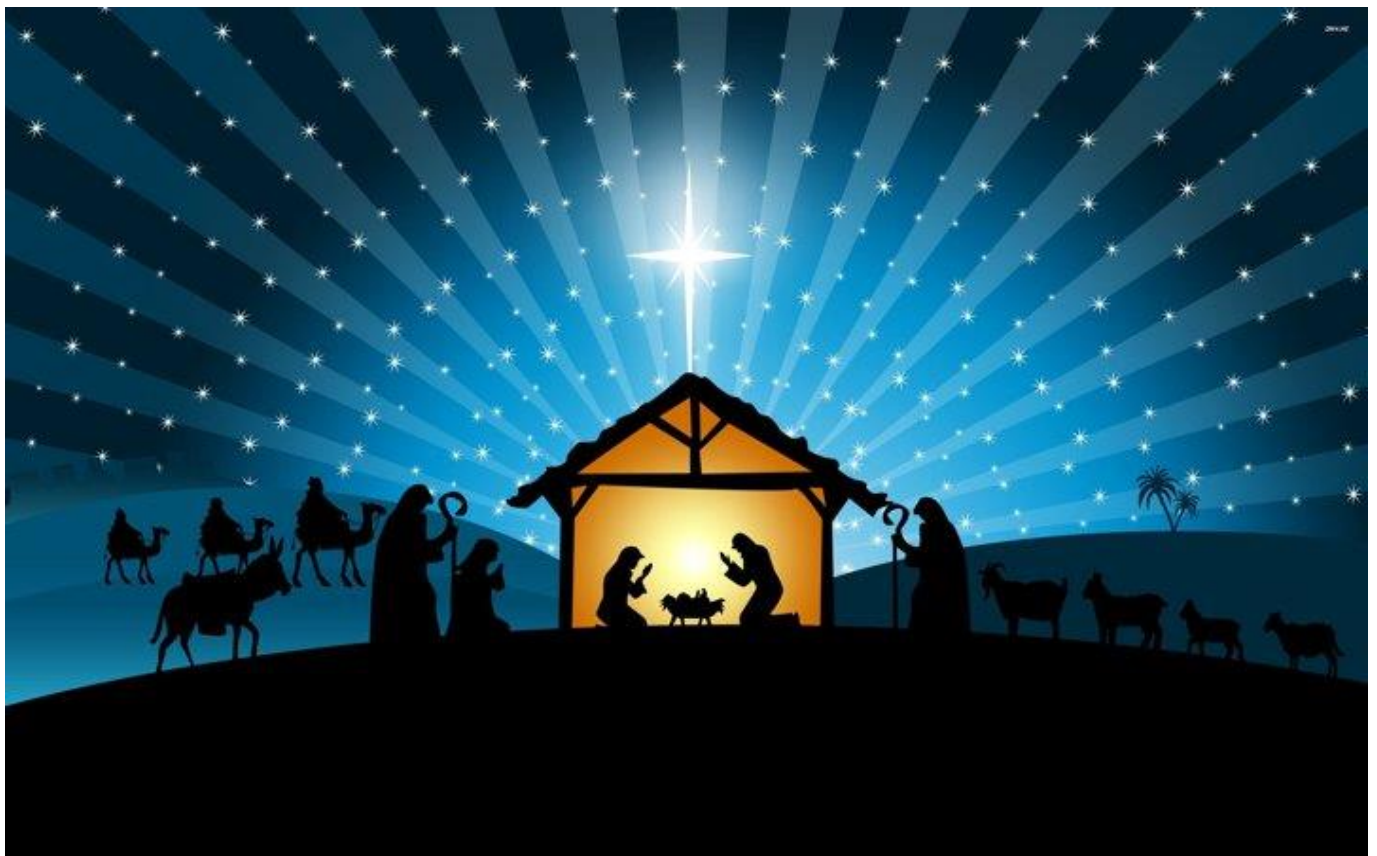


# “The Big Story of God”

## Nativity Play

(SAAW025)



## School Nativity Play 2020 – “The Big Story of God” (SAAW025)

### Introduction:

This Nativity Play has been written for a school that is unable to put on a “live” Nativity play. Different classes film different acts. The films are then put together to create a video that can be shown to the whole school, parents and friends. I have envisaged approximately 30 children in each class, but the Acts can be adapted for smaller or larger numbers of children.

### Aims:

- 1) To produce a video of “The big story of God,” that celebrates the birth of Jesus and puts it into context.
- 2) To enable each child in 7 classes to have a part to play, while keeping classes separate.

### General:

This Nativity play consists of 7 Acts, each containing several scenes. The scenes can be filmed separately. The parts can then be edited and put together into a video that can be shown to the whole school and parents as part of the Christmas celebrations.

The finished video could include a welcome and introduction from the Head teacher, some linking between Acts from the Headteacher and a final prayer.

### Costumes and Props:

Costumes and props can be left to each class to sort out; suggestions as to what might be needed will be included in the script.

### Staging:

It would be helpful to film all the different scenes against a simple backdrop in the classroom. Ideas for the backdrops are given in the script. The main issue will be getting a decent level of sound from the children with speaking parts. The sound file could be recorded separately for example, on a mobile phone, if that is easier, but it needs to be recorded at the same time as the video to allow synchronisation.

