

WINGIN' IT

by Faye Spieker



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Wingin' It

An interactive family evening
of drama and games

by Faye Spieker

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

SARAH — Stable girl, teen
HEROD — Male
REBEKAH — Innkeeper's wife, female
INNKEEPER — Male
SHEPHERD BOY — Middle-schooler or teen
BALTHAZAR — Wise man, older male
CASPAR — Wise man, young male
MELCHIOR — Wise man, male
ANNA — Prophetess, female
MARY — Mother of Jesus, female
TRINA — Female angel
ARIEL — Female angel
GABRIEL — Male angel

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PRODUCTION NOTES

SYNOPSIS: Guests enter the “Bethlehem Inn” where every table has a game drawn on butcher paper or a craft to complete. After playing a game or making a craft, all enjoy a slice of angel food cake with their choice of toppings. While the guests are eating their dessert, costumed biblical characters visit each table to tell their stories of how they experienced a divine moment in time on that first Christmas. Although they hadn’t had time to prepare for it, each made a decision to choose sacrifice or complacency. This is followed by a drama featuring three angels who reminisce about their experiences on the night Jesus came down from heaven.

SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-5, Luke 2:8-18, 28-38, Matthew 1:18-2:12, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 5:14.

COSTUMES: Biblical robes, white angel costumes, short string of battery-powered white Christmas lights for Ariel to wear, and wise men dressed as royalty.

PROPS: Halo for Ariel and either balls for juggling or a magic trick for Balthazar.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES: Game supplies as listed on pages iii-v with small candy canes or mints for prizes (optional: Use small Christmas-themed gift prizes in addition to candy), dessert ingredients as listed on page iii, and small candles for audience’s candle-lighting at the conclusion of the program.

SETTING: An inn with heaven displayed on the stage. The “inn” is set up with round or rectangular tables where guests may sit. Tables have butcher paper taped to the tops with games drawn and glued onto the paper. Heaven is depicted on the stage with tulle and white Christmas lights. Make three wooden boxes, large, medium, and small, for angel actors. Leave bottom end open and make top wide enough to stand or sit on. The medium box is Upstage Right of center. The small box is center. The large box is Downstage Left of center. Three music stands are needed to hold the angels’ scripts, one before each box, a small table at Upstage Center holds a three-pronged candle holder stand, with center candle higher than side candles. You will need three white candles for the holder and a shorter one to be placed in front of holder. When lit, the flames form a cross.

MUSIC: Your choice of musical instruments to play Christmas carols at closing. Optional: Have guitarist and/or chimes on stage to play improvisational riffs to accentuate story segues. CD of recorded music. If using “Go Light the World,” it is on Chris Rice’s CD, *Carry the Light*.

LIGHTS: Stage lights and white Christmas lights on the stage.

DESSERT: Angel food cake with a variety of toppings, such as strawberries, blueberries, cookie crumbles, whipped cream, chocolate and other flavored syrups, and chopped nuts. Basically, any kind of topping you might put on ice cream is fair game, and ice cream itself may be a topping.

DIRECTOR’S TIPS: If actors have difficulty memorizing their monologues, allow them to read from a handwritten paper scroll. The Innkeeper is the emcee for the evening to welcome and give instructions for how the evening should proceed. Use a buffet table to serve food: toppings, plated angel food cake, and drinks. Have craft helpers carry baskets to pick up game pieces at end of game time. Angels read Scripture portions from their music stands. The flashback portions are animated and Scripture readings more formal, but both need to be done with energy and power.

GAMES

To accommodate everyone who wants to play in the time provided, make each game twice and provide two tables. Example: If you choose six games to make, you would have twelve game tables. For each of the game, crafting, and puzzle tables, cut brown butcher paper to fit the size of the tables. After drawing the games on the paper, place them on tabletops and affix with packing tape.

A Wise Man’s Journey

Supplies: Brown butcher paper; prizes or candy; copy of game-playing directions; pictures of stable scene and three wise men; construction or scrapbooking paper, including but not limited to the colors gold, red, blue, and purple; glue; colored, clear decorative stones; scissors; black permanent marker; two game die.

Setup: Glue a picture of a stable scene on one end of the table’s butcher paper. Glue a picture of three wise men on the opposite side. Cut colored paper into two-inch squares. You will need enough squares to

glue a serpentine path from the wise men to the Nativity. Using a black permanent marker, draw crowns, stars, and shepherd's crooks on the flat side of colored, clear decorative stones. The image will show through to the top. Place these on tables for game pieces, along with two die. Attach playing directions to the butcher paper and affix to tabletops.

