

Shepherds: “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Narrator 3: So how would the shepherds know which newborn child was the Christ? The angel had said:

Angel: “You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Narrator 3: Therefore, since mangers are only in stables, the shepherds probably began to search stable after stable until finally they found a stable occupied with people, *along with a baby lying in an animal feeding container.* Jesus is so great and yet He came into the world in such a lowly manner!

Narrator 1: ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Narrator 2: So the shepherds told about the angel, his message, the multitude of angels, finding the baby in the manger, and the tremendous news that *He is the Savior of the world!*

Narrator 3: Mary also had much to ponder: The angel who told her in advance about Jesus, being pregnant and yet still a virgin, the angel appearing to Joseph, and the visit from the shepherds.

Narrator 1: ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things

they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Narrator 2: Even though we were not present with the shepherds to hear the angel message and see the Christ, *He also came for us!* He lived a sinless life, was punished for our wrongs, and laid down His life; now He is our risen Savior!

Narrator 1: ²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

Narrator 3: The name Jesus means: *The Lord Saves!* Regarding the name of Jesus, the Bible says: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NIV)

Narrator 1: Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus, since we trust in You as our only Savior, let us be a peace – *knowing our sins are forgiven*, share the good news – *of what You have accomplished for everyone*, and have a most blessed celebration of Your birth! And all God’s people said:

Everyone: Amen!

Connect and Benefit

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The TRUE Christmas Story!



Luke 2:1-21 NIV

Make it part of your Christmas Celebration!

Introduction

1. Assign These Parts: **Narrator 1**; **Narrator 2**; **Narrator 3**; **Angel**; **Everyone**; **Shepherds**
2. Read through this brochure as part of your Christmas family gathering!

Narrator 1: ¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree – *thus a command* – that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world – *which included all of the land surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.*



Narrator 2: ² This was the first census that took place while Quirinius [Qui-rin'i-us] was governor of Syria. A census was used to count the people; it was also used to collect the required taxes.

Narrator 1: ³ And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Narrator 3: The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was about 100 miles. It probably took Joseph and Mary, *who was in her nine-month of pregnancy*, about ten days to complete the difficult trip.

Narrator 2: Joseph was a descendant of King David through David's son Solomon; Mary was also a descendant of King David through David's son Nathan.

Narrator 1: ⁵ He – that is Joseph – went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Narrator 3: God's Word teaches this order: Marriage, then children, *yet Mary was pregnant and not married* – because, *as the Bible says*, God the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her, so her child would be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

Narrator 1: ⁶ While they were there [in Bethlehem], the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son – *just as God had promised*. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger –

thus a container from which the animals ate, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Narrator 2: It is possible, even probable that at that time many were in Jerusalem – *only six miles away* – to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles, which was the third of three festivals in which all men were required to appear before the LORD in Jerusalem (Deut. 16:16). So some people – *unable to find a place to stay in Jerusalem* – were staying in Bethlehem, so *there was no room in the inn!*

Narrator 1: ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Narrator 3: Shepherds were looked upon by most as *unimportant* people; they simply lived with and cared for their sheep. However, *in God's sight, they were very important!* Therefore, God sent them this special message through an angel. The Bible says:

Narrator 1: ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them,

Angel: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Narrator 2: So that very night *Christ the Lord was born!* After the fall into sin He was

promised to Adam and Eve; then He was promised to be a future descendant of Abraham, then of David. Then, finally, *when the time was just right*, God the Father sent His Son to put on human flesh in the Person of Jesus. His mission was simple, *yet huge*: Be the ultimate Lamb of God and take away the sin of the world!

Narrator 3: Jesus is God, yet He “*did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!*” (Phil. 2:6-8 NIV)

Narrator 1: ¹³ **Suddenly** a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Everyone: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Narrator 2: So who are the ones on whom God's favor is resting? “...those who receive the news of the child's birth in faith. Those are the ‘men of his favor,’ those [are the people] on whom God's favor rests” (Dr. Arthur Just, Luke Commentary, 111). Therefore, knowing we have sinned and are trusting in Jesus alone as our Savior, *let us greatly rejoice!*

Narrator 1: ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,