

Christmas Light

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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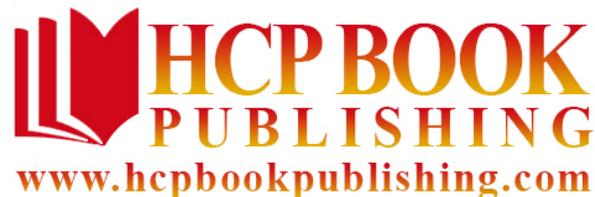


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Characters

Sarah	Grandma (Mother to Cheryl)
Cheryl	Mother to Dre and Abbey. Daughter to Sarah.
Abbey	14-year-old daughter to Cheryl
Dre	15-year-old son to Cheryl
Brian	Cheryl's deceased husband
Mary	Jesus mother
Joseph	Jesus earthly father
Gabriel	Angel/Messenger
Elizabeth	Mary's cousin
Brittany	Cheryl and Brian's first daughter
Innkeeper	
Innkeepers Wife	
Extras (non-speaking roles)	

Setting

1. Living room setting, middle class with appropriate furniture and décor.
2. Outdoor setting, depicting Biblical scenes.

The Story

Christmas Light is a theological journey that will speak to this generation, with emphasis on one of the greatest miracles of all time: the virgin birth of a male Child into this world. Who is this Child and why has He been born under such unusual circumstances?

Sarah believes in God. Cheryl has lost faith. Two teenagers are caught between the opposing beliefs. The authenticity of the Bible is questioned, but in the midst of utter darkness, God will make Himself known.

Play Details

Length: 60-90 Minutes

Cast: 6 Males, 6 Females, Plus extras (non-speaking roles)

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary/Biblical Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

SETTING: *Living Room.*

Sarah sits preparing decorations for the Christmas tree. She is untangling some Christmas lights.

Enter Dre and Abbey. They have some catalogs in their hands, and they jump on the couch and begin going through them.

SARAH: You kids gonna help me with this Christmas tree?

DRE: No time for that Grandma. We got to choose our gifts for Christmas.

ABBEY: Its two days away, and we still can't decide what we want for Christmas this year.

SARAH: So, I guess Christmas is just about gifts for you guys.

DRE: Of course not Grandma. The food too.

ABBEY: Holidays from school.

DRE: And the snow. It's a nice package, and we love it.

SARAH: There is more to Christmas than that.

DRE: Grandma, no preaching, okay. We get enough of that when we go to church.

SARAH: Which is not very often.

ABBEY: You don't really believe the Son of God came to earth do you?

SARAH: When did you two stop believing in Jesus?

ABBEY: Mom says it's just stories.

Pause.

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SARAH: (*calling offstage*) Cheryl!!!

Cheryl comes out quickly.

CHERYL: What is it?

SARAH: Have you been telling these kids that the Christmas story is just a story.

CHERYL: (*relaxes*) I thought you were calling me for something important.

SARAH: This is important.

CHERYL: Mom, I just don't think we need to hang on to some of the old traditions. How is it helping anyone? Why put my kids through the same punishment that I had to endure from my parents.

SARAH: Your father and I taught you the truth of God's word.

CHERYL: I don't see how the Word is relevant anymore. Where are the miracles? My husband died at 36 from lung cancer. You prayed for him, and nothing happened. These kids asked me about that, and I couldn't give them an answer. So, on what do we base our faith?

SARAH: Is that why you stopped coming to church?

CHERYL: Can we talk about this some other time?

SARAH: So, work was just an excuse?

CHERYL: Mom, we get to spend two weeks out of the entire year together. You're not really going to spend it talking to us about church, right?

SARAH: So much of our conversation over the past year has suddenly started to make sense.

CHERYL: The Bible is just another book, and Christmas just another commercial holiday that I intend to enjoy with my kids. If possible, I would appreciate it if you could suppress your unsupported faith and keep it with you in the closet.

Pause.

CHERYL: You kids okay?

DRE: Our list is almost complete, mom.

ABBEY: How many gifts did you say we can get?

CHERYL: We'll see. Just make your list. We will go shopping early in the morning.

ABBEY: Yes!

DRE: You're the greatest mom in the whole wide world.

CHERYL: Dinner is almost ready. Go wash your hands.

