



# One Starry Night

A Christmas melodrama “adapted” from Luke 2:8-20

Written by Jim Manker

Assign the parts below and then have the characters respond according to the script provided. Either make copies so that characters can jump in on the parts in bold as you narrate, or simply have them repeat or act out the sections in bold as you go along.

Caesar Augustus  
5 Shepherds or so  
5 sheep or so

1 Angel of the Lord  
“Great company of heavenly host”

Mary  
Joseph

In those days Caesar Augustus was in charge and was very bored and so he issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, which is a fancy way to say, **“Let’s count everybody!”** So everyone went to his or her hometown to register. Joseph and his fiancée Mary, who by the way was pregnant with baby Jesus, went to Bethlehem. Unfortunately, all the hotels were booked for some convention and they ended up in a stable. As the story goes, Mary gave birth to Jesus and put him in a manger. Meanwhile, out in the fields keeping watch over their flock were some shepherds. The shepherds would pet the sheep; sing to the sheep, and every now and then when no one was looking they would give the sheep a little kick, just for good measure! One night their routine took a new turn when an angel of the Lord showed up and said, **“Wassup!”** To which the shepherds cried out, **“We’re all gonna die!”** and fell on their faces crying and whimpering, and feeling really bad about kicking their sheep when no one was looking. The Angel of the Lord said, **“Sorry about that guys, I couldn’t resist, have I got great news for you. Today, in Bethlehem, a Savior is born to you and to everyone else, including all the people Caesar is trying to count!** (Caesar: **“Let’s count everybody!”** Now back to the Angel of the Lord.) **This Savior’s name is Jesus and he’s in Bethlehem. But don’t bother looking for his hotel, you’ll find him wrapped in torn up cloths and lying in an animal’s food trough in a barn.”** Just as the shepherds were starting to dust themselves off saying, **“Whew, THAT was a close one,”** a great company of heavenly hosts appeared out of nowhere, and began singing the hallelujah chorus from the Messiah (and you thought Handel wrote that one). The sheep knew this song and joined in, and the shepherds broke out in a spontaneous rendition of *Swan Lake*. It was QUITE a scene. After the angels left, the shepherds said to each other, **“Well, you don’t see THAT everyday!”** To which another said, **“You can say that again!”** And so he did. Somewhere in the middle of this, one of the shepherds shouted **“ROAD TRIP!”** and they headed off to Bethlehem. Feeling unsafe and neglected, the sheep got up and returned to their seats, all the while muttering to each other, **“Why didn’t we get to go to Bethlehem?”** Back at the manger, Mary had just put Baby Jesus down to sleep, when the shepherds arrived, still humming the hallelujah chorus. They said to each other and to Mary and Joseph, **“This is just as the angel had said, wait until the world hears about THIS!”** About this time, one of the shepherds said to the others, **“Hey, who’s watching our sheep?”** To which they replied, **“We thought YOU were watching our sheep!”** After a while, Joseph said to the shepherds, **“Shhhh. Don’t wake the baby!”** to which Mary added, **“Yeah, and I’m a little tired too!”** So, worried about the sheep, and fearing the wrath of a new father and mother, the shepherds left for home, whistling the theme from the Andy Griffith show and intermittently shouting, **“A Savior is Coming, a Savior is Coming”** in their best Paul Revere accent! And Mary and Joseph had no idea that someday people in OUR town, on a night before Christmas, would still be talking about the birth of their child, Jesus the Savior of the world! And Caesar said, **“AMEN!”**