

Jesus is Born

Jesus is Born	1
Scene Summary	1
Scripture.....	1
Players	2
Special Props	2
Script – Jesus is Born.....	3
Supplemental information	5

Scene Summary

Jesus is Born presents the exciting story of the events surrounding the birth of the Savior, from Luke 2:1-20. Scenes include: hearing the decree from Caesar Augustus...the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem...no room in the inn...shelter in a stable...the angelic announcements to the shepherds...the shepherds' visit to the Baby Jesus...the shepherds' joyful sharing of the Good news to those they meet.

Scripture

(Luke 2:1-20 NIV) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Gabriel** – God’s messenger.
- **Messenger** – From the king, announces everyone must go to their home town.
- **Joseph** – A strong father figure.
- **Mary** – The mother of Jesus.
- **Inn Keeper** – A kind person.
- **Shepherd 1, 2, 3** – In the field, keeping watch over the sheep.
- **Angel** – Announces the birth to the shepherds.
- **Angel Choir** – Many can participate.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- Staffs for the shepherds
- Small baby doll

Script – Jesus is Born

Narrator: One day a messenger from the king came to the little hill town of Nazareth.

Messenger: Everyone must go to his own city and tell his name to the tax collector.

Narrator: Mary and Joseph got ready to go to Bethlehem. Mary rode the donkey and Joseph walked along side of her. All day the donkey clip clopped along the dusty road. People on horses and camels hurried by. Many people were going to Bethlehem. For three days, Mary and Joseph, traveled to the city of Bethlehem. How tired they were. How glad they were to see the city late one afternoon. They hurried through the city gates.

Joseph: We must find a place to stay.

Narrator: They went to the inn and knocked on the door.

Inn Keeper: I am sorry, but all the rooms are filled.

Joseph: (looks at Mary) It is cold, we must find a warm place to sleep.

Inn Keeper: My stable is warm. You may sleep there on the clean straw.

Joseph: Thank you.

Narrator: Joseph and Mary went to the stable. That night, a wonderful thing happened. The Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in warm cloth and laid Him in a manger. It was a cold night. Out on the hills near Bethlehem, sheep huddled together and went to sleep. Shepherds sat beside a fire to keep warm. Perhaps they talked about God's promise to send the Savior. Suddenly a bright light shone from heaven. The night sky became bright, brighter than daylight. The men were so frightened, they dare not move.

Shepherd 1: What is happening?

Narrator: Then they saw the angel of God.

Angel: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Narrator: Suddenly the shepherds saw hundreds of angels. They were praising God and singing:

Angel Choir: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests

Narrator: Quickly the great light faded. The angels disappeared into heaven, and the shepherds were left in the dark hill side.

Shepherd 2: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this Saviour that the angel told us about.

Shepherd 3: Yes, let's go!

Narrator: The shepherds quickly went ran to Bethlehem, with their hearts beating fast.

Shepherd 1: A Saviour is born! God sent His angel to tell us the good news.

Narrator: Soon they reached Bethlehem. The shepherds hurried through the quiet streets of the city.

Shepherd 2: Where is He?

Narrator: Somehow, God helped them to find the right place. Quietly they walked through the courtyard of the inn, and then into the stable. There they saw Mary, Joseph, and the Baby. Jesus was wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger, just as the angel had said he would be.

Shepherd 3: Our Saviour!

Narrator: The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all that they had seen and heard from the angel, then they returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had seen and heard. Mary and Joseph thought about all the things that the shepherds had told them.

Mary (to herself): Angels told the shepherds about His birth. An angel told me I would have this Son.

The End

Supplemental information

Boys and girls enjoy decorating a tree in their Sunday school room or at home. If you do not have a live or an artificial tree, plant a branch in a bucket of sand. Let children make tree ornaments that remind them of the real meaning of Christmas: the coming of the Savior.

Let children trace around patterns on construction paper: brown for a camel, yellow for a manger, white for sheep, etc. With crayon, they may fill in features as they desire, or make a heavy outline around each figure. Punch a hole at the top of each figure and insert a length of black thread or a piece of string. Tie the cord to form a loop.

Let each child hang the decoration on your tree. Children will enjoy discussing the part each object played in the real Christmas story. You may want to let children make an object for their home Christmas tree.