

# Kindness for Christmas

*"They can have my lunch," she said.*

By Diana Evelyn Nielson  
(Based on a true story)

*This story took place in Japan.*

Akari helped her little sister, Miori, put out their Nativity set. She loved getting ready for Christmas.

The figure of the baby Jesus reached up from the manger with a smile on His face. Akari smiled too. It made her think about how much Jesus loved her. Many people in Japan didn't celebrate Jesus Christ's birth like Akari's family did. But they still gave gifts and spent time with family around Christmas.

Dad's phone rang. He picked it up and talked for a minute. "Thanks for the reminder," he said. "I'll see you on Christmas morning." He put down the phone.

"Are you going to the service project?" Akari asked.

"That's right," Dad said. "I'm going to Tokyo to help give food to people without homes. Some people in our ward help out every year."

"Can I come this time?" Akari asked.

"Sure!" Dad said. "Miori can come too."

On Christmas morning, Akari's family woke up early to open presents. Akari loved her gift! She was excited to play with it later.

Mom packed lunches for everyone and hugged them goodbye. Then Akari, Dad, and Miori got on the train.

When the train got to Tokyo, Dad led Akari and Miori to a park with lots of tents and people.

"These are the people we are here to serve," Dad said. "They don't have much, and having food for Christmas will be a blessing to them."

A group of people set out bread rolls, noodle bowls, and desserts on tables. Akari saw some kids her age helping too.

"Are all these people from our church?" Akari asked Dad.

"Not all of them," Dad said. "Isn't it great how many people want to help?"

Akari, Miori, and Dad put food into boxes. Then they helped give the boxes to the people in line. "Merry Christmas," Akari told each person.

Soon all the boxes were gone. But there were still people in line waiting for food!

Dad frowned. "I guess there isn't enough." He turned to the people waiting. "I'm so sorry. We're out of food."

Akari didn't want those people to go without food. Was there something she could do?

"They can have my lunch," she said.

"Good idea!" Dad said. "Let's all share our lunches." The other helpers nodded. They got out the lunches they'd brought for themselves. All the people in the line got some food!

Akari was a little hungry, but that was OK. The people at the park needed the food more than she did.

"I'm proud of you," Dad said on the train ride home. "That was nice of you to share your food."

"It's what Jesus would do," Akari said.

Akari felt warm and happy inside for the rest of the day. And not just because it was Christmas! She was glad she could share the Savior's love. ●

What did Akari do to be like Jesus?



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