

## **“The Prophet’s Candle: Hope” The Candles of Advent Script 1**

by  
Rachel Benjamin

**What** This Advent script is a split scene where a father reads the genealogy of Jesus to his son while Isaiah reads the promises about the coming messiah to his son. Both point to the prophecies of Jesus and remind us that we wait with hope for His arrival.

**Themes:** Advent, Hope, Promises, Messianic Prophecies, Waiting, Christmas

This series consists of 5 scripts:

- \*Script 1: The Prophet’s Candle (symbolizing Hope)
- \*Script 2: The Bethlehem Candle (symbolizing Faith)
- \*Script 3: The Shepherd’s Candle (symbolizing Joy)
- \*Script 4: The Angel’s Candle (symbolizing Peace)
- \*Script 5: The Christ Candle (symbolizing Love)

These scripts can be performed in a couple of different ways:

\*They can be performed all at once as one large Christmas production with the lighting of each Advent candle after the correlating script.

OR

\*They can be performed one at a time, correlating with the weekly lighting of an Advent Candle, with the 5<sup>th</sup> and final candle being lit at a Christmas Day or Christmas Eve service.

**Who** Father  
Son  
Isaiah  
Shear– short for Shear-jashub, Isaiah’s Son

<b>Props</b>	Bible, Chair Table Lamp Old Testament scroll Stool
<b>Why</b>	Matthew 1; Isaiah 7, 9
<b>How</b>	Father should read directly from the Bible. Make it real. It would be ok, and may add a little humor, to have Father stumble over some of the names. Isaiah should read directly from the scroll.
<b>Set Design</b>	There is no need to make this elaborate, the script does not call for, or need, a large set. However, if you have the capabilities, the Father and Son could be sitting near a decorated Christmas tree.
<b>Costumes</b>	Father and Son should be dressed in casual clothes. Isaiah and Shear could either be in stage blacks or Old Testament tunics.
<b>Note</b>	The two scenes are happening simultaneously. When the one scene has dialogue, the other should be in a soft freeze. (Rather than an awkward ridged freeze. The actors can still act, just not enough to draw attention away from the other scene. For example, the Son can continue to wrap the present while Isaiah is talking.)
<b>Time</b>	Approximately 3 minutes

*Stage left **Father** sits in a chair with a table next to him. On the table is a light. **Son** is sitting at his Father's feet, wrapping presents. **Father** is reading out of a Bible.*

*Stage right **Isaiah** sits on a stool with an open scroll in his hand. **Shear** is sitting on the ground, listening to his father.*

**Father:** This is the record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**Isaiah:** These are the promises regarding the Messiah.

**Father:** Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah.

**Isaiah:** As for you, Bethlehem seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah, from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel.

**Father:** Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, by Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron.

**Isaiah:** For this reason, the Lord himself will give you a confirming sign. Look, this young woman is about to conceive and will give birth to a son. You, young woman, will name him Immanuel.

**Father:** Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab.

**Isaiah:** For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us.

**Father:** Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon. Salmon the father of Boaz, by Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, by Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse and Jesse the father of David the king.

**Isaiah:** He will rule on David's throne and over David's kingdom, establishing it and strengthening it by promoting justice and fairness, from this time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of heaven's armies will accomplish this. His authority is eternal and will not pass away. His kingdom will not be destroyed.

**Shear:** Father, I don't understand.

**Isaiah:** *(admittedly)* I don't fully understand it either. What I do know, is that this is what God told me.

**Son:** But what does it mean?

**Isaiah:** It means the Messiah is coming.

**Shear:** When? How?

**Isaiah:** I don't know. I don't know.

**Shear:** What do we do until he comes?

**Isaiah:** We hold to these promises and we wait.

**Father:** David was the father of Solomon by the wife of—

**Son:** *(interrupting)* I thought we were reading the Christmas story?

**Father:** We are.

**Son:** So, what's up with the Jewish tongue twisters?

**Father:** This is the genealogy of Jesus.

**Son:** What does the genealogy have to do with Christmas?

**Father:** These are the people who held on to the Old Testament Messianic promises. These people are the ones who studied and believed the scriptures.

**Son:** So?

**Father:** Don't you see how pivotal their role is in the Christmas story?

**Son:** No. What did these people do that was so important?

**Father:** They trusted. They waited.

*Slight pause.*

**Father:** The first week of advent, we study the messianic prophecies. We get to look back and *remember*. But these people...they looked forward.

