

THE FULLNESS OF TIME a Christmas Play (for elementary age group, up to thirty children)

Galatians 4:4; But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,

This play takes a look at Bible history: Man has sinned and needs a Savior.

God has promised. Then one day in the Fullness of Time, the Promise appears.



THE STAGE: is set with only a manger with some straw front center and a table or pulpit to one side.

On wall behind stage mount a banner which says "IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME"

THE CHARACTERS:

Narrator: (dressed in Bible costume as an old man, leaning on a staff.

He stands beside the table using it to put his script.)

A group of children come on stage. Make two or three rows with younger ones in front.

Children with acting parts should be near the side of rows so they can move to stage front as needed.

Several children in the front row carry masks with a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other.

You will need a King, three or four Prophets, four Warriors, a Slave, an Abraham(this could be one of

the prophets), Three Dancing girls, Mary and Joseph, an Angel, three or four Shepherds,

the Binocular Guy, Extra children can be assigned the roles of : The voice of God, the Camel Mover,

extra shepherds or prophets, those who hold up Death props and Gift.



PROPS: A Manger

poster board circles with happy face on one side and sad face on other side, a gift wrapped box.

Another large cardboard box with a long strap of cloth attached around it. This cloth strap is looped around the slave's forehead so the slave can pull it across the stage.

A camel,(Draw outline of a camel on large piece of cardboard. Staple or glue a couple of straps or handles to the back.)

A cardboard loudspeaker. (Try an orange road cone from Dollar Store. Cut top off)

Some skull &crossbones, skeleton, etc. (Halloween supplies at Dollar store.) Mounted on sticks.

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Some toy sheep, Toy swords and shields, (from dollar store or cut these from cardboard)

Three or four scrolls. (paper towel rolls with paper attached, write prophecies on these),

A baby doll, with swaddling cloth

Sticks for Narrator's staff and shepherds staff, (could be a hockey stick or broom handle)

A rod with a tennis ball attached to end, for King's scepter. (cut an X into the tennis ball and push rod into the hole) Several short sticks, (paint stir sticks, or dowels) with lengths of colored ribbons tied to end for the dancing girls. (paint ends of ribbon with clear nail polish so the ribbon will not unravel)

Angel should carry a trumpet. (one of those noise trumpets that spectators bring into a stadium.)

A pair of binoculars

COSTUMES: For Abraham, Narrator and prophets and Joseph and Mary: Robes can be bathrobes or a piece of fabric with hole in center for head. Wrap a belt of cloth around waist.

An over-robe can be a piece of fabric draped over shoulders.

The headpiece can be a kitchen towel or cloth on head fastened with a strip of cloth tied around it.

The Kings costume is made from a piece of red or purple fabric draped over the shoulders as a cape. Fasten it at the neck with a large fancy broach. Make a crown or purchase one from Party Store.

For Slave and Shepherd costumes: Make simple tunics from brown or neutral color.

Fold fabric in half lengthwise and cut a hole just big enough for head to go through.

Tie at waist with a strip of cloth.

Make a head-piece by wrapping and tying a twisted strip of cloth around head.

For Dancing girls: Make skirts from a large circle of colorful fabric.

Try to find wide pieces of fabric so you can cut a big circle. A large circle will make a longer skirt.

In center of circle, cut a hole just big enough to slip skirt on over clothing.

Tie at waist with a long contrasting color long scarf.

For Warriors: Make a breastplate. Cut two pieces of poster-board into chest-plate size.

Decorate as crests. Staple strips of cloth to front and back to make shoulder straps.

Staple a narrow strip of cloth to front and back at sides. This armor is just slipped over the child's head.

For the Angel: Cut a hole just big enough for head to go through, in the center of a white sheet.

Trim robe to size.

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THE PLAY: Everyone is on stage. Form two or three rows.
Props are brought in and placed on the floor until needed.

