

HAPPY HOLIDAYS?

by JOANNA JONES and MIKE DAUT

GENRE: Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: Three independent scenes (featuring the same two actors in different roles) illustrate how worry, doubt, and guilt keep people from enjoying the holidays.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Christmas, Worry

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Philippians 4:6-9

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

Man who plays HUSBAND, DAD, and BOYFRIEND

Woman who plays WIFE, GIRL, and GIRLFRIEND

PROPS: A Christmas tie, apron, hair bow, teddy bear, phone, gift bags (one large & one small), a small cosmetics bag, and a leather coat

COSTUMES: The actors are dressed in black, with key props for each character.

SOUND: 2 wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The set has one free-standing door, a Christmas tree, and a couch – one set piece for each scene, respectively.

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Scene 1:

HUSBAND slips a Christmas tie around his neck and WIFE puts on a holiday apron.

HUSBAND: *(Standing in front of the open door)* Look, honey, I see their Buick coming down the block. *(He waves.)*

WIFE: *(Standing next to him)* I just finished embroidering the tablecloth. I shouldn't have worn this dress, your mother hates blue, doesn't she. Stall 'em, baby -- I'll run up and change. And stand with your hand over the smudge on the door frame.

HUSBAND: Stop it, honey. Come here. You look great. Now relax. It's just my parents....

WIFE: Sure, just your parents. Your mother who makes Martha Stewart look like Roseanne and your dad who hand-carved a wooden train to circle his Christmas tree last year. This is the first holiday at our house—it has to be perfect. Stand up straight.

HUSBAND: Relax. Our house looks gorgeous. You could eat off the floors, and dinner smells wonderful!

WIFE: You can smell it? Already? Oh, no! It's cooking too fast! I'm not ready for the turkey yet. Go get your mother, bring them in NOW--NOW!!!! No wait. Tell them I had my appendix burst and to come back in four hours, I'll start over.

HUSBAND: Honey, stop. *(Out the door)* Hi Mom! Hi Dad! How was the trip? I'll be right there to help you with the packages. Darling. It's Christmas, relax, have fun. Everything will be fine.

WIFE: Okay, okay, you're right. Hi Mother! Hi there! I can make it all work. Go ahead.

HUSBAND: *(He walks out to the car)* Hey, Pop—wait 'til you see the tree we have this year!

WIFE: *(voice over): (While waving)* If I hurry, I can wallpaper the spare bathroom before I have to start the gravy.

Scene 2:

DAD replaces tie with sweater and GIRL removes apron, puts in large hair bow and picks up teddy.

GIRL: Daddy, is it done? Is it done? Can we light it now ...pleeeeeeeeee?

DAD: We just have to put the angel on.

GIRL: Yeaaaaahhhhhh! Then our tree will be all done and I can make it light up!