

THE BUS STOP

by Shari Albitz



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The Bus Stop

Weekly sketches for Advent
candlelighting and beyond

by Shari Albitz

Introduction

These five easy-to-use sketches have humor sprinkled throughout, making the Scriptures come alive. Looking at the Bible passages through the lens of everyday life gives their time-honored truths a contemporary feel. The sketches augment the tradition of cherishing the values of hope, peace, joy, and love at Advent.

The sketches may be used as an addition to any Advent candle-lighting ceremony in a contemporary service or Sunday school. Used immediately following the candle lighting and Scripture reading, the scripts enhance the lessons. Two recurring characters at a modern-day bus stop demonstrate how to include these values in your own life by mixing silly moments with real-life answers concerning who Jesus is and why he came to earth. People of any age will connect with these dramas that reach into your heart and fill up your soul.

No costumes plus minimal props and rehearsal time add up to a simplified production. Each sketch runs two to three minutes.

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Hope at the Bus Stop

Week 1

*"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord."*

—Luke 2:11

Characters: Two young girls, Ann and Carly.

Props: Sign that says "Star Bus Stop," bench, sunglasses, child's inner tube, diapers, baby blanket, baseball glove, foil, chocolate bar, teddy bear.

(ANN is waiting at the bus stop. She sits on a bench holding some very weird items. She is wearing the sunglasses.

CARLY walks up to ANN.)

CARLY: Hi, Ann. What are you doing here?

ANN: Hi, Carly. I'm waiting.

CARLY: Oh, you're waiting to take the bus somewhere?

ANN: No, silly, I'm waiting for the baby.

CARLY: What baby?

ANN: We heard a story the other day in Sunday school about a king coming as a baby.

CARLY: Oh, OK. Is his name Jesus?

ANN: *(Gets excited.)* Yeah! That's the one!

CARLY: Why are you waiting at the bus stop?

ANN: Because my teacher said the baby was born in a stable and placed in a manger. A beautiful, bright star led people to the baby. The star was a sign that the baby was born. This is the Star Bus Line, you know.

CARLY: *(Looking confused)* Oh, OK. But why do you have sunglasses on when it's almost dark?

ANN: She said it was a bright, shining star, so I figured they must have really waxed the bus, and I didn't want to hurt my eyes.

CARLY: Well, I guess that makes sense. But why do you have a child's inner tube?

1 ANN: It's a life preserver. She said in the story that this
2 Jesus was coming to save us, so I figured I would make
3 sure he has a life preserver handy.

4 CARLY: Wow, you've really been thinking about this,
5 haven't you? Why do you have diapers and a blanket?

6 ANN: He is supposed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes,
7 and I didn't know what they were, but every baby
8 needs diapers and a blanket. I thought he might like a
9 teddy bear too, so I brought one of those. (*Holds up the*
10 *bear.*)

11 CARLY: That's very nice of you. What is the foil for?

12 ANN: He receives gifts for his birthday of gold,
13 frankincense, and myrrh, and I didn't know what they
14 were, so I brought him foil, a baseball glove, and a
15 chocolate bar.

16 CARLY: I can understand the baseball glove and chocolate
17 bar, but why the foil?

18 ANN: (*Exasperated*) So he can make his crown, silly! He's
19 going to be a king, right?

20 CARLY: Right. (*Pause*) Why are you so interested in waiting
21 for this baby?

22 ANN: I figure as messed up as this world is, we could use
23 someone who will bring peace on earth and goodwill to
24 all people. I hope that this baby will make a difference.

25 CARLY: Oh, I'm sure this baby will make a difference. How
26 long do you think you'll wait for him?

27 ANN: My teacher said something about two thousand years,
28 but I figured I would wait until dinnertime. If he
29 doesn't come by then, I'll just go home and watch
30 *Jeopardy*.