NARRATOR: In the beginning, God made the earth and everything in it. Then He made man in His own image, (Smaller children in front row hold up Happy Faces) and He placed him in a beautiful garden where he had everything he would need to live very happily. God also made a woman to be a helper for the man. God intended people to be just like Him. God gave instructions for them to look after the garden. There was just one thing that God told them NOT to do. They were not to eat of a certain tree that was in the center of the garden. God said if they ate of the fruit of this tree, they would surely die. (Hold up Death props for only a few seconds)

Then one day the serpent, who was the devil, came into the garden and tempted the woman. She listened to the serpent and ate from the forbidden tree and then she also gave some to the man. Now they had disobeyed God. (Turn masks to Sad side.) This brought sin and death into the world and man could no longer live in the beautiful garden. (All children recite Romans 3:23; For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.) (Front row put Face masks down)

One row recite (Romans 6:23; For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.) As Romans 6:23 is recited, (One group holds up Death props, skull and crossbones etc.) (One child holds up a big gift package.)

NARRATOR: But God had a plan. (Put all props down). God made a promise. He said to the devil; "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. **He** shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Here at the very beginning, God pointed to the Savior- Messiah who would come to bruise the head of the enemy. (Everyone points at the manger)

SONG: JESUS LOVES ME, (2 verses)

JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW. FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.
LITTLE ONES TO HIM BELONG. THEY ARE WEAK BUT HE IS STRONG.
Cho; YES JESUS LOVES ME. YES JESUS LOVES ME. YES JESUS LOVES ME. THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

JESUS LOVES ME WHEN I'M GOOD. WHEN I DO THE THINGS I SHOULD.
JESUS LOVES ME WHEN I'M BAD, THOUGH IT MAKES HIM VERY SAD.
Cho.

NARRATOR: But the time had not yet come. Years went by, people were born and they died. Some were anxious to please God and some sought only to please themselves. God was looking for those who believed Him and wanted to do His will. (A child walks in front of the group searching the audience with a pair of binoculars)

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Abraham Believed God. He followed God when God told him to leave his country and his people and go to a land that God would show him.

(A child dressed as a Bible traveler walks across stage leading a camel. The camel is a large cardboard shape carried across the stage by another child. He stops mid-stage)

God made a promise to Abraham. He said.....



(AN OLDER BOY: with a deep voice speaking from back row, through a loudspeaker made from a cardboard cone.): "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and **in you** all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

NARRATOR:

Again God was pointing towards the Savior-Messiah who would come. (All point to the manger)

SONG: (to tune of Row, Row, Row your boat) (Could be done as a round)

(Do a Snap-Clap rhythm. Snap on first beat and Clap on next beat and so-on)

ABRAHAM OH ABRAHAM , YOU ARE A BLES-SED MAN.

IN YOU ALL NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED, WHEN GOD SENDS FORTH HIS SON.

NARRATOR: But the time was not yet come.

Abraham's family grew and became twelve tribes, a Nation. The Children of Israel became slaves in Egypt and waited four hundred years for God to send a deliverer.

(Child dressed as a slave, drags a cardboard box across stage by a strap attached to the box and wrapped around his forehead.)

(Another child reads or recites Exodus 2:24) "So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.")

NARRATOR:

God sent Moses to DELIVER the nation Israel from captivity and lead them to the Promised Land.

Once again God was pointing to the Savior Messiah. (All point to the manger)

Second verse of same song to tune of Row, Row, Row your boat

WHEN GOD SAYS THAT WE MUST WAIT, HE SAYS "THE TIME'S NOT RIGHT."

WE NEED TO LEARN TO TRUST HIM MORE, TO MAKE OUR FUTURE BRIGHT. (with Snap-Clap rhythm)

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NARRATOR: But still the time was not yet come.

In the Promised Land, God gave His people leaders, warriors like Joshua who fought historic battles against their enemies.

(A group of two or three warriors Chase someone across the stage with toy swords and shields) (All children make war whoop sounds)

NARRATOR: God established Israel as a nation fulfilling some of His promises to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. But it was not yet time for the Savior-Messiah.