**Isaiah:** Till he comes we wait. And we watch. And we hope.

*The Prophet's Candle is lit.*

**“The Bethlehem Candle: Faith”  
The Candles of Advent Script 2**

by  
Rachel Benjamin

**What** Use this script for the lighting of the second Advent candle, reminding us of the faith Mary and Joseph displayed as they struggled on their journey toward Bethlehem. Despite fear and doubts, they trusted that God would be with them.

**Themes:** Christmas, Advent, Faith, Trust, Mary, Joseph

**Who** Joseph  
Mary

**When** The First Christmas

**Props** Bench  
This script can work with full costumes, or with simple stage blacks. Do not feel the need to make Mary look pregnant. The way she carries herself and holds her stomach can imply that she is very pregnant.

**Why** Luke 2

**How** This script examines the possibility that Mary and Joseph were a little shy and awkward on this journey to Bethlehem. As a newly married couple with a seemingly impossible task, have your actors embrace the timidity and awkwardness of the situation.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Center stage there is a bench.*

*Mary and Joseph enter from stage left and are moving toward stage right.*

*They walk silently for a moment.*

**Joseph:** You're quiet.

**Mary:** What?

**Joseph:** I said, you're quiet.

**Mary:** Yeah.

*Pause.*

**Joseph:** You feeling ok?

**Mary:** I'm fine.

**Joseph:** Mary—

**Mary:** I'm fine.

**Joseph:** You just seem...quiet. *(A little awkward, as if he doesn't know what to say)* Quieter than normal.

*Pause.*

**Joseph:** Not that you're too quiet. I just meant to say that you talk more than you're talking. Right now, I mean.

*Pause.*

**Joseph:** Not that you talk too much. I actually really appreciate your quiet manner. It just seems like something might be bothering you.

*Pause.*

**Joseph:** I want you to know that you can talk. To me. If you want to. Not that you have to want to. Talk, I mean. I'm gonna stop talking right now.

*Pause.*

**Mary:** Sometimes I don't know what to say.

**Joseph:** I just want you to know that we're in this together.

**Mary:** We're still getting to know each other. And this... *(holding her hand to her stomach)* this whole situation seems strange. And hard. Really hard.

**Joseph:** Well, the first year of marriage is supposed to be the hardest, right?

**Mary:** *(she gives a small laugh)* Yeah.

*Joseph sees the bench ahead.*

**Joseph:** We can stop for a bit if you want.

**Mary:** *(determined)* No. I—

**Joseph:** You don't have to be brave for me, Mary. Let's stop and rest.

**Mary:** *(thankfully)* Ok.

*They sit on the bench.*

*Pause.*

**Mary:** I can't get their looks out of my head, Joseph. The looks on my parent's faces, our neighbors. They think we're crazy. More than crazy they think...they think...

*She bits her lip, refusing to cry.*

**Joseph:** It doesn't matter what they think. It doesn't matter what anyone thinks.

**Mary:** God sent an angel to me. I *know* this baby is something special. But sometimes I still have moments of doubt.

**Joseph:** *(admittedly)* Me too.

**Mary:** I'm going to have this baby soon.

**Joseph:** I know.

**Mary:** *(with heightening intensity)* We don't even know where we're going to stay in Bethlehem.

**Joseph:** I know.

**Mary:** *(with heightening intensity)* Have you ever delivered a baby before? What if...it's...difficult?

**Joseph:** It's going to be ok.

**Mary:** *(alarmed)* Will it?

**Joseph:** *(determined to calm her down)* It's going to be ok.

**Mary:** *(defeated)* I have so many questions. I wish my faith was stronger.

**Joseph:** Being faithful...it doesn't mean you're not going to also be afraid. It means that you keep moving even in the face of fear.

*Pause.*

**Joseph:** *(assuring)* God is going to take care of us.

**Mary** *slowly nods in agreement.*

**Joseph:** He is, Mary. God is going to take care of us.

**Mary:** *(reminding herself)* Faith is moving forward.

*Pause.*

**Joseph:** God has a plan for us in Bethlehem.

*Pause.*

**Joseph:** He does.

**Mary:** *(agreeing)* Then let's go.

**Joseph** *helps Mary stand. Actors exit stage right.*

*The Bethlehem Candle is lit.*



**“The Shepherd’s Candle: Joy”**  
**The Candles of Advent Series Script 3**

by  
Rachel Benjamin

**What** The lighting of the third candle of Advent is a time to reflect on the Joy that Christmas brings. In this script, the announcement of the Messiah’s birth brings joy to a group of disgruntled shepherds.

