

## **Luke 2 – Jesus is born in Bethlehem**

**The Characters:** Town Crier, Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, Family member, Angel, Host of Angels, Shepherds 1, 2 & 3

**The Props:** pillows to suggest “being great with child,” angel wings or brightly colored tunics, the classroom door, a doll, a blanket or pieces of cloth, box with hay (or crumpled paper) to serve as a manger (feeding trough), sheep (stuffed animals), shepherd staffs and simple tunics.

**Town Crier:** Hear ye, Hear ye, our Sunday School skit this morning is called “Jesus is born in Bethlehem.” It is based on the second chapter of the Gospel according to Luke. A young woman named Mary lived in Nazareth of Galilee. She was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth with a message for Mary.

(Mary is on stage. Gabriel suddenly appears. Mary raises her hands to her face and appears startled.)

**Gabriel:** Greetings, the Lord is with you! Don’t be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever. His kingdom will never end! \*

**Mary:** But how can this happen? I am not yet married.

**Gabriel:** The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! **For nothing is impossible with God.** \*

**Mary:** I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true. \*

**Town Crier:** Many months later, the Roman Emperor Augustus ordered that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. Everyone had to return to their ancestral towns in order to be counted in the census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea which was David’s ancient home. He traveled there from his village of Nazareth, a distance of about 90 miles. Joseph brought Mary with him on the journey. Mary was now well along in her

pregnancy. When they arrived in Bethlehem, they found that there was no guest room available for them. They stayed perhaps on the back side of a relative's house or perhaps it was the stable belonging to an inn. It seems it was an area where the animals were kept.

(Joseph and Mary are walking slowly across the stage/room. They are tired from their journey. They approach a dwelling and Joseph knocks on the door.)

**Family member (opening the door):** Joseph! It's so good to see you! Of course, you must be here for the census. The rooms in our house are full, but I have a place where you folks can stay.

**Joseph:** Thank you for your kindness to us.

(Joseph's relative leads them to the back of the house where the manger and sheep are located.)

**Town Crier:** While they were there, the time came for Mary's baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them. \*

(The angel presents the doll to Mary. She wraps the doll with the blanket/cloth strips.)

(Shepherds and sheep assemble in another area of the stage/room.)

**Town Crier:** That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. \*

**Angel:** Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people! The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: you will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger. \*

**Town Crier:** Suddenly, the angel was joined by a great host of angels, all of them praising God and saying....

**Host of Angels:** Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased! \*

**Shepherds:** Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. \*

(The shepherds join Mary, Joseph and Jesus and kneel down before them. Mary shows Baby Jesus to them.)

**Town Crier:** After seeing the baby, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. \*

(The shepherds stand up and go around the room talking to the audience members,)

**Shepherd 1:** We just saw the Baby Jesus, the Messiah sent by God!

**Shepherd 2:** Yes, it's true! The angel told us about him and how to find him.

**Shepherd 3:** We were just there! The baby was wrapped in cloth strips and lying in a manger, just as the angel said.

**Town Crier:** All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. \*

**Shepherd 1:** Glory to God in the highest!

**Shepherd 2:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below!

**Shepherd 3:** And we got to be the first ones to see Baby Jesus. Thank you, God!!

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\* These lines are taken directly from the Bible. The remaining dialogue is either paraphrased or imagined.