

A 20-20 CHRISTMAS

SCRIPT ONE: Monday - The Angel's Message to Mary - Is 7:14; Lk 1:26-38

The scene is a beautiful living room decorated with a Christmas tree, Nativity Scene on a table (minus baby Jesus), and two rocking chairs. Shot opens with Grandma fiddling with the camera.

Grandma Ann: I can't tell if this thing is on. Grandpa! Grandpa!. Where is he? Grandpa, how do you do this SNIPE thing.

Grandpa Ken: (Grandpa grabs the camera, adjust it, and looks at himself in the camera. Good Grief, Grandma... it's not called Snipe... A snipe is a bird that lives in the marshlands. You mean Skype... that's the name of the program that we use to group communicate with the grandkids.

Grandma Ann: I know... I know. I was testing you.

Grandpa Ken: So why on earth did you put the Christmas tree and nativity scene up in August, Ann. What's going on?

Grandma Ann: Jenny told me the kids are all upset and worried about this Coronavirus. I just wanted to let our grandkids know there isn't any reason to worry. Christmas decorations are so comforting and joyful that I thought it would be good to celebrate now to remind us of God's promises. It always makes me feel better.

Grandpa Ken: By Gum, Grandma... you're right. Those kids could use a bit of cheering up. We could all use a little Christmas joy right now. Let's send them a video message and invite them to celebrate Christmas with us!

Grandma Ann: (looks nervous) I don't know, Grandpa. I don't think I like talking to the camera. It makes me nervous.

Grandpa Ken: Gee willikers, Grandma. Ain't nothing too it. Just pretend yer talking to them cute little kids out there. (Grandpa puts his face up to the camera again, turns to look at grandma who has sat down in the chair) Like this... Hi kids, it's yer old Grandpa Ken... I'm really glad you can see me... (pinches the camera)...I got your nose... I got your nose! (turns to Ann) See, nothing to it.

Grandma Ann: Okay... Okay. Just come over here and sit in your chair so they can see us both. I sometimes wonder if you ever really did grow up.

Grandpa Ken: Heh, heh...Call me Peter Pan! I always was a bit of ham when it came to cameras. Now I guess I better sit these old bones in the chair and rest a minute.

Grandma Ann: Good Evening Kids, It's Grandma Ann... and your...uh, crazy old, Grandpa Ken. We heard that you were worried about all that's going on in the world right now. With the emergency order, all this talk about the virus, and anger caused by civic unrest we know you must be a bit afraid. We know you might be a bit concerned about going back to school this fall... with the face mask, and social distancing... It's all quite strange.

Grandpa Ken: That's right. They call it "the new normal" but there ain't nothing normal about it. So we thought we'd help out by telling you there is no reason to be afraid. So we're going to share with you a bedtime story to help you feel safe and secure. Grandma has the Christmas story book. And I've got my Bible. So let's get started.

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Grandma Ann: The Bible tells us that Jesus promises to give us peace because he will protect and provide for us. There is no need to be afraid... not what is that verse again... Jesus said, ***“Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.”*** But I don’t remember where it’s found... Now where was that in the Bible, Grandpa? I’m always forgetting the references.

Grandpa Ken: It’s John 14:27, Grandma. Grandma’s always forgetting something. Once she laid her dentures on the chair and forgot she put them there. Later on, when she sat down in the chair she bit herself on the bottom....HAW HAW!

Grandma Ann: Oh Grandpa... you can be so silly. Don’t make me tell them about some of the stuff you’ve done!

Grandpa Ken: Okay, Okay...let’s not get hasty. But seriously, kids. We know that we can trust God. In his Holy Word, the Bible, he promised that he was going to send a savior who would redeem people from their sins. The Old Testament is filled with prophecies about the Messiah. And in the New Testament we find out that Jesus is the Son of God. And every promise God made has been fulfilled in Him.

Grandma Ann: Our preacher told us that there are over 350 verses about the Messiah, the Savior, in the Old Testament. Everyone of these has been fulfilled in Jesus.

Grandpa Ken: I have a verse that I want you to remember this week. It comes from John 20:30-31. It says, ***“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*** (NIV)

Grandma Ann: Grandpa Ken and I would like to show you a few of these promise that were fulfilled in Jesus. That way you can have peace in knowing that Jesus is with you and caring for you no matter what comes your way.

