**Bible Characters Come Alive: Script**

*On Stage: There is a small table with a big box next to it on the floor. Inside the box is a nativity scene.*

**Narrator:** Children and families… I have something very special to show you! Now that it is Advent, it is time to get our Christmas decorations out and I want to show you me very special nativity set.

*(Narrator gets out each piece and asks children who each character is as she sets up the scene. Once the scene is set, a slide with a picture of it is up on the screen).*

**Narrator:** You know, when I was a child, I would sit and look at my families nativity scene and I would pretend that each character could talk and tell me their story… I wish these characters could talk! Oh wait… I have an idea! Have you ever made a wish? (they answer) What if we all made a wish together… do think if we all close our eyes and wish very hard, that these characters might tell us their story?? Want to try? Okay… lets all shut our eyes very tightly… and wish. We wish and wish and wish and wish that these characters come alive!!! (Wait) Now, let’s open our eyes.

(act disappointed) It didn’t work… lets try it again. Close your eyes… we wish and wish and wish that these characters come to life! (Pause) Okay, open your eyes! (act disappointed) It didn’t work. Kids are you closing your eyes?? Are you wishing? Are your parents closing their eyes and wishing??? Okay… one more time and if it doesn’t work this time, I guess we’ll just sing a carol and go home! Here we go! Close your eyes and wish as hard as you can… We wish and wish and wish that these characters come to life!!!

(The characters (EXCEPT FOR DONKEY) come walking out. They look confused.)

**Joseph:** Where are we? Who are you?

**Narrator:** We are the children and families of Christ Church and we are so happy to meet you!! You used to live in this little nativity set but we wished that you could come to life and tell us your story! Will you tell us your story? Who wants to go first?

**Angel Gabriel:** I will go first … I was the very first one to hear about God’s plan! I am the angel, Gabriel. By the way, I have been working beside God since before the universe was made! Yep, I was there to see God make the sun, the stars, the earth and the first animals and people! I have seen all of the amazing things God has ever done! But this baby… born on Christmas… well there has never been anything as amazing as that! Oh, I am getting way ahead if myself… first there was Mary!

**Mary:** That’s me! Hi Gabriel! Good to see you again!

**Angel Gabriel:** Oh Mary … I will never forget the first time I saw you! You were the kindest, most loving person I had ever seen! Do you remember the first time we met?

**Mary:** Of course I do! I could not believe it! I was just a regular girl, nothing special at all. I mean I prayed every day, but of course everyone prays every day.

**Gabriel:** No, no Mary, nott everyone prays every day, but you did! And God chose you! Now, go on with your story!

**Mary:** Well, I was helping my mom by sweeping the floor. You know I was only a young woman. Not married yet, so I still lived at home! And there you were Gabriel.. an angel standing right in front of me!

**Gabriel:** And I said, ““Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” And you looked so surprised! You didn’t think I had the right person because you had no idea how special you were to God. But YOU were the person God had chosen to be the mother of Jesus! And so I continued: “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

**Mary:** And at first, I was sort of afraid. I mean, me, a nobody was chosen by God for such an important mission… to give birth to Jesus. Plus, I wondered how Joseph would feel about it… but you, Gabriel, were there and sent by God. So I thought a moment, and then another moment, and then *(pause)* I knew what I would do… I would be the best mommy I could be and so I looked you and said, “I will do it! I WILL DO IT!”

**Joseph:** Excuse me but can I tell my part of the story now? I am Joseph. Mary, do you remember our journey to Bethlehem? We had all been ordered by the king to make a trip to our hometown to be counted so he could increase our taxes. I was worried because you were pregnant and it was a long journey. Kids, do you know how many miles it is from Nazareth to Bethlehem? 93 miles… and it is the hill country and a very long journey up and down each hill. It is also very dangerous. There are robbers and thieves along the way! I did not want Mary to go! *(looks at Mary)* I wanted you, Mary, to stay home.

**Mary:** But I wanted to go with you, Joseph! We were engaged and about to have a baby and I needed to be near you! You were so brave and kind. I mean, I had been asked to have the baby by God and you were asked to be his father. Lots of people were mean to you and to me because they did not believe my story. But you believed in me! Of course, I wanted to be with you on the journey!

**Donkey:** Oh boy, you guys are getting very emotional! Very mushy! Hi Kids! I am the donkey! Oh yes, I am the one who carried a pregnant woman up and down those hills for the entire 93 mile trip! I am the one who had to carefully avoid all the dangers on that road. I am the one who sat in the stable and kept all the other animals away from Mary while the baby was being born. I am the one who carried the family to Egypt after the baby was born! I am the one who carried the baby back to Nazareth. Every mile! On my back! I am, in case you haven’t noticed by now, a **pretty important** part of this story. I mean, I guess you could say, I am sort of the star! I guess that is why my name is Star. I am Star, the donkey.

**Joseph:** Star, you know there was a star in the sky the night the baby was born, don’t you?? Do you think maybe that is why we named you Star?

**Donkey:** Are you telling me I might have been named Star because of a star in the sky and not because I am totally amazing?? I don’t know… I’ll have to think about that! But I highly doubt that I was named after a star in the sky. I mean, look at me… I am amazing… I am a star! *(Donkey puts on sunglasses)*

**Shepherd:** Excuse me, but I haven’t spoken yet. I am one of the shepherds who were keeping sheep while all of this was happening. I don’t know if you know much about shepherds but we were sort of the opposite of a star. We weren’t like a cool donkey at all! Everyone hated us. They thought we were stupid and smelly and no one wanted to talk to us. We were the opposite of the star of the show… we weren’t even **in the show**! And while all of the things you have heard about tonight were happening, we were praying that God would send someone to us to show the entire world how to love everyone, even shepherds. Every night, we prayed for a savior, the Messiah, the prince of peace. And every morning, we woke up and it had not happened. We were tired and lonely. But we kept praying! Until, Christmas Eve… the night that the star shone so brightly and the angels appeared and invited us to go see a baby. And we went and saw Mary and Joseph and the baby… and for the first time in our lives, we knew that we mattered and that we were loved! And I want to tell all of you here tonight… you are loved!

**Gabriel:** That is why the baby came … to remind us all that we are all loved!

**Mary:** I am loved!

**Joseph:** I am loved!

**Donkey:** I am loved!

**Shepherd:** I am loved!

**Narrator:** I am loved! And children… tell me. Are you loved? Stand and say it out loud.. 1-2-3:

**Children:** I am loved

**Narrator:** And youth … tell me. Are you loved? Stand and say it out loud … 1-2-3…

**Youth:** I am loved!

**Narrator:** And parents and grandparents and all of our adults… are you loved? Stand and say it out loud: 1-2-3…

**Parents:** I am loved!

**Gabriel:** I was there when the world was made. I am the angel that brings messages to earth. And from the first human being until tonight, God had one message for all of them and has the same message for you tonight: YOU ARE LOVED!

**Narrator:** Baby Jesus is the One whom God sent to us to show us how loved we really are! And so during Advent, while we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus… remember… you are loved… more than you can even imagine!

**Song** (Live or video): “Love Came down at Christmas.”

**Narrator:** Explains cards and invites kids to come get their deck and invites kids to exchange cards and get autographs!!!

*(Festive music plays while they exchange cards!)*

(As they leave, people are at each door, blessing them: “As you journey towards Christmas, don’t forget, you are loved!”)