

**CHRISTMAS PLAY 2021**

by

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**SCENE 1**

*Stage begins empty. Joseph enters, on his phone. On the screen above is some sort of carpenter phone game.*

JOSEPH

Come on, come on.

*Mary runs on stage.*

MARY

Joseph! Joseph! Something amazing happened!

*Joseph doesn't look from his phone.*

JOSEPH

Mm hmm.

MARY

An angel from God visited me!

JOSEPH

Wow!

*(looks at Mary, holding up his phone)*

New high score!

*Screen flashes "New High Score!"*

JOSEPH

What were you saying?

MARY

I got a message from God.

*On screen text message from "God": "Yo, Mary!" with a ding.*

MARY

No, not like that. Let me explain.

*Joseph steps off to the side. Mary stands at the center, on her phone. The Angel appears on the screen.*

ANGEL

Mary!

MARY

Ah! Who are you?

ANGEL

Halo! I mean, hello. I have a message from God.

MARY

I am his humble servant.

ANGEL

You are to give birth to a baby boy. He will be the Son of God and you should name him Jesus.

MARY

I will do as my God wishes.

*The Angel hangs up.*

MARY

Well, that's pretty much it, actually.

JOSEPH

That's even more impressive than my high score! Barely. I mean, look, it's over 3 million points!

MARY

I just hope we can be good parents.

JOSEPH

If we trust in God and His Word, we will be.

MARY

These next 9 months are going to go by very slowly.

*On the screen "9 months later" as they exit.*

## SCENE 2

*Incoming call appears on screen.*

HEROD

Hello! You've entered my kingdom. And who are you?

*Wise men visible, sideways.*

WISE MAN 1

We are the three wise men!

WISE MAN 2

We have come seeking-

HEROD

Uh, you're holding the phone sideways.

WISE MAN 1

What?

HEROD

You're sideways. You need to turn the phone so I can see you upright.

WISE MAN 1

Yeah, you are sideways!

WISE MAN 3

Here let me help you.

*The video turns upside down.*

WISE MAN 3

There.

WISE MAN 2

We have come-

HEROD

No! Now you're upside down! You need to flip the phone.

WISE MAN 1

Huh?

HEROD

Flip it!

WISE MAN 3

He said you've got to flip it!

WISE MAN 1

Oh, I've got it.

*The video flips backwards to show the desert they are walking through.*

HEROD

No! (groans) Nevermind. Welcome to my kingdom. What is your purpose here?

WISE MAN 2

We have come seeking-

WISE MAN 3

Is there a baby around here?

HEROD

I mean, it's a giant empire. I'm sure there's a baby somewhere.

WISE MAN 2

We have been reading the signs. See, look at all these notes.

WISE MAN 1

I spent ages doing the calculations and readings. Looks complicated, doesn't it?

WISE MAN 2

There is a new king to be born as a baby in your kingdom.

HEROD

(whiny)

But I'm already King! Someone else can't be king too!

WISE MAN 3

No, not like an earthly king. A Heavenly King. Sent from God to save us from our sins. Hey, why's the video backwards?

WISE MAN 1

Herod, why didn't you say our video was backwards?

*The video flips back to them.*

WISE MAN 1

There we go. That's why we're the wise ones right?

*Wise Man 3 nods in agreement. Wise Man 2 face palms.*

WISE MAN 2

Anyway, a child, the son of God, will be born soon. We wondered if you knew anything about it.

HEROD

(to himself) Ah, I have an idea. (out loud) No, but I have a request. When you find the child, will you let me know? I want to come and pay him homage.

WISE MAN 1

Of course.

*Herod taps the screen, which mutes but then unmutes right after.*

HEROD

Once they lead me to the child, I'll make sure he never becomes king. (evil laugh) Ah ha ha ha ha!

WISE MAN 3

Uh, your majesty, you're not muted.

HEROD

Oh. Uh, you guys are still going to let me know when you find this baby, right?

WISE MAN 1

Yes, your majesty.

HEROD

Excellent.

*He hangs up. Just the wise men are on screen.*

WISE MAN 2

We're not telling him, right?

WISE MAN 1

Nope.

WISE MAN 3

Absolutely not.

*They hang up.*

### **SCENE 3**

*A table with a steering wheel to look like a car with two chairs behind it. Mary and Joseph enter.*

JOSEPH

Okay. So, where do we need to go for this census?

MARY

Your hometown, Bethlehem.

JOSEPH

Right

(to his phone)

Directions to Bethlehem.

