

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

by Paul Neale Lessard



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**GETTING READY FOR
CHRISTMAS**

By Paul Neale Lessard

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PRODUCTION NOTES

The four Sundays of Advent are a time of preparation to celebrate both the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of making ready our hearts and reassessing our lives of faith as we come to the conclusion of yet another year.

The four sketches contained in this playkit are designed to be used in conjunction with the lighting of the Advent Candles. They are written to introduce the theme of each Sunday in Advent. At the beginning of each sketch, the candles on the Advent wreath should be unlit. The lighting of the candle(s) accompanies the reading of the Narrator's part. The actors should be ready to start the sketch as quickly as possible once the candles are lit. The Narrator will give a cue line to effect the transition.

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I Can't Wait!

(First Sunday of Advent)

THEME: Waiting, expectation — the Candle of Prophecy.

SYNOPSIS: A family is preparing to spend Christmas with the grandparents. Their child is having a hard time waiting for them to leave, even though the parents have promised that they will be going soon.

CHARACTERS: **Brian** — husband, rather irritable. **Janet** — wife, good humored. **Isaac/Chelsea** — son/daughter about four or five. (*The gender is not critical to the role. The child is never seen, so this role could be played by an older child with a young voice.*) **Narrator.**

PROPS: Suitcases, clothes to pack, microwave oven (unplugged) on roll-in cart, mug.

(Scene opens with BRIAN and JANET packing the suitcases. One could be folding clothes and the other packing. Or an ironing board could be set up with one ironing while the other packs. Some of the clothes should be piled by the microwave. BRIAN and JANET should be packing throughout their entire dialog. The child is Off-stage, in his bedroom, and is never seen, only heard — the reverse of how it should be in real life. An adult can be backstage with the child to prompt the lines.)

BRIAN: (*Putting a mug in the microwave and pantomiming turning it on*) **Do you want any tea, Janet?**

JANET: **No thanks.**

BRIAN: **I think Isaac must have finally fallen asleep.**

ISAAC: (*Off-stage in a loud pleading voice*) **I can't waaaaiit!**

BRIAN: (*Yelling, with an edge to his voice*) **Isaac! No more talking!**

JANET: (*More gentle than her husband*) **Go to sleep now, honey.**

ISAAC: **I want to go to Grandma and Grandpa's now!**

BRIAN: **I told you we will leave in two days.**

ISAAC: **But that's too long!**

- 1 **BRIAN:** *(To himself)* No, that's not "too long." "Too long" is the
2 amount of time we will be *staying* at your grandparents'
3 place. *(Dirty look from JANET.)*
- 4 **ISAAC:** I can't *waaaaaiit* . . .
- 5 **BRIAN:** *(Cutting ISAAC off)* Not another word, or I'll have to
6 come in to your room. *You won't like that.* *(Silence from*
7 *the room.)* That's better. I don't know what his trouble
8 is — he knows that we aren't leaving until Tuesday.
9 *(Shakes his head.)*
- 10 **JANET:** Be easy on him. He is just so excited about going.
- 11 **BRIAN:** Why can't he be more patient when he knows how
12 long it will be?
- 13 **JANET:** Isaac is still too young to really understand the
14 concept of time, so it's very hard for him to wait.
- 15 **BRIAN:** But I promised him that we would go to Grandma
16 and Grandpa's. Doesn't he believe me when I say we will
17 leave in two days?
- 18 **JANET:** *(Stopping her work for a second)* Brian, he has no idea
19 how long two days is. That's like a lifetime for him. It's
20 hard to be patient when you live each moment at full
21 speed like he does.
- 22 **ISAAC:** *(Loudly)* I want to go now!
- 23 **BRIAN:** *(Getting up quickly)* That's it!
- 24 **ISAAC:** *(In a panic)* I'm sleeping dad, I'm sleeping.
- 25 **BRIAN:** *(Sitting back down. To ISAAC)* Not another word! *(To*
26 *JANET)* But I made a promise that we would go there for
27 Christmas. It seems like he should be old enough to trust
28 us.
- 29 **JANET:** Oh, Isaac trusts us. But he can't understand waiting
30 longer than ten minutes for anything. When we make a
31 promise and it isn't fulfilled within his understanding of
32 how long things should take, he thinks that we have
33 changed our minds.
- 34 **BRIAN:** But I haven't changed my mind. My promise still
35 stands.