A Wise Man's Journey Playing Directions

Take a stone marker and begin at the wise men. Try to make your way to the Nativity by throwing the die to move forward. If you land on the colors below, follow these instructions:

- Gold — Move forward three and take three pieces of candy.
- Red — Move forward two places and take two pieces of candy.
- Purple — Move forward one place and take one piece of candy.
- Blue — Go back one place.

All who reach the Nativity win! Take one prize.

Star Hop

Supplies: Brown and blue butcher paper, candy or prizes, a copy of the game-playing directions, marker, yellow construction paper or glittery craft foam, glue, tiddlywinks or buttons of the same size, and star stickers.

Setup: Glue a two-foot circular area of blue butcher paper into center of the brown paper that covers the table. Cut five three- to six-inch stars out of construction paper or glittery craft foam. Print a number on top of each star. This number indicates how many candy pieces or prizes are won for reaching it. Glue these onto blue field. Buy tiddlywinks from online store, or obtain tiddlywinks-sized buttons. Place star stickers on the tiddlywinks. Attach game-playing directions to paper-covered tabletop.

Star Hop Playing Directions

- Take four shots to reach a star.
- After four tries, go back to start, at the edge of table.
- The number on each star corresponds to how many pieces of candy you receive.

Shepherd's Shuffle

Supplies: Brown butcher paper, miniature candy canes, copy of game-playing directions, four-inch-high picture of a shepherd (or Nativity set figurine), markers in various colors, twelve cotton balls, six quarter-sized stones.

Setup: Draw or paste a picture of a four-inch-high shepherd in the center of the butcher paper. Draw a fence around the shepherd that is approximately two feet in diameter. Color this inside area with blades of grass and dirt. Take twelve cotton balls and puff out a head on one end and a little tail on the other. Use a black marker to dab on eyes, ears, a nose on the head and legs on the bodies. Collect six quarter-sized stones. Place sheep on table around the outside of the fence. Attach a copy of the game-playing directions to the paper-covered tabletop.

Playing Directions for Shepherd's Shuffle

- Slide stone to shuffle the sheep into sheep pen.
- Each penned sheep is worth a small candy cane.

Puzzle Table

Supplies: Brown butcher paper, candy or prizes, copy of directions, 25-piece puzzle of the Nativity.

Setup: Place puzzle box cover with finished picture on the table. Spread out the puzzle pieces on the table. Attach a copy of the playing directions to the table.

Puzzle Playing Directions

For every five pieces the group puts together, they receive a small candy cane or mint.

CRAFT TABLE

(One or more tables depending on audience size.)

Supplies: Shiny or Christmas-themed beads, small bells, glitzy chenille stems, white or brown craft paper gift bags, Nativity stickers or craft foam stickers, markers, Christmas-themed stamps, extra-strength glue sticks, scissors, and red, green, and white paper.

Setup: Cut the red, green, and white paper in four-inch by one-inch strips. Place the craft materials on the table with a copy of the directions for that particular craft and possibly a sample finished project.

Directions for Crafts

- Beads and Baubles — String shiny or Christmas-themed beads and small bells onto glitzy chenille stems. Twist stems into Christmas bracelets.
- Christmas in the Bag — Decorate white or brown craft paper gift

bags with Nativity stickers or craft foam stickers. Markers or Christmas-themed stamps may be used as well.

- Christmas Chains — Make decorative chains with the strips of red, green, and white paper. Turn first strip into a looped circle and glue ends with extra-strength glue stick. Insert next strip into the first circle and make a second loop. Continue until desired length. Chains may be used in Advent to count down to Christmas or for decorating Christmas trees.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:00 — Costumes on.

5:45 — Prayer and get into character.

6:00 — Innkeeper welcomes guests at the door. Rest of characters help usher in guests. Stay in character, but don't reveal who you are, unless you are Herod and the Wise Men. Guests arrive and may sit at any table they wish to begin crafting/playing.

6:25 — At signal from director, Craft Helpers warn tables that the games end in five minutes. Innkeeper announces that all must take a seat if they haven't already. Craft Helpers pick up game pieces from all tables.

