

A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN

Christmas skit for teens. Cast requires 7 or more actors. Traditional Christmas theme.

CAST

Narrator #1 (male or female)
Narrator #2 (male)
Mary (female)
Joseph (male)
Angel (male or female)
Elizabeth (female)
Zechariah (male)

Townspeople, Angels, Shepherds - *played by groups*

Herod, Wise Men, Soldiers, Advisors - *can all be played by other actors*



TIME

The skit is in three parts and has places indicated for songs to be sung. With songs it runs about 45 minutes long. Narrators may read their scripts. The actors have a few lines.

SYNOPSIS

Narrators 1 & 2 tell the traditional Christmas story while costumed performers act out the story onstage. Narrator #2 admits at the beginning that he is not sure he believes it all. He had believed in Santa Claus (and you know what happened there!) Narrator #1 agrees to tell him the story, to see if he will believe it. “*But*” he warns “*whether you believe it or not... it’s still true. And the really good thing is that, since it’s true, no one can ever take it away from you!*” The Narrators take turns reading the script as the actors portray the various parts onstage. Occasionally the actors interact with the Narrators; Mary in particular speaks several times to Narrator #2 asking him if he believes yet. Narrator #2 likes Mary (thinking she is very beautiful). He becomes more engaged with the story as it continues, wondering what will happen to Mary and to the baby Jesus. At the end, he is convinced that the story is true. He finds it really is “*A Christmas to Believe In!*”

SETTING

The stage is open except for two stands for Narrators in front or to side of the stage. Narrators must have lighting available to read from scripts.

SONGS

The songs indicated in the play are just suggestions. You may opt to have children’s choirs, or the congregation, sing with the actors onstage at the appropriate times.

PROPS

One manger. And a poster which reads “His name is to be JOHN!”

PART ONE

[Musical introduction, if possible. NARRATOR #1 and NARRATOR #2 ENTER and stand at microphones. At the end of musical intro. Narrator #1 begins.]

- Narrator #1: A long time ago in the town of Bethlehem a Savior was born which was Christ the Lord.
- Narrator #2: *(speaking to Narrator #1)* Wait a minute... wait a minute... what are you doing?
- Narrator #1: What do you mean "What am I doing?" We're doing the Christmas play. You know that! What's the matter with you? Look around you! Everyone's here. Our parents are even here. *(To audience)* Hi, Mom!
- Narrator #2: Well, see...I've been thinking about it... and... I don't know if I believe it all or not...
- Narrator #1: WHAT!!?? DON'T BELIEVE IT!!?? ARE YOU KIDDING ME??!!
What don't you believe?
- Narrator #2: I don't know if I believe in the Christmas story.
- Narrator #1: *(in terror)* AGGGGHHHHH!!!!!!
- Narrator #2: Well... When I was younger I believed in Santa Claus... and you know what happened there.
- Narrator #1: *(Freaking out)* Oh, man... this is worse than I thought.
- Narrator #2: Here take some deep breaths... it's supposed to help.
- Narrator #1: *(suddenly)* Wait! I've had an epitome!
- Narrator #2: You mean an epiphany!
- Narrator #1: Whatever. I'll tell you the story of Christmas and you can decide if you believe it or not. But, whether you believe it or not... it's still true. And the really good thing is that, since it's true, no one can ever take it away from you!
- Narrator #2: Alright. If you think it will help. Thanks!
- Narrator #1 & 2: Let's DO IT!!!! *(High five.)*

[Houselights DOWN. Spotlight UP on CENTERSTAGE.]

[MARY ENTERS]

Narrator #1: A while back there was a young woman named Mary.

[THEATRICAL NOTE: As MARY enters, NARRATOR #2 sees that Mary is beautiful and he thinks she is wonderful. Throughout the play MARY and NARRATOR #2 will talk together occasionally. He likes her.]

Narrator #2: Hi, Mary!

Mary: *(to Narrator #2)* Hi! Do you believe yet?

Narrator #2: I don't know. *(Aside to #1)* Is she supposed to be talking to me?

