

Christmas Puppet Show *(Inspired by the work of Louise Ferry)*

[Related craft: pipe cleaners threaded through large, dollar-store jingle bells and twisted together to make small "bracelets" for shaking]

Sissy	<i>(sadly, wearing a Santa hat)</i> Ho, ho, ho. Ho, ho, ho!
Midori	Hi Sissy, whatcha doing?
Sissy	Practicing.
Midori	Are you pretending to be St. Nicholas?
Sissy	Yeah.
Midori	What's the matter? You seem sad.
Sissy	Everybody is so busy they don't have time for me.
Midori	Like who?
Sissy	Mom is always shopping or cooking or talking on the phone or working or cleaning the house.
Midori	She's been really busy.
Sissy	Yeah, and Daddy works all the time. He's too tired to play.
Midori	That's true.
Sissy	And I wish it was Christmas morning right now, because I've been good all year and I want my presents.
Midori	You sure are glum. Open your mouth.
Sissy	Open my mouth?
Midori	Yes, I want to look inside.
Sissy	Ahhhhhhhh.
Midori	Just what I thought. You've got a sad heart!
Sissy	Yeah, well, what is there to be happy about?
Midori	Well, the Bible says to count your blessings every day.
Sissy	Count your <i>what</i> ?
Midori	Blessings. The good things in your life that you are thankful for. Listen to this: In 1st Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 16-18, the Bible says "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
Sissy	I haven't got any blessings!
Midori	Sure you have.

Sissy	Haven't!
Midori	Have!
Sissy	Haven't!
Midori	Have!
Sissy	Haven't, haven't, haven't!!!!
Midori	Ho, ho, hold on a minute!!!!
Sissy	That was funny. You sounded like Santa Claus. Ho, ho, hold on a minute!
Midori	Well, I'm glad I made you smile! But what I want to say is that Mom is working hard getting ready to celebrate Jesus's birthday, right?
Sissy	Yeah. Busy, busy, busy and crabby, crabby, crabby.
Midori	And it isn't easy for her doing all that hard work, is it?
Sissy	Nah, she's all grouchy and stressed out.
Midori	But if she didn't decorate and cook and shop, would our Christmas be as nice?
Sissy	No way. It would be boring. Mommy puts up our Nativity Scene and plays Christmas music and bakes cookies and....
Midori	Right. She's working hard to make it nice for you and our whole family, right?
Sissy	Right.
Midori	So isn't that a blessing?
Sissy	Yeah, hey, I guess you're right, there. But what about our tired Daddy? He's not much fun, either.
Midori	Well, he gets up every day no matter how tired he is, right?
Sissy	Yeah.
Midori	Don't you think it's hard for him going to work every day and missing so much fun at home?
Sissy	Yeah.
Midori	But our family needs Daddy to work hard to pay for our house and our food and presents and decorations...
Sissy	But Santa brings me presents, too.

Midori	Yes, but he brings them to the nice home Mom and Dad work hard to pay for and take care of. And they have to buy presents for other people, too. Christmas gets very expensive.
Sissy	But I like all the presents. It's my favorite part.
Midori	You want to hear something funny?
Sissy	Sure. Make me laugh, ho, ho.
Midori	When you were only about two years old, you got a stuffed bear from Santa. It was really cool. It was big and fluffy and had beautiful jewel eyes. Its fur was soft and brown and it had a beautiful bow on it.
Sissy	What's so funny about that?
Midori	Well, you tore off the wrapper and looked at the bear for a second. Then you picked up the bow and the wrapping paper and started playing with that, instead!
Sissy	Ho, ho! That is funny. I played with the wrappings instead of the gift?
Midori	Well, people are like that with Jesus's birthday, too, and that isn't funny at all.
Sissy	How do you mean?
Midori	Well, instead of remembering Jesus's birthday, they get more excited about the trimmings of Christmas, like the presents and the tree and the lights and the music.
Sissy	Those are the trimmings of Christmas? Are they bad?
Midori	No, they aren't bad at all. But they're like the wrapping on the gift. They're beautiful but they are not the most important part.
Sissy	The most important part is Jesus's birthday?
Midori	That's right! Jesus was sent to earth to save us from our sins! The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him might not die, but have eternal life."
Sissy	Hey, that's from the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 3, verse 16! I learned that at my Catechism class!!!

Midori	That's right, Sissy! And it means that Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of all! But many people forget all about Him! All they can think about is the presents, the wrappings, the tree, the lights... Even St. Nicholas helps us celebrate Jesus's birthday but he's no where near as important as Jesus!!!
Sissy	So how do I show Jesus that I care more about his birthday than all the trimmings?
Midori	Have a joyful heart. The Bible, in Psalm 100, says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"
Sissy	A joyful noise?
Midori	Sure! Sing, smile, help around the house! Cheer other people up! Sometimes spreading the joy around means just listening when someone is sad, or being patient when someone is busy. If we show we care about each other more than all the trimmings , then we show our love for Jesus!
Sissy	Oh, yeah! I remember Jesus said in the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chapter 25, verse 40, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me."
Midori	That's right. Whatever we do to each other we do to Jesus.
Sissy	(<i>singing</i>) So you better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout I'm telling you why...
Midori	(<i>singing</i>) Jesus Christ is born on Christmas day!!!
Sissy	Hurray!!!! Ho, ho, ho!!!! Merry Christmas!!!!!!!
Midori	Merry Christmas boys and girls!!!! Spread the joy and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!!!! Let's get our jingle bells and sing <i>Joy to the World!!!!</i>

The End

[Follow with marching and singing *Joy to the World*; get jingle bells out and hand out lyrics]