

### **Story Summary:**

Helga is a person no one wants to associate with, for her acid tongue turns many off. However, one individual has decided to show God's love in an attempt to live at peace with Helga. She wants to give a surprise Christmas party for Helga, but her friends can't understand why. Discover the result in the comical play.

### **Christian Message:**

God loves each person. Due to our sin, we owe a debt to Jesus for saving us from our sins. We help repay that by loving everyone, family, friends, enemies, and difficult people alike. This situation takes place at Christmas – celebrating and rejoicing in the joy of the miracle of the birth of Jesus.

# A Surprise Christmas Party For Helga

By Laura Toffelmire  
Copyright © November, 2001

Written by: Laura L. Toffelmire

This play is dedicated to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus, for it is  
with Him that this play was inspired and written.  
All praise and glory be to Him.

For God so loved the world  
that He gave His one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish  
but have eternal life. John 3:16

Thanks be to God for His only Son, Jesus.

Thank you for choosing this material for  
sharing the ministry of Christ.  
Laura L. Toffelmire holds the copyright for this production.  
You are asked that as you photocopy this material please keep  
the copyright information with the play.

**For more plays and information:**  
**<http://www.mnsi.net/~toffel/drama.htm>**

If you would like to support this work and ministry,  
please send your donations to:

Mrs. Laura L. Toffelmire  
R.R. #6  
Aylmer, ON N5H 2R5

Characters or events in this play are fictitious, any resemblance to persons  
living or dead is purely coincidental; they are a product of the author's  
imagination and divine inspiration.

### **CHARACTERS:**

Jane - The head of the committee for the surprise party.

Sylvia - Somewhat rebellious of party, doesn't get along with Helga.

Erma – Tries to be supportive of Jane.

Clara - Light hearted.

Helga – Her acid tongue is changed by love; is poorly dressed, could be mismatched clothes or clothes with large holes.

### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

It is helpful for the Leader to begin with a simple story summary (found on back page). The Leader may continue with introductions of each player and his/her corresponding character. A line or phrase from the play may be spoken as each character enters onto the stage, then exits.

### **STAGE SET UP:**

1) Stage left and right are calculated from the actor's point of view, facing the audience.

2) Only one exit is required.

3) A stage with curtains is a real bonus and should be closed at the end of each act. However, if your stage has no curtains, you may consider a variety of alternatives.

- play a short musical intermission
- turn off the lights

- have another form of brief entertainment, like a choir, clown, or the like
- have Bible readings about Jesus' birth

**SCENE:**

In Jane's home, seated around a small table. Stage may be decorated to resemble a kitchen if desired.

**HYMNS:**

None

**PROPS:**

Act 1:

- five chairs and a table
- tablecloth if desired
- pad of paper
- pen

Act 2:

- coat for each character
- cups with liquid (your choice)
- tray to carry them upon

Clara - (brightly) Oh, I've got it covered Jane!  
*Let us pray:* Dear Lord, thank you for sending your son, Jesus! He came as a baby, born in Bethlehem; in a lowly stable. He came to save us from our sins. We are so very happy that you love us that much, Lord! Help us to love everyone, not just at Christmas, but each and every day. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen!

[Everyone will stand together in a row, facing the audience.]

All: (after the Amen, count one, two, then:) Happy birthday, Jesus!

[Characters may take a bow.]

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE END**

\*\*\*\*\*

Erma - Yes, do you think we would have gone to all this trouble if we didn't?

Helga - Why do you love me? I know I've done *nothing* to deserve your love.

Jane - None of us have done anything to deserve God's love, but He chose to love us anyway. We are simply following His great example.

Helga - I can't believe it. (astonished) You mean I'm loved?

Clara - (happily) Yes Helga!

Helga - (sadly) I just thought that you were trying to make fun of me, after all, I don't wear the latest fashions, or have any strange bug recipes!

Jane - (gently) Oh, Helga. We just wanted to show you that we care. We really do.

Helga - I had no idea.

Erma - Helga, there is more to life than having a house that's so clean you could eat off the floor.

Sylvia - Yes, I learned just recently that love is *the* most important thing. So, what do you say, would you like to stay and enjoy the party?

Helga - Why, I'd be delighted! I never knew anyone cared, but I'm very glad that you let me know!

Jane - Wonderful! Now, what's a Christmas party without Jesus? After all, it's His birthday that we are celebrating.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ACT 1

\*\*\*\*\*

[Jane, Sylvia, Erma, and Clara are seated around a kitchen table. The characters are facing the audience.]

Jane - I'm so glad you could all make it!

Sylvia - Okay Jane, what's this meeting about?

Jane - We're here to plan a surprise Christmas party for Helga.

Sylvia - (gets up to leave) Okay, I'm leaving!

Clara - But Sylvia, we haven't even started yet!

Sylvia - Precisely my point!

Erma - Sylvia, just be patient!

Sylvia - (sit down with a sigh) I guess if I have to!

Erma - You have to.

Sylvia - (impatient) Why do we have to give that old bat a surprise Christmas party anyway?

Clara - (admonishingly) Sylvia!

Jane - I wouldn't refer to her as that.

Sylvia - Well I could!

Jane - Well, she might be disagreeable, but we are called to love her just the same!

Sylvia – (annoyed) Why is that, Jane?

Jane – Because we have a debt.

Clara – But what does paying the mortgage have to do with loving someone?

Jane – Not that kind of debt.

Sylvia – What kind then, Jane?

Jane – The debt we have, Sylvia, is our debt of sin.

