

Christmas Quiz!

Written by Matthew B. Gage

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I wrote this play for a children's Christmas program at our church. I wanted a simple play with just a few parts and a few traditional songs for a kids choir to sing. I also wanted to keep it pretty simple and have some fun with it. With a little inspiration from another play I saw online, I wrote this play about a Christmas game show (based on the Jeopardy! format) and the fact that only one person would really know the true meaning of Christmas. I hope you enjoy it!

Parts:

Chuck Brown, Host – A pretty straight forward game show host role. His name is vital for one “Charlie Brown Christmas” reference at the end.

Professor Riley Smart – A college professor who gives way too much information when answering

Senator Sally Ravioli – A typical politician who can't take a stand on any issue

Miss Sally Goodheart – A Sunday School teacher who is the only one that really knows what Christmas is really about.

Light Salesman – An infomercial salesman who provides a break in the action.

Tangled Up Guy – Part of the infomercial, he has just a couple of lines. He needs to be tangled up in Christmas lights.

Set:

We set up the left side of our platform for the kids choir and the right side for the game show set. We just had our kids choir stay in place during the play, just having them sit in place during the play scenes. For the game show set, we set up a podium for the host and had our contestants set at a table. We had a couple of logos printed that we hung on the table and podium and had name plates for each contestant.

Powerpoint:

One neat thing I put together was a Powerpoint presentation to show the questions and scores. I thought this would lend the play more of a game show feel. We set up a screen in the middle of the platform and had a laptop with a projector. You can find the file on my website. If you have the ability to use it, I think it adds a great deal to the play.

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ACT I

SONG – JOY TO THE WORLD

Host - “This is Christmas Quiz and I am your host Chuck Brown. We've got a great group of contestants today, so let's get started! First, our returning champion, Professor Riley Smart. Dr. Smart is a science professor from the State University where he teaches 'Advanced Bathroom Mildew 101'.”

Professor - “Thanks Mr. Host. I'm glad to be here again.”

Host - “Our next contestant has taken time out from her busy re-election campaign to be here. Please welcome Senator Sally Ravioli.”

Senator - “Thanks Mr. Host.”

Host - “Now our final contestant, straight from her Sunday School class we have Ms. Annie Goodheart. It says here that she also sings in the choir and rides a church bus. Let's welcome Ms. Goodheart.

Ms. Goodheart - “It's good to be here, Mr. Brown.”

Host - “Alright, let's get started with our first question for \$100. Here it is: According to Luke 2:1, why did Mary and Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?”

Senator rings in.

Host - “Yes, Senator.”

Senator - “Mr. Host, that just happens to be my life verse. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem so that they could be taxed. But let me just say that I voted against the tax increase before I voted for it.. or was it the other way around?”

Host - INTERRUPTING - “Why, that's correct Senator! And, oh, it looks like time for a quick timeout. We'll be right back”

SONG – AWAY IN A MANGER

ACT II

Host - "Welcome back to "Christmas Quiz". Let's right back to the game with another \$100 question. Here it is: According to Matthew 2:11, the Wise Men brought to Jesus gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and what other item?"

Professor rings in.

Host - "Yes, Professor?"

Professor - "This is really quite simple. It is the dried resin of certain species of the balsam tree (*Balsamodendron myrrha* to be exact) native to certain parts of Arabia. It was often used as a perfume, medicine, and even in embalming."

Host - "Uh, we are just looking for the name, Professor."

Professor - "Why didn't you say so, it is called Myrrh!"

Host - "That is correct for \$100 Here's our last \$100 question. Here it is: What did the wise men follow to find the baby Jesus?"

Sunday School Teacher rings in.

Host - "Yes Ms. Goodheart?"

Sunday School Teacher - "I believe it was a star."

Host - "Correct! It was a star. Well, that the end of round one. We'll be right back after this!"

SONG – WE THREE KINGS

ACT III

START COMMERCIAL

ENTER LIGHT SALESMAN AND TANGLED UP GUY

Light Salesman - “Do you have trouble putting up your Christmas lights every year? Had you rather have a root canal than unpack those lights? Had you rather be audited by the IRS than mess with those lights again?”