1 **JANET:** Of course it does, and he will find that out on
 2 Tuesday when we get into the car and leave for Mom and
 3 Dad's.

4 **BRIAN:** Well, the sooner he understands time the way I do,
 5 the easier life will be around here. I'm tempted not to go
 6 just to teach him a lesson.

7 **JANET:** (*Seriously*) Whoa, it sounds like he's not the only one
 8 who needs to have a little patience.

9 **BRIAN:** (*Looks quickly at her, about to say something but pauses.*)
 10 Yeah, maybe you're right. I guess I can't blame him for
 11 not understanding something that is so foreign to him.
 12 He will just have to trust me, though. I will come through
 13 on my promise.

14 **JANET:** He'll see that. Can you hand me those shirts by the
 15 microwave?

16 **BRIAN:** Sure. (*When he goes to get the shirts, he stops at the*
 17 *microwave, opens the door, and takes a sip from the mug. Irritable*
 18 *again*) What's the deal with this microwave? It takes
 19 forever to get a hot cup of water! (*Turns to JANET with*
 20 *the cup in his hand.*) I sure get tired of waiting on this thing.
 21 (*Freeze*)

22

23 **NARRATOR:** Just like Isaac didn't understand time the way
 24 his parents did, so we often do not understand time as
 25 God does. God had said he would send the Messiah,
 26 Emmanuel, many years before the promise was realized.
 27 As Isaiah the prophet predicted:

28 "The people walking in darkness have seen a great
 29 light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death
 30 a light has dawned." (*Isaiah 9:2*)

31 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and
 32 the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be
 33 called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
 34 Father, Prince of Peace." (*Isaiah 9:6*)

35 "The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin

1 will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will
2 call him Immanuel." (*Isaiah 7:14*)

3 We, too, live with a promise that is almost two
4 thousand years old — the promise that Jesus will come
5 back again. The promise is still good, and we wait with
6 patience and anticipation for that day. (*Lights one candle.*)
7 I light the Candle of Prophecy.

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House Cleaning

(Second Sunday of Advent)

THEME: Making our hearts and homes ready for the Christ child — the Candle of Bethlehem.

SYNOPSIS: While Esther (Grandma) and Joe (Grandpa) are preparing the guest room for the arrival of their grandchildren at Christmas, their mix-up in communication tells us how we should prepare ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

CHARACTERS: **Joe (Grandpa)** — this character is quite enthusiastic and demonstrative by the end of the sketch. Make sure that the seeds of these emotions are seen in the character from the beginning. **Esther (Grandma)** — good-natured. **Narrator.**

SET: Two play areas divided by a pulpit, piano or something of substance to create the illusion of two different rooms. One room is the guest room. This setting may be established quite easily by placing a pillow and a bedspread on a bench for a "bed." Add a chair with some sheets hanging over the back, a wastebasket and some newspapers scattered about, and the guest room is ready for Grandma's clean-up job!

PROPS: Telephone (could be mimed), telephone book or church directory, sheets, blankets, a bedspread, two pillows, broom, newspapers, wastebasket.

NARRATOR: On the first Sunday of Advent we lit the Candle of Prophecy, which symbolized the time of waiting for the light that broke over the world that first Christmas. (*Lights one candle.*)

On this, the second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Bethlehem. (*Lights a second candle.*) It symbolizes the making of our hearts and homes ready for the Christ child. It also reminds us of the impending birth of Jesus.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for

me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (*Micah 5:2*)

The preparation of our hearts for Christmas is not unlike the woman who was preparing her home for company.

