

Luke's Christmas

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(Luke 2:1-20, King James Version)

Adapted for Readers Theater by Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = about 3 1/2 minutes

CAST (8+)

Narrator

Joseph

Mary

Angel 1

Angel 2

Angels (Angels 1 & 2, plus optional extras)

Shepherd 1

Shepherd 2

Shepherd 3

Shepherds (Shepherds 1-3, optional extras)

(NOTE: Optional Christmas carol at the end—

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks or Angels We Have Heard on High)

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Narrator: (with authority) And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Joseph: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David

Mary: To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, (pause) being great with child.

Narrator: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

Mary: (lovingly) And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger...

Joseph: (weary) Because there was no room for them in the inn.

Narrator: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Angel 2: (strongly) And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:

Shepherds: (fearfully) And they were sore afraid!

Angel 2: And the angel said unto them,

Luke's Christmas

Angel 1: (boldly) **Fear not:** for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Angel 2: (excited) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

ALL Angels: (excited) Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Angel 1: (excited) Glory to God in the highest!

Angel 2: (excited) Glory to God in the highest!

All Angels: (excited—3x) Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the highest!

Angels 1 & 2: And on earth peace.

ALL Angels: (soft, then building louder 3x) Peace! Peace! Peace!

Angels 1 & 2: (with authority) Goodwill toward men.

Narrator: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another...

Shepherd 1: (looks around) Let us now go even unto Bethlehem.

Shepherds: (nod)

Shepherd 2: And see this thing which is come to pass.

Shepherd 3: Which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Narrator: And they came with haste...

Luke's Christmas

Mary: (serious) And found Mary,

Joseph: (serious) And Joseph,

Shepherd 3: (in awe) And the babe lying in a manger.

Shepherds: (thoughtfully) The **babe.....**lying in a **manger!**

Narrator: And when they had seen it

Shepherds: (gesturing outward) They made known abroad....

Shepherd 1: The saying which was told them.

Shepherd 2: Concerning this child.

Narrator: And all they that heard it **wondered** at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Mary: (thoughtfully) But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Narrator: And the shepherds returned,

Shepherd 3: (excited) Glorifying and praising God!

Shepherd 1: (excited) For all the things that they had heard and seen.

Shepherd 2: (in awe) As it was told unto them.

Shepherds: (excited) **Glory to God in the highest!**

Angels: (excited) **Glory to God in the highest!**

All: (strongly) **Glory to God in the highest!**

Curriculum Links (Active in 2010)

<http://ministry-to-children.com/christmas-lesson-shepherds-receive-good-news/>

Lesson on the shepherds, lambs, and Jesus including questions and answers

http://www.sermons4kids.com/manger_wordsearch.htm

Luke 2:1-14 wordsearch and Bible memory verse on the "Birth of Jesus"

<http://www.beau.org/~vickir/lessons/objectgift.html>

"The Best Gift—Christmas Object Lesson"—adaptable to many ages

You Tube Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnZmD9xCGBU>

Lovely, peaceful, straight Scripture reading by one man of Luke 2:1-20 with children acting out the parts—even outside (sponsored by a church) 5 min

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTPyvs7AZCE&feature=related>

"The King is Born" by NestLearning-- 1 1/2 min no shepherds, not Scripture dialogue, animated

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHaQAA9z_Rc

Clever family video using original script based on Luke's story and video-taped using mini-modular figures (Lego tm), different voices, and music--8+ min

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHaQAA9z_Rc

"The Lego Nativity" with music, animated action, different voices, special effects, sound effects, original scripting—8 min (includes wise men)—suitable for Children's Church

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx17XgdgfVo&feature=related>

All I can say is, "WOW!!!" In less than 3 minutes—"The Christmas Mystery"