

Stories of the Savior - The Life of Christ
An Easter Play

(side door black with gold "Holy Bible" on it) (all characters to come through Bible)

(S1 & S2 start on stage) (all others front pews)

S1 - Thank you for coming to the 2nd portion of our presentation of the Stories of the Savior.

S2 - Our last presentation started with Creation and ended with Jesus being presented at the temple to Simeon and Anna when He was just eight days old. But, like we told you before, it didn't end there.

Song - Tell Me The Story of Jesus

(toddler Jesus, Mary, Joseph, magi, star holder, Herod to side room)

S1 - Let's continue with more stories of the Savior.

S2 - Who shall we start with?

S1 - Well, I thought we would continue where we left off. When Jesus got a little older, He got a visit from some magi.

S2 - (hand sideways to face as if telling a secret) Also known as "The Wise Men".

(enter toddler Jesus, Mary, Joseph to back right of stage - star holder front center of stage - Herod and magi front left of stage)

Reader - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying "Where is He who has been born the king of the Jews? For we saw a star in the east, and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:1-2

(chief priests and scribes stand up from front pew & Herod goes down to "talk" with them)

Reader - And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he began to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born. Matthew 2:3-4

Reader - And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a ruler, who will shepherd my people Israel." Matthew 2:5-6

(chief priest/scribes sit down & Herod goes back to magi) (angel to side room)

S2 - So Herod sent the magi to Bethlehem to see Jesus.

S1 - Yes, he told them that he wanted to know exactly where the Savior was so that he would be able to worship Him as well. But we all know his intentions weren't noble.

S2 - Let's finish the magi's story.

Reader - And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshipped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:9-11

S2 - Those were good gifts.

S1 - Yes, they were valuable gifts that were suitable for a king.

S2 - Let's tell about what happened when they were ready to leave. King Herod had told them to make sure that he knew where to find Jesus.

Reader - And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another way. Matthew 2:12

(exit all EXCEPT Joseph, Mary, and toddler Jesus) (enter angel) (12yr old Jesus & temple teachers to side room)

S2 - Thank goodness they didn't listen. Joseph's story is continued here.

S1 - Yes, we began Joseph's story in our last presentation.

S2 - Right. He was told in a dream, that it was ok to take Mary as his wife and that the child that she was carrying was from God.

S1 - Now we see Joseph being told in another dream to flee.

Reader - Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." Matthew 2:13

Reader - And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt did I call My Son." Matthew 14-15

S2 - But they don't stay in Egypt.

S1 - No, Joseph is told by an angel of the Lord in another dream that it was ok to take Him back.

(exit toddler Jesus) (enter 12yr Jesus & temple teachers)

S1 - Jesus grew up and was a normal Jewish boy.

S2 - Yes, He encountered people every day and they didn't realize that they were starting their story of the Savior.

Reader - And His parents used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast. Luke 2:41-42

(Mary and Joseph go to the back of the sanctuary) (enter temple teachers)

Reader - And as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. And His parents were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. And when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, looking for Him. Luke 2:43-45

S2 - They lost Jesus?!

S1 - Well, He wasn't really lost. They just didn't know where He was.

S2 - So they lost the Son of God?

S1 - Kind of, I guess.

(Mary and Joseph down side aisle to stage)

Reader - And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. Luke 2:46-47

S1 - He had been in the temple with the teachers. They were in the midst of the Savior and they didn't even know it. That's their story of the Savior. They had first hand experience of His knowledge.

S2 - And just at the age of 12! I'm just so glad that Mary and Joseph found Him. I bet He's going to get in trouble! I know I would.

S1 - He doesn't exactly get in trouble.

Reader - And when they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. Luke 2:48-50

S1 - See, He doesn't quite get in trouble. The Son of God, who is fully God, can't really get in trouble.

S2 - I suppose not.

(exit all) (John the Baptist & adult Jesus to side room)

S1 - So Jesus grows up in Nazareth with His earthly parents.

S2 - I can't imagine raising the Son of God. And I can't imagine the stories of His earthly siblings.

S1 - I'm sure they could tell some crazy stories.