### Filming Tips

1. You will need someone able to edit video to put the films of the Acts together.
2. At the start of each scene, name the act and scene number. Then leave 3 to 5 seconds of silence with the actors ready before starting the scene. This makes it much easier to edit.
3. Leave 3 to 5 seconds of film running at the end of the scene – again to help the editing.
4. Use the camera in landscape mode.
5. If you record the sound separately using a usb microphone and laptop or mobile phone, then clap after announcing the scene number to allow synchronisation in the edit.
6. If recording on a laptop we recommend Audacity.

### Cast:

In each Act there is a Narrator. In the younger classes, this could be a teacher.

**Acts:**

The scenes are as follows:

Act 1: In the beginning God made everything and it was good	<b>Year 1</b>
Act 2: Everything goes wrong!	<b>Year 4</b>
Act 3: Somebody is coming to put things right	<b>Year 5</b>
Act 4: It all started again in Nazareth	<b>Year 3</b>
Act 5: Our Saviour is born	<b>Year 2</b>
Act 6: Shepherds are the first to hear the good news	<b>Reception</b>
Act 7: Wise men seek the Saviour and worship Him	<b>Year 6</b>

The year groups are assigned depending on the level of complexity of the Act.

**Children who cannot be photographed:**

For those children who cannot be photographed, I have included some scenes with complete face masks eg animal masks in Act 1 etc., if you decide that this is an acceptable safeguard. If not, they can take roles as stagehands etc. off screen.

## ACT 0: Head Teacher

### WELCOME

Headteacher filmed welcoming people to the school's Christmas Production, explaining that it has been filmed in class bubbles and edited together to make the complete story. It replaces normal nativity plays etc etc.

### NARRATION (eg Head Teacher)

Today we are going to tell you a story, the big story of God. We are all invited to be a part of it. The story starts right at the very beginning of time and Year 1 are going to tell us what happened.

.....

## Act 1: Year 1 In the beginning God made everything and it was good!

### Cast:

Number of people	Role
1	Narrator
3	Dressed in eg. yellow t-shirts, carrying torches for "light" for scene 1
any number	Dressed as plants for scene 1
3	Holding a "sun", a "moon" and a large "star" for scene 1
any number	Dressed as fish, lobster, birds & animals (eg. with masks) for scene 1
2-3 boys + 2-3 girls	For scene 1
1	God – in white t-shirt for scene 2
6	Mix of boys & girls and if possible mix of ethnicities in bright colours for scene 2

### Props:

- A candle
- 3 torches
- A "sun", a "moon" and a large "star"

### Staging:

- The aim is to create the impression of a beautiful garden, so a green backdrop would work well.

### Craft ideas:

- You may like to make animal, bird and fish masks for some of the children to wear.
- You may like to make some beautiful paper/card flowers that can be pinned onto the green backdrop.
- You also will need to make a sun, moon and star

## Scene 1. Creation.....everything God created was good

*(Begin in semi darkness with a candle lit and 3 children standing in a line in front of the backdrop holding torches that are not switched on yet)*

Narrator: In the very beginning of time there was God and nothing else.  
God then created the heavens and the earth.  
He spoke and said: "Let there be light" and there was light.

*(Children switch on their torches and shine them around and the lights come on.)*

God called the light "day" and the darkness He called "night."

Whole class: *(spoken loudly off camera)* And it was good.

Narrator: God filled the world that He had made with all sorts of wonderful things. Above the world was the sky, and the dry ground was called land.

Whole class: *(spoken loudly)* And it was good.

Narrator: There were plants of all different kinds.

*(Children enter dressed as plants and stand in a line, waving their arms around as if in the wind)*

Whole class: *(spoken loudly)* And it was good.

Narrator: There were two great lights for the sky; the sun to shine in the day and the moon to shine at night. There were also beautiful stars.

*(3 Children enter carrying the sun, moon and star)*

Whole class: *(spoken loudly)* And it was good.

Narrator: There were fish to swim in the sea.....big fish and little fish,

*(Children enter dressed as fish, swimming into a line in front of the "plants.")*

and even lobsters!

*(Child enters dressed as a lobster! This is optional, but we thought it a fun nod at "Love Actually"!)*

There were birds to fly in the sky.....quiet birds and loud birds.

*(Children enter dressed as birds, flying and squawking into a line in front of the "fish")*

Whole class: *(spoken loudly)* And it was good.

Narrator: There were animals.....roaring lions and tigers,

*(Children enter dressed as lions/tigers roaring as they stand in front of the "birds")*

Monkeys and elephants,

*(Children enter dressed as monkeys/elephants making appropriate noises as they stand near the "lions")*

Cats and dogs,

*(Children enter dressed as cats and dogs making appropriate noises as they stand near the other animals)*

and tiny little ants.

*(Child enters as an ant and stands near the other animals)*

Whole class: *(spoken loudly)* And it was good.

Narrator: Then God created people and they were special.

*(Enter 2-3 boys and 2-3 girls who crouch down onto the floor)*

Narrator: God breathed His life into them, and they became different from the other created things.

*(Girls and boys slowly grow up and stretch and stand in front of all of the rest of the "creation")*

Narrator: When God looked at everything, He saw that:

Whole class: *(spoken very loudly)* it was very good!