31 CARLY: Are you sure you listened to the whole story in
32 Sunday school?

33 ANN: Well, I was distracted when Billy threw that spitball
34 at Sara.

35 CARLY: Do you know that Jesus already came as a baby,

- 1 and we celebrate that fact every year around this time?
- 2 **ANN:** What time did his bus come in?
- 3 **CARLY:** He didn't come on the bus, but he did come to save
- 4 us from our sins. Jesus was a man of peace and love.
- 5 He taught all of us about God's perfect love. We have
- 6 hope that we will one day live with God because of
- 7 Jesus. I know I will be waiting anxiously until
- 8 Christmas comes to celebrate his birth again. We
- 9 prepare for Jesus' birth for four weeks. We call this
- 10 time of waiting Advent.
- 11 **ANN:** What do we do to prepare for Jesus' birth?
- 12 **CARLY:** There are the physical things, like decorating the
- 13 church and our houses, sending Christmas cards, and
- 14 baking cookies. However, there needs to be more.
- 15 **ANN:** Do you mean bus trips?
- 16 **CARLY:** No, I was thinking more of spiritual readiness. We
- 17 need to look deep into ourselves and determine how we
- 18 are going to receive the gift of God's son.
- 19 **ANN:** What do you mean?
- 20 **CARLY:** I mean, have you taken the time to listen to
- 21 someone who is hurting? Have you emptied your heart
- 22 of all the ugly things there, like jealousy, hatred, and
- 23 impatience?
- 24 **ANN:** Wow! Do you mean I have to dump that stuff
- 25 somewhere? I don't want to be caught dumping
- 26 illegally. That could really get me in trouble.
- 27 **CARLY:** No, you don't have to dump it literally. But you do
- 28 want to ask God to change you so you're more open to
- 29 receiving God's love.
- 30 **ANN:** I guess I have a lot of work to do. Can I wait with
- 31 you?
- 32 **CARLY:** Sure. Why don't we go to my house and sing some
- 33 Christmas carols?
- 34 **ANN:** That sounds like a great idea. (*ANN and CARLY exit.*)
- 35

Peace at the Bus Stop

Week 2

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace among those whom he favors!”*

—Luke 2:14

Characters: Two young girls, Ann and Carly.

Props: Sign that says “Star Bus Stop,” bench.

*(ANN is sitting on the bench at the Star Bus Stop. CARLY
walks up to greet her.)*

CARLY: Hi, Ann. What are you doing back at the bus stop?
Are you waiting for baby Jesus again?

ANN: *(Looking dejected)* No. I like the way you’ve been
waiting for Jesus by singing carols at home. I’ve been
thinking about this peace thing. Do you think peace
will come on the bus?

CARLY: No, peace will probably not come on the bus.

ANN: I didn’t think so, but I thought it was worth a shot.
You said this Jesus guy came two thousand years ago
to bring peace.

CARLY: Yeah, so?

ANN: Why are we still fighting wars all over the world?
Where’s the peace on earth?

CARLY: God wants us to live in peace. He asks us to be
peacemakers. That’s part of his plan.

ANN: Does this mean we’re still waiting? Waiting for peace?

CARLY: *(Scratching her head)* Well, yeah, I guess it does. We
don’t know the time frame for God’s plan. Even Jesus
didn’t know. Man invented time as a way to measure
life. Our time isn’t necessarily God’s time. However, I
don’t think we’re supposed to just sit around at the bus
stop. I think we’re supposed to do something.

ANN: Like what?

CARLY: Well, like helping to bring about peace.

- 1 ANN: How can we do that?
- 2 CARLY: There are all kinds of ways to help bring about
3 peace. Work for justice and equality for all people. Help
4 the sick and poor. Respect other people's differences.
5 Speak up for those who can't speak up for themselves.
- 6 ANN: How does this baby Jesus fit into the picture, then?
- 7 CARLY: (*Thinking*) Jesus showed us how to be
8 peacemakers. He treated the poor with respect and
9 dignity. He loved all people, no matter who they were
10 or how different they were. Jesus was an example to
11 follow of how God wants us to live.
- 12 ANN: How long do you think we will have to wait for
13 peace?
- 14 CARLY: I don't know, but while we wait, we have God's
15 promise that he will always be with us, so we can have
16 peace in our hearts and in our families right now.
- 17 ANN: This is all very hard and complicated.
- 18 CARLY: God never said it was going to be easy.
- 19 ANN: Waiting at this bus stop isn't accomplishing anything,
20 is it?
- 21 CARLY: No, sitting at the bus stop is not really
22 accomplishing anything. (*Has an idea.*) Hey — I'm on my
23 way to the Salvation Army to wrap gifts to give to
24 needy families. Would you like to come with me to
25 help?
- 26 ANN: Sure. I can't just sit on this bench until Christmas. I
27 want to be a peacemaker! (*ANN and CARLY exit.*)

