

THE JOURNEY

[Scene opens up on stage right with a Child2 and Child1 pretending to play video games on a TV (turned away from the audience). Mother enters stage right.]

Mom: Ok kids it's time to get ready to go to Christmas Eve Service.

Child2: [Big sigh] Oh man, do we HAVE to go?

Mom: [Patient with children] Yes, it's Christmas Eve. We always go to church.

Child1: [Growning] Who says we have to go THIS time.

Child2: Yeah, it's SOOOO long sitting in church.

Mom: It's only an hour.

Child2: An hour is SOOOO long to sit in one place.

[Child1, Child2 and Mother freeze in their positions and play shifts to stage left]

[Stage left, Mary is sitting on a chair or stair of stage. She is holding her pregnant belly. Joseph enters stage left]

Joseph: Our town has received a proclamation and we need to travel to Bethlehem to be counted for the census.

Mary: Bethlehem? I'm not sure if it's wise for me to travel in my condition Joseph.

Joseph: [consoling Mary as she sits] I know but I'm afraid we have no choice. We'll pack well and we'll take one of the donkeys for you to ride. It should only take 2 or 3 days to get there. The Lord will be with us.

[Joseph and Mary walk off stage left. The play switches back to stage right as the family comes to life again. The kids are reluctantly putting down their game controls as Mom gets ready.]

Mom: Oh wait we can't take the van to church. I forgot this cold weather killed the battery.

Child2 and Child1 – [cheering and going to get their game again] Alright! We can stay home.

Mom: We are only two blocks from church, you two.

Child1: But it's FREEZING outside. I won't be able to bear it.

Mom: (patiently and calmly) We'll just have to dress warmly. A walk together as a family will be nice.

Child2: Walk? [rolling eyes] This is SUCH an effort.

[Family freezes and we shift back to stage left as Mary and Joseph walk on stage left]

Joseph: I can't believe that every inn we've checked is booked.

Mary: What about that one. [Mary points to an imaginary door near lower center stage]

Joseph: I think it's our last hope for a bed. [Joseph knocks and an innkeeper comes to greet them at lower center stage.]

Innkeeper: Look I am very sorry but all of my rooms are taken due to the census.

Joseph: Are you sure there is nothing you can do. My wife is with child and is due any day.

Innkeeper: [pauses to think] Well.... there is the stable. It's not much but it's dry and the animals will help keep you warm.

Mary: You are very kind.

Joseph: Yes thank you. We are blessed to have found a roof to shelter us.

Innkeeper: Well then, please make yourselves comfortable. [He motions to upper center stage with a manger of hay. Innkeeper exits stage left as Joseph helps Mary sit next to the manger – manger is angled up away from the audience hiding a doll wrapped in cloth representing the child Jesus. Joseph and Mary freeze. An angel comes from the back of the stage and freezes standing behind the manger. There is also a 8 ft long broom handle with a large yellow star taped to the end laying down hidden behind the manger.]

[Shifting to stage right. Family comes alive again putting on winter coats, mittens, hats and scarves during the dialog]

Mom: You know I think I'll ask if that new couple at church if they'd like to come back here after the service and celebrate with us this evening.

Child2: What?

Child1: Come here? Why can't they "celebrate" on their own.

Mom: [talking to herself] You know it's been years since we've had a carol sing. It might be fun to dig some old songs out.

Child2: But Mom there's a Santa special on TV tonight that we wanted to watch.

Child1: [growning] This celebrating together stuff is soooooo lame.

[Family exits stage left. Action shifts to stage right. Shepherds enter stage right as the Angel moves to meet them from center stage. The shepherds stop suddenly at stage right when they see the Angel and cower in fear.]

Angel: Do not be afraid. Behold, I bring you good news of great joy. For today, in the city of David, there is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby there, wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger.

[Optional - Little Angel1: Glory to God in the Highest.]

[Optional - Little Angel2: Peace to Men upon the Earth.]

Shepherd 1: Praise be to God for such joyous news.

Shepherd 2: Quick my friends, we must journey to Bethlehem.

Shepherd 3: And share in the wonder of this glorious occasion.

[The angel moves back to center stage and stands behind the manger. The shepherds follow the angel singing the first three lines of Joy to the World.]

"Joy to the world,
The Lord has come,

Let earth receive her King"

[When they have finished and are standing looking over the manger scene to the right and facing the audience as they freeze in place.]

[The angel now raises the Star above the manger scene. The family enters stage left and the kids notice the bright star in the sky. They all immediately stop at stage left to admire it.]

Child2: Whoa, check it out [pointing to the star in the sky]

Child1: Look Mom, up there.

Child2: I bet its Santa on his way from the North Pole to bring us presents.

Child1: I'm so excited Mom. I just can't for what's going to happen tonight.

[While family stairs up at the sky, the Wisemen enter stage left pointing to the star and carrying gifts]

1st Wiseman: Look at the star. See how it shines brighter than all other stars. [points to the star]

2nd Wiseman: Let us follow this star and prepare to meet the Son of God

3rd Wiseman: .We bring only the best gifts of frankincense, myrrh and gold to give to our King.

1st Wiseman: Quick we must hurry.

Mom: Quick kids we must hurry.

[The Wisemen and the family both arrive at center stage at the same time to see the manger scene. They kneel down together to see the manger scene come to life and Mary take the baby out of the manger and hold him in her arms.]

[Everyone sings the first verse of Hark the Herald Angel Sings.]

[Family turns around to leave center stage as the rest of the cast continues to hum the song]

Child1: Mom, I'm so glad we convinced you to walk to church tonight.

Mom: Oh really?

Child2: Yeah, we know it's hard to remember the real meaning of Christmas sometime, especially when your decorating the house and baking and wrapping presents for us.

Mom: Yes, its good to remember what Christmas is really about.

Child1: Say Mom, do you think we can still invite that new couple over tonight?

Mom: I thought you wanted to watch that TV show?

Child2: Mom, do you think you could keep them busy for awhile while we wrap up a present for them?

Mom: A present?

Child1: Would it be ok if we sang some carols too?

Mom: My goodness. What's gotten into you two?

Child2 and Child1: Come on, Mom. It's Christmas!

Mom: Oh, right. I forgot. [she smiles]

[Family exits stage right]

NOTE: This play is free for non-profit and church/Sunday school use. We only ask that you write us and tell us about how your performance turned out and what, if any, modifications you made so others may benefit from your performance. Our only reward is knowing we helped you make an occasion special.

Thank you. David and Mary-Gwen Alston - Welsford, New Brunswick, Canada. Copyright 2004.

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