Then God gave them a king to rule over them. (A child in a king costume and carrying a scepter walks to front of stage.) King David was not only King. He was also a mighty warrior and a worshipper of God. He was a man after God's own heart.

God said to King David;

(have a child read this); 2nd Samuel6:12-16; "I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father and he shall be my son. (16) And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."

NARRATOR: God was still pointing to a coming Savior-Messiah.(All point to the manger.)

SONG: (from Psalm 27:1) (to the tune of THE BEAR WENT OVER THE MOUNTAIN)

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION, (3X)

OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID (Clap, Clap)(3X)

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION (3X)

OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID (Clap Clap)

(two or three girls and king David dance on stage as this song is sung) (the girls wear flowing type skirts and wave sticks with long ribbons attached.)

NARRATOR: The people continued to wait. It was not yet time for the Savior-Messiah. God must know how difficult it is for people to wait. But God continually looks for those who will trust Him.

God sent messages to men who were prophets. God revealed His secrets to them. (Amos 3:7; "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.")

(Three prophets with their scrolls come to center stage and read their scrolls.)

Isaiah 9: 6&7 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end."

Isaiah 7:14; "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel

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Micah 5:2; "But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to me the One to be ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from old from everlasting."

Isaiah 53:4&5; Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed.

NARRATOR: And so the prophets told about the Savior-Messiah who was to come. Still it would be several hundred years. BUT THEN:



ANGEL: (Blows his trumpet)

SONG: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAINS, OVER THE HILLS AND EVERYWHERE.
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAINS. THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN.

NARRATOR: One day, (Mary comes to stage front), an Angel appeared with an announcement to a young girl in the town of Nazareth. (Angel comes to front of stage.)

ANGEL: (From Luke1:28-33) "Rejoice, highly favored one, The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. (v.30) "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and shall call His name, Jesus. He will be great, and will be called, The Son of the Highest; and the Lord will give Him the throne of His father, David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom, there will be no end."

MARY: "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

ANGEL: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you. Therefore also, that Holy one who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

NARRATOR: The time had come!

EVERYONE: Quote Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman."

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SONG: AWAY IN A MANGER (As song is being sung, Mary and Joseph bring Baby and place in manger. They stay beside the manger)



AWAY IN A MANGER, NO CRIB FOR A BED.
THE LITTLE LORD JESUS LAID DOWN HIS SWEET HEAD.
THE STARS IN THE BRIGHT SKY LOOKED DOWN WHERE HE LAY.
THE LITTLE LORD JESUS ASLEEP ON THE HAY.

ONE OF THE PROPHETS: (Read Luke 2:1-7) (It should be written on one of the scrolls) “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

(As this passage is read, the shepherds come forward and stand by the manger. One of them, an older child moves close to the Prophet who is reading. When the reading is finished the shepherd takes up the story. He tells it in his own words.

SHEPHERD: And we were out in the fields, watching over our flocks by night, when Behold, an angel of the Lord stood before us and the glory of the Lord shone around us and we were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to us;

ANGEL: “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you; You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

SHEPHERD: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying;

EVERYONE: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD HAS COME.
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING. LET EVERY HEART, PREPARE HIM ROOM.
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING,
AND HEAVEN AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING.

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So it was, when the angels had gone away from us into heaven, that we said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us. So we came with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in a manger."

SONG: O COME LET US ADORE HIM, O COME LET US ADORE HIM.
O COME LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD.

NARRATOR: "Now when they had seen Him they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those that heard it, marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen as it was told them."

SONG: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAINS. OVER THE HILLS AND EVERYWHERE.
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAINS. THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN.

DOWN IN A LOWELY MANGER, THE HUMBLE CHRIST WAS BORN.
AND BROUGHT US GOD'S SALVATION, THAT BLESSED CHRISTMAS MORN.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN. OVER THE HILLS AND EVERYWHERE.
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAINS, THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN.

Continue singing as children file off stage.

NARRATOR: And so IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, The promised Savior-Messiah arrived.
Then IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME the Savior died on a cross as the substitute for us.
He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, He shall return as KING.

