

# Mary & Joseph

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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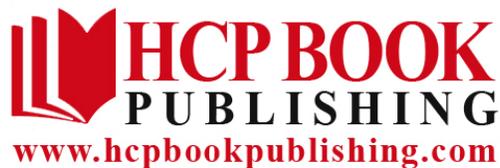
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## Characters

<b>Anne</b>	-	Female, Mary's Mother
<b>Mary</b>	-	Female
<b>Elizabeth</b>	-	Female, Mary's cousin
<b>Joseph</b>	-	Male
<b>Paul/Gabriel</b>	-	Male, Joseph's Friend & Angel
<b>James/Simeon</b>	-	Male, Joseph's Friend & Prophet
<b>Matthew</b>	-	Male, Joseph's Friend
<b>Maurine</b>		
<b>Man</b>		
<b>Innkeeper</b>		
<b>Wisemen</b>		

## Setting

Multiple settings are used which can easily be suggested by using props, especially for the scenes that take place at the CARPENTERS WORKSHOP.

I think basically having the proper props for each scene is enough to create the different settings. The stage may only need a few palm trees and rocks (should be strong enough to sit on) at least.

## The Story

**Mary** was a young girl when the angel Gabriel came to her. She had recently become engaged to a carpenter named ***Joseph***. Mary was an ordinary Jewish girl, looking forward to marriage. Suddenly her life would forever be changed.

Mary was fearful and troubled in the presence of the angel. She could never have expected to hear the most incredible news — that she would have a child, and her son would be the Messiah.

Although she could not comprehend how she would conceive the Savior, she responded to God with belief and obedience.

Although Mary's life held great honor, her calling would demand great suffering as well. Just as there is pain in childbirth and motherhood, there would be much pain in the privilege of being the mother of the Messiah.

## Play Details

**Length:** 60 Minutes

**Cast:** 4 Males, 3 Females, Plus Extras

**Audience:** Teens & Adults

**Genre:** Biblical Drama

# THE SCRIPT



**VOICE:** This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

**ANNE:** Mary, Mary. Wake up.

## Scene 1

### LIGHTS UP

*Anne is shaking Mary.*

**ANNE:** Wake up, Mary.

*Mary jumps from her sleep. She takes a deep breath and wipes her forehead, realizing she was dreaming.*

**ANNE:** You were talking in your sleep again.

**MARY:** It was the same dream.

**ANNE:** Maybe God is trying to send you a message.

**MARY:** It just feels weird mother. Sometimes I can't tell what is real and what isn't.

**ANNE:** Just be patient, child. Whatever it is will reveal itself in due time.

**MARY:** Yes, mother.

**ANNE:** I need you to go down to the cabinet maker. *(hands her some money)* We need a new cabinet for the kitchen.

### LIGHTS OUT

## SCENE 2

### LIGHTS UP

*Joseph is sanding a piece of board.*

*James, Paul, and Matthew are close by doing other carpenters chores.*

*Paul walks over to Joseph who is fully concentrated on what he is doing.*

**PAUL:** Hey Joe, you know, me and the boys have been talking and, well, we don't want to come across as rude but, you know ---

**JOSEPH:** What is it, Paul?

**PAUL:** We were just wondering why we never see you with a girl.

*Pause. Joseph briefly stops sanding but soon continues.*

**JOSEPH:** I have been with women.

**PAUL:** When?

*James and Matthew have come over to join the discussion. Joseph doesn't like to be cornered like this.*

**JOSEPH:** I'm trying to work.

**JAMES:** It's all you ever do. Take a break man and have a conversation with us.

**JOSEPH:** I need to finish this.

**MATTHEW:** That cabinet ain't due for another two weeks.

**PAUL:** We're all brothers here, Joe. You never talk to us.

**JOSEPH:** I hate to waste a good day talking.

**PAUL:** Fine. Then just answer the question, and we'll leave you alone.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** I am a God fearing man. I don't like to run around like you guys, okay. I believe in that one special woman for me, and I like to leave that space open for her.

**MATTHEW:** We don't run around, man. Whatcha talking about?

**JOSEPH:** I see many different women come here. I doubt if I have ever seen the same face twice.

**JAMES:** That's just cold, man, but somebody has to take care of the ladies. As it is now, the odds are in our favor; five to one.

**JOSEPH:** What odds?

**JAMES:** For every one man there are five women, and I ain't talking about no independent next-generation chick. I mean submissive, your every wish is my command kinda girls you know. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

**JOSEPH:** I am not interested in that kind of lifestyle.

**PAUL:** It's why we're here.

**JOSEPH:** There is a higher purpose for us being here, that's my point. If you surround yourself with too many women, you tend to miss that one special one God has for you.