PHONE

Okay! Directions to "Better Ham Butchers."

JOSEPH

No, Beth-le-hem.

PHONE

Okay! Directions to "Beth's Low Hem Tailors."

JOSEPH

No!

MARY

Let me do it. Directions to Bethlehem.

PHONE

Okay, directions to "Bethlehem."

MARY

There, see-

PHONE

"Pennsylvania."

MARY

Argh!

*They get into the car as Mary fiddles with the phone. Joseph pretends to drive.*

*Frustrated, Mary tosses the phone aside.*

MARY

Never mind. Do you want to listen to some music, Joseph?

*Joseph looks over to the band.*

JOSEPH

Can we?

*The band nods while Tom gives a thumbs up.*

JOSEPH

Alright, let's listen to that one song. The one that's like (very out of tune) "Rejoice! Rejoice!"

*Band plays "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

*Mary and Joseph remain in their seats.*

#### **SCENE 4**

*Phone rings.*

SHEPHERD 1

Shepherd 1 to Shepherd 2, do you hear me?

SHEPHERD 2  
Shepherd 2 here. Loud and clear.

SHEPHERD 3  
Do we have to do this every time? We have names.  
Mine's -

SHEPHERD 1  
Silence, Shepherd 6, we must follow protocol.

SHEPHERD 3  
There are only three of us! Why am I Shepherd 6?

SHEPHERD 2  
Maybe more people will start working these fields.  
We've got to leave spots for them. Anyway, what  
seems to be the problem, Shepherd 1?

SHEPHERD 1  
Have you guys seen that star?

SHEPHERD 3  
The bright one that appeared out of nowhere a  
couple weeks ago and is hovering over Bethlehem?  
Yeah, every night. How could you not notice that?

SHEPHERD 2  
Whoa, there is a star there!

SHEPHERD 3  
How have your sheep not all been eaten?

SHEPHERD 1  
Here, I'll send you a photo.

*A blurry photo of a star appears.*

SHEPHERD 3  
We can all see the star. It's in the sky!

SHEPHERD 2  
Nice photo. Wait, where'd it go?

SHEPHERD 3  
Look around.

SHEPHERD 2  
Never mind, it was behind a tree.

*Shepherd 3 groans.*

SHEPHERD 1

I just wanted to share. Now, let's get back to work. Shepherds, stay vigilant. Especially you, Shepherd 6.

**SCENE 5**

*In the car. Joseph drives.*

JOSEPH

Even after hours of driving, it feels like we've gone nowhere.

MARY

We haven't stopped all day. Do you need a break?

JOSEPH

No, I'm having a wheely good time. Hardly tired at all. And you?

MARY

I'm good. I was just thinking about this census thing. What's the point?

JOSEPH

Herod wants more taxes, so he's making them count all of us. You know, when I was young, I had a friend who couldn't stop counting. I wonder what she's up to now?

MARY

Anyway, now we have to go all the way to Bethlehem. Let's listen to some more music to pass the time.

*Band begins to play "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." Mary quickly turns the radio off.*

MARY

No! Spoilers! How about "O Little Town of Bethlehem?"

*Band plays "O Little town of Bethlehem."*

JOSEPH

Look, Mary. We're here. Bethelalem.

**SCENE 6**

WISE MAN 1

Bethelalem? Bethlehem, where are you?

WISE MAN 2  
Admit it, we're lost.

WISE MAN 3  
No, we know where we are. Here. We just don't know  
where anything else is.

WISE MAN 2  
I don't know how this happened. We just needed to  
follow the star.

WISE MAN 1  
Follow? I thought we were supposed to go away from  
it.

WISE MAN 2  
No. Follow the star.

WISE MAN 3  
I've been going perpendicular.

WISE MAN 2  
What?

WISE MAN 1  
It means at a ninety degree angle to-

WISE MAN 2  
I know what it means. But that would just lead us  
in circles.

WISE MAN 3  
I think that's why we've passed these rocks four  
times.

WISE MAN 2  
Let's just get going.  
(beat)  
Towards the star.

WISE MAN 1  
(to Wise Man 3)  
Seems more crabby than wise.

## SCENE 7

*Mary and Joseph still in car.*

JOSEPH  
Still nothing?

MARY

No, everything I see is booked full. Oh, this one has seven stars!

JOSEPH

Sounds overrated.

MARY

Nevermind, it's full, too. Even Hilbert's Grand Hotel is full. No idea how, though.

