**The King’s Birthday**

**One Rehearsal Christmas Pageant**

**for**

**Novice Directors**

**Presented by**

**TeachSundaySchool.com**

**The King’s Birthday**

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**The Story (Encapsulated):**

This is the basic story of the Nativity, complete with shepherds, angels, wise men, and a host of others that feature talent in your church. Narrators, usually played by high school students, provide opportunities for some acting—but not too much!

“The First Noel,” “Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star,” “Silent Night,” and “We Three Kings” and “Something In His Eyes” (a parody of “This Little Light of Mine”) feature the students in your Sunday School classes.

“Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and “Oh Holy Night” provide opportunities for your best soloists.

An Innkeeper provides a part for one adult speaker. A pastor or assistant pastor also has a spot to read the famed “One Solitary Life.”

A finale brings all participants back on stage for singing with the congregation.

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**The King’s Birthday**

**Cast of Characters**

Greeter, Small Child – Callie Kirsten & Cyndle Matheson

Narrator A, teenager or good reader – Morgan or Lee Overgaard

Narrator B, teenager or good reader – Noelle Matheson

Narrator C, teenager or good reader – Madison Challand

Narrator D, teenager or good reader – Tyia Kostynuk

Innkeeper, Adult – Kristen OpdenDries

Mary, girl 7th grade or above – Jenna Wade

Joseph, boy 7th grade or above – Jysic Pollard, Lee Overgaard, Lucas Fotty

Pastor or Assistant Pastor – Pastors Dale, Scott, & Sheri Lynne

**List of Sunday School Classes & Songs (in order of appearance)**

Shepherds / 3rd & 4th grades – Jordan Fotty, Josh Lambert, Josh Philips, Lucas Challand,

 Matthew OpdenDries, Nate Matheson, Craig Stewart,

 Ian Stewart, Shane Stewart, Jordan Fotty, Josh Phillips

Workers at the Inn / 5th & 6th grades – Brandon Stewart, Sarah Robertson, Sam Kostynuk,

 Mykenna Martin, Courtney Challand, McKayla Wade,

Stars / pre-k and kindergarten – Madelyn Fotty, Cyndle Matheson, Callie Kirstin, Wyatt

 Janes, Brenden Nolan, Jamie Nolan

Angels / 1st & 2nd grades – Catie Benedictson, Ashton Fotty, Brooklyn Fotty, Nicole Martin,

 Shae-lynn Dirk, Shalane Goodrunning, Kylee Crouch, Isabelle Kirstein, Anastasia

 McConnell, Chaya Matheson, Robin Overgaard, Kayla Johnson

Three Kings / 7th & 8th graders – Braden Jackson, Bryden Gopher, Tate Crouch, Dylan

 McConnell, Lee Overgaard

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**List of Suggested Props:**

**Podium,** if you would like your narrator to speak from one

**Cue cards** for narrators, especially if not using a podium and not wanting to memorize.

**Mops, brooms, dusting cloths** for workers at the Inn.

**Gifts for the three kings**

**Manger** for the baby Jesus

**Whatever other nativity props are at your disposal,** such as hay.

**List of Suggested Costumes:**

**Greeter:** Pretty Christmas dress

**Narrators:** Christmas sweaters, dark pants

**3rd & 4th Grade Shepherds:** Long pieces of old fashioned fabric, whatever head pieces and floor-length outfits your church has available. (See our document “Easy Instructions & Suggestions for Costumes”)

**5th and 6th Grade Workers at the Inn:** Same as above

**InnKeeper:** Same as above

**Tiny Shepherd Soloist:** Same as Above

**Preschool & Kindergarten “Stars”:** Pretty Christmas dresses and suits.

Around faces each should have a “Star” made either with paper plates and/or aluminum foil (See our document “Easy Instructions & Suggestions for Costumes)

**7th & 8th Grade Kings:** Same as shepherds, only fabrics should be more royal,

using purples and golds and royal reds.

**Manger Animals:** simple pants and tops that mimic the color of the animal; face paint to put on whiskers, construction paper ears and tails

**Pastor:** His robe

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**The King’s Birthday**

**Production Notes**

This program is geared to an easy and enjoyable way of telling the Christmas story. It is done with a minimum of props costumes and sets to make for a production

that is simple to stage, but enjoyable to watch and to be a part of.

