



Sunday School Plays

By Kathy Warnes

Hark, Hark The Ark

ACT I

(The shape of the ark is in the background. Noah stands with a hammer, putting the finishing touches on its doorway.)

CHOIR Oh Noah built a big, big, boat
 There's one wide river to cross,
 He wasn't even sure it would float.
 There's one wide river to cross.
 There's one wide river,
 And that wide river is Jordon,
 There's one wide river,
 HARK HARK THE ARK!

(A little girl walks on stage carrying a turtle)

SARAH: Grandfather, Noah, why are you building that big boat?
NOAH: It's more than a boat. It's called an ark.
SARAH: Why are you building an ark?

NOAH: God told me to build it.

SARAH: Why did God tell you to build an ark?

NOAH: Look around you. What do you see?

SARAH: I see two men over there hitting each other. I see people lying and cheating and stealing.

NOAH: God said He will not tolerate the violence anymore. He told me he is going to bring a flood of waters on the earth to destroy all flesh.

SARAH: I don't believe that God would do that to me or my mother or father. We haven't lied or cheated or stolen.

NOAH: God said that I should take me and all of my household into the ark. That means you and your father Shem, and your mother. That means your uncles Ham and Japheth and their wives and children.

SARAH: Grandfather Noah, can I bring my pet turtle on the ark?(She holds out the turtle)

NOAH: God told me to bring pairs of every animal on the ark.

SARAH: Even skunks, Grandfather Noah? Phew! How can we live with skunks?

NOAH: We can put them in the closet way back in the corner and hope nobody bothers them.

SARAH: Slow Poke said he just needs some water and a rock to be happy.

NOAH: Oh, your turtle's name is Slow Poke. Why do you call him that?

SARAH: He always gets home two hours after everyone else.

NOAH: We'll have to give him an early start when we load the ark. Maybe he can

walk ahead of the skunks.

SARAH: I'll go talk to him about it, Grandfather Noah.

NOAH: Have a good talk with him, Sarah. (Sarah runs off stage with Slow Poke.
Noah starts hammering again)

NOAH: Lord, I'm not sure I can do this. How do I know which way to steer an
ark? I've never even been in a fishing boat.

CHOIR: (To the tune of My Lord Knows the Way Through the Wilderness)

My Lord knows the way through the waters,

All I have to do is follow,

My Lord knows the way through the waters,

All I have to do is follow.

Strength for today is mine all the way

And all I need for tomorrow,

My Lord knows the way through the waters

All I have to do is follow. (Sound of thunder. Flashes of lightning)

NOAH: But Lord, I'm not ready yet. I'm a little slower than I used to be. After all,

I am 600 years old! (Thunder and lightning are louder this time)

NOAH: All right, Lord. I'll get everyone together and we'll get onboard. (Noah
walks to the side of the stage)

NOAH: Oh, Mrs. Noah! It's time to load the ark. Are you ready? (Mrs. Noah
comes out with a pile of blankets in her arms)

MRS. NOAH: I'm just about ready, Noah. Where are Shem, Ham and Japheth and their

wives? I could use some help carrying these blankets on board. And we have some baskets of fruit and vegetables to load, too.

NOAH: I have to get all of the animals together. (He puts a gang plank from the edge of the stage to the door of the ark)

NOAH: Come on giraffes, snakes and owls,
Come on horses, pigs, and cows,:
Hurry now, before it gets dark,
Hurry, hurry into the ark! (Two horses come to the gangplank side by side)

NOAH: Good, the horses are coming!

MRS. NOAH: They aren't coming yet. Not until I put some blankets in their stalls.

NOAH: You're carrying blankets, aren't you?

MRS. NOAH: The horse blankets are way on the bottom. Can't you have the horses come aboard last?

NOAH: I think I'll have porcupines come on last. (The owl flies in front of Mrs. Noah)

MRS. NOAH: The owls just came aboard.

NOAH: Don't tell me they need blankets, too.

MRS. NOAH: No, but they need to shake out their feathers. (The owls shake out their feathers and fly on board)

MRS. NOAH: Come back here you two.

OWLS (Together) Who? Who? Who?

MRS. NOAH: You, you, you. Come back here. (She grabs a broom and begins to chase them).

NOAH: Mrs. Noah, we don't have time to play tag now. We've got to get all of the animals aboard the ark.

MRS. NOAH: The owls are aboard and getting settled. Who should we take next?

NOAH: How about the hippopotami?

MRS. NOAH: The hippopotami? Why? Why so soon, I mean?

NOAH: If we put them on last, we'll have a list on the ark. In fact, it might roll right over.

MRS. NOAH All right. Come on hippopotami. It's time to get on the ark. (She steps to the edge of the stage and calls) Oh hippopotami! (Two hippopotami appear)

1ST HIPPO You wanted us? Why? What do you want with the hippopotami?

MRS. NOAH It's time for you to come aboard the ark.

2ND HIPPO Aboard the ark? What ark? Is this a lark?

NOAH No, it's not a lark. I want to see how far the ark will settle in the water when you come on board. (The hippopotami come aboard the ark)

NOAH Oh dear! I'd better call the elephants aboard to balance the ark before the hippopotami sink it. Elephants, elephants, lend me an ear, Elephants, elephants, quick, come here! (Two elephants come up to Noah. One hands his ear to Noah)

NOAH (Laughs and hands the ear back)

I didn't mean I wanted your ear. I just wanted you to use it and listen to me.

ELEPHANT (Refastening ear) What can we do for you, Noah?

NOAH I want you and your wife to come aboard the ark now.

MRS. NOAH Yes, please come aboard so the ark will straighten up again. Right now, it's horribly tilted. We need you to balance the hippopotami.

NOAH (Pointing) Come to the end of the ark. (The elephants walk to the opposite end of the ark from the hippopotami. The ark immediately evens up).

MRS. NOAH Good!

NOAH Elephants, here is some hay for you, and hippopotami, here are some river weeds. Please enjoy yourselves, but sit still.

MRS. NOAH who's next?

NOAH Maybe we should take the insects next. Flies, mosquitoes, are you ready?
(A mosquito zooms in and lights on Mrs. Noah's arm. She slaps at it)

1ST MOSQUITO Ouch! You hit me!

MRS. NOAH Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hit you so hard. I just wanted to make sure you didn't bite me.

(Another mosquito dive-bombs Noah. He ducks)

NOAH Hey, take it easy! You're going to knock me over! (The mosquito dive-bombs him again)

MRS. NOAH (Slapping at the mosquito with one of her blankets) Shoo! Shooo! Get away from Noah!

1ST MOSQUITO Where should we go?

NOAH (Putting down a paper puddle in one corner of the ark)

Here's a nice puddle of water. Why don't you and Mrs. Mosquito settle down right here?

1ST MOSQUITO Buzzz!

2ND MOSQUITO Buzzz!

1ST MOSQUITO Thank you. (They buzz off and light on the puddle of water)

MRS. NOAH Noah, it's time to load the tigers. There's one tiger in the corner and I think the other one's over here.

1ST TIGER (Roaring) GRRR! I'm here all right,

Ready, ready for a fight,

Why didn't you bring our trees?

Can't we have our jungle, please???

NOAH I brought six trees from your jungle. (He puts them by the mosquito pool) Enjoy your trees, tigers! (The tigers slink into the trees while the mosquitoes appear with huge knives and forks made of paper)

1ST MOSQUITO: Mmmmmm. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Mmmmmm!

SARAH Slow Poke should go first. He's not as big as the horses.

MRS. NOAH Where's Mrs. Turtle?

SARAH What Mrs. Turtle? Show Poke is all by himself.

MRS. NOAH Slow Poke has to have a Mrs. Turtle or he can't come on the ark.

