

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

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NARRATOR

This is "The Story of Christmas" all told
In rhyme and in rhythm for you to behold.
These are the children who'll act it for you
And we're the narrators who'll read it all through.

NARRATOR

You may hear a voiceover some of the time
Who'll help out an actor by saying their line.
But first of all, we have a song we'll all sing
Before our nativity play can begin.

SONG #1– O Little Town of Bethlehem

NARRATOR

This is the bible where this story's told
We hope you'll enjoy, as you watch it unfold.

NARRATOR (OPENS A BIBLE)

Matthew 1 tells us, so we're in no doubt:

“This is how the birth of the Christ came about.

His mother was pledged to be married to Joe

But Mary was already with child, and so

First Joseph, decided to try (without blame)

To break his engagement, avoiding the shame.

But after he planned this, an angel appeared

And said, in a dream, things were not as he'd feared.”

NARRATOR

But first, we'll begin with the maiden who heard
How God planned to use her, but wasn't deterred.

NARRATOR

So this is the angel who told of the birth of Jesus or Savior of all of the earth.

ANGEL GABRIEL

Mary, you're special. You're God's favored one: Chosen to give birth to Go's only son.

NARRATOR

This is youn Mary who happily said
That she would obey God in what lay ahead

MARY

I am the Lord's servant, and so let it be
Exactly as you have said to me.

NARRATOR

Now we must remember the promise she'd made
To Joseph, who must have felt somewhat betrayed!
Yet, this is the man, who married the lady
Who gave birth to God's only sone, as a baby.

JOSEPH

I might not have married her but, in a deam,
An angel told me "things are not as they seem"
SO gladly, I took her as my lovely wife
To love and to cherish for all of her life.

NARRATOR

This is Emperor Caesar whose word
Was final, important, and had to be heard!

EMPEROR CEASAR (hands a scroll to the Roman Soldier)

Tell them to register in their birth town.
Then count up the people, and write it all down

NARRATOR

This is the soldier to whom this was told.
These are the words he announced from the scroll...

ROMAN SOLDIER

The Emperor wants to know what Rome is worth,
So everyone, go to the place of your birth!
Then, register there by signing your name,
And wait until Caesar announces his claim.

NARRATOR

Now, Bethlehem was Joseph's birthplace and so
That's sadly where Mary and he had to go.

(Joseph walks off stage and comes back on with a donkey wearing bag with a sign "THINGS FOR THE JOURNEY)

NARRATOR

This is the donkey who carried the load
When Mary and Joseph set off on the road.

DONKEY

I'm just a donkey, so what can I say?
Surely you know, I can only bray... Hee-haw!

NARRATOR:

Poor Mary was tired, the journey was long,
So, when they are walking, let's sing the next song.

NARRATOR:

These are the innkeepers, each in their inn.
So Mary and Joseph, now you can begin.

SOUND EFFECTS PERSON – pops out unexpectedly

Errrrr.....

Wait there a moment: now just so you know

I'll sort out the knocking sound: ready, now go!

JOSEPH

Hello, I am Joseph. This is my hometown.

Do you have a room where my wife could lie down?

INKEEPER 1

I'm sorry, I wish I could give you a bed

But I've got no room. Try my neighbor instead.

JOSEPH

Hello, I am Joseph. This is my hometown.

Do you have a room where my wife could lie down?

INKEEPER 2

I'm sorry, I haven't got room for you here.

The census has made us quite busy this year.

JOSEPH

Hello, I am Joseph. This is my hometown.

Do you have a room where my wife could lie down?

INNKEEPER 3

I'm sorry, I know that you've walked a long way,
But there is no room for you here to stay.

MARY

Please sir! I'm tired, I need to lie down/
And yours is the only place left in town.

INNKEEPER 3

Oh well, I suppose if you can't find a place
My stable will do, but it's quite a disgrace!

NARRATOR

So this is the stable where they had to stay,
And here is the baby. He's laid in the hay.
Now while he is quiet, the children could try
To sing baby Jesus a sweet lullaby.

SONG # 3 – Silent Night

NARRATOR

Now, meanwhile some shepherds were watching their sheep
Way out in the fields while the world was asleep.

NARRATOR

Now, while they are tending their flocks, for their sake
Sheep, sing them a song to help keep them awake

SONG – I just wanna be a sheep or Beep Beep I'm a Sheep

NARRATOR

This is the angel, who gave them a shock
While they were protecting and guarding their flock.

LEAD ANGEL

Do not be afraid, I bring news of great joy.
Your Savior is born as a baby boy.
You'll find him in Bethlehem where, today,
He's wrapped up in cloths, in a manger of hay.

NARRATOR

This is the great host of angels who came
To sing songs of praise to the Lord's holy name.
They danced and they twirled as they all joined the scene
A vision of beauty, so calm and serene.

NARRATOR

They lifted their hands and looked up to the sky
In praise of the Lord God, the king upon high.
They swayed to their left, and they swayed to their right
And they lit up the sky, such a beautiful sight.

