



## Matt & Luke's Four-Minute Nativity Script, written by Paul Kerensa

Tip: Keep it nice and energetic and pacy! This is a condensed version, so performing it in a lively, snappy fashion and projecting loudly is all part of it. Oh, and WISE MAN 3 might be female.

*CHORUS enter, with MATTHEW and LUKE possibly wearing t-shirts reading 'Matthew' and 'Luke'*

CHORUS: *(to Mary's Boy Child)*  
A long time ago in Bethlehem,  
So the Holy Bible say...

MATTHEW: And so this is Christmas! I'm Matthew.

LUKE: And I'm Luke.

MATTHEW: Matt and Luke. Like Bros. They were an 80s boyband...

LUKE: Or like the two gospel-writers who present...

MATTHEW/LUKE: The Four-Minute Nativity!

*Enter MARY.*

MATTHEW: ...according to Matthew...

LUKE: ...and Luke. Welcome to Nazareth! Where a girl called Mary is engaged to Joseph. But an angel has big news...

*ANGEL enters.*

ANGEL: Do not be afraid!

MARY: Oh! I'm glad you said that, because I would have been sore afraid.

*ANGEL could consult a clipboard here.*

ANGEL: So, I've got the results of your zero-week baby scan...

MARY: Baby?! But I've never... been in a baby-making situation.

**ANGEL:** Ah! But the Lord is with you. Very much (*LOOKS TO HER WOMB*) ...with you.

*MARY suddenly feels a kick in her womb.*

**MARY:** I think it kicked.

**ANGEL:** Not 'it'. He. The Son of God. Jesus is a good name.

**MARY:** Wow. How should I explain this to my fiancé, Joseph?

**ANGEL:** Good luck, I'm going now...

*ANGEL exits. MARY follows, rubbing her tum. JOSEPH enters, and is accusing towards Mary.*

**JOSEPH:** What's going on?

**MATTHEW:** So Joseph had a visit too...

*ANGEL re-enters quickly.*

**ANGEL:** Do not be afraid!

**JOSEPH:** Oh! I'm glad you said that, because I would have been sore afraid.

**ANGEL:** Keep Mary as your wife. The Holy Spirit has conceived in her a son, of God.

**JOSEPH:** Wow. How will we tell our families?

**ANGEL:** Good luck, I'm going now...

*ANGEL exits. JOSEPH exits happily with MARY, a couple again.*

**LUKE:** Caesar Augustus was Emperor of Rome, and all he wanted for Christmas was a census... Alright, not for Christmas – but he wanted it soon. Everyone returned to their own town to register, and for Joseph that meant...

*JOSEPH enters with bags.*

**JOSEPH:** To Bethlehem!

*MARY follows, now with a big bump. A DONKEY follows them.*

**DONKEY:** (*coughs. Then gives an...*) Ee-aw! Any mention of the donkey?

**LUKE:** Well I've got no mention of it. You Matthew?

**MATTHEW:** Not in my story, sorry.

*DONKEY sadly starts to exit, cast (not narrators) encourage audience to sympathise.*

**MATTHEW:** Oh come on, donkeys always look sad!  
Alright, Mary had to get to Bethlehem somehow...



DONKEY: *(happily)* I'll make you so proud.

LUKE: But at Bethlehem, there was no room at the inn.

*JOSEPH and MARY reach an inn/INNKEEPER. JOSEPH bangs on the door/stamps on the floor as he mimes knocking. INNKEEPER turns to see them.*

INNKEEPER: Sorry. This is a clean inn – No pets!

JOSEPH: Oh, but I've promised my wife a... strong and 'stable' birth.

INNKEEPER: Well we have got a stable but it's not very strong.

*INNKEEPER leads them offstage.*

LUKE: And there, the Son of God was born...

MATTHEW/LUKE: ...And named Jesus.

*SHEPHERDS enter and lie on the ground, asleep.*

LUKE: In neighbouring fields, there were shepherds.

ANGEL: Do not be afraid!

*SHEPHERDS, now dozing, jolt in alarm.*

SHEPHERD 1: Oh! I'm glad you said that...

ANGEL: Your Saviour is born, in a manger, just over there!

SHEPHERD 2: Say what?

SHEPHERD 1: You heard.

SHEPHERD 2: Ewe herd? They're over there with the ram herd.

ANGEL: Well bring them all to see the baby!

*SHEPHERDS nod and exit, whistling at sheep to come with.*

SHEPHERDS: *(WHISTLES)* Come by! Over here!...

*THREE WISE MEN enter, holding three gifts, looking up. HEROD is in the corner of the stage.*

MATTHEW: Magi were wise men from the East, and they followed a star in the sky.

*The WISE MEN bump into HEROD.*

WISE MAN 1: Oh, sorry... We're looking for one born King of the Jews?

HEROD: I am King of the Jews, and everybody else.  
Herod to my friends. I have no friends.



WISE MAN 2: Ah. We are wise men.

WISE MAN 3: Er! Wise people.

HEROD: I'll be the judge of that. When you find this "King of Jews", report back to me, so I can worship him too. With my sword.

*Everyone boos. HEROD tries to take gifts from the WISE MEN. They cling onto them, smile and back away from HEROD.*

*MARY, JOSEPH and SHEPHERDS re-enter and form a tableau of Nativity scene.*

MATTHEW: They found the holy family. The shepherds had given all they had – sheep. So the wise men gave what they had – pricey gold, intense frankincense, healing myrrh. And an angel gave something to them: a warning not to return to Herod.

*The ANGEL appears next to them.*

ANGEL: Do not be afraid...!

ALL: I'm glad you said that!

MATTHEW: And the rest is history.

LUKE: *(looks to baby)* The rest is his story - A story of hope, forgiveness, and love. Because once there was a Christmas, there had to be an Easter.

MATTHEW: That's for another day. But for now...

ALL: *(singing, to The Christmas Song)*  
We know it's been said many times, many ways  
*(singing Hark The Herald)*  
Hark the herald angels sing!  
Glory to the newborn King!