SARAH If Slow Poke can't come on the ark, I won't come on the ark. We'll both

stay here together and get wet.

NOAH I'll tell you what we can do, Sarah. We can hunt for a Mrs. Turtle while Mrs. Noah finishes loading the ark.

MRS. NOAH Lizards and salamanders next!(Two lizards and two salamanders slither on board)

NOAH Come on, Slow Poke, we'll find you a Mrs. Slow Poke. (An alligator crawls toward the ark)

SARAH Are you a turtle?

1ST ALLIGATOR (Opens his mouth and shows his big teeth) Yes, I'm a turtle. Come a little closer and I'll show you my tongue!

MRS. NOAH Sarah, his teeth are pretty big.

SARAH Turtles don't have tongues as big as you do. I can see yours all of the way from here.

2ND ALLIGATOR My tongue has a little hinge on it. Come closer and I'll show you how it works.

SARAH I don't have time to look at the hinge on your tongue. I have to find a Mrs. Turtle. (She hurries past the alligator who snaps a piece of cloth out of her dress)

2ND MOSQUITO Groceries for the next year!

NOAH: I think I'll take a little nap. I'm tired from all of this animal loading.

MRS. NOAH: But dear, there's still a lot of animals waiting. Look at that line. (She points to a line of animals.)

NOAH I just need to rest for a few minutes. (He pulls out a hammock and ties it to one of the tiger's trees.)

MRS. NOAH (Putting down her blankets) If you stop working, I'm going to stop working.

NOAH: I'm just going to take forty winks.

MRS. NOAH: Your forty winks will probably turn into forty minutes.

NOAH: Forty...Hmmm, that number sounds familiar. Where did I hear it before? Oh, that's right. God said something to me about forty days and nights.

MRS. NOAH: He couldn't have said anything about sleeping forty days and nights. We have too much work to do.

NOAH He didn't say anything about sleeping forty days and nights. Rain, that's it! He said it would rain forty days and nights.

MRS. NOAH If it's going to rain forty days and nights, then we'd better get the rest of the animals loaded and enough food for all of them. And we need enough food for our family. We need to get them all in the ark, too.

NOAH How many animals do we have left to load?

MRS. NOAH We have monkeys, parrots and porcupines,
We have pigs and sheep and equines. (Sarah walks back on stage carrying Slow Poke)

SARAH Grandfather Noah, what's an equine?

NOAH An equine is a horse.

MRS. NOAH Now look what you've done. You ought to be ashamed of yourself! (Mrs.

Noah smacks the alligator's bottom) Your wife is already on board. Go join her and keep your mouth shut! (The alligator goes on board)

MRS. NOAH Sarah, come and let me fix your dress.

SARAH I've got to find a Mrs. Turtle.

NOAH (From the edge of the stage) I found one! (He holds up a turtle wearing a frilly apron)

SARAH Mrs. Turtle! Oh, thank you, Grandfather Noah! Now Slow Poke can get on the ark!

MRS. NOAH Sarah, come and let me mend your dress. Then you can run home and tell everybody that it's time to come aboard the ark.

NOAH I think- (He is interrupted by a loud QUACK, QUACK, QUACK! Two ducks waddle up the gangplank) The ducks are coming aboard. That means-

MRS. NOAH That means the rain won't be far behind. But Noah, I don't see why the ducks have to come aboard. They can swim. Why can't they just travel alongside or behind us?

NOAH The waters are going to get pretty deep and the ducks will need a place to rest.

MRS. NOAH I suppose that means another puddle of water on my floor. I don't know how you expect me to keep the floors clean with all of these puddles around.

NOAH We'll manage, dear.

MRS. NOAH That's easy for you to say. You don't have to mop up after everybody. Mosquitoes, alligators, ducks! What next?? (A huge spout of water springs up alongside the ark)

MRS. NOAH Oh, no, not whales, too! Noah, I refuse to take any whales aboard. They'll sink us all!

NOAH (Patting her hand) There, there dear, don't worry. The whales are just going to follow us. They're not coming onboard.

MRS. NOAH I'm glad. They'll be safe enough as long as they stay around the ark. And after all--- (More water falls onto the deck)

MRS. NOAH Noah, will you tell them to stop spouting now?

NOAH That wasn't the whales, dear. It's raining.

MRS. NOAH Raining! Oh no! Not everybody's aboard yet. Sarah, run and tell everybody to come quickly to the ark.

SARAH (Putting down Slow Poke) You go get settled in your new home, Slow Poke. I'll be right back. I've got to go and get my mother and father, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts. (She runs offstage)

MRS. NOAH Sarah, wait. I have to mend your dress!

NOAH She's gone dear. She'll be right back, though.

MRS. NOAH Oh dear, there's still a line by the gangplank.

NOAH Let's load the rest of the animals while we're waiting for our family. (Noah and Mrs. Noah lead fireflies, bears, opossums, flies, ravens, doves, and mice aboard the ark. It begins to rain harder.

MRS. NOAH (Stands on the gangplank with an umbrella) Oh dear, where is Sarah and all of our family? What's taking them so long?

NOAH It certainly is raining. I can feel the water dripping off my beard. (He wrings the water out of his beard) God said He was going to make it rain and that's exactly what He's doing.

MRS. NOAH The whales and the ducks are having a good time. Look, the ducks are playing ball. But where is our family?

NOAH Here they come! (A procession of people come onto the stage. There are Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives. Sarah comes too. Everyone is carrying suitcases. Someone has a basketball. Some of the women carry brooms, dust mops, and buckets).

MRS. NOAH It's about time you got here. Don't you know it's raining cats and dogs?

BILLY Here's the cat. (He holds out a cat)

JOHNNY Here's the dog. (He holds out a dog)

SARAH I found Geraldine, my boa constrictor, too. Is there a Mr.Boa Constrictor aboard, Grandfather Noah?

NOAH I just put a Mr. Boa Constrictor in the tiger's trees, Sarah.You can put Mrs. Boa Constrictor over there.

MRS. NOAH Everybody come aboard and get settled. Shem, you and Mrs.Shem can have this room. Ham, you and Mrs. Ham, this one, and Japheth, you and Mrs. Japheth this one. Children, you can sleep down in the hold with your Grandfather Noah and me.

BILLY, JOHNNY, SARAH Oh Boy!

JOHNNY Can I sleep with the snakes?

BILLY I want to sleep with the tigers!

SARAH I don't want to sleep by the porcupines!

NOAH Porcupines! Oh no, I forgot the porcupines!

MRS. NOAH (Peeking over the deck) The water's getting pretty deep. I think you'd better haul in the gangplank Noah. I think we're starting to float.

NOAH I've got to get the porcupines. They can't swim! (Noah runs down the gangplank and over to the edge of the stage where two porcupines are standing)Hurry, hurry on board! You're getting pretty wet!

1ST PORCUPINE We tried to hurry, but we walked so slowly that everybody stomped on us.

2ND PORCUPINE We didn't want to use our quills to slow them down.

1ST PORCUPINE We didn't want anybody to get mad at us.

2ND PORCUPINE Are you really going to let us sail on the ark with you, Noah? Most people don't want us around.

NOAH Yes, I'm going to let you sail on the ark with me. Let's get on board. It's raining harder. (The porcupines slowly walk on board the ark, with Noah behind them)

MRS. NOAH Is everybody here, Noah?

NOAH Everybody's here. It's time to pull in the gangplank.

MRS. NOAH Hurry up! I can feel the ark floating and I have dinner cooking on the stove.

NOAH (Pulling up the gangplank) All aboard! Everybody sit down and relax.

1ST PORCUPINE This is a comfortable spot.

TIGER GROWLLL! You stuck me with one of your quills.

1ST PORCUPINE Oh, I'm so sorry. I thought I had them all tucked in.