Dre and Abbey exit.

CHERYL: I wasn't trying to offend you, mom.

SARAH: I'm fine. Just wish you hadn't done that in front of my grandchildren. How do you expect them to ever listen to what I have to say, or was that your goal?

CHERYL: I miss my husband, okay.

SARAH: And I miss mine, but dying is a part of living.

CHERYL: Jesus once raised a man from the dead after four days. He said greater things we would do. I'm not seeing that mom, so how do we continue believing? He took my first child, then my husband. How do I accept that as God's will?

SARAH: I wish I had all the answers, and I'm sure there is a reason we're not seeing these greater works, but God is real. We should never lose faith in that.

CHERYL: And I will believe again when the reality is once again aligned with the Bible. You always say that God is a practical God. I'm sure He loves us enough to make Himself known, even if we struggle with faith.

Cheryl exits.

SARAH: Father, people are talking. They say You have changed. They question Your authenticity. I know You are real, though I have little evidence to go on. Father, increase the evidence. You said we should ask, believe and it will be done. Thank You for doing it, in Jesus name.

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LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

SETTING: *Living Room.*

Sarah puts the finishing touches on the tree.

Cheryl comes on with Abbey and Dre carrying some large boxes and bags. They are very excited.

They put some presents under the tree, and begin opening their shopping bags and boxes.

ABBEY: Gramma, we got a new television and play station.

SARAH: What's a play station?

DRE: You are so old school. It's like the best thing since video games.

ABBEY: It is a video game.

DRE: Exactly.

ABBEY: Well, I hope you got some girl games cuz mommy says this is for the both of us.

DRE: You got an Ipad, so you don't need to get in on this.

ABBEY: Mom says it's for the both of us. That's why there are two remotes.

CHERYL: No arguments please. I am sure I got what each of you had on your list, so be considerate and share.

They set up the television and the play station.

Abbey gets on her Ipad and plugs in her earphones.

DRE: This is the best Christmas ever. With this new cable package, we have over 250 new channels to choose from. I love you, mom.

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CHERYL: You better!

Cheryl gives Sarah a box.

SARAH: What is this?

CHERYL: It's a cell phone.

SARAH: I already have a cell phone.

DRE: This one is a Samsung Galaxy. It can access the internet, skype and even has GPS tracking.

SARAH: I don't need any of that.

CHERYL: Maybe if you learned to use the internet, we wouldn't always have to pay so much just to talk. Skype calls are free and we could see each other.

SARAH: I'm too old for technology. You could have bought me another simple phone to make and receive calls.

DRE: You could even install a Bible app.

Sarah picks up her physical Bible.

SARAH: Already downloaded my Bible app right here.

DRE: Mom, I told you.

CHERYL: Well, had to give it a try.

DRE: So, can I have the phone?

CHERYL: You already have one.

DRE: I could alternate.

CHERYL: Nope.

SARAH: I guess getting all this stuff makes you very happy?

DRE: I have waited all year for this.

SARAH: I'm just saying there is more to life than just getting stuff. Christmas is not about these gifts and presents and getting new stuff. Christmas is nothing without Christ.

CHERYL: Mom, you're doing it again.

SARAH: I guess it's who I am. All things were created by God. How can you find fulfillment in the gifts and not the Giver?

CHERYL: Everything my kids need, I provide. I work hard, and I make my own money. I did all that without God. I would think that whatever little He does, I have done better.

SARAH: There are things even you can't do.

CHERYL: Really! Name one.

The lights go out. The stage is plunged into utter darkness.

ABBEY'S VOICE: Mooooom!

SARAH'S VOICE: Well, you can't turn the electricity back on.

ABBEY'S VOICE: I didn't charge my new Ipad.

DRE'S VOICE: This is not good.

CHERYL'S VOICE: It's probably just a glitch in the system. I'm sure the lights will come back up any minute now.

Pause.

Longer pause.

ABBEY'S VOICE: I think a minute has passed.

CHERYL'S VOICE: I will call the light company.

Cheryl takes out her phone. The screen lights up revealing her face. She begins punching numbers. The phone goes dead.

CHERYL'S VOICE: I think my battery just died. Anybody's phone working?

DRE'S VOICE: We were out all day.

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SARAH'S VOICE: So, my daughter. You were saying?

