

ONE SMALL CHILD

by CARMEL GARVIN HEARN

GENRE: Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A mini-pageant that relates the Nativity narratives found in the Gospels of Matthew & Luke as a bedtime story.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Advent, Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:6-16, Matthew 2:2-12

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS: Mother – reading a bedtime story to her daughter.
Daughter – About seven years old, dressed for bed.
Mary – Biblical character, played by female child
Joseph – Biblical character, played by male child
Shepherd I – Biblical character, played by child
Angel I – Biblical character, played by child
ANGEL 2 – Biblical character, played by child
Wise Man I – Biblical character, played by child
Herod – Biblical character, played by child
Angel Chorus – Two (or more) biblical characters, played by children
Shepherds – Two (or more) biblical characters, played by children
Sheep – Not essential, but a great opportunity for your littlest ones to “join in” the pageant. They don’t have lines, and can be “herded” by the older children playing shepherds.
Wise Men – Two biblical characters, played by children
Herod’s Advisors – Two biblical characters played by children.

PROPS: Rocking chair, storybook, Bible, manger (baby doll in manger optional). Optional: Gifts for Wise Men to carry.

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COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing for mother and daughter. Daughter is dressed for bed. Biblical attire for the re-enactment characters. Sheep costumes can be simple white long-sleeved t-shirts with cotton balls attached around the neck and sleeves.

SOUND: Two wireless microphones for mother and daughter, general omni-directional microphones (concealed) for re-enactment characters.

LIGHTING: General stage. If possible, cross-fade lights between the two scenes or use spot on main action. There should never be a complete blackout on one scene while the action takes place in the other.

SETTING: In a modern home and in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. Recommended staging: Mother/daughter setting is stage left. Mother is sitting in a rocking chair with daughter on lap. There is a small table next to the rocking chair. On the table is a Bible. The Nativity scene is set stage right, and can be as simple as a manger with some straw strewn around. The main action and dialogue take place center stage, except for the angels, who should be positioned upstage of the main action on a raised platform.

Scene opens with Mother sitting in a rocking chair with Daughter on lap. Daughter is dressed for bed. Mother is holding a storybook. There is a small table next to the rocking chair. On the table is a Bible.

DAUGHTER: Come on, Mom, just one more story before bed, okay?

MOTHER: All right, but then it's off to sleep without any more protests, young lady. What do you want me to read to you? How about Cinderella?

DAUGHTER: No, you told me that one yesterday.

MOTHER: The Three Little Pigs is one of your favorites.

DAUGHTER: I think I want to hear something new. How about the story of the greatest King of all?

MOTHER: Who would that be?

DAUGHTER: Jesus. My Sunday School teacher told us that Jesus is the "King of kings." I'll bet he has the biggest castle ever, with lots of servants, and tons of money, and....

MOTHER: No, honey, Jesus isn't THAT kind of king. In fact, he never owned much more than the clothes on his back. He was a simple carpenter when he lived on this earth. When he was born, his mother didn't even have a crib for him. He slept in a manger ... that's a trough that animals eat their food from.

DAUGHTER: Like in a barn?