



Synopsis: An operator on a crisis hotline has trouble helping a distraught caller because he has so many problems of his own. Between them, with the caller reading from a newly discovered Bible, they discover the true joy of Christmas.

Soundtrack key: This is the type of script where your actors deliver their lines and the soundtrack supplies the background music and sound effects as the script calls for them.

Length of play: 10-12 minutes.

Number of cast: Two (one is off-stage on a microphone.) See notes for using a larger cast of extras if desired.

Category: Christmas. Comedic, Medium-length skit

Price of script PDF & MP3 Skit Trax: *Instant download:* \$9.99

Price of script PDF & Physical CD: \$14.99 plus shipping

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Characters: Brad, the counselor on the Holiday Hotline. (This character is on stage.) Bill, the troubled caller. (This character is offstage on a microphone, and is only heard, not seen.)

Extras: Although not necessary to the performance, you might wish to use some interested cast members as extras in the background and on either side as office workers in the crisis center. Supply each extra with a small desk and, if available, phones or laptops which can act as their workstations. If you don't have headsets, let each one wear headphones. You can have them talk to their imaginary callers at a very low level, nothing that can be distinguishable by the audience over the main actors. As the main character goes through his actions, you can have some of them cast sidelong glances at him as he freaks out, but none want to become

involved so they basically ignore him. When he leaves, another extra comes to take his place with no dialog.

Costumes: Brad is dressed casually, no special costume needed.

Props: A phone headset (of just headphones) and a phone. A notebook or binder of some kind which functions as the counselor's handbook. A laptop if desired. The script PDF can be displayed on this giving the actor a "cheat sheet" which they can scroll down through.

Setting: An office with a table and chair where he answers the calls that come in. There can be a small tabletop Christmas tree or some decoration, if desired.

"Crisis On The Holiday Helpline" *(A general description of the script; not all details are here, but it gives you a very good overall picture of what it is like.)*

Brad, the counselor on duty at the Holiday Helpline service, comes onstage and sits down at his workstation, and prepares for his shift on Christmas Eve. When the phone rings, he waits until the second hand on his watch tells him that his shift has officially begun. The caller is distraught that he took so long to answer, and complains that he could have hanged himself while waiting. Unimpressed, Brad calls his bluff and gets him to admit he is relaxing in a recliner. Brad continues to pick apart his sad story, revealing that he is just looking for some cheap psychotherapy to make him feel better about himself.

After hearing more of the caller's so-called troubles, which reveal him to be much richer than the counselor, Brad starts to go off on him, comparing his own rotten life to the caller's light problems. As he rants, getting more angry and self-destructive by the moment, the caller Bill gets concerned and tries to offer him some consolation to calm him down. Brad is savagely amused by a caller trying to counsel the counselor, and tells him that he already knows all the pat answers in the handbook, and nothing he can say will make anything better.

Realizing that he has had a part in making the counselor feel worse about his situation, Bill keeps trying to offer advice which obviously he wasn't paying heed to in his own life. At last, he remembers the Bible that his mother gave to him for a Christmas present, and he opens it while on the phone. He begins to read highlighted lines that his mother wanted to draw his attention to, all of which deal with promises made by Jesus, and how to be saved.

As he continues to read, both are being affected by the truths, and the conviction of the Spirit softens their hearts and reveals their need of the Savior. Bill and Brad both agree that something is happening, and Brad expresses a desire to know the Lord. Bill prays, and Brad follows his lead, and they both confess their belief in the Lord and ask him to forgive their sins and come into their heart and life. When done, they are happy about it, and decide to get together to celebrate the holiday, and their new life and change in direction.