

Son of the Highest
Submitted by Mandy Powrie (South Africa)

Song: Deck The Hall

Son: (as they walk on) and Jamie is getting a bicycle for Christmas, but I want a pet rat and a snake, and can we buy a

Father: (Child's name), I think that we need to discuss what Christmas is really about. Your mom & I love you and your sisters very much, but we really don't have money to spend on lots of gifts. We will give you each a gift, but there are other important things we need to remember at Christmas time. Come, get your scriptures out and let's read....

Son: (Moans) Aw dad, we all know that Christmas is when Christ was born ...

Father: Yes, but let's read anyway, and see if you can tell me afterwards how people felt about the Saviour's birth. Let's start by reading from the book of Luke in the New Testament (Both turn to scriptures as narrator comes up & scriptures are recited.)

Narration (Angel Gabriel): And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name [was] Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, [thou that art] highly favoured, the Lord [is] with thee: blessed [art] thou among women. And when she saw [him], she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest:

(Luke 1:26-31)

Song: Gabriel's Message

Narration (Mary): And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Song: Still, Still, Still

Narration (Elizabeth): And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judea;

And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed [art] thou among women, and blessed [is] the fruit of thy womb.

(Luke 1:39-42)

Narration (Mary): And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations

shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy [is] his name. (Luke 1:46-49)

Narration (Joseph): Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just [man], and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:18-21)

Song: When Joseph Went to Bethlehem (v1)

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Narration (Roman): AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all his empire should be taxed. This same taxing was when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, everyone in his own city.

Song: One Starry Night

Narration (Roman) (Ctd): And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was none to give room for them in the inns. (JST Luke 2:1, 3-5, 6-7)

Song: A Child So Sweet

Song: Cantique de Noël

Song: Mary's Lullaby

Song: King of Kings

Narration (Angels): And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:8-14)

Song: Angels We have Heard on High (with Gloria ending)

Narration (Shepherds) : And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and

Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen [it], they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (Luke 2:15-17, 20)

Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

Song: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Son: Dad, you wanted to know how people felt about Jesus' birth. I can tell you now - the Angels were glad, and the Shepherd's too; everyone was glad it had happened.

Father: That's right - but there is more. Did you know that there were some other special witnesses? People who had not seen the baby Jesus in the stable, but ...come, let's read about them.

Narration (Joseph): And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. (Luke 2:21,24)

Narration (Simeon): And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. (Luke 2:25-33)

Song: I Believe in Christ

Narration (Anna): And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband only seven years, whom she married in her youth, And she lived a widow of about fourscore and four years, who departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers, night and day. And she, coming in that instant, gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him, to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. (JST Luke 2:36-38)

Son: These people were also glad, but ... What is redemption? What does that mean?

Father: (Child's name) when we redeem something, we get something that belongs to us back from someone else by paying a price for it. Our Saviour has paid the price for us to go back to our Heavenly Father and live in his presence. This is called the plan of redemption.

Son: But why can't we just go back to Heavenly Father when we die?

Father: Because we do things that are wrong - this is called sin - and Heavenly Father "cannot look upon Sin with the least degree of allowance". So the Saviour promised that he would come to earth and pay for our sins so that we could return to our Father.

Son: Oh, so when Jesus was born, people knew that he was really keeping his promise and were glad?

Father: That's right!

Son: but Dad, you forgot to read about the wise men.

Father: I was just coming to that - let's read some more.

Song: March of the Three Kings

Narration (Herod) : NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is the child that is born, the Messiah of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard of the child, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests, and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them, saying, Where is the place that is written of by the prophets, in which Christ should be born? For he greatly feared, yet he believed not the prophets. And they said unto him, It is written by the prophets, that he should be born in Bethlehem of Judaea, for thus have they said, The word of the Lord came unto us, saying, And thou Bethlehem, which lieth in the land of Judaea, in thee shall be born a prince, which art not the least among the princes of Judaea; for out of thee shall come the Messiah, who shall save my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had called the wise men privily, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found the child, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. (JST Matt 2;1-8)

Song: Stars Were Gleaming (v2)

Narration (Wise Men): When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. (Matthew 2:9-12)

Song: Glad Noel

Narration (Joseph): And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. (Matt 2:16)

Song: Coventry Carol

Narration (Joseph): But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a vision to

Joseph in Egypt,

Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel; for they are dead who sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea, in the stead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither; but, notwithstanding, being warned of God in a vision, he went into the eastern part of Galilee; And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene. (JST Matthew 2:13-14, 19, 21-23)

Song: Shining Star

Son: But what happened after that?

Father: We also find the answer to that in the scriptures! We read more about the Saviour's youth in Luke: "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." (JST Luke 2:40). Now you can read verse 52 in the same chapter.

Son: And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. (Luke 2:52)

Song: Baptism

Father: This scripture takes place many years later: "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22)

Son: What did Jesus do after he was baptised? Did he redeem us then?

Father: Not quite. He first taught people for about three years. You can read the next scripture

Son: And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed [them] all. (Luke 6:17-19)

Song: I Heard Him Come

Father: AND it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve [were] with him, (Luke 8:1)

Father: Jesus lived a perfect life, and always obeyed His Father. He said: "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." (John 5:30, John 8:29)

Song: Love One Another

Son: We learnt a scripture at school, it says "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) That's what Jesus did - He loved His Father and obeyed His commandments!

Father: Yes, that is a good observation (child's name). But Heavenly Father also loves us - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Son: So, Jesus wants us to love other people - and is that what Christmas is about?

Father: Yes, we love to give and received gifts, but the real work of Christmas is to love, to be kind, to share with others

Song: I Will Love as Christ Has Loved

Father: There is a beautiful scripture I would like to read to you. It is something that the Saviour said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) May our hearts be filled with peace and love this Christmas.

Song: The Lord Bless Thee, and Keep Thee