

A script from



“The Innkeeper’s Wife”

A fictional account with a true meaning

by

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- What** The Innkeeper’s Wife is excited to discover that God may be making a visit to Earth. But she gets so caught up in preparing for Him that she almost misses the event. **Themes:** Jesus’ Birth, Savior, Humble, God’s Presence
- Who**
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Narrator | Stranger 1 |
| 1 Wise man | Stranger 2 |
| 2 Wise people | Stranger 3 |
| Inn-keeper | Mary |
| Inn-keeper’s wife | Joseph |
| Messenger | Star Carrier |
- When** Year of Jesus’ birth
- Wear**
(Props) Each character is dressed in robes appropriate for the times or could be done in modern clothes.
Feather duster
Sign that reads “God’s Inn”
Star dangling from a long stick
- Why** Luke 10:41-42; Philipians 2:3-7
- How** When you have a larger cast, it’s easy to get jumbled up on stage. Have at least one rehearsal dedicated to the blocking (where each actor goes) of this skit. Then encourage each of your actors to move with confidence instead of shuffling feet or looking like they’re not sure where they’re supposed to be. This will help with the timing and will keep the skit from dragging along.
- Time** Approximately 12 minutes

Narrator: Once upon a time, a very wise man loved God and all His creation. This wise man studied the stars and the patterns they made as they danced across the heavens. He knew that the patterns were a direct result of God's hand, and he loved watching the dance play out.

One night, as he was watching, the man saw the dance change. The man was so excited that he called in two of his star gazing friends.

Star Carrier enters with star. **Wise Man 1** enters excitedly, motioning for **Wise Man 2** and **3** follow. The three follow the **Star Carrier** across the stage.

WM1: It's a sign. God's sending us a sign.

WM2: I think you're right. I've never seen such a magnificent star. It must be the star of a king.

WM3: Not just any king either. That's an amazing star. This could be the sign the world's been waiting for. I think God's getting ready to do something big. I believe He's going to visit the earth Himself.

Narrator: The three friends agreed. After consulting their maps and charts, and using all the algebra, calculus and trigonometry that they had studied in college (**Wise Men** pull out adding machines) they determined that the star was somewhere over the far country of Israel, near the small town of Bethlehem. Then the wise man remembered that he had a cousin who lived in that far town.

WM1: I must send a message to my cousin in Bethlehem. She's an inn-keeper's wife. I'll have her prepare a room for us so we can be there when God comes.

Narrator: So the wise man sent a messenger to his cousin, the inn-keeper's wife.

Messenger enters.

WM1: (*Speaking to Messenger*) Now, remember. Tell my cousin that we will be there as soon as we can, and we'll need a room. God himself will be visiting the earth, and my friends and I want to be there when it happens.

Wise Men walk off talking excitedly among themselves, the star goes in front of them.

Narrator: The messenger raced off. He crossed mountains, rode on camels and paddled boats. (**Messenger** pantomimes these things) Finally he reached Bethlehem where he found the Innkeeper's Wife.

Innkeeper's Wife enters with a duster in hand.

Messenger: (Runs up to *Innkeeper's Wife*) Your cousin, the star watcher in the East, sent me to tell you that he and two of his friends will be needing a room. He says God is coming to earth in Bethlehem and they want to be here when it happens. Frankly, I think he's nuts. But, hey, I'm only the messenger.

Narrator: The inn-keeper's wife thanked the messenger and sent him on his way. Then she went to look for her husband.

Messenger exits.

Wife: Husband. Husband. Where are you? (*Husband appears*)

Innkeeper: Here I am. What do you need now?

Wife: You know my cousin, the one in the east who spends all night staring at the sky? He just sent a messenger to let me know that he and two of his friends will need a room. They're coming to Bethlehem because they believe that God is coming to earth. They think God's coming here. To Bethlehem!! Isn't that the craziest thing you've ever heard?

Narrator: The inn-keeper didn't think it was crazy at all. He was a devout Jew and like all his religious friends he had been waiting for just such an event.

Innkeeper: It's very possible. It's amazing to think about. It's what we've all dreamed of and prayed for. I think that maybe your star gazing cousin might be right. After all, our greatest prophet Isaiah predicted just such an event as this.

Wife: Oh my. God could be coming here? To Bethlehem? What if he wants to stay here at our inn? Just look at it. The curtains are dirty, the walls are dirty, the floor is...dirt. We've got to fix things up.

Narrator: The Innkeeper and his wife began to prepare. They painted and sewed and patched. When they had finished, they re-named their inn, God's Inn

Innkeeper's Wife hangs up sign that says "God's Inn".

Then the inn-keeper's wife began to act rather strangely.

Stranger 1: (*Approaches*) Hello, I am looking for a room and I would love to stay here at God's Inn. It's so beautiful. You must really love God. Do you have a vacancy?

Innkeeper: Yes

Wife: (*Interrupts*) No, no rooms at all. Perhaps you should try the inn down the street. I'm sure they have plenty of rooms.

Stranger 1 leaves.

