

DIDN'T I GET THIS LAST YEAR?

by M. SCOTT COFFMAN

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A family opens their presents on Christmas morning, but their presents have a twist.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Child characters can be played by teens or adults. If you have a precocious youngster who could play Amy, great, but don't feel like you have to cast an actual 8-year-old. The roles of Amy and David could be cast as either gender, but the dynamics work best for the script if James remains a male character. Have the kids seated on the floor for best visibility.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3M, 2F (or 2M, 3F)

TOPIC: Spiritual Gifts

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4, 7-11, 28-31; 14:2, 13

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any, Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

DAD

MOM

JAMES - around 17 years old

DAVID - around 12 years old

AMY - around 8 years old

PROPS: Christmas tree (decorated), two chairs for parents, six presents (wrapped boxes where the lid can be lifted off without tearing paper), two coffee cups for parents, wristwatch for Dad

COSTUMES: pajamas, robes, slippers, etc. for all

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Living Room

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The kids enter and go straight for the Christmas tree and presents.

DAVID: All RIGHT! We got spiritual gifts again this year! I knew we would! I had no doubt! I totally believed this would happen without even seeing it first!

JAMES: Well, duh! That's because you got Faith last year!

Parents enter bleary-eyed with coffee.

MOM: *(To Dad)* What time is it?

DAD: *(Looking at watch)* 5:30 on the dot.

MOM: Oh, they let us sleep in this year. How nice.

AMY: Wow! Look at all these gifts! We must've been really good this year!

MOM: Now Amy, I told you before. It doesn't matter how good you are. These are GIFTS. You don't earn them.

AMY: Well, then, what was I good all year for?

DAVID: *(Aside)* You weren't THAT good.

DAD: Your mom's right. Spiritual gifts are for ALL believers. That reminds me of a story ...

JAMES: Oh, no. Dad's getting his Creative Communication on again.

DAVID: I hope he doesn't give us a slide show like last time.

DAD: Well, fine. I was just going to say that these gifts are for building up the church. There's no one single gift that all believers have, and no gift is more valuable than any other.

JAMES: *(To Amy)* Except for mine are way better than yours.

AMY: Cut it out!

DAD: That will do.

AMY: Dad, do animals get spiritual gifts too?

DAD: Animals?

AMY: Yeah, like dogs?

DAD: I don't know. Why do you ask?