

# THE CHRISTMAS STORY

**Narrator:**

But it came to pass in those days that God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But Mary was troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

**Annika:** Hey Caro, that won't do! Read it properly. Add some excitement to it!

**Narrator:** Annika, I find this story so dull. I've heard it a thousand times.

**Annika (wise response):** Yes, Caro, it's about how you hear the story. I mean, God came to Earth! Imagine what that must have been like. You could even add background music if that helps.

**Narrator:** Hmm, okay

*Maria on stage, angel joins while narrating.  
The play of the story begins from here.*

But it came to pass in those days that God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, to a virgin... Her name was Mary, and she was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Troubled, Mary pondered what the angel meant. Then he told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end." Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy child to be born will be called the Son of God. For nothing will be impossible with God." Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said happen to me." Then the angel left her.

*Joseph comes to Mary.*

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was engaged to Joseph. But before their marriage, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

*Mary stands on stage with a pregnancy test, Joseph approaches.*

Joseph, her fiancé, was a righteous man. Not wanting to disgrace her publicly, he resolved to break off their engagement quietly.

*She shows him the test. Dramatic break-up scene.*

*Mary exits the stage. Joseph sits alone, dejected on the floor.  
An angel appears, Joseph looks up.*

While he considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," said the angel, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means, "God with us").

*Mary returns, Joseph kneels before her.*

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son.

*Emperor Augustus enters the stage and issues the decree.  
Mary and Joseph re-enter together. Mary is now visibly pregnant.*

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Everyone went to their own town to be registered.

Because Joseph was of the house and line of David, he went to Bethlehem in Judea, the town of David, to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

**Narrator:** Hey Annika, this way the story is much more fun! Now I'm really in a good mood. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. But there was no room for them in the inn.

**Joseph:** Seriously? Oh, come on!

*Dance (People dance in a circle around Joseph and Mary)*

**Annika:** Caro!!! I don't think it happened like that... I mean, not finding accommodation for a pregnant woman... Imagine that! It's really dramatic.

**Narrator** Oh, okay...

When they arrived in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. But there was no room for them in the inn. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

*Mary and Joseph sit next to each other behind the manger, leaning.  
Mary looks exhausted.*

In that region, there were shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

*An angel appears.*

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel reassured them, saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

*Shepherds run to the manger.*

They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him." This news deeply disturbed Herod and all of Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law. "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" he asked. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'" Then Herod

called for a private meeting with the wise men and learned from them the time when the star first appeared. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find Him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship Him too."

After this interview, the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

*Mary and Joseph lie down to sleep. An angel wakes Joseph and urgently directs him.*

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and His mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him." So Joseph got up and took the child and His mother during the night and left for Egypt.

*Joseph wakes up Mary, and they exit the stage.*

They stayed there until Herod's death. Then they returned to Nazareth.

**Narrator:** Hmm, I hadn't imagined the whole story like that before.