

— ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS —

Four students gather to talk about the gifts they want for Christmas, but end up thinking about deeper, more meaningful wishes they have for themselves and the world around them.

Actors: Merry, Jingle, Jangle, Bells

Props: Christmas tree, lights, ornaments, presents under tree

Merry: <all gather in front of Christmas tree> Wow, Christmas is only two weeks away!

Jingle: I know, I'm so excited! I can hardly wait to rip into those presents!

Jangle: I'm not excited. I already know what I'm getting, a new video game.

Merry: How do you know that?

Jangle: <smiles> I looked!

Jingle: What? You're not supposed to look!

Jangle: It's not my fault that my parents don't know how to hide the Christmas presents.

Bells: Oh brother!

Merry: What do you think you're getting?

Jangle: I don't think, I know!

Bells: What? Not you too!

Jingle: I'm getting new boots and a dress.

Jangle: How do you know that?

Jingle: I picked them out at the shopping center with my mom.

Jangle: How about you?

Merry: I don't know what I'm getting, but I want a new cell phone or maybe a laptop.

Jingle: Hey, what do you want?

Bells: Oh, I don't really care. I have everything I need.

Merry: What? How about a phone

Jingle: Or a video game.

Jangle: Or a new TV.

Bells: Oh, I don't know. It doesn't really matter to me that much.

Jangle: You must want something.

Merry: How about a new bicycle.

Jingle: Or a moped.

Jangle: Or a car!

Bells: Well, if I could have anything, it wouldn't be any of those things.

Merry: What are you talking about?

Jingle: Yeah, if it's not games or clothes or cars, what is it you want?

Bells: I just want my older sister to be nicer to me. We don't play together like we used to when we were little. That's what I'd really want. How about you?

Merry: What do you mean?

Bells: What do you want? I mean, what do you REALLY want?

Merry: <after brief pause> I'd like my family to spend more time together doing fun stuff.

Jingle: I'd like some kids at school to stop excluding me from everything they do.

Jangle: I'd like my parents to not fight so much anymore.

Merry: I'd like to not get into as much trouble as I seem to get into all the time.

Jingle: I'd like to feel better about myself and who I am.

Jangle: I'd like there to be more peace in the world.

Merry: You know, it seems like we're all looking for the same thing; peace in our lives.

Bells: Peace, sounds so easy, but that's a tough one.

Merry: All of those things we wished for are pretty challenging actually.

Jingle: That's not really what Christmas is about, though, is it?

Jangle: Peace in our lives? I don't know.

Bells: Well, Christmas is still a couple weeks away. So we have time to think about it.

Merry: For now, we're still watching and waiting, aren't we?

Jingle: Yeah, and learning and growing and praying.

Jangle: Maybe God will give us what we're hoping for.

Bells: Maybe God will show us what we're looking for.

Merry: Well, let's get going, and we'll see.

Jingle: Ok, see you later.

Jangle: Yeah, see you at Christmastime! <they exit>

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:31 "But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way." 1 Corinthians 13 "The greatest of these is love."

Message: At Christmastime we wish for all kinds of fancy gifts and expensive presents. These toys and gifts gradually wear off and we find ourselves wishing for more. God knows we need more important gifts in life, things like peace, love, joy, and faith. We should strive for these heavenly gifts of God, at least as much, if not more, than we do for the material gifts we wish for at Christmas. Together let's seek these godly gifts, these spiritual blessings, and invest our time and treasure to give these gifts to those in need in our lives and world.

Questions: What is the best Christmas present you've ever received? Why did you love it? What is a heavenly gift that you would like to receive from God? What is a spiritual gift that you could give to someone in need in your community, school, or world?

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, you give us so many wonderful gifts and blessings in life. May we be content with your good gifts and provision for us in life. Open our hearts and minds to see the spiritual blessings that you've given to us, and guide us to be spiritual blessings for others in our lives, communities, and world. Amen.