Grandpa Ken: About 700 years before Jesus, there was a prophet named Isaiah. Isaiah was sent by God to encourage God’s people who were about to go through some really tough time. God wanted to show them that he was still with them in their troubles and trials.

Grandma Ann: The Bible records God’s words in Isaiah 7:14 which says, ***“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”*** (NIV). The name Immanuel means, “God with Us.” You know, I have an ornament to put up on our tree that has this verse written on it. Should I hang it on our tree? (Hangs the ornament on the tree)

Grandpa Ken: That’s looks lovely. You know kids, sometimes it feels like God is so far away. Especially when we are going through hard times. But God promised that Jesus would be with us. Jesus is Immanuel: God with us. He will always be close at hand.

Grandma Ann: (Opens the Christmas Book) Let me read to you a story from Luke 1:26-38. This story shows that Mary was going to be that virgin girl who would give birth to the Son of God...Immanuel. Jesus is the one who will save us. He is Immanuel - God with us.

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In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Grandpa Ken: Can you imagine what that must have been like to see an angel and get a message like this?

Grandma Ann: That's right... And can you imagine the joy that Mary must have felt that she was going to be blessed to bring God's promised Messiah into this world? I bet she felt like singing a song!

Grandpa Ken: Well she did! When she got to her cousin, Elizabeth's house, she sang a song of great joy.

Grandma Ann: That's why I like singing Christmas songs and hymns. There is so much joy in knowing that God always keeps his promises.

Grandpa Ken: Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come! Let Heaven and Nature Sing! JOY TO THE WORLD!

Grandma Ann: When we see and know that Jesus is with us we can have "A 20-20 Christmas" all year long. We know that our vision is perfect when we trust in Jesus Christ.

Grandpa Ken: Well kids, It's time for Grandma and Grandpa to go. But we will be telling you another great story tomorrow night. And know that we love you and are praying for you. And we hope that you will pray for us tonight when you say your prayers.

Grandma and Grandpa: Good Night. Sleep Tight!!! (Grandpa goes over to the camera and pushes the stop button).

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SCRIPT TWO: Tuesday - A Savior is Born / Happy Birthday Jesus (Is 9:6-7; Lk 2:1-7)

The scene is a beautiful living room decorated with a Christmas tree, Nativity Scene on a table, and two rocking chairs. But there is also birthday decorations. Scene opens with Grandma and Grandpa in Birthday hats.

Grandma and Grandpa: (Singing) Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Immanuel! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Grandma Ann: Hi Kids, It's Grandma Ann... you probably didn't recognize me with birthday hat on my head... oh, my hair is probably all a mess, now.

Grandpa Ken: Oh it's find, Grandma Ann. Hi Kids, It's yer old Grampy Ken again. We thought we'd surprise you and cheer you up with a birthday party. This is a special birthday party for Jesus. I'm so excited.

Grandma Ann: Don't get to worked up dear... you know what the doctor said! I remember when you got excited over the Titanic. Grandpa tried to warn everyone that the Titanic was going to sink. When everyone ignored him he jumped up, started waving his hands and shouting over and over again that the Titanic was going to sink....Yes Sir-e, That's when they kicked us both out of the theater! I had to wait until it came out on video to see the ending.

Grandpa Ken - Hardy, har, har, Good one, Grandma Ann! But you have to admit... I was right!

Grandma Ann - I just love a good birthday party.

Grandpa Ken - Yeah, when your are our age the candles on the cake are so bright they can be seen from the International Space station. They have to keep the fire department on high alert!

Grandma Ann - Ha, Ha...speak for yourself, old man! I just love all the balloons, hats, and streamers. (Turns to the camera and asks the kids) What's your favorite part of the birthday, kids?

Grandpa Ken: Now, Grandma Ann, you know as much as I do that kids love to open presents. The presents are the best part of the birthday party! And it just so happens that I got Grandma Ann a present for Jesus' birthday. Here you go!

Grandma Ann: Can I open it now?

Grandpa Ken: Of course... what are you waiting for... Christmas! HA! HA! HA!