**Directors Notes**: The cast can be adapted to fit your church’s talent pool. We are suggesting ages but these are designed for flexibility.

**The Greeter**, played by a very young girl, should be dressed in Christmas finery. However, dark slacks and sweater can come off as elegant if she wears a red bow in her hair and a silver or gold garland around her neck.

**Narrators** A, B, C and D have been broken down into four parts to make lines easy for any busy teenager. However, if four teens are not available, Narrators A & C can be read by one person, the same being true with Narrators B & D.

**Two soloists** are included so that your Sunday School can feature a very young singer, age 4 or 5, and a more seasoned singer, age 10 or older.

“Twinkle Twinkle Little Star sung by a very young child always brings the house down, and it’s a song that can be handled well by that age group.

The solo, “Oh, Holy Night”, can also be sung by an adult if one in your church loves to take part.

Also feel free to use here a dancer, musician or any other talent your church may have instead of—or along with—the singer.

**Lighting:** The house lights should go out during the overture. The stage should be well lit during the performance. A star on the ceiling is great, but not necessary and can be imagined.

Spot lights can be used on narrators and soloists, which would prevent

distractions of the children getting on and off stage.

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**THE KING’S BIRTHDAY**

**Rundown Sheet**

**Opening Song: COME TO THE CHILD**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles -**

**Greeters / Callie Kirstein, Cyndle Matheson**

**Narrators A & B – Morgan or Lee Overgaard, Noel Matheson**

**1. THE FIRST NOEL (vs. 1&2) / Congregation**

**Narrators C & D – Madison Challand, Tyia Kostynuk**

**2. SOMETHING IN HIS EYES / Workers at the Inn**

**Narrators A & B - Morgan or Lee Overgaard, Noel Matheson**

**3. TWINKLE LITTLE STAR: Tiny Shepherds**

**TWINKLE CHRISTMAS STAR / Stars**

**…Intermission…**

 **Announcements & Offering**

 **ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (vs. 1-4)**

**Narrators C & D - Madison Challand, Tyia Kostynuk**

**4. JOY TO THE WORLD (vs. 1-4)/ Angels**

**Narrators A & B - Morgan or Lee Overgaard, Noel Matheson**

**5. OH HOLY NIGHT (vs. 1): SOLO / McKayla Wade**

**6. Narrators C & D - Madison Challand, Tyia Kostynuk**

**7. WE THREE KINGS (vs. 1-2)/ Congregation**

**Narrators A, B, C, D - Morgan or Lee Overgaard, Noel Matheson,**

 **Madison Challand, Tyia Kostynuk**

**8. “One Solitary Life” Reading / Pastors Dale, Scott, Sheri-Lynne**

**9. HARK THE HERALD (vs. 1-3)/ OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (vs. 1-3): Congregation**

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**THE KING’S BIRTHDAY**

*Enter Greeter:*

**Greeter:**

Callie: In Bethlehem town,

 A long time ago,

 A baby was born,

 God’s love to show.

Cyndle: The shepherds all worshiped;

 The angels did sing.

 For it was the birthday of *(extends her arms to heaven and shouts*)

 Jesus the King!

(*Curtsies and exits to her seat*. *Enter Narrators A & B to Stage R)*

**Morgan or Lee:** The birthday of a king! Doesn’t that sound wonderful???

**Noelle:** What are you talking about**?**

**Morgan or Lee:** A king! Don’t you think of satin, velvet, crown jewels and royalty?

**Noelle:** It wasn’t like that at all. As a matter of fact, this birth was anything but

glamorous.

**Morgan or Lee:** No chariots??

**Noelle:** Emperor Augustus had ordered a census. Joseph had to go from Nazareth

in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea, because it was the birth place of King David, and

Joseph was one of his descendants. It was a long trek.

**Morgan or Lee:** But they must have had a chariot!

**Noelle:** Nothing like it. We’re not sure if Mary, Joseph’s wife, walked or rode a

donkey. But she was pregnant and probably arrived exhausted. And when they finally

got to Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

**Morgan or Lee:** Wow. And back then, they didn’t have cars, plane, or taxis…bet they

didn’t have motels, either.

