

Tobit's Christmas

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = about 7 minutes

Cast (7-9+)

Student "director" for the flock of "sheep" (i.e., audience or chorus)

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Tobit

Shepherd 1(Abner)

Shepherd 2

Angel 1

Angel 2

Angel 3

Angels (optional chorus)

Note: Before this Readers Theater performance starts the student "director" should invite the audience (or young children in the room) to be the sheep for this play. Every time the audience hears the word "sheep", they bleat three times--"Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa." Practice once with the audience, then begin the play. The student director will continue to lead the audience throughout the play, helping them catch their cues. (If you don't have an audience, a chorus should bleat on cue.)

Tobit's Christmas

By Carol Montgomery

Narrator 1: Tobit's Christmas.

Narrator 2: In a faraway land with a faraway sky lived a young shepherd boy.....

Tobit: (smiles and waves) Named Tobit.

Narrator 1: Now Tobit was a wonderful young shepherd who did his best to take care of all of his family's **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Tobit: I LOVE these fuzzy-wuzzy, cuddly-wuddly, warm and snuggly **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Narrator 1: And Tobit showed how much he loved them by his actions.

Tobit: I lead my flock to the sweetest, yummiest, greenest lunches in the this whole faraway land because I LOVE these fuzzy-wuzzy, cuddly-wuddly, warm and snuggly **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Tobit: And I carefully guide my flock to the freshest, coolest, purest water in this whole faraway land because I LOVE these fuzzy-wuzzy, cuddly-wuddly, warm and snuggly **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Tobit: (threateningly) And when danger sneaks around to harm or steal my little ones, I use my authority as a good shepherd to scare off the evil doer. I'm not afraid..... (loving tone) because I LOVE these fuzzy-wuzzy, cuddly-wuddly, warm and snuggly **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Narrator 2: One dark night lots of shepherds were gathered together around a cozy fire taking turns keeping watch over their flocks and swapping a few stories about **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Shepherd 1: Hey, you know how Isaiah wrote “all we like **sheep**...”

Shepherd 2: (Covers his ears when the sheep start to bleat)

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Shepherd 1 : (continues) we “have gone astray?”

Shepherd 2: I've heard that.

Shepherd 1: Well, when I went out today I had the toughest time finding my little Fluffy. I searched all over, calling, and calling, “Fluffy! Fluffy! Where are you, Fluffy?” Finally, I heard this little faraway, pitiful, “Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.” I guess Fluffy had just wandered off outside the range of my voice and gotten lost.

Tobit: Good thing she recognized your voice, Abner! What'd you do?

Shepherd 1: Well, I just kept calling her and when she'd bleat I'd follow that direction. I finally found her stuck in a thicket. Poor thing, didn't know her way around in the world alone. So, I hoisted her up onto my shoulders and carried her back to the rest of the **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaaaaa, Baaaaaaaaaaa.

Shepherd 2: Those animals sure are making a lot of noise tonight. I wonder if they know something we don't know?

Tobit: I doubt it. They don't sound worried or scared. Shall I go check around a bit?

Shepherd 1: Let's all go check together so the flocks will recognize our voices in the darkness.

Shepherd 2: Maybe I should sing them a lullabye?

Shepherd 1: Maybe you should. Can you sing like a sheep?

Shepherd 2: I don't know; I never heard a sheep sing!

Tobit: Ha! Ha! Neither have I!

Shepherd 1: Let's just skip the lullabye, tell them good night, and then bed down for the night watches.

Shepherd 2: Sounds good to me.

Narrator 2: So the shepherds quietly walked into the darkness, reassuring their-- (pause & sigh) **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaaaaa, Baaaaaaaaaaa.

Shepherd 2: Sure is a faraway sky tonight. But, look at that bright star over there. I don't recognize it.

Tobit: It looks like something special. YIKES!!!!

Narrator 1: Suddenly, Tobit trembled in terror.

Tobit: (peeks out over the top of his script, shaking, bug-eyed) I am trembling, stumbling, bumbling, scared out of my sandals!!!!

Narrator 2: The other shepherds also trembled in terror!

Shepherd 2: (puts down script and throws up hands in surrender) I give up! I surrender! I surrender!

Shepherd 1: (rubs chin with bugged eyes) Oh, no! I think he wants my beard. Look at the size of that blazing sword!

Angel: (deep voice) Don't be afraid! Don't be afraid! For behold I bring you great news that will make the whole world rejoice!

Tobit: (weakly) What do you mean?

Angel: (boldly pointing at shepherds) For youhas been born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ, Messiah, the Anointed One, the Lord!

Shepherd 2: You're not kidding, are you?

