

A Christmas Dream

(An intergenerational presentation to adapt for your congregation)



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Preparation:

One month before play

- Prepare a slide show or PowerPoint presentation of Luke 2: 1-14. Film children, youth and adults in costume and, if possible, at a farm or petting zoo
- Gather an intergenerational group to practice as carolers
- Recruit two or three people to gather props and create a set
- Advertise widely
- Recruit "Pops" and radio announcer
- Recruit a song leader/pianist for the ending carol sing; find carol sheets.

Two weeks before play

- Rehearse twice this week and next.

Enjoy!

Scene 1

Bring up lights in a living room. Foreground centre: sofa table with radio, framed photos, Christmas nick-knacks, Bible. Foreground right: armchair. Background centre: large window, coffee table with small Christmas tree, small gifts around the tree, floor lamp, couple of chairs.

Pops is standing, looking out the window and listening to radio broadcast.

Radio Announcer: That was *Im Dreaming of a White Christmas by The Carpenters*, and you're listening to the sounds of the season here on (*insert name of local radio station*). And if you were dreaming of a white Christmas, your dream is certainly coming true. There's a severe winter storm warning in effect for (*insert your regional name*). The forecast calls for continuing snow, with accumulation of up to thirty centimetres overnight, with high winds and localized snow squalls throughout the region. The (*insert name of your police force*) reports that Highway (*insert local highway number*) is closed from (*insert nearby community*) to (*insert another community*). Police are advising everyone to stay off the roads and highways. Sounds like a good night to stay inside and sip some eggnog by a roaring fire. We continue with the sounds of the season on (*name of local radio station*) with (*name of song*) by (*name of singer*).

Pop sighs and shakes head, turns off radio. Goes to his little Christmas tree and puts a few more decorations on, puts away the ornament box and tidies gifts around the tree. He sighs again.

He picks up and looks at a picture of his late wife, Martha. He begins to talk to it.

Pops: Well, Martha, I guess the kids might not make it this year on account of the big storm. (*Shakes his head.*) People today are soft! Remember the winter of '47? Now that was a real winter! I remember the children walking to school on those high snow banks. (*Chuckles.*) Not a hill to be found in (*insert name of township*) but they sledded for weeks on those snow banks! (*Sighs.*) What a time they had. (*He puts the picture back in its place and slowly walks over to the window and takes another look outside.*)

Pops: (*Sits in arm chair.*) Well, I might as well get comfortable. I don't think the kids will make it tonight. I guess I'll just listen to a little more radio. (*Turns on radio to hear "O Little Town of Bethlehem."*) That carol always puts me in mind of Sunday school. We used to sing that song and play act the Nativity story. (*Reaches for Bible.*) Here it is ... (*Begins to read the narrative from Luke*). Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ... *yawn*... And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city. And Joseph ... *yawn*... also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house ... *yawn*... and family of David, in order to register, along with Mary who was engaged to him, and was with child.

Yep. That's the same story we learned in Sunday school, and here I am all these years later. It still moves me. (*Stretches on in chair.*) I can almost see my chums dressed in their dad's bathrobes trying (*yawn*) to look like shepherds. (*Gets comfortable, closes eyes, falls asleep, snoring quietly. Light slowly dim.*)

[Slide show/PowerPoint presentation begins with radio announcer reading scripture]

Slide Show/PowerPoint Presentation

- Slide 1: (Luke 2:4) Joseph traveling
- Slide 2: (Luke 2:5) Mary and Joseph traveling
- Slide 3: (Luke 2: 6 & 7) Mary and Joseph with baby
- Slide 4: (Luke 2: 8) Shepherds with sheep
- Slide 5: (Luke 2:9) Angel
- Slide 6: (Luke 2:10 & 11) Angel speaking to shepherds
- Slide 7: (Luke 2: 12) Baby in manger
- Slide 8: (Luke 2:13 & 14) Several angels
- Slide 9: (Luke 2: 15) Shepherds talking to each other
- Slide 10: (Luke 2:16) Shepherds kneeling by Mary, Joseph and baby
- Slide 11: (Luke 2: 17 & 18) Shepherds telling others
- Slide 12: (Luke 2: 19) Mary looking pensive or looking down at baby
- Slide 13: (Luke 2: 20) Shepherds smiling, walking

Scene 2

When slides are over, lights on stage slowly brighten. Pops still asleep in his chair.

Pops: I must have dozed off. Boy, what a dream I had. It was like I was right there in the stable with the shepherds, wise men and the holy family. (*Rises from chair, listens to radio.*)

Radio Announcer: That was (*name of singer*) with (*name of song*), here on (*name of radio station*) with the sounds of the season. Well, good news for travelers! That severe winter storm warning has been called off. The revised weather forecast calls for flurries tapering off this evening. Area (*name of police force*) report that snowplows are catching up to the accumulation and all the highways are now open. The news is next on (*name of radio station*).



Pops: (*Turns off radio*). Well, that's good news. (*Carollers begin singing very softly back stage—Silent Night*). Snow is nice at Christmas, but there is such a thing as too much!

Pops: (*Pauses. Looks around.*) What's this I hear? Where's that music coming from? (*Gets up and looks out the window.*) Christmas carolers! (*Crosses to stage left and makes motion to open door. Singing gets louder.*)



Pops: (*excitedly*) You're here! Come on in! Come in from the cold!

Carollers shout "Merry Christmas, Dad! Merry Christmas, Pops!" and come onto stage to hug and greet Pops. Take off coats and carry gifts to tree. Pops continues to be delighted, laughing and embracing them.

Cast turns to audience, hand in hand, take a bow.

Begin a carol sing.