1ST FIREFLY This owl keeps flying in my face.

1ST OWL I'm not flying in your face. I'm trying to turn off your light. You're keeping me awake.

2ND OWL Turn off that light! I'm trying to sleep!

2ND FIREFLY Why should we? That's our way of getting around in the dark and it's dark in here.

BILLY Grandmother, Noah, I'm hungry. Is dinner ready yet?(Everybody wants to know if dinner is ready)

NOAH Quiet everybody!(The noise continues)

NOAH (Takes out a whistle and blows it) QUIET EVERYBODY! (Everybody quiets down) I see we have to set some ground rules here. Rule number one is that nobody eats anybody else. (A growl of disappointment comes from the tigers, lions, alligators and bears)

NOAH Anyone who breaks the rules gets thrown overboard. Do you understand me?

EVERYBODY We understand you.

NOAH The second rule is nobody snores. We all need to get our rest. Do you understand me?

EVERYBODY We understand you!

NOAH The third rule is everybody thanks God everyday for saving us and watching over us.

JOHNNY I don't see God watching over us. Where is he?

NOAH You can't see Him, but He's here.

JOHNNY If we can't see Him, how do you know He's here, Grandfather Noah?

NOAH Because He loves us and He knows we believe in Him and are trying to do His will.

JOHNNY I still don't see Him. (A bolt of thunder and a flash of lightning light up the stage)

JOHNNY Sorry, God, I see you! I see you!

NOAH Mrs. Noah, did you say dinner was ready?

MRS. NOAH Yes, everybody sit still and we'll feed you. (Mrs. Noah and the other women pass around baskets of bread)

SARAH What are we having besides peanut butter sandwiches?

MRS. NOAH We're having milk and cookies. (They pass around the milk and cookies)

MRS. NOAH Now that everybody's finished eating, I think it's bed time. It's dark outside already. (Everybody groans)

OPOSSUM I don't want to go to bed. I'm just waking up.

NOAH It's bedtime. Everyone is just going to have to adjust their habits to living aboard an ark.

SARAH I want a bedtime story, Grandfather Noah. Tell us a bedtime story.

EVERYONE	Tell us a bedtime story.
NOAH	Once upon a time men on the earth were so wicked that God decided He would destroy them all with a flood. But there was one man and his family who obeyed God's word, so God told the man about His plans and gave the man directions to build an ark. Who do you think that man was?
EVERYBODY	YOU! The man was you, Noah.
NOAH	You're right. I am the man. And even though nobody believed me when I told them God's plans, I built this ark.
EVERYBODY	Hark, hark the Ark!
SARAH	You brought Slow Poke and Mrs. Slow Poke, too. Thank you, Grandfather Noah.
BILLY	You brought us all on board the ark, too., Grandfather Noah.
EVERYBODY	Thank you, Noah!
NOAH	Now God's making it rain. He said it would rain for forty days and forty nights. But He'll take care of us because He loves us so much.
1ST PORCUPINE	He helped me get on the ark.
ALLIGATOR	He gave me big teeth so I could bite Sarah's dress.
1ST FIREFLY	He showed me how to make a light so I could see in the dark.
NOAH	God loves and cares for us all. We just have to trust Him.
1ST CAT	Did you say He's going to make it rain for forty days and forty nights?
NOAH	That's what God said.
2ND CAT	Isn't it going to get wet and damp and dismal?

NOAH We can entertain ourselves and learn how to adjust. God is with us. God
will always be with us. And now it's time to go to sleep.

SARAH Grandfather Noah, can we sing our bedtime song? Oh, please?

NOAH Everybody has to sing.

CHOIR All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord,

All night, all day, angels watching over me.

Now I lay me down to sleep

Angels watching over me, my Lord.

Pray the Lord my soul to keep

Angels watching over me.

All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord.

All night, all day, angels watching over me.

(A big yellow moon rises over the stage)

SARAH Look, Grandfather Noah. The moon is out and it looks like a big yellow
ball.

NOAH It will light our way tonight. Now go to sleep everyone.

CHOIR All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord,

All night, all day, angels watching over me. Angels.

(Silhouettes of angels flying across the moon)

ACT II

(The rain is still falling, but the animals are gathered on the deck of the art. The animals are fighting and so are the people. The porcupines are sitting by themselves and so are the skunks. Everybody is arguing.

NOAH Quiet, everybody. (Nobody hears him)

NOAH (Brings out his whistle and blows it.
Everybody quiets down) Now that I have your attention, I have a question to ask you. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE???

MRS. NOAH I'm glad you asked, Noah. You've just got to tell everybody to keep their feet clean. Do you know how many puddles of water I have to mop up a day? Do you know how many paw prints get tracked across the floor? Why, there are even paw prints on the walls and ceilings. This has got to stop, Noah. Animal tracks are fine in the jungle, but there is no place for them aboard ship.

TIGER (Holding up his paw prints) I like my tracks. I think they're pretty and they let everyone know I've been around. What's wrong with that?

MRS. NOAH I know you like your tracks. You leave them everywhere, especially on the blankets.

LIZARD Those are my tracks on the wall. I was trying to get away from the boa constrictor.

FLY Those are my tracks on the ceiling. I was trying to get away from Mrs. Noah and her cleaning.

NOAH Dear, I don't think you can blame everybody for having paw prints and leaving them around.

MRS. NOAH No, but I can blame them for where they put them! They'd better be careful or I'm going to wash their feet myself! And I can make them wear socks, too. Does everyone understand that? You have to wipe your feet before you make tracks.

NOAH Does everybody remember the rule about not eating anyone?

EVERYBODY We remember!

NOAH Lizard, why are you trying to get away from the boa constrictor?

LIZARD He was slithering after me!

NOAH Mr. Boa Constrictor, why were you slithering after the lizard?

BOA

CONSTRUCTOR I needed to get some exercise. It's pretty crowded aboard this ark. I needed to move around a little and the lizard was in the way.

NOAH No more exercising after the lizard. Do you understand me?

BOA

CONSTRUCTOR I understand. But I don't know how you expect anybody to keep in shape on this ark. (Everybody grumbles again)

NOAH (Blows his whistle and everybody is quiet again) That's better. I have something I want to tell you. This is your bedtime story. Mrs. Noah, please turn out the lights. Fireflies, turn yours on.

MRS. NOAH Turn out the lights! If I do that, all we'll see is eyes gleaming at us in the dark.

NOAH Everybody keep their eyes down, please. Now Mrs. Noah, turn off the lights. Fireflies, are you ready? (Mrs. Noah turns off the lights. All that can be seen is the flicker of firefly lights).

NOAH I know a good song to sing now. What do you think the song is, Sarah?

SARAH This Little Light of Mine.

BILLY I want to sing, "Hold Out Your Light."

SARAH I want to sing "This Little Light of Mine."

BILLY No, "Hold Out Your Light!"

NOAH Let's try "This Little Light of Mine." I want everybody to sing and pay attention to the words.

CHOIR This little light of mine,
 I'm gonna let it shine,
 This little light of mine,
 I'm gonna let it shine
 Let it shine, Let it shine Let it shine.

MRS. NOAH That's a nice song, but I'm tired. We've been on this ark for 150 days. Are the waters ever going down? Will we ever be able to go home?

MRS. SHEM I need to clean my house.

MRS. HAM My garden needs to be weeded.

MRS. SHEM Your garden is probably all flooded out.

MRS. HAM I can plant it again.

MRS. JAPHETH I need to get more canning done. We used up most of the food I brought aboard.

JAPHETH I want to finish roofing the house before another storm comes.

NOAH I know we all have earthly concerns, but the earth as we knew it is no longer there. We have to trust God to provide us with a new earth and a new way of life.