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**THE FIRST NOEL / Shepherds / 3rd & 4th grades**

**Noelle:** No! And when they finally got to Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to

have her baby.

**Morgan or Lee:** Uh-oh. No hospitals, I take it. Maybe I’ll stop complaining about some of

my less-than-stellar birthdays.

*(Enter 3rd & 4th grade shepherds to center stage)*

**Noelle:** Good idea. But even in the midst of all that dust, and mud, and walking for

what must have seemed like forever…good things were beginning to happen. It started

in the outlands, outside the city limits, where shepherds were watching over their flocks

by night.

THE FIRST NOEL (vs. 1&2)

*(Exit Shepherds to their seats)*

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**SOMETHING IN HIS EYES / Workers at the Inn / 5th & 6th grades**

*Enter Narrators C & D*

**Madison:** But Mary and Joseph didn’t know about this. They had even more

problems to face down. The town of Bethlehem *did* have an inn, but when Joseph tried

to get a room, there weren’t any. The inn was full.

**Tyia:** But a strange thing happened. That Innkeeper couldn’t turn his back on the

couple from Galilee**.** He had already turned a dozen people away that day, and it didn’t

bother him, but something about this couple did.

*Exit narrators. Enter Innkeeper to center stage. Enter 5th and 6th grade workers at the*

*Inn, pushing brooms and scrubbing and dusting.*

**Innkeeper**: Why can’t I put that couple out of my mind? (*gestures to children)* I’ve got

all these employees. I have plenty to do myself. My inn is totally full! Why can’t I stop

thinking about them? (*She pauses as if remembering and counts off the incidents on her*

*fingers.)*

**Innkeeper:** First of all, she looked exhausted. It was obvious that she was very

pregnant. And the way that young man stared with his eyes pleading-- But it was more

than that. (*Glancing up toward heaven*.) There was an aura about the couple that said

they had a secret—that they knew something that no one else in the world knew. They

understood that something monumental was about to happen, and it would change the

world forever.

**5th & 6th Graders:**

I CANNOT DE-FINE, WHAT CAUSED HIS EYES TO SHINE

THAT IN-TRICATE DE-SIGN, ALL THAT’S GOOD AND FINE

I THOUGHT IT WAS A SIGN, THAT SOMETHING WAS DE-VINE

YES THE SHINE, WAS A SIGN, WAS DI-VINE.

**Innkeeper:** (*Puts her hand up to stem applause and speaks immediately.*) And I still

have that strange feeling that I can’t explain—as if something monumental is about to

happen—as if this woman is not going to give birth to an ordinary baby, but to – well-- to

royalty, or some really special person-- like a king. (*She pauses and shakes her head*.)

Now, isn’t that ridiculous?. That baby could never be a king. His father is a carpenter

from Galilee. (*She frowns, thinking.)* But why do I feel so adamant that this is no ordinary

birth and no ordinary occasion.

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**5th & 6th Graders:**

THERE’S MYS-TERY IN THE AIR, A SEC-RET OH, SO RARE,

I ON-LY CAN SUR-MISE, THAT IT’S A BIG SUR-PRISE.

SOME-THING IN THIS BIRTH,

WILL CHANGE ALL THINGS ON EARTH

WHAT A DAY, WHAT A NIGHT, THIS WILL BE.

**Innkeeper:** (*Puts her hand up to stem applause.)* I can’t stop thinking about that man’s

eyes. I thought he wanted me to understand something that he was not at liberty to

explain.

**5th & 6th Graders:**

SOME-THING IN HIS HEART, SEEMED ALL TORN A-PART.

YET HIS SOUL SHOWN THROUGH, WITH MESS-AGES SO NEW.

IT CAME FROM GOD A-BOVE, A MESSAGE FULL OF LOVE

FROM A-BOVE, CAME THE WORD, GOD IS LOVE.