Narrator #1: Mary lived in a town called Nazareth... *(Aside to #2)* The town is still there; you can go see it.

Narrator #2: Oh, thanks.

Narrator #1: Mary was promised to be married to a man named Joseph.

Narrator #2: *(mushy)* Lucky guy.

Narrator #1: Qui-et. One day Mary was visited by an angel of God.

[ANGEL ENTERS and approaches MARY onstage.]

Narrator #2: *(interrupting)* Now, see... right there... An angel here on Earth talking to some girl named Mary. I mean, there is NO archeological proof of that.

Narrator #1: Did you have breakfast this morning?

Narrator #2: Yes... cereal.

Narrator #1: Do you have archeological proof of that?

Narrator #2: No.

Narrator #1: My point exactly... So this angel says to Mary...

Angel: Hail, Mary, full of grace. The LORD is with thee.

Narrator #2: Doesn't that sound like a strange greeting to you?

Narrator #1: I imagine that's what Mary thinks. She looks really scared!

Angel: Don't be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Mary: How will this be since I am a virgin?

Narrator #2: *(raising hand)* Oh...oh... I know this one... *(proudly)* I took Health Class!

Narrator #1: Shhhh.... The angel is going to tell her.

Angel: The Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Narrator #2: That's not what they told us in Health Class.

Narrator #1: I told you shhhhhh! The angel is still speaking.

Angel: Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a baby in her old age. For nothing is impossible with God.

Narrator #2: It's amazing what they can do at those infertility clinics.

Narrator #1: Dude, this all took place over 2000 years ago!

Narrator #2: Sorry, my bad. Who's this Elizabeth anyway? *(leafing through the script.)* Did you skip a page?

Narrator #1: Wait, Mary has one more line.

Mary: I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.

Narrator #1: *(In a loud directing-type voice)*
Then the Angel left her.

[ANGEL EXITS.]

Narrator #1: *(Still in a loud directing-type voice)*
And then Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea to see her relative, Elizabeth.

[MARY EXITS.]

Narrator #2: Hey!!! Where's she going? Who is this Elizabeth chick?

[ELIZABETH ENTERS and moves CENTER]

Narrator #1: *(still narrating)* Elizabeth was Mary's older cousin who lived in another town. She had been married to a good man named Zechariah for many, many, many, many, many years.

[ELIZABETH bows]

Narrator #2: Strange...she doesn't look that old.

Narrator #1: This is an actress.

[ELIZABETH EXITS]

Narrator #1: Months earlier the angel had visited Elizabeth's husband Zechariah.

Narrator #2: Dude, I knew you skipped a page!

[ZECHARIAH ENTERS and moves to CENTER]

Narrator #1: *(Repeating)* ...the angel had visited Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, when he had come to offer the sacrifice at the Temple.

Narrator #2: What's the Temple?

Narrator #1: Like church, but before Jesus.

Narrator #2: Oh.

[ANGEL ENTERS and crosses to Zechariah.]

Narrator #1: The angel said...

Narrator #2: Hey! Is that the same angel?

Narrator #1: Yes, it is. See, it WAS the same angel. We like to try and stay as close to reality as we can here.

Narrator #2: *(sarcastically)* Oh yeah, I can see your angel here looks a lot like the real thing.

Narrator #1: (*ignoring him*) The Angel said to Zechariah...

Angel: Don't be afraid, Zechariah.

Narrator #2: Your angel there seems to say that a lot.

Narrator #1: (*analytically*) Actually, angels are quite imposing figures. You can look it up in various passages in the Bible where angelic appearances are recorded. Almost all of them reflect how frightened the persons seeing them became.

Narrator #2: Dude, are you alright?

Narrator #1: Anyway, they ended up having to say it almost every time.

Narrator #2: Say what?

Narrator #1: "Don't be afraid."

Angel: Zechariah, your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. And he will...help to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Zechariah: How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.

Narrator #2: Wow!! Did you hear what he just said? He called his wife "old"! Dude, is he in trouble!!

