**(Luke 2) – Birth of Jesus**

***Narrator:*** *(reading from the Bible)* “In those days Caesar Augustus *(Caesar walks up the aisle, waves & stands proud)* issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.”

***Caesar*** *(in a loud voice)*: Everyone must go to their own town to register! Now!!

***Mary******to Joseph***: Where are we going, Joseph? *(Joseph looks at narrator for help – narrator hands him a map)*

***Joseph:***Ah-ha! I know the way!

***Narrator:*** “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. *(Hold up road sign: Nazareth)*

***Joseph:*** Goodbye Nazareth! *(walking together)*

***Mary to audience & Joseph:*** Are we nearly there yet? Are we nearly there yet?

***Narrator:***“He went to Bethlehem to register with Mary *(Mary waves)* who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.” *(Mary & Joseph continue walking together)*

 ***Reporter 1:*** And who do we have here? None other than Mary and Joseph themselves!

 ***Reporter 2:***  Have you heard the stories?

 ***Reporter 1:*** Well, I heard something about an angel…is that right?

 ***Joseph & Mary:*** *(nod their heads and smile)*

 ***Reporter 2:*** That’s what I heard too! Tell me more!

 ***Reporter 1:*** I heard that Mary received amazing news from an angel!

***Reporter 2:*** That’s right! This angel, Gabriel, told Mary that she would give birth to a son, and she would call him…

***Reporter 1:*** JESUS! Yes! And he will be great and be called the Son of the Most High. Is that correct, Mary?

***Mary:*** *(nods and smiles)*

***Reporter 2:*** Excellent, our sources are correct!

***Reporter 1:*** But I heard that she couldn’t understand how she could have a son since she wasn’t married yet…

***Reporter 2:*** Oh yes, but I believe the angel told her that the baby will be holy called the Son of God! Is that what you heard too?

***Reporter 1:*** Yes, it is! But what about Joseph? What did he think about all of this?

***Reporter 2:*** Well, I heard that he actually had a special visit from an angel too! Is that correct, Joseph?

***Joseph:*** *(nods and smiles)*

***Reporter 1:***What did the angel say to him? I don’t seem to have the details in my notes…

***Reporter 2:*** Don’t worry, I take excellent notes! I believe the angel told him not to be afraid to take Mary home to be his wife. Is that right, Joseph?

***Joseph:*** *(nods and smiles)*

***Reporter 1:*** Oh yes! And the angel told him something else… help me out here!

***Reporter 2:*** Yes, the angel told him that Mary will give birth to a son, and he should be called Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Can you confirm this, Joseph?

***Joseph:*** *(nods and smiles)*

***Reporter 1:*** Wow, this is excellent news! We better work on writing down our story now. It was great meeting you, Mary and Joseph! *(shaking hands)*

***Reporter 2:*** Thank you! Enjoy your stay in lovely Bethlehem!

 *(“Welcome to Bethlehem” sign appears)*

***SONG: Oh Little Town of Bethlehem***

***Narrator:***“While they were there, *(****Mary*** *has back turned to audience;* ***Joseph*** *paces back and forth –* Is it time??*)*  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.”

***SONG: What Child is This***

**Shepherds**

***Narrator:***“And there were shepherds *(****Shepherds*** *wave)* living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night.” *(****Sheep*** *BAAA)*

 ***Shepherd 1:*** It’s your turn to count the **sheep**.

***Shepherd 2:*** Oh no! You remember what happened last time I did that??

***Shepherd 1:*** Hmm, remind me… *(grins)*

***Shepherd 2:*** Here it goes! One sheep, two sheep, *(yawns),* three sheep… *(rubs eyes),* Four…. *(falls asleep)*

***Shepherd 1:*** SHHHHHH…. *(has all shepherds look at Shepherd 2 & they all laugh)*

***Shepherd 2:*** ...eep!! Four sheep!! Oh no, I did it again! It’s hard to stay awake on a cold night, with SHEEP around to count!

