

## Christmas Believers©

**Message:** A Christmas program at church becomes an inconvenience for the coach of the school basketball team. The theme of the church Christmas program is “believing”. Individual segments speak of how for centuries people firmly believed that a Messiah would come, another shows the strong belief that Jesus would rise from the dead, and another showed the faith of Mary and Joseph who believed the message of the angel. The final segment is a human video, (mime to music), of the song “Mary Did You Know”.

**Bible Reference:** the birth of Jesus

**Cast:** 15 speaking parts  
includes offstage Voice of Jesus  
could be divided further or combined  
several extras could be used

**Set:** Scene I is a school gym, Scene II is a church gym, so there is very little needed in the way of set.

**Costumes:** Sports uniforms  
Traditional costumes for finale if using that option

**Lighting & Sound:** standard

**Time:** 60

**Script:**

### **Scene I – School Gymnasium**

*Coach and several players are standing around, coach looking at his watch, glancing offstage, getting more and more frustrated*

**Coach:** I am about fed up! Kids beg to be on the team, say, “Oh, yeh, you can count on me, I’ll be at all the practices!”  
Yeh, right, every phoney excuse from piano lessons to Aunt Maude’s got the hiccups!  
*(yells at Billie)*  
Hey Billie, you seen Tommy anywhere?

**Billie:** Should be here any minute Coach, I think his youth group should be leaving the church right about now.

**Coach:** Church youth group? Surely Tommy knows there’s a game Wednesday, surely it’s not gonna toast anybody to miss one church thingie. And where is Seth?

Terry: Seth's practicing for the Sunday School Christmas drama, likely won't be here tonight is my guess.

Coach: Well if that don't just beat all! Now it's Sunday school. Would it be too much to ask that the Sunday school practice be on . . . duh! . . . . Sunday?

*Helen and Alex come on stage*

Coach: Well at least we got "The man," Alex! Hey guy, how's it goin' tonight?

Alex, *looking at Helen, uncomfortable:*

Uh, it's . . . ah, OK, I guess.

Coach: Mrs. French, good to see you, thanks for bringing Alex out, gotta tell you, your son is gettin' to be a power player on the team, glad to have him is what.

Helen: Well actually Coach Anderson, I came tonight because I have to talk to you about Alex's . . . . .

Alex, *begging:*

Please Mom!

Coach: Is there a problem with Alex? Look we can work things around I am sure if we just work together, all will be . . . .

Helen: Well I hope so, it's just that Alex tells us that you are scheduling practices every Sunday morning and . . .

Coach: Yeh, Sunday seems to work best for most kids . . . and for me to, for a fact, so . . . .

Helen: Well, unfortunately Sunday morning practices will conflict with church service and we just aren't prepared to forego church, it is too important in our family.

Coach: Hey listen, Alex's a great little player, we all want what's best for him, we can work things out, maybe once a month, once every 6 weeks Alex gets to go to church, I mean I want what's best for the kid, same as you do Mrs. French, for a fact!

Helen: Yes, well yes, Coach Anderson, Alex's dad and I definitely do want what's best for Alex, and we believe that on Sundays what's best for Alex is church.

Coach: I got no argument with that Mrs. French, like I say, have Alex miss practice every month or so, stay in touch with his friends at church.

Helen: Well Brad Rice's mom told me you had told her that Brad must attend every Sunday practice or he would be removed from the team.

Coach: And so I did, but Brad he's a small kid, not much in the way of skills, only way he can learn the game is work extra hard in practice. Alex on the other hand, he's a natural basketball player if I ever seen one. He can afford to miss a practice here and there, go to church, so long as it doesn't get to be a habit.

Helen, *smiling*:

Well, fact is Coach Anderson, Alex's dad and I are quite eager that attending church become very much of a habit, now and throughout his life.

Coach, *getting annoyed*:

Look here, do you have any idea how tough it is, trying to bow to every mom's wishes for their little darlin'? Fact is, there's just not enough days in the week to look after everyone's demands!

*(softening, smiling)*

Look, what I meant to say is, we both want what's best for your son.

Helen: Yes, I hope we do, and much as Alex would like to play basketball, and as much as his dad and I want to support that, if we must choose between basketball and spiritual training, what's best for Alex is and always will be spiritual training.

Coach: Fine, so what you are doing is keeping Alex from playing the game!

Helen: Yes, if the only practice option is Sunday then I guess you are right.

Alex, *pleading*:

Mom!

Helen: Sorry son, we have discussed this and you know how we feel.

Alex: I know Mom . . . sorry Coach, see you around.

*Helen and Alex start to walk away*

Coach: This is a decision you are gonna live to regret Mrs. French!

Helen, *turns to face Coach*:

Are you a parent Coach Anderson?

Coach: Sure am, a daughter, Miriam, same age as Alex.

Helen: Then you have had to make decisions on behalf of your daughter from time to time.