S2 - Yea, like, "I like to go fishing with Jesus because I always seem to catch something."

S1 - So Jesus grows up and this is where John the Baptist's story continues.

S2 - We gave you a sneak peek in our last presentation. It was of John's parents before he was even born.

S1 - Yes, now he's all grown up and preaching about repentance and the coming Christ.

(enter John the Baptist)

Reader - Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!'" Matthew 3:1-3

Reader - And he was preaching and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptize you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:7-8

S1 - John's father was told what his son's story of the Savior was going to be.

Reader - And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17

S2 - But John's story of the Savior doesn't end there.

S1 - No. A very important event happened in the story of John's life.

(enter Jesus)

Reader - Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. Matthew 3:13-15

S2 - John baptizes Jesus! Wow! I would have loved to have been there to witness all of that!

S1 - Yes, but look at what happens next.

Reader - And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

S2 - John had an amazing story of the Savior!

Song - I've Got a River of Life

(exit all EXCEPT Jesus)

S2 - Whose story should we tell next?

S1 - Well there are so many people, written about in the Bible, who had direct stories of the Savior. I think we'll talk about some of the many people who Jesus healed.

S2 - Jesus healed multitudes of people throughout His short three year ministry that there are just too many to talk about. But we'll try to do it the best we can.

S1 - (pointing to the screen) As you can see on the screen behind us, I have listed some of the many people that Jesus healed.

S2 - Peter's mother-in law's was gone when Jesus simply laid His hand on her.

S1 - And then there were the two blind men that Jesus healed by touching their eyes.

S2 - Then, of course, there was the man that had a withered hand whom Jesus also healed.

S1 - There are many more people that Jesus had healed.

S2 - Each and every one of them had a personal story of the Savior. They all had been healed by the Savior. So who should we move on to next?

S1 - How about those who had been brought back to life?

S2 - Yes! There was the synagogue official's daughter whom He brought back to life.

S1 - Right. And then there was the centurion's servant that Jesus healed without even being in the same room!

S2 - Amazing! And, we all know about Lazarus.

S1 - People were changed forever because of Jesus.

S2 - Well, especially those whom He brought back to life!

S1 - I don't know how people couldn't have seen that He is truly the Son of God.

S2 - Those weren't the only miracles that Jesus had performed.

Reader - Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. John 20:30

(disciples and Jesus to side room)

S1 - The Bible would have been a lot bigger if everything had been written down.

S2 - I would probably need a cart to carry my Bible around if that were the case.

S1 - I think it's time to move our presentation closer to the end of Jesus' life.

S2 - Shh! You're giving away the ending.

S1 - It's not a secret why He came to Earth.

Reader - For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. John 3:17

Reader - For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

S1 - He told His disciples over and over about why He had come.

(enter Jesus and disciples) (Zaccheus to side room)

Reader - And He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again." Luke 18:31-33

Reader - And they understood none of these things, and this saying was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said. Luke 18:34

S2 - How could they not have realized what He was telling them?

S1 - Probably the same way we don't fully realize what He did for us, even though we have it written for us.

S2 - So He and His disciples were moving their way towards Jerusalem when they encountered a few more people.

S1 - He healed a blind man named Bartimaeus.

S2 - He kept calling out to Jesus to heal him, and He did!

S1 - It goes to show that even though He was on His way to die for them, He took the time to continue doing His Father's work. There was never a time that He was too busy, or finished with His work.

S2 - That goes for us as well, doesn't it? As long as we are still here, we are to do our Father's work.

S1 - It didn't stop there. There was a man named Zaccheus that Jesus met along the way.

(enter Zaccheus)

Song - Zaccheus Was a Wee Little Man

(all stay on stage as crowd, get palm branches) (Jesus & disciples back of sanctuary)

S2 - It's amazing how Jesus knew his name without asking.

S1 - He knows all of our names.

S2 - So the blind man had a story of the Savior and so did Zaccheus. Where's Jesus going to go now?

S1 - He's going to enter into Jerusalem as a triumphant king.

S2 - He told His disciples to get Him a donkey. The donkey rode the Savior into Jerusalem. Even the donkey has a story of the Savior!

S1 - I guess so.

