

Lullaby at the Stable

AT Rise: The Holy family in the stable center stage. Mary is holding baby Jesus while Joseph stands behind her. The manger is on the floor beside Mary. Narrator stands at the side of the stage.

NARRATOR: It is the very first Christmas and the blessed mother has a small problem to be understood by my mothers everywhere: Baby Jesus is so excited that He doesn't want to go to bed. For one thing, animals from all over the world have come to the stable to in Bethlehem to see Him.

Enter: (Maddie and Jaelyn) shyly. Putting their hands over their mouths, they giggle nervously. Away in the Manger is playing softly as they enter.

MICE: Tee hee. Tee hee.

NARRATOR: The mice have come to see the Newborn King. Mice are shy and tend to giggle when they are nervous, and as you can see, they are very nervous about visiting the King.

Enter bunnies (Zoie and Izzy) hopping. O Little Town of Bethlehem is playing softly as they enter.

NARRATOR: Little bunnies came from distant fields, hopping all the way. They wiggle their noses at the Newborn King in that inquisitive way bunnies do.

Enter Lions (Abigail and Tobias)

NARRATOR: From a jungle far away came a pride of regal lions. They walk in a stately manner, holding their heads high, for the lion is called the king of beasts.

Enter sheep (Raylyn and Brooklynn) followed by the sheep dogs (Tucker and Jameson). Do you hear what I hear is playing softly as they enter.

NARRATOR: In nearby fields, sheep dogs had been guarding the flocks while the shepherds slept. They had seen the mice passing by and had asked them where they were going in such a hurry. The mice replied that of course they were going to Bethlehem to see the Newborn King. The sheep dogs decided that they too, would go to Bethlehem, and so they were off through the night, herding the sheep before them.

NARRATOR: As sheep often will, one ran off in the wrong direction and had to be turned back by the watchful sheep dogs.

One sheep (Raylyn) runs across the stage to the center. The sheep dogs bark and follow the sheep and bring the sheep back to the group.

Enter the shepherds (Rylan and Josh) led by the angels (Rose, Kaylee, Sidney, & Payton).

NARRATOR: Meanwhile, one of the shepherds had awakened and discovered the sheep were gone. Alarmed he woke the other shepherd. They were about to go in search of the sheep when suddenly an angel appeared to them. This had never happened before, so of course it frightened the shepherds. One of the angels said,

SIDNEY says "Be not afraid," the angel said, "for I bring you tidings of great joy. On this night in the city of David, there has been born to you a Savior."

NARRATOR: So the shepherds, too, hurried to Bethlehem, led through the starry night by a host of angels.

Action - Angels lead the shepherds to the manger scene.

Enter Wise Men (Brett, CJ, & Toby)

NARRATOR: From distant lands came Wise Men, following a star to Bethlehem. They wore fine robes and crowns and had come to present gifts to baby Jesus.

Action – Wise men go to the manger.

Enter the striped kitten (Isabella). Silent Night playing quietly.

NARRATOR: There was even one small striped kitten. She was the youngest of a litter of five kittens born to an alley cat. No one had thought to tell her the news, so she came to see for herself what all the excitement was about. Unnoticed by the others, she sat in a far corner, watching quietly. One mouse yawned,

Action – one mouse yawns (Maddie) putting her paw over her mouth.

Narrator: Then the other mouse yawns (Jaelyn).

NARRATOR: as you can see, everyone is getting very sleepy. Everyone but baby Jesus. All the animals yawned.

Action – the bunnies, lions, sheep, and sheep dogs all yawn. They rub their eyes trying hard to stay awake.

NARRATOR: Even Joseph yawned. Mary leaned forward and said to baby Jesus,

MARY: (lays baby Jesus in the manger) It's time to go to sleep little one.

NARRATOR: The mice stood on their tiptoes to see the manger. Mary looked at them thoughtfully and asked

MARY: Dear little mice, do you know a song that might lull baby Jesus to sleep?

NARRATOR: Delighted, the mice gathered around. It just happened they had been practicing a song for days.

Action - The mice ***sing the chorus to Away in a Manger. Haley helps them sing.

NARRATOR: Mary and Joseph leaned forward to look at baby Jesus. The Wise men, the shepherds, the angels, and all the animals leaned forward. Baby Jesus looked very sleepy. He closed his eyes. Everyone held their breath. Then one of the mice giggled

Action - Maddie or Jaelyn giggle – Tee hee. Tee hee.

NARRATOR: And in the very next instant the other mouse started giggling.

Action – the other mouse giggles. Tee hee. Tee hee. Both mice giggle together.

NARRATOR: Baby Jesus opened His eyes. He smiled and cooed at the mice. He was wide awake again. Joseph was troubled. He knew Mary must be very tired. It had been so far to Bethlehem and then there had been no room at the inn. Joseph looked and the bunnies and then Mary and said,

JOSEPH: Perhaps we could ask one of the bunnies if they know a song.

NARRATOR: The bunnies were surprised. Since bunnies are so quiet in public, most people never suspect they could sing. Eagerly the bunnies gather around and they sang to the baby.

Action - Haley helps the bunnies ***** sing Chorus: O little town of Bethlehem.

