

Dan: My name is Dan, and I hate Christmas. It starts the day after Thanksgiving. On a day I should be allowed to lay on the couch and eat leftover turkey sandwiches, I gotta come to work at 4:00 in the morning and break up two grown women wrestling over a “Hokey Pokey Elmo.” And to top it off I have to wear this stupid hat. I Just a sec. (*picks up phone*) Thank you for calling Toy City where we pick up where Santa left off with buy one get one 20% off the entire store excluding video games and systems....

Eddie: Hey. What’s up. My name is Eddie, and this Christmas thing is just too much work. Think about it...you got to shop and wrap and decorate and cook and clean and entertain and “spread holiday cheer”? Ugh. Look, just give me a glade candle and a jingle bell. Then wake me up when it’s over.

Emilee: Hiya! I’m Emilee, and I LOVE Christmas. You know why? Because you get presents! Lots and lots of presents. I love presents. I love GETTING presents, I love OPENING presents, I love SHOPPING for presents....well, shopping for presents for me, anyway. Isn’t it great that the made a holiday just for presents?

Andrew: Yeah, that’s it. A holiday all about presents. FOR EVERYONE AND THEIR BROTHER. My name is Andrew, and I am sick and tired of Christmas. Every two seconds someone’s waving a bell in my face or

Dan: Hi, did you find everything alright today?

Andrew: Um, yes...

Dan: Would you like to donate 10% of your purchase to Toys for Kids?

Andrew: NO! No no no no! This is my money! I earned it!! I’M going to spend it. NOT you. NOT under privileged children. NOT veterans. NOT PETA. ME. IT’S Mine! MINE! MINE!

Tyler: Um...are you ok?

Andrew: I’m fine.

Tyler: Are you sure?

Andrew: Yeah. I’m good.

Tyler: Uh, that’s good. Um, hi. My name is Tyler. And every year I dread Christmas. You see, every Christmas we have to get together with the whole, entire family. I mean everybody. Crazy uncle Harry...psychotic

cousin Mildred...and (*shudders*) Great Grandma Pearl. Have you ever got a big sloppy kiss from a 102-year old woman with a beard? Yuck. And to top it off, she gives the worst presents. Look at this sweater! It doesn't even fit! Come on, Grandma! I'm not 6 years anymore.

Lindsay: I *love* Christmas. I love the lights, the glitter, the magic...

Eddie: Hold on, hold on....are we talking about the same holiday here, lady?

Lindsay: Not on your life. No one who wears *that* would be invited to one of *my* parties. (*Eddie gets upset, Dan and Emilee comfort him*) You must have never heard of me. I am Lindsay! The most *divine* party hostess in the neighborhood. I throw simply the best parties. Last Christmas, I had MARVELOUS "Tooth-Themed Party." You know..."All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth?" It was fantastic. I paid \$2,000.00 for a custom designed ice sculpture of a mandibular lateral incisor! And then for party favors I gave electric toothbrushes and whitening strips!!

Eddie: (*Sarcastic*) Wow. Free toothbrushes? Sounds like I missed a lot...

Jordan: (*Clears his throat*) Hello, my name is Jordan Bylsma, and I am the Director of Corporate Growth and Development for a growing mid-sized marketing and consulting firm outside Chicago. What we specialize in is utilizing the creativities and innovations of the "here and now" into optimal renderings of today's young urban professionals. What I, as Director of Corporate Growth and Development endeavor to do is to...

Emilee: Umm...Excuse me, Sir? Sir? Hey! Sir?

Jordan: Yes?

Emilee: Umm...Like, we're talking about Christmas right now..so what do you think about Christmas...Like do you like the presents, the tree, the reindeer, the cookies...

Jordan: Christmas. Ah yes, the seasonal peak period for all novelty retail. I would say that as a company, we look at Christmas season as a time to redirect resources to pick up the advantage of an advanced demand and a declining supply.

