



A Shepherd's Childhood Memory

A One Act Children's Nativity Play

STAGING:

STAGE CENTER: Stable with a manger – can be simple or have hay, animals (even 2 dimensional) might want a light on the back to help light the angels

STAGE RIGHT: Shepherd's field – a few bales of hay with a makeshift fire in the middle

STAGE REAR: On risers – if possible have something in front of the risers to hide your angels, then they can move to the top row when they need to do their part

STAGE RIGHT: Fake wall with door. Above the door is a sign "Bethlehem Inn" Perhaps "NO VACANCY" on the sign somewhere as if it's been added.

SCREEN: (*optional*) If power point is available, there are a few suggestions to add to the production

LIGHTS: (*optional*) one or two spots fixed on the aisle or aisles – flood lights - one to illuminate the manger and another to light up the angels

CHARACTERS: 1 Adult and 7 - 9 children's speaking parts – unlimited extras

LEVI – The only adult in the production. A 40 something shepherd

AARON – One of three 8-12 year old shepherds – about 6 lines

ISAIAH – One of three 8-12 year old shepherds – about 5 lines

ELI (*optional* – you can have just 2 shepherds) - One of three 8-12 year old shepherds – about 4 lines

JOSEPH – Mary's husband – about 7 lines

MARY – Jesus' Mother – 1 line

INNKEEPER – Boy or Girl – 6 lines (Optionally written for 2 children – combine INNKEEPER 1 & INNKEEPER 2 if you're only using one innkeeper)
(*Optional:* INNKEEPER(S) may also be in the Choir of Angels)

ANGEL – Any boy or girl – 2 lines

CHOIR OF ANGELS – the rest of your younger girls – 1 line repeated all together

SHEPHERDS – the rest of your younger boys – no lines, but some pantomime to go along with the narration

WISE MEN – (*optional*) – if you have a lot of extra kids, several of them can be wise men – there is an optional part to Scene V for them. CAN BE MORE OR LESS THAN THREE!!! We don't know how many wise men there were, only that there were 3 gifts. (if you have a very small cast, the shepherds can also be Wise Men)

COSTUMING AND PROPS

All costuming can be simple. Robes or tunics for the shepherds, white robes for the angels. Wings are optional. The kings could have crowns, and gifts would be a good addition. Innkeepers may also wear robes or tunics. Traditional 1st century garb would be appropriate.

See staging for additional props information.

A SHEPHERD'S CHILDHOOD MEMORY

SCENE I

SCREEN: *starry night*

LIGHTS: *spot on Shepherd's Field*

LEVI: *(entering from the audience aisle speaking with excitement to the younger shepherds)* Aaron, Eli, Isaiah, come here. I have news.

AARON: *(entering stage left with Isaiah)* What is it Levi? Did something happen while you were in Bethlehem today?

All three sit down on bales of hay near the "fire"

LEVI: Nothing happened, but I heard some news about some excitement that happened in Jerusalem last spring.

ISAIAH: Excitement in Jerusalem? What happened in Jerusalem that would make any difference to shepherds in Bethlehem?

LEVI: To be perfectly honest, I'd heard some rumors the last couple of times I went into town, but I didn't think it could be true. *(Beginning to digress into his own little world)* I mean even if everything I'd heard was true, the chances of it being . . . It was just a baby, who'd have thought

ISAIAH, ELI and AARON: *(look at each other and shrug)*

LEVI: *(continuing)* It's been . . . wow . . . how long . . . *(thinking and completely forgetting there is anyone else around)* . . . must have been . . . let's see . . . Quirinius was governor . . . so . . .

ELI ^(or AARON): *(clears his throat)* Levi, what ARE you talking about?

ISAIAH: Yeah, you aren't making any sense.

LEVI: *(kind of waking up)* What? Oh! Sorry! Let's see . . . before I tell you the exciting news I heard today, I guess I better start at the beginning so you'll see why it's so amazing. Like I said Quirinius was governor and *(digressing again . . . thoughts keep wandering)* . . . let's see . . . Augustus was Caesar, so it must have been more than 30 years ago. I wasn't much more than your age when it happened.

AARON: *(beginning to get frustrated)* When WHAT happened?

LEVI: I keep doing that. It's just all so amazing! And it was so long ago, I haven't thought about it in a long time . . .

SCENE II

LEVI: Anyway, when I was about your age, the most amazing thing I'd ever seen happened. Caesar Augustus decided he wanted a head count of everyone who lived in Roman territory. To get everyone counted, every single person had to return to their ancestral homes. I remember that the older shepherds didn't even try to go into town for weeks. It was so crowded in Bethlehem. *(Mary & Joseph enter from rear of sanctuary and walk down the aisle)*

LIGHTS: *Dim spot comes up on Mary and Joseph as they enter from audience on the opposite side of Levi*

LEVI: *(continues)* Families came from all over to be counted. I didn't realize there were so many descendants of King David. People were sleeping everywhere.

LIGHTS: *fade on shepherds and come up full on Joseph and Mary and follow them to the inn.*

JOSEPH: Are you all right, Mary? We're almost there. Do you see these crowds? I wonder if we'll be able to find a room?

MARY: I'll be OK, but we really need to find a place soon. *(Mary & Joseph stop at the Inn)*

JOSEPH: Let's check this place. *(Knocks on the door)*

INNKEEPER 1: *(Opens the door)* Hello, may I help you?

JOSEPH: We're looking for a room.

INNKEEPER 2: I'm sorry, but we're all filled up

MARY: But I'm going to have a baby soon. Maybe tonight!

INNKEEPER 1: *(still very professional)* We really don't have any space available.

JOSEPH: We don't need anything fancy, but we need to find someplace BEFORE she has this baby.

INNKEEPER 2: *(a little annoyed)* Look, everything is full. Even the stable only has one stall left.

JOSEPH & MARY: We'll take it.

INNKEEPER 2: *(very agitated)* What do you mean you'll take it? I didn't mean you could stay there, I was just hoping you'd get the hint and move on.

JOSEPH: My wife can't move on. She's going to have a baby anytime now. Can't we have the open stall?

INNKEEPER 1: *(exasperated)* Oh, all right! Go ahead and sleep in the stable, but no complaining about the smell or the noise. *starts closing the door and mumbles from behind the door* – Some people! I can't believe they're staying in the barn

Mary and Joseph move on to the stable as the light fades on them and comes up on the shepherds

SCENE III

LEVI: I felt so bad for that family. They only came to Bethlehem because of the