

The Christmas Story

This Christmas Story narrative attempts to involve everyone. Roles and appropriate costumes are distributed. A central location for the manger scene is established at the beginning of the skit.

The Narrator weaves the story while the characters act their parts with or without words. A band/musician follows the script closely to begin singing the Christmas carols woven in the script (no lengthy musical introductions please). Get creative, feel the part, enjoy the story, listen and carry the story.

Characters:

Narrator; Gabriel; Mary; Joseph; Shepherds (a few); Wise men (3); Herod; a few High Priests and Religious Scholars (3 or so); Angelic host (everybody else)

Props: white cloth for Gabriel's wings; Mary a cloth to cover her head; some long sticks as staff; 3 crowns; gifts for wise men to carry; a baby doll as Jesus;

NARRATOR: Now the birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was to be married to a carpenter named Joseph.
God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to visit Mary.

[Mary pretends to be doing house work and Gabriel stands in front of her. She is frightened]

GABRIEL to Mary: Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.

NARRATOR: Mary was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her.

GABRIEL to Mary: "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.
He will be great and will be called 'Son of the Highest.' The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever— no end, ever, to his kingdom."

SONG: "FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN"
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCSmfmTWCSM>)

*For unto us a child is born
unto us a son is given
and the government shall be upon his shoulders
and his name shall be called
Wonderful, counselor, the mighty God,
the everlasting father and the prince of peace is he.*

MARY to Gabriel : "But how? I've never had a relationship with a man."

GABRIEL to Mary : "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest will hover over you. Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God."

NARRATOR : Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to Zachariah's house in Judah, and greeted Elizabeth who was also pregnant.

[Mary runs out]

[Joseph is lying down]

NARRATOR : Now Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant. He was a noble man and

was determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.
While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke to him in a dream:

ANGEL to Joseph: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. God's Holy Spirit has made Mary pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins."

NARRATOR: Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream. He married Mary.

[Joseph and Mary together]

NARRATOR : About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire.

People had to travel to their ancestral hometowns for the census. As a descendant of David, Joseph had to go to Bethlehem in Judah.

SONG: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

[Joseph and Mary walk together ask with signs some
hotel managers for a room]

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight*

NARRATOR: [hotel managers say no with actions] But there was no room in the hotels, only room in a stable. It was there that Mary gave birth to her firstborn, Jesus. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger.

SONG: AWAY IN A MANGER:

*Away in a manger no crib for a bed
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay.
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

NARRATOR: In the neighborhood, there were shepherds watching over their sheep at night.
[shepherds with sheep]
Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them.

SONG: HARK THE HERALD ANGEL SINGS:

*"Hark the herald angel sing "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled.
" Joyful, all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies.
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell*

*Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald, angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"*

NARRATOR: As the angel choir [everybody who did not have a role] withdrew into heaven, the shepherds left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD

*Joy to the world
The Lord is come
Let earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing (3)*

NARRATOR: Now during Herod's kingship a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East.

SONG: WE THREE KINGS

*We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still
proceeding, Guide us to thy Perfect Light.*

NARRATOR: When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked,

HEROD: "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

[Herod makes signs asking the chief priest
and scholars]

HIGH PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS to Herod: "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

NARRATOR: Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East (Wise men). Pretending to be as devout as they were, he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem. Then the star appeared again,

SONG:

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light*

NARRATOR: It led the wise men on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves. They kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

[an angel mimes addressing the wise]

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

SONG : JOY TO THE WORLD

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love (3)*