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds)*

## **Scene 2. God and humans in perfect happy relationship**

*(Enter "God" who stands with his back to the camera. Enter 6 children dressed in different coloured t-shirts and holding hands standing in an arc facing "God.")*

Narrator: When God made people.... He made us to know Him as our Father. He made us to enjoy His great love and care.

*(God extends arms out to the 6 children and they extend their arms out towards him, as if in welcome.)*

God was glad that He had made human beings and He gave them the job of looking after His beautiful world.

God was happy, and people were happy.

*(Children look at each other and smile. Children freeze for 5 seconds)*

## NARRATION (eg Head Teacher)

Although God gave us so much to enjoy, sadly, human beings chose to rebel against God, and things went wrong. Year 4 are going to tell us what happened.

## Act 2: Year 4 Everything goes wrong!

### Cast:

Number of people	Role
1	Narrator
5	Child 1-5 bringing on the sensory items for Scene 1
1	Child 6 who is tempted for Scene 2
3	T1-3 who tempt – dressed in black T-shirts scene 2
1	God dressed in a white t-shirt for Scenes 2 and 7
3	S1, S2, S3 who talk about stealing for Scene 3
4	A1, A2, A3, A4 who are angry for Scene 4
2	P1 and P2 dressed in black bin liners, who talk about pollution for scene 5
4	W1, W2, W3, W4 dressed in dirty or old t-shirts who wear masks for Scene 6
6 (3B 3G)	Of different ethnicities (if possible) dressed in different coloured t-shirts for Scene 7

### Props:

- a large bar of chocolate, a scented flower, a picture or photo of beautiful scenery, a mobile phone that can play a piece of lovely music, an animal (eg rabbit, hamster etc with soft fur)
- a small table with a large bag of Maltesers on it
- a wallet, a mobile phone, a picture of the country of Poland
- some litter, a plastic bottle of water

### Staging:

- The aim is to create the impression of things changing from being beautiful and good to things going wrong, so you may wish to begin Act 1 with a backdrop that shows the beauty of creation. When you get to the part of Act 1 where things start to go wrong, you may wish to gradually cover the backdrop with some pieces of card with words like, "STEALING", "LYING", "HATE", "POLLUTION" etc

### Craft Ideas:

- Create a beautiful backdrop of creation.
- Create the bad words to be affixed to the backdrop (like stealing, lying etc) on card. These words could be illustrated.
- Make masks for W1-W4 with the word on that they are speaking, which is illustrated.



## Scene 1. God gave us many wonderful things to enjoy

Narrator: When God made the world, He gave us so many wonderful things to enjoy.

*(Enter child 1 with a bar of chocolate that they proceed to eat!)*

Child 1: He gave us our sense of taste to enjoy delicious foods like chocolate....yum!

*(Enter child 2 with a beautiful flower that they smell)*

Child 2: He gave us our sense of smell to enjoy flowers and freshly baked bread.

*(Enter child 3 with a picture of beautiful scenery)*

Child 3: He gave us our sense of sight to enjoy seeing mountains and streams.

*(Enter child 4 with a mobile phone playing a piece of beautiful music)*

Child 4: He gave us our sense of sound to enjoy music and birds singing.

*(Enter child 5 stroking a rabbit (or another animal))*

Child 5: He gave us our sense of touch to enjoy feeling the soft ears of a rabbit.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 2. Humans are tempted to rebel against God

Narrator: As well as giving us many things to enjoy, God told us that there were some things that we shouldn't do because they would spoil our relationship with Him and with other people. Sadly, since the beginning of time people have chosen not to listen to God and have given in to the temptation to do wrong things.

*(Enter a child who stands front centre. In front of the child is a table with a large bag of Maltesers on it. Enter a group of children (T1-T3) who stand to the left of the child. Enter God who stands to the right of the child. The child standing at the front will turn their head to look at whoever is speaking)*

God: Don't steal. Respect what other people have.

T1: Go on, you know that you want Oliver's bag of Maltesers.

T2: They are so yummy.

T3: If Oliver will leave them lying around, why not take them?

Child 6: OK, OK.....I'll do that.

*(Child takes the Maltesers and hides them in a pocket. Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 3. The world gets messed up

Narrator: As people give in to temptation to do more and more wrong things, the world gets more and more messed up.

*(Enter S1 carrying a bag of Maltesers)*

S1: People don't just steal sweets like Maltesers.

*(Enter S2 carrying a wallet and a mobile phone and S3 carrying a picture of Poland)*

S2: They also steal money and mobile phones

S3: and even countries.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 4. Wrong things get bigger and bigger

Narrator: Wrong things can get bigger and bigger.

*(Enter A1 and A2 together followed by A3 and A4 together. The 2 groups stand opposite each other)*

A1: You two are idiots.  
 A3: No, we're not. Anyway, you two are stupid.  
 A2: No, we're not. We hate you.  
 A4: Well, we hate you.

*(A1 and A2 have a mock fight with A3 and A4 and then children freeze for 5 seconds before exiting)*

### Scene 5. God's world is destroyed

Narrator: Childhood fights.....adult fights.....violence.....murder.....wars. Not only are people affected by wrongdoing, but God's beautiful world is also affected.

