

SCRIPT & SONG LYRICS

The scene is set with a Christmas tree to one side of the stage or on a separate stage block. This will be the Christmas lounge where the children's and grown-ups' action will take place. The rest of the stage is for the Nativity story to take place on, so a simple backdrop of Bethlehem town would be perfect.

Song 1. IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE!

CD track 1/8

- 1 It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
The presents are wrapped and they're under the tree,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
I'll never get to sleep tonight!
- 2 It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
It's snowing outside, but we're warm by the fire,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
I'll never get to sleep tonight!
- 3 It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
The stockings are hung and the food is all done,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve,
I'll never get to sleep tonight!

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CCLI Song No. 7088116

MUM Bedtime!

The children hurry on, jumping with excitement, wearing their pyjamas and carrying their teddies.



Shake bells as the children come on stage.

CHILD 1 But it's Christmas Eve!
CHILD 2 *(Yawning loudly)* I'm not tired.
CHILD 3 *(Yawning even more loudly)* I'm wide awake!
CHILD 4 Can we build a snowman?
MUM No, it's far too late.
CHILDREN Awww!
MUM How about a bedtime story?
CHILD 1 Epic!

CHILD 2 A story about princesses?
CHILD 3 Alien robots?
CHILD 4 Unicorns and rainbows?
MUM *(Holding up her big book)* It's the true story of Christmas – the Nativity.
CHILDREN Wow!
MUM It took place on this very night more than two thousand years ago.
CHILD 1 Two thousand years?
CHILD 2 Is that older than you?

OPTIONAL SCENE (to include more speaking parts)

For extra narrators' parts, an optional section follows in grey, which could also be used to include extra children (cousins) to take some of CHILD 1, 2, 3 and 4's lines throughout the rest of the play.

Dad/Uncle comes in taking his coat off. Other adult family members (Grown-up 1, 2 etc.) arrive in their Christmassy jumpers carrying lots of presents.

DAD/UNCLE Hello, what's all this?
CHILDREN Hello Auntie / Hello Uncle / Hello Granny / Hello Grandpa.
CHILD 3 Mum's telling us a story.
CHILD 4 The true story of Christmas.
DAD/UNCLE Oh yes, I know the one.
GROWN-UP 1 Can us grown-ups listen too?
GROWN-UP 2 We could help you tell it.
GROWN-UP 3 The Nativity is my favourite.
GROWN-UP 4 Mine too.

End of optional scene. The 'Mum' narrator part can now be split between the Mum and the grown-ups.

MUM Come on, gather round the fire.

Child 1 goes off and comes back with a tray of Christmassy mugs. The family settles down at one side of the stage or on a separate stage block to the side of the stage, with blankets and cushions, looking cosy and Christmassy. Most of the stage should be free for the Nativity story to take place on, which the family doesn't interact with, but just narrates and comments on.

MUM Is everyone snuggled? Good, then let's begin.

Mum opens the book and starts to read. Mary comes onstage.

MUM Long, long ago there lived a young woman and her name was Mary. The Angel Gabriel, who was God's messenger, appeared to her one day.

ANGEL GABRIEL Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favour with God.

MUM The Angel Gabriel told her she would have a baby boy and He would be the Son of God.

ANGEL GABRIEL He will be called Jesus. He will be great.

The Angel Gabriel and Mary leave the stage.

MUM Many months passed until it was time for Mary to have her baby.

Joseph comes onstage with Mary and the donkey. They stand to one side.

MUM Now at that time a man called Caesar was in charge. He was a mighty leader, ruling over thousands of people.



Four loud drumbeats as Caesar struts on.

CAESAR *(Pointing at the audience)* I am the boss of you!

MUM Everybody did what Caesar said, so when he called for a census so that everyone could be counted, everyone did what they were told at once.

CAESAR Everyone must be counted!



Four more loud drumbeats as Caesar leaves the stage.

MUM Every single person had to return to the place that they'd been born in to be counted. Poor Mary was about to have her baby and the journey was hot, dusty and exhausting. Travelling by donkey isn't exactly fast.

Mary, Joseph and the donkey come centre stage, or just in front of the stage, for the following song.

Song 2. IT'S A LONG, LONG WAY

CD track 2/9

It's a long, long way
On a dusty road,
They are travelling many, many miles.
It's a long, long way
On a dusty road
And poor Mary is very tired.

INSTRUMENTAL

It's a long, long way
On a dusty road,
They are travelling many, many miles.
It's a long, long way
On a dusty road
And poor Mary is very tired.

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MARY How much further is it?
JOSEPH We are nearly there Mary.
CHILD 1 Wait, wait, wait!
MUM Yes?
CHILD 2 *(With a scratch of the head)* A donkey?
CHILD 3 I'd go by car.
CHILD 4 I'd fly premium economy. Whoosh!
MUM There weren't any cars or planes or trains back then.

The citizens of Bethlehem, the census takers, the travellers and the Roman soldiers come onstage.

MUM After many days they arrived in Bethlehem, which was crowded with people.
CITIZEN 1 Madness.
CITIZEN 2 Travel chaos.
CITIZEN 3 *(Looking bothered)* Oh the crowds!
CITIZEN 4 *(Wiping forehead)* Oh the heat!
ROMAN SOLDIER 1 This way.
ROMAN SOLDIER 2 Line up.
ROMAN SOLDIER 3 No pushing in!
ROMAN SOLDIER 4 Come and be counted.
CENSUS TAKER 1 One, two...
CENSUS TAKER 2 Three, four...
CENSUS TAKER 3 Eleven, twenty...

They slap their foreheads and shake their heads.

CENSUS TAKER 4 Start again!
MUM Mary and Joseph were worried. Where would they find a place to sleep? They went to every inn in town, but the answer was always the same.

The innkeepers run on stage and form a line.

INNKEEPERS No room at the inn!
CHEEKY INNKEEPER *(Folding arms and stamping foot)* So there!

Citizens and travellers

It's busy, busy, busy in Bethlehem today,
It's busy, busy, busy and there's nowhere to stay,
We've knock, knock, knocked on every inn door,
But there's no room,

Innkeepers (spoken)

There's no room!

Citizens and travellers

There's no room for any more.

CHORUS *It's a squash, it's a squeeze,
Everywhere is busy.
It's a squash, it's a squeeze,
Everywhere is full!*

Repeat verse

CHORUS x 2

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Mary and Joseph go down the line of innkeepers and stop at the innkeeper at the end of the line.

LAST INNKEEPER I have a stable you could stay in.

MARY & JOSEPH Thank you!

They all leave the stage.

MUM Mary and Joseph must have been very grateful. After all, a stable was better than nothing. They settled down for the night with the animals and there, in that lowly stable, a king was born, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mary comes on cradling the baby Jesus. Joseph and Mary stand/sit to one side.

CHILD 1 Wait, wait, wait.

CHILD 2 Here we go again.

CHILD 1 A stable?

CHILD 3 That's strange. Kings aren't born in stables.

CHILD 4 Why wasn't it a palace?

MUM It's not strange at all. In fact I think it's rather wonderful.

CHILD 1 Is that the end of the story?

MUM Not at all.

Mary and Joseph leave.