

PRESENT PERFECT

By Rod

This sketch could be used at Christmas. It could lead on to discussion about the 'perfect' gift. The dog is used to show the idea of something lasting ... and . of course, a relationship with Jesus is EVERlasting. So an introductory style of sketch to get people thinking.

Could therefore be linked to John 3 v 16 or similar passages.

CAST

John *Married to Sarah*

Sarah *Married to John. They have two children.*

Sarah is busy. Perhaps ironing, sorting clothes, preparing vegetables? John is seated at a table with a list and a pen.

John *(Writing on to list)* So that's decided then; it's socks for Cousin Bill, Dan Snow's book on General Woofe for my father, and some nice smelly stuff from Boots for your Mum.

Sarah Who does that leave?

J Let me see.... oh, just my uncles, Tony and Reg.

S I never know what to get your family.

J It's easy; chocolates! Tony loves Belgian truffles and Reg goes into ecstasy if he's offered Bendick's mints.

S If you say so.

J So that's it. The list is complete.

S *(Knowingly)* Are you sure you haven't left anybody out?

J *(Getting up and going over to Sarah to stand behind her)* Only one person, but I'm not going to tell you what your present is going to be. *(Puts his arms around her from behind)* That would spoil the surprise.

S *(Setting herself free from his advances)* Yes, that's what bothers me; I was certainly surprised by the leaf blower you gave me last year, to follow the very romantic garden fork of the year before. No, I meant some other members of the family.

J *(Looks at list)* Erm.... I think we've thought of everybody.

S Except our children.

- J Oh, the children.
- S Yes, you know, Josh and Daisy.
- J Well, why don't we get them some chocolates as well; one of those big Cadbury's selection packs. They'll see that as a real treat.
- S We can't do that. You know what they're like. They'll have scoffed the lot by lunchtime on Christmas Day. Josh won't eat his Christmas dinner and Daisy will be sick.
- J Hmm. Maybe you're right.
- S I'd rather we got them something longer lasting.
- J We could get Daisy some jewellery. A nice pearl necklace. That would be long lasting.
- S Daisy is only three years old. What's she going to make of that as a present? She'll probably try to eat the pearls.
It's got to be something interactive that they can appreciate now.
- H *(Getting excited. Acts out what follows.)* There's this brilliant remote controlled helicopter I saw. It's only £19.99. You can fly it forwards, backwards, up, down, left, right. It sounds great. Josh would love it.
- S Last time we gave him a remote controlled thing (a car) he tripped up my father, practically causing him to fall down the stairs. I cannot imagine the sort of havoc he would create in the house with an airborne set of high speed rotating blades at his fingertips.
- J Yeah, that's true.
- S And anyway, he'll probably run the batteries flat by Boxing Day – if he hasn't smashed it against the wall on Christmas Day.
- J What about a computer game – or something for their X-box? That's interactive and safe.
- S But it's not special or long lasting. They've got loads of computer games; they play them for a while and then they lose interest. *(Thinking)* Although I do like the idea of getting them something they could play with together.
- J To help forge the bond between older brother and younger sister you mean.
- S Yes. It's nice seeing them playing together on the computer.

- J *(Cautiously)* I did see another advertisement for a 'Robodog'. Josh would enjoy the robotic aspects and Daisy could pretend to take it for walks, and feed it, and so on.
- S Maybe.
- J And it doesn't career around. It's quite big so your father would see it coming.
- S I think you've got it, John.
- J Oh, great, Robodog it is then. *(Goes to exit)* I'll get on line now and order it right away.
- S No, John, not a Robodog. A real dog.
- J A real dog!
- S Yes, it's perfect. If we get a puppy they'll both adore it. They could take it for walks, John could play ball with it, Daisy could be in charge of feeding it. And it would become a real member of the family. You know what dogs are like. They are full of affection. A dog doesn't allow you to lose interest in it on Boxing Day.
- J And its batteries don't run down. ... It might still trip your father up though.
- S I think he'll cope when he sees the wide-eyed joy on their faces.
- J *(Goes to write on list)* So, that's decided then. List complete. A dog it is for the children.
- S Yes, the perfect present to fit in with the true meaning of the season; because a dog is for life and not just for Christmas.

THE END