*  
 30   *one side of the stage, revealing the bar stool. As they are*  
 31   *working, ELIZABETH comes up to the stage from the*  
 32   *audience.)*

34   **ELIZABETH:** That was really nice, you guys. That was a  
 35   **Christmas song, wasn't it?**

- 1 **YOUTH:** (*Ad lib. They are all saying slightly different things at*  
 2 *the same time in a very friendly sort of way.*) **Yes, Elizabeth,**  
 3 **that was a Christmas song. Thanks, Elizabeth. Glad you**  
 4 **liked it.** (*They continue to move the equipment to the sides.*)
- 5 **ELIZABETH:** (*Sits on the bar stool, puts her face in her hands,*  
 6 *and makes a great big sighing noise.*) **Hhhumph.**
- 7 **ROSE:** (*As the YOUTH continue to work*) **What's the matter**  
 8 **there, Elizabeth?**
- 9 **ELLIE:** **Is something wrong?**
- 10 **EMMA:** (*To the other YOUTH as they gather around*  
 11 *ELIZABETH*) **I think something's wrong with Elizabeth.**
- 12 **YOUTH:** (*Ad lib concern.*) **What's the deal there, kiddo?**  
 13 **What's going on?** (*Etc.*)
- 14 **ELIZABETH:** **I'm feeling ... all mixed up.**
- 15 **YOUTH:** (*Ad lib sympathy.*) **Oh. Sometimes we feel that way,**  
 16 **too. I'm sorry.** (*Etc.*)
- 17 **ADAM:** **We can help you.**
- 18 **YOUTH:** (*Ad lib support, nodding their heads helpfully.*) **Yeah,**  
 19 **sure, you bet.** (*Etc.*)
- 20 **MICHAEL:** **Tell us about it. What's the problem?**
- 21 **ELIZABETH:** **Well ... it's getting close to Christmas, and**  
 22 **everybody's saying, "Merry Christmas, Elizabeth."**  
 23 **"Merry Christmas, merry Christmas." So I am supposed**  
 24 **to be having a merry Christmas ...**
- 25 **YOUTH:** **Uh-huh ...**
- 26 **ELIZABETH:** **Well, that's a lot of pressure!** (*Waits a second for*  
 27 *the audience reaction before continuing.*) **How do you have**  
 28 **a merry Christmas? It seems to me that I'm going to**  
 29 **need an awful lot of stuff.**
- 30 **YOUTH:** (*Look at each other with puzzlement.*) **Stuff?**
- 31 **ELIZABETH:** **Yeah! Stuff.**
- 32 **MATT:** (*Suspicious*) **What sort of stuff?**
- 33 **ELIZABETH:** **Christmas stuff! DVDs of Santa and the elves,**  
 34 **light-up trees, sweaters with reindeer — you know,**  
 35 **Christmas stuff!**

- 1 **YOUTH:** (*Ad lib.*) Oh yeah, I see what you mean. (*Etc.*)
- 2 **MATT:** But you don't need to buy all those things to have a  
3 merry Christmas.
- 4 **GUS:** Are you sure about that, Matt?
- 5 **MATT:** Of course I'm sure.
- 6 **GUS:** Are you really, really sure?
- 7 **MATT:** Of course I'm real —
- 8 **ELIZABETH:** (*Impatient with their bickering*) OK! OK! Forget  
9 about the stuff you buy for now. What about all the  
10 Christmas stuff you can't buy? What about snow!  
11 Everywhere you go people say, "Do you think we'll  
12 have a white Christmas?" "I sure hope we have a white  
13 Christmas!" So if you want to have a merry Christmas,  
14 I figure snow is pretty important.
- 15 **MATT:** Actually, Elizabeth, I don't think you really need  
16 snow to have a merry Chris — (*When GUS interrupts,*  
17 *MATT just steps back, smiles, and shakes his head.*)
- 18 **GUS:** (*Interrupts.*) Sure you do! Sure you do! (*This is GUS's*  
19 *signature line, and he says it with a lot of enthusiasm each*  
20 *time. He should pause for a second before going on.*) And  
21 you know what, Elizabeth? We can make it snow.
- 22 **ELIZABETH:** (*She jumps off her stool.*) Really?!
- 23 **YOUTH:** (*Ad lib.*) Uh-oh, oh no, yikes. (*Etc.*)
- 24 **ROSE:** (*To the audience, trying to cover up the revelation of this*  
25 *big secret*) This boy is obviously crazy. We can't make it  
26 snow. (*She shakes her head frantically, continuing the*  
27 *cover-up.*) Uh, we don't have an, um, "snow dance" or  
28 anything else that we can do to make it snow.
- 29 **GUS:** Yes we do.
- 30 **MARY JANE:** Gus! That's a secret! You're not supposed to  
31 share that with anybody.
- 32 **MICHAEL:** Oh, don't be silly, Mary Jane. All our parents  
33 know about the snow dance. I've even seen our  
34 teachers do the snow dance. *Everybody* knows about the  
35 snow dance.