Narrator #1: Oh, he did something worse than that. He questioned an angel! Watch this!

Angel: I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens because you did not believe my words which will come true at the proper time.

Zechariah: Bu... (*He keeps trying to speak and making motions but no sound comes out.*)

[ANGEL EXITS]

Narrator #2: Hey, what happened to his voice?

Narrator #1: Gone.

Narrator #2: Laryngitis?

Narrator #1: Power of God.

Narrator #2: Wow.

Narrator #1: You said it.

Narrator #2: Well, it's sure that Zechariah didn't say it.

[OPTION FOR SONG AT THIS POINT.]

[ELIZABETH ENTERS and moves to CENTER with Zechariah. This time she is pregnant.]

Narrator #1: Sure enough, just like the angel had said, Zechariah and Elizabeth were soon expecting their first baby... despite their old age. But Zechariah still couldn't speak.

It wasn't very long at all before Mary came to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.

[MARY ENTERS calling out Elizabeth's name. She walks to Elizabeth and they hug.]

Mary: Elizabeth!!

Elizabeth: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!

Mary: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

Narrator #1: Mary's visit with Elizabeth and Zechariah lasted about 3 months and then Mary went back home to Nazareth.

[MARY hugs Elizabeth. ELIZABETH and ZECHARIAH EXIT briefly.]

[MARY turns to leave and then pauses.]

Narrator #2: Bye, Mary!

Mary: Bye. Do you believe yet?

Narrator #2: I don't know.

[MARY EXITS.]

Narrator #1: When Elizabeth's time came, she was delivered of a baby boy, just as the angel had told Zechariah.

[ZECHARIAH and ELIZABETH ENTER proudly carrying their new baby. They are followed by the TOWNSPEOPLE]

Narrator #1: When it was time to name the baby their friends and neighbors asked them....

Townsperson: What is the baby's name?

Elizabeth: His name is to be John.

Townsperson: But none of your relatives are named John. You have to name him after someone in your family.

Zechariah, what do you think about this? What is the baby's name to be?

[ZECHARIAH holds up a big sign that says "His name is to be John."]

Townsperson: *(reading)* "His name is to be John."

Elizabeth: John!

Zechariah: John!!!

Narrator #1: Suddenly Zechariah could speak again!!!

[ELIZABETH and TOWNSPEOPLE are very happy!]

Zechariah: Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

Zechariah: (*Gathering Baby in his arms*) And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God...

Narrator #2: Wow... all that time in silence must have given him time to think about what he would say.

Narrator #1: And John grew up and became a great man of God, just like the angel had said. And later he would be known as John the Baptist.

Narrator #2: (*surprised*) He was a Baptist?!

Narrator #1: Let's not get into that right now.

Narrator #1: And so, that's the end of Part 1. Do you believe yet?

Narrator #2: I don't know.

Narrator #1: Well let's listen to some music and then we'll have Part 2.

Narrator #2: Will Mary be back?

Narrator #1: Oh, I'm sure she will. She has a pretty big part to fill.

Narrator #2: Alright then.

(*TOWNSPEOPLE, ZECHARIAH and ELIZABETH CROSS to FRONT to Sing.*)

END OF PART ONE

SONG - TOWNSPEOPLE, ZECHARIAH AND ELIZABETH

"MARY, DID YOU KNOW?"

PART TWO

[The stage is open except for a MANGER at STAGE LEFT]

[NARRATORS #1 & 2 ENTER.]

[JOSEPH ENTERS, crosses to CENTER and goes to sleep.]

Narrator #1: *(Loudly as if to get everyone's attention)* Meanwhile, back in Nazareth... we find Joseph, the man pledged to marry Mary, asleep in his bed. Joseph has had a hard day, because as soon as Mary got back from visiting with Elizabeth, it was obvious to everyone that she was going to have a baby.

Narrator #2: Uh oh.

Narrator #1: Yep.

Narrator #1: Now, Joseph was a very good man and so he wanted to be kind and generous towards Mary. But since he knew the baby wasn't his, he wasn't sure what to do next. While he was still considering his options an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream.

