

a script from
skitguys.com

“Nativi-TV”

by
Tracy Wells

SYNOPSIS

Presented in several entertaining television styles, this easy-to-stage Christmas play can be performed by actors of all ages and tells the story of the birth of Jesus in a variety of ways. Perfect for in-person or virtual performances, this play will surely delight your audience.

CAST

Diane- loves a good Christmas romance but yearns for something more; female
Jim- hates Christmas romance and needs there to be something more; male

Nazareth Newlyweds (reality show)

Mary- a soon-to-be mother with a big surprise to share; female
Joseph- her husband, who has a surprise of his own; male
Gabriel- the guy with all the surprises; male or female
Announcer- male or female

On The Road (sitcom)

Mary- a soon-to-be-mother who is sick of traveling; female
Joseph- her worried husband; male

Ad #1 Camels

Reuben/Rubina- camel salesperson in Ad #1; male or female
Announcer- male or female

Making It Count (movie trailer)

John- census taker who will do anything it make it count; male
Announcer- male or female

As the Inn Fills (soap opera)

Micah- innkeeper wants to find room for everyone; male
Miriam- his wife, who has to share the bad news; female
Mary- a soon-to-be-mother who just wants a place to rest; female
Joseph- Mary's weary husband; male

Ad #2 Solomon Brothers

Solomon Brother 1- lawyer; male
Solomon Brother 2- lawyer; male
Solomon Brother 3- lawyer; male
Woman- hounded by tax collectors; female
Man- hounded by tax collectors; male
Tax Collector 1- definitely going to keep collecting taxes; male
Tax Collector 2- also definitely going to keep collecting taxes; male
Announcer- male or female

Kneel or Wheel (game show)

Chazz/Chara Fontaine- game show host; male or female

Cow- a contestant who just happens to be a cow; male or female
Pig- a contestant who just happens to be a pig; male or female
Horse- a contestant who just happens to be a horse; male or female

Angels We Have Heard on High (music video)

Angel(s)- as many as you would like to perform the song; male or female

WXMAS Bethlehem News Tonight

Roger Cummings- anchorman who loves the spotlight; male
Sascha Pierce- anchorwoman; female
Foggy Fields- meteorologist; male or female

Breaking News Story #1

Tina/Tim Jefferson- field reporter male or female
Aaron- shepherd who is shocked after being visited by angels; male
Thaddeus- another shepherd who constantly corrects Aaron; male

Ad #3 The Bucket

Beulah- She has a bucket. She wants to sell it; female
Announcer- male or female

Sports Report

Lyonel Carrington- Sports anchor with the catch phrase "I put the Lion in Lyonel" with roaring noise; male
Balthasar- wise man and camel racer; male (no lines)
Melchoir- wise man and camel racer; male (no lines)
Gaspar- wise man wise man and camel racer; male (no lines)

Breaking News Story #2

Denise/Dennis Rhodes- field reporter; male or female
Mary- the elated new mother; female
Joseph- the worried new father; male

COSTUMES

Diane, James, all news anchors and field reporters should wear modern day attire.
Bible characters should wear biblical attire.
Animals should wear animal costumes.

SET

A background of sandy desert with a night sky is center stage. Off to one side is a small living room with two comfortable chairs. The chairs face center stage, as if the scenes played out on stage are also playing out on the television. The other side is a news desk with WXMAS largely designed on the front. Behind the desk should be a large graphic that says "WXMAS, Good News" as well as a small weather map next to the graphic. Additional small set items will be required for certain scenes as indicated

below. Note that the items mentioned are the minimal requirements, and that you may choose to expand on the settings if you wish.

Living room- two comfortable chairs, a remote control, a small bowl of popcorn, a Bible

Nazareth Newlyweds- a wooden bench; a wooden bowl and spoon; optional background of a biblical home

On The Road- a large cloth bag, donkey cutout (optional); sound effect of canned laughter

Ad #1- Cardboard cutouts of camels, alpacas and llamas, or posterboards with their heads on them; if virtual, you may want digital images of these animals; sound effect of donkey braying

Movie Trailer- a wooden table, a scroll, a quill; optional background of biblical temple courtyard

Soap Opera- a wooden counter with a leather book on top and a quill; optional background of interior of biblical inn; sound effect of soap opera music

Ad #2- a wooden desk; optional background of legal office

Game show- a long, thin microphone, a set of brightly colored index cards, three brightly colored podiums with buzzers on top for contestants to stand behind; spinning prize wheel, optional game show background; sound effect of game show music