MRS. NOAH I liked the old way of life, and there is so much to do. Can't we go home soon, Noah?

SARAH I want to make Slow Poke a sweater.

JOHNNY I want to find my ball.

BILLY I want to climb a tree. Why can't I climb a tree, Grandfather, Noah?

NOAH The trees are probably still under water.

BILLY Can't you find out for sure, Grandfather Noah?

NOAH I'll try, but---

MRS. NOAH Noah, the ark stopped moving.

MRS. SHEM Are you sure?

MRS. HAM She said so, didn't she?

HAM I'll go look.

NOAH (Looking out the window) Yes, we've stopped floating. We're resting on the top of the mountain of Ararat.

MRS. NOAH Are you sure?

NOAH God told me, so I am sure. There's nothing more certain than that.

MRS. NOAH Then let's go ashore. I can see the tops of the mountains.

BILLY I get to go first! (He runs to the edge of the stage)

NOAH Everybody stand still. I have to test the waters first. (He opens the window and a raven flies in and lights in front of him) Raven, are you ready for that special mission I told you about?

RAVEN Caw, caw, my feathers are black,
I will go and not come back.

NOAH Raven, I want you to fly over the waters covering the earth and see if they have gone down or not.

RAVEN (Flying out the window) I'm going now, goodbye. I'm going to find something dry!

MRS. NOAH In the meantime I could use some help. (She ties up a clothesline and hands Noah, Billy, and Sarah some clothespins) This washing should blow dry in the wind. And look! The sun is shining!

MRS. SHEM What's that big yellow ball in the sky?

MRS. NOAH It's the sun!

MRS. HAM I almost forgot what it looks like.

MRS. NOAH It feels warm and the light is so cheerful. I hope it dries out the earth so we can go back home. Noah, can we go home yet?

NOAH This time I'll send out a dove to see if the waters have gone down. Come little dove, it's your turn to go.

DOVE It's my turn to go,

 I shall fly to and fro,

 To see if the waters have abated,

 How very long I've waited.

NOAH Godspeed, my little friend.

MRS. NOAH Speed is a good word to use here. Will you please hurry back so we can

 go home? (The dove flies off. Mrs. Noah continues to hang her wash.

 The dove flies back)

NOAH What did you find?

MRS. NOAH (With clothes pins still in her mouth) Has the ground dried out enough to

 plant a garden?

DOVE The waters still flow swift and deep

 There was nowhere to rest my feet.

MRS. HAM I don't see how the dove can be so poetic about it. I just want the earth to

 hurry and dry up.

NOAH We'll wait another week and I'll send the dove out again.

MRS. NOAH A week! Another week on this ark with all of these animals and people! I

 don't know how much more I can stand, Noah.

NOAH God will help us stand anything if we trust Him, Mrs. Noah.

MRS. NOAH Even skunks and porcupines?

NOAH Even skunks and porcupines!

EVERYONE One, two, three, four, five, six, seven days went by,

The dove came back, she still could fly,
She returned to the ark from the south,
With an olive branch in her mouth.

MRS. NOAH Put that thing down before it sheds leaves all over the place!

DOVE I come bearing green leaves. Do you know what that means?

NOAH It means the waters are going down. It means the earth is drying out!

EVERYONE Give a cheer, give a shout

At last the earth is drying out!

NOAH Dove, will you fly out again? (The dove flies off)

ACT III.

EVERYONE One, two, three, four, five, six, seven days went by,
The dove still didn't drop from the sky,
She stayed on earth to build her nest,
She stayed on earth and found a foot rest!

NOAH Since the dove didn't return, I think it's safe to put down the gangplank and
try to land. What does everybody think?

DUCKS Can we still play in the water?

CAT (Sneezing) I was ready to land two months ago. Now I've caught a cold.
I say we land now.

SKUNKS We're ready to find a hollow tree and make a nest.

MRS. NOAH I'm ready for you to make nest too.

1ST SKUNK We didn't do anything wrong, Mrs. Noah. We didn't even track any paw
prints on the floor.

MRS. NOAH It was thinking about what you could have done that bothered me!

NOAH Who wants to go ashore first?

SARAH I think the skunks and porcupines ought to go first. Then the turtles can
go.

MRS. NOAH Skunks and porcupines, first. Come on, right up there in front.

1ST MOUSE What will happen to us? What if there isn't anything to eat on earth now?
At least here on the ark we had enough to eat.

MRS. NOAH So that's what happened to my corn and wheat. I thought you mice might

have had something to do with that.

2ND MOUSE We just took as much as we needed. And we swept the floor for you every day in return.

MRS. NOAH You're the one who swept the floor for me every day? All of the time I thought it was Sarah!

NOAH Look, Mrs. Noah! The ground is dry!

MRS. NOAH Does that mean we can all go ashore now?

NOAH Wait a minute while I ask God! (He prays)

MRS. NOAH What did God say?

NOAH He said the ground was dry and He told me to take everybody off of the ark and start living on the earth again.

EVERYBODY Hooray, isn't it grand! We can start living on land!

NOAH (Putting down the gangplank) Skunks and porcupines first. Then everybody else can take their turn.

MRS. NOAH Elephants! Wait until last or the ark will tip again. Hippopotami, you wait until last too!

NOAH I know a song to sing while we're unloading.

SARAH Which one Grandfather, Noah.

NOAH This one.

CHOIR (Everyone sings Kumbayah)

Someone needs you Lord, Kumbayah

Someone needs you Lord, Kumbayah,

Someone needs you Lord, Kumbayah

Oh Lord, Kumbayah.

(The choir sings enough verses of the song to allow all of the animals to come down the gangplank).

MRS. NOAH It looks like everyone is off, but the elephants and hippopotami, Noah.

NOAH Are the mosquitoes gone?

MRS. NOAH Yes, they flew off beside the tigers.

NOAH What about the fireflies?

MRS. NOAH The last time I looked, they were sitting on my clothes line watching everybody.

NOAH Fireflies, are you still there?

1ST FIREFLY We're here, Noah. Can we help you?

NOAH Yes, I have a favor to ask of you. After the elephants and hippopotami get off the ark, I want to build an altar to thank God for our lives and our new start.

2ND FIREFLY What does that have to do with us?

NOAH I'm not sure I'll be able to find any completely dry wood. I want you fireflies to start the fire for me.

1ST FIREFLY I'll be glad to start a fire for you.

2ND FIREFLY I'll help too.

NOAH Let's meet over there in the middle of that grove of trees as soon as I unload the elephants and the hippopotami.

MRS. NOAH Noah, you have to help me carry off our suitcases!

NOAH I'll see you fireflies in the grove of trees in a few minutes. (The fireflies fly off)

NOAH I'll carry off the suitcases first. (Noah takes two huge suitcases down the gangplank, staggering under their weight.) What have you got in these suitcases, Mrs. Noah? It feels like you put a ton of rocks in them.

MRS. NOAH Let's see. Your good robes are in that brown one and your good sandals in the blue one. And our everyday water jugs are in that one.

NOAH I see what you mean. (He carries off the suitcases and sits them aside.)
We can keep them here until we decide where to build our house.

MRS. NOAH At least we won't have to worry about it raining for awhile. Or do we? Is God going to send another flood?

NOAH No, God won't destroy the earth with a flood again.

MRS. NOAH How do you know He won't?

NOAH He promised me He wouldn't.

MRS. NOAH Why didn't He promise me, too. Or Sarah? Or Shem or Ham or Japheth?
Why does He just talk to you?

NOAH I listen to Him.

MRS. NOAH I listen to Him, but He never talks to me.

NOAH He speaks with a still, small voice. Sometimes our loud voices drown out His. Listen more closely for Him. If you listen closely, you'll hear Him.
(The elephant trumpets loudly) MRS. NOAH Is that God's voice?