[ANGEL ENTERS]

Narrator #2: Oh, no. NOT this guy again! Didn't you have anyone else who wanted to play an angel?!

Angel: Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

[ANGEL EXITS. JOSEPH WAKES UP. MARY ENTERS. Joseph takes Mary's arm and they walk together to STAGE RIGHT.]

Narrator #1: When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Narrator #2: By "union" do you mean...?

Narrator #1: Yep... just like in Health Class.

Narrator #2: *(still sweet on Mary)* Hi, Mary!

Mary: Hi. Do you believe yet?

Narrator #2: I don't know.

Narrator #1: (*interrupting*) Here... you read a while.

Narrator #2: Why?

Narrator #1: Because my mouth is tired! I've been talking all night.

Narrator #2: Well, that's for sure. Where'd you leave off? Oh, here it is.

(*Announcer like*) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that everyone in the Roman world would be counted.

(*To Narrator #1*) Why on earth would somebody order something stupid like that?

Narrator #1: Tax base.

Narrator #2: Oh, now I get it.

[*JOSEPH WALKS slowly WITH MARY TO STAGE LEFT to the MANGER.*]

Narrator #2: (*bored and sing-song*) So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

(*To Narrator #1*) Hey is this almost over? 'Cause I'm getting hungry. Are there going to be cookies?

Narrator #1: (*aggravated*) Yes, there are going to be cookies! Of course there are going to be cookies! There are always cookies! Now, read!

Narrator #2: (*reading with new interest*) While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

[*MARY puts the baby in the manger.*]

Narrator #2: (*With admiration*) Hi, Mary.

Mary: Hi. Do you believe yet?

Narrator #2: I don't know. But that's a very pretty baby you have there.

Mary: Yes, He's the Son of God.

Narrator #1: *(interrupting)* And that's the end of PART 2.

Narrator #2: Time for cookies?

Narrator #1: No, time for songs.

END OF PART TWO

SONGS -

"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

"SILENT NIGHT"

PART THREE

*[MARY AND JOSEPH ARE SEATED STAGE LEFT AT MANGER.
SHEPHERDS ENTER.]*

Narrator #1: Near the little town of Bethlehem, there were some shepherds living out in the fields, watching their flocks of sheep at night.

Narrator #2: And all of a sudden an angel of the Lord appeared to them and they were really scared. Don't tell me... not... Oh, NO!!

[ANGEL APPEARS]

Angel: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

[MANY ANGELS ENTER]

[THEATRICAL NOTE: These angels may be the very youngest of the children. Pieces of white cloth make great robes. Circles of garland make excellent halos. If the children are to sing, choose songs that are age appropriate for them.]

Narrator #2: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying...

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

[ANGELS COME FORWARD TO SING]

SONG OPTIONS - ANGELS

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!" (Sing this to baby Jesus!)

"IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" (GLORIA)

[ALL ANGELS EXIT]

Narrator #2: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another...

Shepherds: Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

Narrator #2: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

[SHEPHERDS walk over and sit or stand near manger.]

SONG - SHEPHERDS
"AWAY IN A MANGER"

[SHEPHERDS EXIT]

Narrator #1: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Well... that's that! What a nice Christmas story....

[NARRATOR #1 hurriedly takes scripts and closes them.]

Narrator #2: Hey! Hold it!! What happens next?

Narrator #1: Oh... You don't want to know.

Narrator #2: Yes, I do. What happened to Mary? What happened to the baby? How am I supposed to believe in Christmas if I don't know what happened?

Narrator #1: Are you sure you want to know?

Narrator #2: Yes.

Narrator #1: Be careful. Wanting to know is the first step to believing.

[MARY stands and looks at Narrator #2.]

Narrator #2: Alright. I want to know. Tell me.

Narrator #1: Well, ok. We'll read it together. You start.

[NARRATOR #1 opens the scripts. MARY SITS AT MANGER AGAIN.]

