

## DRAMA SCRIPT

The three speaking characters should be dressed in something hinting at biblical costumes -- either head-to-toe or with simple headpieces and sashes. Since the “action” is supposed to be happening in the city of Bethlehem the night of the birth of Jesus, the costumes will help with the “illusion.”

Most of the lines are spoken to the audience/congregation. Vic and Brian are the real story-tellers; Caroline is there to interfere with the flow as much as possible. There is a “Caroline” in every group of children – admit it!

We suggest these three be older children [or even younger youth]; if you’re doing this musical with a younger children’s group, you’ll definitely want to do this because no younger children would probably talk like this!

### SCENE ONE

[The choir gets into place and Vic, Brian and Caroline take their places at microphones near the audience/congregation. When everyone is ready, they begin explaining the day’s events.]

Vic            A wonderful thing has happened here today, and we want to share it with you.

Brian:        The Son of God has been born! Right here in Bethlehem!

Caroline:     As you might guess, Bethlehem is really buzzing.

Vic:            The city was already full of people from all over the place who had come here to register their family with the government.

Caroline:     Our parents came to pay their taxes! That’s why we’re here!

Vic:            Okay, let’s not get all political about it.

Brian:        Yea, Caroline – we’re here to tell these people about what’s been happening. Don’t get off on that taxation stuff!

Caroline:     I’m sorry... but my Dad says if they tax us any more...

Brian:        Caroline!?

Caroline:     Sorry!

Vic:            Now – back to telling you what’s going on.

Brian:        This is a wonderful story!

Vic:            Jesus has been born!

Caroline:     Today!

SONG: “HODIE! HODIE!”

## SCENE 2

Vic: Most of these people came to Bethlehem this week to pay their taxes...  
Caroline: Did I tell you what my Dad said about the taxes?  
Vic: (gives her “the look”... and continues) Most of the people in town this week are Jewish people... descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And they had been told for a long time that their God – Jehovah – would send a Messiah.  
Brian: This Messiah would come and set the Jewish people free from all the different kinds of governments they had been under all these years.  
Caroline: In other words, they were waiting for someone to save them.  
Vic: (finishing her thought) A Savior.  
Brian: And they knew about this Messiah who was coming because they had heard people talking about it for years and years!  
Vic: Their preachers were called “prophets.” They were the ones who helped people understand what God was like... and what God was going to do.

SONG: “PROPHETS! PROPHETS!”

## SCENE 3

Brian: Mary – that was his mother’s name... and she was really young.  
Vic: She was engaged to this man named Joseph.  
Caroline: (getting way off course) My cousin was engaged to this boy from out of town. They were supposed to get married, but my cousin said that it just didn’t “work out,” whatever that means.  
Vic: (to Caroline) And what does that have to do with this story?  
Caroline: It just reminded me about how my cousin was engaged... like Mary and Joseph – you know?  
Vic: (nods her off) Anyway, Mary had her baby while they were here in town to pay their taxes.  
Caroline: Did you say “taxes”? (Vic holds her off.)  
Brian: This was Mary’s first Baby, of course, and she didn’t know much about how to be a good mother.  
Vic: But an angel had told her she was going to be the mother of God’s own Son... so she had to learn pretty fast!  
Brian: So when her Baby Boy was born, she held Him close to her like she had seen other mother’s do.  
Caroline: And you know what? She knew exactly what to do with her new Baby.

SONG: “GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD”

#### SCENE 4

Caroline: When we heard about all this, we went running over there to the other side of Bethlehem to see what was going on.

Vic: All of us (pointing to the choir, etc.)!

Caroline: And when we got there, it was something else, let me tell you.

Brian: There were lots of people there to see the Baby.

Caroline: Jesus was sleeping on a bed of hay – in a manger; remember? We sang (singing the melody) “Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger.” Remember?

Vic: (nodding again) In spite of the little crowd that had gathered – shepherds and common folks from around town – in spite of that, everyone was really quiet.

Brian: *Really* quiet.

Caroline: We didn’t know what to do. Of course, I never know what to do!

Vic: So everybody did what they felt like doing... sort of like they knew they were in the presence of God’s Son and they should be themselves.

Brian: Some people knelt down like they were praying.

Vic: Others lifted up their hands toward heaven like they do in the Temple.

Caroline: And some of us danced!

#### SONG: “CRADLE DANCE”

[We suggest that you have a soloist sing the song and that all the children – or at least a select group – perform the dance, following the instructions of the text; we have more explicit directions in the teaching materials. If done sensitively and appropriately, this very well could be a real highlight of the program.]

#### SCENE 5

Vic: You may be wondering how we heard about all this...

Brian: And how we just happened to show up at the stable to see and hear all these things.

Caroline: Or maybe you’re wondering why the Romans are taxing the people like this.

Brian: (she and Vic look at Caroline with disgust one last time)  
We were just minding our own business when some local shepherds came running down the street toward us.

Vic: They were praising God and telling everybody about this baby they had seen.

Brian: So that’s how we found out: we heard it from the shepherds!

#### SONG: “I HEARD IT FROM THE SHEPHERDS”

## SCENE 6

Brian: This has been a special day alright!  
Caroline: ... for all of us.  
Vic: ... and hopefully for **you**!  
Brian: Angels, shepherds, wise men...  
Vic: Mary and Joseph  
Caroline: And a Baby in a manger bed.  
Vic: We've been part of a wonderful story: the story of how God sent His  
people a Messiah... a Savior.  
Brian: Jesus is born today! Now it's time for **you** to join the celebration.  
Caroline: Sing with us!

SONG: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"/"HODIE"