1     **ADAM:** OK! OK! Why don't we just do the snow dance for  
 2           Elizabeth? We'll make it snow, and then she'll have a  
 3           merry Christmas.

4     **ELIZABETH:** (*Jumping up and down with excitement*) Hooray!

5     **EMMA:** Well, I'm sorry, but there is no way I am going to  
 6           do a snow dance in front of all these people.

7     **GUS:** Sure you are! Help us out, \_\_\_\_\_! (*Insert the name*  
 8           *of your pianist.*)

9

10    **SONG:** "The Snow Dance" (*Pianist starts playing. As the dance*  
 11       *music begins, GUS takes EMMA by the hand and starts*  
 12       *spinning her around in a "snow dance." The YOUTH*  
 13       *participate in their own sort of "snow dance," which may look*  
 14       *like anything they wish. MATT sits on the side and shakes*  
 15       *his head with amusement as he watches his friends.*)

16

17    **ADAM:** Look, Elizabeth! It's working! I'm starting to see  
 18       some little snowflakes! (*The SNOWFLAKES — the*  
 19       *youngest children in your production — enter, dancing to the*  
 20       *music in a free-form style. They are dressed in white like*  
 21       *snowflakes and may carry snowflake wands. ELIZABETH*  
 22       *expresses great amazement and picks up her stool and moves*  
 23       *off to the side of the stage as the SNOWFLAKES take their*  
 24       *place at Center Stage. The YOUTH takes their dance off to*  
 25       *the side and gets the snow shovels, which are tucked away in*  
 26       *the wings. They keep the snow shovels hidden until after the*  
 27       *song.*)

28

29    **SONG:** "The Snow Song"

30    **SNOWFLAKES:** (*Singing*) It's snowing, love falling down  
 31       from the sky.

32       It's snowing, falling on my head, on my hand, and in  
 33       my eye.

34       The best present that God could give to me,

35       The best present that there could ever be,

1           **The best present that I know,**  
 2           **Let it snow.**  
 3           **Oh, let it snow.**  
 4

5           **It's snowing, love falling down from the sky.**  
 6           **It's snowing, falling on my head, on my hand, and in**  
 7           **my eye.**

8           **The best present that God could give to me,**  
 9           **The best present that there could ever be,**  
 10          **The best present that I know,**  
 11          **Let it snow.**  
 12          **Oh, let it snow.**  
 13

14          **Snow so soft, deep and cool.**

15          **Snow so much they cancel school!** *(When the song ends,*  
 16          *the YOUTH take their shovels behind the SNOWFLAKES*  
 17          *and "shovel the snow" off the stage. The SNOWFLAKES sit*  
 18          *on the floor in front of the stage so they can watch the rest*  
 19          *of the production. ELIZABETH enters behind the YOUTH*  
 20          *who are shoveling snow. The YOUTH put their shovels aside*  
 21          *as the action continues.)*  
 22

23          **ADAM: There you go, Elizabeth. Now you will have a merry**  
 24          **Christmas.**

25          **ELIZABETH: Oh, no! I'm sure you need a lot more than just**  
 26          **snow. If you want to have a merry Christmas, you've**  
 27          **got to have a *Christmas tree*. Everyone knows that!**

28          **MATT: But that's not true, Elizabeth. You don't have to**  
 29          **have a Christmas tree to have a merry Chris —** *(When*  
 30          *GUS interrupts, MATT just steps back like before and shakes*  
 31          *his head.)*

32          **GUS: *(Interrupts.)* Sure you do! Sure you do!** *(Slight pause)*  
 33          **And you know what, Elizabeth? We can get you a**  
 34          ***bunch* of Christmas trees.**

