

SCENE 5
MOUNTED SOLDIERS

TWO SOLDIERS on horseback come trotting up in the darkness on the road between the shepherds and BETHLEHEM

MOUNTED SOLDIER

Halt! Who goes there?

GUIDE

I am _____ (name) and these are my friends.

MOUNTED SOLDIER

State your business at such a late hour.

GUIDE

We are just travelers journeying to Bethlehem, following the star to find the new baby king.

MOUNTED SOLDIER

New baby king? Treason! We have no king but Herod! Speak no more of this or Herod may hear of it. On your way now! Go!

GUIDE

Yes sir!

MOUNTED SOLDIER

Move! Quickly now! And make no trouble or I'll send you back to King Herod. He has a nice comfortable dungeon for troublemakers like you.

GUIDE

Leads group down the road to BETHLEHEM. Points to people on the side of the road.

Look there are lepers along the road, stay away from them, they're unclean.

Beggar children run through the GROUP calling out "Alms."
Hold on to your money pouches! The beggars will steal you blind!
Please stay close together, it's much safer.