31 Rejoice at the Bus Stop

32 Week 3

33 "*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all*
34 *they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*"

35 —Luke 2:20

1

2 Characters: Two young girls, Ann and Carly.

3 Props: Sign that says "Star Bus Stop," bench, a party hat,
4 noisemaker, a bag of chips, and pom-poms.

5

6 (*ANN is sitting on the bench at the Star Bus Stop. CARLY*
7 *walks up and greets ANN.*)8 **CARLY:** Hi, Ann. What are you doing here again?9 **ANN:** I'm waiting for the party.10 **CARLY:** What party?11 **ANN:** The one my teacher talked about in Sunday school
12 this week.13 **CARLY:** What did she say?14 **ANN:** She said that when the shepherds saw the baby Jesus,
15 they rejoiced! So I asked what "rejoice" meant, and my
16 teacher said to sing, laugh, and praise God.17 **CARLY:** (*Shaking her head*) That is a good definition of
18 "rejoice," but that doesn't explain why you are at the
19 bus stop waiting for a party.20 **ANN:** Whenever someone waits a long time for someone to
21 get off the bus on TV, they hug, laugh, and have a
22 "welcome home" party. I want to be ready to rejoice
23 with them.24 **CARLY:** Why do you think the shepherds rejoiced?25 **ANN:** I don't know. Maybe they were happy about the baby.26 **CARLY:** I think they were full of hope for what he
27 represented to the world. They were looking for God to
28 transform the world into a place of peace, safety, and
29 abundance for God's people. God calls us to celebrate,
30 even as he is still transforming and changing the world.31 **ANN:** So he wants us to have parties in his honor?32 **CARLY:** Sure! He wants us to be full of hope and joy, and
33 to rejoice in the changes he has made and the ones that
34 are yet to come.35 **ANN:** Do you mean he is still creating and changing the

1 world today?

2 CARLY: Of course he is. God didn't stop creating and
3 changing the world at creation. Every day new and
4 wonderful things are formed and altered that could
5 only be God's handiwork. See how much you have
6 changed in just the couple of weeks of Advent so far?

7 ANN: (*Looking proud*) Wow! You're right! I have changed and
8 learned a lot about Jesus and what he did to transform
9 the world. I've learned about hope, peace, and joy! I am
10 making my heart ready for Jesus, just as you said
11 earlier.

12 CARLY: God can perform miracles!

13 ANN: No one is going to get off the bus and want to party
14 with me, are they?

15 CARLY: No, I don't think so. I was on my way to a
16 Christmas party at the children's hospital. Would you
17 like to come along and bring some of your party stuff?

18 ANN: Sure, that sounds like fun. This bus stop is starting to
19 get old. (*ANN and CARLY exit.*)

20

21

22

23 Love at the Bus Stop

24 Week 4

25 "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the
26 greatest of these is love."

27 —1 Corinthians 13:13

28

29 Characters: Two young girls, Ann and Carly.

30 Props: Sign that says "Star Bus Stop," bench.

31

32 (*ANN is sitting on the bench at the Star Bus Stop. CARLY*
33 *walks up and greets her.*)

