

Timeless Christmas: Easy Skits and Readings

By Michelle Van Loon

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DEDICATION

To my Heavenly Father and His gift to me, my family: Bill, Rachel, Ben and Jacob.

STORY OF THE PLAY

A family of short, easy-to-stage pieces that make it simple to have your church's youth become an active part of a Christmas season worship service or outreach. Included are two reader's theater works based on classic literature, made fresh for today's audiences.

"The Selfish Giant" and "Where Love Is, God Is" require little rehearsal time.

Three short readings adapt the poetic voices of Christmas past with present-day exuberance. "Child of Bethlehem", "Mary's Good Night Song" and "Wise Men and Shepherds" are short works full of big meaning.

Two short program pieces round out the collection. "The Gift of Song" highlights the history of six familiar carols, and "Central American Christmas Tree" uses a creative visual to portray simple acts of worship.

A wonderful resource!

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CHILD OF BETHLEHEM

A reading, for two or more voices. Based on a prayer by Ephraem of Syria (300-379 AD). This short choral reading can be done by two children or can be divided up among a larger group.

READER 1: Child of Bethlehem, what contrasts you show us! No one has ever been as humble.

READER 2: No one has ever had so much power.

READER 1: We stand in awe of your holiness.

READER 2: Yet we are bathed in your love. Never was there a child like you.

READER 1: And where shall we look for you? You are in heaven ...

READER 2: But those who searched for you on earth found you a tiny baby in Mary's arms.

READER 1: We come in quiet worship to find you as God ...

READER 2: And you welcome us as man.

READER 1: We come unthinkingly to find you as man ...

READER 2: And are blinded by the light of your purity.

READER 1: You are heir to King David's throne

READER 2: Yet you gave up all of his royal splendor. Of all his luxurious bedrooms ...

READER 1: You chose a stable.

READER 2: Of all his magnificent beds ...

READER 1: You chose a feeding trough.

READER 2: Of all his golden chariots ...

READER 1: You chose a donkey.

READER 2: Never was there a ruler like you!

READER 1: Instead of royal isolation ...

READER 2: You made yourself available to everyone who needed you.

READER 1: Instead of high security ...

READER 2: You made yourself vulnerable to those who hated you.

READER 1: It is we who need you, above anything in the world.

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READER 2: And you give yourself to us with such total
generosity.

READER 1: There never was a king like this before!

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MARY'S GOOD-NIGHT SONG

Adapted from a poem by George MacDonald. This short poem can be read by one young reader, or shared by as many as four readers.

Baby Jesus lay in Mary's lap;
The sun shone on his hair;
And this is how she saw, perhaps,
A crown already there.

She sang: "Sleep on, my little king;
Bad Herod dares not come;
Before you, sleeping, holy thing,
The wild winds would be dumb.

For you are the king of men, my son.
Your crown I can see plain;
And men shall worship thee, everyone,
And cry, Glory! Amen!"

Baby Jesus opened his eyes so wide!
Mary looked at her Lord.
And Mary ended her song and sighed.
Baby Jesus never said a word.

End of Freeview

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