

# The First Christmas

By Jenn Wilks

*You can put on this play with your family, friends, or Primary class. Read Luke 2:1–16 to help you prepare.*

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**CHARACTERS:**

- Mary
- Joseph
- Innkeeper
- Shepherd 1
- Shepherd 2
- Angel

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**COSTUMES:**

Make the costumes simple: a robe for Joseph, a scarf for Mary, and staffs for the shepherds.



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**PROPS:**

- a blanket draped across two chairs for the stable
- small pillows to represent sheep
- a doll or bundled-up blanket to represent the baby Jesus



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE YOUNG

**Song:** “When Joseph Went to Bethlehem,” first verse (*Children’s Songbook*, 38).

**Mary:** I hope we can find a place to stay soon. We have been traveling for so long.

**Joseph:** There is an inn up ahead. Wait here and rest while I find out if there is room for us.

*[Joseph helps Mary sit down and then knocks at the “door.” Innkeeper answers.]*

**Innkeeper:** What do you want?

**Joseph:** I’m looking for a place to stay. My wife and I have come a long way, and we need a place to sleep.

**Innkeeper:** I’m sorry, but the inn is full.

**Joseph:** Please, can’t you do something to help us? My wife is going to have a baby soon.

**Innkeeper:** I guess you could sleep in the stable. It’s all I have.

**Joseph:** Thank you. That is very kind.

*[Joseph goes to Mary and helps her up.]*

**Joseph:** There isn’t room in the inn, but the innkeeper said we can sleep in the stable.

**Mary:** Oh, I’m so glad we found a place for the night.

*[They walk to the stable. Mary and Joseph sit down, and the scene ends.]*

**Song:** “When Joseph Went to Bethlehem,” second and third verses (*Children’s Songbook*, 38).

*[Shepherds are watching their sheep. The angel comes, and the shepherds fall to their knees.]*

**Shepherd 1:** Who are you?

**Shepherd 2:** Please don’t hurt us.

**Angel:** Do not be afraid. I bring joyful news! Tonight the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. You will find the baby lying in a manger.

**Shepherd 1:** Let us go now and see this child.

**Angel:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Song:** “Stars Were Gleaming” (*Children’s Songbook*, 37).

*[Shepherds go to the inn and knock at the “door.” Innkeeper answers.]*

**Shepherd 2:** We’ve come to see the Christ child.

**Shepherd 1:** An angel told us He would be lying in a manger.

**Shepherd 2:** Do you know where He is?

**Innkeeper:** A child was born in my stable tonight. I’ll show you the way.

*[Shepherds follow the innkeeper to the stable, where Joseph and Mary are seated next to a manger with the baby Jesus inside.]*

**Shepherd 1:** It’s true! There really is a baby lying in a manger, just like the angels said there would be.

**Shepherd 2:** This really is the Savior, Christ the Lord.

*[Shepherds and innkeeper kneel around the manger.]*

**Song:** “Silent Night” (*Hymns*, no. 204). ■

*The author lives in Utah, USA.*



**IDEA:**  
Have the audience sing the songs with the characters.



**IDEA:**  
Put a big paper star on a stick and hold it over the stable.