Angel: (points beyond shepherds) And this will be a sign for you: You will find the baby wrapped up in swaddling clothes like a tight blanket and lying in a manger.

Shepherd 1: Yes, sir! A baby in a feed box. Got it, sir!

Narrator 2: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, angels blazing in glory all across the night sky, praising God and saying...

Angels: (excited) Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God in the highest!
Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!

Angel 2: (strongly) And on earth....peace

Angels: (echo) Peace! Peace! Peace!

Angel 3: Good will to men.

(Optional song: "Angels We Have Heard On High")

Narrator 2: And in a faraway sky in a faraway land the angels suddenly disappeared.

Shepherd 1: (looking at the sky in wonder) Yes, sir! A baby in a feed box. Got it, sir!

Shepherd 2: (stunned) What **was** that?

Tobit: He said the Messiah has been born in the city of David. Let's go!

Shepherd 2: (scared) Not me! I'm not going anywhere strange. It's already been too weird tonight. I need a break. Maybe it was just a dream, but the sky was all lit up and I can still hear those angels singing in my head! I'm staying with the flocks where I KNOW I'm safe. Besides, we can't leave the flocks unattended.

Tobit: Abner?

Shepherd 1: Yes, sir! A baby in a feed box. Got it, sir! Off to Bethlehem, sir!

Tobit: Abner, are you okay?

Shepherd 1: Yes, sir! A baby in a feed box. Got it, sir! Got to remember it, sir! Off to Bethlehem, sir!

Tobit: (waves goodby) Take care of my fuzzy-wuzzy, cuddly-wuddly, warm and snuggly **sheep**.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Shepherd 2: No problem. Take care of each other!

Narrator 1: And they hurried off to the city of David called Bethlehem. There they found Mary and Joseph smiling at the baby in the manger.

Shepherd 1: (turns in, faces audience. stares at “baby” in manger thoughtfully.) Well, well, well. Yes, sir! A baby in a feedbox. Got it, sir! Just like the angel said, sir! Look at his face. (pause) Somehow I feel kind of soft and mushy on the inside just looking at him.

Tobit: (in awe) The angel said he's the Savior, the Messiah, the Anointed One.

Shepherd 1: (thoughtfully) I know.

Tobit: (sighs) I don't even want to leave this place. It's almost like a there's a Big Shepherd holding me close to him right now.

Shepherd 1: (sighs) (thoughtfully) I know.

Tobit: Hey! This is not just about us! We have to tell somebody! And we need to get back to those fuzzy-wuzzy, cuddly-wuddly, warm and snuggly sheep.

Sheep/Audience: Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa, Baaaaaaa.

Narrators 1 & 2: The End

Optional song: “Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Curriculum Links (Active in 2010)

[**http://ministry-to-children.com/christmas-lesson-shepherds-receive-good-news/**](http://ministry-to-children.com/christmas-lesson-shepherds-receive-good-news/)

Lesson on the shepherds, lambs, and Jesus including questions and answers

[**http://www.sermons4kids.com/manger_wordsearch.htm**](http://www.sermons4kids.com/manger_wordsearch.htm)

Luke 2:1-14 wordsearch and Bible memory verse on the “Birth of Jesus”

[**http://www.beau.org/~vickir/lessons/objectgift.html**](http://www.beau.org/~vickir/lessons/objectgift.html)

“The Best Gift—Christmas Object Lesson”—adaptable to many ages

You Tube Links

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnZmD9xCGBU**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnZmD9xCGBU)

Lovely, peaceful, straight Scripture reading by one man of Luke 2:1-20 with children acting out the parts—even outside (sponsored by a church) 5 min

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxl7XgdgfVo&feature=related**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxl7XgdgfVo&feature=related)

All I can say is, “WOW!!” In less than 3 minutes—“The Christmas Mystery”

Christmas Carols

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKzE1RAwDoU**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKzE1RAwDoU)

(Video of song “Go Tell It On the Mountain”with words over lovely pictures)

[**http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/a/n/angelswe.htm**](http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/a/n/angelswe.htm)

(“Angels We Have Heard on High”: words and instrumental audio—traditional)

[**http://www.folkinfo.org/songs/displaysong.php?songid=600**](http://www.folkinfo.org/songs/displaysong.php?songid=600)

(“Rise up Shepherds, and Follow”: music and words—no audio)

[**http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr_Y2fQuKVw**](http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr_Y2fQuKVw)

(“Rise up Shepherds, and Follow” little boy sings first verse acappella to his great grandma)

[**http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/w/s/wshepwtf.htm**](http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/w/s/wshepwtf.htm)

(“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night”: words and instrumental audio—traditional)