Music video- optional lighting and wind effects; instrumental music for song "Angels We Have Heard on High" presented in whatever manner you choose. Live musicians can also be added to the scene/video

Breaking News Story #1- WXMAS news desk, 2 laptops, microphone, 2 shepherd's hooks

Ad #3- a well; a bucket

Sports program- 3 camel heads on sticks with reins

Breaking News Story #2- exterior of stables, with a manger center (may also just be stacks of hay to indicate a structure; a baby doll wrapped in cloth

Notes on Costumes/Set/Technology references:

This play is a spoof and features traditional costumes and characterizations of personnel working at a news station. Costume and scene choices that are not specific to the time period were chosen deliberately to give the feel of being in a newsroom. They are optional if you would prefer to remain true to styles of clothing and furniture

of the time of Jesus's birth, but I think most audiences would appreciate and enjoy the humor. That being said, feel free to make changes to costume and set based on the needs of your community.

Notes on virtual/streamed performances:

This play format lends itself very well to a virtual format. If you would prefer to perform it virtually, you could do so by having each of the anchors seated at a desk or table. For continuity, they could cover the desk/table with a plastic tablecloth in a consistent color. You could also create a custom virtual backdrop with the "WMAS" logo to place behind your actors. Otherwise, a physical large logo could be created, or the anchors could all sit in front of a white wall or tablecloth/sheet hung up behind them. Actors in each of the individual "shows" as well as Diane and Joe could film their parts separately. Then all segments could be edited together to form one cohesive play that could be streamed.

Notes on casting:

- If you are performing this live, it's possible to double cast roles. For instance, Pig can also be double cast as one of the wise men or a shepherd, etc. Just make sure that any costumes you use for the actors playing two roles are able to change quickly.
- Mary and Joseph can remain the same throughout the play if performing live on stage.
- One option is to record the performances and edit them together. Divide the show into scenes and assign them to different families to record and perform from their own homes.

Basically, the possibilities here...well they're not endless. But there are many! Use this script to fit your event however you need to.

I hope you have as much fun performing it as I did writing it.

At start of scene, Diane and Jim are seated in the chairs in the living room. Diane munches on popcorn from the bowl she is holding while Jim holds a remote out, pointing at center stage, as if flipping through channels.

Jim: *(frustrated)* There's nothing on.

Diane: You say that every night, Jim.

Jim: How is it that we have cable plus six different streaming channels and there's nothing to watch?

Diane: You have too many choices. You need to simplify things. *(holds out her hand)* Give me the remote.

Jim: *(holding the remote close to his chest)* I don't think so, Diane! You're gonna put on one of those cheesy Christmas romances, aren't you? *(mockingly)* "Christmas under the Mistletoe" starring some has-been who was in a sitcom twenty years ago.

Diane: *(thinks)* Hmm, that does sound good...

Jim: That's not even a real movie! I just made it up. *(thinks)* Or did I?

Diane: Either way, that's not what I'm in the mood for tonight.

Jim: *(skeptically)* Then what are you in the mood for?

Diane: Something real, something heartwarming. Something to remind us of what Christmas is all about. *(holds her hand out for the remote)* The remote?

Jim: I guess. *(hands her the remote)* But I want that popcorn.

Diane: *(holding out the popcorn)* Take it. *(looks at the remote)* Now, let's see what's on tonight.

Diane holds out remote toward center stage and punches a couple of buttons. Lights down on living room and up on center stage where "Nazareth Newlyweds" is setup. Mary is stage right, stirring something in a wooden bowl with a wooden spoon. Center is Joseph, lying on a wooden bench. Gabriel is stage left. Only Mary is lit at start of scene.

Mary: *(looks up from stirring, as if already in the middle of an interview)* So there I was...sitting here, minding my own business, mixing the dough for the bread *(holds up spoon)* like I am now, and out of nowhere there was a flash of bright light and then this guy is just standing in my house!

Lights dim on Mary and come up on Gabriel.

Gabriel: I'm an angel, sent from God. What did she expect? Was I supposed to knock first?

Lights down on Gabriel and up on Mary.

Mary: Knocking would've been nice. But fine, he's an angel...I get it. So this angel...Gabriel...says to me...

Lights down on Mary and up on Gabriel.

Gabriel: I said, "Greetings favored one, the Lord is with you."

Mary: Needless to say, I was freaked out.

Gabriel: Yeah, she was definitely on edge. *(chuckles)* So I said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Listen: you will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Lights down on Mary and up on Gabriel.

Mary: That was a lot. He's lucky I heard anything after "you will become pregnant." I definitely had some questions, which he answered, and then, just like that *(snaps her fingers)* he disappeared.