(*Scene opens with ESTHER tidying up the guest room. She should be working the whole time she is talking. There should be sheets hanging over the back of a chair, a wastebasket, newspapers scattered about, and miscellaneous homey touches to create the illusion of a guest room. The “bed” should be unmade. JOE is on the phone in the other area. He is holding one of the pillows. He looks up a number in the telephone book and dials as ESTHER begins to speak.*)

ESTHER: (*To herself, shaking out a pillow*) My, my! Everything is pretty dusty in here. This place will need a thorough cleaning if it’s going to be ready for the kids. I want to get the house in tip-top shape today.

JOE: (*On the phone*) Hi, Curt? Yeah, Joe Campbell here. Esther said that you had called.

ESTHER: (*To herself*) If I put Patty in here, I can put Janet in her old room. That way there will be enough space for Isaac’s cot.

JOE: (*On the phone*) That’s *this* Tuesday already? Wow, I didn’t realize it was coming up so soon.

ESTHER: (*To herself, brushing her hair out of her face, looking around the room*) I keep this house as clean as I can, but whenever we have company coming, it seems I see this place in a new light. (*Notices the “bed.”*) I’ll need to change that bedspread too. (*Starts to make the bed.*)

JOE: (*On the phone*) Sure. I’ll be there. Thanks for reminding me. (*Hangs up the phone. To himself*) This Tuesday is Christmas caroling at the jail. I forgot that I’m supposed to talk about how we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus’ birth. (*Starts to think about what he is going to do.*)

ESTHER: (*To herself, looking around*) Now, where is that other

- 1 pillow? Oh, Joe went to get it. I wonder if he's ready to
2 help me yet. (*Yells.*) Joe, are you ready?
- 3 **JOE:** (*Responds.*) No, I'm not ready. I completely forgot about
4 it.
- 5 **ESTHER:** When do you think you'll be ready?
- 6 **JOE:** Well, I still have two days.
- 7 **ESTHER:** Two days! (*To herself*) I want to get this house done
8 today. We'll have a house full of company in two days.
9 (*To JOE*) Joe, we have to get prepared.
- 10 **JOE:** I know. That's what I'm thinking about.
- 11 **ESTHER:** (*Straightens up, to herself*) *That's what I'm thinking*
12 *about? While he's thinking about getting this house*
13 *prepared, I'm doing it. Maybe I'll just think about making*
14 *dinner tonight. (Begins to pick up some newspapers off the*
15 *floor and puts them into the wastebasket.)*
- 16 **JOE:** (*To himself, thinking out loud*) OK, if I prepare myself to
17 celebrate Jesus' birth, I must . . . I must . . .
- 18 **ESTHER:** (*To JOE*) We'll have to clean some of this stuff out.
- 19 **JOE:** (*To ESTHER*) Exactly!
- 20 **ESTHER:** (*Dryly, to herself*) He can sure be supportive when
21 he's trying to avoid work.
- 22 **JOE:** (*To himself*) Esther is right. We must clean out the
23 clutter in our lives and make room for Jesus again. (*To*
24 *ESTHER*) What would you do next, dear?
- 25 **ESTHER:** (*Caustically*) I'd remind you of what we are
26 preparing for! (*The tempo of the lines should start to pick up*
27 *here as JOE's excitement builds.*)
- 28 **JOE:** (*To himself, blown away by her insight*) Wow, remember
29 what we are preparing for — Christmas, Jesus' birth, the
30 single most important event in the history of the world.
31 Esther is right — we have to remember, and . . . and . . .
32 refocus on the meaning in our own lives. (*The light bulb*
33 *comes on above his head.*)
- 34 **ESTHER:** (*Putting the finishing touches on the room and taking a*
35 *look around*) This doesn't look bad at all.

1 **JOE:** *(To himself, building enthusiasm, each phrase should be*
 2 *bigger than the last.) We take stock of our lives, throw out*
 3 *the garbage that has accumulated, focus anew on the*
 4 *meaning of Jesus' birth, and then, then . . . (Big grin,*
 5 *mounting excitement but searching for words, just an edge of*
 6 *panic)*

7 **ESTHER:** My mother always said, "If the room was inviting,
 8 people will want to be invited back." *(To JOE)* We need
 9 to be prepared so that we can invite them back.