Grandma Ann: Oh, It's a lovely Christmas Ornament that I can put on the tree. It says, "***But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*** -John 20:31. (Gets up and hangs the ornament on the tree. Then bends down and picks up a present under the tree.) Wait Grandpa Ken, I have a present for you too.

Grandpa Ken: I don't know what it could be. I can't wait (opens present). Why look, it's a Christmas ornament with something written on it. "***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 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***" - Isaiah 9:6

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Grandma Ann: That is a very important gift. The prophet Isaiah was talking about a very important baby being born. That baby would be the Messiah, the Anointed One. He would be a king who would be a great advisor, his kingdom would last forever, he is all-powerful, and he is the Son of God. Who do you think Isaiah was talking about?

Grandpa Ken: I know, I know... He was talking about Jesus!

Grandma Ann: Oh Grandpa, You get so excited when we talk about God's promises.

Grandpa Ken: That's because they give us hope and peace in troubled times. God always keeps his promises. 700 years before Jesus was born, God promised that Jesus would be born. And God fulfilled that promise when Jesus was born.

Grandma Ann: That's right, kids. We can celebrate Jesus birthday all year long. And the best part is that Jesus brings us the best gift. He brings us the gift of eternal life (Ro 6:23).

Grandpa Ken: God fulfilled his promise in Jesus. Mary was his mother as we learned last night. But Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph who was upright and God-fearing. When Joseph found out Mary was going to have a baby he was upset and was debating what to do. He was considering ending their relationship. But one night an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that the baby was God's son. The angel told Joseph that he was to call the baby, Jesus, which means salvation, because Jesus would save people from their sins (Mt 1:18-24). And Joseph was obedient to God and took Mary as his wife. When she had her baby, Joseph named him Jesus and raised him as his own son.

Grandma Ann: The story of Jesus birth is incredible. It is in Luke 2:1-7.

Grandpa Ken: You've got the Christmas story book right there. Why don't you tell them the story, dear.

Grandma Ann: ***In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.***

Grandpa Ken: The long-awaited Messiah was born. And there was no room for him. So he was born in a barn...a stable (Grandpa Ken points to the nativity scene).

Grandma Ann: When I was a child we would put the nativity scene under the tree. But my Father took the baby Jesus and hid him away. He would tell us that we would have to wait for Christmas day to put the baby Jesus under the tree. Everyday we would wait with anticipation for the day that we could put Jesus under the tree.

Grandpa Ken: No one really knows the exact date of Jesus' birth. We celebrate his birth on December 25th because of tradition. There are some that believe Jesus was born in the Spring and others seem to think he was born in Autumn. But it really doesn't matter when we celebrate his birth.

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Grandma Ann: We are going to place the baby Jesus in our nativity scene since we are celebrating his birth today. (Grandma Ann carefully takes out the baby Jesus, shows it to the camera, and places it in the nativity.) But we can, and should, celebrate the birth of Jesus in our lives everyday!

Grandpa Ken: God gave us the greatest gift in the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. But what are some gifts that we can give Jesus?

Grandma Ann: First and foremost, We can give him our heart. Jesus desires to have a personal relationship with you. If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you can ask Jesus to come into your heart (Re 3:20-21) and be baptized (Ac 2:38-39). Jesus would love nothing more than for you to be his friend.

Grandpa Ken: That's right, Grandma Ann. We can also give him our service. We can show Jesus that we love him by doing things for Him in our church and in our community (2 Co 9:12-13). There are many jobs that need to be done in the church. But there are also service jobs that need to be done outside the church. For example, don't forget our missions project to help ARC feed the hungry. Jesus said, **"...Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"** (Mt 25:40).

Grandma Ann: And we can give Jesus our love. We can show Jesus how much we love by others. Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment. **He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'"** (Lk 10:27).

Grandpa Ken: There are many ways in which you can give Jesus a gift. Why don't you think of some ways and let us know. We would love to hear your ideas on making this "A 20-20 Christmas".

Grandma Ann: In the mean time let's not forget that beautiful verse from Isaiah 9:6 - **"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 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

Grandpa Ken: I think there is a piece of birthday cake calling my name in the kitchen. Grandma Ann and I better go investigate.

