

It All Happened On Christmas

Adapted for Sunday school by Gail Chelebian

- Costumes:** Nativity characters' costumers
Sandals or bare feet
Crowns for kings
Shields and/or armor for soldiers (Cardboard, spray painted gold, makes good shields.)
Narrators may wear matching clothes or Christmas outfits
- Props:** Manger
Baby doll with blankets to represent Baby Jesus
Blanket for Joseph to lie down on
Chair for Angel to drag around and stand on
Throne or really big chair for King Herod
Wise Men gifts
- Sound:** Microphones on both sides of stage
1) Narrators
2) Characters
- Setting:** Stage is set for a traditional Christmas play. Decorate with poinsettias Christmas trees, wreaths, etc.
- Songs:** Away in a Manger
Silent Night
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

It All Happened On Christmas

SETTING: A Manger set up at CENTERSTAGE FRONT with the DOLL representing Baby Jesus hidden nearby. Microphones set up for Narrators and Characters.

Cast of Characters – Scene I

Narrator 1: _____

Narrator 2: _____

Narrator 3: _____

Mary: _____

Joseph: _____

Angel: _____

All: (Sing – “Hayr Mer”)

Narrator 1: A long time ago in a city of Nazareth there was a young woman named Mary.

(MARY ENTERS and moves to CENTERSTAGE.)

Narrator 1: Mary was promised to marry a man named Joseph, who lived there too.

(JOSEPH ENTERS and moves to STAGE LEFT.)

Narrator 2: One day, an angel from God came and talked to Mary.

(ANGEL ENTERS dragging a chair and moves to near to Mary)

Narrator 2: The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby.

(ANGEL sets chair near MARY and stands up on chair before saying line.)

Angel: Mary, you’re going to have a baby! And He will be the Son of God.

(MARY looks up at ANGEL, and says line happily, like there’s no problem)

Mary: Oh, OK!

Narrator 3: *(as if giving directions to angel)* And then the angel left!

(ANGEL gets down off the chair and drags it towards CENTERSTAGE BACK and waits there.)

Narrator 3: Now, Joseph wasn’t sure what to do when he heard that Mary was going to have a baby.

(JOSEPH paces back and forth and looks worried.)

Narrator 3: So, one night while he was asleep, the angel came to talk to Joseph, too.

(JOSEPH lies down)

(ANGEL drags chair near Joseph, and gets up on chair before saying line.)

Angel: Joseph, Mary is going to have a baby from God. It's OK for you to marry her and take care of her and the baby. You will name the baby Jesus.

Joseph: Oh, OK!

Narrator 3: And so that's just what Joseph did.

(JOSEPH walks over to MARY, offers her his arm, and they walk back to STAGE LEFT.)

(ANGEL EXITS dragging the chair.)

Cast of Characters – Scene 2

Narrator 4: _____

Narrator 5: _____

Emperor Caesar: _____

Mary: *(From scene 1)* _____

Joseph: *(From scene 1)* _____

Innkeeper: _____

Cow: _____

Sheep: _____

Chicken: _____

(EMPEROR ENTERS and stands at STAGE RIGHT)

Narrator 4: A while later, the Emperor in Rome, Caesar Augustus, said that everyone had to go to their own hometown to be counted.

Emperor Caesar: Everyone go to your own hometown so that I can count you!

(EMPEROR CAESAR EXITS.)

Narrator 4: So Mary and Joseph went to the town of Bethlehem to be counted, because Joseph was of the house and line of David. And Bethlehem was known as the City of David. But it was a long, hard, trip to Bethlehem because Mary was going to have a baby.

(MARY and JOSEPH walk with difficulty to CENTERSTAGE FRONT near MANGER.)

Narrator 5: When they arrived in Bethlehem, there were lots of other people there, too. They found an inn but because there were so many people, the innkeeper told them there was no room for them.

Innkeeper: Sorry, there's no room for you.

Narrator 5: So, Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable, which was a place for animals to stay warm and dry.

There was a cow there. (Mooo)

There was a sheep there. (Baaa)

There was a chicken there. (Bock Bock Bock)

And Mary and Joseph stayed there, too.

Narrator 5: While they were there, baby Jesus was born! Mary took Him and wrapped Him up warm and laid Him in the manger.

(MARY takes baby doll and places it in manger.)

ALL SING: “AWAY IN A MANGER”

Cast of Characters – Scene 3

Narrator 6: _____

Narrator 7: _____

Mary: _____

Joseph: _____

Shepherds: _____

Sheep: _____

Angel: _____

Extra Angels: _____

Narrator 6: That night there were some shepherds out in the fields watching over their flocks of sheep.

(SHEPHERDS ENTER at STAGE LEFT, followed by sheep.)

Sheep: Baaa. Baaaa.

(ANGEL ENTERS dragging the chair again. ANGEL gets up on chair. When SHEPHERDS and SHEEP see ANGEL they fall down on their knees and quake with fear.)

Narrator 6: And the angel came and talked to the shepherds. They were terribly afraid.