10 **JOE:** *(With a rush of gratitude and, at the peak of excitement, very*
 11 *emphatic) Yes, yes, we invite him back! We recommit! We*
 12 *sign up for another year. We re-enlist! We re-up! Wow.*
 13 *(Overcome by his own insight now.) We focus anew on the*
 14 *meaning of his birth, and then reaffirm our commitment*
 15 *by asking the Christ child to once again make his home*
 16 *with us. Yes, that's it! (To ESTHER) Thanks so much,*
 17 *honey. I'm prepared now.*

18 **ESTHER:** *(Sarcastically) No, thank you, Joe. Now, if you'll just*
 19 *bring me the pillow, I'll be prepared too. (JOE looks down*
 20 *at the pillow like he has never seen it before.)*

21 *(Freeze)*

22
 23 **AUTHOR'S NOTE:** Our response to Christ every Christmas
 24 should be that of giving ourselves back to him. I have made
 25 three suggestions as to how we can prepare ourselves for the
 celebration of Jesus' birth.

26 1. *Reassess* priorities, clean out your life and make space for
 27 Jesus. This may be especially hard to do in the business of this
 28 season.

29 2. *Remember* the significance of Jesus' birth and refocus on the
 meaning in your life of his birth.

30 3. *Recommit* yourself to the Christ child. Let him continue to
 31 live in your heart and be at the center of your life.

32 The above points may be included in the pastor's sermon to
 33 reinforce what was said in the sketch.

34
 35

A Lot of Work for a Birthday

(Third Sunday of Advent)

THEME: Sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with others — the Shepherds' Candle.

SYNOPSIS: Two friends working in the inventory section of a doll manufacturing company discuss the importance of Jesus' birth.

CHARACTERS: **Patty** — early 20s. **Nicole** — 20/30s, pragmatic, let's-get-the-job-done type, rather abrupt. **Narrator**.

PROPS: Clipboard, coat or jacket.

NARRATOR: On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the Candle of Prophecy which symbolized the time of waiting for the light that broke over the world that first Christmas. (*Lights one candle.*)

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Bethlehem. (*Lights second candle.*) It symbolized our making ready to welcome the Christ child into our hearts and homes.

On this, the third Sunday in Advent, we light the Shepherds' Candle. (*Lights the third candle.*)

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'" (*Luke 2:8-12*)

(*Scene opens with NICOLE holding the clipboard and counting the people in the congregation. She is doing inventory in the company warehouse and the people of the congregation are the dolls. For most of the sketch NICOLE is silently counting and writing things down.*)

NICOLE: Seventy-seven, seventy-eight, seventy-nine, eighty ...

- 1 *(Squints at someone in the middle of the congregation.) That*
 2 **doll has got to be a “second,” it doesn’t seem to have all**
 3 **of its hair!** *(Writes on her clipboard, squints at the person again*
 4 *and continues counting.) Eighty-one, eighty-two, eighty-*
 5 **three, eighty-four, eighty-five . . .** *(PATTY enters.)*
 6 **PATTY:** Hi, Nicole! Will you still be finished at three?
 7 **NICOLE:** Eighty-six, eighty-seven, eighty-eight, eighty-nine,
 8 **ninety, there we go.** *(Writes on the clipboard again.) Hi, Patty.*
 9 **What did you say?**
 10 **PATTY:** Do you think you’ll be finished by three? If not, I
 11 **need to call my mom and dad and let them know I’ll be**
 12 **home later than I planned. My mom will worry.**
 13 **NICOLE:** It’s only a three-hour drive.
 14 **PATTY:** I know, but my sister and her family will be arriving
 15 **tomorrow, and Mom wants me to help finish cleaning the**
 16 **house. She needs the house spotless so that my nephew**
 17 **Isaac can mess everything up again.**
 18 **NICOLE:** Don’t worry, Patty. I’m almost finished here so we
 19 **should be able to leave on time.** *(Begins to count dolls again.)*
 20 **One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten . . .**
 21 **PATTY:** *(Looking around)* I’ve never been in the warehouse
 22 **before.**
 23 **NICOLE:** *(Without missing a beat)* **Four, five, six, seven, eight . . .**
 24 **PATTY:** I never realized we manufactured so many dolls.
 25 **NICOLE:** Yep, especially at this time of year. You know what
 26 **they say . . .**
 27 **PATTY and NICOLE:** *(Together)* **Delwood’s delightful dolls,**
 28 **for all your Christmas doll needs.**
 29 **PATTY:** It really is amazing how many dolls we sell at
 30 **Christmas.**
 31 **NICOLE:** It’s amazing how much of *everything* is sold at
 32 **Christmas.** *(Starts to count again.)*
 33 **PATTY:** That’s true. People do like to give at Christmas.
 34 *(Thoughtfully)* **And at this time of the year, it seems like**
 35 **people work extra hard to be nice and caring.**