Grandma Ann: Oh Grandpa... you're always thinking with your stomach. We'll go in a minute but let's not forget to say goodnight to our lovely grandchildren and their friends.

Grandpa Ken: We'll see you tomorrow night when you join us for another look into God's promises. Until then, don't forget to say your prayers before bed. And don't worry, Jesus is bigger than all these problems.

Grandma Ann: Goodnight my little ones, Sleep tight.

Grandpa Ken: God bless you, all... Now let's go find that cake. (Grandpa gets up)

Grandma Ann: Grandpa! You haven't shut the camera off yet.

(Grandpa goes over and gets real close to the camera, examines it, and shuts it off)

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SCRIPT THREE: Wednesday - The Birth Announcement - Mi 5:2,4; Lk 2:8-20

The scene is a beautiful living room decorated with a Christmas tree, Nativity Scene on a table, and two rocking chairs. There is a stuffed sheep and an old box sitting on the floor in front of Grandma Ann's chair. Grandma is already sitting on the chair with some old cards and papers on her lap. She is staring off into space. She has a hanky in one hand. She dabs a tear from the corner of her eye as Grandpa Ken comes into the room.

Grandpa Ken - What in tarnation are you doing? Are you crying? (Grandpa sits down)

Grandma Ann - Way to be sensitive, Grandpa! It's just dust in my eyes.

Grandpa Ken - No it ain't.. I've seen that look before. You've been looking through your memory box again. Thinking of the kids and grand kids I see. It makes you a bit nostalgic for the good ole days... huh... the good ole days.

The good ole days... before facebook, ipads, and twitter. In those days if you wanted to show someone what you were eating for dinner, you had to take a picture... wait for the film to be developed... and then mail them to your friends. Who did that? No one! Why do people post their food on-line... I don't get it.

The good ole days... where we used to have to entertain ourselves with an old black and white tv with just three channels... and we had to take turns holding the antenna so we could get the channels to come in. Now there are 696 channels and still nothing decent to watch.

The good ole days... where to call someone you had to look up their number in a phone book and dial them up. Why kids today have never seen a telephone with a dial.

The good ole days... We didn't have a microwave to warm up our chicken nuggets. We had those old TV dinners in the aluminum trays that you had to put in the oven... and the mashed potatoes were always still frozen in the middle... How does that work!

The good ole days... You would go to the doctor and tell him your arm hurts when you hold it like this (Grandpa sticks his arm up)... And the doctor would say, "the don't hold your are like that."

The good ole days... where the bathroom was a wooden box out in the backyard...

Grandma Ann - ha ha, okay... I get it. But look what I found in this memory box. (She hands the card over to Grandpa Ken)

Grandpa Ken - (takes the card and looks at it) Oh! It's Jenny's birth announcement.... "Just when you think you know love, something little comes along to remind you how big love really is...(pause) Announcing the birth of Jennifer Ann. 7 pounds 8 ounces. "Our new baby girl is a gift beyond measure, a wonder to hold and a lifetime to treasure, with 10 perfect fingers and 10 tiny toes, two bright blue eyes, and a cute dimple nose. She's bundled in pink and destined for pearls, she's a princess at heart just like all little girls. This soft little lamb is a bundle of love, a beautiful gift sent from God up above."

Grandma Ann - See Grandpa Ken, it pulls at your heart strings. The birth of a baby. Our little Jenny is now all grown up with kids of her own.

Grandpa Ken - We sent out that beautiful announcement to everyone we know. I could have shouted an announcement from the highest building in town. I was so proud. I still am!

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Grandma Ann - It's amazing how something so small can make such a big difference in our lives. It reminds me of the birth of Jesus. God announced the birth of his Son with an angel choir of the heavenly host.

Grandpa Ken - Can you imagine what it would be like to hear thousands of angels proclaiming the glory of God! Why don't you read us the story, Grandma Ann.

Grandma Ann - (Grandma picks up the book) Tonight's story comes from the Bible. It is found in Luke 2:8-20. ***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 that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."***

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Grandpa Ken - Angels announcing the birth of Jesus. I get emotional every time I hear It: ***"Glory to God in the highest heavens, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rest."***

Grandma Ann - It's like God's shouting it from the roof top. And that peace is what we've been talking about. Those who trust in Jesus will experience his peace no matter what the world throws at you.