Lights down on Mary and up on Gabriel.

Gabriel: Hey, sorry, what can I say? I got places to go...people to see.

Lights down on Mary and up on Gabriel.

Mary: And all I could think was, *(wide eyed)* what is Joseph going to say about all this?

Announcer: *(offstage)* Next up on, Nazareth Newlyweds...

Lights down on Mary and up on Joseph, who is laying on the bench. Gabriel stands next to him.

Gabriel: *(to Joseph)* Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Joseph: *(looking at the audience)* The Holy-what-now?

Announcer: *(offstage)* Nazareth Newlyweds will be right back after these messages.

Lights down on center and up on living room.

Jim: I'm not in the mood for a reality show right now. Too much drama.

Diane: Life is dramatic, honey. And you don't get any more dramatic than a young lady becoming pregnant with the son of God.

Jim: How about something a little more lighthearted? A sitcom maybe?

Diane: Let me see what I can find. *(holds out remote toward center stage and punches a button)*

Lights down on living room and up on center stage where "On the Road" is set up.

Mary is center stage, obviously pregnant. Joseph is a few feet closer to the wings. He holds a large bag.

Mary: Are we there yet?

The sound of canned laughter is heard.

Joseph: *(sighing)* We still have about thirty miles to go.

Mary: *(aghast)* Thirty miles! Have you seen my feet?

Joseph: No, but I'm sure you're going to show me.

Mary: They're no longer feet, Joseph, they're sausages. *(lifts a foot up in the air)* Sausages!

Joseph: *(looking at her foot)* That doesn't look right.

The sound of canned laughter is heard.

Mary: That's what happens when a pregnant woman is forced to walk nearly a hundred miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Joseph: *(still looking at her foot)* I mean, that doesn't even look like a foot anymore.

The sound of canned laughter is heard.

Mary: *(looking upward)* A hundred miles, God. Really? Maybe there was a better time to make me pregnant with your son than right before King Herod decides to do a census count?

Joseph: *(poking her foot)* It's so...spongy.

The sound of canned laughter is heard.

Mary: *(looking upward)* I get it. You're no stranger to sending your people on epic quests. Those poor Jews wandered the desert for 40 years. But I'm the mother of your son—doesn't that earn me a *little* special treatment?

Joseph: *(looking up at Mary)* We've got to get you off these feet.

Mary: *(smiles)* Now that's what I'm talking about.

The sound of canned laughter is heard as lights out on scene.

*Ad #1: **Reuben** is standing in front of a backdrop with sand dunes. The backdrop could also have pictures of camels, llamas, alpacas, etc. Optional cardboard cutouts of camels could also be present. If using a digital backdrop, price signs and other exclamations such as "Camels!" "Alpacas!", etc can be projected onto the screen. If live and in person, you could have additional actors walk on behind **Reuben** with pictures of the various animals or bright neon signs with the exclamations on them.*

Reuben: *(in over exaggerated "salesman" voice)* Need a new camel? Is it time for an upgrade? Then come on down to Camels R Us! Off Route One between the giant sand dune and the second palm tree. We've got every kind of pack animal you're looking for *(turns as picture of one hump camel is shown)* Dromedaries! *(turns to the opposite side as picture of a two-hump camel is shown)* Bactrians! *(turns to opposite side as picture of alpaca is shown)* Alpacas! *(turns to opposite side as picture of llama is shown)* Llamas! *(turns to face forward)* For those of you on a budget we even have basic model donkeys with under one hundred thousand miles! *(turns as picture of a large donkey head is brought on as the sound of donkey braying is heard)* No "scam"els here! Only top quality, low mileage camels, llamas and more! So come on down to Camels R Us for the best deals in town. Just ask for me, Reuben, and I'll make sure you leave with the pack animal of your dreams.

*The words, "Camels R Us!" flash above his head or are carried on via a sign as **Announcer** reads disclaimer. **Reuben** just smiles into camera or at audience.*

Announcer: *(offstage; said as fast as he can)* Camels R Us is not responsible for any animal malfunctions once they leave the lot, nor do they guarantee a full hump of water at time of sale. Additional sales tax will be added as determined by local tax collectors. Camels R Us is located off Route One between the giant sand dune and the second palm tree.

Lights down on Ad #1 and up on living room.

Diane: Maybe we should get a camel.

Jim: You're just saying that because of the commercial. What would you do with a camel?

Diane: I don't know.

Jim: We're not getting a camel.

Diane: We should get a hybrid model! Those are really cool and better for the environment.

Jim: *(raising an eyebrow)* Hybrid camels? That's not a real thing.