Tangled Up Guy - “That's right!”

Light Salesman - “Well, have I got a deal for you hapless homeowners out there! I'm from the Northern Lights Christmas Company of Walla Walla, Washington here with an exciting new product – the Light Winder 3000 Turbo!”

Light Salesman holds up Light Winder 3000 Turbo – which is an orange extension cord reel thingamabob

Light Salesman - “Yes, my friends, with the Light Winder 3000 Turbo your tangled up days are over! No more knots ever, or your money back!”

Tangled Up Guy - “Hey, I have one those at home with an extension cord on it!”

Light Salesman - “But does it say, 'Merry Christmas!'”

Light Salesman turns the Light Winder 3000 Turbo around to show the words “Merry Christmas!”

Tangled Up Guy - “Wow!”

Light Salesman - “Yes, my friends, the Light Winder 3000 Turbo is constructed of Space Age polymer plastic and guaranteed not to rust, chip, or peel.

Tangled Up Guy - “I sure could use one of those.”

Light Salesman - “But wait, there's more! Order in the next five minutes and we'll throw in a can of In-Law Repellent for free!”

Tangled Up Guy - “I can't stand it! I have to order now!”

Light Salesman - “Well, for just five easy payments of \$19.95 you can own your very own Light Winder 3000 Turbo with the bonus can of In-Law Repellent. Order in the next five minutes and we'll double your order!”

Tangled Up Guy - “If I could reach my wallet, I'd order twelve of them!”

Light Salesman - "Just call 1-800-555-1234 to order. Hurry while supplies last!"

END COMMERCIAL

Host - "Welcome back to "Christmas Quiz". Our Contestants are all tied up with \$100 each. This round, questions are worth \$200 each. Let's get started. Here's the first question, "According to Luke 2:12, where did the Angels tell the shepherds that the baby Jesus would be?"

Ms. Goodheart rings in.

Host - "Yes Ms. Goodheart?"

Ms. Goodheart - "The angels told the shepherds that Jesus would be lying in a manger."

Host - "That's correct! That gives you a total of \$300. Now let's see our second and last \$200 question: What is a manger?"

Professor rings in.

Host - "Yes, Professor?"

Professor - "Why the word manger is translated from the greek word "fatnay". It was a device used to hold fodder for any domesticated livestock. It was perhaps hewn into the limestone or even a small wooden structure. Either way it was probably long with a concave impression."

Host - "Yes, I think I heard 'feed trough' in there somewhere, so you are correct. That gives us a tie between the Professor and Ms. Goodheart each with \$300, and the Senator with just \$100."

Senator - "I demand a recount!"

Host - "Well, it's time for a short break. When we return we'll have our final round."

SONG – THE FIRST NOEL

ACT IV

Host - "Welcome back! It's time for our final round. I'll ask the question and our contestants will write down their answers. Any correct answer is worth \$500. Here's our final question: What is the meaning of Christmas?"

Contestants write as "Jeopardy!" theme plays.

Host - "OK, times up. Let's see our answers. Professor Smart is first.

Host read from screen - "An occurrence of mirth and tranquility celebrated in December."

Host - "I am sorry, but that is not correct. I guess having an IQ doesn't mean you know everything. Now let's see the Senator's answer..."

Host read from screen - "A celebration of brotherhood like Hannakuh or Kwanzaa."

Host - "I am sorry, but that is not correct. I guess getting a lot of votes doesn't mean you are always right. Now, let's see Ms. Goodheart's answer..."

Host read from screen - "A day when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Host - "Somebody actually got it right! That's the first time on this show!"

Ms. Goodheart - "Christmas is when we take time to remember how God gave His Son to us. We remember His birth on Christmas, but he came here to die for our sins. He came so that we could be saved. That's what Christmas is all about, Chuck Brown!"

Host - "I should have seen that coming... Congratulations to our winner, Ms. Goodheart! I'm Chuck Brown, thanks for watching Christmas Quiz!"

SONG – GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The End