NOAH No, God has a still, small voice. That is a noisy, large trumpet that sounds like it belongs to an elephant.

MRS. ELEPHANT Hurry, Mrs. Noah! Mr. Elephant was going through the ark door and he got stuck!

MRS. NOAH Are the hippopotami off the ark?

MRS. ELEPHANT Yes, they left without getting stuck. Mr. Elephant was right behind them and he got stuck! (Noah and Mrs. Noah walk over to the ark doorway. Mr. Elephant is stuck in it.)

NOAH Mr. Elephant, I see you got yourself in a tight spot. How did it happen?

MRS. ELEPHANT I told him not to eat that last bale of hay this morning before we left, but he just wouldn't listen to me. He just wouldn't listen.

MR. ELEPHANT I left one little wisp of hay on the floor. You told me not to eat it all and I didn't eat it all!

MRS. ELEPHANT Very funny! Now you tell me how you're going to get out of that doorway.

MRS. NOAH I have an idea.

NOAH Mrs. Elephant, you get behind him and push. So will I. We ought to have him unstuck in no time. (They get behind Mr. Elephant. Mrs. Noah brings in a big bar of soap and rubs it on Mr. Elephant.

MRS. NOAH That ought to do the trick. (She goes behind him and pushes too. Mr. Elephant shoots out of the door and down the gangplank.

MRS. ELEPHANT Thank you so much for freeing my husband, Mr. and Mrs. Noah. Come

on, Mr. Elephant, let's go join the others. (They join the crowd of animals.

Mr. Elephant rubs his back.

MRS. NOAH What are you planning to do in that grove of trees, Noah? It's so full of animals you won't be able to move.

NOAH It should be full of people, too. I told the family to gather there and the fireflies are supposed to be there, too.

MRS. NOAH What are you planning, Noah?

NOAH Come over and see. (Mrs. Noah follows Noah over to the grove where the animals and people are seated on the ground)

NOAH I have asked you to gather here for a purpose. Before we go off to live our own lives again, I thought we should thank God for our safe voyage on the ark.

MRS. NOAH I want to thank Him for drying up the earth.

SARAH I want to thank Him for giving Slow Poke a Mrs. Slow Poke.

BILLY I want to thank Him for keeping the porcupines away from me.

NOAH I'll gather a pile of wood for the altar. (He piles up some wood.) The fireflies have promised to light the fire for me.

(The fireflies fly and light the fire with their tails) I want to thank God for His promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood.

HAM How do we know He made that promise?

MRS. HAM We didn't hear Him make it. You did!

SHEM How do you know it won't rain again tomorrow?

NOAH It might rain tomorrow, but just for a day or less, not forty days and nights again.

MRS. SHEM Ask God to stop the rain until everything gets dried out.

MRS. NOAH Ask God to stop the rain until my clothes dry!

MRS. JAPHETH: How do you know God promised He wouldn't destroy the earth with a flood again?

JAPHETH Tell us, father.

NOAH He said he would seal his promise with a rainbow in the sky.

JOHNNY I don't see a rainbow.

SARAH I see one!

JOHNNY There isn't a rainbow up there. That's just light or a bird.

SARAH It's a rainbow!

JOHNNY It isn't.

SARAH It is!

MRS. NOAH It's the most beautiful rainbow I've ever seen. What do you think, Noah?

MRS. SHEM It's pretty all right.

SHEM I just hope it doesn't rain again tomorrow.

MRS. SHEM If we have a rainbow like this one every time it rains, I hope it will rain again tomorrow. (They all exclaim over the rainbow)

NOAH You see, God always keeps his promises. He gives us rainbows to light up the darkness in our lives.

CHOIR (Everyone sings Amen) Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

God keeps his promises,

If only we trust Him,

Amen, Amen, Amen

Roll the Stone Away!

CAST

1 angel
 1 Jesus
 1 Beggar in rags
 Any number of children
 Audience

Props: A large hole suggesting a tomb with a large stone in front of it. An angel guards the front of the tomb. A small pile of stones (sponges) sits beside the tomb. A large banner that says, "BUT WAIT" is propped up against the stones. The children, who are dressed in robes Biblical style, each pick up a small stone and start throwing them at each other.

Song: (To the Tune of Michael Row the Boat Ashore)
 Throw those stones at each other, each other,
 At your mother, father, sister or brother,
 Throw hate, rivalry and greed, and greed,
 Throw those stones with great speed, with great speed.

(Child holds out banner for audience to read)

AUDIENCE: BUT WAIT-

CHILD: A beggar's here with a huge sack,
 Pick up the stones He'll carry them on his back.

(The children pick up the stones and put them in a huge sack. The beggar drags the sack to the tomb.)

(To the Tune of Michael Row the Boat Ashore)
 SONG: He bears our sorrows and our sin, our sin,
 He bears them over and over again, again.
 He carries our stones with devotion,
 He carries stones to fill the ocean!

(Child holds out banner for audience to read)

AUDIENCE: BUT WAIT-

CHILDREN: (Holding out their empty hands)

All of our stones are gone,
Our sinful stones, our sad, sad song,
Our hands are empty it's sad but true
Angel, please tell us what to do.

ANGEL: Look for Jesus.

CHILDREN: We can't look for Jesus.

ANGEL: Why not?

CHILDREN: We have no way to get to the city or a palace. That's where Jesus is.

ANGEL: Why do you think Jesus is in a city or a palace?

CHILDREN: That's where you find the Son of God.

(Child holds out audience banner)

AUDIENCE: But wait.

ANGEL: Look inside this tomb.

CHILDREN: Tomb! Is he dead?

ANGEL: The Romans crucified him and he is dead and buried.

CHILDREN: All cry.

CHILD: He can't be dead! What will happen to the world?

ANGEL: Help me roll the stone away and you will find out.

CHILDREN: (Roll up their sleeves and push against the stone. It doesn't move.)

CHILDREN: Angel, you said you would help us.

ANGEL: Try again. (The children turn their backs to the angel. The angel and Jesus tiptoe up behind them and push against the stone. Then Jesus goes back into the tomb. The angel moves the stone away from the entrance to the tomb.)

CHILDREN: We did it! We moved the stone all by ourselves!

Angel holds audience sign:

AUDIENCE: But wait.

ANGEL: All by yourselves? Think about that.

CHILDREN: Jesus, please come out if you're in there.

JESUS: (Walks out of the tomb and sits down on the stone that covered it.)

CHILDREN: He's alive! He's here!

(To the tune of Sing and Smile and Pray)

God rolled the stone away,
For his son on Easter day,
We pushed and tugged on that big stone
But we couldn't move it alone.
God's bigger than any stone,
He's stronger than any tomb,
His great love covers the earth
The whole wide universe.
God rolled the stone away,
For his son on Easter day,
He helps us with all of our stones,
He never leaves us alone!
He helps us with all of our stones
He never leaves us alone!

Twinkle Finds the Manger

SCENE I. Heaven. Twinkle and his friends are standing around talking.

SARAH: Here comes Twinkle, the brightest guy in the sky!
He's so bright he even shines in his sleep.
(The rest of the stars laugh)

TWINKLE: I'm not that bright, Sarah.

SARAH: (Pointing at Twinkle) He's even brighter than a light bulb. (She holds up a light bulb. Everyone laughs harder)

TWINKLE: I can't help it if I shine bright. I want to shine just like the rest of you, but my light's too strong.

BUSTER: Turn it down Twinkle, that's all you have to do.

TWINKLE: I try Buster, but it won't turn down. It just gets brighter.

BUSTER: Ouch, Twinkle, don't shine in our eyes!

(The rest of the stars put their hands over their eyes and walk away from Twinkle).

TWINKLE: Oh dear, they won't play with me again. What's wrong with me!