Grandpa Ken - The Bible foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem and that he would be a shepherd to his people. ***"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times....He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth"*** (Micah 5:2,4 NIV)

Grandma Ann - O little town of Bethlehem! How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven... That is so beautiful.
Bethlehem, shepherds, and a baby who would grow up to shepherd his people. That verse would look good hanging on our tree, Grandpa Ken.

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Grandpa Ken - I thought so too. So I made another ornament for you to remind us of the promises the Lord has made. This prophesy was also written some 700 years before Jesus was born and yet God never forgets his promises. Jesus was born in Bethlehem and is the great shepherd. Jesus himself said in John 10:15, ***"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."***

Grandma Ann - (Grandma picks up the lamb) Yes, Jesus is the shepherd who knows his sheep. He knows each of us by our name. He knows what we need. He knows how to take care of us. Jesus protects and provides for the little lambs. And Jesus is watching over you to, my little lambs.

Grandpa Ken - Did you know that legend has it that in 1670, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the long Live Nativity ceremony. In honor of the occasion, he had the candies bent into shepherds' crooks. (Grandpa pulls a candy cane out) And thus we have the candy cane!

Grandma Ann - So candy canes also remind us of Jesus, the good shepherd, and the night he was born.

Grandpa Ken - Kids, I hope that you trust in Jesus, the good shepherd. He will take care of all your needs. You can remember that Jesus is the great shepherd because when you hold the candy cane one way it looks like the shepherds crook but if you turn it upside down it looks like a "J" for Jesus.

Grandma Ann - I hope that tonights lesson has brought you great joy and hope, my little ones. Don't forget to say your prayers before bed. You know that your Grandpa Ken and I are praying for you.

Grandpa Ken: We'll see you tomorrow night when you join us for another look into God's promises. Until then, God bless everyone of you.

Grandma Ann: Goodnight my little ones, Sleep tight.

Grandpa Ken: Don't let the bedbugs bite (Ken gets up and walks toward the camera).

Grandma Ann: Why did you say that!

Grandpa Ken: That's how the saying goes... Good night, Sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite.

Grandma Ann: Kids today have enough to worry about without you telling them to watch out for bedbugs.

Grandpa Ken: Oh, Grandma... (shuts the camera off)

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SCRIPT FOUR: Thursday - Wise Men Still Seek Him (Nu 24:17; Je 31:15; Mt 2:1-12; Ps 40:16; He 11:6)

The scene is a beautiful living room decorated with a Christmas tree, Nativity Scene on a table, and two rocking chairs. Grandpa is sitting in his chair reading the Bible (book). Grandma is off screen humming.

Grandpa Ken: Oh Grandma? What are you doing in the kitchen? Something smells so good!

Grandma Ann: (Grandma enters the room with a tray of star cookies on baking sheet) Grandpa Ken, you're always thinking with your stomach. Well this is the last batch. I wanted you to have one of my cookies.

Grandpa Ken: (Takes a cookie) You always were a good baker. In fact, Kids. Your Grandma is the fastest cookie baker in town. Did you know she can whip up a batch of cookies in a NANA- second? Get it? NANA...second? (Satisfied with himself, grandpa sits back in his chair and bites the cookie).

Grandma Ann: Did you notice the cookies are all in the form of a star?

Grandpa Ken: UM-HUM (Still chewing, smiling, and nodding his head).

Grandma Ann: And did you notice they had yellow icing on them?

Grandpa Ken: UM-HUM (Still chewing, smiling, and nodding his head).

Grandma Ann: And did you notice that put your old, dirty socks in them? (mischievous smile)

Grandpa Ken: UM-HUH...(coughs)... What?

Grandma Ann: (still smiling) Just kidding!

Grandpa Ken: (cough)... You could have killed me. I choked on that cookie.

Grandma Ann: Those socks would take down an elephant! They could walk to the laundry on their own.... but sorry about that. Here, have another cookie.

Grandpa Ken: (starts to reach for it and pauses)...are you sure there were not socks harmed in the making of these cookies?