6:30 — Innkeeper welcomes guests and dispenses any helpful instructions on moving through the angel food cake bar. Guests get their dessert. (Optional: Craft Helpers pass out quiet crafts after children finish their cake, like paper bags with decorative touches such as Nativity stickers, crayons, and ornament craft foam stickers.)

7:00 — Character monologues. The biblical characters make the rounds, visiting tables and delivering their monologues as the guests enjoy their dessert.

7:30 — (Or when most have finished eating) *The Angels Remember* drama begins after being introduced by Innkeeper.

7:50 — Candle-lighting and carols.

8:00 — Innkeeper closes with prayer.

(CRAFT HELPERS pick up game pieces from tables about five minutes before time to serve angel food cake.)

INNKEEPER: Welcome one and all to my inn! This inn, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, is very special. In this establishment I have welcomed both paupers and kings, sinners and saints. Tonight you will have the opportunity to meet persons who are the threads of a tapestry that tell a story which will take a lifetime to complete. Have an intimate talk with the ones who have experienced divine moments and, though they didn't exactly have a blueprint for how to deal with the extraordinary experience of Jesus' birth, they did not turn their backs from the challenge, like others who allowed selfish egos and blind ambition to lead them into the darkest of depravity.

Our dessert tonight comes from a recipe of unknown origin, the flavor sweet with a touch of innocence, the texture light yet firm in its structure, not yielding to messy crumbings. We have given it the name of "angel's food." You may each give your serving a personality of flavor by adding individual toppings that will create distinctive taste pleasures. As you are finishing your treat, please welcome some special travelers to your table. These honored guests will explain their part in the beginning of a story that is still being played out in your modern world. *(Guests go through the angel food cake line. MONOLOGUE CHARACTERS go one at a time to a table to tell their story as the guests enjoy their dessert, then go on to next available table. There is no need to visit every table.)*

CHARACTER MONOLOGUES

REBEKAH: Greetings, and welcome to our inn. I am Rebekah, the Innkeeper's wife. Crowded tonight, isn't it? But not as crowded as the night the young couple came to our inn's door. We had people sleeping everywhere! Even the eating area had an old man

1 sleeping under the table.

2 I remember being so exhausted that I didn't have
3 enough strength to make certain everyone had towels
4 to wash their feet. We were short on blankets and, of
5 course, my husband couldn't keep the records straight
6 and double-booked two rooms.

7 By sunset, I finally had all the guests in their beds.
8 With the old man snoring like an oxen, we could barely
9 hear a timid knock at the door. My husband gave me a
10 weary look, picked up the last lit candle, and made his
11 way to the door.

12 There in the darkness huddled two young people. A
13 donkey stood behind them with his head drooped to the
14 ground. I heard them ask for a room.

15 I shook my head in an emphatic no as my husband
16 said, "I'm sorry, there is no room." But the young man
17 persevered. He asked again, this time adding that the
18 woman was about to give birth.

19 I groaned. Oh yes, I did! I wanted to shout at them,
20 "No! We just can't. We have no room! None!"

21 But my dear husband, who feels compassion even
22 when we have nothing to give, stepped back from the
23 door to catch my eye. I knew that look — tender,
24 pleading, as if I could will a place for her to lie down.

25 He mouthed words to me. (*Stage whisper, exaggerated*
26 *mouth*) "The stable?"

27 I sighed with frustration and resignation, then
28 nodded yes. He told the grateful couple that he would
29 make a place for them.

30 That night we heard the triumphant cry of new life
31 ring out into the dark sky. If it had been up to me, we
32 would have missed out. God had an honor like no other
33 ready for this lowly inn. My husband said yes to more
34 work, to another mouth to feed, and to a moment of
35 divine intervention like no other.

36
37 MELCHIOR: Good evening. My name is Melchior. I am a
38 wise man of royal descent. I would like to share one of

1 the most amazing experiences of my life. While
2 stargazing one night, I discovered that a new star
3 burned in the heavens. I searched the ancient writings
4 and learned that this was a sign of a coming King. Not
5 just any royalty, but one that would rule all of
6 humanity.

7 My first thought was to leave immediately to see this
8 King, so I could welcome the child. But my second
9 thought came when my joints caused me to cry out in
10 pain as I jumped off my stool to pack. How could I go? I
11 was too old to make such a long and difficult journey.
12 Just packing the camel would exhaust me.