**Themes:** Christmas, Advent, Joy, Shepherds

**Who** Actor 1 Actor 3  
Actor2 Actor 4

**When** Bible Times

**Props** Shepherd Staffs  
Small Stick for Actor 4

**Why** Luke 2

**How** The shepherds should come off as a little rough around the edges. They can be dressed in Old Testament tunics or in stage blacks.

Ideally, there would to be two sets of lights for this script. The first set would simply light the stage during the skit. The second set would shine brighter (or perhaps with color, depending on your capabilities) to convey the angel’s visit.

If you do not have the capability to add lighting, the shepherds can simply mime the angel’s visit, as long as they all react at the same exact time. Be sure to spend some time practicing this transition, as it can be tricky without lighting effects.

The Voice Over can be a pre-recorded voice or an offstage actor.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Actor 1 and 2 slowly start moving from behind the audience toward the stage.*

*Actor 3 and 4 are behind them. Actor 4 should be using a small stick to pick food out of his mouth throughout most of the scene.*

*They are all carrying shepherd staffs.*

**Actor 1:** *(to Actor 2)* Watch where you st—

*Actor 2 steps in manure.*

**Actor 2:** *(picking up his foot and looking at his shoe)* Oh man.

**Actor 1:** Bring extra shoes?

**Actor 2:** Nope.

**Actor 3:** Tough luck.

**Actor 4:** First night on the job?

**Actor 3:** *(to Actor 4, mocking Actor 2)* How'd you guess?

**Actor 4:** Making you wish you stayed in school, right?

**Actor 3:** Get used to it. The smell never leaves you.

**Actor 4:** *(referring to Actor 3)* Never leaves him. He stops traffic wherever he goes.

**Actor 3:** That's because of my good looks.

**Actor 4:** Keep telling yourself that.

**Actor 1:** Knock it off.

**Actor 3:** Hey, *(referring to Actor 2)* if he wants to be a shepherd, he might as well know all the perks. *(To Actor 2)* Perk 1: You'll smell.

**Actor 4:** *(to Actor 2)* You'll get muddy. You'll never own a nice pair of shoes again.

**Actor 3:** And if you're lucky, you'll get to fight a wolf or a bear.

**Actor 4:** Maybe even a lion.

**Actor 3:** *(sarcastically)* On the bright side, the people in the town won't associate with you.

**Actor 4:** But it's a paycheck.

**Actor 1:** Cut it out.

*All Shepherds react as if a brisk wind has just blown by.*

**Actor 3:** Windy. Freezing. Gotta love working outdoors.

**Actor 1:** Don't listen to them. It's not always like this.

**Actor 4:** Yeah. Most nights it rains.

*Shepherds approach stage and find a place to sit or lay down.*

**Actor 1:** Sleeping under the stars ain't so bad.

**Actor 4:** Keeps you humble.

**Actor 3:** Makes you realize how small and insignificant you are.

*Lights up. (Angel's light)*

*All Shepherds react, terrified.*

**Voice Over:** Do not be afraid! 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.

**All:** *(ad lib; completely amazed)* Whoa. Wow.

**Voice Over:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased.

*Lights down. (Angel's light)*

*All Shepherds remain stunned and frozen.*

**Actor 2:** So, how often does that happen?

*Shepherds slowly unfreeze.*

**Actor 4:** Were those angels talking to us?

**Actor 3:** Why would they talk to us?

**Actor 1:** The Messiah. He's here!

**Actor 3:** Nobody important even looks at us.

**Actor 2:** We're just shepherds.

Actor 1: That's the best part. We're just shepherds but God *chose us*.

Actor 3: No one ever chooses us.

Actor 1: *(slowly and deliberately)* But God did.

Actor 4: Let's go!

*Shepherds joyfully exit down the center aisle.*

*The Shepherd's Candle is lit.*

**“The Angel’s Candle: Peace”**  
**The Candles of Advent Series Script 4**

by  
Rachel Benjamin

**What** The lighting of the fourth Candle of Advent is a time to remember the peace that the Messiah brings. Through the retelling of Gabriel’s visits to Earth, this script humorously highlights the fear that Christ came to dispel.

**Themes:** Angel, Christmas, Peace, Fear, Good News

**Who** Gabriel- Male  
Angel 2  
Angel 3

**When** Birth of Christ

**Props** Notecards  
Bench  
Watch

**Why** Matthew 1, Luke 1 & 2

**How** \*See how at the end of this script.

**Time** Approximately 5 minutes

*Upstage center there is a bench.*

*Gabriel enters stage left with a handful of note cards. Before he moves downstage, he clears his throat and checks his notes.*

*He moves downstage left, as if entering a room.*

**Gabriel:** *(majestically)* Zecharia—

*Gabriel ducks as if something has been thrown at him.*

**Gabriel:** Whoa! *(Almost amused)* That was pretty good aim for such an old man.

*Gabriel ducks again as if something else has been thrown at him, this time dropping some of his notecards.*

**Gabriel:** *(as if trying to pacify a young child)* That insult was uncalled for. I apologize. In light of eternity you're not that old. Just put down the sword. You don't have to be scared. *(Clears his throat)* Do not be afraid.

