

A SHOWER FOR BABY JESUS

By Carol Hillebrenner

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DEDICATION

To my husband for many years of faith, and to the children of Salem UCC for performing my dramas.

The Playwright

STORY OF THE PLAY

The season of giving often misplaces the reason for giving, but that's not so in *A Shower For Baby Jesus*. As the children plan a baby shower for Jesus before he has to leave for Egypt, they learn the story of His birth. Yes, the angels are just a bit impatient and some people don't like one of the wise men's gifts, but everyone is in the party spirit.

This play can also serve as a mission project as the gifts the children bring for Jesus (diapers, food, clothes, and other basic needs) can be dedicated to babies born in even less fortunate circumstances.

Children from 3 to 12 plus can perform. It requires relatively few props and uses old favorite Christmas carols.

Performance time: 30 to 60 minutes, depending on songs used.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Large, flexible cast)

MARY AND JOSEPH: Have no lines but mime actions.

SPEAKERS 1-11: Require various levels of skill at memorizing.

SPEAKERS A-H: Require more skill at memorizing lines.

CHILDREN 1-7: May be younger as lines are simpler.

3 WISE MEN

4 ANGELS: Relatively easy lines.

3 OR MORE SHEPHERDS: Relatively easy lines.

NARRATOR: Welcomes everyone.

EXTRAS: Any number of children dressed for a nice party.

PROPS/COSTUMES

Manger containing doll with blankets, 2 stools, robes for biblical characters, 4 angel costumes, 3 wise men costumes, gold (simple cloth bag filled with slugs), frankincense (pretty perfume bottle), myrrh (small pretty box), gifts of basic needs for modern babies brought by each child as Christmas mission project, little drums, cymbals, tambourines, and other noise makers (optional).

A BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS

(AT RISE: A doll is in a manger CS with MARY and JOSEPH sitting on stools behind it. This is especially effective if a light shines up out of manger, but great care should be taken as light bulbs are hot and straw and blankets burn. There should be space for ten or more people at either side of manger scene.)

NARRATOR: Thank you all for coming to a "Shower for Baby Jesus." As our children retell the old story, we must remember there are many babies born today with very little in the way of worldly goods, just like baby Jesus. As a mission project we bring our gifts for today's babies at _____. *(Name place where gifts will go.)*

(SPEAKERS 1 and 2 enter from one direction, SPEAKER 3 from another. All three stand to one side of the manger. As they speak, JOSEPH will bend down as if speaking to MARY, who smiles and nods to him; one or both of them may touch the baby as if calming him.)

SPEAKER 1: Hi, *(SPEAKER 3'S real name.)* it's good to see you. Are you going to the shower for Mary and Joseph's new baby?

SPEAKER 3: I didn't know they had a baby? What a surprise.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, it's no surprise. The prophets told of Jesus' birth a long time ago.

SPEAKER 3: I forgot about that. Well, I need to get a gift for the baby.

SPEAKER 1 and 2: *(Together.)* We'll go with you.

(SPEAKERS 1-3 exit. Older CHILDREN enter, among whom will be SPEAKERS A-H. Speakers may be to one side of manger while non-speakers may be to the other. MARY and JOSEPH continue miming speech and tending baby.)

SPEAKER A: The earliest promise of Jesus' birth is right at the very beginning, in Genesis, when God said to the snake, "Her offspring will crush your head and you will bite his heel."

SPEAKER B: That's kind of hard to understand. Jeremiah said it more clearly. "The Lord says, 'The time is coming when I will choose as king a righteous descendant of David. This king will rule wisely. He will be called, The Lord Our Salvation.'"

SPEAKER C: I like the prophecy in Micah where the Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrata, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times."

End of Freeview

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