

“Journey to Bethlehem: Gabriel”

Scene 1

by
Carrie Varnell

- What** You just missed Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem! Good thing Gabriel is here to fill you on his conversation with them about God’s plan to send the long-awaited Messiah.
- Themes: Christmas, Messiah, Angel, Good News, Jesus’ Birth, Interactive, Progressive Play, Christmas Event
- Who** Gabriel- male
- When** Biblical times
- Costumes and Props** Angel costume for Gabriel
Setting- façade of outside Mary’s home
Set dressing- wood table, bench, baskets filled with clothing, clay pottery, Ficus trees
- Why** Luke 2
- How** Gabriel speaks with confidence and authority! Its helpful to have a male with a deep booming voice. He is so excited and overjoyed about God’s plan and shows it. He should have lots of energy. This is the first station for your guests, so set the expectation of something amazing to come!
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

Guides lead audience in, and Gabriel speaks to the audience.

Gabriel: *(with great excitement!)* Hello travelers! I am the Angel Gabriel, messenger of the Most High God, sent all the way from Heaven to deliver a message to a very special person! Do you know who that person is? *(Wait for response)* The message was for a young girl named Mary who lives here. You just missed her and her husband, Joseph! God has a very special plan for the both of them and it's just so...well I just get so excited when I think about it!

See, it all started hundreds and hundreds of years ago! God created man and woman to live with Him, and everything was...well...perfect. But man and woman chose to disobey God, that means they sinned. Sin is all the bad things that we do and good things that we don't do. Because of the man and woman's sin, that meant that they could no longer live with God in their perfect place.

So for a long, long time, God's people had to ask for forgiveness of their sins by giving Him offerings. And one of those offerings is a perfect lamb.

But God also promised that one day He would send a Savior, who would save everyone from their sins so that we wouldn't be separated from God forever. That Savior that God would send is His very own Son! Jesus! So then people wouldn't have to offer a perfect lamb as an offering anymore. Jesus was going to be that perfect lamb for all of mankind, forever and ever.

I just got to tell Mary that she is going to be our Savior's mother! You should have seen the look on her face! Priceless! She was just as excited as I am!

So excited he reenacts his encounter with Mary.

This is what I said: I said, "Behold!" I love that word, don't you? It's a very majestic word. "Behold!" And then I said, "God is with you, Mary, and He thinks you are very special. And because of that, He has a very special plan for you. You are going to give birth to a Son and you will name Him Jesus and He will save everyone from their sins!"

You should have been there. It was pretty amazing! I was also sent to tell her husband-to-be, Joseph. I had to put him asleep and give him a dream about Mary having a baby who would save the world. He was so excited! Man, I love my job.

Mary is on her way now, with her husband, Joseph, to Bethlehem. The government has said that everyone has to go to their hometown, the

place where they were born and Joseph was born in Bethlehem. I bet if you hurry, you might catch up with them!

Safe journey, travelers!

Guides lead audience out and on to the next station.

If not using Journey to Bethlehem series, Gabriel exit and lights out.

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“Journey to Bethlehem: Mary and Joseph”

Scene 2

by
Carrie Varnell

What Mary and Joseph are on their way to Bethlehem for the census and have paused at a well for a rest from their journey. They share their excitement and joy at being chosen by God for this special assignment.

Themes: Christmas, Hope, Kids Ministry, Progressive Play, Christmas Event

Who Mary
Joseph

When Bible times

Costumes and Props Biblical costumes for Mary and Joseph
Well
Palm tree
Small wooden bench

Why Luke 2

How This script is designed to work in a series along with other scripts from The Road to Bethlehem. Audience members travel from one room to another as the actors tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Guides are used for each group.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Mary is sitting on a small wooden bench or stool. She is clearly uncomfortable. Joseph is standing next to her trying to comfort her. Joseph notices the audience has filed in.

Joseph: Hello! You must be traveling to Bethlehem like we are. We just stopped to rest a bit and get some water. Oh! My name is Joseph, and this is my wife, Mary.

Mary smiles weakly and waves. She's tired and very pregnant.

Joseph: My wife is with child and will give birth any day now. I'm going to be a papa! See, back in Nazareth, the town where we live, an angel visited us both. Well...he visited Mary. For me, I fell asleep and had a dream.

Mary: The angel must have thought you wouldn't take the news as well as I. Men! *(She laughs)*

Joseph: *(laughing with Mary)* It's true. I'm not sure what I would have done if God chose to tell me the good news as He did Mary. She's very brave and I can see why God chose her to have the Messiah, our Savior.

Mary: God chose us both, Joseph. Even though this child is God's Son, you were chosen to be the Savior's papa on earth.