*(Enter P1 who walks on and then drops some litter on the floor and is about to carry on walking when P2 enters, drinking out of a plastic bottle)*

P2: Stop dropping litter. You are messing up God's world

P1: You can talk. Do you know that your plastic bottle may well end up in the sea causing damage to the fish?

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

### Scene 6. We can see the effects today of ignoring God

Narrator: As we look around our world today, we can see the effects of us ignoring God's ways.

*(Enter W1 – wearing an illustrated mask that says, "Poverty")*

W1: Poverty,

*(Enter W2 – wearing an illustrated mask that says, "Pollution")*

W2: Pollution,

*(Enter W3 – wearing an illustrated mask that says, "Broken relationships")*

W3: Broken relationships,

*(Enter W4 – wearing an illustrated mask that says, "Racism")*

W4: Racism.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

### Scene 7. Consequences of rebellion

*(Enter "God" who stands with his back to the camera. Enter 6 children dressed in different coloured t-shirts and holding hands standing in an arc facing "God.")*

Narrator: Although God loves people and has made them to enjoy being with Him and in His beautiful world,

*(God extends arms out to the 6 children and they extend their arms out towards him, as if in welcome.)*

Narrator: people choose to turn away from Him and do wrong things.

*(Children turn so that their backs are towards "God" and they take steps away from him)*

Narrator: Our relationship with God is broken and the world is spoilt.  
 Our relationship with each other also suffers.

*(Children shake their fists at each other)*

God was very sad when this first happened.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## NARRATION (eg Head Teacher)

God loved the world and the people that He had made so much that He put together a plan to put things right. He gave people hope that one day things would be different, by speaking through people called prophets.

## Act 3: Year 5 Somebody is coming to put things right

### Cast:

Number of people	Role
4	Narrator 1,2,3,4,
10	Child 1- 10 for Scene 1
4	Child 11-14 Scene 2
2	Isaiah and Micah dressed in tunics for Scene 3
3	Child 15-17 for Scene 4
1	John the Baptist for Scene 5
6	People P1-P6 with tea-towel head dresses for Scene 5 (only 2 speaking parts)

### Props:

- a large clock
- a “dud” battery inside the clock
- a new battery for the clock
- a book
- a mobile phone
- some money
- large cardboard heart
- scroll
- jar of honey
- a cardboard locust

### Staging:

- The aim is to create a backdrop with the words “God had a plan to put things right” on it, in large letters.

### Craft Ideas:

- You need a large cardboard heart.
- You may like to create a long scroll for the children acting as prophets to read from.

## Scene 1. How do you put things right that have gone wrong?

Narrator 1: How do you put things right when they have gone wrong? Some things are easy to put right.

*(Enter child 1 carrying a clock that has a dud battery in it)*

Child 1: My clock has stopped. It's not working any more,

*(Enter child 2 carrying a new battery)*

Child 2: It's probably the battery. Here, try this new battery.

*(Child 1 puts new battery into the clock and it works)*

Child 1: Thank you so much. It's working again.

*(Exit child 1 and child 2)*

Narrator 2: Other things are harder to put right.

*(Enter child 3 carrying a mobile)*

Child 3: My mobile phone isn't working, and dad can't fix it.

*(Enter Child 4)*

Child 4: There's a shop in town that fixes mobiles. You'll have to take it there.

*(Exit child 3 and child 4)*

Narrator 1: Other things are almost impossible to put right.

*(Enter child 5)*

Child 5: How do I put my broken relationship with God right?

*(Enter child 6 and 7)*

Child 6: You can't.

Child 7: None of us can put our relationship with Father God right on our own.

*(Enter children 8-10)*

Child 8: The good news is that God loves each one of us.

Child 9: He has a plan to put things right.

Child 10: He has promised to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to sort things out.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 2. Our greatest need

Narrator 2: God knows our greatest need is for a Saviour.

*(Enter children 11-14; child 11 carries on a book, child 12 carries on a mobile phone, child 13 carries on some money and child 14 carries on a large cardboard heart)*

Child 11: If our greatest need is information, God would send an educator.

*(Holds up a book)*

Child 12: If our greatest need is technology, God would send us a scientist.

*(Holds up a mobile phone)*

Child 13: If our greatest need is money, God would send us an economist.

*(Holds up some money)*

Child 14: But since our greatest need is forgiveness, God is sending us a Saviour.

*(Holds up a large cardboard heart, then children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

### Scene 3. Prophets over 1000's of years foretell that God is coming to put things right

Narrator 1: Hundreds of years before God sent Jesus to earth, He told some people to pass on the message that Jesus was coming. These people were called prophets.

Narrator 2: They also wrote down God's words, which we have in the Bible today.

*(Enter Isaiah and Micah. They unroll a long scroll and read from it the appropriate words)*

Narrator 3: God told the prophet Isaiah that a great ruler, would come one day.

Isaiah: A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counsellor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace."  
(Isaiah 9:6)

Narrator 4: God told the prophet Micah where Jesus would be born.

Micah: "Bethlehem, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times. (Micah 5:2)

Narrator 3: God told the prophet Isaiah that His anointed King Jesus would be called Immanuel, which means God with us.