SUN STAR: Twinkle, come here.

TWINKLE: What do you want with me, Sun Star?

SUNSTAR: God, the Creator of this universe, has a special job for you to do.

TWINKLE: What does He want me to do? Why doesn't He tell me about it himself? He probably doesn't want to be around me either.

SUNSTAR: Sometimes God lets other people or stars in our case, speak for Him. He wants you to go to earth. Look for a baby in a manger. Beside the manger are his parents, Mary and Joseph. You must stand over the manger and shine your brightest so the wise men and shepherds can find it through the dark night.

TWINKLE: Earth! Earth is so far away! Besides, if I'm too bright for heaven I'll surely be too bright for earth. And how will I get to earth?

SUNSTAR: Twinkle, are you going to trust God or keep telling me reasons why you can't do what He asked you to do?

TWINKLE: Let me say goodbye to my friends, and then I'll go.
(He walks over to Sarah)

TWINKLE: Sarah, I need some advice. How does a star act on earth?

SARAH: That depends on how the people on earth act towards the star and on what there is to do down there. I hear there are lots of stores for shopping and places for eating. Could you bring me back a souvenir, Twinkle?

TWINKLE: I'll try, Sarah. But why don't you come with me and bring back your own souvenir?

SARAH: I wouldn't go to earth with you if you were the last star in heaven, Twinkle!

TWINKLE: God asked me to go Sarah and I want you to come along because I need company.

SARAH: God didn't mean He wanted you to really go to earth. You can light up any manger on earth by shining from right here in heaven. I can't talk to you anymore, Twinkle. I have to go home and eat supper. (She flounces away)

TWINKLE: (Walks over to Buster) Buster, wanna play catch?

BUSTER: Sure, Twinkle. (They toss a baseball back and forth)

TWINKLE: Buster, would you consider taking a trip to earth with me?

BUSTER: Earth! Why on earth do you want to go to earth, Twinkle? I know me and the other stars tease you a lot, but we would miss you if you went away!

TWINKLE: God wants me to go to earth and shine on a manger with a baby in it.

BUSTER: Shine on a manger! If God wanted you to go, why would He have you shine on a manger? Wouldn't God have you shine on a skyscraper or a church instead? After all, it says in our history book that churches are where you find God on earth.

TWINKLE: I don't know why He wants me to shine on a manger, but I'm going to do what He says. Will you come with me?

BUSTER: My folks won't let me go all the way to earth, Twinkle. And what are you going to tell your folks?

TWINKLE: They probably won't even notice I'm gone, Buster. Dad's busy at the office and mom plays with my baby sister Susie all day. They won't miss me. But just in case, I'll leave them a note. See yah when I get back, Buster. (Twinkle walks over to the back of the stage. He slides down a ladder)

TWINKLE: Wow, I's a long way down to earth! (He rubs his bottom) Ouch! I ran into a splinter. I hope I'm almost there. (Twinkle lands with a thud in front of two children, Jason and Jennifer.)

TWINKLE: Oops! Sorry for landing on your foot like that!

JASON: That's okay. You sure were going fast!

JENNY: I thought you were a shooting star you were going so fast.

TWINKLE: Actually, I'm Twinkle, a star with a big job to do. I have to find a manger with a baby in it and the baby's parents Mary and Joseph and some shepherds and wise men. Then I have to shine on them all. Isn't that a big job for one star? Will you help me, uh...uh...what's your name anyway?

JASON: I'm Jason and this is my sister Jenny. Why do you have to shine on all of those

people and a manger?

TWINKLE: God said that's what He wants me to do, so I have to do it!

JENNY: We have a manger under our Christmas tree at home.

TWINKLE: I don't think that's the manger God meant. I'll just have to look around for it.

JENNY: Can we help you look for it, Twinkle? After all, you're a stranger here on earth and you might get lost or something.

JASON: We wouldn't want anything to happen to you, Twinkle.

TWINKLE: I'm so happy you're coming I can feel my light shining extra bright! Where should we look first?

JENNY: Why don't we look on Golden Hill? That's where all the rich people live. They have pretty lights in front of their houses and Santa Clauses on their doors and reindeer on their lawns. That's probably where the manger is.

(They walk to a picture of a big house with a Christmas tree in the picture window. There is a manger on the front lawn of the house with animals standing around it and Mary and Joseph guarding it.

JASON: I see a donkey and sheep and cows! And there's Mary and Joseph. That must be the manger God wants you to shine on, Twinkle.

TWINKLE: I'll shine as hard as I can.

(He walks up to the artificial manger scene and stands in front of it)

JASON: Maybe God's trying to tell you something, Twinkle. I don't think this is the manger that you're supposed to shine on,

TWINKLE: I guess not, Jason. We'll have to look somewhere else, but where?

JENNY: We could walk downtown, Twinkle. There's a manger with Mary and Joseph and

Baby Jesus in Browning's front window.

TWINKLE: What's Brownings? Something to eat?

JENNY: Brownings is the biggest department store in the city. Every Christmas they have a manger scene in their front window, People come from all over the city just to see it.

JASON: They already have lights on it, jenny. They don't need Twinkle.

JENNY: We could check it out.

JASON: Let's go.

(They walk more and come to a set painted to resemble a department store window with a manger scene in it. But there are no lights shining.

JASON: It's dark, Jenny. Maybe this IS where God wants Twinkle to shine.

JENNY: I wonder what happened to the lights. Maybe the power went out. Twinkle, why don't you stand in front of the window and shine?

(Twinkle walks to the front of the window)

TWINKLE: So far, so good. My light's still working.

JASON: It's still working Twinkle, but it's flashing off and on like you're doing Morse Code. Is something wrong?

TWINKLE: I feel eyes, like a lot of people are watching me.

JENNY: They are. This man over here wants to know what you're doing.

TWINKLE: I'm shining on the manger scene so the wise men and shepherds can find their way to it.

MAN: Shepherds! There haven't been shepherds in this city for years and why would they come here to Brownings front window? And what are they going to do with

their sheep?

TWINKLE: I don't know. All I can do is shine like God asked me to do.

MAN: Watch out, everybody! This star's a phony! He's really here from Russia to spy on us!

VOICES: Go home where you belong, spy. Go home or we'll send you home!

(The crowd throws pine cones from the manger scene at Jason, Jenny, and Twinkle.)

JASON: (A pine cone hits him in the nose) Let's get out of here while we still can.

TWINKLE: But what about the shepherds and the wise men. How will they find their way to the manger without my light?

JASON: If they find their way to that manger, the people will throw pine cones at them, too.

TWINKLE: God must want me to shine somewhere else. Let's keep looking for the manger, Jason.

JASON: I know somewhere there's a manger.

JENNY: Where?

JASON: Where?

JENNY: I hope it's not very far. My feet hurt.

JASON: It's over at that church by the boarded up houses. Do you know where I mean?

JENNY: Jason, that's way on the other side of town!

JASON: So what! Twinkle came all of the way here from heaven, so it's not so far to the other side of town.

JENNY: Let's go so we can get there fast!

TWINKLE: I just want to find Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, shine on them, and then go home!

(They walk to a painted manger scene in front of a church. Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus are real. The animals are made of cardboard.)

JASON: Wow! I think we found it!

JENNY: Twinkle, turn your light down a little bit so you won't wake up the baby Jesus.

TWINKLE: I'm trying to turn it down, but it keeps getting brighter.

JASON: I can throw my coat over you.

(Sound of baby crying)

JENNY: Never mind. It's too late. The baby's awake.

JASON: God can put him back to sleep. After all, Jesus is His son.

TWINKLE: I don't think God will do that here, Jason. I think as long as Jesus is on earth, God will let him do things by himself, Maybe if I stand back a little way, my light will dim.

