

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

1 B.C.

by JOHN R. PLASTOW

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Two Jewish boys day-dream about the coming Messiah on the unexpected eve of His actual birth.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: No set is necessary, however, a tree and a large rock for the boys to sit under and climb on will make this more visually interesting. Normal room lighting can illuminate the set, but it would be helpful if the lighting could gradually dim as if it were late in the day and the sun is beginning to set.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

TOPIC: Christmas, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 2

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Seeker Service

CHARACTERS:

MOTHER (off stage)

HAM—a ten year old Jewish boy

JOSEPH—Ham's friend

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Biblical

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Outside a Jewish home

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As the scene begins, we hear the sounds of a typical Jewish village in action: people talking, hustle and bustle, and perhaps some singing.

MOTHER: (*calling from offstage*) Now run along and play. I need to fix supper, and all you are is in the way.

HAM enters, a bit dejected, and sits.

HAM: Run and play, run and play, all you are is in the way. That's all I ever hear. Nobody wants me around.

JOSEPH: (*entering*) Hey, Ham, whatcha doing?

HAM: Oh, nothing, just getting in the way.

JOSEPH: Me, too. My mother just ran me outta the house. She says I need to go do something constructive.

HAM: So what are you gonna do?

JOSEPH: I don't know. Whadda you wanna do?

HAM: We could go see the rabbi and talk about the Scriptures. That's constructive.

JOSEPH: No, that's too much thinking. School will be starting soon enough without that.

HAM: Yeah. (*pauses to think*) We could go into town and help the old people in the marketplace.

JOSEPH: No, too much work.

HAM: Well, whadda you wanna do?

JOSEPH: Let's just lie here.

HAM: That sounds constructive enough.

They lie there for a moment, perhaps tossing a rock in the air and catching it or playing with a long stick—things that boys do.

JOSEPH: Ham, what do you think it will be like when we grow up?

HAM: What are you talking about?

JOSEPH: I heard one of the priests talking about how the Messiah would come very soon and save our people from all who are against us.

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HAM: But they say that all of the time.

JOSEPH: But this priest sounded like he really believed it. He said that all of the Scriptures point to the Messiah coming any time now.

HAM: I don't know. Our people have been waiting for a long time. I remember my father saying that his grandfather had looked for the Messiah to come every day, but died very disappointed. My father looks, but I don't think he really believes anymore.

JOSEPH: What do you think?

HAM: Well...

JOSEPH: It'll be great, won't it?

HAM: Yeah.

JOSEPH: I wonder how he will come.

HAM: (*acting this out*) In a gold chariot with armies of soldiers to wipe out the Romans and all of our enemies.

JOSEPH: (*joining in the action*) They'll try to fight him off, but our army will be too strong, and one by one the Roman soldiers will fall.

HAM: Then Herod and Caesar will send out the best of their best.

JOSEPH: And they, too, will fall to the superior men of the Messiah's army.

HAM: Soon after that, we'll take over the palace, and Herod and Caesar will bow before the Messiah, begging for mercy.

JOSEPH: Then our Messiah will try them and have them put to death in order to avenge for the all the pain and death that the Jews have suffered through the ages.

HAM: That'll be great!

JOSEPH: Then the Jews will live in peace forever.

HAM: And never again will we live in bondage. (*a pause*) Whadda ya think he'll look like?

JOSEPH: The Messiah?

HAM: Yeah. I bet he'll be a big man with great strength.

JOSEPH: He'll have to be to fight the Romans.

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HAM: And he'll be quite a sight to see. One look at him and the Romans will go running.

JOSEPH: I wonder what our life will be like then.

HAM: I don't know about you, but I'm gonna help him rule the world. And I won't do anything except tell others what to do. And I'll never get in Mother's way again 'cause I'll have more important things to do than stay around the house.

JOSEPH: You won't be in a house; we'll all live in palaces.

HAM: It's gonna be great!

Throughout this dialogue, the lights have slowly dimmed. It is now twilight, and the boys settle back under the trees.

JOSEPH: Look at the stars. They're starting to come out.

HAM: I wonder what's up there.

JOSEPH: That's something that no one will ever know.

HAM: Oh, I don't know, maybe one day...

JOSEPH: Stop talking like a foolish man. No one will ever know what is up there. Only God and the Messiah.

HAM: (*thoughtfully*) The Messiah. The one who will come to save our people.

A pause.

JOSEPH: You know, Ham, I feel sorry for the Gentiles.

HAM: What?

JOSEPH: Well, we have the Messiah to look forward to. They don't have anything.

HAM: Now who's talking like a foolish man? Everyone knows that God cares only for our people, and the Messiah will come to save us, and that's all.

JOSEPH: You're right.

HAM: Of course I'm right.

JOSEPH: (*pointing to a star*) Hey, look over there.

HAM: What is it?

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JOSEPH: It looks like a giant star.

HAM: I wonder what it means?

MOTHER: (*calling from offstage*) Ham, you need to come in now. Tell Joseph to go right home.

HAM: Mother, come out here. You've gotta see this.

MOTHER: I don't have time. Come in the house.

HAM: But, Mother...

MOTHER: No buts, young man. I don't want any of your foolishness. Whatever it is will wait until tomorrow.

HAM: All right, Mother. Goodbye, Joseph.

JOSEPH: (*still looking at the sky*) Goodbye, Ham.

HAM starts to exit, but then takes one more look at the sky.

HAM: What do you think it is?

A pause.

JOSEPH: Oh, probably nothing.

HAM: Yeah, you're probably right.

JOSEPH: Wouldn't it be great if it were the Messiah?

HAM: Don't be foolish.

JOSEPH: Goodnight, Ham.

HAM: Goodnight, Joseph.

They both exit.

..... Lights down.

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