

SCENE 1
A MODERN FAMILY'S HOME

Scene opens in a living room decorated for Christmas. Upbeat secular Christmas music plays quietly. DAD sits reading on a couch stage right. DANIELLE sits in an armchair upstage, playing on her phone. SAMMY sits on the floor stage left in front of the Christmas tree wrapping a present badly. MOM stands stage right in front of the couch looking at the phone on her list, agitated.

ASSISTANT GUIDE
Here we are at the Joneses. Let's listen in and see what's happening. Though they may not be your neighbors, you may find that you have more in common than you think.

MOM
Honey, did you pick up that present you were getting for your secretary?

DAD
Yeah, I got it yesterday.

MOM
Good. Danielle, what do we need to get for your Christmas party at school?

DANIELLE
I need to bring cupcakes and a \$5.00 gift to exchange.

MOM
OK. Oh no! I forgot to get the chips and dip for the party tomorrow night!

Looks over at SAMMY who has covered the package in tape
Sammy! Don't put the tape there! Smooth out the paper so grandma's present looks nice! You know she cares about stuff like that!

Takes the present and tries to fix it
Great! Why didn't I just do it myself? Now I have to redo it.

SAMMY looks down, ashamed.
I don't know how I'm going to get everything done. Sometimes I don't think Christmas is worth all the hassle!

DANIELLE
Oh Mom, yes it is. Especially the gifts and all the lights!
(reflecting) Mom? How did it all begin? You know, the presents and the decorations?

SAMMY

Well, Santa Claus started it, didn't he? I mean I really like all the presents he brings me.

MOM

Yes, some people do think it's all about Santa and presents.

DAD

Ok! It's time for you to take a break. Come over here and relax for a minute.

MOM

Oh, I'm sorry, sometimes I get so caught up on what needs to be done that I forget about what's really important.

DAD

I know honey. This time of year does get pretty crazy. Thank you for all you're doing.

Hugs Mom.

And it is worth all the hassle just to enjoy this time together as a family.

Danielle, you asked a very good question, because the Christmas story really means a lot more when we know how it all began. And Sammy, it actually began a long time before Santa Claus showed up.

You know when I was little, on Christmas Eve our family always read the story of how Christmas began.

DANIELLE

Oh Dad, that would be awesome! Do we have the story?

DAD

Embarrassed

Uh, yeah. I think so. Mom, have you seen a Bible anywhere?

MOM

I think I saw Grandma's old one around here somewhere.

DANIELLE

Pulls old Bible out from under a chair, blows off the dust, hands it DAD

Is this it?

DAD

Yeah! That's it! Ok, now let's see if I can remember where the story is.

Looks through the Bible

Here, this looks like it. It's written by a man named Luke.

Reads Luke 2:1, 3-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own

town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn.

SAMMY

Is that all there is?

DAD

Frowns

No, I remember there being more to the story. Something about heavenly beings.

SAMMY

Woah! You mean like from Star Wars?

DAD

Laughs

No, they were called angels. Let's see if I can find it.

Searches through the Bible

OK, this looks like it might be it. It's in Matthew. Well, it's not about the angels but it is more about the first Christmas.

Reads Matthew 2:1,2 from the Bible

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wisemen from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him."

Magi enter interrupting family conversation, talking excitedly to the group

WISEMAN 1

Have you seen the star? It's amazing! You've got to see this!

Points to the sky

WISEMAN 2

We are from a far country and have been following this star for many nights.

WISEMAN 3

I had a dream telling me that we should follow the star. It was such a compelling feeling, that I knew we had to follow this strange, yet wonderful star.

WISEMAN 1

Please come with us and follow the star!

WISEMEN walk slowly up the hill towards Jerusalem

**ASSISTANT GUIDE encourages the group to follow the
WISEMEN*

WISEMAN 2

There's the star, over there.

Pointing at the star

I wonder, is this the best road to take to follow it?

WISEMAN 3

I wish there was someone from around here who could tell us where this road leads.

GUIDE

Walks down the road and meets the WISEMEN

Did I hear you wondering where this road leads? It leads to Jerusalem.

WISEMAN 1

Oh good! We are following that star (*points*) and want to go to Jerusalem to find a newborn king. But we need someone to show us the way. Could you be our guide?

GUIDE

Well, I'm on my way to Bethlehem for the census, but Jerusalem is on the way. Yes, I can guide you there. My name is_____.

Now there are dangers along the way, but I can get you there safely. (*Beat*) You said you are following a star? To find a newborn king? That's interesting. Can you tell me more about it? Where did you come from?

WISEMAN 2

We began far away in our home country in the East. It has been a very long dangerous journey.

WISEMAN 3

We've had to travel at night in order to follow the star! But it's worth it because we were told in a dream that the star would bring us to the Messiah, to a newborn king!

WISEMAN 1

We researched this, we found a promise in some ancient scrolls about a star that would herald the birth of a king who will bring peace. Well, everybody's looking for peace, so of course we had to follow this star!

GUIDE

Fascinating! Well, let's get on our way to Jerusalem. It's not far.