THE MESSAGE

An Intergenerational Interactive Christmas Play
by Deanna Campbell, Church Educator, September, 1999
Adapted with permission by Dorothy Henderson (former Associate Secretary,
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Preparation

Recruit characters: Narrator, prophet, angels, Mary, Joseph, innkeeper,
shepherds, wise men.
Gather props: star, manger, doll wrapped in cloth, gifts for wise men, shepherd
staff (a cane), simple costumes (ties, scarves, shawls, sashes, paper, crown, head
bands, etc.)
Prepare prompt cards: The congregation may be prompted to speak by having
one or two people hold prompt cards.

Narrator: This is the story of how God came to live among us. This is the story
about the birth of Jesus. Many, many years ago before Jesus was born, God sent
a prophet. Here comes the prophet!

Congregation: Who is the prophet?

Prophet: (enters) I am the prophet.

Narrator: The prophet had a message.

Congregation: What was the message?

Narrator: “A young woman, called a virgin, will have a baby boy. He will be called
‘Immanuel.’” Many years after the prophet, God sent an angel. Here comes the
angel!

Congregation: Who is the angel?

Angel: (enters) I am the angel.
**Narrator:** The angel had a message.

**Congregation:** What was the message?

**Narrator:** The message was sent to a young woman called Mary. The message said, “You are a very special young woman, Mary. You are going to have a baby boy. You are going to call him Jesus. Jesus will show us the very nature of God.” Here comes Mary!

**Congregation:** Who is Mary?

**Mary:** (enters) I am Mary.

**Narrator:** Mary had a message.

**Narrator:** Mary said, “How can this be? I am a virgin.” The angel told Mary God’s plan. Mary finished her message. “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be as you said.” After that, God sent another angel. Here comes the angel!

**Congregation:** Who is the angel?

**Angel:** (enters) I am the angel!

**Narrator:** The angel has a message.

**Congregation:** What was the message!

**Narrator:** The message was sent to a man named Joseph. The message was, “Joseph, do not be afraid. Take Mary to be your wife. She is going to have a baby boy and his name will be Jesus because he will be a saviour.” Here comes Joseph.

**Congregation:** Who is Joseph?

**Joseph:** (enters) I am Joseph!

**Narrator:** Joseph had a message.

**Congregation:** What was the message?
Narrator: Joseph’s message was that he obeyed God. He took Mary to be his wife. He knew they would call the baby Jesus just as God had said. Now it is time for Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem to tell how many people there were in their family. When they were in Bethlehem it was time for Mary to have her baby boy. They went to an inn, knocked, and the innkeeper came to the door. Here comes the innkeeper.

Congregation: Who is the innkeeper?

Innkeeper (enters): I am the innkeeper.

Narrator: The innkeeper had a message.

Congregation: What was the message?

Narrator: The message was, “There is no room for you in my inn, but I have a barn where the animals stay. You can stay there with them.” Mary and Joseph did stay there. Baby Jesus was born. He was wrapped in pieces of cloth and laid in a manger. That night, God sent angels to some shepherds who were taking care of their sheep. Here come the angels!

Congregation: Who are the angels?

Angels: (enter) We are the angels!

Narrator: The angels had a message.

Congregation: What was the message?

Narrator: The message was, “Do not be afraid. I have great news for you. Today a Saviour is born. He is Christ the Lord. You will find him in a manger, wrapped in pieces of cloth.” The angels sent the shepherds to Bethlehem. Here come the shepherds!

Congregation: Who are the shepherds?

Shepherds: (enter) We are the shepherds!
Narrator: The shepherds had a message.

Congregation: What was the message?

Narrator: The message of the shepherds was telling everyone they saw about the birth of the baby Jesus. They glorified and praised God! Later, the mean King Herod sent some wise men to see Jesus because King Herod wanted to hurt Jesus. Here come the wise men!

Congregation: Who are the wise men?

Wise men: (enter) We are the wise men!

Narrator: The wise men had a message.

Congregation: What was the message?

Narrator: The message of the wise men was one of great joy! They bowed before Jesus and each gave him a gift. One gave him gold (offer gift), one gave incense (offer gift), and one gave myrrh (offer gift). God has a message.

Congregation: What is God’s message?

Narrator: God’s message is this: I will come and live among you. I will come to earth as a baby. I will grow to be a man. I will show you about a new kingdom – the kingdom of Heaven. I will be with you always, even to the end of time.