Diane: Yes, it is! *(turns to audience or camera)* It's true, kids. Look it up.

Diane points remote at center stage and hits a button. Lights down on living room and up on center stage where "Making It Count" is setup. A wooden table with a scroll on it is center. James stands behind table, miming writing on the scroll, calling people forward, asking them questions, etc, as Announcer says the next lines.

Announcer: *(dramatic)* In a world divided...where brother and sister, mother and father, first and second cousin are spread out all over the land...one man will do his part to unite them all.

John: *(looks up at audience; with intensity)* I am the census taker. *(resumes his activities)*

Announcer: *(overly dramatic)* When King Herod decreed that the people of Rome must return to the city of their forefathers to be counted, John took up the call.

John: *(as if talking to a person at his census table)* I'm going to need your name, occupation, and city of residence. *(dramatically)* And I'm going to need it now.

Announcer: Nothing could stop him from completing his mission...not the long lines...

John: *(holding up his hand)* Next!

Announcer: Not his aching muscles...

John: *(shaking his hand)* Ouch.

Announcer: Not even a broken quill.

John: *(looking at his quill, frustrated)* Not again!

John puts his hands on his hips and stares upward, majestically.

Announcer: This winter, assemble your family, journey to the theaters, and wait your turn in line for the movie masterpiece about a guy who's just trying to do his job in...Making it Count!

John: *(as if talking to a person)* Is that three e's or four in Zebedee?

Announcer: Coming to a theater near you!

Lights down on "Making it Count" and up on living room.

Jim: That movie looks awesome!

Diane: *(raising her eyebrows)* Really? And you think I'm easily persuaded by commercials?

Jim: *(shrugs)* I like what I like. I'm not going to apologize for it.

Diane: Fine with me. *(points the remote at center stage and hits a button)*

*Lights down on living room and up on center stage where "As the Inn Fills" is setup. A wooden desk is center, on which a sign hangs reading "Vacancy". On the other side of the sign it reads, "No Vacancy". A leather book is center. **Micah** stands behind it, holding a quill.*

Micah: *(to himself, as he writes in the ledger)* The carpenters are in the grey room and the famers are in the brown room. *(thinks, then writes again)* Oh yes, and the other farmers are in the dark grey room. *(looks up)* That just leaves the white room for any last minute guests.

*Miriam enters, carrying a small stack of towels as **Micah** says his last line,*

Miriam: The white room's taken.

Micah: No, it's not. *(looks down at the ledger)* It says right here that it's vacant.

Miriam: *(putting the towels on the counter)* Remember? Just before the dinner rush that nice couple with the seven children came in and requested a room. I believe they were farmers.

Micah: How could I have forgotten? These are people's lives we're talking about here.

Micah looks upward, distraught, as dramatic soap opera style music is heard.

Miriam: Everything is going to be okay, I promise. *(takes the quill from his hand and writes in the ledger)* We'll just add the guests' name to the white room and hang the no vacancy sign. No harm, no foul. *(puts the pen down)*

Micah: *(crossing around the desk and flipping to sign to read, "No Vacancy")* I just can't get over how busy we are.

Miriam: We'll have to send King Herod a thank you card for the census. Business has never been so good!

Mary and Joseph enter, looking tired.

Joseph: We'd like to rent a room.

Micah: I'm sorry, but we don't have any more rooms. *(points to sign)* We're full up.

Joseph: No more rooms? But we've already been to every inn in Bethlehem and they're all full.

Mary: There's no room at the inns!

Dramatic soap opera music is heard.

Micah: *(leaning dramatically on the counter, distraught)* Noooo! This can't be!

Joseph: *(grabbing Micah's arm)* Please, sir, you've got to help us. My wife is about to give birth any minute.

Micah: There's nothing I can do, good man. Can't you see? I would if I could but I just don't have any rooms available.

Dramatic soap opera music is heard as Miriam crosses to Micah and takes his arms, pleading.

Miriam: Dearest husband, we have to help them...we just *have* to!

Micah: *(making a fist and pounding his forehead)* Think, Micah, think!

Miriam: *(leaning in)* What about the barn out back? It's warm, it's quiet...it's—

Micah: *(aghast)* It's a barn! We can't send this poor couple out to sleep with the animals!

Dramatic soap opera music is heard.

Mary: We'll take it!

Joseph: But is that safe, Mary? Can you really have a baby in a barn?

Dramatic soap opera music is heard.

Mary: God will keep us safe. *(turns back to Micah with a smile)* Like I said, we'll take it.

Miriam: *(holds out her hand)* That'll be five shekels.

