

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
Baby doll wrapped in cloth
Gifts for the wise men
Bible



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:

Hope you've been good girls and boys this year.

Interaction with the audience. Improvised. Single out a well-known member of the staff/congregation and ask them whether they've been good or not.

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! forgetting the audience as she slips into dreamy state thinking about presents. I like big ones the best, but actually sometimes the small ones are even better! Like last year I got a bike and it was the best bike ever! It had streamers and a basket. But it wasn't even the best present, because I —

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

NARRATOR:

Excuse me, Sarah?

SARAH:

The best present was wrapped in shiny silver paper. And I REALLY like shiny things —

NARRATOR:

Sarah?

SARAH:

And inside was a tiny little glass dog! It was so cute and —

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 **Sit down, please.**

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 *siah?* 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 – 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 had chosen her 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 from 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. The birth of Jesus, our saviour.

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



**BAPTIST
WORLD
AID**