

“Assignment: Comfort And Joy” sample pages section #7
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Narrator Afiel: At hearing a slight tap at the door to the studio, both Diane and Steven looked up to see Donald Shanker peering around the door jamb at them. A little self-conscious of their closeness, they moved apart some as Donald entered somewhat contritely. With a motion of his hand to let Steven know he wasn't going to cause trouble, he began to speak with something that looked like humility in his eyes. The Don, humbled? I was interested in this. With all our eyes upon him, Donald Shanker told them that he had been giving Steven a hard time, discouraging him by telling him that his work was accomplishing nothing. But he had seen proof tonight that he was making a huge difference in the lives of people... something he had never done. He admitted that he had been given a lot to think about, and he is seeing Christmas, and Christians, differently for the first time. He apologized to Steven for the way he has treated him earlier, and for lying about waiting for his girl friend to come up to visit him. He admitted to Steven that he had not been in a relationship for a long time, and now he knew it was his own fault. He was working the Christmas Eve shift because he didn't want to be alone that night. Looking back up at Steven with sincere regret, he held out his hand, which Steven took and shook warmly.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) As the two DJ's talk together earnestly, Diane gets a call on her cell phone which she answers. She speaks for a moment, hangs up and tells them that she had asked a friend of hers to bring some leftover Christmas Eve dinner items by the station, to share with Steven and any fellow employees that would like to join them.

Narrator Afiel: As Steven and Donald talked together for the first time as acquaintances and not adversaries, Diane took a call that came in on her cell phone. After a brief conversation, she turned to Steven in explanation. She told him that after hearing him on the radio, and being touched so deeply by his message, that she wanted to spend Christmas Eve with him and enjoy the traditional dinner together, if he didn't mind. He apologized that he had nothing like that to eat here, and she smiled as she said she had asked a friend to bring some of her leftover Christmas Eve dinner items by the station, to share with Steven and any fellow employees that would like to join them. At this Don hurried off the open the door and let the welcome guest in. After a moment, Don returns, helping by carrying bags that Susan had brought. As they put them on the table that Steven indicated, Susan said her mother always fixed too much food for their Christmas Eve dinner. She was going to drop the food off and go, but seeing that Don was there, Diane invited her to stay and eat with them... which delighted Don as he grinned and helped her set out the food and plates.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) After all are seated, Steven motions for quiet, and begins to speak. As they agreed with him, each speaking briefly in turn, until he suggests they they pray and they bow their heads. As they do the angel lifts his hands behind them, spreading his arms out and his hands extended palms down over them, in blessing.

Narrator Afiel: Once all the places were set and every had been seated, Steven motioned for all to settle down as he spoke briefly. Christmas, he began, has always been associated with miracles because it was the miracle of Christ's virgin birth that started the celebration. In recent years he had lost some of his hope for miracles in his life, as things had not went as he had hoped or planned. But with the amazing events that had brought them together, he had to acknowledge that miracles do still happen, and that he had learned one lesson from it all...that, when things look the darkest, we who know the Lord are never truly alone. And, that He is making all things work together for our good. Donald suggested that they pray and thank the Lord for it all, and all bowed their heads, "The Don" included, as he led.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) With all heads bowed, Steven leads in the prayer. We see Diane take his hand. As he prays, from the back of the center aisle, the Lord comes down to the front of the stage, coming up on

it to join the angel behind them as they wish Him "Happy Birthday." He greets the angel with a smile and a touch on the shoulder as Afriel kneels with bowed head. Afriel rises and stands beside Him, and Jesus places his hand on Steven's shoulder as the lyrics to the song "He's The Hand On My Shoulder" plays again.

Narrator Afriel: Steven thanked the Lord for the reality of the first Christmas, when the miraculous broke into the world and changed it forever. He thanked God for the amazing way He had brought them all together, to share what they had with each other, and in so doing accomplish His will. When he had finished the prayer, each one joined in as he wished the Lord a "Happy Birthday." The scripture tells us that where two or three are gathered in His name, He will be in their midst, and true to His word, He had come to be a part of their Christmas gathering. (Song lyrics begin here.)

(Actions during the song lyrics and music.) As they are praying, the Lord keeps his hand on Steven's shoulder. Then the DJ indicates that all should dig in. Each one takes off the cover from their plate, and begins eating. We see them talking and laughing as they enjoy the dinner. Donald, acting mischevously, gets up in a mock sneaky way and tiptoes behind Steven, whom he surprises by putting the Santa hat on his head, then stepping back and motioning toward it with a flourish, as everyone laughs and claps. Steven laughs most of all, and keep it on as they all rejoice in the spirit of the season. Steven raises his glass of tea, and everyone raises theirs toward him in a toast to the holiday happiness.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) Afriel walks off the stage as we hear his final narration, coming down to the front and standing in the middle of the floor as he looks back in happiness. Then, nodding with a smile, he looks down a little as he thinks to himself. As he delivers the line about hardly containing himself, he begins to twist and shuffle in a happy dance, down through the audience and out the back.

Narrator Afriel: I said before that everything begins with Jesus. It also ends with Him. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Sure, He could accomplish His will by Himself, but he delights in using not only we Angels, but redeemed men and women such as yourself to accomplish His purpose and plan, so that we might share in His joy. Seeing that come to pass once again made me happy, and as I left the station, I was so excited that I could hardly contain myself. As you gather with loved ones and friends this holiday season, or make new ones, remember that the joy of Christmas comes not in the abundance of things, but in the love that you show others by giving what the Lord has given you. And if you don't know Him, I encourage you to open up your heart, and receive what truly is the Ultimate Christmas gift... eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us remember our year-round assignment: not only at Christmas, to spread the good news... and tidings of Comfort And Joy.

(Music comes up and out.)