**Innkeeper:** (*Puts her hand up to stem applause, and speaks immediately*)

I feel this urgency to do something. They need shelter, a roof over their heads, and a

place to sleep, protected from the chill night air. But I can’t turn people out to give them

a room. (*She gasps and slaps her hand to her mouth as she is struck with an idea.)* The

stable! Why didn’t I think of it sooner? If only I can catch him. (*She rushes off stage*

*calling*:) Joseph! Joseph from Galilee. Joseph!

*Exit employees of the inn. Enter Narrators A and B.*

**Morgan or Lee:** So this king wasn’t born in a palace, he was born in a stable—

**Noelle:** That’s right.

**Morgan or Lee:** But if this baby is really a king, shouldn’t people know? Shouldn’t

trumpets be blowing, or shouldn’t a display of lightning announce his birth?

**Noelle**: God announced his birth with a star.

**Morgan or Lee:** A star?

**Noelle:** A star so bright no one knew what to make of it. People all over the world

saw it. Some recognized it as a message from God, but others had no idea what it meant.

**TWINKLE LITTLE STAR: SOLO / Tiny Shepherd / Young child soloist**

*Exit Narrators A and B. Enter tiny shepherd, rubbing his eyes and yawning. He squints*

*at the sky in disbelief.*

**Tiny Shepherd**: Why, it’s a star*.* It’s so bright it woke me up. I thought it was morning

and the sun was shining in my eyes. (*He crosses to stage center on the piano intro.)* But

you’re not a *little* star. You’re the biggest, brightest star I ever saw.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE MIGHTY STAR,

WHAT A WONDROUS SIGHT YOU ARE.

UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH,

LIKE A DIAMOND IN THE SKY.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE MIGHTY STAR.

WHAT A WONDROUS SIGHT YOU ARE.

*(Enter pre-k and Kindergarten children)*

**Tiny Shepherd:** There’s lots of stars out tonight. But they’re smaller. It’s like all the

little stars want to sing to the big star!

**Pre-k & Kindergarten Students:**

TWINKLE, TWINKLE CHRISTMAS STAR,

BRINGING WISE MEN FROM AFAR.

BRINGING SHEPHERDS TO THEIR KNEES,

BRINGING HOPE FOR CENTURIES.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE CHRISTMAS STAR.

WHAT A WONDROUS SIGHT YOU ARE.

*(Soloist and classes exit)*

Announcements

Offering

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (vs. 1-4)

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**JOY TO THE WORLD / Angels / 1st & 2nd grades**

*Enter Narrators C & D. Enter 1st and 2nd grade angels*

**Tyia:** And there were actually many shepherds living out in the fields nearby,

keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the

glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

**Madison:** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of

great joy that will be for all the people.”

**Tyia:** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel,

praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men.”

**Angels:**

JOY TO THE WORLD (vs. 1-4)

*Exit Angels.*

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**OH HOLY NIGHT: SOLO / Children’s Choir Member / Older child**

*Enter Narrators A and B.*

**Noelle:** Back in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had no idea about this. All they

knew was that the Innkeeper had a sudden change of heart.

**Morgan or Lee:** Let me guess! He gave them the best room in the whole place.

**Noelle:** Sorry again. He felt bad for them, Mary being pregnant and all. But he

wasn’t about to kick somebody out for them. He told them they could go stay in the barn.

**Morgan or Lee:** You’re kidding.

**Noelle:** Unfortunately not. Mary had been visited by an angel, who told her she

was going to give birth to a Savior. At this point? She probably thought she had

hallucinated.

**Morgan or Lee:** We’re talking…sharing your bed with a cow?

**Noelle:** And a mule, and a couple of sheeps, probably some squawking chickens.

**Morgan or Lee:** What a mess.

*Enter Older Child Soloist*

**Noelle:** Yes…and no. Mary had been through a lot already. She was very tired,

but it’s likely that she felt that peace…that peace that passes all understanding…when

you know good things are coming. *Exit Narrators.*

**McKayla Wade: Soloist**

O HOLY NIGHT! (vs. 1)

*Exit soloist.*

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**WE THREE KINGS / Three Kings & Manger Animals / 7th & 8th graders**

*Enter Mary and Joseph with the manger. Enter manger animals.*

*Enter Narrators C & D.*

**Madison:** A king, born in a stable, sleeping in a manger and wearing rags. Anybody

who found him in the manger might have considered him a pauper.