Grandma Ann: Well... I'll never tell. That's for me to know and you to find out!

Grandpa Ken: Humm... Well, those cookies are pretty good even if they did have my old, dirty socks in them. Too good to pass up! (Grandpa takes another one).

Grandma Ann: (Puts the tray down) Do you know why I made them like a star? It's because it reminds me of tonight's story. You see, way back in Numbers 24:17 the Bible tells us that "a star" would rise out of Jacob in the future. Do you know who that star is? That's right... it's Jesus.

Grandpa Ken: About 1200 years before Jesus came, God revealed that Jesus, the bright and morning star would come.

Grandma Ann: The Bible also tells about a star that guided wisemen to the baby Jesus. That story is found in Matthew 2:1-23.

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After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi (or wisemen) from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

***"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."***

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Grandpa Ken: Can you image waiting for Jesus to be born and following his star to find him? The wisemen searched for Jesus for a long time. Jesus may have been as a toddler when the wisemen got to Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph, and the baby were no longer in a stable by that time. They were staying in a house. And the wisemen brought gifts for the Messiah, the King of the Jews.

Grandma Ann: But Herod, the king of Israel, was jealous and wanted to kill anyone who threatened his power and position. So the wisemen were warned by an angel in dream that Herod was not wanting to worship Jesus but to kill him. So they went back home without going back to Jerusalem.

Grandpa Ken: Herod was not happy about that at all. Let's read on.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." [c]

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

***"A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,***

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***Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.***

Grandma Ann: It's hard to imagine anyone wanting to massacre little babies. But Herod didn't want anyone taking his throne. He thought he could end this threat. But God had other plans. Herod's evil deed was foretold nearly 600 years before Jesus was born. The prophesy reminds us that even though God does not cause these bad things to happen he uses them for good... to show people that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Star of Jacob.

Grandpa Ken: I have another ornament to put on the tree with this verse from Jeremiah 31:15 - ***"A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."*** Perhaps this is one of the reasons that Jeremiah is called "the weeping prophet". (Grandpa Ken gets up and puts the ornament on the tree).

Grandma Ann: But Joseph, Mary, and Jesus did not stay in Egypt long. Let's read the rest of the story.

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Grandpa Ken: Almost everything in this story connects Jesus to the promises in the Old Testament! That's exciting. It shows us that God keeps his promises. It shows us that Jesus will take care of our every need. He is the king, the star, that was promised long ago!

Grandma Ann: My dear children, I hope that you have enjoyed tonight's story. And I hope that you have learned a valuable lesson.

Grandpa Ken: WISEMEN STILL SEEK HIM! That means that every boy and every girl can seek and find Jesus. Jesus wants you to come to him.

Grandma Ann: ***One of my favorite verses in the Bible says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*** Hebrews 11:6

Grandpa Ken: We'll see you tomorrow night when you join us for another look into God's promises. Until then, God bless everyone of you.

Grandma Ann: Goodnight my little ones, Sleep tight.

A 20-20 CHRISTMAS

SCRIPT FIVE: Friday - The Connection to the Light - Jesus came to bring light into a dark and sinful world. Jesus wants us to share the light.

Scriptures: Is 9:2; Jn 1:1-14; Jn 8:12; Mt 5:15-15

The scene is a beautiful living room decorated with a Christmas tree, Nativity Scene on a table, and two rocking chairs. Ken is sitting in his chair reading. Grandma is on her knees beside the Christmas tree. The lights on the tree are dark.

Grandma Ann: Oh Goodness! (Grandma looks at Grandpa. Grandpa keeps reading) Oh My!
(Grandma looks at Grandpa. Grandpa keeps reading) Well this is a revolting development!
(Grandma looks at Grandpa. Grandpa keeps reading) GRANDPA.

Grandpa Ken: (Keeps reading) Yes dear?

Grandma Ann: (upset) Don't you even want to know what I am frustrated about?

Grandpa Ken: (keeps reading, rather monotone) Yes dear... what's bothering you... this time?

Grandma Ann: Well I've turned on the video to do our story with the grandkids and the lights on the tree won't come on.

Grandpa Ken: (keeps reading) Did you check to see if the switch is turned on?