Joseph: I guess you're right. *(Back to audience)* You see, people have been waiting for hundreds of years for God to send our Savior, the perfect lamb. Prophets have spoken of the One whom God would send to save us all from our sins. I only hope that I will do a good job as a father. I mean, how do you raise the most important human being who ever lived? It's a very big job!

Mary stands and crosses to Joseph, comforting him.

Mary: Joseph, don't worry. If there is one thing I'm sure of, it's that God's plan is absolutely perfect. He knows what He's doing! You are going to be a good papa.

Joseph: And you will be a good mother.

Mary: Do you think so?

Joseph: I know so. *(To audience)* My wife is very modest. The angel told her she had found favor with God! Can you imagine?

If you are using this script without the rest of Journey to Bethlehem series, simply change the next line to:

You see, an angel visited me and boy you should have seen him! He was a big guy, dressed in white, and kind of intimidating. Loves the word "BEHOLD!" He scared the living daylights out of me! Seriously. He could've been a little more subtle. I think he

enjoyed it a little too much. Well, I can't really blame him. I mean, this is the greatest news anyone has ever been told in the history of...ever! Whoop! I need to sit.

Mary: Well, that's not all he said. You see, an angel visited me—oh...you already know? Have you seen the angel? *(Wait for a response)* Big guy? Dressed in white? A little intimidating? Loves the word "BEHOLD!" Yep, that's him! Did he tell you he scared the living daylights out of me? Seriously. He could've been a little more subtle. I think he enjoyed it a little too much. Well, I can't really blame him. I mean, this is the greatest news anyone has ever been told in the history of...ever! Whoop! I need to sit.

Joseph: Are you okay?

Mary: Yes, I'm fine. The little guy is kicking. *(Sits and rubs her belly)* Rest for now, little one. You have a very big job ahead of you. *(To Joseph)* It will be difficult, but with God's help, our Son will grow to be wise and strong.

Joseph: And people will love Him.

Mary: That's our prayer and our hope.

Joseph: He is our hope. *(Beat. They have a moment, the weight of their task is heavy. Then...)* Well, we should be on our way. Bethlehem is not far now. If we don't hurry, we may not find anywhere to rest once we get there.

Mary: Oh, I'm sure there will be plenty of room for us. But you're right. We should be on our way. We've rested long enough.

Joseph: So long fellow travelers! We'll see you in Bethlehem!

Guides lead audience out and on to the next station.

If not using Journey to Bethlehem series, Mary and Joseph exit and lights out.

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“Journey to Bethlehem: The Shepherds”

Scene 3

by
Carrie Varnell

- What** Angels visited the Shepherds to tell them the Good News of Jesus and you just missed them! Now its time to get to Bethlehem to see the newborn King.
- Themes: Christmas, Shepherds, Good News, Interactive, Progressive Play, Christmas Event
- Who** Shepherd
Boy/Girl 1
Boy/Girl 2
- When** Bible Times
- Costumes and Props** Shepherds wear biblical robes and headdress
Campfire
Sound effects- sheep baa-ing
*A fun option is to have a live sheep, especially if you stage this outside.
- Why** Luke 2
- How** This is high energy! The audience JUST missed the angels telling the Shepherds the Good
- Time** Approximately 2 minutes

The Shepherd run in and start yelling at the audience. The Young Shepherds are running around frantically not sure what to do. One Young Shepherd 1 starts packing a sack with stuff like an extra cloak, a teddy bear, a juice pack, etc. The other Young Shepherd 2 is freaking out and just running back and forth (think Kevin from Home Alone when he finds out he's been left at home. Alone.

Shepherd: Did you just...did you see? Did you see what just happened?? There was an angel...wait there were 100 angels...too many to count! They. Were. Everywhere! The sky was as bright as we've ever seen! One of the angels said, "Fear not!" *(Smirks)* Well, I wasn't afraid. I mean, these guys, they were terrified. But me? I'm a...I'm a grown man. So I didn't get afraid.

Okay, maybe I was a little afraid. Oh who am I kidding! I thought the whole world was ending! I've never seen anything like it!

Young Shepherd 1 comes and whispers something to him.

Oh! Right! Anyway, the angel said, "Fear not! I bring you good tidings of great joy!" And then he told us that the Messiah we've all been waiting for has been born this night in Bethlehem in a...in a manger...

Imagine that.

They all stop suddenly. The thought of Jesus being born washes over them and they smile, look off into the distance wistfully, etc. Finally...

Shepherd: *(in awe)* The Savior of the world, is not far from here. And lays in a...in a feeding trough?

(back to excitement!!!) Well! We have to go and see Him! *(All Shepherds jump back into action with what they were doing)* Boys! Don't worry about the sheep, let's get going!