Shepherds: We are terribly afraid!

Angel: Don't be afraid! I bring you good news! The Savior, which is Christ the Lord, has been born today in Bethlehem! You will find the baby wrapped in soft cloths and lying in a manger.

(ALL EXTRA ANGELS ENTER)

Narrator 6: And all of a sudden there was a multitude of angels saying . . .

Extra Angels: Glory to God in the highest. Peace on Earth! Good will to men!

(ANGELS wave arms back and forth.)

Narrator 6: And then the angels left.

(ANGEL gets down off the chair and all ANGELS EXIT stage, dragging chair.)

Narrator 7: And when the angels had left, the shepherds went and found the

baby Jesus in the manger, just as they had been told.

(SHEPHERDS and SHEEP cross to CENTERSTAGE and kneel down by MANGER.)

Narrator 7: And when they found Him, they worshiped Him.

(SHEPHERDS and SHEEP make sign of cross, fold hands, bow heads, and pray.)

ALL SING: "SILENT NIGHT"

(SHEPHERDS and SHEEP EXIT stage)

Cast of Characters – Scene 4

Narrator 8: _____

Narrator 9: _____

Narrator 10: _____

Mary: (From Scene 3) _____

Joseph: (From Scene 3) _____

King Herod: _____

Soldiers: _____

3 Wise Men: _____

Angel: _____

(KING HEROD and SOLDIERS ENTER from STAGE RIGHT with throne. KING HEROD sits on throne and SOLDIERS stand on either side of throne.)

Narrator 8: Not far away, in a place called Jerusalem, there lived an evil King named Herod.

One day after baby Jesus had been born, 3 Wise Men came to Jerusalem looking for the newly born King of the Jews.

(3 WISE MEN ENTER carrying gifts and cross to STAGE RIGHT.)

Narrator 8: The 3 Wise Men asked King Herod where the King of the Jews was.

3 Wise Men: Where is He who is born “King of the Jews?”

Narrator 9: So the king asked his advisors.

King Herod: *(Speaking to the Narrator)* Where is this King of the Jews?

Narrator 9: *(Speaking to King Herod)* In Bethlehem.

King Herod: *(Speaking to Kings)* In Bethlehem. Go and find Him and let me know where He is so I can come and worship Him, too. *(Looking at audience, he smiles and rolls his hands together, sinisterly.)*

(Wise Men cross to CENTER STAGE to MANGER and kneel down. They place their gifts near the MANGER.)

Narrator 9: But King Herod didn’t really want to worship baby Jesus. He wanted to harm Him. God warned the wise men about this, so they went home another way.

(Wise Men EXIT without going back towards KING HEROD.)

Narrator 10: When King Herod found out he was tricked, he was really mad!

King Herod: Arrghh! I am really mad!!!

Narrator 10: He was determined to destroy this newborn king! So King Herod sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus.

King Herod: *(Speaking to his soldiers)* Go and find this King of the Jews and DESTROY HIM!

(King Herod points to CENTERSTAGE at MANGER.)

(SOLDIERS don't move yet.)

(ANGEL ENTERS dragging chair to CENTERSTAGE, stops, and stands on chair.)

Narrator 10: But God had sent an angel to Joseph in a dream and warned him to GET OUT OF THERE!

Angel: *(shouting with hands cupped around mouth) . . . GET OUT OF THERE!*

Narrator 10: And so they did.

(MARY and JOSEPH take BABY and EXIT STAGE LEFT QUICKLY)

(ANGEL stays on chair and watches activity onstage.)

(SOLDIERS cross to CENTERSTAGE and look disappointed because they missed Mary and Joseph! ANGEL looks very happy!)

Cast of Characters – Scene 5

Narrator 11: _____

Narrator 12: _____

King Herod: (From Scene 4) _____

Mary: (From Scene 4) _____

Joseph: (From Scene 4) _____

Angel: _____

Older Jesus: _____

Angel: _____

Narrator 11: And so Joseph and Mary and the little baby Jesus went to Egypt.
And they stayed there until the evil King Herod died.

(KING HEROD “plays dead.” SOLDIERS ENTER and “carry” or “drag” King Herod offstage.)

(ANGEL ENTERS CENTERSTAGE)

Narrator 11: After King Herod died, God sent an angel who told Joseph it was safe to come back.

Angel: *(shouting to Mary and Joseph, who are still offstage)* HEY! You can come back now! It’s safe!

(MARY and JOSEPH ENTER and move to STAGE LEFT.)

Narrator 12: Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus came back from Egypt. They went to live in the town of Nazareth again.

And that’s where baby Jesus grew up . . . until He was grown.

(OLDER JESUS ENTERS)

Narrator 12: And so now you’ve heard it all. About how God sent His only Son to be born as a baby so that later He could save everyone from their sins. And . . . *It All Happened On Christmas!*

Older Jesus: **Glory to God in the Highest! Peace on Earth! Good Will to Men!**

All Sing: *We Wish You A Merry Christmas.*

THE END.