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“Once Upon a Manger: A Paper Bag Pageant”

by
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SYNOPSIS

This easy-to-stage Christmas pageant requires no rehearsal and has a role for everyone! Children can be the primary participants or the whole congregation can get involved (including the pastor)! Guided by a storyteller, participants get in on the act in this memorable pageant celebrating Jesus' birth.

CAST

Storyteller: adult/older teen; male or female

Friend: adult/older teen; male or female

Mary: paper bag role, female

Joseph: paper bag role; male

Gabriel: paper bag role; male

Magi (3): paper bag role; male or female

Census Taker: paper bag role; male or female

Innkeepers (3): paper bag role; male or female

Bright Star: paper bag role; male or female

Stars (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Shepherds (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Angels (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Cows (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Sheep (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Horses (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Pigs (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Ducks (multiple): paper bag role; male or female

Helpers (optional): designated individuals who help guide participants to the stage

COSTUMES

Storyteller and Friend should wear simple modern attire. For the paper bag roles, you may choose to provide full costumes, or you can just include one simple item that symbolizes the character. It might even be fun to have the children in your congregation help to color or assemble headbands or other costume pieces to increase excitement for the performance.

The following are examples of items you could use for each role:

Mary- a white or blue piece of fabric or cut dollar store tablecloth to drape over her head and a string or strip of fabric to use to secure it on the head

Joseph- a tan/brown piece of fabric or cut dollar store tablecloth to drape over his head and a string or strip of fabric to use to secure it on the head

Gabriel/Angels- a simple halo made from silver or gold garland

Magi- Glittered paper or cardboard crown

Census Taker- colorful piece of fabric or cut dollar store tablecloth to drape over his/her head (*not brown or blue*) and a string or strip of fabric to use to secure it on the head

Innkeepers- colorful piece of fabric or cut dollar store tablecloth to drape over his/her head; different color from the Census Takers (*not brown or blue*) and a string or strip of fabric to use to secure it on the head

Bright Star/Stars- headbands or crowns with stars on them

Shepherds- colorful piece of fabric or cut dollar store tablecloth to drape over his/her head; different color from Census Takers and Innkeepers (*not brown or blue*) and a string or strip of fabric to use to secure it on the head

Cows- black and white cow ears and horns on a headband or printable cow headband

Sheep- black sheep ears on a headband with white cotton balls in between the ears or printable sheep headband

Horses- brown horse ears on a headband with yarn or cloth “hair” in between the ears or printable horse headband

Pigs- pink pig ears on a headband and a pig nose on yarn or printable pig headband

Ducks- a yellow baseball cap with an orange bill or printable duck headband

Helpers (optional)- Biblical attire

SET

A manger scene is present on stage. This could be as simple or elaborate as you choose.

Go simple- Hay bales or boxes painted or covered in cloth should flank a small manger.

Go big- Life-size manger and creche with hay bales and a façade for the inn that fills the stage.

PROPS

Can be made of paper or cardboard printouts or can be more elaborate.

Required

Storyteller- storybook covered in bright Christmas paper which contains a copy of the story inside

Mary- baby doll (*to be placed behind manger, not in the bag*)

Joseph- small white blanket for swaddling clothes

Optional (*one for each participant playing the role*)

Gabriel/Angels- harps

Magi- small, jeweled boxes

Census Taker- paper and feathered pen

Innkeepers- “No Vacancy” signs

Stars- a star

Shepherds- shepherd’s hook

Cows- cowbell

Sheep- hay

Horse- horseshoe

Pig- corn on the cob

Duck- egg

NOTES ON PRODUCTION

Clear instructions should be given to all attendees so they understand how the play will flow and when they will be required to play their role (*see examples below*). The roles of Mary and Joseph should be handed out to participants of their respective genders. You might also choose to pre-assign these roles to responsible participants. There is a lot of room for fun as these characters are assigned (*a mooing Pastor can be a very funny sight!*) but the roles of Mary and Joseph should be handled respectfully. For added humor, it would be best if the Storyteller and Friend had their lines (*aside from those in the story itself*) memorized, although they could certainly have them in the storybook for the Storyteller, and on decorative cards for the Friend.