Joseph pays Miriam. Micah escorts Mary and Joseph offstage.

Micah: *(writing in ledger)* Pregnant lady and her husband...in the barn. *(looks up)* Thank you Herod! Business has never been so good!

Lights black on scene and up on Ad #2 Desk is center with scrolls behind it on a bookshelf. Name plate with "Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon is on the front of desk or flashes at the top of the screen. Solomon Brother 1 is seated behind desk. Solomon Brothers 2 and 3 stand on either side of Solomon Brother 1 with their arms crossed.

Brother 1: Are you being hounded by your local tax collector?

Brother 2: Are the Publicans knocking down your door?

Brother 3: Let the lawyers at Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon handle all your tax woes.

Woman enters or clip of Woman is shown.

Woman: I was three months behind on my tax bill with no way to pay it. Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon fought to get my payments deferred. Now I don't have to pay until next month and only have to pay a fifty-shekel penalty!

Brother 1: *(points at the audience or camera)* That's the Solomon guarantee!

Man enters or clip of Man is shown.

Man: Every time I left my house it seemed as if a tax collector was following me. No matter where I went, there he was, demanding payment. The lawyers at Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon helped stop the harassment. And it only cost me an extra six months of tax payments!

Solomon 2: *(points at the audience or camera)* That's the Solomon guarantee!

Tax Collectors enter or clip of Tax Collectors is shown.

Tax 1: The lawyers at Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon tried to stop us from collecting such high taxes.

Tax 2: They weren't successful.

Tax 1: Yeah, we're still collecting really high taxes.

Tax 2: And since you sent lawyers to mess with us, taxes are going to be even higher this month.

Brother 3: *(points at the audience or camera)* That's the Solomon guarantee!

Brother 1: *(stands)* For all your tax problems, call the lawyers at Solomon, Solomon and Solomon.

Brother 2: *(puts his back to Brother 1, with arms crossed)* We'll do everything we can to help make your tax problems disappear.

Brother 3: *(puts his back to Brother 1 with arms crossed)* And if we can't help you, we'll try not to make things worse.

Solomon Brothers: *(all pointing at the audience or camera)* That's the Solomon guarantee!

If virtual, "Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon" flashes at top of screen. Solomon Brothers keep pointing as Announcer is heard.

Announcer: A fee of twenty shekels is required to retain any legal services. Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon is not responsible for any additional tax payments that may be levied upon their clients at the end of a case. Clients of Solomon, Solomon, and Solomon should know that it is unlikely they will win any legal dispute with a Roman tax collector. *(pauses)* Come on, guys, this is Rome we're talking about.

Lights down on Ad #2 and up on living room. Jim snatches the remote from Diane.

Diane: Hey! I was watching that.

Jim: No. No way. I am not watching a soap opera.

Diane: But I wanted to see if Mary had her baby in the barn!

Jim: I'm sure you can catch it on reruns.

Diane: There are no reruns in soap operas!

Jim: Can't we just watch the news or something?

Diane: No! The news is depressing.

Jim: Then I'll find something we both like. *(hands her the bowl)* You can have the popcorn.

Diane: *(brightens)* Okay! *(eats a piece of popcorn)*

Jim points the remote at center stage and pushes a button. Lights down on living room and up on center stage where "Kneel or Wheel" is setup. Cow, Pig, and Horse each stand behind a podium with a buzzer on top. Lively game show music is heard as Announcer says his line.

Announcer: *(offstage)* Welcome back to Kneel or Wheel—the game show that asks the question, will you kneel before the coming Messiah, or will you spin the wheel of chance?

The game show music dies off.

Announcer: Tonight's contestants are three barnyard animals who find themselves unexpectedly sharing their barn with an expectant mother. Put your hands together for Cow...

Cow waves as the sound of applause is heard.

Announcer: Pig...

Pig waves as the sound of applause is heard.

Announcer: And Horse!

Horse waves as the sound of applause is heard.

Announcer: Now keep it going for the host who's never afraid to take a knee, the eternal entertainer, our host with the most *(or hostess with the mostest)*...Chazz Fontaine!

Chazz Fontaine enters, carrying a microphone and a set of index cards, waving and smiling.

Chazz: Good evening and welcome to Kneel or Wheel...the game show that asks the questions about the guy with all the answers. *(points upwards)* Are the contestants ready?

Cow, Pig and Horse each make their animal noises and nod in agreement.

Chazz: Then let's begin, hands on buzzers.

Animals put their hands over their buzzers as Chazz looks down at his cards.

Chazz: First question: In what town do the prophets say the Messiah will be born?