They begin to run off. Shepherd 1 stops and runs back to tell the audience...

(to audience) Are you headed there too? Well, the angels told us to follow the star! So I suggest you do too!

Guides lead audience out and on to the next station.

If not using Journey to Bethlehem series, Shepherds exit and lights out.

“Journey to Bethlehem: The Innkeeper”

Scene 4

by
Carrie Varnell

What Travelers from all over have come back to Bethlehem for the census, and even though the Innkeeper is all out of room, she managed to find some space for one more very special family.

Themes: Christmas, Innkeeper, Make Room, Nativity, Interactive, Progressive Play, Christmas Event

Who Edna the Innkeeper- female

When Bible Times- the night Jesus is born

Costumes and Props Innkeeper is dressed in biblical robes and headdress.
Setting is the façade of the exterior to a home
Wood bench
Wood table
Any other set dressing- Ficus trees, clay pottery, herbs hanging from a line

Why Luke 2

How The Innkeeper is a bit surly and is overwhelmed with work. She’s a hard worker but doesn’t mind complaining about it a little. She was originally performed with a heavy New York accent. She’s rough around the edges but softens when talking about the baby born that night.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

The Innkeeper speaks to the audience.

Innkeeper: Sorry! Sorry... we have no vacancies...you'll have to move on down the road. Sorry. Our inn is full...and I do mean full. The government wants to get a count of all the people, and I guess they can only do that from your hometown. So everyone's back! Nicholas the traveling rabbi, Sarah the seamstress, Sam the one who smells like soap. Even Gus, the guy who talks to goats!

Don't get me wrong, this is great for business. But I'll tell ya something right now, I have been working non-stop since before the sun was up this morning. I'm so tired I could sleep in a barn!

But even the barn is full! And not just full with animals. This young couple that just came through...the girl was pregnant and the husband was in a panic because his wife was ready to give birth. Well, guess what?! The only place we had for them was in the barn. Now before you get all judgy, I could have sent them on down the road, but they looked so tired. So I told them the only room I had was in the barn. So they're in there right now.

So first it was full of animals, then this young couple, and now there are a bunch of shepherds in there. I'll tell ya something right now, I haven't seen this much hoopla in...well, I've never seen this much hoopla! Over a baby.

But...I'll tell ya something right now...I don't think this is any ordinary baby. I think that star shining over the barn has something to do with him. Those shepherds said that some angels told them to follow that star all the way here to Bethlehem! I don't know what's going on, but I have a feeling that this is something big. Really, really big.

You'll have to move on down the road to find a room. Oh, and feel free to stop by the barn and see the baby. He seems like a real special kid.

Ad-lib as the audience exits: Go on, beat it. You gotta go now. Oh and if you see Sal in the marketplace, tell 'em Edna says she wants her milk bucket back. And don't buy from Ira, go to Ephraim's. His figs are fresher. (etc.)

Guides lead audience out and on to the next station.

If not using Journey to Bethlehem series, Innkeeper exits and lights out.

“Journey to Bethlehem: King Herod”

Scene 5

by
Carrie Varnell

What You’ve arrived at King Herod’s palace, and he is not happy. He’s had word that a new King has been born and, as far as he’s concerned, there’s only room for one!

Themes: Christmas, Herod, Interactive Play,

Who Herod
Servant 1
Servant 2 (non-speaking)

When Biblical times

Costumes and Props Biblical costume befitting King Herod
Servants’ costumes- not as fancy as Herod, but still befitting servants of a king
Table covered with bright colored fabrics and food, goblets of water, etc.
Large fans for Servants to fan King Herod

Why Matthew 2

How Herod is the villain of the story. Go as big with his personality as you want and have fun performing but be careful not to scare the little kids.

This can be performed separately from the Journey to Bethlehem series with some minor changes (i.e. omit the Guide, “make them leave faster” line, etc.)

Time Approximately 2 minutes

King Herod is sitting at a lavish banquet table. His back is towards the audience. The audience files in and the Servants notice that they are there.

Servant 1: Oh great and magnificent King Herod, there are some visitors here.

Herod: What? Who's interrupting my dinner? What do they want?

Servant 1: What is the reason for your visit?

Guide: We're on our way to Bethlehem to see the newborn King. We've been following a star.

Servant 1: Oh. Oh dear. *(whispers in Herod's ear)*

Herod: WHAT?! Newborn King? There's only one king here in Israel and that's me!

Servant 1: Yyyes sire!

Herod: Mirror.

Servant 2 grabs a mirror and holds it up so that Herod can fix his beard/hair.

Herod: Sippy.

Servant 2 picks up a juice box and holds it up for Herod to take a sip.

