

The Craziest Christmas Pageant Ever!

A Christmas pageant is the acting out of the first Christmas – the birth of Jesus. The story you are about to hear is very familiar. However, when we tell the story today, we'll be acting it out and there may be a few things added which aren't in the Bible. There is no script, so it's kind of what you call an improv ...in other words, we'll be making it up as we go along!

During the telling of the story, there will also be some directions for you to follow to help along the story. If something is written in bold and underlined – that means you are to act it out. So you have to pay attention to make sure you catch all the instructions and cues. There will be a chance for you to make up what the real characters might have said and ad lib the Christmas story how you see fit.

Here are the first instructions:

*Every time you hear the word **Angel** – you have to shout out “Hallelujah”.*

*Every time you hear the words **Sweet Baby Jesus**, you have to say “Amen” in your best “going to church” voice.*

There may be some other instructions, but they'll come along as you go. Now remember,

Angel – “Hallelujah”

Sweet Baby Jesus – “Amen”

THE STORY

It all started with a girl named Mary. Mary was confident and beautiful but didn't act like it, and she **smiled a lot and waved at everyone she saw.**

She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. He was strong and handsome, and **he whistled a lot.** You would see them **walking around town waving and whistling.**

One day an **angel (Hallelujah)** came to Mary and said: “The Lord is with you, Mary. Blessed are you among women.”

Mary was deeply troubled by his words and worried about what his greeting meant. **She began to pace back and forth.**

But the **angel (Hallelujah)** went on to say:

“Do not be afraid. You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name **Sweet Baby Jesus (amen).** Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High.”

Mary wondered how this could happen since she was not married. **She started shaking her head no. Then she started shaking her shoulders and her arms and her hips and soon Mary was shaking all over.**

The **angel (Hallelujah)** took Mary's hands and **looked at her very reassuringly ... really, really reassuringly** and said in her sweetest **angel (Hallelujah)** voice: “God loves you.”

Mary understood and said “Let it be done to me as you say”. She said **goodbye** to the **angel (Hallelujah)** and went to tell Joseph about what had happened.

Mary was walking through town **waving at everyone when she heard Joseph whistling down the street.** She ran up to him and told him what the **angel (Hallelujah)** said.

Joseph couldn't believe his ears. He wasn't mad at Mary. He just couldn't understand and **put his head in his hands and walked slowly away.** He walked so much he got sleepy and **began to yawn.** He decided to take a nap and soon was **snoring loudly.**

That's when the **angel (Hallelujah)** came to him and said “Joseph – you are going to have to man up and be the father to this child. God has a plan and you're in it. This baby you're about to have is going to be very important. So be nice to

Mary. Be gentle. Do the right thing because it won't be too long before you're going to have a baby at your house and his name will be **Sweet Baby Jesus (amen)**"

So Mary and Joseph got married. And all the **single ladies lined up to catch the bouquet.**

You would see Mary and Joseph **walking around town waving and whistling.**

PART II

But then it came to pass that Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering the census of the whole world. Everyone went to register, each to his own town.

And so Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to register. They got them a really cranky donkey to ride on because Mary was about to have that baby. The donkey made a strange cranky donkey noise. It sounded like: **(Make a Cranky Donkey noise)** But the donkey liked Mary, so they got along just fine, even though every time the donkey **made that strange cranky donkey noise,** it scared Mary. **(Act scared)**

So off they went to Bethlehem and in the background you could hear people singing:

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

When they reached Bethlehem after a long and tiring journey, they began to look for a place to stay. **They knocked and knocked on the door very loudly** until finally the innkeeper came to the door. **He was rubbing the sleep out of his eyes** when he opened the door and saw Mary and Joseph and the cranky donkey who decided to **make that strange cranky donkey noise.** That woke up the innkeeper!

"What do you want?" asked the innkeeper.

Joseph told him they needed a room for the night. The inn keeper said he didn't have any rooms, but he had a stable where they could sleep. However, there would be animals.

The donkey got kind of excited to think he might meet some other animals and **made that strange cranky donkey noise.** So they went to the stable and there they met a very silly sheep who giggled all the time. It sounded like this: **Make a silly sheep giggle sound**

And they met a very old cow who burped in the middle of every moo. It sounded like this: **Make a burping moo sound**

So, there they were ... the donkey making the **strange cranky donkey noise,** the **silly sheep giggling** and the very old **cow mooing and burping.**

Mary and Joseph did not sleep very well.

But guess what? It was time for Mary to give birth to **Sweet Baby Jesus (AMEN)**

Sure enough, that baby came and Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

It was beautiful. Except for those strange noises! the donkey making the strange cranky donkey noise, the silly sheep giggling and the very old cow mooing and burping.

Mary and Joseph didn't care – they couldn't take their eyes off Sweet Baby Jesus (Amen). Especially when there was the sound of some beautiful music in the background.

Away in a Manger.
Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The SWEET BABY JESUS (Amen)
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The SWEET BABY JESUS (Amen)
Asleep on the hay

PART III

Now over on the countryside there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took turns watching their flocks by night. They were sleeping and snoring very loudly.

Suddenly, the Angel (Hallelujah) of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were afraid. But the Angel (Hallelujah) said:

“Fear not. For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be shared by all people. For unto you this day in the city of David is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly, there appeared with the Angel (Hallelujah) a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and singing in their highest, most opera-sounding voice:

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

And the shepherds said to one another: “Let us go into Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they moved to the right and they shuffled to the left. They raised their right arm and shook it all about.

And the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the SWEET BABY JESUS (AMEN) in the stable just as the Angel (Hallelujah) had said.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

PART IV

And in the East, some wise men saw a star. The star was skipping in the sky.

“Where is this baby who is born to be King of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the East and we have come to worship him.” So they put one arm on the shoulder of the one in front to make sure they didn’t get lost and began to walk around. The star led them and whatever the star did, they had to do.

And walk and walk and walk and walk as the people sang

We three kings of Orient are

Bearing gifts we traverse afar

Field and fountain, moor and mountain

Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night

Star with royal beauty bright

Westward leading, still proceeding

Guide us to thy Perfect Light

The wise men followed the star until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They bought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him,

Born the King of Angels;

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

And everyone was so happy that they found the SWEET BABY JESUS (Amen), they had a great dance party singing **We Wish You a Merry Christmas.**