Paper Bags: Each paper bag will minimally contain the following: (1) costume item and (1) notecard with the character name and line. Additional costume items and props can be included at your discretion. In terms of the paper bags, depending on the size of your costumes, you could head to your local grocery store and ask them to donate bags. If your costume items are smaller, dollar stores, craft stores, and other shops have great bag options in their gift wrap sections, many in beautiful Christmas colors or designs. You could also get creative and have your Sunday School kids design bags with various craft materials. When developing costume and prop items for the paper bags, you can be as simple or elaborate as you choose. In addition to a costume item, some characters have props that can also be included to enhance the role and increase the fun. Again, these are optional, and you can feel free to go as simple or elaborate as you choose. Each paper bag will also have one simple line for each character to say when instructed to do so. These range from simple animal noises to longer lines for Mary, Joseph, and Gabriel. You may want to factor that in as your participants choose their bags, guiding younger participants to roles with animal noises.

The following are the list of lines that need to be printed out and included in the bags:

Mary- I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.

Joseph- And his name will be Jesus.

Gabriel- Do not be afraid

Angels- Hallelujah!

Magi- We come bearing gifts.

Census Taker- Next!

Innkeepers- There's no room at the inn!

Shepherds- Did you see that?!

Bright Star- Jesus is born!

Stars- Twinkle, twinkle

Cows- Moo

Sheep- Baaa

Horses- Neigh

Pigs- Oink

Ducks- Quack

Instructions for Participants

Because many or all of your attendees will be participating in this play, you will want to make instructions clear. You can choose to do this in a variety of ways, such as information in a printed bulletin or program, as well as announcements at the start of the program and use of screens to indicate when each participant should stand and cross to the manger scene. You may also use helpers to guide participants to the stage. While onstage, Friend can assist the participants to know what to do, such as when Mary is doing the washing. Below you will find examples of bulletin instructions and announcements.

Bulletin

Welcome to this year's Christmas pageant, "Once Upon a Manger". This year, our (kids/congregation/you all) will bring the story of the birth of Jesus to life! Each participant will get a surprise role in our play by grabbing a paper bag located (insert location) which contains the name of your role, small costume item, a small prop (optional), and a simple line to recite. Make sure to keep your role a secret until (leader/pastor/etc.) tells you to put them on! Once the program begins, watch for the (Storyteller/screens/helpers/etc.) to let you know when it's time to come up to the stage and join in the show! Until then, sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Announcement

Merry Christmas! Welcome to tonight's show, called, "Once Upon a Manger." This year, our (kids/congregation/you all) will bring the story of the birth of Jesus to life!

Everyone should've grabbed a paper bag from (insert location). If you didn't grab a paper bag on your way in, one of our helpers will bring one to you. Just raise your hand. If everyone has their bags, it's time to open them up to reveal the role you're about to play in our pageant. *(Waits for everyone to do so. To build the excitement, the leader might ask 'Who is going to be our Mary? Joseph? Magi? Shepherds, etc.)* It's now time to put on your costumes, so take a minute to do that. *(waits)* Now that you've got your costume on, take a minute to look at your line, which is printed on the included index card. Once the show begins, watch the (Storyteller/screens/helpers/etc.) so you will know when it's time to come up on stage! Don't forget to bring your prop with you! *(optional)* The Storyteller will also let each of you know when it's time to say your line and has brought a friend along, who will help you find out where to stand and sometimes might even give you a suggestion on what to do in the scene. Until then, sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

WHY

Luke 2

TIME

Approximately 20 minutes.

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Storyteller and Friend enter. Storyteller carries a storybook. They cross to center stage.

Friend: *(to Storyteller)* You know what I love about Christmas?

Storyteller: What?

Friend: Those little noisemaker things you blow in and the shiny little strip of paper rolls out and then back in again. *(demonstrates)*

Storyteller: I think those are more of a New Year's thing.

Friend: Really? Are you sure?

Storyteller: Pretty sure.