CHERYL'S VOICE: Not now mom. I need to find some candles.

Pause.

SCENE 2A

There is a gathering onstage; boys and girls in the darkness.

Flashlights begin to click on. All the kids turn on their lights and point upwards to illuminate their faces.

BOY: Is this really going to be Christmas without lights?

GIRL: So uncool. How will we watch television?

BOY2: How will we do anything?

GIRL2: My Dad says the light will be off for three weeks.

EVERYONE: Nooooo!

BOY3: This is terrible. Whose idea was this anyway?

GIRL3: Maybe God turned off the light.

BOY2: Why would He do that?

GIRL3: I don't know.

BOY3: It just seems so unfair.

BOY: At least we have our flashlights.

GIRL: That's pretty much all we have right now.

BOY2: This is going to be the worst Christmas ever.

BOY: I would have felt better if we actually had a storm that took the light.

GIRL3: Shh! My mom always said to be careful what you say.

BOY: Why?

GIRL3: The wind will carry it away, and it will make it happen.

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BOY: In that case, I want the lights to come back on.

Pause.

SCENE 3

SETTING: Living Room

Candles are lit all over the stage; enough to illuminate the area where the small family is gathered.

Sarah is smiling, holding a Bible in her lap. Cheryl and the kids are utterly annoyed.

They are all fanning like crazy with sweat running down their faces.

CHERYL: Mom, why are you smiling?

SARAH: It's funny how this day turned out.

CHERYL: I'm glad somebody is enjoying this discomfort.

SARAH: You said anything your kids need, you can provide right. They need light.

CHERYL: This is not funny.

DRE: No television.

ABBEY: No internet.

DRE: No phone.

ABBEY: No tablet, radio, no air conditioning. This is a disaster. What are we supposed to do now?

DRE: Die.

SARAH: My Bible still works.

CHERYL: Mom Please.

DRE: We hate to read.

SARAH: Just reading the Bible will not profit you anything. It has to be believed and practice. That is when it comes to life. You have to engage your imagination.

DRE: What are you talking about?

SARAH: You young people are so caught up with these new gadgets and technology that you no longer use your natural ability to create anything. God gave us what is called an imagination. Yours lie dormant with all the distractions you surround yourself with, but here we have an opportunity to engage that gift.

ABBEY: With the Bible?

SARAH: We could always just sit here and watch the candle burn out.

DRE: Mom, when are we getting the electricity back?

CHERYL: The guy I spoke to said maybe not for three days.

DRE & ABBEY: Three days!

CHERYL: That's what he says.

DRE: We're not going to make it.

ABBEY: My chance of survival just flatlined.

DRE: We should probably go spend Christmas with Aunt May.

CHERYL: Her light is out too.

DRE: This is the worse Christmas ever.

SARAH: Funny you should say that.

CHERYL: Mom, please!

Pause.

Longer pause.

SARAH: (*Reads*) The moon will become red, and the sun will not give its light.

DRE: What is that?

SARAH: Jesus described what it would be like, just before He returned to earth.

ABBEY: You really believe that Jesus is real, Grandma?

SARAH: Yes. And He's coming back soon, but just before He does, the entire earth will be plunged into complete darkness, probably in the middle of the day.

DRE: But why?

SARAH: So the world will see the true Light.

Pause.

SARAH: The same Light that came into this world over two thousand years ago, tomorrow. It's the reason we celebrate Christmas. Light has come into this world.

A wind blows, and the candles go out.

DRE'S VOICE: Mooom!!!

SARAH'S VOICE: Let's take a little journey. Escape the darkness for just a little bit.

ABBEY'S VOICE: How do we do that?

SARAH'S VOICE: Close your eyes, engage your imagination ---

LIGHTS UP

SETTING: *Outdoor setting.*

A young woman named Mary kneels at center stage over a pot that she is mixing in with a large wooden spoon.

Sarah and the family are standing behind her dressed in Biblical clothing.

CHERYL: *(examining her clothes)* What am I wearing, and where are we?

SARAH: This is our imagination?

CHERYL: I don't want to be here, so leave me out of this.

SARAH: Feel free to return to the darkness.

Abbey walks over to where Mary is.

ABBEY: Who is this?