Herod: *(puts a big smile on his face)* Greetings to you and welcome to my palace! I'm so glad you could stop and take a break from your travels to visit. Please make yourselves at home. Now, what's this I hear about a baby king, hmm? This cannot be, for you see, I, and I alone, am...are... I am king. Are king. *(struggles with the proper wording, looks to Servant)* Is it am or are?

Servant 1: I think its am?

Herod: *(flash of rage to the audience)* I'M THE KING! *(takes a breath, composes himself)* So sorry. It is I. I'm the king. And no other. But if it is as you say, then I should like to meet this new king. *(grows dark and looks off into the distance)* Oh yes...I'd like to meet Him...I'll meet Him alright. I'd like to take his tiny little baby head and *(snaps back, regains composure)* and put a crown on it.

Good travelers, when you find this newborn king, would you be so kind as to come back here and tell me all about him? *(grows dark and looks off into the distance)* For you see, I would like to find Him and worship Him as well and tell Him exactly...what...I...think...of...Him. *(cartoon evil laugh that gets bigger and bigger, suddenly remembering how he sounds, snaps back smiling)* Ah! Well, off you go. Do take care. So long

now. Off to find the baby king. Bye bye now. (to *Servants*) Make them leave faster.

Have fun ad-libbing as the audience leaves.

Guides lead audience out and on to the next station.

If not using Journey to Bethlehem series, Herod and Servants exit and lights out.

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“Journey to Bethlehem: The Wise Men”

Scene 6

by
Carrie Varnell

What The Wise Men are supposed to be following the star to Bethlehem, but they seem to have lost sight of it momentarily. Hopefully, someone will come along and spot it for them!

Themes: Christmas, Interactive, Progressive Play, Christmas Event, Wise Men, Magi, Follow the Star

Who Wise Man 1
Wise Man 2
Wise Man 3

When Bible Times

Costumes and Props Wise Men are dressed in fancy biblical robes befitting them.
Big star (as big as you can get) hanging from ceiling or hoisted up if outside
Campfire
Rugs on the floor
Colorful fabrics draped from the ceiling
Stick with marshmallow on it
Ancient looking map rolled up like a scroll
Lollipop
Fold up chairs
Extra biblical clothes strewn around the camp
3 Fancy small boxes or holders for Gold, Frankincense , Myrhh

Why Matthew 2:1-12

How Have fun with this! Really play with the audience and add your own spin to the scene. This set can be as big or as simple as you want.

Time Approximately 2 minutes

Wise Men are gathered around their encampment. They are relaxing, brushing their teeth, reading the Jerusalem Times, roasting marshmallows over a campfire.

Wise Man 1 jumps up from his seat. There are robes and maybe a sandal laying around as if they've been messy. He starts to clean up while addressing the audience.

WM 1: Oh! Hello! Uhmm, welcome to our camp. Sorry, we've been here for a while. We seem to be lost. We're on our way to see our newborn King, he's the Messiah, the Savior of the world. We've been waiting for Him for a long time and when we saw the brightest star we'd ever seen, we just knew this was it! A sign from God!

WM 2: We're called Wise Men, or Magi. You may have even heard us called Kings! But we're looking for another kind of King. We're scholars who study the stars and ancient writings and while we were studying, we saw signs that an ancient prophecy about the new King of Israel was coming true!

WM 3: So now we are on a long journey, following the star, to find him and bring Him our gifts! Do you think He will like our gifts?

We've been to see Herod, the current king of Israel. When we told him that we were looking for the new king, well, he wasn't very happy about that. Not happy at all.

WM 1: He doesn't seem like he's ever been a happy guy. Bit of a grump, really.

WM 2: I don't know. He seemed pretty nice to me.

Wise Men 1 and 3 stare at him.

WM 2: What? He seemed nice. *(pulls out a lollipop)* He gave me this lollipop.

WM 1: Anyway. We are not falling for Herod's schemes. *(shooting 2 a look)* No matter how many lollipops he gives us.

WM 3: We really need to get on our way to find the Messiah.

WM 2: But we seem to have lost site of the star. If only we knew where that star went! *(they all start looking towards the sky)* Maybe the clouds are covering it up. Well, I guess we'll have to camp here for a while until we see the star again.

*There's a big star hanging nearby that the **Wise Men** can't seem to find! Give this a few seconds for the kids to yell and shout that it's right behind them! It's right there! Play this up a bit. Finally...*

WM 1: Oh!! THERE IT IS! Thank you so much! Are you following the star to find the newborn King too? Maybe we'll see you there, travelers! Safe journey!

Guides lead audience out and on to the next station.

If not using Journey to Bethlehem series, The Wise Men exit and lights out.

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