# A Pointless Christmas!

Rachel Gotobed, Family Ministries Outreach Mission Partner

Host: Chris Cleverly
Co-host: Noelle Knowall
Contestants: Sally Shopper
Peter Party
Mary Christmas
Seth Shepherd
Nativity scene: Mary, Joseph, star, angels, shepherds, wise men, animals

*If additional parts are required, you can add contestants to make pairs and then share the lines between characters. Suggested names could be George Gifts, Daisy Dancer, Elvis Elf, Lily Lamb.*

*Questions and 'Pointless' countdown images can be created and displayed electronically to help create the feel of a television quiz show. Theme music can be played live or pre-recorded and only needs to be short. These are great ways of including people who don't want to be on stage.*

## Scene 1

*Theme music plays. Enter host, co-host and contestants.*

Host — Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. My name is Chris Cleverly and I'm your host today here at *A Pointless Christmas* – the quiz show in which we aim to discover just what makes a pointless Christmas. Without further ado, let's meet our first contestant.

Sally — Good evening. My name is Sally Shopper.

Host — Welcome, Sally, we're really pleased you're here on *A Pointless Christmas* this evening. Please will you tell us a little bit about yourself.

Sally — I am a professional shopper, and I just love to shop! Christmas is a particularly busy time for me and I'm never happier than when my arms are full of bags and my feet are aching from queuing all day!

Host — Wow, Sally! I think I might have to hire your services because I detest shopping full stop, and even more so at Christmas! Thank you for coming on *A Pointless Christmas*. We hope you enjoy being part of the show.

And now welcome to our second contestant.

Peter — Hi there, my name is Peter Party.

Host — Great name, Peter Party! Please tell us something about yourself.

Peter Party by name and party by nature – that's me! I just love to party. Christmas is especially fun for me because it's the season to party, and my social life goes from brilliant to awesome throughout December.

Host What a socialite you are, Peter – a right party animal! Welcome to the show. I hope that this won't be too tame an experience for you.

And our third contestant is …

Mary My name is Mary Christmas.

Host Welcome to *A Pointless Christmas*, Mary. What do you do?

Mary I'm the wife of Father Christmas. Life is always very busy, but particularly at this time of year. I'm responsible for making sure that all the letters that arrive at the North Pole are carefully filed and that the naughty and nice lists are up to date at all times.

Host That's a very important job you have there, Mary. I'm sure none of the children watching would want you to get any of that mixed up. Thank you for making the time to come on *A Pointless Christmas*. We really appreciate you travelling such a long way.

And our final contestant this evening …

Seth Hello, my friends. My name is Seth Shepherd, and I work on the hillside of the North Yorkshire Moors. However, I have researched my family tree and have found that I am a direct descendant of the hillside shepherds of Bethlehem.

Host That's an amazing find, Seth. I'm sure there would be a lot of shepherds who would love to have such a claim to fame!

Well, that's all of our contestants for this evening. So last but by no means least, I need to introduce you to my co-host and pointless friend Noelle Knowall.

Co-host Thank you, Chris. I'm really looking forward to this evening's show. There are so many interesting facts about Christmas and we all think that we know lots about it. All of our contestants sound as though they are real experts on the subject, so it will be interesting to see what obscure answers they come up with.

Host Indeed. Let's get on with the first round!

Taking the word 'Christmas' as an acrostic, we asked 100 people to name something to do with Christmas beginning with one of the letters. So can you find a pointless answer? I'll repeat the question again: we asked 100 people to name something to do with Christmas beginning with one of the letters that spell the word 'Christmas', so can you find a pointless answer?

Sally, coming to you first.

Sally Well, of course I have to say shopping. S for shopping!

Host Ha, ha! Sally – yes, I can see why that would be your answer, but let's see if that's correct and how many people said shopping.

Co Host It's a high one I'm afraid, Sally. 96 people said shopping! We all know just how much shopping for food and gifts goes on around this time of year.

Host 96! Oh dear, that is a high score. Never mind, Sally. You'll just have to wait and see what our other contestants come up with and hope someone gets a wrong answer! Now what about our second contestant, Peter – have you thought of an answer?

Peter T for tinsel. There's always tinsel on the Christmas trees at the parties I go to.

Host Tinsel – let's see if that's correct and how many people said 'Tinsel'.

Co Host 68 people answered 'Tinsel'. Not as popular as it once was, tinsel was traditionally added to trees to reflect the candlelight and originally made from real, shredded silver.

Host 68 – that's still quite a high answer, I'm afraid, Peter. Tinsel is so Christmassy – adding a bit of sparkle everywhere – a bit like your favourite quiz show host perhaps?!