1 **NICOLE:** *(Still counting, off-handedly)* Well, if you ask me, it
2 seems like a lot of work just to celebrate a birthday.
3 **PATTY:** *(Unclear)* I don't think I know what you mean, Nicole.
4 **NICOLE:** Christmas is really a birthday, right?
5 **PATTY:** Yes, I guess so, for Jesus.
6 **NICOLE:** So, really, Christmas is the birthday of a dead
7 guy, and everybody remembers this by going wild with
8 gifts and parties. It just seems like a lot of work.
9 **PATTY:** *(Hesitantly)* But he's not a dead guy. I believe that the
10 little baby Jesus who was born almost two thousand
11 years ago is still alive today. That's why I celebrate his
12 birthday.
13 **NICOLE:** *(Stops counting and looks at PATTY.)* So then, is he
14 coming to your party?
15 **PATTY:** *(Uncomfortably)* Well, yes, I mean, he kind of is coming.
16 We've talked about this before, Nicole: Jesus lives at the
17 center of my life, at the center of everyone who believes
18 in him. He doesn't have to walk around my Christmas
19 tree with a glass of eggnog in his hand to prove he's alive.
20 **NICOLE:** But Christmas is his birthday party.
21 **PATTY:** *(Unsure as to NICOLE's point)* Yes. There would be no
22 reason to celebrate if he had not been born.
23 **NICOLE:** *(Setting PATTY up)* OK, so what are you going to
24 give him for his birthday?
25 **PATTY:** *(Taken aback)* I don't understand, Nicole.
26 **NICOLE:** You said yourself that people like to give at this
27 time of the year. Everyone is buying presents for
28 everyone else. But, if it's Jesus' birthday and he really is
29 alive, don't you think he'd like something for his
30 birthday? *(Pause)* So, what are you going to give him?
31 *(Freeze)*
32
33
34
35

What We Give

(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

THEME: Caring, giving — the Candle of Love.

SYNOPSIS: A family Christmas celebration is overshadowed by worry when one family member is late in arriving. When she finally arrives and tells her story, an important lesson about the gift of the Christ child is learned.

CHARACTERS: **Brian** — husband/son-in-law, rather irritable. **Janet** — wife/daughter, good humored. **Isaac/Chelsea** — son or daughter/grandchild, about four or five. (The gender is not critical to the role. The child is never seen, so this role could be played by an older child with a young-sounding voice.) **Joe** — Grandpa. **Esther** — Grandma. **Patty** — early 20s, younger daughter. **Narrator**.

PROPS: Card table, two chairs, puzzle, a toy that requires assembly. (The script calls for a remote-controlled monster truck; if not available, substitute another toy.) A Christmas tree, mugs, spoons, sugar and cream set, tray, wrapped packages.

NARRATOR: On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the Candle of Prophecy which symbolized the time of waiting for Jesus' birth. (*Lights one candle.*) The second Sunday we lit the Candle of Bethlehem. (*Lights second candle.*) It symbolized our making our hearts and homes ready for the Christ child. Last Sunday we lit the Shepherds' Candle. (*Lights third candle.*) It symbolized our sharing of Jesus' birth with others.

Today, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the Angels' Candle, the Candle of Love. (*Lights fourth candle.*) It symbolizes the glorious song of the angels over the hills of Bethlehem, proclaiming the birth of Jesus.

