

Drama: Christmas Family Fortunes

Characters: Quiz show host, Joseph, Mary (carrying baby doll), Angel Gabriel, Nathan (shepherd), Casper (wise man), Santa, Mrs Claus, Rudolph, Frosty the snowman, Twinkle the Christmas elf, Reader

An accompanying PowerPoint is provided in additional document: 8. Drama PowerPoint. The score screen and sound effects are all controlled by clicking on the PowerPoint where * is marked on the script. It is recommended that the person operating the PowerPoint rehearses this in advance to make sure that the sound effects etc. come in the right place.

*Slide 1 contains 30 seconds or so of music to allow the actors to take their places. * The quiz show host should be in the middle with Joseph, Mary, Gabriel, Nathan and Casper on his/her right (left from the audience's perspective) and Santa, Mrs Claus, Rudolph, Frosty and Twinkle on the host's left. The Reader can be waiting off to one side, ready to step forward when they speak.*

Host: Welcome to this Christmas edition of Family Fortunes. Let's welcome the two teams taking part in this festive edition of everyone's favourite quiz show. Leading Team A we have Joseph. *

(Music plays and Joseph and his team wave.)

Host: Joseph, can you introduce us to your team?

Joseph: Sure, I'm Joseph, this is my wife Mary and our baby, Jesus. This is the Angel Gabriel, Nathan the shepherd and Casper the wise man.

Host: Good to meet you all, and the best of luck for today's show. Leading Team B, we have Santa. *

(Music plays and Santa and his team wave.)

Host: Can you introduce us to the rest of your team?

Santa: Ho, ho, ho! Certainly, this is my wife Mrs Claus, this is Rudolph my trusty reindeer, then we have Frosty the Snowman and Twinkle the Christmas elf.

Host: Welcome to the show and good luck to you all. Joseph and Santa, please step forward and get ready to answer the first question. We asked 100 people this question and your job is to find the 5 most popular answers. Fingers ready on the buzzers.

* Question no. 1 - What is Christmas really all about?

* *(Joseph buzzes.)*

Host: Yes, Joseph?

Joseph: Jesus.

Host: *(puzzled)* Jesus?

Joseph: Yes, Christmas is all about Jesus being born.

Host: * Ok, you say Jesus, our survey says... *

(turns to the screen - X lights up.)

Host: Sorry, that's not one of the top answers so I'm going to pass it over to Santa. Santa, what is Christmas really all about?

Santa: Christmas is all about presents.

Host: Let's see what our survey says. *

(Turns to the screen - the top answer lights up.)

Host: The top answer! Well done. Let's give Santa a round of applause.

Joseph: But that's not right. Christmas is about Jesus being born. That's what's really important about Christmas. It's not just all about presents.

Host: Sorry, Joseph, presents is our top answer. Please return to your team. *(He does.)* Over to Santa's team now to see if they can find any more of the top answers. Mrs Claus, what is Christmas really all about?

Mrs Claus: Christmas is all about food - turkey and Christmas pudding and mince pies and chocolate and...

Host: Ok, we get the picture. Christmas is all about food. Our survey says... *

(Turns to the screen - the third answer lights up.)

Host: Well done.
Rudolph, what's your answer?

Rudolph: Parties and fun.

Host: Let's see if you're right. *

(Turns to screen - the second answer lights up.)

Nathan: Excuse me, that's rubbish.

Casper: That's not what Christmas is all about.

Host: Quiet please, Joseph's team. You'll get your chance.
Frosty, what is Christmas all about?

Frosty: That's easy, it's all about snow.

Host: Christmas is all about snow? *

(Turns to the screen - the fourth answer lights up.)

Host: Well done. Only one more answer left to find. Twinkle, what do you think?

Twinkle: Um... they took all my answers... I don't know... let me think... ok I've got it, Christmas is all about finding out who wins Strictly Come Dancing.

Host: Finding out who wins the Strictly Come Dancing? Ok, let's see if it's up there. *

(Turns to screen - X lights up.)

Host: Sorry, that's not one of our top answers, so Joseph and his team have a chance to steal the points. What is Christmas all about? Casper?

Casper: A new-born king.

Host: Nathan?

Nathan: Good news for all mankind.

Host: Gabriel?

Gabriel: Peace on earth.

Host: Mary?

Mary: God sending his son.

Host: Ok, Joseph, which answer are you going to go with?

Joseph: God sending his son.

Host: You say "God sending his son."
Our survey says... *

(Turns to screen - X lights up.)

Host: Hard luck. So, Santa's team win that round. Well done to you...

Nathan: But that's wrong.

Gabriel: You're all missing the point.

Mary: That's really not what Christmas is all about.

Host: But that's what our survey says. We asked 100 people what they thought and these are their answers.

Joseph: Well, they're wrong. Ok, so we all enjoy presents and parties and snow and all these things but they're not the main point. They're not really what Christmas is all about.

Host: Come on, don't be bad losers, it's just a game.

Mary: That's the thing. It's not just a game. Christmas is one of the most important events that ever happened in the history of the world.

Joseph: There's nothing wrong with all those things you're talking about but there's a lot more to it than that.

Host: Well, what do you think Christmas is all about then?

Joseph: I already told you. It's about Jesus.

Reader: The angel said to Mary, You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus. The baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.

Host: Ok, so it's about Jesus. I'll admit that, but isn't that just a story that happened a long time ago? What does it have to do with us now?

Mrs Claus: Yeah, Christmas today's about presents and food and putting up decorations to make the place look nice.

Mary: The place my son was born in wasn't very nice.

Reader: While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby and she gave birth to her first son. Because there were no rooms left in the inn, she wrapped the baby with pieces of cloth and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

Host: Fair enough but that was a long time ago. What does that have to do with Christmas today?

Gabriel: It's good news for everyone, for all time.

Nathan: That's what the angel told us. I was out in the fields with some of the other shepherds when suddenly the angel appeared and told us the wonderful news. He's not just an ordinary baby.

Reader: The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in the town of David. He is Christ the Lord."

Rudolph: I don't get it then. If Christmas is all about Jesus, why do we have presents and all those kinds of things?

Casper: I brought Jesus presents along with the other wise men. We wanted to show him how special he was. That's why people give presents now, to remember what we did.

Reader: They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Host: Well that's all very interesting. I've learned some new things about Christmas, but I'm afraid it doesn't change anything...

Joseph: *(interrupting)* The whole point is that it changed everything.

Host: *(ignoring Joseph and carrying on)*... Santa and his team are the winners with 93 points. Joseph and his team have 0. * *(music and words on screen - Team B win)*
That's all we have time for in this festive edition of Family Fortunes but join us again on Boxing Day for our next show. We've heard lots of different ideas today of what Christmas is all about but let me leave you with a question - what is Christmas really all about for you? *

(Music plays and actors go off.)

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