

# NATIVITY PLAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## Equipment:

Jesus	A doll wrapped in cloth
Star	A large star
Music	On That Very First Christmas by Colin Buchanan**
Words	To encourage singing, print out the lyrics
Costumes	Mary, Joseph, Angel/s, Shepherds, Wise Men, Animals
Nativity Set*	See example in picture
Manger	Large enough to hold a doll



\* Note: To help build familiarity, you may like to tell the story using a Nativity Set in the first week, then repeat the same story with the children acting it out (dressed in their costumes) the following week.

\*\* Song available on Spotify with sheet music available at

<https://colinbuchanan.com.au/> Ideally this song is best sung accompanied by a pianist or guitarist (rather than using the soundtrack) as the verses are in a different order to the soundtrack. All music and lyrics should be recorded for copyright use through CCLI.

## Script:

Note - if the children are very young, the narrator can tell the whole story while just encouraging the children to come on stage at the relevant time, however, if the children are a bit older, Mary and the Angel/s may like to recite their lines.

### BRING MARY ONTO THE STAGE

**NARRATOR** The Christmas story begins with a lady called Mary who was soon to be married to a man called Joseph.  
But before she was married, she had a visit from an angel.

### BRING ONE ANGEL ONTO THE STAGE

**NARRATOR** The angel said,  
**ANGEL** Greetings Mary, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.  
**NARRATOR** But Mary was frightened.  
Then the angel said to her,  
**ANGEL** Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God.  
You will give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.  
He will be great, and his kingdom will never end.  
**MARY** How can this be?  
**NARRATOR** Mary asked the angel,  
**MARY** Since I am a virgin?  
**ANGEL** The Holy Spirit will come on you, so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.  
**NARRATOR** Mary answered,  
**MARY** I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me just as you have said.  
**NARRATOR** Then the angel left her.

### ANGEL CAN EXIT STAGE (OR SIT DOWN)

### BRING JOSEPH ONTO THE STAGE

NARRATOR                    The baby grew in Mary's tummy and when it came time to be born, Joseph and Mary had to go on a long trip to a town called Bethlehem.

SING FIRST VERSE: **MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM**

NARRATOR                    When they arrived in Bethlehem, the city was over crowded with people, and there was no place for them to stay.  
But a kind inn keeper took pity on them and let them stay out the back, with the animals.

*BRING ANIMALS AND THE MANGER ONTO THE STAGE AND HAND MARY THE DOLL*

NARRATOR                    And that night the baby was born.  
Mary wrapped him in cloth and placed him in the manger.

SING SECOND VERSE: **BABY JESUS BORN THAT NIGHT**

NARRATOR                    Now out in the fields nearby shepherds were looking after their sheep.

*BRING SHEPHERD'S ONTO THE STAGE*

NARRATOR                    An angel appeared to them,

*BRING ANGELS ONTO THE STAGE*

NARRATOR                    but the shepherds were terrified.  
The angel said,

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

NARRATOR                    And then suddenly a great number of angels appeared in the sky saying,

ANGEL/S                      **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to those on whom his favour rests.**

SING THE NEXT VERSE: **ANGELS SINGING GLORY TO GOD**

NARRATOR

So, the shepherds hurried off to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in a manger, just as the angel had said.

SING THE NEXT VERSE: **SHEPHERDS TOLD THAT THE KING IS BORN**

NARRATOR

Living a long way away there were also some wise men.

**BRING WISE MEN ONTO THE STAGE AND THE BIG STAR**

NARRATOR

These wise men saw a special star appear in the night sky that told them the King Jesus had been born. They were overjoyed and so followed the star until it stopped right over the place where Jesus was. They worshipped him and then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

SING THE WISE MEN CAME TO WORSHIP HIM

NARRATOR

Please join with us in singing the whole Christmas story together:

*SING THE FINAL VERSE*  
**MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM,  
BABY JESUS BORN THAT NIGHT,  
THE ANGELS SINGING GLORY TO GOD,  
THE SHEPHERDS TOLD THAT THE KING IS BORN  
THE WISE MEN CAME TO WORSHIP HIM,  
ON THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS.**

**APPLAUSE, BOW!**  
**TAKE PHOTO**



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