

Luke's Christmas Lesson

Saturday 17th December – Anne (Mum)

One week till Christmas! Argh! I spent today trying to find the perfect present for Abby and Luke. I really want this Christmas to be perfect. I just want to get them their ideal present and watch as they open them on Christmas morning. This will be the best Christmas yet, I'm going to make sure.



Sunday 18th December – David (Dad)

Work again today. I can't remember the last day off I had but Christmas is around the corner and someone has to earn enough money to pay for all those presents. I know my wife only wants to make sure Abby and Luke have a wonderful Christmas, but does it always have to be so expensive?



Monday 19th December – Abby, 14

Urgh, what a weekend it has been! Mum spent the whole weekend shopping and Dad spent the whole weekend working. And where was I? I'll give you three guesses. Yep, at home with my stinking brother! I was invited to go shopping with Jade, and to a movie day with Anna. But oh, no! I have to look after Luke.

Tuesday 20th December – Luke, 8

The Christmas holidays have been okay so far, I guess, but everyone seems a little stressed. Dad has been working non-stop for weeks and Mum is frantic trying to get the perfect trainers for Abby. Speaking of Abby, she's so cross at having to stay at home with me rather than going out with Jade and Anna, I don't even go near her anymore! It's not really very joyful, seen as it's Christmas. I think I might ask Grandma's advice, there must be something I can do.

Wednesday 21st December – Anne

Yes! I did it! I found the trainers Abby wanted, the exact colour and everything! If that doesn't get me the Mum of the Year Award, I don't know what will! And I got this amazing remote-control-thingy for Luke. I just know he'll love it! This Christmas is finally coming together. Now I just need to get crackers, food, nibbles, a present for David and a nice Christmas Eve film. A new game for Christmas Day would be good too. This Christmas will be perfect!

Thursday 22nd December – David Phew!

Two more days at work, then finally a day off! Anne and I have been working towards this Christmas for weeks; the perfect family Christmas! But right now I don't think I will last till lunch – I'll be asleep! I know Anne has loads planned, but I think I'll be too tired for any of it. At least Abby and Luke will have a great day, and after all, they're what really matters.

Friday 23rd December – Luke I have a plan!

Grandma helped me. I know Mum and Dad are only trying to make me and Abby happy but I'm hoping to teach them all that there are more important things at Christmas than money and presents!

Saturday 24th December – David, 8am

You'll never guess what! I got into work this morning and my boss told me to go home. My Christmas break has started early!

Saturday 24th December – Anne, 9am

So this morning, David was sent home from work then I go into the spare room to figure out what I still need to buy for tomorrow. But guess what! Everything on my list is already there, everything!

Saturday 24th December – Abby, 10am

So today is a little odd: Dad is off work, Mum isn't shopping and Luke is being a bit too nice, if you know what I mean! It started this morning when he brought me breakfast in bed. I know! Breakfast in bed! But anyway, as Mum and Dad are home today, I might go and see Anna and Jade later.

Saturday 24th December – Grandma Joyce

What a magical day! I popped in to see my son and his family just after lunch. And well, I didn't even knock on the door. I peeped through the sitting room window and there was my son, roaring with laughter, playing charades with his wife, Abby and Luke. I'm so proud of Luke – he already has a better understanding of Christmas than all the others put together. I know David only wants to do what's best for the family but money isn't everything! And I know Anne wants to make Abby and Luke happy, but a mother's love and time is much more important than a whole truck load of presents! I understand Abby is a teenager and wants to spend time with her friends, but family is just as important. It really does look like they're going to have the best Christmas ever, not because of presents, food or decorations, but because Luke has shown them the importance of spending time together.

Saturday 24th December – Luke, 11am

Phase One of the plan has gone exactly according to plan! I really couldn't have done it without Grandma. Her and Auntie Jo finished Mum's shopping yesterday and snuck it into the

house. Uncle Phil dropped my letter at Dad's work asking if Dad could have the day off today, so he's not too tired for tomorrow. After all, it's not Christmas if everyone doesn't enjoy themselves! Now for Phase Two of the plan before Abby decides to go to Jade's or Anna's.

Luke's Christmas Lesson – Challenge 1 Questions

1. Stop after the diary entry from the 23rd December; What do you think Luke's plan might be?
2. What did Luke do to surprise his family on Christmas Eve?
3. After Christmas Eve, if the diary continued, what do you think Mum's diary would say after her surprise from Luke, and their day together playing games?
4. Do you think Luke's plan worked? Why?
5. What lesson do you think Abby learned in the story?
6. On Christmas Eve, why do you think Grandma didn't go in when she saw the family through the window?
7. The story finishes on Christmas Eve, do you think the family had a good Christmas Day? Why?