13 That night I sat out under the sky, staring at the
14 bright orb. I would let younger souls make the journey
15 and bring back their stories. I have served my time.
16 Done with adventures and foolish quests, I desired only
17 the comfort of my own bed and the safety of home.

18 The next evening my younger apprentices packed
19 the camels and prepared to leave on my behalf. I
20 gathered a present made of the purest gold from my
21 treasury. As the star glowed brilliantly in the sky above,
22 I held the treasured metal in my hands. Gold
23 represented immortality, purity, divinity, and kingship.
24 A fire began to burn in my heart to see this amazing
25 King who was sent by God — who *was* God. That's when
26 I knew I had a decision to make. I could choose to be
27 safe, or I could choose to risk hardship, and in the
28 process, live fully until I die.

29 I chose the journey. I met other wise men along the
30 way. It took years of bone-weary travel and sights I will
31 never forget. But the grandest of all was the baby, now
32 almost a child. I had the privilege of seeing in person
33 the Savior to the whole world. Do not misunderstand —
34 it was not easy, nor did my pain go away, but it was
35 every bit worth the trip!

36
37 **BALTHAZAR:** Would you care to see an amazing feat that I
38 learned on my travels? (*If possible, BALTHAZAR should*

juggle or perform a magic trick.) My name is Balthazar, a wise man and of royal lineage. Would you allow me to tell you my story? Inside the ancient Scriptures that I often studied, I found a prophecy that foretold the coming of a brilliant star announcing the birth of a distant king. So when the star appeared in the sky, I knew what it meant. I set out to find this king, and along the way I joined other wise men that sought this child.

I didn't hesitate on my journey to see this divine king. Nothing could have held me back. I left wealth, family, friends, and comfort without a second thought. I felt that if I ever encountered trouble, then the God who sent his Son would help me. And I definitely felt a power helping us and guiding us away from trouble.

One of those times was when we became lost and had to ask directions. Now *that* was humbling. We went to the largest palace we could find, thinking either the king was being born there, or they would know where to find him.

Instead, we encountered King Herod. Only later did we learn how devious and ruthless a ruler he was. When we told him about the baby, King of the Jews, I thought he would burst a blood vessel. The one in his forehead throbbed like a Roman drum. He asked his counselors. They affirmed the Scriptures, but when they didn't have an answer as to where this child was, Herod changed his tone. Now he tried to seem interested and wanted to worship this king as well. He told us that if we found the child, we should come back to tell him where he was. He apparently wanted to honor the event.

But after we left, God sent us a dream that told us not to go back to Herod, but instead to go home a completely different way. I know that was the God of all creation protecting us, and the baby too.

I'm not saying God took every difficulty out of our way. Sometimes he gave us the strength to go right

1 through what seemed more than we could take. But
2 there was always a mighty presence that drew us
3 forward to our goal.

4 The royal gift I brought to honor him was
5 frankincense. This is a dried resin of the boswellia tree
6 and is used for perfume and incense for the temple
7 worship. It represents the prayers of the people and
8 sacrifice. A fitting tribute, no?

9
10 CASPAR: Hello. My name is Caspar, one of the kings that
11 traveled to see the Christ child. I am the youngest of the
12 wise men. Too young to make such a journey, you say?
13 That's what my parents said.

14 "But you are so young!" they cried out to me. Yes, but
15 others my age had already gone into battle.

16 "But you have so much here, so many wonderful
17 treasures and comforts," my friends tried to convince
18 me. Yes, but what value is that to me if I miss a
19 God-given appointment?

20 "But you will miss your family and friends," everyone
21 said to me. Yes, that was the most difficult thing of all.
22 I dearly loved each one. I knew the trip would be long,
23 if I came back at all. It pulled at my heart and gave me
24 the strength to set out to unknown places.

25 When Balthazar, Melchior, and I found him, he was a
26 small child. His name was Jesus. Though the
27 surroundings were commonplace, the extraordinary
28 flow of love that filled the room was overwhelming. I
29 brought myrrh as a gift to this king child, a fragrant
30 gum of plants from Arabia and India. Many use it as
31 incense and perfume.

32 The incense had other uses. I hear the soldiers
33 offered this to Jesus at the cross, mixed with wine to
34 lessen the pain. He didn't drink it. Others would mix
35 this with aloe to wrap Christ's body as he lay in the
36 tomb.

