

"The Christmas Family" Sample Pages #02
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Grandpa: Hello, everyone, your favorite Grandpa here, broadcasting from in front of a warm, crackling fireplace on this cold, snowy Christmas Eve. (sips) Uuum, boy, that Ovaltine sure hits the spot! Thanks for joining me as I tell a true story from the Bible. This week we'll continue with the Story of Christmas.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Mary and Joseph enter the scene by way of the back of the room, coming slowly up through one of the side aisles where the audience is sitting. Mary is having some difficulty as she is obviously very pregnant. Along the way they encounter a couple of extras dressed in robes as they are. They mime inquiring about a place to stay from each, but find no help or room. This can happen several times to show the difficulty of finding shelter. This also gives the audience something to watch during the opening radio lines, rather than just looking at Daniel listening to the radio.)

Last week, as you'll recall, we heard about the angel's visit to a young Jewish girl named Mary. We learned how he told her she would be with child of the Holy Ghost, and that child would be named Jesus... and that he would save his people from their sins. The angel told Joseph also in a dream, because he was worried about what to do. He knew he wasn't the baby's father, but he was determined to take care of him, and raise him as if he was his very own. And he did. Nine months had passed since that time and Mary was close to giving birth... when the word came that they had to take a journey. Stay by your radio, and we'll journey with them as we discover the true story of Christmas.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Mary and Joseph finally find an innkeeper who, although he shakes his head and tells them he has no room. Joseph, motioning to Mary's condition, pleads for some kind of help. The innkeeper takes sympathy on them and begins to lead them to his stable, which is onstage.

Now Jesus was born in a different way than anybody else. All people have a mother and a father. But Jesus' father was God. And we only begin when we come into this world as a baby; but Jesus has always lived, because he was God the Son. Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother, and to bring him into this world as a baby, to be human like us. But he was still God.

The time came for Mary to have her baby; but she and her husband Joseph were required by Roman law to return to Joseph's home town to be counted, so that taxes could be collected. It was a hard journey, but they made it.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: The innkeeper leads Mary and Joseph to his stable, slowly, as Joseph helps Mary walk. The innkeeper motions to the stable entrance, and seems apologetic that this is all he can offer them. He pulls back the burlap curtain that keeps the cold wind out, hooking it to one side, and they go inside. After lighting an oil lamp (or candle) for them, Joseph thanks him, and he leaves. Mary is tired, but she smiles as Joseph helps her to lie down in the hay. He piles the hay behind her in an attempt to help her sit up a little.)

Grandpa: When they got to town, though, all the inns were full of other travelers there for the same reason. Finally one innkeeper said they could stay in his little barn behind the inn, so they did. He led them around to the back of the inn, showing them where they could stay, a little apart from the place where the animals were. Joseph tried to make Mary as comfortable as he could, there among the hay and the animal stalls. And it was that night that she was to give birth to Jesus.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Finally Joseph stands, and draws the rough burlap curtain over the scene as the narrative concludes. The LIGHTS FADE on that part of the stage. As this happens, the shepherds begin to walk slowly down the aisles, converging in the middle, in front of the stage. They are carrying staffs and are watching the "sheep" that we hear but do not see.)

Now, at the same time as all this, there were some shepherds not too far away, watching over their flock of sheep. Now, the shepherd life was looked upon as a lowly occupation back then. Nobody would have thought to invite them to anything important or having to do with the higher classes in the land. But God is different. I guess he loves the common man, the little feller, since he made so many of us. And here he proves it by invitin' some of the lowest, poorest members of society to welcome the new King. I can picture 'em, standing around, everything reeeeeeal quite and dark. Just like every night. (dropping to almost a whisper.) Probably nothin making any sound, cept the few sheep still awake, and the crickets, and maybe

the wind. But SUDDENLY! There was a blinding light shining down from the sky, brighter 'en the noonday sun!

(Actions during the next part of narrative: A spotlight shines on the shepherds. They jump and stare upwards through shaded eyes at the bright light shining down on them! They are facing the audience as they shield their eyes from the bright light. As this happens, we do not see the angel when he appears, but they do, looking upward into the light. We hear him speaking, however, in the narration.)

Then, lo and behold, a big shining angel appears right in front of them! The Bible says they were "sore afraid."

(Actions during the next part of narrative: The shepherds fall down in fear, quaking and trembling, covering their faces.)

That means they were scared plumb to death! They were more scared than I was the last time I let Gramma drive the Buick. And that's plenty scared, cause they thought they were going to die, just like I did. But the angel says, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

(Actions during the next part of narrative: the shepherds are flat on the ground hiding their faces, but they begin to look up when this is heard.)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."