Friend: I think I read somewhere that they use them in England at Christmastime.

Storyteller: You're thinking of crackers.

Friend: *(putting her hands on her hips)* I know what crackers are...they're those round things you put cheese on.

Storyteller: Not those kind of crackers...Christmas crackers. Everyone gets one at dinner and then pulls on the ends and a small toy or candy falls out.

Friend: I think that's called a finger trap.

Storyteller: *(annoyed)* No! That's the thing that... *(shakes her head)* never mind. Do you know what I love about Christmas?

Friend: Egnog?

Storyteller: No...well, yes, actually...but that's not what I meant. At Christmastime I love stories!

Friend: Oh, like Frosty the Snowman!

Storyteller: No. It's—

Friend: *(interrupting)* Ooh, I know! *(proud)* Rudolph.

Storyteller: Nope, not Rudolph.

Friend: What is it, then?

Storyteller: It's a great story. In fact, some people call it the greatest story ever told.

Friend: *(excitedly)* Imagine that!

Storyteller: *(pats the book)* And I just so happen to have the story right here.

Friend: Then let's hear it! *(crosses to one side of the stage and sits down, legs crossed, hands clasped with chin resting on hand, expectant)*

Storyteller: Well, I'm going to need a little help.

Friend: From me? I'm sitting here, ready to listen. I don't know what more I could do.

Storyteller: Listening is great...you just do that. I don't need your help. *(turns to audience)* I need **their** help!

Friend: Oh, I thought they were just here to listen too.

Storyteller: Not this year! They're going to help me bring this story to life.

Friend: Oooh! That's cool. Now I'm super excited.

Storyteller: If everyone's ready, then we can start the story. *(to audience)* Do you have your costume on? *(waits for audience reaction)* Okay great! Then let's get ready to tell the story of the very first Christmas...the night Jesus was born.

Friend: Hey, I think I've heard this story before.

Storyteller: Maybe so, but never like this. Now here we go! *(opens book and starts reading)* Once upon a manger...

Friend: *(smiling)* Ahhh, I see what you did there—like once upon a time. *(nods, smiling)*

Storyteller: *(raises an eyebrow, annoyed)* I thought you were going to listen.

Friend: Right. Sorry. *(acts as if she zips her mouth shut)*

Storyteller: Now, where was I? *(finds her place in the book)* Right. *(reads)* Once upon a manger—

Storyteller shoots **Friend** a warning look. **Friend** turns imaginary key on her mouth then puts the key in her pocket.

Storyteller: *(continues reading)*—a long, long time ago in the town of Nazareth in Galilee, there was a young woman named Mary.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Mary to come up. Storyteller guides Mary to stage right. As Storyteller reads, Friend stands and demonstrates to Mary to wash dishes.

Storyteller: *(reading)* One day, while Mary was finishing up the washing, a bright light shone on Mary and an angel named Gabriel appeared.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Gabriel to come up. Storyteller guides Gabriel to stage right.

Storyteller: *(reading)* When Mary saw Gabriel, she was surprised and immediately stopped her work.

Friend: I would've stopped my work too. It's not every day that an angel miraculously appears in your living room. Very cool!

Storyteller: Yes, it was! *(reading)* The angel Gabriel turned to Mary and said...

Storyteller indicates for Gabriel to say his line.

Gabriel: Do not be afraid.

Storyteller: *(reading)* He told Mary, "You have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Friend: Mary must've been so surprised!

Storyteller: Yes, she was. *(reading)* But she was honored that God had chosen her for this special task. So, she said to Gabriel...

Storyteller indicates for Mary to say her line.

Mary: I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.

Friend: Mary must've been very brave.

Storyteller: Yes, she was very brave, indeed. *(crosses center and continues reading)* Now at this time, Mary was betrothed to a man named Joseph.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Joseph to come up. Storyteller guides Joseph to stage left.

Storyteller: *(reading)* When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he didn't know what to think. God could see that Joseph was troubled, so once more he sent his angel, Gabriel.