37 So you think me brave to leave my home to travel
38 across continents in search of a child? Jesus left a home

of indescribable glory to rescue the pitiful human race, to endure the weight of our sin, to be cursed at, crucified, and laid in a tomb — all for the purpose of resurrection, reconciliation, and a revival in the hearts of all humanity. Merry Christmas!

SHEPHERD BOY: Have you ever felt invisible? We shepherds had become such a part of the scenery on the mountainsides and in the meadows that we could be a tree or a rock, as far as others were concerned. Don't get me wrong — I loved my job. The fresh air, the sound of birds waking up the sun, even the birth of a new baby lamb made my soul glad.

Herding sheep was a courageous and uplifting occupation back when King David was a boy. When people thought of shepherds, it conjured images of a strong young man slaying a bear with his crook, or playing the harp as the clouds drifted by. But times changed, and we became just above the beggars.

We weren't thought of as people with courage — certainly not anybody to be looked up to. And certainly not people that God would trust enough to send a message to. But one dark, cold night, God sent us the second most important words ever spoken: words spoken by angels.

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12).

We cowered on the ground, staring up at the sky even after the angels had left. Stunned and dazed, some asked what they should do about what they saw. I couldn't believe that one man settled back to the fire.

All I could think of was, “What are we doing sitting here?”

I stood up and yelled, “Let's go! Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us!”

1 That shook them up. We bolted down the hillside. We
2 may only be shepherds, but we weren't about to miss
3 out on the privilege God had planned for us.

4 Did you notice I said the angels spoke the *second*
5 most important words? So, what are the most? They are,
6 "It is finished!"
7

8 MARY: Excuse me. May I have your attention? I actually
9 don't like being the center of attention. But a request
10 from God that was sent to me by an angel launched me
11 into a whirlwind of gossip, accusations, and ... yes,
12 attention.

13 My name is Mary. It's not that I didn't know what
14 would happen. When the angel came to me, awestruck
15 as I was with the creature's countenance, I knew what
16 was being asked of me.

17 My life had been progressing in the way I'd always
18 dreamed of. To have a man of such strong character
19 that loved God — to be filled with enormous kindness as
20 my betrothed — was more than I could have asked for.
21 I would have happily drifted into the life of wife and
22 mother, never being known by anyone other than my
23 own grandchildren. But God ... ah, yes. If it were not for
24 God ... He had a different plan. But it was up to me to
25 step into it. God did not demand, he asked.

26 I was fifteen. Being on the verge of adulthood was
27 terror enough, but to be asked to give up on a safe and
28 predictable life to bear a child that would change not
29 only myself, but all of humanity? This overwhelmed me
30 more than I can express.

31 Even now, I can hardly believe the bravery of that
32 young fifteen-year-old girl to be able to say, "I am the
33 Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said" (Luke
34 1:38). Where did the power to step into such a life come
35 from? I wonder who was praying for me.

36 Looking back, would I have done it the same way? To
37 have a child that I knew would become the center of
38 controversy? To feel such fear every time Jesus spoke

1 the truth and enraged someone? Even if I had known it
2 would lead me to the foot of a cross to watch as my Son,
3 my Savior, died? I wouldn't have missed it for the
4 world. Believe me — I wouldn't have missed it for the
5 *world!*

6
7 HEROD: Greetings, everyone. Allow me to introduce myself.
8 I am Herod, Governor of Galilee. I would like to read a
9 statement.

10 I am here to say I am not the ogre people make me
11 out to be. One mistake, and everybody remembers me
12 as the nasty old wicked man who killed babies. Why, I
13 was Governor of Galilee. King of Judea. I built a
14 theater, an amphitheater. I even rebuilt the temple.
15 Why doesn't anybody remember *these* things? Besides,
16 it wasn't my fault! I had to, because those deceitful wise
17 men never came back to tell me where the child was.
18 They assumed, I suppose, that the child would be in a
19 palace. They came to me asking where the baby had
20 been born, the new King of the Jews.

21 But *I* was King of the Jews! I had even persuaded the
22 Roman Senate to proclaim me as such. When my
23 counselors looked in the ancient Scriptures of the
24 prophecy, I nearly fainted. What they proclaimed to be
25 in the ancient writing was indeed there, complete with
26 a star announcing the birth.

27 But then I came up with a plan. I told those wise men
28 to come back and tell me where the child was, so I could
29 worship him as well. Somehow they figured out my plan
30 and never came back. But I now knew the birth of a
31 rival king had taken place. This child was a threat! A
32 usurper after my throne!