***Shepherds:*** *(laugh & nod their heads; yawn and sit down around* ***sheep****)*

***Narrator:***“An **angel** of the Lord appeared to them *(****Angel****: appears and waves/smiles at them)*, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”

 ***Shepherds & sheep*** *(jump up & group together, wide-eyed and shaking with fear)*

***Narrator:*** “But the angel said to them…”

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

***Shepherds & sheep:*** *(stand calm & tall looking at the sign)*

***Narrator:*** “Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying:

***Angels AND entire audience:*** *(put words up on screen for everyone to read together)*“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

***SONG: Angels We Have Heard On High***

***Narrator:*** “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another…”

***Shepherd 1:*** “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

***Shepherds:*** Okay! Let’s go!

***Shepherd 2:*** C’mon sheep, you won’t make me sleepy now!

*(****Shepherds & sheep*** *walk towards Bethlehem)*

***Narrator:*** “So they hurried off and found Mary (***Mary*** *smiles/waves)* and Joseph *(****Joseph*** *smiles/waves)*, and the baby *(****Mary*** *waves for the baby)*, who was lying in the manger.

 ***Shepherd 1:***Wow, just like the sign from the angel!

 ***Shepherds & sheep*** *(nod and smile)*

***Narrator:*** “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”

***SONG – Away in a Manger***

**(Matthew 2) – Wise Men**

***Narrator:*** “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked:

 ***Wise man 1:*** “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

 ***Wise man 2:*** “We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

 ***Wise man 3:*** Yeah, where is he??

***Narrator:*** “When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them:

 ***King Herod:*** “Where is this Messiah supposed to be born??” Tell me NOW!!

 ***Chief Priest:*** “In Bethlehem in Judea”

 ***Teachers of the Law:*** Yeah, what he said!

***Narrator:*** “Then Herod called the wise men secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared” *(****Herod*** *whispering with the* ***wise men*** *& nodding).* “He sent them to Bethlehem and said:

***King Herod:*** “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

***Wise men:*** We will!

***Narrator:*** “After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.”

***SONG – We Three Kings***

***Narrator:*** “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” *(****Wise men*** *jumping with joy)* “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.

 ***Wise man 1:*** This IS the child we’ve been looking for!

 ***Wise man 2:*** King of the Jews!

***Narrator:*** “Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of:

 ***Wise man 1:*** GOLD!

 ***Wise man 2:*** FRANKINCENSE!

 ***Wise man 3:*** AND…

 ***Cows:*** MOOOOOOO!

 ***Wise man 3:*** That’s close! It’s MYRRH!!

***Narrator:*** “And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

***Narrator:*** “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” *(****Mary*** *puts her hands over her heart & looks around at everyone)*

***SONG – Silent Night***

*(Shepherds move forward)*

***Shepherd 1:*** But what happens next?

***Shepherd 2:*** How does this baby save the world? *(everyone looking around at each other)*

***Narrator:*** *(closes the Bible)* Hmm… Come back at Easter and we’ll share this exciting news!! In the meantime, let´s celebrate this Christmas season together and share the good news!

***SONG – Joy to the World***

**CAST:**

-Narrator (can be split up into a few)

-Mary

-Joseph

-Reporter 1

-Reporter 2

-Caesar\* (can be the same person as Herod)

-Shepherd 1

-Shepherd 2

-Angel

-Wise man 1

-Wise man 2

-Wise man 3

-Herod\*

-Chief Priest

-Teacher of the Law

**EXTRA CAST:** (have 1 lead cast member for each group)

-sheep

-shepherds

-cows

-angels

-stars

-chief priests & teachers of the law

-wise men

**PROPS:**

-Bible (for Narrator to hold and read from)

-Map (basic map drawn with Nazareth, Judea, with Bethlehem in large letters & a STAR)

-2 Notebooks (for reporters)

-Road signs (Nazareth; Welcome to Bethlehem)

-Baby Jesus & cloths to wrap him in

-Manger

-Glory of the Lord ‘shone’ – lights?

-Sign (for the Angel to hold) – could be an arrow pointing to Jesus, or a sign with a baby pic on it