

# Christmas Nativity Play

A short and sweet nativity play to use in one of your Christmas services. Please feel free to adapt to suit your congregation.



# What You Will Need

**TIME:** About 10 minutes

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
(14 CHILDREN, 1 ADULT):

**Narrator**  
**Sarah (an adult)**  
**Gabriel, an angel**  
**Mary**  
**Joseph**  
**Innkeeper 1**  
**Innkeeper 2**  
**Innkeeper 3**  
**Innkeeper 4**  
**Shepherds x3**  
**Wise men x3**

**PROPS:**

**Manger** — *This can be a simple basket with some loose straw*  
**Baby doll wrapped in cloth**  
**Gifts for the wise men**  
**Bible**  
**Pillow**



SCENE:

*The children taking part in the nativity scene sit quietly to the side of the stage. A manger, muslin wrap and baby doll are concealed on stage – alternatively, Joseph/Mary can bring these items on stage at the appointed time.*

SARAH:

**I hope you've been good girls and boys this year.**

*Fun suggestion: Improvise interaction with the audience. For example, ask a well-known member of staff or congregation whether they've behaved well this year.*

**You know that if you're a naughty boy or girl during the year, then you won't get any presents on Christmas Day! Do you like presents? I LOVE presents!**  
*Sarah forgets the audience as she slips into dreamy state. I like big ones best. Actually, sometimes the small ones are even better! Like last year I got a bike and it had streamers and a basket. But then I saw something small and shiny!*

*Narrator stands from among the children to interrupt. She carries a Bible.*

NARRATOR:

**Excuse me, Sarah?**

SARAH:

**And I REALLY like shiny things –**

NARRATOR:

**Sarah?**

SARAH:

**And inside was a tiny little glass dog!**

ALL CHILDREN:

**SARAH!**

SARAH:

**Ah! Where did you come from? Don't sneak up on a girl like that!**



NARRATOR: *matter-of-fact* **Christmas isn't about getting presents.**

SARAH: *puzzled* **Well of course it is!** *to the audience* **Kids, amiright?**

*Narrator sighs an exasperated sigh and boldly stalks up to eyeball Sarah who looks intimidated*

NARRATOR: *pointing at the group of sitting children* **Take a seat.**

*Sarah sits down with the children*

**We want to teach you the real meaning of Christmas. So you know that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, right?**

*Sarah looks blankly back at the narrator.*

NARRATOR: **You know Jesus? The Son of God? King of Kings? Lord of Lords? Emmanuel? Hope of the world? The Messiah?** *Between each question, the narrator pauses seeking a response, eventually becoming exasperated.*

*glumly, to the audience* **...Boy, have we got our work cut out for us!**

*to Sarah* **This is what the Bible says about how Jesus, the Messiah was born.** *Opens a Bible. Sneaky tip: you can hide the script inside!*

**Once there was a young woman named Mary. She lived in a small town called Nazareth and was engaged to be married to a carpenter called Joseph.**

*Mary enters, sweeping.*



NARRATOR:

**One day, God sent his messenger, the angel Gabriel, to Mary to tell her she was chosen by God for a special mission.**

*Enter Gabriel. Mary reacts in fear.*

NARRATOR:

**Mary was confused and disturbed because she did not know what the angel meant. Then Gabriel said:**

GABRIEL:

**Don't be afraid.**

NARRATOR:

**Gabriel told her that she had found favour with God and that because of this, she would give birth to a son, God's son. He told her to name him Jesus and that he would be very great – the Son of the Most High – and that his Kingdom would never end. Later, an angel also appeared to Joseph to tell him that Mary's baby was God's own son.**

*Gabriel and Mary exit stage.*

NARRATOR:

**As the months went by, Mary's baby grew.**

*Mary returns with Joseph and a pillow stuffed down her tunic.*

**And around the time he was due to be born, the Roman emperor decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. So every family had to return to their ancestral home.**

**And because Joseph was descendant of King David, Mary and Joseph needed to travel to Bethlehem.**

NARRATOR:

**It was a long and tiring journey. They walked.**

*Mary and Joseph walk partially across the stage and look back at the narrator.*



NARRATOR:

**And walked.**

*With baby steps, they continue to make the rest of the journey to the other side of the stage with worry.*

NARRATOR:

**And walked.**

*Mary and Joseph just stand there.*

*The Narrator smiles awkwardly at the audience and tries again.*

NARRATOR:

**They walked?**

*Mary and Joseph continue to stand there.*

NARRATOR:

**They wa-alked.**

JOSEPH:

**There's no more room!**

NARRATOR:

**It's funny you should say that Joseph, because when you arrive at Bethlehem that's what you're going to be told!**

*Mary and Joseph look at each other and shrug.*

*Four inn-keepers enter, spaced across the front of the stage.*

NARRATOR:

**Bethlehem was very busy because of the census, so Mary and Joseph could not find anywhere to stay.**

*Joseph and Mary walk up to the first innkeeper.*

INNKEEPER 1:

**Sorry, there's no room here.**

*Joseph and Mary walk up to the second innkeeper.*



INNKEEPER 2:

**Sorry, there's no room at this inn.**

*Joseph and Mary walk up to the third innkeeper.*

INNKEEPER 3:

**NO ROOM!**

*Joseph and Mary approach the final innkeeper.*

MARY:

**Please, can we stay at your inn?**

INNKEEPER 4:

**There's no room in the inn, but you can rest in the stable out the back.**

*Mary and Joseph exit the stage and return without the pillow. They sit by the manger and Mary wraps a baby doll in muslin and lays him in the manger.*

NARRATOR:

**While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary gave birth to a son, God's son, and she called him Jesus. She wrapped him snugly in cloth and laid him in a manger.**

*Enter Shepherds.*

NARRATOR:

**That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them.**

*Enter Gabriel. Shepherds react in fear.*

NARRATOR:

**They were terrified, but the angel reassured them.**

GABRIEL:

**Don't be afraid, I bring you good news that will bring great joy to ALL people.**



NARRATOR:

The angel then told them that the Messiah, the Lord, had been born in Bethlehem and that they would recognise him by a sign. He would be wrapped snugly in cloth, lying in a manger.

SHEPHERD 1:

**Let's go to Bethlehem!**

*Shepherds nod agreement and kneel before Jesus at the front of the stage.*

NARRATOR:

**But it wasn't only shepherds that came to worship Jesus.**

*Enter wise men.*

WISE MAN 1:

**Where is the newborn King? We saw his star and it led us here. We wish to worship him.**

NARRATOR:

**The wise men eventually arrived! And brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and bowed down and worshipped Jesus.**

*Wise men kneel before Jesus. Completing the classic Nativity Tableau.*

*Sarah joins Narrator on stage*

SARAH:

**They worshipped a baby?!**

NARRATOR:

**Yep! Christmas isn't about the presents under the tree. It's about God's presence among us. It's all about the birth of Jesus, our saviour.**

*Optional: The children lead the singing of Away in a Manger*





**BAPTIST  
WORLD  
AID**