Cow pushes his buzzer.

Chazz: Cow—you think you have the answer?

Cow: *(nods)* Moo.

Chazz: No, it's not moo. Does anyone else have the answer?

Pig hits the buzzer.

Chazz: Pig gets the buzzer. Tell us Pig, where will the Messiah be born?
Pig: Oink.
Chazz: No, its not oink either. Horse, do you want to take a stab at it?
Horse: Neigh.
Chazz: Horse declines to answer. *(looks at his card)* The answer is Bethlehem. The prophet Micah proclaimed he would be born in Bethlehem. *(looks at animals)* I thought that would be an easy one for you guys. *(shrugs his shoulders)* Oh, well. Moving on. *(looks at card and read the next question)* In the prophecy from Isaiah, what is the sign the Lord will give us so that we might know the Messiah has come?

Pig hits the buzzer.

Chazz: Pig?
Pig: Oink.
Chazz: No, it's not oink.
Cow: *(hits the buzzer)* Moo.
Chazz: No, Cow, it's not moo. *(frustrated)* I don't understand why you guys keep giving me the same answers to every question. *(turning to Horse)* Horse, how about you?

Horse: Neigh.
Chazz: Horse declines to answer...again. *(puts the cards in his coat pocket)* Well, I guess that brings us to our final round, where the contestants have one very important choice to make. *(crosses to Cow)* Cow, when the Messiah comes, will you kneel before him?

Cow: Moo. *(steps around podium and kneels, bowing his head)*

Chazz: Very good. *(crosses to Pig)* Pig, when the Messiah comes, will you kneel before him?

Pig: Oink. *(steps around podium and kneels, bowing his head)*

Chazz: Excellent. *(crosses to Horse)* And Horse, will you also kneel before the Messiah?

Horse: Neigh. *(starts to step around podium but stops when Chazz speaks)*

Chazz: *(surprised)* The horse declines! Wow, folks, this is a shocker. Well, you know what that means—it's time for the wheel of chance! *(takes Horse's arm and pulls him over to the wheel)* Give that wheel a spin, Horse.

Horse reluctantly spins wheel.

Chazz: *(as the wheel spins)* What will the wheel decide? Come on, wheel, tell us what it's gonna be! *(Chazz looks at the wheel as it stops)* Looks like Horse will have to write the prophecies of Isaiah one hundred times!

Horse: *(holds up his hooves and looks at them)* Neigh.

Chazz: Sorry Horse, the wheel has spoken. Maybe you'll make a different choice next time on Kneel or Wheel! Thanks everyone for joining us!

Lights down on game show and up on music video. Angel(s) stand center stage as music for the song "Angels We Have Heard on High" is heard. The style of music/set is director's choice.

Angel(s): *(singing)*

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly swinging o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King

Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Lights down on music video and up on living room.

Diane: *(singing to herself)* Glooooooria, ooooooria, ooooooo-ree-ah.

Jim: *(interrupting, speaking)* In excelsis deo. Yes, we've all heard the song.

Diane: But it's such a wonderful song! I can't help but sing!

Jim: Please try.

Diane: Fine. (*crosses her arms, upset*)

Jim points the remote at center stage. The music from a nightly news program is heard.

Jim: Oh, good, the news is starting!

Diane: (*unenthusiastically*) Yay.

Lights down on living room and up on WXMAS newsroom. Roger, Sascha, and Foggy are seated at the news desk. Roger and Sascha are center and Foggy is off to one side. They all look at their notes until their names are called at which time they look up and smile.

Announcer: (*offstage*) Tonight...live from our studios in the heart of Galilee it's WXMAS, Good News Nightly, with anchorman Roger Cummings!

Pauses as Roger looks out into audience and does a greeting.

Announcer: (*offstage*) Anchorwoman, Sascha Pierce!

Pauses as Sascha looks out into the audience and does a greeting.

Announcer: (*offstage*) And he man that keeps us warm and dry, weatherman, Foggy Fields!

Pauses as Foggy looks out into the audience and does a greeting.

Announcer: (*offstage*) Today is, Sunday, December 24th and this is your Good News Tonight!

Roger: Good evening. (*looks down at notes*) Our top story tonight is the sudden appearance of a bright star over Galilee. (*looks up center or into camera*) The star, which is larger and brighter than all others in the sky appeared suddenly last night and doesn't seem to be going anywhere.

Sascha: I saw it tonight on my way to the station. It's really something!