NARRATOR

Gracefully, tenderly, each of them danced.
The shepherds, amazed, were completely entranced.
And then as they tiptoed and circled around
They filled the night air with a beautiful sound.

SONG -ANGEL CHOIR – Hear the Bells

NARRATOR

These are the shepherds who heard what was said,
And set off in search of the stable shed.

SHEPHERD 1

Amazing! Incredible! What can I say?
The son of God, laid in a manger of hay!

SHEPHERD 2

So let's go to Bethlehem; there is no doubt
We must find the baby they told us about.

SHEPHERD 3

We'll search till we find Him. (The angel said
That he'd be asleep in a manger bed.)

SHEPHERD 1

Wait! If we visit the Saviour of earth
We must have a gift to acknowledge His birth!

SHEPHERD 2

What could we take Him? We've nothing of worth.
What gift can you give to the Saviour of earth?

SHEPHERD 3

Well, we are shepherds, so let's take a lamb.

So are we agreed, and we'll make that the plan?

NARRATOR

So as they're walking, you'll notice that they

in this room, wouldn't go a long way!

But just for effect, let's imagine that they

Have journeyed for many a long, long day.

Kings and star should be in place ready for their scene straight after the shepherds'.

Shepherds arrive at the stable where Mary and Joseph are sitting with baby Jesus in the manger.

NARRATOR

So this is the stable, and just like before

The shepherds, this time, would have knocked on the door.

SOUND EFFECTS PERSON

Errrrr.....

Wait there a moment: again, so you know

I'll sort out the knocking. Okay, off you go!

SHEPHERD 1

An angel has told us of your baby's birth

And we want to worship the Saviour of earth.

NARRATOR

So Mary invited the shepherds to come
And sit at the feet of her beautiful son.
They knew that the baby was part of God's plan
And so, as a gift, they presented a lamb.

SHEPHERD 2

We know what the angels have told us is true.
We offer this lamb as a present to you.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, in the East, a bright new star would shine,
And three kings who saw it would follow the sign.
So these are the kings who all travelled so far
To find baby Jesus.... (and here is the star.)

STAR

Follow me: I will rest over the place
Where you will find Jesus, the child full of grace.

NARRATOR

And so, at this point, there will be a delay
(The kings have to travel a really long way.)
So maybe we might need to try to prolong
Their journey a little by singing a song.

SONG – We three Kings

NARRATOR

So this is the stable, and just like before

It was the three kings who knocked on the door.

SOUND EFFECTS PERSON

I'm sure that, by now, you'll have got the idea

That I'll do the knocking from just over here!

KING I

The star that we followed has shown us the way.

We'd love to see Jesus the Lord, if we may.

NARRATOR

So Mary then welcomed the kings to all come

And bow down to worship her beautiful son.

KING 1

I bring you as much gold as I can afford.

I hope it is worthy of Jesus my Lord.

KING 2

I bring you some frankincense, though it is small

I hope it is worthy of you, Lord of all.

KING 3

I bring you some myrrh; this is all I could bring.

I hope it is worthy of Jesus the king.

NARRATOR

So the Kings altogether, bowed as they greet

The Savior and laid their gifts at his feet.

NARRATOR

Now, we've told "The Story of Christmas" today

And hope you've enjoyed our nativity play.

So now, just to round off this great atmosphere

We'll sing one last song now for everyone here.

CLOSING SONG – Oh What a Glorious Night

NARRATOR

As we have just one more thing for you to do.

Is everyone ready?....It's time for us all

To do the Nativity Play Roll Call.

NARRATOR

So now we have just one more thing we must say:

That's thank you to all of the cast in our play.

I'll read out the names, but we won't take a pause

So wait till the end to do one big applause.

NARRATOR

So cast, will you listen to what we say now:

When you hear your character's name, take a bow.

You'll need to be ready to stand when we say....

So, here are the cast of today's Christmas Play:

NARRATOR

First up, we Narrators, read it all through
including the chapter from Matthew for you.
Then next Angel Gabriel came down to earth
Preparing young Mary with news of the birth.

NARRATOR

She went on a journey with her husband Joe
Obeying the message of Caesar to go.
The message was read by a soldier and then
The donkey took both of them to Bethlehem.

NARRATOR

When asked for a room, all the innkeepers said...
The only place left was a poor cattle shed.
Then next came the shepherds and they're adorable flock.
And our host of angels who gave them a shock.

NARRATOR

The star then appeared, as the scriptures had said
And led the kings on to the stable shed.
When reaching the stable, the one who came next...
The wonderful person on sound effects!

NARRATOR

And humbly supporting our cast in their play
Our directors and sound helpers are hiding away

You've all watched the play, that's important, so now
The whole of the audience can take a bow!

NARRATOR

Musicians and singers, we've left you till last

Then finally, we've left this one group till last....

It's all of the families of all of the cast.

Now we've one more message to everyone here....

FULL CAST SHOUTS

"WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR"