a script from

PURCHASE
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SCRIPT
TO

The Gift We Nearly Forgot

REMOVE
WATERMARK
AT
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THE GIFT WE NEARLY FORGOT

PURCHASE

Summary

This short, heartfelt Christmas skit follows a small group of children backstage just minutes before their Christmas program begins. Panic erupts when they realize they've forgotten "the most important gift" for their nativity scene. Each child assumes the missing gift is something different, leading to humorous moments and confusion.

SCRIPT

Finally, a quiet child explains that the real gift of Christmas isn't a prop at all—it's Jesus. The children stop worrying, create simple paper hearts, and head onstage with peace and excitement. The skit closes with a Bible verse about God's greatest gift to the world.

TO

Theme

Remembering Jesus as the greatest gift of Christmas.

Characters

REMOVE

(4–8 actors)

- **Ellie** – Organized, dramatic, easily stressed
- **Marcus** – Confident, believes he knows everything
- **Tessa** – Excited, imaginative, always guessing wrong
- **Noah** – Quiet, thoughtful, brings the message home
- **Add-On Kids (optional)** – Extra voices for humor and reactions

WATERMARK

When

Modern day, Christmas Eve—minutes before a church program begins.

AT

Props & Costumes

- Tote bags
- A few nativity props (optional): small box, blanket, toy crown
- Paper, scissors (pretend), pencils
- Simple shirts, Christmas sweaters, or casual clothing

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Why

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” – 2 Corinthians 9:15
This verse reminds us that Jesus is the greatest gift ever given—greater than any decoration, costume, or prop.

How

- Backstage area of a church or community center.
- A few scattered bags, chairs, and prop boxes.
- Children gather in a small space, preparing for their performance.

Time

5 minutes

Scene 1: The Missing Gift

(Lights rise backstage. A frantic-looking cluster of children rushes around, digging through bags, boxes, and piles of costumes. Papers fly. Someone steps on a shepherd's staff. It squeaks.)

Ellie:
(near tears, clutching her script)
Okay, EVERYONE—this is bad. This is REALLY bad! We’re supposed to go onstage in FIVE minutes, and we’ve lost the MOST important gift!

Marcus:
(wave of confidence, even though he’s panicking a little too)
Relax, Ellie. I’m sure it’s here somewhere.
(He lifts up a crumpled cloth with pride.)
Is THIS the gift?

Tessa:
(peers at the cloth)
No, Marcus! That’s the shepherd robe… or the kitchen rag… or maybe someone’s old scarf.
(leans in)
Actually… yeah, I don’t know what that is.

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Ellie:
It doesn't MATTER! Without the gift, our WHOLE nativity shadow play is going to FALL APART! Completely! Collapse! Ruin! Disaster! Christmas meltdown!

Marcus:
(rolls his eyes dramatically)
It will NOT fall apart. You're being dramatic.

Ellie:
(stamps foot)
I AM dramatic! I'm the narrator! It's literally my JOB to be dramatic!

(The kids dive back into rummaging mode. Bags rustle. A box falls over.)

Tessa:
(shouting triumphantly)
I found something!

Ellie:
(whips her head around with desperate hope)
Is it the gift? Please tell me it's the gift!

Tessa:
(holds up a cardboard star, sparkly and bent)
YES! Look—the big star the wise men follow!

Marcus:
(facepalms)
Tessa. That's not the gift. That's… the star. Just the star. It hangs in the sky.

Tessa:
But it's shiny! And important! And if YOU had to follow a star across a desert, YOU would think it was a gift!

(Marcus opens his mouth to argue, then closes it. Tessa has a point.)

Scene 2: More Confusion

Ellie:
Alright, everyone. THINK! What EXACTLY did we forget?

Marcus:
(snaps his fingers)

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The gold! It HAS to be the gold!
(rummages again with renewed energy)
I brought a whole shiny box for the wise men. I spray-painted it myself! My fingers are STILL gold!

Tessa:
(holds up a tiny blanket lovingly)
What if the missing gift is baby Jesus' blanket? Because babies need blankets! And warmth! And snuggles! And cozy softness!

Ellie:
Tessa, EVERYTHING is important! But this was THE gift.
(pacing)
The one Ms. Carla said we ABSOLUTELY MUST REMEMBER. Her words! VERBATIM!