Isaiah: "a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him "Immanuel."  
(Isaiah 7:14)

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

### Scene 4. Waiting

Narrator 4: Waiting for something to happen can be really hard.

*(Enter Child 15-17)*

Child 15: I find it hard to wait 1 minute for my computer game to load.

Child 16: I find it very hard to wait 1 hour for my dinner to be ready.

Child 17: I find it the hardest thing of all to wait 1 year for my birthday.

Narrator 3: Imagine having to wait hundreds of years for someone to come to earth to put things right. *(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

### Scene 5. John the Baptist was the last prophet

Narrator 4: And then one day a man appeared in the wilderness in Judea. He was the last prophet that God sent, and his name was John the Baptist. His clothes were made of camel's hair and his food was locusts and wild honey

*(Enter John the Baptist eating honey and holding a "locust." Enter P1-P6)*

John: Get yourselves ready. Prepare the way for the Lord.

P1: Who is coming?

John: God's King is coming.

P2: So how do we get ready for God's King?

Narrator: John told the people to turn back to God. He told them to stop doing wrong things and to do right things. He invited them to be baptised as a sign that they wanted to do things God's way.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## NARRATION (eg Head Teacher)

The prophet, John the Baptist was born three months before Jesus was born. He was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. But let us go back in time a few months to hear where God chose to bring Jesus into the world.

## Act 4: Year 3 It all started again in Nazareth

### Cast:

Number of people	Role
1	Narrator
3	Child 1- 3 for Scene 1
5	Mum, Dad, Granny, Uncle, Aunt for Scene 2
4	Child 4-7 for Scene 2
1	Joseph dressed in a tunic for Scenes 3 and 6
3	Abigail, Philip and Reuben dressed in tunics for Scene 3
1	Levi dressed in a tunic with material that has tassels around his shoulders for Scene 3
1	Zacchaeus dressed in a tunic and made to look rich for Scene 3
4	People P1-P4 for Scene 4
4	Soldiers S1, S2, S3, S4 with helmets (that cover the face completely if you need children's faces not to be seen) and swords for Scene 4
1	Mary dressed in a blue tunic for Scene 5
1	Angel Gabriel dressed as an angel for Scene 5
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Angel dressed as an angel for Scene 6

### Props:

- a globe of the world
- Hammer
- A piece of material
- Spade
- Toy sheep + shepherd's crook
- Scroll
- Money bag

### Staging:

- The aim is to create a backdrop of Nazareth.

### Craft Ideas:

- Create a backdrop of Nazareth with a few single storey houses on it and possibly a field, an olive grove and a field with some sheep etc.

## Scene 1. Which country will Jesus come to?

*(Enter child 1 carrying a globe and as they talk, they spin it)*

Child 1: I wonder which country Jesus will come to. Will He come to Africa or America, Australia or.....?

*(Enter child 2 who finds Israel on the globe and points at it)*

Child 2: I can tell you. Jesus will come to a country called Judea.

*(Enter child 3 who points at the top of the country of Israel)*

Child 3: His mother Mary lives in a small village in Judea called Nazareth.

Child 1: Let's go to Nazareth.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 2. Introduction to Nazareth

*(Enter Mum, Dad, Granny, Child 4, 5, 6, 7, Uncle, Aunt who gather into a group)*

Dad: Welcome to our home here in Nazareth. My name is James, and this is my wife Anna.

Mum: Our house is quite small, but we are fortunate to have 2 rooms; one where we live and a smaller room where we keep our animals.

Granny: When I want a bit of peace and quiet, I go up on the flat roof!

Uncle: So, children, tell us what you have been doing today.

Child 4: I have been helping mother bake the bread for our evening meal Uncle.

Child 5: I have been cleaning out our animals all day.

Child 6: And you smell like it!

Child 5: Thanks a lot.

Aunt: Now then, let's not have any arguing.

Child 7: I have been working in the fields Auntie – I'm starving.

Mum: Let's go and eat. We have fish, vegetables and fruit tonight.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 3. The People of Nazareth

Narrator: All sorts of different people live in the town of Nazareth.

*(Enter Joseph carrying a hammer)*

Joseph: My name is Joseph, and I am a carpenter.

*(Enter Philip carrying a spade)*

Philip: My name is Philip and I'm a farmer.

*(Enter Reuben carrying a toy sheep)*

Reuben: My name is Reuben and I'm a shepherd.

*(Enter Abigail carrying a piece of material)*

Abigail: My name is Abigail and I make clothes from the wool.

*(Enter Levi carrying a scroll)*

Levi: My name is Levi and I am the Rabbi in Nazareth.

Narrator: All sorts of other people live in Nazareth too.

*(Enter Zacchaeus with a large money bag)*

Zacchaeus: Don't forget me. My name is Zacchaeus and I collect taxes from people for the Romans.

Everyone: Booooo!

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

#### **Scene 4. Life in Nazareth**

Narrator: Life in Nazareth is not easy now that the country is occupied by the Romans.

*(Enter 4 people P1, P2, P3 and P4 who go and stand on one side. Enter 4 soldiers S1, S2, S3, S4 who march on)*

S1: Left, right, left right, left, right. Halt

S2: You, over there *(Pointing at P1)* go and get me some bread. I'm hungry. *(P1 exits)*

S3: And you over there *(Pointing at P2)* go and get me a drink. I'm thirsty. *(P2 exits)*

S4: What are you staring at? *(Pointing at P3 and P4)*

P3 & P4: Nothing sir.