Now then, Mary, have you got an answer for us?

Mary I was thinking about I for Ice. There is lots of ice where I live all year round, but I know that it can be cold and icy here at this time of year.

Host Ice – good answer, I think, Mary. Let's see if that's correct and how many people said ice.

Co Host 27 – the best answer so far there, Mary. People always struggle finding an answer for the 'I' in this acrostic, so well done to you on that one.

Host Brilliant answer there, Mary. I'm surprised that answer slipped by you Peter – I'm sure you have plenty of ice in all your party drinks!

And so, to our final contestant, Seth. Can you think of something beginning with one of the letters of 'Christmas'?

Seth S for sheep!

Host Sheep – yes, of course! A good answer for a shepherd – but is it a right answer?

Co Host Yes, it is a right answer and a pointless answer! Well done, Seth – the best answer of the round, and you have also added a bonus to the prize pot. As you have already reminded us this evening, there were shepherds watching their sheep on the hillside of Bethlehem who were the first to hear the message that Jesus had been born.

Host What a fantastic answer there, Seth! Obviously no one thinks of sheep as being very festive – it's because we all have turkey for dinner and not lamb!

Co Host Oh – so not funny!

Host True, though – and our answers proved it. No one else said sheep, did they?

That's the end of our first round, and unfortunately we have to say goodbye to Sally Shopper who has the highest score of 96. It just goes to show that shopping is a very popular activity in a pointless Christmas. You may love all the hustle and bustle and endless queuing of Christmas shopping, Sally, but I'm afraid that the only queue for you here is the cue to leave.

Thank you for playing in *A Pointless Christmas*. As for the rest of you, we will meet again in the second round.

*Theme music plays – exit Sally Shopper*

## Scene 2

Host Welcome back to our second round of *A Pointless Christmas*. Our three remaining contestants are all ready to play again.

Co-host I think this should be an interesting round – it will really test what our contestants know about the Christmas story.

Host Let's look at the question, then, and see what pointless answers they can find.

According to the narrative found in the Bible, can you name a character from the story of the first Christmas? Let me just say that again: according to the narrative found in the Bible, name a character from the story of the first Christmas.

Now, Seth, as you had the best answer last time, you get to go first this time. Do you have an answer ready?

Seth Sheep!

Host Ha, ha! That's what you said last time! Are you giving the same answer?

Seth Yes I am, Chris. I told you how I had traced my ancestry back to the shepherds of Bethlehem, so I know it says about the shepherds looking after their sheep.

Host OK then, Seth. If sheep is your answer again, let's see if that's right and how many people said it.

Co-host Six – that's another brilliant answer, Seth. Luke 2:8 mentions about the shepherds watching over their flocks of sheep in the fields near to Bethlehem.

Host Wow, Seth – your fellow shepherds will be very proud of such a great answer. In fact, they will probably be flocking to congratulate you!

Co-host Now don't tease, Chris. You're making Seth look sheepish!

Host That certainly was not my intention, Noelle – in fact I thought it might give him a new fleece of life!

Co-host Oh Chris, how can I compete with ewe on that?

Host So sorry everyone, we're getting a little carried away with the sheep puns there! Now Peter, according to the narrative found in the Bible, can you name a character from the story of the first Christmas?

Peter As Seth seems to be doing so well with his animal answers, I think I will go for one as well and say a donkey.

Host A donkey, as in the *(sings)* 'Little donkey, little donkey …'. Anyway, let's see if 'donkey' is correct and how many people said it.

Co-host Oh no! It's a wrong answer and it scores you 100!

Host Really? There's no donkey in the first Christmas story? But what about *(sings)* 'Little donkey, little donkey …'

Co-host Unfortunately there is no mention of a donkey in any of the Bible narratives that record the story of the first Christmas. It is likely that it was added to the story because people thought it was too far for a pregnant woman to walk, and as they were poor they wouldn't have a horse.

Host What a shame, Peter – that donkey's made you look a right …

Co Host Chris! Remember this is a family show!

Host What? I was going to say it made him look a right party pooper!

Co-host Hm, I'll believe you – thousands wouldn't. But you're right – it looks like the party could be over for Peter!

Host Now then, Mary, what about an answer from you. According to the narrative found in the Bible, can you name a character from the story of the first Christmas?

Mary Of course, I could say my namesake Mary, the mother of Jesus, but I think that will be too high. So instead I am going to say the wise men, as they are remembered for being the bearers of the first Christmas gifts – and Father Christmas still follows their example today.