Narrator: Again, everyone leaned forward to look at baby Jesus but He laughed and reached out His tiny hands. He wasn't at all sleepy. He wanted to play with the bunnies. Joseph yawned and Mary looked at Joseph.

NARRATOR: Poor Joseph. Mary knew he must be very tired. Joseph had worked long into the night building a table and chair for their friend Tobias. Then he walked all the way to Bethlehem, leading the donkey. Mary looked to the lions and said,

MARY: Noble lion and lioness, perhaps you know a song.

NARRATOR: The lions were not at all surprised to be asked to sing. If they had been asked first, baby Jesus would already be asleep by now. The lion and the lioness gathered around the manger confidently.

Action – Abigail **** sings chorus to O Come all Ye Faithful

NARRATOR: For a moment, it was very still. Everyone looked hopefully at baby Jesus. Then He smiled at the lion and lioness. He waived at them and kicked His feet excitedly. The lion and lioness were surprised that the baby was still awake. Even the wise men started yawning. One of the wise men had even fell asleep.

The second wise man (CJ) lays his head on the shoulder of the third wise man (Brett). The third wise man gently shakes him awake.

NARRATOR: The wise men had journeyed many long days and nights. It would be impolite for them to leave before baby Jesus had fallen asleep, but it was hard to adore Him when their heads were nodding. Mary looked to Joseph as though to ask, "Whatever shall we do?" Joseph patted her shoulder reassuringly. So Joseph turned to the sheep and asked,

JOSEPH: Good sheep, do you know a gentle song that will help baby Jesus to go to sleep?

NARRATOR: The sheep were delighted. Bumping into each other, as sheep will, they gathered around.

Action – sheep (Raylyn) *** sings The First Noel

NARRATOR: For a long moment, baby Jesus was still. Again everyone held their breath. Then baby Jesus began to coo at the sheep. Everyone sighed in disappointment. The sheep dogs stirred and began to bark softly. Mary turned and spoke to the sheep dogs.

MARY: Yes good and faithful sheep dogs, you are man's best friend. Do you know a song?

NARRATOR: Wagging their tails confidently, the sheep dogs hurried forward. They knew a fine song, one that quieted the sheep on dark nights.

Action – ****Tiffany and Aiyanna sing chorus to it came upon a midnight clear

NARRATOR: Everyone looked at Baby Jesus. Even the angels held their breath. Everyone was very, very still. Then one of the sheep dogs forget and wagged his tail. Laughing baby Jesus, reached out and tried to grab it. Everyone sighed, and then poor Joseph yawned so loudly that everyone looked at him.

Action – Joseph yawns loudly.

NARRATOR: One of the wise men stepped forward.

First wise man (Toby): On our long journey, we heard the gentle song of the forest.

Second wise man (CJ): We have heard the sighing of the desert winds.

Third wise man (Brett): We have heard the very stars singing. May we see if we could sing a song that might put the child to sleep?

NARRATOR: Mary replied and said,

MARY: Yes. Please do.

NARRATOR: Then Joseph said,

JOSEPH: (With great feeling) Oh, yes, please do.

Action – the wise men ****sing the chorus to We Three Kings with Jessica

NARRATOR: Baby Jesus stared at the wise men. He was too awed by their song and sparkling jewels in their crown to even think of falling asleep. The shepherds coughed politely and Mary turned and said,

MARY: Yes, humble shepherds. Do you wish to speak?

NARRATOR: The shepherds nodded and came forward.

First Shepherd (Josh): Out in the fields on this most holy of nights, we heard angels singing.

Second Shepherd (Rylan): It was a most wonderous song.

First Shepherd (Josh): Surely of all songs, this is the one that will lull the baby to sleep.

NARRATOR: Mary nodded and led by angel voices, the shepherds began to sing.

Action – shepherds and angels ****sing first verse Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

NARRATOR: And so beautiful was the song of that first Christmas that down through the ages it has been sung by multitudes. For a long moment, baby Jesus was still, overwhelmed by the voices of the multitudes. Mary looked to Joseph and asked,

MARY: Joseph, what are we to do? Everyone has sung their very best song and baby Jesus is more wide awake than ever.

NARRATOR: There was a slight pause, then, timidly, the striped kitten raised her paw and said,

STRIPED KITTEN (Isabella): Um, excuse me?

NARRATOR: Everyone looked around to see who had spoken & again the striped kitten said,

STRIPED KITTEN: (Speaks a little louder) Excuse me, please?

NARRATOR: Everyone looked at the striped kitten in surprise. Mary turned to the striped kitten and asked

MARY: Yes, striped kitten?

STRIPED KITTEN: Let me try.

NARRATOR: The lion and the lioness snickered and exchanged amused glances. What a silly kitten, thinking she might succeed where the mighty lion and lioness had failed. But Mary nodded and the striped kitten came shyly out of the corner. The kitten walked over to the manger and began to sing to baby Jesus.

Action – Isabella ***sings Silent Night

NARRATOR: Mary watched the baby anxiously and Joseph leaned forward. Then the wise men, shepherds, and angels leaned forward. Suddenly baby Jesus yawned. Smiling, the striped kitten purred. Baby Jesus yawned again and sighing happily, He closed his eyes and fell asleep. Everyone looked around and smiled at each other.

EVERYONE: **Sings Joy to the world 1st verse