S4: Well you're coming with us. You can carry our packs to Bethlehem.

P3: Please sir, I am needed in the fields right now.

P4: So am I.

S1: Just do what you're told or there's trouble. Left, right, left right, left, right.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

#### **Scene 5. The Angel Gabriel visits Mary**

Narrator: In this very ordinary town of Nazareth lived a young woman called Mary. She was engaged to the carpenter called Joseph. One day, Mary was going about her normal daily tasks.

*(Enter Mary)*

Mary: I need to go and make some bread for tonight's meal.

*(Enter Angel Gabriel who stands to one side of Mary)*

Gabriel: "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!"

Narrator: Mary was troubled at the Angel Gabriel's words. But the angel told her not to be afraid.

Gabriel: You are going to have a baby boy Mary and you are to call Him Jesus.

Narrator: The angel told Mary that Jesus would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High and that His kingdom would never end.

Mary: How will this happen because I am not married yet?

Gabriel: God will bring this about through His Holy Spirit.

Mary: *(Kneels down in front of the angel)* I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*



## Scene 6. The Angel visits Joseph

Narrator: Now you can imagine that when Mary told Joseph that she was going to have a baby that wasn't his, he wasn't very happy!

Joseph: I am not very happy! I don't think that Mary can become my wife. *(Yawns and stretches.)*  
I need some sleep. *(Joseph lies on the floor and pretends to sleep)*

Narrator: As Joseph slept, an angel appeared to him in a dream.

*(Enter Angel who stands over Joseph)*

Angel: Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her has come from the Holy Spirit.

Narrator: The angel went on to tell Joseph to call the baby Jesus because He is the Saviour that God has sent into the world. When Joseph woke up, He took Mary home to be his wife.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## NARRATION (eg Head Teacher)

Shortly before Mary's baby was due to be born, Mary and Joseph had to make a journey to Bethlehem.

## Act 5: Year 2 Our Saviour is born

### Cast:

Number of people	Role
1	Narrator
1	Soldier dressed in uniform for Scene 1
7	Group of 7 children to act as peasants P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7 for Scene 1
1	Mary dressed in a blue tunic for Scenes 2-5
1	Joseph dressed in a simple tunic for Scenes 2-5
1	Joseph's mother – JM for Scene 2
1	Joseph's father – JF for Scene 2
2	Soldiers S1 and S2 dressed in uniform for Scene 3
5	People P8, P9, P10, P11, P12 for Scene 3
4	Inn keepers I1, I2, I3 and I4 dressed in simple clothes with shawls wrapped around them to indicate it is a cool evening for Scene 4
any number	Animals eg cows, sheep, donkeys with the children wearing the appropriate masks for Scene 5

### Props:

- Scroll
- Table, paper and pencil
- A manger full of straw
- A baby doll wrapped up in a white cloth

### Staging:

- The aim is to create a backdrop of Bethlehem

### Craft Ideas:

- Create a backdrop of Bethlehem at night. Have lots of single storey houses on the backdrop.
- Create some animal masks for Scene 5

## Scene 1. Notice of the census

*(Enter a group of ordinary people P1-7 who stand in a group chatting to each other.*

*Enter a Roman soldier who is carrying a scroll and who reads from it in a loud voice)*

Soldier: Hear ye, Hear ye, listen up you people. Caesar Augustus, our emperor, has ordered that a census be taken of the entire Roman world. You all need to go to your home town to register.

P1: But my hometown is miles away.

P2: So is mine.

P3: How can I leave my business for days on end?

Soldier: Orders from the top.

P4: I'm fed up with all of these orders.

P5: So am I.

Soldier: Just do it or there will be trouble.

*(Exit soldier)*

P6: These Romans are a pain.

P7: Why do they have to occupy our country?

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 2. Mary and Joseph get ready for the journey

Narrator: Mary and Joseph had to get themselves ready to travel to Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. Joseph had to go there because he was a descendant of David.

*(Enter Mary and Joseph with Joseph's mother JM and father JF)*

Mary: What a long journey we are going to have to make. Bethlehem is 90 miles away.

Joseph: Poor Mary. This isn't going to be easy for you with the baby due any day.

JM: Let's pack you up some bread and olives for the journey ahead.

JF: Make sure that you have your thickest cloaks with you. It will be cold at night.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## Scene 3. Arrival in Bethlehem

Narrator: So, Mary and Joseph made the long journey to Bethlehem. When they arrived Bethlehem was overflowing with people, who had also come to register there.

*(Enter 2 soldiers who sit down at a table with a piece of paper and a pen. A group of people P8-P12 line up near the table and step forward one at a time to give their name)*

Soldier 1: Next.

*(P8 steps forward)*

Soldier 2: Name.

P8: John.

*(P8 exits)*

Soldier 1: Next.

*(P9 and P10 step forward)*

Soldier 2: Names.

P9 and P10: Priscilla and Cleopas.

*(P9 and P10 exit)*

Soldier 1: Next.

*(P11 and P12 step forward)*

Soldier 2: Name.

P11 and P12: James and Joanna.