[HEROD, SOLDIERS and ADVISORS ENTER and stand STAGE RIGHT]

Narrator #2: Not too far away lived King Herod. He was king of the whole area where Mary and Joseph were living.

Hey... Why don't I like him?

Narrator #1: Because you have good taste.

[WISE MEN (with gifts) ENTER and approach Herod.]

Narrator #2: Who are those guys?

Narrator #1: They are some wise men who lived in countries nearby. They have come to find baby Jesus.

Wise Men: Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.

Narrator #2: King Herod knew the ancient prophecies that there would be a Messiah born to the Jews. He knew that this was the king they were talking about. He secretly didn't want there to be any king but himself. He called all the Jewish leaders together and asked them. Where is the Messiah to be born?

Advisors: He will be born in Bethlehem.

Herod: *(to the Wise Men)* King of the Jews you say? Tell me more. Exactly when did you see the star appear?

Narrator #2: So the wise men told King Herod exactly when they had seen the star appear.

Herod : Go and find him, and when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can come and worship him as well.

[WISE MEN move to CENTERSTAGE. HEROD, and others remain at STAGE RIGHT whispering and pointing. It is obvious that Herod is up to something!]

Narrator #2: Wait a minute! I don't like this! Herod means to hurt them!

Narrator #1: It'll be ok.

Narrator #2: No it won't! We've gotta do something! We've got to warn her!

Narrator #1: There is nothing to do. Do you want to go on and hear the rest of the story?

Narrator #2: I don't know... *(pause)* ...yes.

Narrator #1: OK. Then, let's read.

The wise men went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

[WISE MEN move STAGE LEFT to Mary and Joseph.]

Narrator #2: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Narrator #1: And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

[WISE MEN EXIT STAGE LEFT. HEROD is still waiting at STAGE RIGHT.]

Narrator #2: Another route! You mean they didn't go back to Herod!! Mary is safe?! YES!!!!

Narrator #1: Well, not quite...

Narrator #2: What??!! Well, hurry up! Keep reading!

(Grabbing script) Here...Let me do it!

(Reading) When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

[ANGEL ENTERS]

Narrator #2: Oh, no! You're kidding me... not again!

Angel: Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.

Narrator #1: So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where they stayed until the death of Herod!

[MARY and JOSEPH EXIT]

[HEROD, ADVISORS and SOLDIERS EXIT.]

Narrator #2: *(Overjoyed!!)* YES!!!! They made it! She's safe! The baby's safe!
Even Joseph is safe!

That is the greatest story EVER!! That is the COOLEST angel I have ever
seen. Angel, NICE!! Good work!!

[ANGEL WAVES and EXITS]

Narrator #2: So, is that the end?

Narrator #1: Well, almost. Later Joseph was visited by an Angel in a dream and told
that Herod had died. So he and Mary, and the young child Jesus moved
back from Egypt to their hometown of Nazareth.

[MARY and JOSEPH ENTER. MARY walks to CENTER FRONT.]

Narrator #1: And there is a very happy ending. Jesus grew up, lived a sinless life,
taught about God who was his Father, and later paid the price for the sins
of the world. And now all those who believe in Him will have eternal life.

So now the question is the same one Mary has been asking you all night.

Mary: Do you believe yet?

Narrator #2: Do I believe yet? *(Pause)* Yes, you know, I think I do. I really do!

Mary: You see? It really is "A Christmas to Believe In!"

[MARY and JOSEPH EXIT.]

Narrator #2: That was awesome!! Time for punch and cookies?

Narrator #1: Right after the last couple of songs.

[NARRATORS 1 & 2 EXIT]

Narrator #2: *(while leaving)* I do believe, you know... I think it was that Angel. He
was great!

THE END

SONG OPTIONS:

“CAROL OF THE BELLS”

“WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS”

Another NEW Song Option:

“I BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS” by Pastor Lee Martin

Go to: www.Sunday-School-Center.com/Christmas-Skits.html for links to the musical score, the musical accompaniment, and the YouTube video of a live performance of the song.