



Hmmm, Christmas Joy?

Sketch

[**Please provide:** three actresses; three copies of the sketch for the actresses; three chairs, table, background Christmas music.]

Characters: Holly – fully embraces Christmas year around
Merry – unsure of her opinions, listens
June – tends to view life negatively, her cup is usually half empty

Setting: Holly and Merry are pulling up chairs to a card table, getting ready to plan the annual LWML group Christmas party. In the background are the strains of Christmas carols softly playing that Holly has provided.

Holly: Oh, wow! You know, Merry, I just **love** Christmas! I don't even mind the department store Christmas displays being set up in July. I start my next year's Christmas planning the week immediately after Christmas. I even shop year-round. That way it is not a burden in December, and my extra money can go to buy the ingredients for my special Christmas recipes.

Merry: ... or to purchase special items for the community food baskets. I love to buy brownie mixes. Obviously, I try not to bake them for myself, but I love to give them for the Christmas food collections. They make a basket special, not just one filled with canned peas and beans.

[Enter **June** with a glum look on her face.]

June: Oh, brother! Christmas **music** even at our meeting. I am just too tired to enjoy that music. [pulls a chair to the table as **Holly** and **Merry** exchange "rolling eye" glances] And as for this LWML Christmas party, we have it **every** year. Maybe we could just **skip** it this year. My goodness, there is so much going on, and this just encourages the commercialization of Christmas. What does it have to do with the birth of Christ anyway?

Holly: Oh, June, you sound like you've had a hard day. You know, I often do hear others saying it is just "buy, buy, buy" for Christmas. However, it is the embracing of Christmas by the secular world that really lets us enjoy it one hundred percent. On Christmas Day when the stores close, it becomes a witness that this is really a special day. Look at all the Christmas cards, stationery, stickers, and even postage stamps that are for sale. We can choose to send cards with a Christmas Gospel message. What a witness to all our friends and family when a card like that is received!

Merry: That **is** a great way to enjoy Christmas. I never thought of it as a witness. I always pray that the young husbands of my nieces will become strong Christians. A Christ-centered Christmas card would be another subtle way to share my faith.

June: [grumpily] Christmas cards just take too much time and money. Some of the ones I get aren't very personal – just a signature and a copied letter!

Merry: Do you send cards, June?

June: Sure I do. That way I know I'll hear from everyone!

Holly: June, receiving cards helps make Christmas a time of joy also. Just **hearing** from everybody is such a treat! I hear from some friends only at Christmas, but even that is great. I keep the cards and letters, and I enjoy them again right before Valentine's Day. I even reread them before I mail my next year's Christmas cards. The cards and letters I send are my gift to those people, and I consider their cards a gift to me. Christ-centered cards build me up in my faith.

Merry: Wow, that's true! The traditions of Christmas and all it stands for – the birth of our Savior – really do reinforce our Christian beliefs. Those early reminders of Christmas can be enjoyed rather than scowled at. You know, Holly, I overheard your conversation with Marie on Sunday. She was upset because of the early decorations on her street, and you told her that you loved Christmas so much that you even enjoy the early decorations. At first I thought your answer was a little weird. But after mulling it over, I've changed my mind. Your joyful response to Marie shows the wonder, love, and **joy** of Christmas year-round. It doesn't hurt to have **more** Christmas!

June: Well, hmmm, I guess that means we **are** going to celebrate with our annual LWML Christmas party. I guess I can stand it. At least it's in December! Obviously, my feelings could stand a **little** adjustment.

Merry: The joy we feel in our hearts during this holiday season helps us to reflect Jesus' light to our neighbors. Perhaps they will see Christmas is more than shopping, decorating, and baking.

Holly: Our opening devotion could speak to what we just discussed. I'll use John 9:5 as the basis. Jesus says, "*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*" Jesus is the light of the world, and all we do should reflect His light to others.

June: OK, OK! You've convinced me! Let's get on with our planning. If I don't watch out, you two will have me changing my name to Noelle!

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