35          **ELIZABETH: *(She jumps up and down and claps her hands.)***

- 1           **You can?!**
- 2   **YOUTH:** *(Except GUS, together)* **We can?!**
- 3   **ROSE:** Oh Gus, what are you thinking?
- 4   **ELLIE:** How are we going to do that?
- 5   **GUS:** There's a whole bunch of Christmas trees just leaning  
6           against the wall back there. *(Points Off-stage.)*
- 7   **MARY JANE:** Gus! Those aren't Christmas trees! Those are  
8           kids in Christmas tree costumes!
- 9   **JOSH:** So they're Christmas trees, but they've got legs? Nice  
10           goin' there, Gus. We won't have to carry them in.
- 11   **MICHAEL:** Those are the younger kids. They could probably  
12           sing *(Or play)* us a song. *(Adapt this line as needed by*  
13           *identifying the group that is playing the role of the*  
14           *CHRISTMAS TREES: Mrs. Neal's Sunday school class, our*  
15           *third-graders, etc.)*
- 16   **ADAM:** Let's ask the Christmas trees to come in and do a  
17           song for Elizabeth. Then she will have a merry  
18           Christmas.
- 19   **YOUTH:** *(Ad lib.)* Yes! Good idea! Why not? *(Etc.)*
- 20   **ELIZABETH:** *(Jumping up and down with excitement)* **Hooray!**  
21           *(She sits on the edge of the stage to watch the CHRISTMAS*  
22           *TREES perform. GUS motions Off-stage, and in walks a*  
23           *group of children dressed as CHRISTMAS TREES.)*
- 24
- 25   **SONG:** "O Christmas Tree" *(CHRISTMAS TREES sing or play*  
26           *on handchimes "O Christmas Tree" or another piece of your*  
27           *choosing. If this group will also serve as the ANGELS, there*  
28           *is time for them to change into angel costumes after their song.*  
29           *Otherwise, at the conclusion of their song, they join the*  
30           *SNOWFLAKES on the floor in front of the stage to watch the*  
31           *production.)*
- 32
- 33   **ADAM:** There you go, Elizabeth. Now you will have a merry  
34           Christmas.
- 35   **ELIZABETH:** Oh, no! I'm sure you need a lot more than just

1 trees and snow. If you want to have a merry Christmas,  
 2 you've got to have some of the things from the manger.  
 3 Everyone knows that. You've got to have, like, shepherds  
 4 and ... kings and things!

5 **MATT:** Oh no, Elizabeth! You don't have to have shepherds and  
 6 kings from the manger to have a merry Chris —(*When GUS*  
 7 *interrupts, MATT just steps back as before.*)

8 **GUS:** (*Interrupts.*) Sure you do! Sure you do! (*Slight pause here as*  
 9 *before.*) And you know what, Elizabeth? We've got  
 10 shepherds and kings right here. (*He rushes Off-stage to return*  
 11 *with the shepherds' crooks and crowns and quickly starts handing*  
 12 *them out to the YOUTH, being sure to give MICHAEL a*  
 13 *shepherd's crook. Dialogue continues when GUS leaves the stage.*)

14 **ELIZABETH:** Really?!

15 **YOUTH:** We do?

16 **ROSE:** Oh, no. I can't watch! What is he doing?

17 **ELLIE:** He's getting costumes out of a box.

18 **MARY JANE:** OK, Gus — let me guess. We are the shepherds  
 19 and kings?

20 **GUS:** (*Entering*) You got it.

21 **EMMA:** (*GUS gives EMMA a crown.*) Well, I am sorry, but there  
 22 is no way I am going to dress up like a king in front of all  
 23 these people.

24 **MICHAEL:** (*Exchanges her crown for his shepherd's crook.*) You are  
 25 a shepherd.

26 **EMMA:** I am? Cool!

27 **ADAM:** OK, you guys. Let's give Elizabeth shepherds and kings  
 28 so that she can have a merry Christmas!

29 **YOUTH:** Here we go! All right! (*Etc.*)

30 **ELIZABETH:** Hooray! (*She moves to the side as before to watch their*  
 31 *performance. MATT sits back and observes their performance,*  
 32 *amused that they do not yet understand what he does.*)

33

34 **SONG:** "Shepherds and Kings"

35 **YOUTH:** (*Singing*) Shepherds! Shepherds! Shepherds (*Spoken*)

1           and kings!  
 2           Oh, you can't have Christmas without these things.  
 3           Shepherds! Shepherds! Shepherds (*Spoken*) and kings!  
 4           Oh, you can't have Christmas without these things.  
 5   **SHEPHERD SOLO:** (*Singing*) Away in a manger on that silent  
 6           night,  
 7           There must be shepherds or it's just not right.  
 8   **KING SOLO:** (*Spoken*) You must have kings to follow that star.  
 9           If you don't have kings, how are you going to know where  
 10          you are?  
 11   **ALL:** (*Singing*) Shepherds! Shepherds! Shepherds (*Spoken*) and  
 12          kings!  
 13          Oh, you can't have Christmas without these things.  
 14          Shepherds! Shepherds! Shepherds (*Spoken*) and kings!  
 15          Oh, you can't have Christmas without these things.  
 16   **SOLOIST:** (*Singing*) It's highly important and essential, don't you  
 17          see?  
 18          Shepherds and kings will make your Christmas merry.  
 19   **SHEPHERD SOLO:** (*Singing*) Gentle, loving shepherds, guarding  
 20          their sheep,  
 21   **KING SOLO:** (*Singing*) And kings who are exciting and won't  
 22          put you to sleep!  
 23   **ALL:** (*Singing*) Shepherds! Shepherds! Shepherds (*Spoken*) and  
 24          kings!  
 25          Oh, you can't have Christmas without these things.  
 26          Shepherds! Shepherds! Shepherds (*Spoken*) and kings!  
 27          Oh, you can't have Christmas without these things.  
 28   **ALL SHEPHERDS:** (*Singing*) Shepherds! Shepherds! Shepherds,  
 29          shepherds, shepherds,  
 30   **ALL KINGS:** (*Spoken*) And kings! (*The YOUTH put their crowns*  
 31          *and shepherds' crooks aside as the action continues.*)  
 32  
 33   **ADAM:** There you go, Elizabeth. Now you will have a merry  
 34          Christmas.  
 35   **ELIZABETH:** Oh, no! I'm sure you need more stuff from the