Storyteller indicates for Gabriel to cross to Joseph as Friend demonstrates to Joseph that he should clasp his hands together and pretend to sleep.

Storyteller: This time, Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream. Gabriel said to Joseph...

Storyteller indicates for Gabriel to say his line.

Gabriel: Do not be afraid.

Storyteller: That's right. *(reading)* Gabriel told him, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Then Gabriel left.

Storyteller indicates for Gabriel to return to his seat.

Friend: Gabriel dropped a knowledge bomb on Mary and Joseph, didn't he?

Storyteller: *(chuckling)* He sure did. *(reading)* Now in those days, Caesar Augustus decreed that all the people in the land of Judea must return to the city where their family was from to be counted for the census. So, Mary and Joseph packed up and traveled the long journey to Bethlehem.

Storyteller indicates to Mary and Joseph that they should cross to center. Friend demonstrates that they should march in place, as if they are walking.

Storyteller: *(reading)* When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they met a census taker.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Census Taker to come up. Storyteller guides Census Taker to center. As Storyteller reads, Friend demonstrates to Census Taker that he should be pretending to write on the paper with his quill.

Storyteller: *(reading)* The census taker's job was to record the names, occupations, and residences of all those who came to Bethlehem. When it was Mary and Joseph's turn, the census taker said...

Storyteller indicates for Census Taker to say his line.

Census Taker: Next!

Friend indicates for Mary and Joseph to step up to the Census Taker and for the Census Taker to write on his paper.

Storyteller: *(reading)* Joseph told the census taker that he and Mary were married, and that he was a carpenter from the house and family line

of David. When the census taker had recorded everything, Joseph had told him he said...

Storyteller indicates for Census Taker to say his line.

Census Taker: Next!

Storyteller indicates for Census Taker to return to his seat.

Friend: So, Mary and Joseph had to travel all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem just to give their names and occupation?

Storyteller: Yes. And remember, they had to travel all that way on foot, with only a donkey to help them.

Friend: I hope they had good shoes.

Storyteller: They had sandals.

Friend: Wow.

Storyteller: And don't forget, Mary was pregnant.

Friend: Double wow.

Storyteller: Can I get back to the story now?

Friend: Yes, please! I can't wait to hear what happens next!

Storyteller: *(reading)* Now that they had been counted, Mary and Joseph had to find somewhere to stay. Mary knew that the baby was coming, so they needed to find a place...and fast.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Innkeepers to come up. Storyteller guides Innkeepers to space out across the stage in a row.

Storyteller: *(reading)* Mary and Joseph went from inn to inn, hoping to find a room where they could stay the night.

Friend guides Mary and Joseph to the Innkeeper 1 and indicates that Innkeeper 1 should hold up his sign.

Storyteller: *(reading)* But at each door they came to, the Innkeeper said...

Storyteller indicates for Innkeeper 1 to say his line.

Innkeeper 1: There's no room at the inn!

Friend guides Mary and Joseph to the Innkeeper 2 and indicates that Innkeeper 2 should hold up his sign. Storyteller indicates for Innkeeper 2 to say his line.

Innkeeper 2: There's no room at the inn!

Friend guides Mary and Joseph to the Innkeeper 3 and indicates that Innkeeper 3 should hold up his sign. Storyteller indicates for Innkeeper 3 to say his line.

Innkeeper 3: There's no room at the inn!

Storyteller indicates for the Innkeepers to return to their seats.

Friend: Well, that was a problem for our weary travelers, wasn't it?

Storyteller: It sure was! *(reading)* Unable to find a room, Mary and Joseph had nowhere to turn. Luckily, one of the Innkeepers took pity on them and allowed them to stay the night in the barn behind the inn.

Friend: Which one?

Storyteller: What do you mean?

Friend: Which innkeeper took pity on Mary and Joseph? *(looks out at the audience, finds one of the Innkeepers, and points)* Was it that one? *(looks out into the audience again, finds another Innkeeper, and points)* Or that one?

Storyteller: *(looks into the audience, finds the third Innkeeper, and points)* I think it was that one.

Friend: *(giving the Innkeeper a thumbs up)* Way to go, Innkeeper!

