



When God Showed Up

ZOOM NATIVITY SCRIPT

This script is a series of short scenes designed to be easily adapted for your setting. You could use adults, children or family groups. Make it your own, and have fun!

If you have less people available:

- Scenes 1 and 5 could be done by one person with minor changes to the script.
- Scene 7 could be done with only 1 or 2 shepherds

To involve more people:

- Scene 6 could include a second person to bring snacks and/or get in Herod's way
- Scene 7 could include extra children, dressed as sheep, who randomly bleat throughout.
- Scene 8 could include extra children dressed as other animals

For a shorter/simpler version:

- Omit Scene 8 (Cow and sheep).
- You could also omit Scene 2 (Quirinius) and/or Scene 5 (Herod) if necessary.

It's up to you how to film and broadcast your production.

1. PRE-RECORDED & EDITED

Different individuals/families take different scenes and record them on a phone or tablet. The footage is edited together ready to broadcast on YouTube/Facebook. This is probably the safest option!



2. SINGLE ZOOM CALL

Different individuals/families perform live on a Zoom call, each in their separate locations with appropriate backgrounds. The call is recorded and broadcast later using YouTube/Facebook.



The Script

Scene 1 - Narrator(s)

NARRATOR 1

There's an old Jewish expression that goes like this.

NARRATOR 2

"People make plans. God laughs."

NARRATOR 1

We think we know what's going to happen and we really don't.

NARRATOR 2

Sound familiar? We have plans but God shows up with other plans.

NARRATOR 1

And sometimes he shows up in person. A couple of thousand years ago, there was another very weird year. And if they'd had the internet back then, maybe the Christmas story would have gone like this. It all started when Quirinius was governor of Syria...

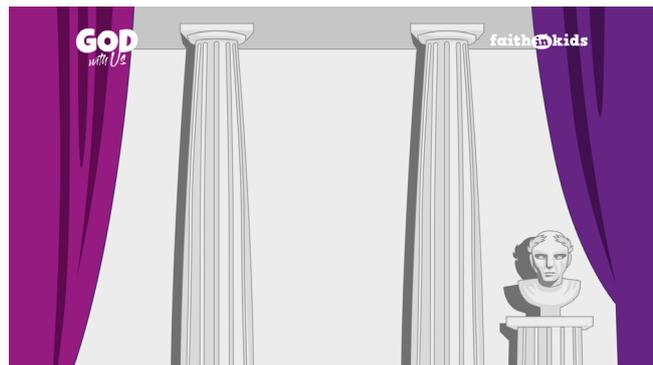
Scene 2 - Quirinius



BACKDROP

#1 Posh Roman House

Quirinius sits in front of a Zoom call wearing a toga. Could holding a goblet or something generally Roman.



QUIRINIUS

Herod? It's Quirinius... You're on mute. Doesn't matter. You don't need to talk. Just listen. All those plans you had for feasts and games and everything? Cancel them. God just showed up. And by god, I mean Augustus Caesar. He just sent out an order that everyone must go to their home town to be registered. I know. Admin nightmare. Stop crying, Herod. Just get it done.

Scene 3 - Joseph



BACKDROP #2 Joseph's Workshop

Joseph sits down with bits of wood/tools or a wooden toy for toddlers.



JOSEPH

Steve? It's Joseph... You're on mute. Press the... no, you see the button that... doesn't matter. Can you mind the workshop and finish turning those shepherd's crooks? I know. I'm sorry. I was going to do them but I've got to go back to Bethlehem to register. And I'm taking Mary who isn't technically my wife but... long story short. God showed up. In a dream. I know it sounds weird, but I hadn't been eating cheese. This angel said it's all straight up. Mary's going to have a baby and I'm to call him Jesus. Apparently, it means 'God Saves'? Anyway, sorry to drop you in it, but I've got problems too. I don't have luggage that fits on a donkey for a start. And feed the cat, Steve. Bye!

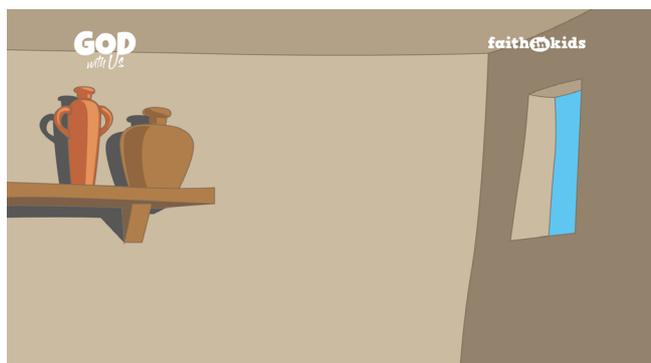
Joseph rushes off.

Scene 4 - Mary



BACKDROP #3 Mary's humble house.

Mary rushes in and sits down.