34 CARLY: Hi, Ann! What are you doing at the Star Bus Stop
35 again?

- 1 ANN: (*Dreamily*) I'm looking for love.
- 2 CARLY: I don't think the bus stop is the best place to look
3 for love.
- 4 ANN: In Sunday school this week, my teacher said God's
5 greatest gift to us is love.
- 6 CARLY: OK, I agree with that. So why are you waiting at
7 the bus stop?
- 8 ANN: Well, I heard it said that love makes the world go
9 'round, and these buses certainly get around.
- 10 CARLY: I don't think that love has anything to do with
11 buses. God's greatest gift of love is the gift of his son,
12 Jesus.
- 13 ANN: (*Looks startled.*) Do you mean the baby Jesus?
- 14 CARLY: Yes, the baby Jesus.
- 15 ANN: Why is he God's greatest gift?
- 16 CARLY: (*Exasperated*) Haven't you learned anything during
17 this Advent season about Jesus?
- 18 ANN: (*Indignant*) Of course I have. I learned that he was
19 born in a stable and did not arrive on the bus.
- 20 CARLY: OK. Did you learn anything else?
- 21 ANN: He came to save us, but not with a child's inner tube.
- 22 CARLY: Yeah! What else?
- 23 ANN: He came to bring peace, but that didn't come on the
24 bus either.
- 25 CARLY: No, it didn't.
- 26 ANN: We are supposed to rejoice in the changes and joy
27 that only he can bring.
- 28 CARLY: That's correct. So where do we find love?
- 29 ANN: (*Jumps up, happy.*) Well, not at the bus stop!
- 30 CARLY: (*Shakes her head.*) Ugh! You're right. Not at the bus
31 stop. Love is every mother who worries if her children
32 have enough to eat and clothes to keep them warm.
33 Love is the minister checking on a sick member. Love
34 is the child cradling a new puppy. Love is the heart of
35 everyone claiming to be a Christian, for without love,

1 the world is a dead, empty place.
 2 ANN: (*Taking CARLY's hand*) Love is a friend who doesn't
 3 give up on someone asking really stupid questions.
 4 CARLY: Love is God when he sent the baby Jesus to us to
 5 show us and teach us how to live and love in his way.
 6 God never stops loving us, no matter what we do.
 7 ANN: You are so smart.
 8 CARLY: I just happen to pay attention in Sunday school
 9 better than you do.
 10 ANN: Where are you going today?
 11 CARLY: I was going to meet some people from church to do
 12 some caroling at the nursing home. Do you want to
 13 come along?
 14 ANN: I sure do. There's lots of people to love there. (*ANN*
 15 *and CARLY exit.*)

19 Reminiscing at the Bus Stop

20 Week 5

21 *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,*
 22 *nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*
 23 *nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will*
 24 *be able to separate us from the love of God in*
 25 *Christ Jesus our Lord."*

26 —Romans 8:38-39

27
 28 Characters: Two young girls, Ann and Carly.

29 Props: Sign that says "Star Bus Stop," bench.

30
 31 (*ANN is sitting on the bench at the bus stop. CARLY walks*
 32 *up to talk to her.*)

33 CARLY: Hi, Ann. Christmas is over. What are you doing at
 34 the bus stop again?

35 ANN: I'm watching to see if this Jesus guy gets on the bus.

- 1 CARLY: What are you talking about?
- 2 ANN: Well, for the last month, everyone was excited about
3 the baby Jesus coming. They were filled with hope,
4 peace, joy, and love, and today it's all gone. It's like
5 Jesus left town on the bus.
- 6 CARLY: I know what you mean. But do you really think he
7 left town on the bus?
- 8 ANN: I don't know. Why is everyone acting as if Jesus
9 didn't even come, like Christmas wasn't just this past
10 week?
- 11 CARLY: Well, I think there *is* a lot of excitement and
12 planning, so when the big day is finally over, people
13 can get a little down. The strain of everyday life takes
14 over.
- 15 ANN: How can we keep that from happening?
- 16 CARLY: We have to continue doing the good things we did
17 during Advent. Visiting people in nursing homes and
18 sick children in the hospital is important. So is
19 reaching out with love to all people everywhere, no
20 matter their circumstances. And let's not forget praying
21 and thanking God continuously for all the good gifts he
22 gives us.
- 23 ANN: That sounds great. But where is Jesus?
- 24 CARLY: He's right where he was all through Advent.
- 25 ANN: (*Scratching her head*) At the bus stop?
- 26 CARLY: No, in our hearts. God and Jesus are with us,
27 sharing the sorrows of human life as well as its joys.
28 God's presence is our salvation.
- 29 ANN: Am I supposed to thank him for the sorrows as well
30 as the joys?
- 31 CARLY: Of course you are. Through sorrow, we learn to
32 appreciate the joys. It helps us to search our inner
33 selves for God's help. Without him, we are only flawed
34 human beings, living with no purpose to our lives. God
35 wants to have a relationship with us as part of his plan



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