Storyteller: *(reading)* As Mary and Joseph got settled in the barn, they realized that they weren't alone.

Friend: Let me guess... *(smugly)* God was there with them.

Storyteller: Of course, God was there with them. But that wasn't who I was talking about.

Friend: Don't tell me that the angel Gabriel just showed up out of nowhere again!

Storyteller: *(annoyed)* If you would just listen, I would tell you who was there with them!

Friend takes the imaginary key out of her back pocket and relocks her mouth.

Storyteller: That's better. *(reading)* As Mary and Joseph looked around the barn, they saw animals of all kinds.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Cows to come up. Storyteller guides Horses to center stage.

Storyteller: (reading) There were cows that said...

Storyteller indicates for Cows to say their lines.

Cows: Moo!

Friend guides Cows to sit or stand on or behind hay bales as Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Horses to come up. Storyteller guides Horses to center stage.

Storyteller: (reading) There were horses that said...

Storyteller indicates for Horses to say their lines.

Horses: Neigh!

Friend guides Horses to sit or stand on or behind hay bales as Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Pigs to come up. Storyteller guides Pigs to center stage.

Storyteller: (reading) There were pigs that said...

Storyteller indicates for Pigs to say their lines.

Pigs: Oink!

Friend guides Pigs to sit or stand on or behind hay bales as Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Ducks to come up. Storyteller guides Ducks to center stage.

Storyteller: (reading) And there were ducks that said...

Storyteller indicates for Ducks to say their lines.

Ducks: Quack!

Friend guides Ducks to sit or stand on or behind hay bales.

Friend: Wow! That must've been a noisy barn. Can you imagine if all those animals were talking at the same time?

Storyteller: It probably sounded something like this!

Storyteller indicates for Cows, Horses, Pigs, and Ducks to say their lines all together. After a moment, Friend puts her hands over her ears and says her line quietly as the animals continue making noise.

Friend: What happened next?

Storyteller: *(loudly)* What did you say? *(indicates for animals to stop making noise)*

Friend: *(with hands still over her ears, way too loudly)* I said, what happened next?

Storyteller: *(with a smirk)* There's no reason to yell. *(indicates Friend should uncover her ears)* I'll keep reading the story, don't worry.

Storyteller looks down at the book as Friend guides Mary and Joseph behind the manger. Friend picks up baby doll from behind manger and hands it to Mary, then steps to the side.

Storyteller: *(reading)* And there, amongst the animals and the straw, in a barn out back behind an inn, Mary gave birth to the Son of God. As he looked upon his wife and baby, Joseph said...

Storyteller indicates for Joseph to say his line.

Joseph: His name will be Jesus.

Friend indicates for Mary to put the baby doll in the manger and for Joseph to cover the baby doll in the swaddling clothes.

Friend: *(excitedly)* Just as Gabriel told him in the dream!

Storyteller: That's right. *(reading)* Now, as Mary and Joseph looked down on their newborn son, there were many stars looking down on them.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Stars to come up. Storyteller guides Stars to stand around manger scene.

Storyteller: The sky above the barn was beautiful, filled with the light of the stars that seemed to say...

Storyteller indicates for Stars to say their line.

Stars: Twinkle, twinkle.

Friend: Little star.

Storyteller: What?

Friend: You know...like the song? Twinkle, twinkle, little star?

Storyteller stares at Friend. Friend assumes this means she doesn't know the song.

Friend: *(sings)* How I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky. *(points to Stars)* Now all the stars say...

Stars: Twinkle, twinkle.

Friend: *(sings)* Little star, how I wonder what you are. *(bows)*

Storyteller: Are you done?

Friend: Yes. Please continue.

Storyteller: *(reading)* There was one star that shone more brightly than the rest.

*Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for **Bright Star** to come up. Storyteller guides **Bright Star** to stand next to manger scene.*

Storyteller: *(reading)* God placed this bright star in the night sky to show where the Messiah lay sleeping in the arms of his mother, Mary. The star had one job, and that was to say...