33 I would have killed my own sons to prevent that. Oh,
34 wait a minute — I *did* kill two of my sons for that. They
35 were all out to get me. I even had to imprison and
36 murder my own beloved wife Mariamne, and my not-so-
37 beloved mother-in-law. You don't know what it's like to
38 be in a constant state of fear, worrying that your title

1 and position may be ripped away from you. I could
2 never be satisfied or at peace.

3 I suppose it could be said if I had chosen this moment
4 to worship this King, the Son of God, instead of plotting
5 his death, my life would have been different. But this
6 Jesus, this Messiah, could have taken my kingdom! My
7 control! I had to do what I could. The threat was real!

8
9 ANNA: Do you know what I got to do? What God allowed this
10 worthless servant the privilege of accomplishing? Do
11 you? (*Giggles with joy.*)

12 Oh, you don't even know who I am. I apologize. My
13 name is Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, from the tribe
14 of Asher. I love the name of my tribe. Do you know what
15 it means? It means happiness. Blessed! Not just being
16 blessed, but to be wholly aware of it, appreciating it.
17 Excited about being excited.

18 I've not had a life most would call filled with joy. My
19 dearest husband died after only seven years of
20 marriage. I never found another man for the rest of the
21 eighty-four years I had left in life. I know, I look much
22 younger than my age, don't you think?

23 But the joy, the Asher, I found by staying in the
24 presence of God, there in his temple. I never left its
25 courts as I fasted and prayed through the heartache,
26 worshiping him day and night. I dedicated myself to
27 listening to his Word and prophesying to many who
28 came to the temple. My favorite thing to do was to
29 encourage others. My prayer is always to encourage
30 and to be Asher.

31 One day I saw Simeon, another prophet, speaking to
32 a young family — a father, mother, and a young boy.
33 Simeon hurried over to the child and took him in his
34 arms and praised God, saying:

35 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now
36 dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen
37 your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of
38 all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for

glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

The parents marveled at his words, but I could see the mother’s face when he said that last sentence. That’s when God put me into action. I felt the Spirit of God fill me, and I rushed over to give thanks to God. I got to tell everyone that this child was the redemption of Jerusalem, and I was privileged to be able to encourage Mary and Joseph. Now, that’s what I call Asher!

SARAH: Hello, my name is Sarah. I’m sure you have never heard of me. I’m just a stable girl. I clean out the muck and keep the animals fed for the innkeeper. He took me in after both my parents died.

When my parents were alive, we were a wealthy family. All I wanted to be was happy. I thought that was what life was all about. Being happy, and it didn’t matter how you got there. I watched my parents dash to fill their lives with things and activities in one meaningless race after another. Bigger, better, shinier. Both were pulled into a never-ending circle, like a yoked ox on the threshing floor. They died, and all the money left went to pay outrageous bills. Sure, there were happy times, but they only lasted for *that* moment. As soon as the party stopped, the emptiness overwhelmed them.

But as the poor stable girl I had become, I was privileged to see a great miracle from God. One night the Innkeeper brought a man and woman to the stable to spend the night. I had fallen asleep behind a haystack. The woman, Mary, no more than a girl, was with child. I heard the two talking.

Mary had seen an angel that told her she would have

a baby that was the very son of God. If she decided to obey God, she would see his glory. Joseph, her husband, had an angel visit him in a dream that told him the same thing about Mary. The angel told him it was OK for him to marry her, if he chose to. To me, the talk was nonsense — but when the time came for her to be delivered, I believed. The birth? No different from others I had witnessed. The pain, the cries, a husband sweating by her side all felt familiar, except this was a place where animals were kept.

Then the baby filled the stable with new life and let out a wail like I've never heard before. I felt God's presence, and the whole stable glowed with an unseen power. Later, shepherds came. They bowed down to the Child and worshiped him. They explained that they had been told to come by angels that had filled up the sky. They left everything and came.