SARAH: Her name is Mary. She can't see or hear us.

ABBEY: She looks so young.

DRE: Is she the mother of Jesus?

SARAH: Yes.

DRE: I think I like this imagination thing.

ABBEY: Mary looks so sad.

SARAH: It's been 400 years since the people have heard from God. Apparently, He went silent after Malachi, or no one was listening anymore. Still, the sacrifices were being made, and all the traditions upheld but by this time the church was under the leadership and control of those we call the Scribes and Pharisees. They were the authority on church and religion, but no one was prepared for what God was about to do.

An Angel appears and walks over to Mary. Dre steps back.

DRE: I don't think this dude is from earth. Mary is in danger. We should warn her.

Sarah holds him back.

SARAH: Mary's whole life is about to change.

GABRIEL: Mary.

Mary is startled at the sight of this man. She jumps back and covers her face.

MARY: Who are you?

GABRIEL: Do not be afraid. I was sent by God.

MARY: You were sent to me?

GABRIEL: Yes. You have been chosen. The Lord wants to save His people through you.

MARY: Through me?

GABRIEL: You will conceive. You will have a Son. He will be called Immanuel, and He will save the world from sin. You are to name Him Jesus.

MARY: The Son of the most high God is to be born to me! How will this even happen?

GABRIEL: The Holy Spirit will conceive this Child within your womb.

Pause.

MARY: If this is God's will for me, let it be just as you say.

GABRIEL: Mary, Light is about to come into this dark world. There is one who will go before your son. He is presently growing in the womb of your cousin Elizabeth.

MARY: Elizabeth is pregnant?

GABRIEL: Yes.

MARY: But she is way past the years of conception.

GABRIEL: So was Sarah. Nothing is impossible with God. Feel free to go and see for yourself.

Gabriel turns and exits.

DRE: A virgin birth is impossible.

ABBEY: So is a grandmother having a child.

CHERYL: These stories are for children.

SARAH: It's strange how a child possesses the kind of faith we adults are required to have.

CHERYL: Children believe anything.

SARAH: If God really can do the impossible, then we should believe everything too. If God is God, then all things are possible.

CHERYL: I did believe that. God could have healed Brian, but he didn't. I guess the cancer was too difficult for your God.

SARAH: I'm sure the answer you're looking for is not as simple as you would want it to be.

Joseph enters. He is very excited.

DRE: Oh, oh. I want to see how she tells her soon to be husband this news.

JOSEPH: Hello my fair maiden. You look rosy today.

MARY: Joseph, I have some news.

JOSEPH: So do I.

MARY: I need you to keep an open mind.

JOSEPH: How bad can it be?

MARY: I'm pregnant.

ABBEY: Ouch!

Pause.

JOSEPH: No, you're not.

DRE: Why is denial our natural response to truth?

SARAH: It's because of the sin nature we inherited from our forefather, Adam.

ABBEY: But mommy says all that Bible stuff is not real.

SARAH: Your mommy is wrong. She says those things because she's hurting.

MARY: I was visited by an angel who told me I would be pregnant with a child conceived by the Holy Spirit.

JOSEPH: That's impossible.

SARAH: See, even believers have their own moments of doubt.

JOSEPH: How could you do this to us?

MARY: I am still pure.

JOSEPH: Stop trying to deceive me. I am not stupid. We are God serving people who live by the laws of Moses. Do you know what they do to people like you?

MARY: Yes.

JOSEPH: And that wasn't enough to change your mind? Mary, I love you. Now I'm going to have to watch you die.

MARY: Joseph, you have to believe me. I have not violated any of God's commandments.

JOSEPH: I wish I could believe you. For now, I just need some time to think.

Joseph exits.

Mary breaks down in tears. She exit in another direction.

ABBEY: Poor Mary.

DRE: I think this affected Joseph more than it does Mary.

SARAH: Both lives are affected, which is why God could not leave it up to them alone to figure this out. He was with them every step of the way.

Elizabeth comes on carrying a water bucket. She's old and six months pregnant, but still strong enough to carry the water.

Mary appears behind her.

MARY: Cousin.

Elizabeth feels a sharp pain in her stomach. She lays the water bucket down, holding her stomach. Mary goes to help her.

ABBEY: Elizabeth is so old. She looks weird with that large stomach.