(He stands back, but his light gets brighter.)

JASON: I hear someone singing "Silent Night,"

JENNY: That was Twinkle, silly. Let's help him! (They sing "Silent Night." While they are singing, Spike and two other boys sneak up behind them. Spike and his men are about Jenny and Jason's age, but tough guys.)

SPIKE: Silent Night? It might have started out silent, but it ain't now!

(Spike and his boys yell the words at the top of their voices)

JENNY: SHHHHHH! You'll wake up the baby!

(They yell louder and the baby Jesus wakes up. He cries)

JASON: That was a mean thing to do.

TWINKLE: I'll rock His manger back and forth. Maybe that will make him go back to sleep.

(As Twinkle steps closer, Spike steps in front of him.)

SPIKE: You touch that manger, I'll punch out your light!

JASON: I'd like to see you try it. Zap him, Twinkle!

TWINKLE: I'd like to see you try it!

(Spike swings at Twinkle, but Twinkle ducks. His light shines brighter than ever)

JENNY: You can't keep His light from shining, no matter how hard you try.

SPIKE: I'm not finished yet. Come on guys, let's show this star a thing or two!

(They surround Twinkle and hold up their hands to keep the light from shining.

The wall of hands doesn't work because the light still shines through).

TWINKLE: I can't help it. I shine no matter who tries to cover me up. Sun Star says that's

because I love God.

SPIKE: I've got another idea. Come here, men.

(Spike and the boys huddle together and whisper. Then one of the boys runs and

scoops up a handful of snow. He runs over and dumps it all over Twinkle.)

SPIKE: That oughtta dim your light a little.

(Twinkle's light shines as brightly as ever).

JASON: I told you no matter what you do, Twinkle's light will shine.

SPIKE: I got another idea. Come here, men.

(Spike and the gang huddle again. One of Spike's boys runs off and brings back a bushel basket. Spike throws the basket over Twinkle's head.)

JENNY: Be careful of your points, Twinkle.

TWINKLE: I'm being careful, Jenny.

(He moves around Bits of light shine from between the slats of the basket. They get stronger and stronger until finally the entire basket is bathed in light.

SPIKE: I can't stand all of this light What do I have to do to get it dark in here?

TWINKLE: The earth will never be dark again. The Baby Jesus will see to that.

JENNY: He's got light around him too,

JASON: And I see some men with robes on and shepherds with their sheep beside them.

TWINKLE: I see the wise men and the shepherds too. Why don't you argue with that shepherd over there with the big staff, Spike?

(The shepherd with the big staff chases Spike and his boys off the stage)

TWINKLE: They're here, Baby Jesus. You can shine on them now. I have to get home before my mom and dad get too worried.

JENNY: Can we sing a lullaby to Baby Jesus before you go?

JASON: We'll miss you, Twinkle.

TWINKLE: I'll be watching you. I'll wink hello at you from heaven. Goodbye Baby Jesus.
I'll see you again.

JENNY: (Kisses Twinkle) Goodbye, Twinkle.

JASON: (Shakes Twinkles hand) See you, Twinkle.

(They all sing away in the manger as Twinkle slowly climbs back to heaven and
Baby Jesus sleeps in the manger.)

Everyone sings Away In A Manger.

CURTAIN

THE HITCHHIKERS

ANGEL CHOIR: O Come Little Children

(Bill and Lori are sitting on the stage steps. There is a manger in front of a church sign that says--
-----Church.)

LORI: You'd better stay awake in church today, Bill.

BILL: I can't sleep. Something weird's going on in front of the church and it's keeping me awake.

LORI: What do you mean something weird?

BILL: I mean there's something crying out in front of the church?

LORI: Do you mean something or somebody?

BILL: I mean there's a lot of yelling going on out there.

BECKY: I don't hear anything.

BILL: Open the door a little wider. Then if you don't hear it, you're deaf.

LORI: (Opening door. As she does so, everyone can hear the howls of a baby)
Wow, it's a baby crying. But where is it?

BILL: It's lying there in the manger.

BECKY: Don't call the baby and it. That's a terrible way to talk about a baby.

BILL: Okay then, what is it, a boy or a girl?

BECKY: (Looking closely) I think it's a baby

BILL: How did a baby get in the manger in front of the church?

LORI: Did you have anything to do with it?

BECKY: Who me? Why do I get blamed for everything?

LORI: I wasn't blaming you. I was just stating a fact.

BILL: That baby is sitting there playing in the straw.

LORI: I wonder if the mother and father are around.

(As she says this, a man and a woman come on stage. They are dressed in ragged blue jeans and shirts.

BILL: What's the matter with you guys? You don't have any coats on and it's ten degrees below zero out there.

JOSEPH: We're going to the Salvation Army Store to see if we can buy a coat.

BILL: Only geeks buy clothes from the Salvation Army.

MARY: I don't know what a geek is, but I do know what being cold feels like. We've got the money to buy one jacket and I'm getting one for Joseph.

BECKY: Is your name really Joseph?

JOSEPH: Yeah, it is. So what?

BILL: What difference does it make whether his name is Sam or Joseph or Fred?

LORI: It's just a funny coincidence, that's all.

BILL: What is?

LORI: That his name is Joseph. There was another Joseph and a manger in Bethlehem a long time ago. His wife's name was Mary and they had a baby son.

MARY: My name is Mary.

LORI: Alright, that's still a coincidence. And this baby can't be the baby Jesus.

BILL: Who's trying to explain anything? What are you comparing them to anyway?

BECKY: You know what I'm comparing them to – the story of the birth of Jesus?

BILL: That's stupid. They aren't riding a donkey and they didn't come here to pay their

taxes, did they?

LORI: I don't know. (To Mary) Why did you come here?

MARY: Our pickup truck broke down and Joseph wanted to stop here and ask if you knew where we could find a garage.

BILL: There's a gas station down on Main Street. Where's the truck?

JOSEPH: It's parked out in front of the church.

BILL: Come with me. I'll show you where the garage is. It's not a very long walk.

JOSEPH: Wait a minute. I have to get something out of the back of the truck before we go.

BILL: I suppose you have a donkey in the back of your pick up truck?

JOSEPH: How did you know? We're taking him to my brother's place to sell.

LORI: This is the Christmas story right in front of us

BILL: Are you telling me you think this baby is baby Jesus and we're having a modern manger scene here? I suppose the next things you'll see are the stars, the shepherds, and the wise men. Get real!

LORI: I'm just looking for another Christmas miracle. What's so weird about that?

BILL: Any kind of miracle is unreal in this modern world.

BECKY: How do you know?

BILL: I know people and how rotten they can be.

MARY: Sometimes they can be nice. A lady gave us some milk for the baby and a blanket.

BECKY: You can help Joseph push the truck down to the garage can't you, Bill?

BILL: Who's going to take care of the baby?

LORI: I can take care of the baby and then Becky can while Mary takes a nap inside the church. We have a nice cot in the nursery.

JOSEPH: What are we going to do with the donkey?

LORI: You can leave him here by the manger.
(Clancey the donkey comes on stage)

MARY: (Patting him on the head) Take it easy, Clancey. You can rest for a few minutes while the truck gets fixed.
(Bill and Joseph push the truck. Lori leads Clancey to the manger and Clancey brays loudly).

LORI: I'll bet Clancey's lonely. I know, I'll get somebody to keep him company.
(She goes and gets Spanky the stuffed dog and brings him in by the manger.)

LORI: Spanky meet Clancey. Clancey, meet Spankey.
(Clancey shakes hands with Spankey.)

BECKY: Maybe we should introduce Clancey to the baby, too. Clancey meet the baby.
Baby, meet Clancey.
(Clancey shakes hands with the baby)

LORI: Mary, maybe we should take the baby over to my house and put him to bed. He's probably pretty tired.

