

October 2006



**Stage Setup:**

T R

Audience

# Ready for Christmas

**Synopsis:** Two friends chat in the church lobby about whether they're "ready" for Christmas. Addresses the task-orientation toward holiday activities that is so common.

**Themes:** Christmas, Advent.

**Time requirements:** 4 minutes

**Characters:** Trudy – Determined, chatty, task-oriented.  
 Ruth – A little more reflective.

**Props:** None (Coffee in paper cups optional)

direction

script



**Author's Note:**

Scene opens on Ruth and Trudy chatting in the church lobby during the Advent season. Both are standing.

**Trudy:** So, how's it going?

**Ruth:** Oh, pretty good. Still sort of recovering from all the company we had at Thanksgiving.

**Trudy:** Yeah, I went by your house and the driveway was packed.

**Ruth:** Yeah, so was the house. But it was good. I mean it was worth it to have everybody together.

**Trudy:** Yeah. And now Christmas.

**Ruth:** Well, for Christmas we don't have anybody here. We'll be going out to Iowa to Jerry's parents.

**Trudy:** That'll be nice.

**Ruth:** Yeah, I hope the weather holds. I hate traveling on bad roads.

**Trudy:** Me too. We just had to buy new tires on top of all the Christmas expenses.

**Ruth:** Oh I hate that.

**Trudy:** There's so many unexpected costs this time of year.

**Ruth:** And then next month we get to start taxes...

# Ready for Christmas

direction

script

1-minute mark

**Trudy:** Things go by really fast, don't they.

**Ruth:** Seems like it was just a minute ago we were doing New Year's at your house. I just got used to writing 2006 for the year and it's time to change again.

**Trudy:** It does. It seems like just a few weeks...So are you ready for Christmas?

**Ruth:** I don't know.

**Trudy:** There's a lot to remember.

**Ruth:** Well, I try every year to prepare myself. I mean there's Advent and everything. But then when it finally comes and you try to really understand God coming down...how can you really be ready for that? It just sort of washes over you and it's gone for another year.

**Trudy:** Well actually I just meant...

**Ruth:** Oh. You meant...

**Trudy:** Shopping. I meant are you done with your shopping.

**Ruth:** Oh. No. I still have to find a CD for Ben and...let's see...

**Trudy:** Yeah, I've got a few more things too.

**Ruth:** Probably go out this weekend and finish.

**Trudy:** Yeah.

**Ruth:** It's a good feeling to be finished, isn't it?

**Trudy:** Well, that's what I meant by asking. Because I can't really get ready for Christmas until I'm "ready for Christmas."

**Ruth:** When the shopping's all done.

**Trudy:** Shopping, decorating, cards, everything. Once I get all that done, I can sit down and relax and maybe even think about Christmas.

**Ruth:** Yes, I love it when everything's done.

**Trudy:** Yes.

2-minute mark

**Ruth:** But when it takes until Christmas Eve to get everything done...

**Trudy:** Then there's not much time. That's why I'm trying to get everything done this week.

**Ruth:** If only we didn't have so much "stuff" to get done.

direction

script



**Author's Note:** This next section is whimsical and should not be played as real ideas. They're exaggerating for effect.

3-minute mark



**Scripture Link:**  
**Matthew 2:9-11**

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east[e] went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

**Trudy:** But all that stuff is what makes something special. I like doing it. I just want to get it finished.

**Ruth:** Maybe we should start earlier. Give ourselves more time.

**Trudy:** No you have to wait 'til Thanksgiving. I can't start before Thanksgiving.

**Ruth:** I've heard of people who shop all year long and are done by Halloween.

**Trudy:** That would be nice. There's a woman at Tammy's school who is allegedly done by Labor Day.

**Ruth:** Labor Day? Oh please.

**Trudy:** What would you do in December then?

**Ruth:** I don't know. Maybe whatever we're going to do after this weekend when we're done.

**Trudy:** And do that for a whole month?

**Ruth:** Might be worth a try.

**Trudy:** I might get bored.

**Ruth:** Oh, I don't know. You could watch other people in a mad scramble. And feel superior to them. That might be fun.

**Trudy:** For a while.

**Ruth:** You could go ahead and take down your lights so you don't have to do it in January.

**Trudy:** Now there's an idea. Get a jump start on January. Have everything taken down in December so that you don't have that post-Christmas depression.

**Ruth:** You could have Christmas all packed up before Christmas.

**Trudy:** And be ahead of the game.

**Ruth:** Way ahead.

**Trudy:** I like it.

**Ruth:** So when somebody asked if you were ready for Christmas, you could say, "I am so ready. I am past ready. I'm on to Valentine's Day."

**Trudy:** Yeah, that would be great...But it's not gonna happen, is it?

**Ruth:** Probably not.

# Ready for Christmas

direction script



**Blocking:** Ruth starts to move away and finishes her last lines while exiting.

**Trudy:** We're just gonna continue to try to finish Christmas before Christmas, aren't we.

**Ruth:** Probably so. Oh, there's Tom. Hey, I have to go. Good luck with that. Get it all done pronto. So you can relax.

**Trudy:** Yes. Relax. That's the goal. We must relax.

**Ruth:** Let's work hard on relaxing.

**Trudy:** Very hard.

**Ruth:** By the time I see you again, you'll be all "relaxy."

**Trudy:** Here's to relaxiness. The best part of Christmas.

**Ruth:** The absolute best part.

4-minute mark

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Devotional Thought:

You hear it all the time. People comparing notes about how they're coming on holiday tasks. It's not that the tasks are bad. We actually enjoy most of them. Alright, some of them. Alright, a few of them. But when they become an obstacle to a reflective Christmas, they lose their fun. Some people might object and say the activities and tasks are good. After all, can you really ponder the Incarnation 12 hours a day? Somewhere in the middle is the balance. Enough traditions to spark your memory. Not so many that they become a drudgery. Shopping, especially, can take on such a task-orientation that there's no real giving left in it. Let's be careful, before we turn Christmas into one big list.

  
Copyright 2006 by Crosspoint, Inc.  
Crosspoint, Inc.  
385 Trails End  
Aurora, OH 44202  
phone: 1-877-62-POINT  
e-mail: info@crosspointscripts.com  
website: www.crosspointscripts.com

Date Performed: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Actors Used: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_