*Gabriel ducks once more, this time dropping all of his cards.*

**Gabriel:** *(clearly building in frustration)* I said DO NOT BE AFRAID.

*Pause.*

**Gabriel:** You're clearly shaken, but you really don't have anything to worry about. Just give me a second here.

*Gabriel adjust his clothes, hair, and any costume pieces that may have gotten rustled. He recognizes that He is on a very important mission and wants to look his best.*

*He picks up his notecards.*

**Gabriel:** Ok. Let me see here. Let's just start over, ok?

*Gabriel clears his throat.*

**Gabriel:** Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son; you will name him, John. He will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

*Pause.*

**Gabriel:** You ok, man? Still breathing?

*Pause.*

**Gabriel:** Did I scare you to death?

*Gabriel ducks one more time.*

**Gabriel:** I think you're good. Ok. I'm outta here.

*Gabriel moves upstage.*

**Gabriel:** *(to himself)* Maybe a different approach this time.

*Gabriel shakes his head, rolls his shoulders a few times, takes a deep breath and prepares for his next visit.*

**Gabriel:** *(to himself)* No insults. Maybe start with a compliment. Yeah. That'll work.

*Gabriel moves downstage center.*

**Gabriel:** *(majestically)* Greetings, favored one, the Lord is with you!

*Gabriel quickly moves further downstage and goes to his knees as if helping an injured child.*

**Gabriel:** *(quickly and with heightened urgency)* It's ok. It's ok. Deep breaths. Deep breaths.

*Gabriel takes a couple of slow deep breaths, as if he is trying to calm a scared child.*

**Gabriel:** Good. Good. Don't pass out on me, I've got some news for you.

*Gabriel takes one more deep breath, as if with a child.*

**Gabriel:** Some good news.

*Pause.*

*Gabriel cautiously stands and looks at his notecards.*

**Gabriel:** Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! Listen: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God.

*Pause.*

**Gabriel:** Maybe you should lay down for a few minutes and catch your breath. You're going to be ok.

*Gabriel slowly moves upstage.*

**Gabriel:** *(to himself)* I should have taken that paramedic class. Maybe I can catch this next one when's he's sleeping. That should go better.

*Gabriel moves downstage right.*

**Gabriel:** Joseph, son of David—

*Gabriel's right hand goes to his left cheek as if he's been hit.*

**Gabriel:** That's a good left hook for a guy who's supposedly sleeping! Hold on a second. I have something to tell you. *(Quickly while still rubbing his jawbone)* 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.

*Gabriel quickly steps back upstage, moves towards the bench and sits down.*

*Angel 2 enters, wearing a watch, and sits next to Gabriel.*

**Angel 2:** You look tired.

**Gabriel:** I've been busy. Lots of traveling.

*Angel 3 enters and moves toward the bench.*

**Angel 3:** Am I late?

**Gabriel:** No, we still got time.

**Angel 3:** I'm so excited. I've never really seen a human before.

**Gabriel:** *(rubbing his left jaw)* Well, don't stand too close, they're pretty high strung.

**Angel 2:** What do you mean?

**Gabriel:** I don't get. I'm bringing good news. I'm coming from the throne room of God. These people serve a God who is for them, a God who works all things for their good, and STILL I have to start every speech with: Do Not Be Afraid.

**Angel 2:** Oh. Yeah. Humans. They're definitely a little skittish.

**Gabriel:** They're terrified.

**Angel 3:** Really?

**Gabriel:** All the time. They live in one continuous state of panic.



**Angel 2:** Fear does run rampant down there.

*Pause.*

**Angel 3:** Isn't that why He's going? To bring peace to a fearful and broken world?

*Pause as Gabriel and Angel 2 reflect on what Angel 3 has just said.*

**Gabriel:** Yeah. I guess it is.

*Angel 2 checks his watch.*

**Angel 2:** We better get going or we'll be late.

**Angel 3:** I'm ready.

**Gabriel:** We're going to really spook them if we all go together. Let me give the do-not-be-afraid speech, then you guys can join in later.