These people, all of them, had let themselves be used by God. Instead of seeking ways to fill up their lives with happy nothings, they gave their lives in obedience. In doing so, they became part of a miracle that changed the world. (*After MONOLOGUE CHARACTERS have had time to visit three to four tables, they proceed to back of room. When all are finished, the INNKEEPER comes up front to speak.*)

INNKEEPER: May I have your attention? I hope you have enjoyed your dessert and the time spent with one another, as well as the special guests that visited your table. At this special inn, we have the privilege of hearing how those on the other side of heaven tell the story of Christ's birth and how they experienced the event. Please listen now as the angels remember. (*House lights dim.*)

The Angels Remember

(GABRIEL and GUITARIST enter Stage Right. GABRIEL stands on Upstage box with music stand. GUITARIST is

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1 *Upstage Center. TRINA and ARIEL enter Stage Left. TRINA*
 2 *goes far Stage Left to music stand. ARIEL goes far Stage Right*
 3 *to music stand. GUITARIST plays a heavenly riff. GABRIEL*
 4 *uses chimes and then stands still on box. ARIEL and TRINA*
 5 *are on opposite ends of the stage looking off to sides. All*
 6 *ANGELS have stands to hold scripts.)*

7 **GABRIEL:** *(Reads John 1:1-5.)* **In the beginning was the Word,**
 8 **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He**
 9 **was with God in the beginning. Through him all things**
 10 **were made; without him nothing was made that has**
 11 **been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of**
 12 **men. The light shines in the darkness, but the**
 13 **darkness ... has not ... understood it.** *(Stage lights up.)*

14 **ARIEL:** *(Looks off to side.)* **I remember that night. Trina? Do**
 15 **you remember? All of heaven focused on one young girl.**

16 **TRINA:** *(Looks off to side.)* **I remember, Ariel.** *(They focus their*
 17 *faces off to sides and move center. They are reluctant to take*
 18 *their eyes away, but then they change into the past when they*
 19 *reach center. ARIEL sits on wooden box Downstage and looks*
 20 *out and down into audience at one spot, as if seeing Mary.*
 21 *TRINA comes up behind her from Stage Left.)*

22 **TRINA:** **Ariel, what are you doing?**

23 **ARIEL:** *(Jumps in surprise, speaks with extreme excitement.)* **Oh,**
 24 **Trina! I'm watching Gabriel. He's gone to Nazareth in**
 25 **Galilee. He's about to tell the girl, Mary, about the Son,**
 26 **about our Lord. That she will bear the Son of God!**
 27 *(Turns to TRINA.)* **What if she refuses the challenge?**
 28 **What if Satan fills her with worry and terror?**

29 **TRINA:** **God would find another.**

30 **ARIEL:** *(Crosses in front of TRINA, to her left side.)* **Oh, but**
 31 **Trina, she will miss out! This is hers to claim!** *(Closes eyes*
 32 *and folds hands to pray. TRINA is looking down on imaginary*
 33 *Mary.)* **Dear Father, help her!**

34 **TRINA:** **He is, Ariel. He is.**

35 **ARIEL:** **What's happening now?** *(Looks again.)*

36 **TRINA:** **She is being told not to be afraid.**

37 **ARIEL:** **But she is.**

38 **TRINA:** **Yes.**

1 **ARIEL:** If she only knew what our Lord was leaving behind
2 — this place of such glory that humans cannot conceive
3 of it. Will he live in a palace?

4 **TRINA:** No. He will be born in a stable with the animals.

5 **ARIEL:** Dark, with only starlight. I wonder if she expects to
6 have every rock and boulder lifted from her path.

7 **TRINA:** He would have the power.

8 **ARIEL:** Yes, but he would rather have her see the strength
9 he's given her for the journey.

10 **TRINA:** Quiet now. Gabriel is about to speak. (*ARIEL and*
11 *TRINA go to their own music stands. All three change to*
12 *Reader's Theatre, facing audience and reading Luke 2:28-38.)*

13 **GABRIEL:** Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord
14 is with you.

15 **ARIEL:** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and
16 wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

17 **TRINA:** But the angel said to her,

18 **GABRIEL:** Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor
19 with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son,
20 and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great
21 and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord
22 God will give him the throne of his father David, and he
23 will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom
24 will never end.

25 **ARIEL:** How will this be,

26 **TRINA:** Mary asked the angel,

27 **ARIEL:** Since I am a virgin?

28 **GABRIEL:** The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the
29 power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the
30 holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even
31 Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her
32 old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her
33 sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

34 **ARIEL:** I am the Lord's servant,

35 **TRINA:** Mary answered.

36 **ARIEL:** May it be to me as you have said.

37 **TRINA:** Then the angel left her. (*GUJARIST plays, then he*
38 *lights top candle. ARIEL quietly goes to back of auditorium.*



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