

Bible Song Readers' Theater – Volume VI, Story 03

The Birth

Matthew 1:20b-23

*Show the cartoon version of the Bible story found on the theme Power Point® presentation on the CD-ROM. Click on slides as each scene takes place. Invite a different group to read every week. This is a good way to get children, youth, and families involved in “doing” ministry.**

(Slide 1)

Narrator: This is the story of The Birth of Jesus. It comes from Matthew 1:20b-23.

Voices: Matthew 1:20b-23!

Narrator: Matthew 1:20b-23.

Narrator: Joseph was shocked.

Joseph: (Sitting with face in hands, then looking up) I'm shocked. (Face in hands again)

Boys: Surprised.

Joseph: (Looking up) I'm shocked and surprised. (Face in hands again)

Girls: And confused.

Joseph: (Looking up) Did I mention I am shocked, surprised and confused? (Face in hands again)

Narrator: Mostly he was just plain sad.

Joseph: (Looking up) Mostly I am just plain sad. (Face in hands again)

Narrator: The young carpenter's fiancé had recently told him an impossible story. Even though they were not married, Mary was going to have a baby. And not just any baby.

All: She said it was God's baby!

Joseph: Can you see why I am shocked, surprised, confused and sad?

Narrator: What was he to do?

Joseph: (Rising) What am I to do?

Narrator: What was he to do?

Joseph: (Rising) What am I to do? Who's going to believe this?

Narrator: He didn't even believe this!

Joseph: I don't even believe this!

(Slide 2)

Narrator: He'd have to cancel the wedding...

Joseph: I've got to cancel the wedding...

Narrator: Return all of the presents.

Joseph: No! Not the presents!

Narrator & Joseph: And what was/am he/I going to tell his/my parents?

Narrator: Joseph made plans to end the engagement quietly. Then one night, he, too, had a visitor.

All: Joseph, son of David!

Joseph: Aaakkk! Who are you?

All: Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Narrator: All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

All: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

Joseph: Oooh... that explains everything. But not that well.

Narrator: When Joseph awoke from the dream, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded. He took Mary as his wife, but did not sleep with her until she had given birth to baby Jesus.

(Slide 3)

Narrator: In those days, the Roman emperor ordered all citizens to return to their home towns to be counted. Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem...

All: (Singing horribly out of tune) Oh, little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Narrator: To Bethlehem, the city of David, because he was a descendant of Israel’s great king.

All: (Singing horribly out of tune) Oh, little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Narrator: When they arrived, the village was full of people.

Joseph: Isn’t there any room in this whole town for a woman about to give birth?

Innkeeper: Sorry. Every room’s booked. I do have a barn out back at half price, though. Nice... clean... manure!

Mary: Aaaaah!

(Slide 4)

Narrator: That night Mary gave birth to her firstborn son.

Mary: (Screaming) Aaaaaah! Joseph! The baby’s coming.

Joseph: What?

Mary: The baby is coming!

Joseph: (takes one look and faints cold on the floor)

All: Push! Breathe! Push! Breath!

Narrator: She wrapped him snug and safe in soft cloth and laid him in a manger.

All: A what?

Narrator: A cow’s feed box.

(Slide 5)

Narrator: And in that region there were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Girls: An angel of the Lord appeared...

Boys: ...and the glory of the Lord shone all around them.

Narrator: They were filled with fear, but the angel said to them:

All: Do not be afraid! For see, I bring you wondrous news of joy to all the people! For to you is born this day in David’s town a savior, Christ the Lord! And this will be a sign to you, you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a huge choir of heavenly beings praising God:

All: (Shouting) Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God’s people on earth!

(Slide 6)

Narrator: So they went with haste...

Shepherd 1: (Running out) Who are you?

Shepherd 2: (Running out) I’m Haste.

Narrator: And they found Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in the manger, just as the angels promised.

Mary: Wow!

Narrator: The shepherds explained all they had seen and heard.

Boys: After this they returned to their sheep, praising their amazing God.

Girls: For the rest of her life, Mary kept these things in her heart, wondering about them over...

Boys: ...and over...

Girls: ...and over.

All: And the baby Jesus grew up into a fine young man.

** Reader's Theaters are in Microsoft Word format to allow you to customize characters and/or length of the skit to best fit your congregation's needs.*



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