Grandma Ann: (exasperated) YES! That was the first thing I did. Light travels faster than sound. That's why you appear bright until people here you speak.

Grandpa Ken: (gets up and goes over to the tree)... here's your problem... the tree is unplugged! Glad I could "brighten up" your day...Ha! Hey, How many nuclear engineers does it take to change a light bulb?...Seven. One to install the new bulb and six to figure out what to do with the old one for the next 10,000 years. Thank you very much!

Grandma Ann: So you want to go there? Then, How many magicians does it take to change a light bulb?... depends on what you want it changed into! HA

Grandpa Ken: Okay then. How many jugglers does it take to change a light bulb?... just one but he needs at least three bulbs! Ta-Da!

Grandma Ann: HA - How many politicians does it take to change a lightbulb? A: Two. One to change it, and another one to change it back again.

Grandpa Ken: One More - How many real men does it take to change a light bulb... none, real men aren't afraid of the dark! LOL!

Grandma Ann: Very funny, Grandpa. But that reminds me. We have another ornament to put on the tree. It has to do with light. (Grandma hands the ornament to Grandpa Ken).

Grandpa Ken: Ah.. Isaiah 9:2 - ***The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*** That is another great promise that the Messiah would come and shine the light of God to all the lost sinners.

Grandma Ann: That prophesy was fulfilled in Jesus who said in John 8:12, ***"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*** (Both grandma and grandpa sit down)

A 20-20 CHRISTMAS

Grandpa Ken: Our story today is from John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Grandma Ann: Do you know who this is talking about, Children? (pause) That's right. It's talking about Jesus. The Glory of God is His Light.

Grandpa Ken: Jesus is the light for this dark world. The world may seem like a very evil and dark place that can be very overwhelming at times. There is so much violence and sin in the world. John 3:19-21 says, ***"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."***

Grandma Ann: Jesus came to shine the light and call people to him. He wants people to come out of darkness into his glorious light.

Grandpa Ken: Jesus said in John 12:46, ***"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."*** He came that they may have light and life in Him.

Grandma Ann: There was an old man living in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' birth. He was waiting on the promised one to come. And the Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die until he saw God's Messiah with his own eyes.

Grandpa Ken: The spirit lead Simeon to the temple on the very day his parents brought him to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and declared him to be the answer to God's promise. He said, ***"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."***

A 20-20 CHRISTMAS

Grandma Ann: One of my favorite verses of Silent Night says, "Silent night, holy night, Son of God, oh, love's pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth." Jesus is the light of revelation for all the world to see.

Grandpa Ken: As believers in Jesus Christ we are called to be reflections of the Light of Jesus into this world. In Matthew 5:14-16 it says, ***"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."***

Grandma Ann: You are a light into the world when you tell others about Jesus.

Grandpa Ken: You are a light into the world when you do what is right by God.

Grandma Ann: You are a light into the world when you do good deeds for others.

Grandpa Ken: You are a light into the world when you read your Bible and trust in God's word for the answers to your life.

Grandma Ann: You are a light into the world when you pray for others and care for them first.

Grandpa Ken: You are a light into the world when you stand up for Jesus wherever you are.

Grandma Ann: That's why I love the beautiful lights of Christmas. They remind us that Jesus, the light of the world, is born.

Grandpa Ken: And they remind us that we are also to be a light by reflecting the love and grace of Jesus Christ for the world to see.

Grandma Ann: Well it is time for us to go once again.

Grandpa Ken: I hope, dear children, that you have seen the light of Jesus in our video messages to us this week. He is the promised Messiah, the Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

Grandma Ann: We have enjoyed reading these stories to you this week. We hope that they have given you some comfort, peace, and hope in this world. You can always trust in Jesus to take care of you.

Grandpa Ken: We hope to see you real soon. We miss you so much.

Grandma Ann: Goodnight my little ones, Sleep tight.

Grandpa Ken: And don't let that old devil bite! Good night.

Grandma Ann: Oh Grandpa... that sounds worse than the bedbugs. You're really something else.

Grandpa Ken: (Moving toward the camera and looking back at Grandma) You're right... sorry about that. I was just being... (grandpa pushes the screen button)