

## The Christmas Story Sounds Familiar

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READER: The people were waiting for God to send someone to save them. For years, prophets were sharing God's message for the people to turn away from sin and back to the God who loved them.

*"Prophets' Decree"*

(to the tune of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town")

You better watch out

You better not sin

Remember our God in all you're doin'

Messiah is coming to town

READER: Hundreds of years passed, and the people waited. They expected a king to ride in and save the day. Things happened a little differently than they thought it would.

READER: An angel visited a girl named Mary in a small town of Nazareth. The angel, Gabriel, told her,

READER: "Do not be afraid. You will have a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and His kingdom will never end. He will be called the Son of God."

*"Jesus Our Savior"*

(to the tune of "Frosty the Snowman")

Jesus our Savior

Came to earth to save our souls

Mary's baby boy

Filled the earth with joy

'Cause He came to make us whole

He is Messiah

God with us, Emmanuel

Mary do not fear

Listen close and hear

What the angel now will tell

You will have a baby boy

and Jesus is His name

He will be Son of the Most High

And you'll be glad He came!

Jesus the Savior

Came to earth to save our souls

Mary's baby boy

Filled the earth with joy  
'Cause He came to make us whole

READER: **Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. At this time, they had to travel to the city of Bethlehem to be counted in the census.**

READER: **But after a long journey, they found no place where they could stay. It was time for baby Jesus to be born, and the only room was in a stable with animals.**

*"Oh Bethlehem"*

(to the tune of "Oh Christmas Tree")

Oh Bethlehem O Bethlehem  
How very long our journey  
Oh Bethlehem O Bethlehem  
How very long our journey  
Caesar Augustus called us there  
To count the people everywhere  
Oh Bethlehem O Bethlehem  
How very long our journey

Oh Bethlehem O Bethlehem  
You are so very crowded  
Oh Bethlehem O Bethlehem  
You are so very crowded  
There is no room inside the inn  
Only a stable in the end  
Oh Bethlehem O Bethlehem  
You are so very crowded

READER: **Jesus was born that night, and they laid him in a manger.**

READER: **The king of kings came into our world without a grand entrance, but it was just like the prophets foretold many years before.**

*"Jesus the Newborn Baby"*

(to the tune of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer")

Jesus the newborn baby  
Tightly wrapped in swaddling clothes  
He didn't have a real bed  
So in the manger He goes  
Joseph and Mary loved Him  
They knew He came to save the earth  
They cared for Baby Jesus  
And so we celebrate His birth

That same night a star appeared  
To show just where He lay

So shepherds and later some kings  
Came to say Happy Birthday

Jesus the newborn baby  
Tightly wrapped in swaddling clothes  
Was born for all God's people  
Tell everyone so they will know!

READER: At the same time, some shepherds were in a nearby field, watching their sheep. Suddenly, an angel appeared!

READER: He said, "Do not be afraid, I have great news! Today, a Savior has been born. You will find him wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."

READER: Then, a multitude of angels filled the sky and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth!"

*"Angel's Proclamation"*  
(to the tune of Jingle Bells)  
Do not fear!  
Do not fear!  
Said angels in the night  
Listen shepherds  
Do you hear  
There's no reason for fright

Baby born  
Baby born  
Jesus came for all  
Go to Bethlehem and see  
Hurry do not stall!

READER: The shepherds hurried to find baby Jesus, and then they were so excited, they told everyone what they saw that night.

READER: Mary treasured all of these things in her heart.

READER: But the story didn't end that special night. Jesus came for all people, even for us today.

READER: He grew up to teach, perform miracles, and take the punishment for our sins. Then, He rose again and His Holy Spirit is with us today until He returns again!

READER: Our hearts rejoice at the miracle of Christmas.

*"We Praise God Who Gave Us Christmas"*  
(to the tune of We Wish You a Merry Christmas)  
We praise God who gave us Christmas  
We praise God who gave us Christmas  
We praise God who gave us Christmas  
For He loves us so much!

We thank God that He forgave us  
We thank God that He forgave us  
We thank God that He forgave us  
By sending His Son!

We love Him and we adore Him  
We love Him and we adore Him  
We love Him and we adore Him  
We give glory to God!

READER: Please join us in prayer. Thank you God for the gift of Christmas.

READER: Help us keep your story special in our hearts every year. Also help us tell your story all year long.

READER: We thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for forgiving our sins and making a way for us to be with you forever.

READER: We praise you for the wonder of your story. Every detail is amazing and reminds us of how wonderful you are.

READER: Please give us the boldness to tell someone new about the true meaning of Christmas and the incredible story of the birth of Jesus Christ, your Son.

READER: We want to celebrate hope, peace, joy, and love every day and give glory to you always. Merry Christmas, Lord. We love you. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.