

## **“The Stable”**

by  
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**What** The Prince of Peace entered into this world on a night that was anything but peaceful. This script portrays the Christmas story as outlined in the Gospels and reiterates our need for the peace that Christ brings. Part of the full play, *One Chaotic Still Night*, this script can stand alone and serve as an intro into a Christmas sermon.

Themes: Prince of Peace, Christmas, Savior’s birth, Hope, Peace, Ensemble

<b>Who</b>	Mary	Shepherd 4
	Joseph	Magi 1
	Shepherd 1	Magi 2
	Shepherd 2	Magi 3
	Shepherd 3	

**When** Bible times

**Wear  
(Props)** Manger  
Doll to portray the baby Jesus  
Staves for Shepherds  
Gifts for Wise Men

**Why** Matthew 2, Luke 2

**How** There needs to be the sound of a baby crying. This serves as a cue for the actors to pause and look towards the manger. There are many online options that can easily be obtained for this sound effect. Another possibility would be to have an offstage actor that creates the sound effect.

**Time** Approximately 4 minutes

*There is a manger centerstage holding the baby Jesus. **Mary** and **Joseph** stand upstage of the manger.*

***Mary's** hair and clothes should not be perfect, but rather a little messy.*

***Shepherds** come storming in from stage right, almost scaring **Mary** and **Joseph**. The **Shepherds** are loudly praising God and singing.*

*The following lines are said quickly and on top of each other.*

**Shep 4:** *(singing)* Joy to the world the Lord has come let earth receive her King.

**Shep 2:** Is this him? The king?

**Joseph:** Who are you?

***Mary** grabs the baby, as if to protect him.*

**Shep 3:** The angels came to us in the field—

**Shep 1:** It was so bright. We were terrified.

**Shep 4:** I think I wet my tunic.

**Shep 2:** *(seeing the baby)* There he is!

**Joseph:** Please, come in. Umm there's not really a place to sit, but—

**Mary:** *(trying to fix her tangled hair)* We weren't expecting company. But—

**Shep 1:** *(to **Mary**)* I'm sorry the sheep followed us here. It's just the way we trained them.

**Mary:** It's ok. Just don't let them—

**Shep 2:** They don't bite. Sheep don't bite. *(rethinking what he has just said)* Well, actually they do. Some do. But ours don't. *(rethinking)* They never have before. I don't think.

***Mary** is clearly not comforted and holds the baby closer.*

***Shepherd 3** spits on the ground.*

**Mary:** Did you just spit?

**Shep 3:** We're in a barn.

**Shep 1:** *(glancing offstage as if counting sheep)* Forty-five, forty-seven—wait. Oh no.

**Shep 2:** Can I hold him?

**Mary:** *(to Shepherd 2, kindly but a little panicky)* It's just... he's just an hour old, and your hands don't look clean.

**Joseph:** *(to Mary)* It's ok.

*Joseph takes the baby from Mary and hands him to Shepherd 2.*

*Shepherd 2 holds the baby like a football.*

**Joseph:** Two hands. *(a little panicky)* Use two hands, please.

**Shep 4:** It kind of has a ring to it.

**Shep 3:** What does?

**Shep 4:** *(singing)* Joy to the world. *(talking to Shepherd 3)* I'm going to write a song.

**Shep 3:** Who do you think you are King David?

**Shep 4:** King David was a Shepherd.

*Sound effect- Baby crying.*

*The dialogue abruptly stops as everyone looks at the baby.*

*Mary takes the baby back from Shepherd 2 and places him in the manger. Mary kneels upstage of the manger and puts her hand on the baby as if calming him.*

*Joseph puts his hand on Mary's shoulder, making sure that she's ok. She smiles at him.*

*Slight pause.*

*In a whirlwind the Magi enter from stage right, again almost scaring Mary and Joseph.*

*The following dialogue should be loud and chaotic as well. The lines can be said quickly and almost on top of each other.*

**Magi 1:** There he is! He's in here.

**Magi 2:** I can't believe we made it.

**Magi 3:** We would have been here sooner, but the clouds.

**Magi 1:** And Herod held us up for a bit...but that's a different story.

**Shep 3:** Did you see the angels as well?

**Magi 2:** The star! Who could miss the star?

**Mary:** What star?

**Joseph:** Who are you?

*Mary grabs the baby, as if to protect him.*

**Magi 1:** We saw the new king's star and have come to worship him.

**Magi 2:** We brought gifts.

**Shep 2:** *(to Shepherd 3)* I knew we forgot something.

**Magi 2:** Can I hold him?

**Mary:** Umm.

*Sound effect- Baby crying*

*The dialogue abruptly stops again, as all eyes look at the baby.*

*Mary stands next to Joseph, still holding the baby. The Shepherds kneel stage left of the manger as the Magi lay their gifts in front of the manger and kneel stage right of the manger.*

*Magi and Shepherds freeze.*

**Joseph:** *(to Mary, whispering)* This is chaos.

**Mary:** This is not how a baby is supposed to be born, much less the King of Kings.

**Joseph:** It does seem fitting though, doesn't it?

**Mary:** What do you mean?

**Joseph:** This hectic night.

**Mary:** Why is it fitting? The prophet said he would be a Prince of Peace. Not of chaos.

**Joseph:** If our world wasn't chaotic, we wouldn't need the Prince of Peace.

*Mary places the baby in the manger and, once again, kneels by his side.*

**Joseph:** He didn't *come* to peace; he came to *bring* peace.

*Lights down.*