1 manger than just shepherds and kings. You've got to  
2 have angels, too!

3 **MATT:** Now Elizabeth, you don't need to have all those  
4 things to have a merry Chris —

5 **GUS:** *(Interrupts.)* Sure you do! Sure you do! *(MATT calmly*  
6 *reacts to GUS as before.)* And you know what, Elizabeth?  
7 There's a whole choir of angels right here.

8 **ELIZABETH:** There is?!

9 **YOUTH:** *(Together)* There is?

10 **ROSE:** What now, Gus?

11 **ELLIE:** Yeah. Who are you talking about?

12 **GUS:** The Junior Choir! *(Adapt this line as necessary for your*  
13 *group to name whoever is making up your ANGELS: Miss*  
14 *Clayton's Sunday school class, our fourth-graders, etc.)* They  
15 certainly sound like a choir of angels to me!

16 **ADAM:** Let's ask our choir of angels to come in and sing for  
17 Elizabeth. Then she will have a merry Christmas.

18 **YOUTH:** *(Ad lib.)* OK! Yeah! Sure! *(Etc.)*

19 **ELIZABETH:** Hooray! *(ELIZABETH sits on the edge of the stage*  
20 *as before to watch the angels. The ANGELS enter and the*  
21 *YOUTH step to the side to watch them perform.)*

22

23 **SONG:** "God Sends the Angels"

24 **ANGELS:** God sends the angels with tidings of great joy.

25 Follow the star to the manger, see the baby boy.

26 God sends the angels with tidings of great joy.

27 Follow the star to the manger, see the baby boy.

28 God sends the angels to tell you what is true.

29 Christ is born back in Bethlehem and born today in you.

30 Christ is born in Bethlehem

31 **ANGEL SOLOIST:** And born today in you. *(The ANGELS stay*  
32 *On-stage but sit down after their song.)*

33

34 **ADAM:** There you go, Elizabeth. Now you will have a merry  
35 Christmas.

1     **ELIZABETH:** Oh, no! You need a lot more stuff than snow,  
2           trees, shepherds, kings, and angels to have a merry  
3           Christmas. You need candles and presents and cookies  
4           and decorations and pretty new Christmas clothes  
5           and —

6     **MATT:** Stop! Stop! Enough! Where will it end? When will you  
7           have enough stuff to have a merry Christmas?

8     **ELIZABETH:** I don't know! It just seems like there's so much  
9           stuff to have ...

10    **MATT:** I know there is, Elizabeth. I know. (*Points to the*  
11        *CHILDREN sitting below and on the stage behind him.*) Why,  
12        just look at all this beautiful snow and these lovely trees  
13        and this choir of angels. These are wonderful things. But  
14        even wonderful things don't have the power to make you  
15        happy. Only *you* can do that. Only you can be open to  
16        bringing joy into your life.

17    **GUS:** Matt, what are you talking about?

18    **MATT:** OK Gus, let me explain it like this: You can look at  
19        snow and think something negative, like "Yuck! Cold  
20        and wet!" Or ... you can choose to look at snow in a  
21        positive way and see sparkling crystals of light and  
22        beauty. Loving thoughts are so powerful, they draw us  
23        closer to God. They can fill you with happiness and joy  
24        and even make you ... merry.

25    **GUS:** (*He begins to understand.*) Hmmmm.

26    **ELIZABETH:** So if I want to have a merry Christmas, it  
27        doesn't really matter what stuff I have. (*Pause*) What  
28        matters is ... how I think?

29    **MATT:** Yes! Exactly! Loving, positive thoughts are a big part  
30        of what makes us happy.

31    **EMMA:** Yeah. It's really good to be thinking loving thoughts  
32        at Christmas time, because that's what the life of Jesus  
33        was all about. He made loving choices that no one else  
34        had even thought of before. There is no better time than  
35        the birth of Jesus to celebrate the arrival of great love



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