

SCENE 8  
A MODERN FAMILY'S HOME

*Family sits as they were when interrupted by the WISEMEN. MOM and DAD are on the couch. DANIELLE sits in her chair center stage. SAMMY sits stage left in front of the Christmas tree.*

*DAD has a Bible open in his lap and reads from Luke 2:20*

DAD

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen as it was told to them.

DANIELLE

*With awe*

Wow! That must have been amazing to see! Is that where giving gifts at Christmas began? When the wisemen brought gifts to Jesus?

DAD

No, gift giving started much later, but I think Jesus was the greatest Christmas gift the world ever got.

DANIELLE

Totally! *(Beat)* Mom, do you think that Mary knew how important Jesus was when she was holding him as a baby?

MOM

Well, she knew that He came from God. That He was the Messiah, and that he came to save His people. But I don't think she had any idea of what that would look like. How could she know that one day he would heal leprosy and go for walks at night on the sea?

Sammy:

Wait! You mean that baby was Jesus, Jesus? The one that healed the sick and walked on water?

MOM

Yes, He's the same one! He did so many miracles while he was here. He healed the sick, drove out demons, forgave people's sins and showed us how to treat each other. *(Beat. Leans forward.)* Sammy, I'm so sorry for losing my temper earlier. I was so overwhelmed and I took it out on you. Will you forgive me?

SAMMY

Of course I forgive you!

*Crosses and gives MOM a hug and sits next to her on the couch.*

MOM

Thank you sweetheart.

DANIELLE

But is that all? If that's the end of the story, it seems so worthless to give each other presents at Christmas, just to honor a man who died 2,000 years ago.

MOM

Oh, Danielle, there's more to the story! Jesus wasn't just a man. He was the Messiah, the promised deliverer of humanity. Messiah means "Savior." Our sins, like greed, pride, and *(with humility)* anger, had separated us from God. But He loved us anyway and wanted us back. So God Himself, in the form of Jesus, came to live a perfect life. Like a perfect, spotless lamb, like the one sacrificed in the temple, He died on the cross to rescue us from all the bad things we had done and to give us the gift of eternal life. All we have to do is accept this gift, believe in Jesus and let Him fill our heart, and we can be saved, right here, right now.

DANIELLE

*Reverently.*

That's amazing. I want that gift.

SAMMY

Me too.

*MOM and DAD look at each other.*

DAD

Me three. *(DAD Looks down at the Bible in his hands)* Guys, I think it's time we look for a church that teaches from here *(Raises bible)* and start going. What do you say?

*DANIELLE SAMMY and MOM nod their heads and agree.*

SAMMY

Man, I wish I'd been one of those guys following that star!

DANIELLE

*Kindly*

You mean the Magi?

Sammy

Yeah! 'Cause I would have followed it too and would have brought a gift to baby Jesus. *(Sigh)* I wish I could still follow the star.

DAD

You know, you can. We all can. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the bright and morning star and that one day he's going to come back and get us. You see, Jesus didn't just die. He rose again and went back

to heaven. And he wants us there with him. So really we can all still follow the star, day or night. Because the star is Jesus.

Sammy

Cool!

DANIELLE

Mom, Dad, do you think we could pray?

MOM

*Surprised.*

Of course sweetie. Would you like to do it?

DANIELLE

*Hesitantly*

Uh, OK.

*Bows head*

Dear Jesus, You're pretty cool, you know? Thank you for loving us. Thank you for coming down here as a baby. Thank you for living a perfect life. That must have been really hard. Thank you for dying for us on the cross and for forgiving my sins. Help us to follow you Jesus, like the wisemen followed the star. I want to be ready when you come to take us home. Amen.

*LIGHTS OUT*

GUIDE

As you go, look up through the darkness of the night. There is still a bright star there. The star of promise that the king will come again.

Goodnight and God bless you all, and remember, follow the star!