**Angel 2 & 3:** *(disappointed)* Oh. Alright. Sure.

*Gabriel moves Downstage Center.*

**Gabriel:** Do not be afraid! 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.

*Gabriel motions to the other Angels that they can enter.*

*Angel 2 & Angel 3 step forward, next to Gabriel center stage.*

**All:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!

*Lights down.*

*The Angel's Candle is lit.*

**How:**

Gabriel should imagine that Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds are all in the direction of the audience. Since the audience does not see the characters Gabriel is addressing, the actor playing Gabriel needs to strongly respond to the implied fear and actions of these characters.

It's important to note that at no time is Gabriel afraid. He is clearly frustrated, but not afraid.

Ideally, Gabriel should have his lines memorized and the notecards should only add humor. However, if needed he can read off the notecards.

Costume Ideas: The Angels can be dressed in Angel costumes. However, they can also simply be dressed in stage blacks.

# PURCHASE SCRIPT TO REMOVE WATERMARK AT SKITGUYS.COM

**“The Christ Candle: Love”  
The Candles of Advent Script 5**

by  
Rachel Benjamin

**What** The fifth and final Advent candle is also known as the Christ candle, and it symbolizes the love Christ displayed for human kind when He came down to dwell among us. In this script, the wise men question who the Christ child may be.

**Themes:** Christmas, Advent, Messiah, Jesus, Christ

**Who** Wise Man 1  
Wise Man 2  
Wise Man 3

**When** The first Christmas

**Props** 3 gifts in elaborately decorated boxes

**Why** Matthew 2:1-12

**How** The wise men can wear stage blacks or if you have the resources, be dressed in traditional pageant costumes.

Wise Man 3 should never lose his resolve or fervor. He is determined to find the baby King, even in the face of his friends' doubts.

Set: This scene takes place outside of the stable where Jesus was born. There does not need to be a set. When the wise men sit down they can simply sit on the ground or lean against a wall. Or if you do have resources, feel free to create a farm like environment. You can use crates, hay bales, etc. Be creative!

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Wise Man 1 enters from stage left, holding a gift and moving decidedly toward stage right. He pauses center stage, looks at his gift, then looks back towards stage left.*

*Wise Men 2 and 3 enter from stage left, also holding gifts.*

WM2: *(looking back over his shoulder to stage left)* Were those shepherds?

WM1: Yeah. They just left.

WM3: They must have come to worship the king as well.

WM1: Or not.

WM3: What do you mean?

WM1: Maybe we have the wrong place.

WM3: *(referring to offstage right)* The star is directly over that stable.

WM1: I think we should go back and rethink this whole—

WM3: *(interrupting)* Rethink? Do you know how long we've traveled? We're here, and you want to turn back now.

WM1: It's a stable. Animals are born in stables. For all we know, a lamb was just born.

WM2: That would explain the shepherds.

WM1: Yeah.

WM3: *(to WM2)* You too?

WM2: Think about it. Shepherds? Why would shepherds know about a baby king before anyone in the palace?

*Pause.*

WM2: Let's just think this through for a second.

WM3: The shepherds left here singing. It must be *some* lamb if that's all they were celebrating.

WM1: Maybe the baby is a shepherd. A first-born son.

WM2: I was excited when my son was born.

WM1: We've got the wrong place.

WM3: But the star—

**WM1:** *(interrupting)* Maybe we got the wrong star.

**WM2:** Maybe none of this means anything.

**WM3:** We left our homes with gifts for a king. None of us questioned the sign until now.

**WM1:** When the star appeared, we weren't *(referring to offstage right)* starring at a run-down stable. What kind of king is born in a manger?

*Pause.*

*WM1 and WM2 sit dejected.*

**WM1:** *(defeated; to himself)* What kind of king is born in a manger?

**WM3:** One who chooses shepherds over princes. One who chooses humility over honor and a stable over a palace. A king who loves with such an unconditional love, that he would choose to reveal to foreigners, like us, his birth.

*Pause.*

**WM3:** *(pointing upward toward stage right, as if to the star)* The heavens are shouting—we've all seen it.

*Pause.*

**WM3:** *(referring to stage right; adamantly)* There's a baby in there.

**WM1:** Maybe a baby lamb.

**WM2:** Maybe a baby shepherd.

**WM3:** Maybe the King of Kings has just been born.

*Pause.*

**WM3:** There's only one way to find out. I didn't travel this far to stop here.

*WM1 and WM2 hesitantly nod in agreement.*

**WM3:** I came to worship the king.

*All actors exit stage right.*

*The Christ Candle is lit.*