

God's Perfect Plan

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DEDICATION

*To Pastor David Hesje for always encouraging me
and for always "standing in my corner!"*

STORY OF THE PLAY

Benny is a young boy who thinks he is too little to do anything right. His grandmother decides to tell him a story of an impulsive young angel named Benjamin. He seems to have missed the journey to Bethlehem to welcome King Jesus. When Benjamin sets out to find Bethlehem on his own, he encounters a series of discouraged people. He proceeds to help them find their place in God's plan, all the while fearing he himself has missed his own place. As he helps Mary and Joseph find a place for their baby to be born, he discovers God's plan for his life and most importantly, God's perfect plan to bring salvation to His children!

PREMIER PERFORMANCE

*This play was originally performed in 2006 at Bethel
Lutheran Church, Elbow, Saskatchewan, Canada.*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(Many flexible roles from children to young adults, much doubling possible. *Indicates role should not be doubled. The number of angels, shepherds, and children may be reduced or expanded according to available actors.)*

SCENE 1: CURRENT DAY

***BENNY:** Child. Feels small and unimportant.

***GRANDMA:** Benny's wise grandmother.

CHAD: Benny's older friend or relative.

PAUL: Another.

TARA: Another.

ANGIE: Another.

SCENE 2: IN HEAVEN

***BENJAMIN:** A young angel.

GABRIEL

ANGELS 1 – 5

SCENE 3: IN THE FIELDS

AARON: Shepherd.

DAVID: Another.

SAMUEL: Another.

MATTHEW: Another.

JACOB: Another.

ETHAN: Another.

SCENE 4: THE CARAVAN

GERTRUDE: Talkative woman, know-it-all.

REBECCA: Tired mother.

ADAM: Rebecca's child.

ISAAC: Another.

LYDIA: Another.

PETER: Crotchety old man; walks with a cane.

DEBRA: Arguing wife.

JOHN: Arguing husband.

MARY: Earthly mother of Baby Jesus. *(Optional solo.)*

JOSEPH: Earthly father of Baby Jesus.

SCENE 5: IN FRONT OF THE INN

INNKEEPER AND INNKEEPER'S WIFE

SCENE 6: THE STABLE

SCENE 7: BACK WITH THE SHEPHERDS

SCENE 8: BACK AT THE STABLE

KINGS 1 – 3: Nonspeaking.

SCENE 9: PRESENT DAY WITH GRANDMA.

MUSIC

Much of the music suggested here is just that, a suggestion. We have found in our church that songs that are somewhat familiar carols or popular Christmas music are easier to learn and enjoyed by cast and audience alike. However, various different songs could work in each scene. In many cases, song verses could be sung as solos with the cast joining in on the chorus. Use whatever works well for your group. Please remember, if using copyrighted songs, you must obtain permission first. See a complete list of suggested songs at the end of the script.

Sound effects (SFX) include a trumpet sound and baby's cries.

PROPS

Scene 1: A small Christmas tree and a rocking chair are at stage left. Board game for kids; book for Grandma.

Scene 2: A clock shows 7:00. All young angels have wristwatches.

Scene 3: An artificial fire pit and optional staves for shepherds.

Scene 4: Bundles, blankets, etc. for those in caravan; staff or cane for Peter.

Scene 5: "No Room" sign or painted on inn's door.

Scene 6: A simple stable structure with cradle.

Scene 7 and Scene 8: No props needed.

Scene 9: Gifts for the kings to give.

God's Perfect Plan

(Suggested opening song: "Over the River and Through the Woods" Traditional. May be changed from 3/4 to 4/4 timing to add interest. All CAST comes out to sing. LIGHTS out after song. CAST exits.)

Scene 1

(AT RISE: GRANDMA is in a rocking chair by a small Christmas tree on stage left. On stage right BENNY, ANGIE, TARA, PAUL and CHAD are playing a board game.)

CHAD: Yeah! Our team wins again! *(High-fives ANGIE.)*

PAUL: Oh Benny, you shouldn't have moved there! Now we've lost the game!

TARA: Didn't you see that trap there, Benny?

BENNY: No, honest I didn't see it! I'm sorry, guys.

ANGIE: It's OK, Benny. I guess you're just too little to understand the game.

BENNY: But I'm not little!

TARA: Why don't we play a different game? I'm tired of this one anyway.

EVERYONE: Yeah; Me too; Let's do something else; etc.

CHAD: What about the new game Grandma gave us this morning? It looks like fun!

ANGIE: But only four people can play it at one time and there are five of us.

PAUL: Well, Benny doesn't have to play. He's too small to learn how anyway. Come on.

(PAUL, CHAD and TARA exit.)

BENNY: Oh Angie, can't I play too?

ANGIE: Maybe next year when you are a little older, Benny.

God's Perfect Plan

- 6 -

(ANGIE exits. BENNY sits down for a moment looking forlorn. He then makes his way over to GRANDMA who has been reading and rocking. He sits at her feet and leans against her knee.)

GRANDMA: Why, Benny boy! What has you looking so sad?

BENNY: All the other kids went to play another game and they said I couldn't play with them!

GRANDMA: Well, that wasn't very kind of them, was it?

BENNY: No, but I don't blame them, Grandma. I made Paul and Tara lose the last game we were playing.

GRANDMA: Well, I'm sure it wasn't entirely your fault, Benny.

BENNY: Oh, but it was. And this morning, when I was helping Mom make breakfast, I dropped all the eggs on the floor. Mom said I was trying to carry too much at once and that I should go and play instead. Everyone says I am too small, and they're right! I'm too little to be good at anything! Grandma, I just don't fit in anywhere!

GRANDMA: Oh, Benny boy, that's just not true! God has a very special plan for you. He can use anyone big or small!

BENNY: Really?

GRANDMA: Of course. Now, do you remember the Christmas story I read to everyone from the Bible every year?

BENNY: Yes, that's the best part of Christmas Eve!

GRANDMA: Well, I have another story to tell you. This one is about an angel who found himself feeling a lot like you are feeling right now.

BENNY: Really?

GRANDMA: Oh, yes. He felt like he couldn't fit in anywhere or do anything right. He was a lot like you. Come to think of it, if I remember right.... *(Thinking.)* Ah yes! His name was Benjamin too! Would you like to hear the story?

BENNY: Oh yes, please!

End of Freeview

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