JOSEPH

I think we'll just have to stop and ask for somewhere to stay. Let's ask here first.

*They get out of the car. The Innkeeper enters.*

INNKEEPER

Hello. Do you have reservations?

JOSEPH

Yes. I've never raised a child before. This whole Son of God thing is overwhelming. I don't know how sustainable my carpentry business is.

MARY

He's means for a hotel room.

JOSEPH

Oh. No, no reservations.

INNKEEPER

Sorry, we're booked full for the whole census.

MARY

Please, I'm going to have a baby. Can't you find us somewhere to stay?

INNKEEPER

Well, there's some room in the parking garage.

MARY

It's not a lot, but it'll do. Just anywhere out of the cold.

INNKEEPER

Just down that way.

*Mary exits.*

INNKEEPER

Oh, do you want a wakeup call in the morning?

JOSEPH

Yeah! But I like to sleep in. Why don't you give it to me now?

INNKEEPER

Wake up.

JOSEPH

I will!

*They both exit.*

**SCENE 8**

SHEPHERD 1

Shepherd 1 to Shepherd Team, come in.

SHEPHERD 2

Go, Shepherd 1. I'm listening.

SHEPHERD 3

Yes?

SHEPHERD 1

It's a silent night out. I want to enjoy it, so keep the noise and interruptions to a minimum.

SHEPHERD 2

Yes, sir.

SHEPHERD 3

You're the one that called us.

SHEPHERD 2

Another caller, sir.

*The Angel appears on screen.*

ANGEL

Hark! I bring you good news-

SHEPHERD 2

Who are you?

SHEPHERD 1

This is quite against protocol.

SHEPHERD 2

They could be Shepherd 3!

ANGEL  
I am a messenger from God!

SHEPHERD 2  
So, Angel 3?

SHEPHERD 3  
Shh. Quiet.

ANGEL  
I come to bring you good news. On this night was born a child, the son of God. He has come for the forgiveness of our sins.

SHEPHERD 2  
Is that what the star is about?

ANGEL  
Yes, it marks the place where the child has been born. You should call there. I'll give you their username.

SHEPHERD 1  
Yeah, just text it to me.

SHEPHERD 3  
We shall go and video chat with this child.

### SCENE 9

*Mary and Joseph enter and sit in the garage. Shepherds appear on the screen.*

SHEPHERD 1  
Hello, Shepherd 1 to Baby Jesus.

JOSEPH  
He's sleeping. But, welcome.

SHEPHERD 2  
Oh, look at him.

SHEPHERD 3  
Is that the Son of God?

SHEPHERD 1  
He's so cute!

*The wise men appear onscreen.*

WISE MAN 1  
Hello?

WISE MAN 3

We're almost there!

WISE MAN 2

Oh, just tell them what gifts we got him.

WISE MAN 1

Gold! For the gifts you give us on earth.

WISE MAN 2

Frankincense! For the gifts you give us in Heaven.

WISE MAN 3

Myrrhh! For your sacrifice and the gift of your life.

*Angel appears on screen as well.*

ANGEL

Behold, the Son of God!

*They all look down at Mary and Joseph.*

MARY

Thank you all for coming.

(to the band)

Perhaps some quiet music on the radio?

*The band plays "Silent Night."*

ANGEL

I must return to Heaven now. So long.

*Angel hangs up.*

SHEPHERD 1

Shepherd Team, we must return to our sheep.

SHEPHERD 3

We can't keep this news to ourselves.

SHEPHERD 2

We should share it with everyone!

SHEPHERD 3

That's... Actually what I was about to say.

SHEPHERD 1

Good idea, Shepherd 2. Come on Shepherd 6, try to be more like 2.

SHEPHERD 3  
I had the same idea!

SHEPHERD 1  
Alright Team, let's go!

*Shepherds hang up.*

WISE MAN 1  
We'll get there, I promise.

WISE MAN 3  
According to my GPS, we'll be there tomorrow morning. Or in a week. Or five minutes.

WISE MAN 2  
Yeah, and we've got a warning for you. See you soon.

*Mary and Joseph wave goodbye. The Wise Men hang up.*

MARY  
Well, Joseph, I guess we should start raising this child. He has a lot to do.

*They both exit.*

#### **SCENE 10**

*Phone rings, calling "3 Wise Guys."  
Herod sits in silence as it rings. No answer. Herod turns to off-screen assistant.*

HEROD  
They're not picking up. Was it something I said?