

Busy-ness at Christmas

**A four-week advent drama series by
Brian T. Whitaker, Whitaker Writings**

Summary: David and Kim are a 35-ish couple, preparing for the busy month of December. David is a professional in some unspecified office context, Kim works part-time and volunteers at their kids' schools. They have three children: Matthew, age 14 (9th grade); Michelle, age 11 (6th grade); and Mark, age 8 (3rd grade). (Note: These children's ages are necessary for some of the lines in the first week's drama.)

Time: roughly 3 minutes each week

Part 1: David and Kim compare their busy planners, yet pledge to do all they can to avoid busy-ness and maintain a Christ-centered Christmas.

Part 2: It's the next Sunday morning. The whole week has gone by, and they still haven't done anything special to keep a Christ-centered Christmas, other than their usual weekly church activities.

Part 3: It's Sunday afternoon, the third Sunday of Advent. After another week full of Christmastime activity, and David's parents safely underway to visit another child, David and Kim are finally able to wrap some presents and decorate the Christmas tree.

Part 4: David and Kim have continued their focus on Christ by inviting a neighborhood, non-Christian couple to Christmas Eve dinner. They reflect together on their evening.

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Advent Series

“Busy-ness at Christmas”

Part 1

Written by Brian T. Whitaker, Whitaker Writings

Premise of Series

David and Kim are a 35-ish couple, preparing for the busy month of December. David is a professional in some unspecified office context; Kim works part-time and volunteers at their kids' schools. They have three children: Matthew, age 14 (9th grade); Michelle, age 11 (6th grade); and Mark, age 8 (3rd grade).

Premise of Today's Episode

David and Kim compare their busy planners, yet pledge to do all they can to avoid busy-ness and maintain a Christ-centered Christmas.

David and Kim sit down together at the kitchen table for Sunday morning breakfast on December 3. Both are dressed for church, and have a moment of solitude together.

Kim: Hey—we have a moment here while the kids are getting dressed for church. Let's look at our calendars for this week. Mine's packed, and I want to make sure we haven't double-booked anything.

David: OK

Both get up from the table, go to different points in the room, and grab very large daily planners. They return to the table, and “thud” their planners on the table together. Alternatively, if a more technologically up-to-date look is preferred, actors could use PDAs, Blackberries, iPhones, or whatever is appropriate.

Kim: OK. This afternoon we have the children's Christmas musical at church. We have the party at the Schumachers' home tonight. Monday night we have the kids' music lessons, Tuesday night is the show at the [insert name of local theater that hosts shows].

David: Did you get a sitter for Tuesday?

Kim: No—you were going to try that this time, remember? *(mimicking a little bit)* You wanted to make ALL of the arrangements for our special date night....

David: Oh, yeah. *(adding into calendar as he speaks)* “Get sitter for Tuesday night.” Now...how do I do that again?

Kim: Honey, she just lives next door. It's not that hard....

David: Right. I only hope she can do this on short notice.

Kim: *(pauses a moment)* You know, maybe we *could* leave them alone. Matthew is 14, and a freshman in High School. It wouldn't be *that* bad....

David: Have you forgotten the last time we did that, and that huge mess with the Hershey's Syrup and Elmer's Glue?

Kim: (*quickly*) Right. You'll get a sitter for Tuesday. OK...Wednesday night is **[insert names of your church's children and youth programs]**. Thursday...what do we have Thursday night?

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Mark: Yeah! We FINALLY get to set up the tree!

Matthew: Hey—we’re doing pretty well this year. Last year the tree didn’t go up until December 23.

David: Now how do you remember that?

Matthew: ‘Cause there weren’t any presents to shake at before that.

David glares playfully at Matthew

Mark: Dad, why do we decorate a tree at Christmas?

David: Well, there are a lot of symbols involved in the Christmas tree. The tree itself reminds us of life and growth, because Jesus gives us life, and we grow in Him. The lights on the tree remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. Some of the ornaments we have remind us of special times we’ve had as a family, but a bunch of them also remind us of part of the Christmas story.

Mark: Like what?

David: *(pulling ornaments out of the box one by one)* This handmade cross reminds us of Jesus’ gift of salvation. The shiny balls remind us that we are to be reflections of Jesus Christ to the world around us. The red in the candy canes reminds us of the blood that Jesus shed to bring us salvation. The bows remind us that Jesus is the best Gift of all.

Kim and Michelle have quietly entered the area while David has been talking. Kim and David smile at each other. Matthew pulls a handmade angel ornament out of the ornament box.

Matthew: *(reacting to what David just said)* Hey, that’s pretty cool. So here’s this angel made out of a toilet paper roll—it has my name on it. Does that remind us of the angels in the Christmas story?

Michelle: *(quickly jumps in)* No...that one celebrates the year you finally got potty-trained! *(Matthew glares at Michelle as she continues)* Wasn’t that just last year?

Matthew takes off, chasing Michelle offstage, and Mark follows close behind.

Mark: *(quickly turns back to Kim)* Mom, you’d better hide the Hershey’s Syrup again! *(runs offstage)*

Kim: You know, I think we may have finally found a way to focus on Christ at Christmas.

David: (*hugging Kim*) Yeah, I think you're right.

Lights Out.

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David: And they're even coming to the Christmas Eve service with us this week! I can't wait! I hope they'll enjoy it, and more importantly, they'll hear the gospel message clearly. You know, I'm so glad we looked for ways to focus on Jesus more throughout the holiday.

Kim: It was so much harder than I thought—with so many activities we were involved in.

David: But we still found ways to do it. That's what matters. I'm so thankful Jesus came to earth for us, and that we get to celebrate His birth every year. Can you believe Christmas is just [insert proper number] days away?

Kim: Speaking of which... do you know where the kids are? They're unusually quiet...and they should be getting ready for church.

David: *(looking under the tree)* Umm, how many presents did you put under the tree?

Kim: 9, I think...I wanted it to look nice when the Wilsons were here. Why?

David: I only count 6.

(Both look at each other with a dawning realization in their faces, then start to get up)

Both: Kids! No shaking the presents!

Lights Out