MARY

Hello, mum. Mum? You're on mute. If you just... don't worry I'll talk. I haven't got long. Joseph's coming over. I'm going to Bethlehem with Joseph. He's from Bethlehem. The city of David. I'm having a baby. That was not planned quite so soon, but, well, God showed up so plans have changed. He sent an angel to talk to me. I was making flatbreads at the time. He said I will become pregnant, give birth to a son, and name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end. So I said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Which seemed like the right thing to say at the time. So, I'm off to Bethlehem, Mum. I'll bring you back a souvenir!

Mary charges off.

Scene 5 – Wise Men



BACKDROP #4

Ancient observatory
looking up at the stars

Two wise men sit down – with star chart or telescope. (this could be done by one person)



BALTHAZAR

Caspar? Caspar! You're on mute. Don't worry. There's no time to talk. We have to pack for a long journey west. Yes, I know you wanted to go that party because the stars say you may be lucky in love, but plans have changed. God showed up.

MELCHIOR

Look out of the window! It's the brightest star you've ever seen!

BALTHAZAR

It's like something is coming out of heaven! You only get this once in a... well, ever! It's a sign and we need to investigate. Remember where God's people came from? Yes, Israel. We need to go there. And I get this feeling we need to pack gold, incense and... have you got any myrrh? Put that in. And maybe a rattle, calpol and some formula?



MELCHIOR

I'll get the camels ready!

Melchoir charges off.

BALTHAZAR

Meet you first thing.

Balthazar hurries out.

Scene 6 - Herod



BACKDROP #5 Herod's Royal Palace

Herod, in a crown and fine robe, sits down. He's eating a chicken leg.



HEROD

Marcus? Marcus! You're on mute. That's on purpose.

Because I'm the king, I tell you what to do and I don't care what you have to say. It's bad enough I had to cancel that big feast I was planning because of the census. And now this! I was planning another feast to celebrate how brilliant I am and then these three men from the east turn up wanting to see the king. And when I said, 'You found him. Bow down and help yourself to chicken,' they said they were looking for a baby 'who was born to be the king of the Jews'? They saw his star in the east and came to worship him. They say that God showed up? I'm the king of the Jews! Ask Quirinius! My son is to be king next. Not this baby! Marcus? I don't care how you do it, or what you have to do, but find that baby.

Herod goes.

Scene 7 - Shepherds



BACKDROP #6 Hillside

Shepherds come in (perhaps picking their way through children dressed as sheep)



SHEPHERD 1

Geoff? Geoff! You're on mute. Doesn't matter. I'm pretty speechless myself. I've just seen something amazing. There we were on the hillside, telling scary stories. I was in the middle of that one in which David fights Goliath.

SHEPHERD 2

He does a really good Goliath voice! It always cracks me up!

SHEPHERD 1

Yeah, but God showed up and, well, everything's changed. There was the massive, like, army of angels singing, telling us... what did he say?

SHEPHERD 3

That a Saviour has been born in David's town! He is Christ, the Lord!

SHEPHERD 2

We'll find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box. We wanna go and have a look!

SHEPHERD 1

So, Geoff? Can you come out mind the flock? They're no trouble.

Sheep bleat loudly

SHEPHERD 1

Well, not much trouble. I'll leave you my crook. Those ones Joseph was gonna make haven't come through yet. He's normally on time. Weird. Anyway, we're off to Bethlehem!

Scene 8 - Cow and sheep



BACKDROP #7 Stable

Cow sits down. Sheep is nearby.

COW

Hello, dad. I can see you, but I can't hear you? You're on mute. It doesn't matter because you're an ox so you can't talk.

I can, which is weird, but then right now everything is weird. There I was settling down for the night in the stable when these two humans showed up.



SHEEP

They had a donkey which started to eat my dinner! Not fair!

COW

And then there was a big commotion and screaming and shouting, and a third human showed up. A really small one. Like a human calf? Although he was the size of a lamb. And do you know what they did with him? They put him in my feeding trough! Am I supposed to eat him? I may have four stomachs, but I can't eat that! I'm a herbivore.

SHEEP

Then some shepherds showed up. But I don't have to listen to them!

COW

And these wise men came from the east with very odd presents. And now it's quiet again. But I just wanted to say, send some hay because what's left is now bedding. Hay! For bedding! Talk about posh. Who does this baby think he is? Anyway, I'm hungry. Send food.

Scene 9 - Mary Again



BACKDROP #7 Stable

Mary comes in holding a baby in swaddling clothes.



MARY

(whisper) Mum. I've left you on mute because he's asleep. But he's perfect. I know everyone says that about their babies. But this one really is. We called him Jesus, mum. I know you like the name Zerubbabel, but the angel said Jesus. But he'll also be known as Immanuel, which means God With Us, because despite all our plans, God really showed up.

END.



Follow up questions:

- Who was your favourite character in the story?
- Do you know which bits of this story are true and which bits are made up?
- How did God show up? What was he like when he showed up?
- Talk to God now in prayer, to thank him that his plans are better than our plans. What do you want to say to him?

Download the [family worksheet](http://www.faithinkids.org) from www.faithinkids.org for more ways to get families talking.