*(P11 and P12 exit)*

*(Enter Mary and Joseph)*

Soldier 1: Next.

*(Mary and Joseph step forward)*

Soldier 2: Names.

Joseph: Joseph and Mary.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

#### **Scene 4. No room at the inn**

Narrator: Having registered, Joseph and Mary had to find somewhere to stay.

*(Enter Innkeepers I1-I4, who stand at a distance from each other)*

*(Enter Mary and Joseph and they move towards the 1<sup>st</sup> innkeeper.)*

Joseph and Mary asked the 1<sup>st</sup> innkeeper if there was any room at their inn.

I1: No room here. We are full up.

Narrator: As Joseph and Mary tried other inns, they got the same answer.

*(Mary and Joseph move on the 2<sup>nd</sup> innkeeper then the 3<sup>rd</sup> and finally the 4<sup>th</sup>)*

I2: No room here. We are full up.

I3: No room here either. We are full up.

Narrator: Finally, an innkeeper took pity upon them and showed them to a room that normally housed animals.

I4: Come with me.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

#### **Scene 5. Jesus is born**

*(Manger put into place. Enter animals who sit around the manger. Enter Innkeeper 4 with Mary and Joseph)*

I4: Here you are. You can stay here.

Joseph: Thank you very much.

Narrator: That very night, the time came for Jesus to be born.

*(Mary produces the baby and puts it in the manger)*

Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloths and placed Him in a manger. Mary loved Him and Joseph loved Him. *(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## NARRATION (eg Head Teacher)

After Jesus was born, the good news was passed on. The first people to hear were ordinary shepherds.

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## Act 6: Reception Shepherds are the first to hear the good news

### Cast:

Number of people	Role
1	Narrator
8	Shepherds Sh1-Sh8 with tea towels on their heads for Scenes 1 and 2
any number	Sheep for Scene 1
1	Angel Gabriel dressed as an angel for Scene 1
any number	Angels dressed as angels for Scene 1
1	Mary dressed in a blue tunic for Scene 2
1	Joseph dressed in a simple tunic for Scene 2

### Props:

- You may like to equip your shepherds with crooks
- Manger with baby Jesus in it

### Staging:

- The aim is to produce a backdrop of a sheep field at night

### Craft Ideas:

- Create a simple backdrop with dark material with some woolly sheep on it and stars in the sky.
- Create sheep masks for the sheep

### Song:

- The song "Glory to God in the highest" that is played for the angels to wave their arms to can be found on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zT5INmeLEZQ>

## Scene 1. Shepherds sitting with their sheep

*(Enter shepherds with their "sheep." The "sheep" sit on the floor with the shepherds standing behind them)*

Narrator: Just outside of Bethlehem shepherds were living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks of sheep. These shepherds knew their sheep very well and even knew all of their names. So, shepherds tell us what your sheep are called.

Sh1: Benji.

Sh2: Shaun.

Sh3: Black spot.

Sh4: Long horn.

Sh5: Stubborn.

Narrator: Are your sheep well behaved?

Sh6: Curly isn't. She got lost yesterday.

Narrator: Oh dear. I know that it takes hours sometimes to find a lost sheep. I can see that you managed to find her again.

Sh7: Rammy kicked me the other day.

Narrator: That must have been painful. You shepherds work really hard to keep your sheep fed and safe. It is a hard job.

## Scene 2. The Angels appear to the Shepherds

Narrator: While the shepherds were sitting with their sheep, suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them and bright light shone all around them.

*(Enter Angel Gabriel, who stands to one side of the shepherds)*

The shepherds were really frightened.

*(Shepherds all shout out in fear and look frightened. As the shepherds shout out, the sheep could wriggle around)*

All Sh's: Aaaaaaahhhhhhh

Narrator: But the angel said to the shepherds.

Angel G: Do not be afraid.

Narrator: The angel told the shepherds that he had good news for everyone in the world. A Saviour had just been born in Bethlehem, a Saviour who is God's King and Lord of all. The angel told the shepherds to go and look for a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger. Suddenly the sky was filled with lots of other angels who were praising God.

*(Enter Angels)*

Angels: Glory to God in the highest heaven

*(Song – "Glory to God in the highest" is played with the angels dancing. When the song finishes the angels exit)*

Narrator: When the angels had gone back to heaven the shepherds said to one another:

Sh8: Let's go to Bethlehem.

Narrator: And that's exactly that they did.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## **Scene 2. The Shepherds are the first to see baby Jesus**

*(Manger put into place with baby Jesus in it. Mary and Joseph stand behind the manger)*

Narrator: When the shepherds arrived in Bethlehem, they found Mary and Joseph.

*(Enter Shepherds who kneel in front of the manger, looking at the baby Jesus.)*

Narrator: They also found baby Jesus, lying in a manger, just as the angel had told them. When they had seen Jesus, the shepherds told everyone the good news that a Saviour had been born. Everyone was amazed at what they heard.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

## NARRATION (eg Head Teacher)

After Jesus had been born, wise men who were living in an eastern country saw a special star in the sky.