DRE: Why is she struggling with that pail of water? She needs a husband in her life.

SARAH: She has one, but women were more liberal and independent back then.

MARY: Are you okay, Cousin? I didn't mean to scare you.

ELIZABETH: You didn't. But my child knew your voice. You are blessed and highly favored Mary, but what honor is this that the mother of my Lord should visit me?

MARY: How would you know?

ELIZABETH: I have seen strange things happening these past few months, child. I have a life in my womb. This, thought to be impossible, is unraveling before my very eyes. My husband who doubted is unable to speak. He refuses to leave the house, burdened by guilt that he was not convinced that God could do anything. Now the word of your greeting caused a stir in me. Nothing surprises me anymore, Mary.

MARY: My life is falling apart because of this.

ELIZABETH: No, dear one. God will not let that happen. You only need to trust Him.

MARY: Let me carry that for you. I will be here a while.

Mary takes the pail of water, and they exit.

CHERYL: Are we really going to suspend all common sense to believe that a God, who could not cure cancer, is able to make a virgin pregnant?

SARAH: Aren't we seeing it right now?

CHERYL: This is not real. This is just us using our imagination.

SARAH: Are you sure about that?

Pause.

CHERYL: Quit playing, Mom. This is not funny. I'm ready to go back to reality.

DRE: I want to stay --- see what happens next.

ABBEY: Me too.

CHERYL: Why?

ABBEY: It's different seeing it happen live, as opposed to hearing it told like a story.

DRE: I could get used to this place.

Joseph enters. He looks around. He finds a place to sit and rest his legs. He removes his sandals.

JOSEPH: Abba, you are not the author of confusion. Tell me what to do.

Gabriel appears.

DRE: I like these parts.

GABRIEL: Joseph.

Joseph looks at Gabriel and jumps back. Dre is laughing. Gabriel looks at him. He stops laughing.

DRE: Did he just look at me?

SARAH: They can't see us.

DRE: He just looked right at me. Oh, this is a little creepy.

GABRIEL: *(looking back at Joseph)* Do not be afraid, Joseph. I am sent by God to tell you to take Mary as your wife. What she has told you is the truth.

JOSEPH: If that is the truth, then I am chosen to father God's son?

GABRIEL: You have never been afraid to go where the Father leads. We expect nothing less from you now. The road ahead is narrow, steep and full of thorns. But the Master will lead you.

JOSEPH: I don't know where Mary is? I've been searching for her.

GABRIEL: The Lord knows.

Michael exits.

Mary enters from the opposite direction. She sees Joseph and is unsure how to respond to him. He takes the initiative and goes to her.

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JOSEPH: Can you forgive me, my love?

MARY: Forgive you for what?

JOSEPH: Doubting you. Doubting God.

MARY: You believe me?

JOSEPH: Yes. God has revealed to me the truth. We have been chosen to bring the long-awaited Messiah into this world, an honor I'm not even sure I deserve.

MARY: It's too much Joseph.

JOSEPH: For one alone. We will do this together.

Mary hugs Joseph. They exit.

ABBEY: Now that is what I call a happy ending.

SARAH: If only that was the end. This is just the beginning.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP

SETTING: Outdoor setting

Dre and Abbey are asleep on the floor.

Sarah stands to the edge of the stage looking out into the audience.

Cheryl sits close to the kids watching them sleep.

CHERYL: So, we're just going to sit here and wait?

SARAH: If this is a dream, then the person dreaming needs to wake up.

CHERYL: I feel like I'm stuck here.

SARAH: Cheryl, why did you give up on God?

CHERYL: He gave up on me.

SARAH: You know that's not true.

CHERYL: The right circumstances can sometimes wake us up to reality.

SARAH: Reality that there is no God?

CHERYL: Exactly.

SARAH: That's not a reality. It's a deception.

CHERYL: I don't want to talk about this now.

SARAH: Job went through a lot. He never gave up on God.

CHERYL: The problem I have with Job is that He's one of the stories in the Bible. God was real to him, and David, and Moses and all the Disciples. I wanted God to be real for me, and He never was.

SARAH: Did you ever ask Him to reveal Himself?

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CHERYL: Everyday.

SARAH: When Brian was sick.

CHERYL: Does it matter?