Host Ah yes – that sounds like a good answer – the wise men. Let's see if it is correct and how many people said it.

Co Host 65 people answered the wise men, or the magi or kings as some refer to them as. We read about them in Matthew 2. It's a good job that you didn't say 'the three wise men', as the Bible doesn't actually tell us how many there were. It is only presumed there were three because of the three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Host Wow – I'd always thought there were three! I loved being a wise man in my primary school Nativity play – the costumes were great. *(Bows as if re-enacting the part)*

Co-host Shame you're not still a wise man!

Host Hah! Very funny, Noelle! Now what if Mary had said Mary, was that higher?

Co-host Yes, that was 88. Well done, Mary. You were better to say the wise men.

Host I'm afraid, Peter, that the party is over for you! I still can't believe donkey was a wrong answer, but now you can go and be a proper party animal this Christmas.

Co-host Ha ha! Donkey – party animal! Your jokes are going downhill rapidly this evening.

Host How can you say that, Noelle? I'm only trying to put a little mule-tide humour into the proceedings.

Thank you for partying with us here this evening, Peter, on *A Pointless Christmas*. We are truly sorry to see you leave the show, but we will see both Mary and Seth in our head-to-head round coming up soon.

*Theme music plays and Peter Party exits.*

## Scene 3

Host Here we are all ready to play our head-to-head round on *A Pointless Christmas*, so let's get straight on with it and see what our question is for this all-important round.

Co-host I'm sure everyone will enjoy this round, Chris, as it's anagrams of Christmas songs and carols, some of which we may have already sung here tonight.

Host That's brilliant, Noelle. Let's take a look at our anagrams of Christmas songs and carols. Remember we're looking for the one that you think the least people will have known.

*WEAN AGAIN MARY*

*A BLONDE IRISH WENCH*

*MAGICAL CONSONANTS OUTWITS*

*ENGLISH TINT*

*PERCHED WITH A WELSH SHED*

I'll repeat them quickly for you again.

*WEAN AGAIN MARY*

*A BLONDE IRISH WENCH*

*MAGICAL CONSONANTS OUTWITS*

*ENGLISH TINT*

*PERCHED WITH A WELSH SHED*

Now then, Seth, seeing as you've played best throughout the show so far, you can have first go at these Christmas carol anagrams.

Seth I think I know about three of them, but I'm going to say that 'Perched with a Welsh shed' is 'While Shepherds Watched'.

Host Wow, Seth, that's a fantastic answer, and keeps with your sheep theme! Let's see if that's right and how many people said it.

Co-host A really good answer – scores you 22!

Host Not bad at all, Seth. Your ancestral line to those Bethlehem shepherds is keeping you firmly in this game tonight!

Now then, Mary, what about you? Can you take us through the rest of the board?

Mary I'm afraid I can only do two. 'Wean again Mary' must be 'Away in a Manger' and 'English Tint' is 'Silent Night'. But I'm not sure which will be the lowest. I think I will go for 'Wean again Mary' as 'Away in a Manger'.

Host Mary's saying 'Wean again Mary' – 'Away in a Manger'. Let's see if that's right and how many people said, 'Away in a Manger'.

Co-host A good answer, Mary, but 59 people said 'Away in a Manger', and in fact it was the highest scorer on that board!

Let's go through the rest of the board:

You were right, Mary, when you said that 'English Tint' was 'Silent Night' and that would have score you 44 points, so still wouldn't have won you the round.

'You fat face molehill' is 'O come all ye faithful', and 'Magical Consonants Outwits' – I'm a bit surprised you didn't get this one, Mary – it's 'Santa Claus is coming to town'.

Host Thank you, Noelle. That was a great round, but I'm afraid, Mary, that not knowing your husband's on his way means you are the high scorer in this round. Seth wins the head-to-head and goes through to our *A Pointless Christmas* final. What a shame that we now have to say goodbye to you – it's been great having you on the show, and all that's left is for me to wish you a Mary Christmas!

Co-host Ha ha! As if she hasn't heard that one before!

Host You know what they say – the old ones are the best!

*Theme music plays and Mary exits.*

## Scene 4

Host — We are back for the final round in *A Pointless Christmas* with our remaining contestant Seth Shepherd, who I'm sure will be pleased to know has already won our coveted *Pointless Christmas* trophy!

Seth — Yes, thank you, that's brilliant! I will be very proud to display that in my little cottage out on the North Yorkshire Moors.

Host — But to win our jackpot today, which thanks to your earlier pointless answer now stands at £2,500, you just have to find just one more pointless answer.

