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November 2009

## The boy-child of Mary

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EQUIPPING FOR . . . Children & Youth



An easy-to-use Christmas program for a few children, a few youth/adults and a choir.

That boy-child of Mary, a lovely, lilting carol in *The Book of Praise* (#155), forms the basis of this short program.

### Scene One

*A small group of children - perhaps an adult, too - are finishing up wrapping Christmas gifts.*

**Voice 1:** It's almost Christmas day and things are nearly ready.

**Voice 2:** Wait! There is something that

we've forgotten to do!

**All others:** What? What's that?

**Voice 2:** We forgot to set up the manger scene - the crèche.

*As the group gathers around a manger, they begin to unwrap figures that are part of the crèche scene - shepherds, manger, Mary, Joseph, wise men, etc. As the group is setting up the manger scene - on a table where everyone can see - the choir or congregation quietly sings verses 1 and 2 of That boy-child of Mary.*

*One member of the group very carefully holds up the baby Jesus and adds him into the scene, as the narrator speaks quietly.*

**Narrator:** You have to be very careful with babies. My cousin had a new baby recently and I noticed that you have to be very careful picking her up and looking after her.

*The narrator pauses as the group settles down, some standing, some sitting. Then the narrator continues.*

**Narrator:** My cousin had a very hard time finding just the right name for her baby. In the end, she called her Anna. It's a pretty name, don't you think? It means "grace and favour." I wonder if Mary and Joseph had a hard time choosing a name for Jesus.

*(Narrator picks up Bible and thumbs slowly through to a marked page, Mt. 1:20b-21, and reads.)* "An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, 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.'" Mmmm...it seems that it was God who named the baby Jesus.

**Voice 1:** Do you know what the name Jesus means?

**Narrator:** Yes! It says right here. *(Points to Bible.)* God is with us.

*Group voices murmur, "God is with us," several times. The choir or congregation sings again, more robustly, verse 2 of That boy-child of Mary.*

## Scene Two

All group members move to the side while two children stay behind. They pick up some gifts and carefully examine them, shaking them gently. The music of That boy-child of Mary is quietly playing in the background.

**Narrator:** (Name of child 1) and (name of child 2) are wondering: What is this amazing gift that they will receive this Christmas? (Name of child 1) and (name of child 2) are learning, too, that God has given the most amazing gift of all - the gift of a saviour. God loves us so much and wants so much to be close to us that God came as Jesus to live among us. Through faith in Jesus Christ we experience the presence of God. Now, that's a present!

*The choir or congregation sings verses 3 and 4 of That boy-child of Mary.*

## Scene Three

**Voice 1:** Do you have your Christmas shopping done?

**Voice 2:** I didn't do much shopping this year, but I am ready for Christmas.

**Narrator:** If I asked you, "What did you get for Christmas last year?" would you remember? Christmas gifts are wonderful, but even more wonderful are the things that last forever - gathering with people we love, doing a kind deed for others, enjoying God's love. (Name of child 1) and (name of child 2) are learning that there really is one central reason for this season. It is to celebrate the gift of the Christ child, the birth of the boy-child of Mary. And so we gather in church to light candles and sing about Jesus' birth. *(Older members of group light some candles around the crèche.)* We gather to pray and thank God for the gift of the child in the manger.

*The choir or congregation sings verses 5 and 6 of That boy-child of Mary.*

## Ideas that can expand this program

- Sing carols prior to the program. Good choices for children are Away in a manger (#149); Go, tell it on the mountain (#133); Jesus, our brother, kind and good (#150); Joy to the world (#153); Silent Night (#154).
- Lay out a long sheet of white paper table cloth and, in an intergenerational group, paint a big sign – Jesus is the reason for the season. Post it in your church.
- Gather together to make cookies. Package some on paper plates to take to share with others. Enjoy some together.
- Plan a visit to a nursing home and do this short program there.
- Gather and wrap gifts for families who are experiencing a difficult Christmas season.