SARAH: God is not someone we can embezzle.

CHERYL: I really don't care anymore, Mom.

SARAH: The problem I'm having with that is it doesn't change the truth.

CHERYL: Too bad. All I need to know right now is why I'm spending Christmas in dreamland.

SARAH: Christmas has no meaning to you anyway.

The children wake up.

DRE: Are we still here?

CHERYL: Unfortunately.

ABBEY: Did we miss anything?

Innkeeper enters being trailed by Joseph.

SARAH: We're just getting to the best part.

INNKEEPER: *(turns to face Joseph)* Sir, can you please stop following me.

JOSEPH: My wife is in labor. She's about to have our first child and it's raining. We need a room.

INNKEEPER: And I've told you a million times. There is no more room. We're filled to capacity.

Innkeeper's Wife enters holding Mary, who is in severe pain. She takes her to a small part of the stage and places her on the floor. Joseph rushes to her side.

Innkeeper storms over to her.

INNKEEPER: Uhm, dear wife. What are you doing?

WIFE: This young lady is about to have a child. I know you don't know what that feels like, so either you help me or get out of my way.

Pause.

INNKEEPER: What do you need?

WIFE: I need towels and water.

INNKEEPER: Okay.

Innkeeper exits.

DRE: This is no place for a Son of God to be born.

ABBEY: It's where they keep the animals.

SARAH: He's the epiphany of humility.

CHERYL: The children are right. A true King would be born in a palace.

Innkeeper returns with water and towels. He gives them to his wife. She kneels before Mary with her back turned to the audience.

SARAH: It is so different seeing it happen for real.

CHERYL: You have seen a child being born into this world before.

SARAH: Yes, but not this Child. Something remarkable is about to happen.

DRE: What?

SARAH: Light is coming. Have you ever wondered why Christmas feels different? It's as if the whole atmosphere changes.

CHERYL: It just gets colder.

SARAH: It's more than that.

A Baby cries. Innkeeper's wife wraps the Baby in cloth and hands Him to Mary. They are elated.

Suddenly, droves of people begin to gather, Angels, Shepherds, and Wise Men. They all kneel before the child.

SARAH: When Noah built the ark, instinctively all the animals came in pairs. It was as if they were drawn to it, compelled to enter it. That was an act of God.

Angels begin to sing a chorus of praise.

SARAH: Men have come from far and near to this place. They felt compelled to come and worship.

INNKEEPER: Who is this Child?

SARAH: Like insects to light, men were drawn to this place, this Child. Finally, our dark world has seen a great Light.

The worship continues to a crescendo.

The crowd disperses, the Angels, Shepherds and Wise Men leave.

INNKEEPER: I've never seen anything like this.

WIFE: You will be remembered for this day. No one will know your name, but they will remember the kindness of a lowly innkeeper and his wife.

Innkeeper puts his arm around his wife and they exit.

SARAH: If only time could freeze and never move beyond this moment. If only! This Child so precious, has come to save all, yet there are those who would want to see this Child dead.

Gabriel rushes in. He takes Joseph by the arm.

GABRIEL: Get up, man of God. Take your wife and child and come with me. We must flee to Egypt immediately.

Joseph quickly obeys. They exit together.

Roman Soldiers enter with swords drawn, crosses the stage and exit.

Sarah cries.

Cheryl cries. Sarah embraces Cheryl.

SARAH: A mother knows what it feels like to lose a child. A wife knows the pain of losing a husband. It was for this purpose that Jesus came into this world. That there would be no more death.

CHERYL: But they did die.

SARAH: Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Though we die, yet we will live.

Brian enters dressed in a sparkling white robe.

Abbey is the first to see him.

ABBEY: Daddy!

She runs to him and embraces him. Dre does the same. Cheryl is confused.

CHERYL: Is this real? I watched you die.

BRIAN: I'm with Jesus, my love.

CHERYL: I don't understand.

BRIAN: We were never created to be away from God. Ultimately we all belong to Him. We came out of Him, and we return to Him eventually. The time we get together is a gift and one that I cherish, but we both knew that the Giver also decides when to take. I am with Jesus. He gave me to you for 16 wonderful years, and I cherish every moment, but He was ready for me, as He will be ready for you one day.

CHERYL: He took you too soon.