*Storyteller indicates for **Bright Star** to say his line.*

Bright Star: Jesus is born!

Storyteller: *(reading)* Nearby, in a field, shepherds were tending their sheep.

*Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for **Shepherds** and **Sheep** to come up. Storyteller guides **Shepherds** and **Sheep** to stand off to the side of the manger scene. Friend demonstrates to **Shepherds** that they should pretend to sleep, and that the **Sheep** should get on all fours.*

Storyteller: *(reading)* The fields were quiet that night, except for the sheep who would occasionally say...

*Storyteller indicates for **Sheep** to say their lines.*

Sheep: Baa.

Storyteller: *(reading)* The shepherds were dozing off when suddenly an angel appeared.

*Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for **Gabriel** to come up. Storyteller guides **Gabriel** to stand near **Shepherds**.*

Storyteller: *(reading)* The shepherds were startled from their naps and said...

*Storyteller indicates for **Shepherds** to say their lines.*

Shepherds: Did you see that?!

Storyteller: *(reading)* The shepherds couldn't believe their eyes! In front of them stood an angel from heaven. The angel said...

Storyteller indicates for Gabriel to say his line.

Gabriel: Do not be afraid.

Storyteller: *(reading)* When the shepherds were calm, the angel continued, saying, “Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” Then suddenly, a choir of angels appeared in the sky.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Angels to come up. Storyteller guides Angels to stand near Shepherds.

Storyteller: They praised God and said...

Storyteller indicates for Angels to say their lines.

Angels: Hallelujah!

Storyteller: *(reading)* “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace be among people with whom he is pleased.” It was then that the Shepherds saw the bright star and knew they must travel to Bethlehem to see the Messiah.

Friend indicates to Shepherds to cross to the manger. Angels can stay or return to their seats.

Friend: But what happened to the sheep?

Storyteller: What do you mean?

Friend: If the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see the Messiah, who watched out for their sheep?

Storyteller: Hmm, that’s a good question. *(thinks)* Maybe the shepherds brought the sheep with them?

Friend: *(to Sheep)* You heard it, Sheep! Better get to the manger!

Friend helps Sheep find places in the manger.

Storyteller: *(reading)* When the shepherds saw the newborn baby Jesus, they knelt down and praised him.

Friend indicates to the Shepherds that they should kneel.

Storyteller: And all across the land the good news spread of the birth of the Messiah. *(closes the book)*

Friend: But what about the Wise Men?

Storyteller: What about them?

Friend: Everyone knows there are three wise men in this story.

Storyteller: The three wise men didn't arrive for many months after Jesus was born.

Friend: But they're in our nativity scenes at home! *(smiles, thinking about his wise men)* They're so cute, with their beards and their little trinket boxes...

Storyteller: *(smiles)* Don't worry, the three wise men are in our story too.

Storyteller, screens, and/or helpers indicate for Magi to come up. Storyteller guides Magi to stand near Magi and kneel.

Storyteller: *(opens book and reads)* The shepherds weren't the only ones who saw the bright star in the sky. Three wise men called Magi traveled from the east to worship the newborn king. When they arrived—

Friend: *(interrupting)* Many months later.

Storyteller: That's right. *(continues reading)* ...many months later, they knelt before Jesus and said...

Storyteller indicates for Magi to say their lines.

Magi: We come bearing gifts.

Storyteller: *(reading)* They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They came to worship Jesus and to share in the joy that Jesus, the Messiah and king, had been born. *(closes book)*

Friend: *(crossing to Storyteller)* And they all lived happily ever after.

Storyteller: This isn't a fairytale. This is the story of the birth of Jesus, a long, long time ago.

Friend: Once upon a time.

Storyteller: Right.

Friend: In a manger.

Storyteller: Right again.

Friend: *(sighs)* What a great story.

Storyteller: Better than Frosty?
Friend: Waaaaay better than Frosty! You might even say it's the greatest story ever told!

Storyteller: Imagine that. *(smiling)* Well, I think there's only one thing left to say.

Friend: What's that?

All: Merry Christmas!

Lights fade to black. The end.

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