

# Love in Action

*An Alternative to Homeless at Christmas*

By Deborah Steiner

## CAST

Music Team

First Presenter

Second Presenter

First Child

Second Child

Lifestyle Expert

Refugees

Narrator

Joseph

Mary

Baby Jesus (or a substitute doll)

Shepherds

First Angel

Other Angels

Three Wise Men

This presentation aims to remind us of disadvantaged people, God's overwhelming love – and to provoke us to also show love in action. Consider linking it with an appropriate call to action, e.g., becoming involved with children in need through Siloam.

This is a family presentation so that children, young people and teenagers can participate in the cast as well as people of other ages. Try to be all-inclusive of talented people. If your narrator is an elderly person, then a child could come on stage to invite everyone to join in the singing (saying the last line of dialogue, page 7). There is scope for those of us who may have speech impairments or learning disabilities to participate in various roles.

Everyone who has a speaking role should be able to speak loudly, clearly and slowly enough to be understood by all who are present and may be of varied language skills. In planning everything from sound to seating arrangements, please remember those of us with disabilities or special needs.

All Bible quotations are printed in bold.

Although for legal reasons this script must be duplicated without alteration, please feel free to adapt it in order to celebrate and communicate the Good News about Jesus in a way that is relevant to you.

*Music team plays introductory background music such as 'Silent Night'...*

*The two Presenters enter, the First Presenter holds a Bible.*

First Presenter:

Hello. We're here to present a Christmas celebration with a difference. As a matter of fact, it's so different that it was going to be called 'Homeless at Christmas'.

Second Presenter:

Homeless at Christmas isn't really such an unusual thing. It's the way we've been thinking about it that's unusual.

*Two children enter, holding a globe between them, appearing to be struggling under the weight of the globe.*

First Child:

We're here to remind you of the homeless children of the world. Remember, wherever there are children in different parts of the world, some of us will be homeless.

Second Child:

That's right. During the winter, you can find us in the sewers of Eastern Europe. We're in the alleyways of Latin America, trying to hide from criminals who are out to shoot us. In other places, we scrounge food from rubbish sites. Many of us are forced into cruel slavery.

First Child:

Maybe that's why we feel so weighed down with the problems of the world...

*They solemnly exit, appearing to be struggling under the weight of the globe.*

First Presenter:

Being homeless at Christmas didn't just begin in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Second Presenter;

As a matter of fact, it's basic to Christmas.

First Presenter:

That's right. Jesus came into the world as a homeless child. He was born in a stable with animals because the law required Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem and **'there was no room for them in the inn.'**

Second Presenter:

Of course, the wonder of Christmas is that Jesus didn't have to be homeless.

First Presenter:

But He did have to be born in Bethlehem. The Bible told people that, centuries ahead of time. (*Flipping through Bible, then pausing to read.*) Here it is, Micah 5:2. God promises Bethlehem,

**"though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."**

Second Presenter:

That says it all, doesn't it? I mean, God was telling His people that their Messiah, their Saviour, their everlasting God would be born in Bethlehem.

First Presenter:

But then He didn't have to be homeless. Jesus chose to come into this world, to be like us, even like people who have no home of their own.

Second Presenter:

That's because He came just for us.

First Presenter:

Well, people should have realised that hundreds of years before too. Because the Bible also says... (*Flipping through Bible, then pausing to read.*) Oh, it's in Isaiah, chapter 9.

**'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'**

Second Presenter:

**Prince of Peace...** You would expect a prince to choose a more comfortable way of living...

First Presenter:

Which is just why we're looking at it the way a lifestyle expert would.

*Lifestyle Expert enters, with a stack of folders and typed papers.*

*Lifestyle Expert speaking in a comical way:*

Yes, that's me all right, a lifestyle expert. You know, I get all these statistics, I put them on spreadsheets. *Shuffles papers in a comical way, starts showing different spreadsheets to presenters and then to the audience.* Yes, spreadsheets make a great impression on people, a great impression. Then too, I have lots of facts and figures; figures and facts, that's what people want to see. *Shuffles papers in a comical way, starts showing different pages of facts and figures to presenters and then to the audience.*

Second Presenter:

Well, what can you tell us then?

First Presenter:

Yes, a fact, something about lifestyle.

*Lifestyle Expert speaking in a comical way:*

Err well uhh, let me see. *Shuffles papers, takes one, looks thoughtful, and speaks slowly, in a serious tone.*

There is one fact. If you sleep in a bed (*both presenters look puzzled but nod to indicate 'yes'*) and if you wear shoes (*both presenters look down at their shoes and nod to indicate 'yes'*) and if you have water that's safe to drink - (*both presenters say something like 'yes' 'sure'*) then you're among the world's minority.