Reader - They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their garments on the colt, and put Jesus on it. And as He was going, they were spreading their garments in the road. Luke 19:35-36

(Jesus down center aisle with donkey while S1 & S2 motion to audience to wave palm branches)

Reader - And as He was now approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Luke 19:37-38

Song - Hosanna!

(exit crowd) (servant girls, bystander & soldiers to side room)

S2 - They were all praising Him as He entered the city. It was a good start of the story of Jesus' last week.

S1 - But they didn't realize why He had to go to Jerusalem.

(pass out communion emblems to audience - tell them to just hold on to them until the appropriate time in the program)

S2 - He told the apostles at the Passover meal that He shared with them.

(man) Reader - And when the hour had come He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. Luke 22:14-20

S1 - He was trying to tell them His story, but they didn't really understand what He was saying.

S2 - They didn't want to think about Him ever leaving them.

(enter soldiers, Jesus, disciples, and Judas)

S1 - Let's talk about the soldiers who arrested Jesus.

S2 - They had a story of the Savior. I don't think I would like to have that story.

S1 - This will also tell some of Judas' story.

Reader - And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a great multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him." Matthew 26:47-48

Reader - And immediately he went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. Matthew 26:49-50

S2 - That didn't really talk about soldiers, but someone had to seize Jesus and it would have been Roman soldiers. Imagine having to arrest the Son of God! I surely wouldn't have done it!

S1 - The problem is that they didn't believe that He is the Son of God. There are other soldiers' stories that directly relate to the crucifixion of Jesus.

Reader - Then the soldier of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Matthew 27:27-29

Reader - And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. Matthew 27:31

(exit Jesus & soldiers - stay in side room) (Jesus change to white clothes)

Song - Jesus Paid It All

(Mary Magdalene, Mary, and angel to side room)

S2 - I really don't like that part of the story. But I have to remember that Friday's here, but Sunday's coming!

S1 - Christ's death on Friday was necessary in order for His blood to cover us, but the best part of the story is coming on Sunday!

S2 - It's hard to imagine what Jesus' followers were thinking when they saw that Jesus had died.

(enter Mary Magdalene, Mary, angel, & soldiers)

S1 - Let's continue with the story of some of the followers of Jesus.

Reader - Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. Matthew 28:1-2

Reader - And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. Matthew 28:3-4

Song - Easter Song

(Mary Magdalene & Mary stay center stage) (enter Jesus)

Reader - And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me." Matthew 28:9-10

S2 - I think it's funny that the strong guards were so afraid, but these gentle women didn't...hmmm. (finger up to face)

S1 - Very interesting observation. These women were the first to see Jesus alive.

S2 - What an incredible story to be able to tell. They were to tell the disciples that their Lord and Savior was alive!

S1 - But this isn't the end of the story of Jesus or the people who were able to see Him.

S2 - There were a lot of people to see Jesus after He came back to life.

(S2 is counting on fingers as S1 says them)

S1 - There were the women who went to the grave, the ten disciples in the closed room, the eleven disciples when Thomas touched Jesus' hands and side, Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two others while they were fishing, the two

who were walking to the village of Emmaus, and then there was Paul, of course, on the way to Damascus.

(S2 gets tired of trying to count)

Reader - After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:6

S2 - So He died, rose from the grave, saw a bunch of people, and then what?

S1 - And then, as if rising from the dead wasn't enough, He ascended into heaven and sat at His rightful place.

Reader - So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19

S1 - Ladies and gentlemen, it doesn't end here. We have only scratched the surface of the stories of the Savior. There are so many more that are written about in the Bible.

S2 - I have often wondered, "If I lived during Bible times, what would God have written about me? What would people be able to learn from the choices that I make? Would I be a good example of godly living, a person who persevered through troubled times? Or would I have been an example to others to learn what not to do? What would I be remembered for?"

S1 - We all have a story. If this is your first time hearing about Jesus and what He did for you, your story is beginning now! If you have heard about Jesus before, you are working on the middle of your story now.

S2 - There are choices to be made every moment, day, month, and year. There is a beginning, middle, and end to every story.

Both - How is your story going to end?