Marcus:
(stands tall with triumph)
AHA!
(He holds up a small cardboard box like it's a trophy.)
THIS has to be it!

Ellie:
(leans in cautiously)
What's inside?

Marcus:
(shakes the box vigorously)
Nothing.
(peers inside)
It's empty.

Tessa:
(gasps, dramatically inspired)
Maybe it's SUPPOSED to be empty.
(widening eyes)
Like a mystery gift!
Or—
throws hands up
—a BOX OF IMAGINATION!

Ellie:
(gives her a deeply unimpressed narrator-glare)
Tessa… the Christmas program is in literal MINUTES.

(The kids all slump, defeated, sitting in an exhausted, dramatic pile of nativity chaos.)

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Scene 3: Noah Speaks Up

(Noah sits quietly in the corner, hands folded, watching the chaos. He finally stands, gentle and calm.)

Noah:
Um… guys?

Ellie:
Not now, Noah. We're in full meltdown mode.

Noah:
Yeah. I noticed.

Marcus:
(unimpressed)
Unless you found the gold, speak later.

Noah:
I didn't find gold.

Tessa:
Or the star?

Noah:
Nope.

Ellie:
(sighs so hard it becomes a whole performance)
Then WHAT do you have?

Noah:
(soft shrug)
Just… a thought.

(The kids pause. Ellie props her hands on her hips.)

Ellie:
Alright. Thoughts are officially allowed now. Go ahead.

Noah:
You all keep saying we lost the most important gift.
(pauses gently)

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But maybe… we didn't lose anything at all.
Maybe the prop isn't the real gift anyway.

Marcus:
(blinks)
I'm sorry. What? English, please.

Tessa:
Is this a riddle? Because I LOVE riddles.

Noah:
(smiles slightly)
No riddles. Just… truth.
(steps forward)
Christmas isn't about the box, or the gold, or the blankets, or the star.

(The others freeze, listening.)

Noah:
The real gift is Jesus.

(Silence falls. Ellie blinks like her brain just rebooted.)

Ellie:
…Oh.

Marcus:
Like… the GIFT gift.

Tessa:
(faintly, reverently)
The gift from God.

Noah:
Exactly.
And we didn't forget Jesus.
He's the reason we're doing the whole play, right?

(Ellie nods slowly. Marcus scratches his head. Tessa places her hand over her heart.)

Noah:
So maybe we can still go out there… even without the special prop.
Because the real gift isn't something we hold—
It's Someone we remember.

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Scene 4: A Simple Offering

(Ellie sits down beside the others.)

Ellie:
Wow.
You're right, Noah.
We've been freaking out over props…

Marcus:
And glitter.

Tessa:
And dish towels!

Ellie:
But Christmas isn't about any of that.
It's about Jesus.
The gift we *can't* forget.

Marcus:
(smiles)
So… what do we bring onstage now?

Noah:
Something simple.
Something honest.
Something from our hearts.

Tessa:
(gasps in revelation)
Hearts!
Let's make paper hearts!

Ellie:
YES!
Everyone—grab paper!
Let's make them fast!

(The kids grab paper and pretend to cut, rip, and fold messy, adorable paper hearts.)

Marcus:
Look! Mine's lopsided.

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Tessa:
That makes it even CUTER!

Ellie:
Hold your heart.
Think about who it's for.
Not the audience…
But Jesus.

(The kids clutch their paper hearts.)

Scene 5: The True Gift

Ellie:
(smiles at Noah)
Hey… thanks for reminding us.

Noah:
(shy smile)
I just didn't want us to forget the real gift.

(The lights warm slightly as Ellie steps forward.)

Ellie:
(to audience, clearly and gently)
Before we go onstage, we want to share our verse with you:
"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." – 2 Corinthians 9:15

(She turns to the group.)

Ellie:
We thought we lost the most important gift…
But Jesus is a gift we can never lose.

Marcus:
And He doesn't need perfect props.

Tessa:
Just hearts that remember Him!

Noah:
(smiling softly)
Merry Christmas, everyone.

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All Together:
Merry Christmas!

(The children raise their paper hearts high and exit the stage joyfully as the lights fade.)

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END

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