Roger: It sure is, Sasha. (*looks down at his notes*) Local Pharisees are stunned not only by the sudden appearance of the star, but how much larger and brighter it is than any other star in the night sky. (*looks up at audience/camera*) Not much is known just yet about why the star has appeared, but rest assured WWJD Good News Nightly has reporters looking for answers.

Sasha: That's right, Roger. But for now, why don't we do a quick check of the weather? Our friendly meteorologist, Foggy Fields has tonight's predictions ready to go. Foggy?

Foggy stands in front of map, with winter hat, scarf and mittens on. The scarf covers nearly his entire face except his eyes.

Foggy: Thanks, Sasha. *(turning to look at camera or audience, muffled from the scarf)* I know it's winter and people are looking out their windows for snowflakes.

Sascha: Sorry, Foggy, but it's hard to understand you behind that scarf. It sounded like you said we should be on the lookout for glowing lakes?

Foggy: *(unwraps his mouth and chuckles)* Sorry, Sascha. What I said was, it's winter and people are on the lookout for snowflakes. *(takes off his winter gear)* But here in Galilee it very rarely snows, so put away that winter gear and pull out your shades. *(pulls out large sunglasses)*

Sascha: Are we in for some sunshine this week, Foggy?

Foggy: No sun, Sascha. *(looks upward)* But that star in the sky is really bright! *(looks at the audience/camera)* For you stargazers out there, keep your eyes focused in the northern skies, above Bethlehem. You can't miss it! *(lights down on weather map)*

Sascha: Thanks, Foggy. *(turns to audience/camera)* Now we go to field reporter, Tina Jefferson. She's standing by in a pasture outside of Bethlehem with some shepherds who became witnesses to another sudden appearance. Tina?

Lights down on station and up on Tina and Thaddeus. Tina looks at audience, holding a microphone to her mouth.

Tina: Thanks, Sascha. I'm here with Aaron and Thaddeus, two local shepherds who have just seen something extraordinary.

Aaron: Extraordinary? I'd say we saw something amazing!

Thaddeus: That's the same thing.

Aaron: What's the same thing?

Thaddeus: Extraordinary and amazing. They basically mean the same thing.

Aaron: Oh! Well then yes, we've seen something extraordinary.

Tina: Can you tell the viewers what you saw?

Aaron: Sure. We were standing right over there when out of nowhere came a bunch of angels.

Thaddeus: Actually, it was just one angel.

Aaron: I'm pretty sure I saw a whole bunch of them.

Thaddeus: That's true, but at first there was only one.

Aaron: Right. I forgot about that. So, this angel appears and says, "Don't be scared."

Thaddeus: That's not what she said. What she said was, "Do not be afraid. Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you—you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Tina: Wow, that's amazing!

Aaron: It sure was! But what really knocked my socks off was when a whole bunch of angels showed up and said—

Thaddeus: *(interrupting)* What they said was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"

Tina: What an awesome sight to behold, and what a wonderful message those angels brought to you tonight. So, what are you going to do now?

Tina puts the microphone in front of Thaddeus.

Thaddeus: As I said to Thaddeus—

Aaron: *(interrupts and steps in front of Thaddeus)* What he said was, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us." And that's just what we're going to do.

Tina: *(to Thaddeus)* Any last words?

Thaddeus: *(smiles at Aaron)* Nope. I think that about says it all.

Tina: *(turns to face audience or camera)* Back to you, Sascha.

Sasha: I guess that does say it all. What an extraordinary sight!

Roger: And what an exciting message. Speaking of exciting messages, here's one from our sponsor.

Lights black on WXMAS and up on Ad #3. A well is center or a background showing a well is used. **Beulah** stands or sits next to well, holding a bucket.

Beulah: *(monotone, holds up a bucket)* I have this bucket. I'm selling it. *(holds bucket in her lap, after a beat)* Everyone needs a bucket. *(after a beat)* I mean, how else are you going to get water from the well? *(after a beat, holds up bucket again)* Bucket. Come see me, Beulah, at this well outside Bethlehem if you want it. I'm not going to wait very long so hurry up.

Beulah stares at audience or camera, holding up bucket as **Announcer** is heard.

Announcer: Sorry guys, I don't have anything for this one. It's a bucket. What do you want me to say?

Lights down on Ad #3 and up on living room.

Jim: I think the sports report is next!

Diane: How can you think about sports after that news report? Can you imagine? A choir of angels appearing out of nowhere and proclaiming the birth of the Savior!

Jim: Can't I think that's amazing *and*/like sports at the same time?

Diane: *(chuckling)* I suppose you can, dear.

Jim: *(waving his hand at her)* Shhh! it's starting. *(points the remote at center stage)*

Lights down on living room and up on WXMAS, where **Sascha** and **Roger** are joined by **Lyonel**.