Second Presenter:

Then, what you're really saying is that the majority of people, most people in the world, don't sleep in a bed and wear shoes and have safe drinking water.

*Lifestyle Expert in a matter-of-fact tone:*

Yes, that's right.

*Exits.*

Second Presenter:

So that's what lifestyle means to most people in the world.

First presenter:

And when you think about it...Jesus cares enough to be like people who have to live that way. The Prince of Peace, yet He became poor for us.

Second Presenter:

Absolutely. After all, when Jesus was born, He didn't have a bed to sleep in.

First Presenter:

No. He slept in a manger – that's just something animals eat out of.

Second Presenter:

That's not the way we treat babies in our family! Yet that's what God wanted for His own Son.

First Presenter:

But don't forget. It's because God loves us so much. That's why He sent Jesus.

Second Presenter:

Yes...and because Jesus chose to come into this world, He really shares our sadness.

First Presenter:

And there's still a lot of sadness today. Like with refugees...

*People, ranging in age from small children to the elderly, some carrying what seem to be small bundles of clothing, slowly and solemnly trudge along, depending on staging, keeping their faces turned away from the audience as much as possible until they exit.*

Second Presenter:

Yes, refugees are all over the world. It seems like some people always have to escape somewhere. And a lot of them go hungry, leaving their homes without anything.

First Presenter:

You know, even that way, Jesus chose to be poor.

Second Presenter:

Of course, even as a baby he was a refugee, when His family had to escape to Egypt...  
But all of this is the same thing: love in action.

First Presenter:

You know, I first heard about that in a way that was really special from a student who was over here from Hungary. But things didn't turn out the way they were supposed to. Then a couple from our church took her into their home. She became like one of the family. Just before she went back to Hungary, she spoke about it in church. She told everyone how much it meant to her to experience their love in action.

Second Presenter:

And that's just what Christmas is all about. Jesus says so. Right in the Bible. John 3:16. *(Taking and flipping through Bible, then pausing to read.)... "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

First Presenter *thoughtfully*:

Hmm... What that really means is that God loves each of us enough to give us His Son Jesus. When we believe in Him, and turn from doing wrong to follow Him, we can enjoy eternal life.

Second Presenter:

Yes. God gives of Himself. We try to find special Christmas presents for each other, but He gives us the most valuable gift of all – His Son Jesus.

Which brings us to our real Christmas story – and that's all about love in action...

*Both Presenters exit as the Narrator enters with Bible which can be held open during narration.*

Narrator:

God loves us so much that He makes wonderful plans for us – for love, joy and peace.

*Music team plays and sings one verse of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. Depending on your staging, scene of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus inside the stable is revealed. A star should be seen overhead, if possible.*

The Bible, in Numbers 24:17, told people long before the baby Jesus was born, **"I see him, but I don't see him now. I view him, but he isn't near. A star will come from among the people of Jacob. A king will rise up out of Israel."**

Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, the city of David, where they had to sleep in a stable with the animals when Jesus was born.

**‘Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.’**

*Shepherds enter and stay at the side of stage, one shepherd holding toy lamb, if possible.*

**‘An angel of the Lord stood before them.’** *(First Angel enters and stands before them. If possible, special lighting effects should be used, shepherds look afraid.)*

First Angel:

**“Do not be afraid...I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”**

*Other angels enter and (those old enough and able) all say together:*

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”**

*Music team plays and sings one verse of ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing’. Angels exit.*

Shepherd:

**“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”**

*Shepherds walk, enter stable and gather around Jesus, praising God. They then need to be seen without blocking the audience’s view of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.*

Narrator:

There were other people too. We call them wise men. Actually, they were a lot like wise people today – searching for what really matters in life – and finding that leads them to Jesus.

*Three wise men enter with treasures from the side of stage opposite the one used by the shepherds for their entry, if possible.*

Wise Man:

**“We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”**



*Music team plays and sings one verse of 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'. The three wise men walk to Jesus, worship Him, then open their treasures and give Him gifts. They then need to be seen without blocking the audience's view of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus or the shepherds.*

Narrator:

Some people think this is the end of the Christmas story. But it's really just the beginning. God planned Jesus' birth, life and death to save us from our own wrongdoing. His love in action means He wants each of us to experience the life of love, joy and peace that we can have because of Jesus.

Please celebrate together with us as we sing 'Joy to the World'. *Music team plays and leads all in singing 'Joy to the World' with special effects such as lighting, streamers from balconies, balloons being released, etc.*

- The End -

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