Coach: Well I am telling you that not one time have I forced my daughter to go to some two-bit church against her will, I tell ya. Not forcing religion down nobody's throat!

Helen: I hope we aren't either, but we are giving Alex the opportunity by setting an example and attending church regularly ourselves.

Coach: So you are saying that just because I don't happen to choose to go to church I am not as good as you.

Helen: Coach Anderson, I am saying no such thing! I am stating what our choices as a family are. But this conversation is getting out of hand. The bottom line is that we don't necessarily agree with your intentions to have basketball practice on Sunday mornings, but we recognize that is your right to schedule as you see fit. In the same way it is our duty as parents to make tough choices, and this we have done.

Coach: Like I say, you will regret this. Day will come when Alex gets his fill of religious mumbo-jumbo, what does he have then? Mark my words, you guys will expect me to pick up the pieces when that happens!

Helen: Good day Coach Anderson!

*Helen and Alex off stage, Alex looking back, sad*

Coach: There's thanks for you! Us coaches, we work our tails off, and for why? Kid shows some promise and parents throw up roadblocks.

*Billie comes on stage*

Tommy: Here's Billie now Coach.

Coach, to Billie: Finally managed to drag yourself to practice did you?

Billie: Sorry, youth group ran overtime.

Coach: OK, that did it! You guys are gonna have to make choices! Go with your namby-pamby church whatever, or be on the team, what's it gonna be?

Coach: Well, we have to see how it goes, but you round up Alex, get him back on the team, that sure shows me you got what it takes. . . . Ok guys, enough jawin' let's get practicin' basketball!

*lights down*

## Scene II – Church gym

*Helen is leading a Christmas drama practice*

Helen: Well first guys I would like to thank all of you for volunteering to be a part of our church Christmas drama project.

Sarah: Actually Mrs. French, my mom kinda volunteered me,

Helen, *giggles*:

Well, Sarah, the truth is that sometimes moms do have to do some volunteering to help get kids started into something new. *(looks at Amy, smiles)* Matter of fact, I remember Amy wasn't real crazy about coming out for the Christmas drama last year, were you Amy?

Amy: I hated the thought. Basically my mom forced me to come out.

Helen: But Amy has developed into a very expressive actress, and I think it's fair to say she didn't have to be talked into volunteering this year, did you Amy?

Amy: I love drama! I have learned so much, about acting, but I have also seen how God is working in my life. I am feeling more and more that this is ministry. And more and more I believe that ministry is what God has planned for my life.

Sarah: Yes but Amy, you are so good, and I think that is what you should be doing with your life. But me, I don't have clue one about how to act and stuff. I just know I will make a mess of it.

Amy: Well Mrs. French told me that God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. And God truly has equipped me to minister through drama. I'd be glad to work with you Sarah, if you'd like, kinda give you some advice, suggestions. If you don't mind that is.

Sarah: Mind? Wow, that would be awesome, thanks. *(thinks)* God equips the called huh? Wonder if God equips the ones whose mom has called?

Amy: Well it worked for me when my Mom did the calling, no reason why it won't work for you.

*Alex and Miriam come on stage*

Alex: Sorry I am late Mom. I ran into Miriam in the library, we started to talk, kinda lost track of time, sorry. Miriam, I'd like you to meet my Mom.

Helen, *shakes hands*:

Hi Miriam, good to meet you. Let's see, Coach Anderson is your dad isn't he?

Miriam: Yah. I hope you don't mind me coming out to your practice Mrs. French. I really do like drama, would you mind if I just watched?

Helen: Not at all Miriam, we are pleased to have you. I suppose you are taking drama in school?

Miriam, *looks down, embarrassed*:

Uh, no, my Dad, he's not . . . he wants me to play basketball.

Helen: I see. Well you are very welcome to stay as long as you want, I hope you will enjoy.

Miriam: Thanks, that is very kind of you Mrs. French.

Helen: Now then guys, time to get started. Just some housekeeping things, first we will be meeting for rehearsals every Wednesday evening, then Wednesday and Friday when we get closer to Christmas. I know this is a big commitment, what with school and sports and all the other things that are going on in your lives, but we really do need you to be committed to the success of this ministry. I will be meeting with each of you separately and I am available at all times for coaching, give me a call if you would like to meet one on one. Now then, before we go any further, we need to stop and pray. Seth would you lead us in prayer?

*all bow heads except Miriam who appears very uncomfortable, looks around while trying not to show it*

Seth: Dear God, I ask that you use us in this ministry. Show us that this is not about us, or our abilities, it's about your Son, Jesus Christ who came to earth on that first Christmas. Thank you that he came, but more thank you that he paid the price for our sins, dying on the cross for each one of us. And thank you that you rose from the dead, and that you are with us every moment of our days. I pray that you just work in each one of us Lord. We pray in your holy name. Amen.