

# Glory Manger

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- *Large scripture passages are represented by Biblical reference to avoid copyright issues. Please include scripture in the translation of your choice.*
- *This document can be saved as text, or copied and pasted into a word document. Feel free to make changes necessary for your needs.*
- *Opportunities for additional songs have been suggested.*
- *The “stage group” consists of children dressed in costume who come on stage during the appropriate Bible passages.*

## Introduction

Narrator One: We live in a world of change. Land lines change to cell phones and now those phones play music and take pictures. Governments change from one political party to the next, countries change governments and names. Even our language and culture change. Only time will tell if the changes we experience are good or bad. One change remains good, however; the change that happened when a dusty stinky feed bin became the glory manger. The birth of baby Jesus changes everything.

Narrator Two: *1 John 2:8*

## An Angel Brings the News

All Children: The angel came with news of Baby Jesus, Jesus will come  
The angel came with news of Baby Jesus, Jesus will come  
The angel came with news of Baby Jesus, Jesus will come  
That’s what made the Glory Manger (kdm)

Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Wasn’t it a bright Bethlehem morning?  
Around the Glory Manger

Narrator One: Joseph’s ancestor, King David, experienced a major career-path change when Samuel anointed him as God’s chosen king. Mary and Joseph’s life plan changed, also, with the angel’s news. And Joseph found he needed to change his mind about what to do with Mary. All these changes must have been confusing. The trust and faith God gave Mary and Joseph were certainly necessary for the completion of God’s plan for our salvation.

Narrator Two: *Luke 1: 26-33*

Stage Group: *Angel brings news to Mary*

Song:

Narrator One: The birth of the baby changes our lives, too. From our conception, we began a career of sin. When Jesus died and rose again, our career path changed. We are no longer slaves to sin, but heirs to the kingdom.

## No Room in the Inn

All Children: They turned away Mary and Joseph, away from the Inn  
They turned away Mary and Joseph, away from the Inn  
They turned away Mary and Joseph, away from the Inn  
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Hallelujah, hallelujah  
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Around the Glory Manger

Narrator One: The baby in the glory manger changed the plans of Mary and Joseph. Instead of a quick trip to Bethlehem to register for the census they faced a long arduous journey. Instead of Mary giving birth in a comfortable bed in a clean room, Jesus was born in a stable.

Narrator Two: *Luke 2: 1-7*

Stage Group: *Caesar issues decree, people register, Joseph and Mary travel, knock on doors and receive "no" answer, baby born in stable and laid in manger.*

Song:

Narrator One: We make plans for our days and for our lives. Planning is a good thing. It is important to remember that our plans are subservient to God's plans for us. Sometimes He has a different idea in mind. Sometimes He has ministry for us to accomplish. Just as God had a plan for Joseph and Mary, He has a plan for us.

## A Baby Born in a Manger

All Children: Look at all His pretty little fingers playing in the straw  
Look at all His pretty little fingers playing in the straw  
Look at all His pretty little fingers playing in the straw  
That's what made the Glory Manger

Hallelujah, hallelujah  
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Narrator One: Before Jesus' birth the world eagerly awaited a Savior. The day was finally here; the Savior had come. When God sent His Son the picture changed. The Grace of God suddenly had fingers and toes. The Grace of God came to bear our sins on the cross; to fill the empty tomb of our lives with the light of God's immeasurable love.

Narrator Two: *Ephesians 3:17-19*

Song:

## Angels Tell the Shepherds

All Children: Angels fill the sky with glory singing, sing of His peace  
Angels fill the sky with glory singing, sing of His peace  
Angels fill the sky with glory singing, sing of His peace  
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Hallelujah, hallelujah  
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Around the Glory Manger

Narrator One: The shepherds thought they faced a long cold night of boredom; perhaps grumbling around the fire or retelling tired stories. "Stunned" is too tame a word to describe the look that must have passed over their faces as the sky was filled with an angel. Who knows what they thought when the sky filled with singing angels. Because of the faith given to them by God, they were not too stunned to accept the news.

Narrator Two: *Luke 2:8-14*

Stage Group: *Shepherds in field, angel comes, followed by more angels*

Song:

Narrator One: The shepherd's lives were forever changed by the events of that evening. The baby in the glory manger came to save each and every one of them, shabby coats and all. The baby in the glory manger changes our lives, too. He came for me. He came for you.

## The Shepherds Come to See Jesus

All Children: All the shepherds and the wise men, follow the star  
All the shepherds and the wise men, follow the star  
All the shepherds and the wise men, follow the star  
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Narrator One: In our world today, if we witnessed something as spectacular as an angel choir in the heavens, we would be tempted to sell our story to the tabloids. We would hope and pray we got a good picture on our cell phone. The shepherds thought of only one thing: to find the baby and kneel to worship the newborn king.

Narrator Two: *Luke 2:15-16*

Stage Group: *Shepherds leave the field and find the baby, kneel and worship.*

Song:

Narrator One: Worship happens when the heart has been changed. Love happens when the heart has been changed. Forgiveness and mercy happen when the heart has been changed. The baby in the glory manger changes our hearts. We are free to worship, love and forgive.

## Now, We Sing God's Praise

All Children:            Now I sing a song for Baby Jesus, I am His child  
Now I sing a song for Baby Jesus, I am His child  
Now I sing a song for Baby Jesus, I am His child  
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Narrator One:            The shepherds couldn't call the local news station or post a video on YouTube. However, they couldn't keep the news to themselves either. They spread the news of the Savior's birth by glorifying and praising God. It was evident to all that something had changed.

Narrator Two:            *Luke 2:17-20*

Stage Group:            *Shepherds leave the manger and tell others the news.*

Narrator One:            Our change is complete: from sinner to saint, from slave to heir. We no longer live under the burden of the law. We move freely in the shadow of God's love and Grace.

Narrator Two:            *Romans 8:15-17*

Song:

Blessing:

# The Glory Manger

Traditional Spiritual with adapted verses

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This song can be found on the following CD:

Erin Bode: The Themba Girls and the Erin Bode Group  
LCMS World Mission