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## Act 7: Year 6 Wise men seek the Saviour and worship Him

### Cast:

Number of people	Role
2	Narrators 1 and 2
8	Wise men – Artaxes, Bardia, Farbod, Manu, Pabag, Peroz, Rastag, Tus dressed in rich colourful tunics or a piece of colourful material wrapped around their shoulders, for Scenes 1, 2, 3 and 4
6	Camels for Scene 2
6	Servants for Scene 2
1	King Herod dressed as a King for Scene 3
5	Court officials C1, C2, C3, C4, C5 dressed smartly for Scene 3
1	Mary dressed in a blue tunic for Scene 4
1	Joseph dressed in a simple tunic for Scene 4

### Props:

- Telescope
- Table
- Star charts (you could print out some of the charts from this website: <http://astro.sfasu.edu/courses/ast305/homework/ZZ-Extras/jpgcharts.html>)
- Throne for King Herod
- Crown for King Herod
- Scroll with the words of the prophecy from Micah on it.
- A large puppet for Scene 4 (acting as child Jesus), wrapped in a blanket

### Staging:

- The aim is to produce a backdrop of a sky at night with lots of stars on it, with one very large star.

### Craft Ideas:

- Create the backdrop with stars.
- Create the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh
- Create camel masks for the camels and a crown for King Herod.



## Scene 1. Group of wisemen see a star and decide to follow it

*(Enter 8 wise men. Some of them gather around a table on which there is a star chart. Artaxes holds up a telescope as if looking at the sky)*

Artaxes: Oh wow!

*(Bardia looks up from the maps)*

Bardia: What have you seen Artaxes?

Artaxes: A really unusual new star.

Farbod: How exciting.

Rastag: Tell us about it Artaxes.

Artaxes: This star tells us that a special king has been born in Israel.

*(Artaxes puts down his telescope)*

Manu: Then we must follow it.

Tus: Absolutely!

Pabag: What are we waiting for?

Peroz: Come on everyone. Let's go.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

Narrator 1: And so, the wisemen called their servants, who packed their bags for them. They all left their country and made the journey across the desert following the star that they had seen in the sky.

## Scene 2. Wisemen go on a journey following the star

*(You may like to film the wisemen, the 6 camels and the 6 servants walking around the playground or the classroom for 15 seconds or so)*

## Scene 3. Wisemen arrive at Jerusalem

*(Throne in place)*

Narrator 2: Finally, the wise men arrived in Jerusalem and made their way to the palace of King Herod. The wise men assumed that a new king would be found in Herod's palace.

*(Enter King Herod who sits on his throne with four of his court officials C1-C4 standing behind him. C3 holds a scroll)*

*(Enter C5, who beckons to the wise men saying:)*

C5: Come this way. King Herod will see you now.

*(Enter 8 wise men who bow before King Herod and then stand either side of King Herod's throne)*

Tus: Sir, where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

King H: *(Waves his arms in fury and stamps his feet)*

King, King. I'm the only king around here.

Manu: Sir, we saw His star when it rose, and we have come to worship Him.

King H: *(Shouts)* I'm the only king you'll worship around here. There is no other king!

*(Wise men kneel down as if worshipping King Herod)*

C2: Excuse me Sir

King H: What do you want?

C2: Well Sir, there is an ancient prophecy about the birth of a king. Let us read it to you.

*(C3 opens up the scroll and reads:)*

C3: “Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)

King H: Hmmmm. Then you’d better go off to Bethlehem.

*(Rubs his hands and says in a sly voice)*

Come back and tell me where the child is so that I too may go and worship Him.

Narrator 1: King Herod had no intention of worshipping Jesus. He wanted to get rid of Him. So, the wise men left King Herod’s palace and journeyed on to Bethlehem, following the star until it stopped over the house where the child Jesus was staying.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

#### **Scene 4. Wisemen arrive at stable and present their gifts**

*(Enter Mary and Joseph with Joseph holding a child (puppet) in his arms)*

Narrator 2: The wise men entered the house, carrying gifts with them.

*(Enter Farbod carrying gold with Artaxes. He lays it at Jesus’ feet.)*

Farbod: We bring you gold because you are a very great King.

*(Farbod and Artaxes kneel down in worship of Jesus)*

*(Enter Pabag carrying incense with Bardia and Tus. He lays it at Jesus’ feet.)*

Pabag: We bring you incense because you are worthy of our worship.

*(Pabag, Bardia and Tus kneel down in worship of Jesus)*

*(Enter Peroz carrying myrrh with Manu and Rastag. He lays it at Jesus’ feet.)*

Peroz: We bring you myrrh because one day you will suffer and die.

*(Peroz, Manu and Rastag kneel down in worship of Jesus)*

Narrator 1: The wise men were warned in a dream not to go back to King Herod, so they returned to their country by a different route.

*(Children freeze for 5 seconds and then exit)*

#### **Scene 5. The story doesn’t end here!**

The Head Teacher or Clergy person rounds the play off with a few words indicating that the story didn’t end there. Jesus grew up and at the age of 30yrs old began His ministry of telling people about God’s Kingdom and healing the sick. A few years later, Jesus was arrested on a trumped up charge and was crucified on a cross. However three days later Jesus rose from the dead and was seen by over 500 people, before He ascended to heaven. Jesus is alive today and can do what is impossible for us to do – He can put our relationship right with our Heavenly Father.....that is the good news of Christmas. We are loved and precious to God.

End with a final prayer.