Sascha: We now hand you over to sports, where our own Lyonel "the Lion" Carrington will update you on everything happening on and off the field. *(turning to Lyonel)* Lyonel?

Lyonel: Thanks, Sascha. Now I was planning on starting this segment with scores from the underwater basket weaving competition held earlier today, but an amazing story of speed and determination has caught Galilee by storm.

Lights dim on WXMAS and come up on center where **Balthasar**, **Melchoir**, and **Gaspar** are standing facing the audience, riding their camels and holding the reins, a look of fierce determination on their faces. **Lyonel** continues his narration as they react to what he says.

Lyonel: From faraway lands, traveling many hundreds of miles, three wise kings named Balthasar, Melchoir, and Gaspar have set out on a race to meet

the Messiah. The perils they face are many, but they will not be daunted.

Roger: What kind of perils, Lyonel?

Lyonel: Oh, you know... the usual...wild beasts...

Balthasar looks to the side and is frightened.

Lyonel: Dizzying wind and sandstorms...

Melchoir starts spinning in circles, then rights himself.

Lyonel: And of course...holes.

Gaspar falls down.

Roger: Holes?

Lyonel: In the road. Camels fall into holes like the rest of us.

Sascha: So true, Lyonel, so true. Life is filled with so many holes sometimes. Holes in life we just don't understand.

Lyonel: I meant literal holes, Sascha. A camel falls in...hurts his foot...slows down the journey.

Gaspar stands up and continues to ride.

Sascha: Right. I knew that. So how do these three wise men know where to find the savior, Lyonel?

Lyonel: Apparently, they're following that bright star we saw in the sky.

Sascha: Perfect. That star is so bright it will guide them right to the Messiah.

Roger: It sure will, Sascha. But tell me, Lyonel, when will the wise men arrive at their destination?

Lyonel: No one knows, Roger, but it isn't likely to be soon. It may take them weeks or even months after his birth for the wise men to finally meet this newborn king.

Lights down on wise men and up fully on WXMAS.

Roger: *(to Lyonel)* Thank you for that exciting report, Lyonel. *(turning back to camera/audience)* We now take you to that destination, a small stable in Bethlehem, where our own Denise Rhodes is talking to the elated mother and father on the birth of their little miracle. Denise?

Lights down on WXMAS and up on center Breaking News Story #2 where manger scene is setup. Mary kneels in front of manger, holding a doll wrapped in a blanket while Joseph stands behind her. You may also have shepherds and animals present if you'd like.

Denise: Thank you, Roger. Tonight, the most wonderful thing has happened. Right here, in this modest stable, the son of God himself, the Messiah, our Savior and King has been born. His mother Mary, and earthly father Joseph are filled with joy at his birth. *(crosses to Mary)* Mary, can you tell us how you're feeling? *(puts microphone in front of Mary)*

Mary: I can hardly put it into words. *(looks down at baby)* This child is a gift from God—not only to Joseph and I, but to the entire world. What he will become, what he will do for all of us one day, I do not know, but I will do everything in my power— *(looks at Joseph)* we will do everything in our power to bring him up under the guidance of our Lord to be everything the world, and God, needs him to be.

Denise: What a wonderful blessing he is to us all. Now can you tell us, what name have you given this little bundle of Joy? *(puts the microphone in front of Joseph)*

Joseph: We have given him the name Jesus, just as God commanded us to do.

Denise: What a wonderful name for a such a special little boy.

Mary puts the doll in the manger and Joseph puts his hand on her shoulder as they gaze down at the baby. Denise turns back to the camera.

Denise: You heard it here first, the Messiah, Jesus, Son of God, has been born here, in this humble place, under this bright star. Something tells me that after tonight, our world will never be the same. *(smiles or wipes a tear from her eye)* Back to you, Roger.

Lights black on center and up on Living Room.

Diane: Why did you turn it off? You love the news.

Jim: What news could be more important than the birth of our savior, Jesus?

Diane: *(smiling)* It sounds like you found something to remind us of what Christmas is all about.

Jim: *(smiles)* I guess so.

Diane: I don't know about you, but I'm tired of watching TV. I think it's time we took a look at a good book.

Jim: *(sighs)* Don't tell me it's another one of those Christmas romances!

Diane: Nope. Something much better. *(leans over and picks up a Bible, opens it to a page and starts reading)* The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David, and the virgin's name was Mary...

Jim leans in to listen as lights fade to black.

End of play.

SCRIPT

TO

REMOVE

WATERMARK

AT

SKITGUYS.COM