Others: What?!

Jordan: We sell a lot of stuff.

Others: Oh.

Jordan: I usually spend the Christmas weekend working...the office is quieter.

Emilee: Ummm...(silent for a moment) Well I like the presents. I like big presents, medium size presents, small but expensive presents, smelly presents, colorful presents, presents that have pretty gift wrap....

Dan: I'm sorry ma'am, we do not gift wrap, but I can sell you wrapping paper and scotch tape for an additional \$2.99. I can help you wrap it, but I am required by law to refuse any tips.

Andrew: Always looking for money. Who's going give me money? Who's going to run the Charity Auction to Support Andrew and HIS needs?

Tyler: Can you believe it?? A sweater! Not video games, not a football, not even a life saver book. A stupid, too small sweater that...(sniff sniff)...smells like burnt coffee and mothballs.

Lindsay: Hold everything. I've got it. This year's theme is...FREEZE a Jolly Good Fellow. Get it? FREEZE. We could put little Santas in all the ice cubes!!

Eddie: It makes no sense. I have to *risk my life* by driving on black ice for a stupid dead tree? I don't think so. And then you have to wrestle it into a tree stand, water it, decorate it, vacuum up after it, undecorated it, drag it outside, hope and pray that that the garbage man will take it. Hey. I've got an idea, let's just save a step and drop a big pile of needles on the living room floor.

Jordan: I don't have time for all this Christmas foolishness! Time is Money. And my time is much too expensive.

Dan: I understand that you're in a hurry, sir, but I can't return these candy canes without the original receipt. Besides, I'm pretty sure we can't refund open candy...hey! Are you sucking on one of them?

Andrew: Hey mom, is that platter I bought you tax deductible? If so, can I have an itemized receipt of all gifts given to you, dad or my little brothers in the past 12 months?

Lindsay: Everything must be PERFECT. I'm seeing cashmere napkins, a silver punch bowl and lots and lots of dancing penguins!

Eddie: I have to decorate the house too? Isn't the neighbor's house decorated enough? We have global warming to consider...

Emilee: Sno cone machine, pink crayons, a pony, jello, two chipmunks, light up socks, neon drinking glasses, orange nail polish, a giant gumball, Elvis pez dispensers...

Jordan: For one day out of the year everyone is...excuse me (*looks at cell phone*)
Sorry, I've got to take this...Buy more Google! Shift the paradigm! SELL
SELL!

Dan: I'd be *happy* to get my manager. And *yes* I do have to wear the hat.

Tyler: This sweater is even worse than last year's gift. (*rolls up pants to reveal
Christmas socks*) Mom made me wear them.

Eddie: Yo, Carolers! What part of "Silent Night" don't you understand?!

Jordan: I just don't have time to celebrate Christmas. All that...

Dan: Stress

Eddie: Work

Emilee: Shopping!

Andrew: Money

Tyler: Family

Lindsay: Decorating!

Katie: What about the promise?

Jordan: Why would I invest the time? What should I celebrate?

Dan: What are we celebrating again?

Katie: What about the promise?

Eddie: What's the point? Why should I celebrate?

Tyler: There's nothing to celebrate. Can't we just skip it?

Katie: What about the promise?

Andrew: Why do I have to sacrifice? What do I have to celebrate?

Emilee: What is Christmas really about? Why do we celebrate?

Lindsay: Why should I celebrate?

**Katie: 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."

Others: The Promise.

Katie: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called

Tyler: Wonderful Counselor,

Lindsay: Mighty God,

Jordan: Everlasting Father,

Eddie: Prince of Peace

Dan: The first time that you opened your eyes – did you realize you would be my savior?

Andrew: The first breath that left your lips – did you know that it would change this world forever?

Emilee: This baby would one day save me.

Tyler: You were born that I may live.

Lindsay: I celebrate the day

Jordan: That you were born to die

Eddie: So I could pray for you to save my life.