BRIAN: He needed me.

CHERYL: I needed you.

BRIAN: You needed me more than you needed Him. I was an idol in your life, and you would not make it, if I outlived you.

CHERYL: That is not fair.

BRIAN: If you really want to be where I am, you will have to be with Him. We all belong to Him.

CHERYL: So, God is real?

BRIAN: Yes, and He was not trying to hurt you, Cheryl. He was trying to save you.

Cheryl falls into his arms weeping.

CHERYL: I'm sorry I lost faith.

BRIAN: I'm glad you found it again. Faith makes everything possible.

CHERYL: It's good to see you.

BRIAN: I want you to meet someone.

Brian motions offstage. Brittany enters. She is shy.

CHERYL: Is this who I think it is?

BRIAN: Yes. Our first daughter, Brittany.

DRE: We have a sister?

CHERYL: *(between tears)* Our first child. We had a miscarriage.

ABBEY: You never mentioned that.

CHERYL: It was too painful to talk about.

Cheryl hugs Brittany.

BRIAN: Do you see now how much you would miss outside of Christ? And there's so much more, but you can only know in part now.

CHERYL: This is enough.

BRIAN: Take comfort in these memories, until we meet again.

LIGHTS FADE

Pause.

A few candles are lit. The setting is back to normal; characters are no longer in Biblical attire.

CHERYL: What just happened?

DRE: I had the strangest dream.

ABBEY: I saw my Daddy, and my sister.

Pause.

CHERYL: You saw your sister? That was real? How would you know you had a sister?

SARAH: You don't remember anything?

CHERYL: I feel really weird and nauseous. I remember some things, but they don't feel like my memories and why are we still in the dark.

ABBEY: Mommy, you should speak to the darkness and tell it to go. That's what Jesus would do.

CHERYL: What? Jesus? Why are you guys talking about Jesus?

DRE: I am not afraid anymore.

SARAH: God spoke, and there was. We were created in His image so why not speak to the darkness.

CHERYL: Because it sounds stupid.

SARAH: Similar to how you felt when you spoke to your husband's cancer? Cheryl, you never really believed that God would heal Him, did you? You wanted Him to, but you didn't think He would. But just so you know the Light that came into this world over two thousand years ago, is still here.

CHERYL: Can we please change the subject?

SARAH: Who is the Light of the World?

DRE: I know that one. Jesus said in John 8:12 that He is the Light of the World.

Pause.

SARAH: Jesus is the Light. Then He said in Matthew 5:14 that we are the light of the World. Through Him, we are like Him. You want God to reveal Himself to you, exercise your faith. You cannot please Him without faith.

Pause.

CHERYL: Fine! I'm going to believe that God is going to bypass all natural laws and make the light come back on today.

The lights come back on. Cheryl is shocked.

CHERYL: That did not just happened!

SARAH: There will be a news report telling us that whatever problem they were having was fixed at this exact moment. We may then be forced to think it's a weird coincidence. The question we must ask is, "*Would the light have still come on, if you didn't believe it would?*"

Pause.

CHERYL: We'll never know.

SARAH: Exactly. Faith is a choice. The mountain will not move, so you can develop faith. It will move because you have faith. Your faith will make the kingdom of God either a bunch of stories, or a present-day reality.

CHERYL: What day is today?

Someone checks the calendar and time.

ABBEY: It's a little past 10 am, on Christmas Day.

CHERYL: We didn't miss it after all.

SARAH: You do remember our little trip?

CHERYL: I'm still trying to figure out if it was real.

SARAH: It was real enough.

Pause.

CHERYL: Yes it was. It was enough. How about we get this Christmas Tree lit up. Then we probably should get to church.

SARAH: The service is already over.

CHERYL: The light was out. They probably postponed the service till now. Besides, there are four of us here. How many people do we need to have church?

SARAH: Point taken. See what a little imagination can do.

CHERYL: I'm not so sure we imagined it.

SARAH: Me neither.

Sarah smiles. They all gather around the tree. They plug it in, and it comes to life.

CHERYL: I just realized how much I missed these Christmas lights!

Abbey and Dre hug Cheryl tight.

LIGHTS FADE

VOICE: Light has come into the world, but men love the darkness because their deeds are evil. You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine that all men will see.