Clara – Now I have more debt to pay? Oh no!

Jane – No, no, Clara. Sin is thinking or acting in ways that are not loving, or being disobedient to God. Since we are all sinners, we all need forgiveness.

Clara – Okay, so now I'm in deeper debt than what I thought!

Sylvia – So how do we repay that debt?

Jane – I'm so glad you asked that question Sylvia! It's simple; Jesus just wants us to love one another.

Sylvia – Loving someone like Helga is downright impossible!

Jane – Well, remember, love is not a feeling, but a choice!

Sylvia – You mean we are supposed to *choose* to love people?

Clara – Even the ones we don't like?

Clara - Say, I just remembered, does anyone have a recipe for chocolate covered grasshoppers?

Sylvia - (emphatically) Oh yuk!

Erma - Why would you want such a recipe, Clara?

Clara - Because I thought it would go nice with the cake du fluff.

Erma - Cake du fluff?

Clara - Yes, you know, the fluffy cake with white icing.

Sylvia – (with a smile) Remind me to have plans next time you want to serve cake and coffee!

Helga – (stand up; exasperated) Well, I can see this *is* a waste of my time! I'm leaving!

Jane - (stand up; sadly) Oh Helga, don't do that! We were just trying to.... (falls silent)

Erma - (stand) We just wanted to show you that we love you.

Helga - (surprised) You what?

[Clara - stand]

Sylvia - (stand) We love you, Helga.

Helga – (scoffs) How can you love me, you don't even know me!

Sylvia - You'd be surprised what we know, but that's beside the point! We still love you!

Erma - So, ah, who is ready for Christmas?

Jane - I'm nearly done all my shopping. (after moments of silence)  
How about you, Sylvia?

Sylvia - (slowly) Oh, yes, just about.

[Everyone remains silent for a few seconds.]

Helga – (stand; walk to imaginary wall on center stage in front) Well, would you look at that! The wallpaper is peeling off the wall! Honestly, I've never seen such a mess since... well I never have!

(remain in same area) And look, those curtains certainly could use some cleaning, those spiders have been rather busy, don't you think Jane?

Sylvia - (aside) I knew this could be bad!

Clara - Yes, Helga, those spiders have been busy...

Jane - (interrupts; teasingly) But they are my pets!

Helga – (shocked) You mean you keep *spiders* for pets?

Jane - (allow a slight smile) Well they are very good at getting any spare flies. Anyone have some around?

Clara - Spare spiders or flies?

Jane – (jokingly) Oh, either will do!

Erma - I think my granddaughter collects bugs, will that help?

Jane - Sure! Any and all would be welcome!

Jane – Especially those we find difficult or don't like! Jesus calls us to *love* everyone. We are blessed when we love those who might be difficult. Remember, it's part of the debt we owe.

Erma – I don't get it. Why are we giving a Christmas party for Helga anyway?

Jane – Because in all the years I've known Helga, I've never heard of anyone doing anything for her...ever. Since God calls us to love one another, I believe it is up to us to show our love to her. You never know what will happen.

Erma – I've heard love changes people.

Clara – (excitedly) I've heard that too. You don't suppose....

Erma – Yes, I think that could be just what Helga needs, a good dose of genuine love from all of us.

Sylvia – You've got to be kidding!

Jane – Come on Sylvia, we need all of us to make this party work. Besides, imagine what your life would be like without all the people who love you.

Sylvia – (pause) Okay, I see a desert.

Clara – So how do you feel all alone in your desert?

Sylvia – Like a lonely dried up lizard!

Clara – Who wants to be friends with a lizard?

Sylvia – Yes, I get the picture. Okay, I'm with you. So what can we do for Helga's surprise Christmas party?

Jane - Here's a list of things that need to be done, just sign your name beside each, then we'll meet back here for the party.

[After signing, Sylvia, Erma, and Clara will exit stage left.]

Sylvia, Erma, Clara – Bye Jane!

Jane – See you later!

\*\*\*\*\*

## ACT 2

\*\*\*\*\*

[Jane is in her home; it is ready for a Christmas party. Sylvia, Erma, and Clara enter from stage left; knock at entrance. If no door is present, pretend one.]

Jane – (opening the door) Come on in! So glad you could all make it! (close door)  
You can put your coats over there. (indicates a small table or the like off to the side)  
Now get ready, cause Helga should be here any minute!

Sylvia – So she doesn't know what's happening?

Jane - (happily) She has no idea.

Erma – I can hardly wait till she arrives.

Clara – Won't she be surprised!

[Helga enters from stage left; knock at entrance.]

Jane – (after hearing the knock) That must be her! Okay everyone, when I count to three and open the door, we'll all shout "surprise". Ready? One, two, three...

All – SURPRISE!

Helga – (surprised) OH! What's all this for?

Jane - Well Helga, come on in! This is our surprise Christmas party for you.

Helga - I don't know what to say!

Sylvia – (aside) That's a first!

Clara – (to Sylvia) Sylvia, shh!

Helga - (irritatedly) I just hope this won't be a waste of my time!

Jane – (hesitantly) Ah, Helga, come on in and have some coffee.

Helga – (annoyed) Okay, but I can't stay long.

Jane - Here, let me take your coat.

Helga - (remove coat; give to Jane) Here.

[Jane takes coat and sets it aside, offers refreshments to all as they seat themselves around the room. There is an uncomfortable silence, as no one speaks. Characters show this by drumming fingers on laps or table and/or looking about the room.]

Clara - (after several moments; nervously) Ah, nice party, isn't it?

Helga - I suppose.