

SCENE 7
THE MANGER

The front of an inn. The Inn door is located stage right. A gate leading to the stable is stage left.

GUIDE

Yes, this must be the Inn the other Innkeeper was talking about. Let's see if there are rooms here.

To children in the GROUP.

Would you knock on the door for me?

CHILD knocks on Inn door

Thank you!

INNKEEPER

Opens door.

Good evening.

GUIDE

Good evening. We were told you might have a room for us to stay the night.

INNKEEPER

I'm sorry! We have been full since early afternoon. We are so full in fact that I sent a couple down to the stable to stay the night.

GUIDE

The stable?

INNKEEPER

Yeah, I felt sorry for them. They looked so tired from traveling and the woman was pregnant! She looked ready to burst at any minute. My stable is large, clean and comfortable, and I thought they might as well use it. They were grateful. If you're not picky, you can join them if you want. At least you will be out of the cold.

GUIDE

To GROUP

What do you think? Would you like to do that?

To INNKEEPER

Thank you for your generosity. I think we just might do that. Where is the stable?

INNKEEPER

Oh, it's just up there at the end of this building. Let me show you.

INNKEEPER walks GUIDE over to the gate outside the stable and opens it.

Please make yourselves comfortable.

GUIDE

Thank you so much! And good night!

INNKEEPER Exits

To GROUP

Did you hear that? The woman is about to have a baby! And the part about the manger! Remember what the angel said? "You will find the baby lying in a manger." Could this be the one?

GUIDE calls children to the front of the group before they enter the MANGER SCENE. GUIDE knocks and looks in, then motions the GROUP to come in.

WISEMEN stand holding their gifts upstage left. MARY JOSEPH and BABY JESUS sit behind a short fence center stage. Fence extends to the exit stage right. Hidden door upstage right allows the ANGEL to enter.

GUIDE stands stage right of the manger, far enough over to give the ANGEL room to move. GUIDE and ASSISTANT GUIDE encourage children to move up to the fence.

WISEMAN 1

Turns and smiles, motioning the GROUP to come closer with a finger to his lips

I'm so glad you found your way! You followed the star?

GUIDE

Yes, we did!

WISEMAN 1

This is the newborn king, the Messiah!

Turns back to face the manger.

GUIDE kneels, and invites children to kneel, so adults behind them can see.

SOUNDTRACK BEGINS "Mary Did You Know." As music begins ANGEL enters and crosses to stand to the right of MARY where she can make eye contact. ANGEL smiles at MARY and BABY JESUS and begins singing. At the end of the song, ALL ACTORS freeze in place.

GUIDE

Stands up

Shh... Come quietly with me. The baby is sleeping.

GUIDE leads the GROUP out the exit upstage right. Once the GROUP is outside:

The Messiah! God promised He would come, but I never thought I would see Him! What an amazing sight! The Messiah is born! The Messiah is born! I'll shout it to the whole world, HE IS BORN!

Walks towards MODERN SCENE then looks right toward the illuminated cross and stops abruptly.

I haven't noticed that cross here before. (*Beat*) I wonder what's going to happen to this baby? (*Walks a few steps further*) You know, some of the prophets of old were stoned because our people would not accept their message. I pray that this Messiah we have just seen does not end up there (*pointing to the cross*). We must listen to our Heavenly Father, and follow Him (*motions back to the manger*). This baby is our only Hope!

Walks to the door of the MODERN SCENE

I want to thank you for being such a great group to travel with tonight. Now let's see. Where did you start your journey tonight? Ah, yes! The Joneses. I wonder what they've learned since you left their living room? Would you like to find out? Here we are at their home again. Come on, let's go see.

GUIDE knocks on the door.