

Kelly: Jesus has been very good to me, and I can always pray and ask Him to help me when things aren't going well. He has worked out a lot of things in my life already. But most people don't want "older children." Are you sure you want me?

Mom: I'm sure. We used to have two daughters. Melanie was killed in a car wreck when she was just a little older than you. Carla was still at home, but I was so grief-stricken over Melanie that I ignored Carla. Carla left to go to college and now we don't have anyone at home except my husband and me. I would love to have someone to care for, a child that needs me again.

Dad: Are you sure it won't be too much? It will be more work than with our daughters because of Kelly's paralyzed legs.

Mom: (*Straightening her shoulders and looking very determined*) But I want to do it. I've wasted too many years just thinking of myself and it is time that I think of someone else. Not only did we lose Melanie, but I shut Carla out of my life, too. I can see now that I was being totally selfish. But this child has lost everyone and yet Kelly's greatest concern is about going to church and continuing to live a Christian life. I want to know Jesus and learn to have the faith and trust that Kelly has.

Dad: It will be so good to have a family again. (*Turning to Carla*) Who do we need to talk to see if Kelly can live with us?

Carla: I will see if someone can talk to us now, but I'm not sure how quickly they will allow our little patient to go home. (*Places hand on child's shoulder*) We'll go see what arrangements we can make, OK?

Kelly: Thank you so much for wanting me! I'll be praying that everything will work out. (*Curtain closes as Carla and her parents turn to walk away.*)

Scene 11: Piano Solo at Christmas Program

(Scene opens as Carla, Mrs. Martin and her family are ready to walk into church for the Christmas Program. Conversation can be had just as they start to appear on stage. If you have plenty of people to act as the congregation, some can already be seated on the stage area.)

Carrie: I can't wait to hear you play your Christmas Song on the piano tonight. You play so pretty.

Carla: Thank you, Carrie. I'm really nervous, this is the first time I have played at a church.

Mrs. Martin: Did you invite your parents?

Carla: Yes, I invited them, but I'm sure they won't come especially since this is the very day that my sister was killed. My mother won't be able to handle the memories.

(They all take a seat with the "congregation" already on stage. Wait just a little while, and then Carla's mother and father walk in with Kelly, either in wheelchair or being carried to a seat. The audience should be aware that the parents are there but also aware that Carla doesn't know they have arrived.)

Preacher: (*Standing before the congregation on stage*) We want to welcome everyone to our program tonight as we commemorate the birth of Jesus. We hope this program will inspire each of you to have a greater determination to be the best Christian you can be, and to love, honor and serve the Christ of Christmas. I want everyone to remember (with emphasis) **Jesus is right for whatever is wrong with your life**. He can give comfort to those who are ill or crippled, joy to those that are sad, and peace to those who are troubled. Now, to start off the program, we'll begin with a piano solo by Carla Phillips.

(Carla walks to the piano and starts playing a beautiful, meaningful Christmas song. When the song is finished, Carla walks back to her seat as the people are clapping.)

Preacher: Thank you for that beautiful song. Now I will read the Christmas story as told by Luke chapter 2 verses 1 thru 20 *(this passage can be read from the Bible or if you want to use your Pastor to speak here, you can adjust accordingly).*

(At the end of the scripture reading, curtains can be closed just to depict the passing of time – then reopen the curtains)

Preacher: And that concludes our program tonight. I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas. *(The “congregation on stage,” rise to start walking off-stage because the program is finished. Some of them can be chatting, maybe mention the beautiful program or something as they are walking away. Carla needs to be kept busy with congratulations and facing forward so her parents and Kelly can leave off-stage so Carla is never aware that they were at the program.)*

Mrs. Martin: *(turning to Carla)* Carla, I'll ride back to the house with Helen and the kids. When you are finished here, come back to the house and we'll have a little bite to eat. I have something special for you, too.

Carla: Sure, I'll come back to the house for a little while. Food sounds good. I was too nervous to eat before I came over to the church. I'll be ready to head out to my parent's house as soon as I load my luggage and presents. I won't be much longer.

Helen: We'll stay for little while, too. The children won't mind having an excuse to stay up late. *(Curtain closes)*

Scene 12: Gathering at Mrs. Martin's House

(Scene opens at Mrs. Martin's house, with Mrs. Martin, Helen, Frank and children, Carla's parents and Kelly. Carla walks in after curtain is open. She sees her parents and gives a little gasp of surprise.)

Carla: Mom...Dad...Kelly! I didn't...I don't...Well, I...

Mrs. Martin: Carla, I hoped you wouldn't mind. We called your parents and gave them a special invitation to come tonight to hear the Christmas program and to hear you play. Then I invited them to come over to the house for a while.

Carla: But.....

Mom: I know, Carla, it's all right. I've wasted so much time on “what could have been.” I had no idea that you could play so beautifully. I don't think that anyone could have done a better job.

Dad: And now I understand so much better about what Christmas really means. We just started going to church after Kelly started living with us and everything is so new, but the program really helped to make Jesus' birth the real part of Christmas instead of the parties, shopping and gifts.

Carla: I'm so glad you came! It sort of makes everything complete again.

Mom: *(Gives Carla a big hug)* Carla, I just want you to know how proud I am of you. *(Carla gasps and uses a Kleenex to wipe the tears from her eyes.)* I hear that you are doing well at college and the music you played tonight was absolutely beautiful. I am so sorry that I shut you out of my life for so many wasted months. Will you forgive me?

Carla: Mom, you don't know how many times I wished that I could make you proud of me. You have really made me happy tonight. Of course you are forgiven.

Mom: I have something that I want to give you. *(Mom looks toward Dad, who walks over and picks up a picture album type book and hands to Carla.)*

Carla: *(Takes book and starts to look at the pages)* Mother, these are mine! You kept them after all?

Mom: Yes, Carla, that is all the paper awards and certificates that you received. And in the living room at home I have a trophy case with all your awards and trophies.

Kelly: AND, they have another case just for me. Guess what? I have already received an award at our music contest at school. I received one of the trophies for singing – I can sing without having to use my legs.

Carla: *(Placing hand on Kelly's shoulder)* Welcome to the family. *(Looking at her parents)* I am looking forward to coming home for Christmas.

Mrs. Martin: What a difference it makes when Jesus is the center of our lives. **Jesus IS right for whatever is wrong with our lives.**

(Everyone looks at each other and nods and smiles, etc., as the curtain closes.)