**Tyia:** I think God made sure that didn’t happen. That’s why he sent the angels

and the star. I think he wanted people to know that this prince was real, but different.

**Madison:** The Bible predicted this night for thousands of years. Some people were

“wise” to it.

*Enter Three Kings, carrying gifts, to center stage.*

**Tyia:** Three wise men from the east looked for the star and followed it. They

found the savior wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. There was

Balthasar, who brought the gift of Gold.

**Madison:** Melchior brought Frankincense, and Caspar brought the gift of Myrrh.

*Exit Narrators.*

**Three Kings:**

WE THREE KINGS (vs. 1&2)

*Kings return to the manger, kneel, and lay their gifts beside the manger.*

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**“ONE SOLITARY LIFE” Reading / Pastor**

*Enter Narrators A, B, C, and D*

**Morgan or Lee**: Now, I think I see the meaning of all this. Born in a stable, a manger for a

bed-- Every thing about this baby was as humble as it could be. I think it meant that he

was going to be a truly different kind of king, and a different kind of leader.

**Noelle:** And I think that is what the Christmas story is all about.

*Enter Pastor:*

**Madison:** This night—so tiring, so painful, so historic, so unforgettable—shows us

what royalty really is. Jesus would grow up and say, “He who is last will be first. He

who is first will be last.” He proved it to us this night.

**Tyia:** What more can we say?

**Pastor Dale:** You’re doing great, guys. Let me sum it up for you.

(One Solitary Life):

**Pastor Dale:** Nearly two thousand years ago in an obscure village, a child was born of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village where He worked as a carpenter until he was thirty. Then for three years He became an itinerant preacher.

This Man never went to college or seminary. He never wrote a book. He never held a

public office. He never had a family nor owned a home. He never put His foot inside a

big city nor traveled even 200 miles from His birthplace. And though he never did any of

the things that usually accompany greatness, throngs of people followed Him. He had no

credentials but Himself.

*Re-enter 3rd and 4th grade Shepherds Stage left and kneel, facing manger*

**Pastor Scott:** While He was still young, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His followers ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was sentenced to death on a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His

executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth--the simple coat He

had worn. His body was laid in a borrowed grave provided by a compassionate friend.

*Re-enter 5th and 6th grade Workers of the Inn Stage right and kneel, facing manger*

But three days later this Man arose from the dead--living proof that He was, as He had

claimed, the Savior whom God had sent, the Incarnate Son of God.

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**Pastor Sheri-Lynne:** Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today the risen Lord Jesus Christ is the central figure of the human race. On our calendars His birth divides history in two eras. One day of every week is set aside in remembrance of Him. And our two most important holidays celebrate His birth and resurrection. On church steeples around the world His cross has become the symbol of victory over sin and death.

*Re-enter Tiny Shepherd stage right and Older Child soloist, stage left and stand,*

**Pastor Dale:** This one Man's life has furnished the theme for more songs, books, poems and paintings than any other person or event in history. Thousands of colleges, hospitals, orphanages and other institutions have been founded in honor of this One who gave His life for us.

*Re-enter 1st and 2nd grade Angels*

**Pastor Dale:** All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the governments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned have not affected the course of history as much as this One Solitary Life.

**FINALE / ALL**

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING (vs. 1-3)

**Pastor Dale:** Everyone please join us in “Oh Come All Ye Faithful”

OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (vs. 1-3)

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**All including audience:**

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT,

O COME YE, O COME YE TO BETHLEHEM.

COME AND BEHOLD HIM,

BORN THE KING OF ANGELS;

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

CHRIST THE LORD.

O SING, CHOIRS OF ANGELS,

SING IN EXULTATION,

SING ALL THAT HEAR IN HEAVEN GOD'S HOLY WORD.

GIVE TO OUR FATHER GLORY IN THE HIGHEST;

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

CHRIST THE LORD.

ALL HAIL! LORD, WE GREET THEE,

BORN THIS HAPPY MORNING,

O JESUS! FOR EVERMORE BE THY NAME ADORED.

WORD OF THE FATHER, NOW IN FLESH APPEARING;

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

CHRIST THE LORD.

end