BECKY: He can sleep in your bed, not mine.

LORI: It won't hurt you to share your bed.

BECKY: He doesn't have plastic on his diapers or plastic pants either.

MARY: Don't worry about it. I'll just put a blanket on the straw in the manger and he can sleep there.
(She places the blanket over the straw in the manger and sits the baby on top of it.

BECKY: He doesn't act very sleepy.

MARY: He'll wear himself out pretty soon.

LORI: Would you like a cup of tea or something, Mary?

MARY: I'll just sit here and hold the baby and rest for a minute.
(She sits down and promptly falls asleep.)

BECKY: I hope she doesn't snore.

LORI: She probably didn't get any sleep last night. She said they traveled all night in the truck.

BECKY: I'll get a blanket for her, too.
(Becky gets a blanket and puts it over Mary)

LORI: She's sleeping, but the baby isn't.

BECKY: You can keep the baby quiet and tell who ever is doing it to stop baaing like lambs.

LORI: Lambs?

BECKY: Yes, I hear a lamb.
(A lamb comes on stage)

BECKY: There's usually a shepherd with a lamb.

LORI: I think he's coming right now.
(A shepherd walks on stage. He is dressed in jeans and a plaid shirt. He stands by the manger.)

LORI: He doesn't look like a shepherd. He looks like a cowboy.

BECKY: Did you expect him to be wearing a cloak and carrying a staff?

LORI: Sort of.

BECKY: We're not talking about Bible times now. We're talking about modern times.

LORI: There were shepherds at the manger scene.

BECKY: There were wise men too. Are you going to tell me that three wise men are going to walk through that door?

(As soon as she says this, a figure in a robe with a paper bag over its head walks in.)

LORI: I told you a wise man was coming in. Here he is.

BECKY: If he's such a wise man, why is he wearing that paper bag?

LORI: Maybe he doesn't want anybody to know what he looks like.

BECKY: Wise man, why don't you take off that paper bag? You're supposed to be wearing a crown of jewels. And you're not really supposed to show up until a few weeks from now anyway.

LORI: Just stand there by the manger, wise man.

BECKY: Watch the paper bag, wise man.

(The wise man holds the paper bag firmly on his head. He mumbles something).

LORI: He says he's watching it.

BECKY: Now all we need are the angels.

(An angel appears, only it is a male angel wearing shorts, knee socks and one wing.)

LORI: You may be an angel, but you're not the right kind of angel. You don't even have two wings.

ANGEL: I am a real angel! I am the right kind of angel! Just because I tripped and fell and broke my wing and skinned my knees doesn't mean I'm not the right kind of angel.

BECKY: Go stand by the wise man and the shepherd. We'll find something to do with you.

LORI: What are we waiting for anyway? Everybody is just standing around watching the baby play.

BECKY: I think we're waiting to see if Joseph gets the truck fixed.

LORI: Even if he does, he and Mary and the baby had better stay with us tonight. It's too late to go back on the road tonight.

JOSEPH: (Waling back into the room) I told you the brakes on the truck were bad.

BILL: It's a shame you waited to tell me about the brakes after I pushed it into that stone wall.

JOSEPH: The mechanic said they'd have it fixed by tomorrow.

BILL: You and Mary and Joseph and the baby can stay with us tonight.

BECKY: No, we already decided. They're staying with us.

BILL: I asked him first.

BECKY: Mary is already sleeping. Joseph and the baby can sleep right to her.

BILL: Who are these other people>

BECKY: There's a shepherd, an angel, and a wise man.

BILL: What are they doing here?

LORI: I'm not sure if they came with Joseph and Mary or if they came on their own.

BECKY: We can ask them. Hey shepherd, you look more like a cowboy, but I have a question. Did you come here on your own?

SHEPHERD: I'm a sheepherder in New Mexico. Joseph and Mary picked me up when I was hitchhiking from New Mexico to New York to see my mom. I've often wondered what it would have been like to be a shepherd out in the fields the night when

Jesus was born. Did you ever wonder that, Becky?

BECKY: I've never even wondered what it would be like to be a shepherd.

SHEPHERD: I wish I could have been there at the manger.

LORI: All right, wise man. It's your turn. How did you get here?

WISE MAN: (Talking in a muffled voice)

LORI: Joseph and Mary picked you up in East Orange, New Jersey and gave you a ride here?

WISE MAN: (More muffled talk)

LORI: Someone told you there are oil wells around here and you want to get rich so you can get the baby and Lucy the best gift money can buy?

WISE MAN: (Mumbles)

LORI: You found the oil wells but they've been dry for 150 years?

WISE MAN: (More mumbles.)

LORI: Joseph said it matters more that you give yourself to God instead of your money. That's true, wise man.

WISE MAN: (Mumbles)

LORI: Okay, I'll let you know if the oil wells ever come back.

BECKY: What about this angel?

ANGEL: I've always been clumsy, but Joseph said it doesn't matter to God how we look on the outside. What matters is the way we are on the inside.

LORI: How did Joseph and Mary find you?

ANGEL: Actually, I found them. They picked me up when I fell and skinned my knees.

BECKY: How did you do that?

ANGEL: I told you I was clumsy. I've always dreamed of being one of the angels that appeared to the shepherds in the fields. But if I flew, I'd probably land on one of their staffs or one of their sheep.

LORI: Everybody sit down while we're waiting for Mary and the children to wake up.
(They all sit down and gradually everyone falls asleep.)

ANGEL

CHOIR: Away in a Manger.

(While the choir is singing, other shepherds, the lamb, and Clancey gather around the manger. The shepherd in cutoffs, the clumsy angel and the wise man all sit up and rub their eyes. Joseph stands by the manger.

SHEPHERD: I must be dreaming. Are you other shepherds real?

ANGEL: Tripping over his feet. I'm for real. I think I hear singing. Do you hear what I hear?

ANGEL

CHOIR: Do You Hear What I Hear?

(As they sing, other angels appear.

CLUMSY

ANGEL: You angels look so beautiful. Could I borrow one of your robes to cover my knees? I skinned them when I fell.

1ST

ANGEL: (Handing him a robe.) Try this one.

CLUMSY

ANGEL: (Puts it on, but it only reaches his knees.

2ND

ANGEL: God only looks at your heart, not y our knees.

BECKY: I hope so.

LORI: Now it's the wise man's turn.

JOSEPH: Why does he have that bag over his head?

BECKY: He doesn't think he's very rich or smart so he wants to hide his head.

ANGEL

CHOIR: Fall Softly Snow

(As the choir sings, three wise men come on stage, dressed in rich robes and wearing jeweled crowns.

1ST

WISE MAN: Come join us you other wise men. But first let us give you a better crown.

(They take the paper bag off the wise man's head and put a crown on it.)

2ND

WISE MAN: Now your head looks like your heart.

(They go to the manger and place their crowns in front of it.

BECKY: I think it's time for Mary to wake up. (She shakes Mary). Mary, Mary, wake up!

MARY: (Yawning and stretching) I did have a nice nap. Oh, Joseph, there you are. Did you get the truck fixed?

JOSEPH: It will be ready tomorrow morning, Mary.

MARY: What are all these people and animals doing around the manger? And where is the baby?

JOSEPH: Don't panic, Mary. The baby is right there in the manger.

MARY: Who are all of these people?

JOSEPH: Maybe we picked up more hitchhikers than we thought.

MARY: Something strange is going on here, Joseph.

BECKY: I could tell you about it, but you wouldn't believe me.

ANGEL

CHOIR: Mary Had A Baby

(While the choir is singing, Mary and Joseph put on robes like Mary and Joseph at the manger scene. Mary holds baby Jesus in her arms.

EVERYONE: Away in a Manger.