"The angels said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

1 he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will
2 find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

3 "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host
4 appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory
5 to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom
6 his favor rests.'" *(Luke 2:10-14)*

7 The angels announced the most incredible gift given
8 to all people everywhere. The gift of Jesus Christ speaks
9 of the powerful love of the Giver who is God. What do
10 the gifts we give say about us?

11 *(This sketch is set in the family room of grandparents, JOE and*
12 *ESTHER. The card table is set up off to one side with a couple*
13 *of chairs around it. JANET is working on a puzzle. BRIAN is*
14 *trying to put together some kind of a toy. ESTHER is standing*
15 *and looking out a window. The window should be in the*
16 *imaginary fourth wall. ISAAC is already in bed; he will be heard*
17 *from Off-stage. Everyone looks just a little tense and on edge. A*
18 *Christmas tree at the side of the set would be a nice touch.)*

19 **ESTHER:** *(Worried)* Where could she be?

20 **JOE:** *(Reassuringly)* Don't worry, Esther, she's on her way.

21 **JANET:** Mom, Patty probably just left work later than she'd
22 planned.

23 **ESTHER:** But she said that she would be here by seven, and
24 now it's after nine . . .

25 **BRIAN:** *(Shaking his head)* Patty is always late, isn't she?
26 *(JANET gives him a dirty look.)*

27 **ESTHER:** No, Patty is always right on time. That's why I'm
28 worried. I hope she's all right.

29 **JOE:** *(Comes up from behind and puts his hands on her shoulders.*
30 *They both look out the window.)* She's just running a little
31 behind schedule, Esther.

32 **ESTHER:** Oh, I hope so. The roads are so icy, anything could
33 have happened.

34 **BRIAN:** *(Reassuring tone of voice)* Listen, with a good set of
35 winter tires and cautious driving, these roads aren't bad

- 1 at all. (*They all stare at him.*)
- 2 **JOE:** She still has the summer tires on her car. I was going
3 to put the winter ones on while she was here.
- 4 **JANET:** And Patty is a terrible driver, everyone knows that.
5 (*JANET and BRIAN begin to look out the window as well.*)
- 6 **ISAAC:** (*Off-stage in a loud, piercing voice*) Is it morning?
- 7 **ESTHER:** Not yet, sweetheart.
- 8 **JANET:** Go to sleep, honey. When you wake up, then we'll
9 open presents.
- 10 **BRIAN:** (*With despair*) It's like this every night. Just about the
11 time you relax and think he is sleeping, there is this shrill
12 little voice from the bedroom.
- 13 **JOE:** (*Not hearing, taking charge*) Well, standing here looking
14 out the window isn't going to change things at all. I'm
15 sure she's on her way. Would anybody care for some tea?
- 16 **BRIAN:** (*Sitting back down, goes back to assembling the toy.*) Sure,
17 I'll have a cup.
- 18 **JANET:** Me too, please. (*Goes back to her puzzle.*)
- 19 **JOE:** Esther?
- 20 **ESTHER:** (*Absently*) That would be nice, Joe. (*JOE exits.*)
- 21 **JANET:** Mom, come and help me with this puzzle.
- 22 **ESTHER:** (*Coming out of her thoughts*) Sure, I'll help you, Janet.
23 (*Brief pause, then JOE enters with a tray holding cups, sugar*
24 *and creamer. The characters fix their "tea."*)
- 25 **EVERYONE:** (*Ad-lib as they take their cups.*) Thanks Dad.
26 Thanks, Joe. (*Etc.*)
- 27 **JOE:** (*Sitting down*) So what's the big gift for Isaac this year?
- 28 **BRIAN:** I got him one of those remote-controlled monster
29 trucks. He's going to love it.
- 30 **ESTHER:** Isn't he a little young for that?
- 31 **BRIAN:** Well, maybe, but it's the kind of a toy that a boy can
32 grow into.
- 33 **JANET:** It sounds to me like the kind of a toy that a dad can
34 grow into as well.
- 35 **BRIAN:** (*Sheepishly*) You may be right. I can remember giving



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GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

by Paul Neale Lessard.

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