Co-host — It's a cracking question we've got for you, Seth, so here's hoping we can't pull the wool over your eyes on this one.

Host — I don't think we will, Noelle. His 'shear' determination has got him through this far!

Right! Enough sheep-ing around for the time being, let's get on with the question.

We asked 100 people to name a film that includes Christmas. So, Seth, can you find a pointless answer?

Co-host — Yes, we are looking for any film that includes Christmas. The film must feature important references to Christmas, such as Christmas shopping and celebrations, food and decorations, or Santa Claus. In fact, it can be any film that features a scene or scenes about Christmas.

Host — OK then, Seth. You have 60 seconds to name three films that include Christmas, and to try and find that all-important, pointless answer. Are you ready? Your time starts now.

Seth — I've got so many films that include Christmas going round in my head it's difficult to choose just three. I really love all the *Home Alone* movies, but I'm sure they will be popular. And then there's the *Santa Claus* series – they're brilliant too! *Scrooge* or *A Christmas Carol* will be too high, as will *White Christmas* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Host — You've got 30 seconds left, Seth.

Seth — Right – then let me think, let me think. I like the one about Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, so that can be one answer. And then my favourite is *Shaun the Sheep: The Flight before Christmas* – that can be another answer. So it's just a third one I need.

Host — And that's your time up, Seth. Have you got your three answers?

Seth — I'm going to say *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Shaun the Sheep: The Flight before Christmas* and ...

Host — We need one more answer from you, Seth.

Seth — *The Greatest Story Ever Told*!

Host Is that really your third answer?

Seth Yes – *The Greatest Story Ever Told*!

Host OK then, Seth – that's your three answers. Now which of those do you think is the most likely to be a pointless answer?

Seth *Hmm* – I'm not sure, really. So I think I'll just leave them in the same order. *Rudolph* first, then *Shaun the Sheep* and finally *The Greatest Story Ever Told*.

Host Right, that's fine. Now if you won today's jackpot of £2,500 what would you spend it on?

Seth Well, having traced my family tree back to the shepherds of Bethlehem, I would really like to go there to see if I can find any long-lost family and to walk on the hills where they first heard that Jesus had been born.

Host I'm sure that would be a very special trip indeed. So let's see if your first answer, *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, is a pointless answer.

Oooh – all the way down to 16! That's a good answer, but not pointless. Let's try *Shaun the Sheep: The Flight before Christmas* – is that a pointless answer?

Just three! It's going in the right direction.

Now your final answer is *The Greatest Story Ever Told* – let's see if that's right and how many people said it.

Well amazingly, it is right – but how far will it go down? Into the 20s, the teens, single figures … wow, yes – it's pointless, and wins you today's jackpot of £2,500!

Congratulations, Seth! You've found that all-important pointless answer!

Co-host Yes, congratulations, Seth! A great answer. *The Greatest Story Ever Told* does include the Nativity. It was released in 1965 and directed by George Stevens.

Host I have to admit, Noelle, that I'm surprised it is even a correct answer – I mean it's not one that most people would think of. Why did you think of it, Seth?

Seth The question said that the film must feature references to Christmas, and in a flash of inspiration I suddenly thought that the most important Christmas reference of all has to be the birth of Jesus, because that is the greatest story ever told!

Host It's a brilliant answer and wins you today's jackpot of £2,500, which means you can make your very special trip. And your answer is a wonderful reminder to each one of us that we should all take time to visit Bethlehem in our hearts at this time of year and be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

In fact, with this being a Christmas Special edition of *A Pointless Christmas*, we are going to do that right now as we pause to be reminded of the greatest story ever told.

*Nativity scene to form – characters to enter either to the singing of a carol or a video song, eg 'This is Christmas', Kutless:*
*youtu.be/7EYVWFZ07-U?list=RD7EYVWFZ07-U*

Co-host Wow, Chris – what a wonderful way to remind us all that Christmas isn't a pointless celebration, but that the whole point of Christmas is that is it starts with Christ!

Host Exactly, Noelle. And all that shopping, partying and present-giving can be pointless unless Jesus is at the heart of our celebrations, and none of us here wants to celebrate a pointless Christmas, do we?

Co-host I know I don't want to Chris – there's just no point!

Host Thankfully none of us have to. And thanks to Seth Shepherd we have been reminded of the whole point of Christmas through the greatest story ever told.

So, all that remains for me to do is to thank everyone for joining us here this evening and to urge you all to make sure that you don't celebrate a pointless Christmas!

Happy Christmas, everyone!

*Theme music plays and everyone exits the stage.*

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