

Lawyer: Well, when Mrs. Hendrix said she needed the money for the tuition at Crystal River High, we had to borrow the money. Then there were the loans for three new cars last year for the three of you. Looks like the last loan was for a cruise to the Bahamas, party of 15.

Brady (impatiently): Did you bring the check? How much is it?

Lawyer (ignoring the interruptions): We were able to sell the business for a good price, but by the time we paid off the extra loans, there is nothing left. In fact, we've liquidated everything except this house and two cars and we still need several thousand dollars to settle up. I'm afraid the obvious answer to get enough money to settle the outstanding bills would be to sell this house. You should still have enough left to buy a smaller house and start over.

Mrs. Kyger and Brady (together): No money? Sell the house?

Suzanne: Will I still get to go on the ski trip? What about next semester at Crystal River High School?

Mrs. Kyger: Sounds like we're really headed for the Poor Farm.

Brady (sullenly): Let's go on to jail, at least I'll have a roof over my head and food to eat.

Suzanne (subdued): I guess we're as poor as Kyla's family now. Maybe we SHOULD go downtown to visit the Live Nativity scene. At least it is free.

(Curtains close)

Scene Ten

Casey Johnson

Benji Johnson

Debra Johnson

Mrs. Jeanette Hendrix

Kyla Hendrix

Joel Hendrix

Voice -- over speakers or from off stage

And others as desired

(Curtain opens as the characters for the Live Nativity Scene are gathering and getting into position. This is very informal and the children are welcome to talk and act natural without being overly noisy.)

(As things start to settle down, Casey speaks)

Casey (disappointed): I thought you said Baby Jesus would be in the manger.

Kyla: What did you say? (Everyone turns to look at Casey)

Casey (pointing to the manger): I thought you said Baby Jesus would be in the manger.

Kyla and several of the others (look around, and then looking farther out as if to see if someone is walking toward them): Oh, dear. Jesus isn't here! Wonder where Jesus is? Has anyone seen Jesus today, is He OK, is He coming?

Shepherd-1 (being cute, with a big, sweeping bow and loud announcing voice): Where is He? We have come to worship Him!

(The others start settling back into their positions, some chuckle because they know the shepherd is just pretending.)

Shepherd-2: The angels said He would be here in the manger. (The others look heavenward for a minute, then look at the empty manger.)

Innkeeper: I'm the innkeeper, I gave them permission to use the manger. It's not my fault.

Coordinator: Alright, is everyone ready? We'll just have to go ahead and leave the manger empty for now unless one of you brought a baby doll. (Others look at each other and shrug or shake their head "no.") It's almost time for people to start coming by. Remember, this is in honor of Jesus who came to earth as a baby so that He could live life as we do, so that He could know suffering, so that He could die for our sins. No laughing, giggling or being disrespectful. I'll be back to check on you – if you need anything, I have my cell phone with me.

(For the people walking by, you can send just a few, or send the same children in different small groups, and perhaps loop them back thru with a different set of children. Perhaps a couple taller children with a couple small children, then one older girl with a small child that has already walked by, just to rearrange and look like more "viewers." HOWEVER, we will definitely need Debra, Suzanne and Mrs. Kyger to participate.)

Looker 1: Beautiful.

Looker 2: Doesn't Mary look so sweet.

Looker 3: Glad Joseph has a cane to lean on. He'll be tired before the night is over.

Looker 4: Looks like Jesus is missing.

Casey: He IS missing. Can you help us find Him?

Looker 4 (moving on quickly): Until I straighten up a few things, I don't want HIM to find ME.

Casey: My grandma says he doesn't have to FIND us, He already KNOWS where we are.

Looker 4: I knew it wasn't safe to get this close to a church.

(More people drift by.)

Little child 1: Mommy, I guess Jesus didn't like His bed and went somewhere else. I would let Him stay in my room.

Looker 5: Child, Jesus doesn't need to sleep in your bed, but He does want to live in your heart. I hope you ALWAYS make room in your HEART for Jesus.

Child 2: I brought my teddy bear so Jesus wouldn't be lonesome. It's my very favorite one.

Looker 6: I'm sure that would make Jesus happy. And there are other ways to make Him happy. We can be helpful, friendly, loving, kind – there are lots of ways to show people, young and old, that we care about them.

(More people drift by – as desired they can make comments about the nativity scene and Jesus missing)

(Debra comes by and the children call out to her.)

Casey: Mommy, isn't everything so pretty?

Benji: Are you looking for Jesus, too?

Debra (Holds out her arms to both children, and they run to her, she hugs them): I have found Him and I don't intend to lose Him again. He has changed my heart and He will help me be the mother that I ought to be.

(More people drift by)

(Suzanne and Mrs. Kyger come by)

Casey: Did you come to find Jesus? You look awfully sad. Are you hungry like we were that day? We can share, we have LOTS of food, Benji, give them four of our crackers, we'll still have two left.