Innkeeper: (*Turning to wife*) What was that all about? We have plenty of rooms. In fact, they are all empty. Why did you turn him away?

Wife: We can't afford to let any of our rooms get dirty. What if God comes but decides not to stay here because one of our rooms is messy? We must keep the place spotless.

Narrator: And so it went. Each traveler who came to God's Inn and asked for a room was turned away. The inn-keeper's wife wouldn't let a single person check in, and she dusted and swept from daylight to dark. The inn-keeper got so tired of arguing with his wife that he started hanging out in the stable with his animals.

Innkeeper exits.

Then, one day a decree went out from Caesar that all the world should be taxed. Each male returned to his own city to be registered. It wasn't long before Bethlehem was overrun with people, and they were all looking for a place to stay. Many stopped at God's Inn.

Stranger 2: (*Enters and knocks*) Do you have...?

Wife: No, no rooms at all

Stranger 2 shrugs and leaves.

Stranger 3: (*Enters and knocks*) I'm looking...

Wife: No, sorry, we have no rooms at this inn.

Stranger 3 leaves.

Narrator: The Innkeeper's wife turned away everyone who approached her for a room. And her inn stayed spotless as she waited for God to show up.

Innkeeper: *(Enters and approaches his wife; he has hay in his hair)* Wife—the town is packed. Everyone is looking for a place to stay. Surely we can let someone stay in one of our rooms. Everyone looks so tired.

Wife: Absolutely not! What if God should come and find one of these filthy strangers lurking about. He might decide to go somewhere else. We must keep God's Inn spotless because we don't know when God's coming.

Mary and Joseph approach.

Joseph: Excuse me. Could you help us? We have searched all over the town and can't find a single place to stay. My wife is about to give birth and I must find her a place to rest.

Wife: I'm sorry, we have no room at the inn.

Mary: But, your rooms look empty. There are no people here at all. And this is God's Inn. It just seemed to me that this was where God wants us to be.

Wife: I'm sorry, but we are expecting someone very important, and we can't have dirty people like you cluttering up the place. Now shoo!

Narrator: The innkeeper couldn't stand to see this poor man and his wife without a place to stay.

Innkeeper: Wait. It's not much, but I have a stable. Would you like to stay there?

Narrator: The two strangers were grateful for the offer. They followed the innkeeper to his stable. *(They all leave)* He had cleaned it up while his wife was fussing around the inn, and it was a very cozy place. Soon the woman gave birth and as the baby cried his first cry, a star appeared.

CUE SOUND EFFECT: Sound of baby crying as **Star Carrier** brings star in and holds it up.

WM1: *(Follows star in with his friends. He is breathless as he runs up to the Innkeeper's Wife)* At last we are here. Quick, who have you let your rooms out to? The star is right over your inn. God is here.

Wife: What do you mean God is here? That's impossible. There's no one staying at our inn. I've been keeping it clean so it would be ready when God arrived.

Innkeeper: *(Enters from the stable)* Wife you won't believe it. That woman just gave birth to a baby boy, and when the baby started crying, a huge star appeared in the sky, right over the stable.

WM1: That's it! That's our star. Show us this baby! The stars never lie. It must be God...God is in your stable *(the **Star Carrier** leaves and the three **Wise Men** follow it)*.

Wife: That's impossible. God would never come to earth in a stable. It's a dirty place, not even fit for a beggar. He should have asked me for a room. I'd have given Him one.

Innkeeper: *(Quietly)* They did ask you for a room. You wouldn't let them in.

Wife: *(Pauses in acknowledgement of her guilt)* Well, we can't let them stay in that dirty old stable. Go get them. Bring them in. They can have any room they want. They're all clean and ready.

Innkeeper: The stable was ready, too. While you were busy protecting God's Inn from all those strangers, I decided to clean up the stable. I figured if God was coming here, that it was important to clean everything, not just the parts that people see.

Besides, we can't move the baby now. There's a bunch of shepherd's out there. They've got their sheep with them and they are all bowed down in front of the manger. I don't think they would be comfortable coming inside.

Wife: Oh, I've really messed things up. God will never forgive me for this.

Joseph enters.

Joseph: Thank you for your wonderful stable. It's perfect. There are so many people out there who want to see our baby Jesus. Shepherds, fishermen, weavers, beggars...those people who never would have been comfortable coming into a fancy place like this. It's really quite miraculous how God has worked all this out.

Innkeeper: It is a miracle indeed. Wife, let's go worship this king lying in our stable.

All exit.

Narrator: The innkeeper's wife went to the stable with her husband. She spent the night mingling with shepherds and beggars. Then the next morning she prepared a huge breakfast and invited everyone to eat.

She didn't even fuss when the shepherds clumped all over the place in their muddy sandals.

The innkeeper's wife never forgot the lesson she learned that night. She realized that God would not come to a place where everything was in its place. He wanted a place for joyful abandon. A place where stars and shepherds, kings and cattle, princes and poor people could mingle in adoration. He wanted a place where all people shared in the bread and wine. Where God was truly in!

Wife enters and flips sign so it reads "God's In".

Lights fade.

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