**MATTHEW:** Suppose she don't show till you're sixty.

**JOSEPH:** I'll still be right here waiting.

**JAMES:** You ain't serious man. That's no way to live your life.

**JOSEPH:** It's my choice.

**PAUL:** Okay, bro. We appreciate the fact you took a little time out to talk with us. It felt weird, but it's a start.

**MATTHEW:** We are glad to know too that you haven't gone the other way.

**JOSEPH:** Which other way?

**MATTHEW:** Our point exactly. You're not exposed enough to the real world, man. You need to move out of your comfort zone.

**JAMES:** You really think God is gonna drop a special woman out of the sky right into your lap? He helps those who help themselves, is all we're saying.

**JOSEPH:** I really need to finish this, if you guys don't mind.

*Pause.*

**JAMES:** Whatever, man.

*James walks away and finds something to do. Matthew follows, then Paul.*

*Joseph appears to be thinking about what they said.*

**PAUL:** He's hopeless.

**JAMES:** Yeah. Case closed.

*Matthew's eyes are somewhere offstage. Paul and James follow his stare as Mary enters.*

**PAUL:** My, my, my, my. I think I'm in heaven, cause I'm seeing an angel.

*Mary doesn't appreciate being hit on.*

**MARY:** Can I speak to the one in charge?

**PAUL:** I'm in charge, Princess.

**MATTHEW:** Don't listen to him. I'm in charge.

**JAMES:** They are both lying. I am in charge. What can I do for you?

**MARY:** You can direct me to who really is in charge.

*Pause.*

*The three points in Joseph's direction whose back is turned. Mary walks over to him.*

**MARY:** Excuse me, sir.

*Joseph turns and when his eyes fall on Mary the contents in his hand fall to the ground. The hallelujah chorus plays in his head, drowning out Mary's next words.*

*Pause.*

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**MARY:** Are you in charge?

*No response.*

*The music stops at the wave of Mary's hand.*

**MARY:** Hello. Are you in charge?

*Joseph attempt to answer, but the words get stuck in his throat.*

**PAUL:** If I didn't know better, I would think Joseph is awestruck.

**JAMES:** I think he is.

**MARY:** Do you guys mind?

**MATTHEW:** This is a small shop. We have no choice but to stay here and watch a very confident church man make a fool of himself.

**MARY:** I need to get a buffet made. How much will it cost and how long will it take?

**JOSEPH:** I can make a buffet. Do you want a small buffet, or a big buffet?

**MARY:** The measurements are right here (*hands Joseph a piece of paper – Joseph melts when her hands touch his*) Are you okay, sir?

**JOSEPH:** I am. Why do you ask?

**MARY:** You are sweating.

**JOSEPH:** I do that sometimes.

**MARY:** And you're saying some pretty silly stuff.

**JOSEPH:** I do that sometimes too.

**MARY:** My mother needs it done in two weeks. Can you do it?

**JOSEPH:** I can do it in three days.

*Mary hands Joseph some money.*

**MARY:** Okay. I will return in three days.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JOSEPH:** Yes. That would be very nice.

*Mary smiles at his silliness.*

**MARY:** Can I have a receipt, please?

**JOSEPH:** Yes, you can have whatever you want, miss.

**MARY:** Just the receipt thanks.

*Joseph quickly writes her a receipt*

**JOSEPH:** Can I have a name for the receipt, please?

**MARY:** Mary.

**JOSEPH:** That's a nice name.

**MARY:** Yeah, half the women in Jerusalem have it.

*Joseph extends the receipt to Mary with a smile. He savors the touch of her hand again.*

**MARY:** Three days.

*Mary exits.*

*Joseph looks at his hand.*

**JOSEPH:** I will never wash this hand again.

**PAUL:** The mighty has fallen.

**JOSEPH:** What?

**PAUL:** You have never stuttered talking about your God or defending your faith or chastising us for our wrongs, but you stutter talking to a woman.

**JOSEPH:** I did not stutter.

**PAUL:** I have two witnesses that said you did. It can stand in court.

**JOSEPH:** Whatever.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**MATTHEW:** With all the outstanding work you have to do, how exactly do you plan on finishing this in three days?

**JOSEPH:** I can do it. Just work longer hours.

**MATTHEW:** You already work sixteen hours a day.

**JOSEPH:** So, I will do twenty-four.

**MATTHEW:** Just to impress a girl?

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** Not just any girl ---

*Joseph looks longingly offstage in the direction Mary exited.*

**JOSEPH:** --- she's the one.

**LIGHTS OUT**

### SCENE 3

#### LIGHTS UP

*Joseph is putting the final touches on the buffet. He is trying to concentrate but something is picking at his brain. He stops momentarily to rehearse a few lines.*

**JOSEPH:** Hi, Mary. Would you go watch a movie with me? *(thinks)* No, too forward. *(retries)* Hi, Mary. I really like that outfit *(thinks)* Nope, too backward. *(retries)* Hi baby *(thinks)* No way, too weird.

*Paul enters in the height of Josephs frustration. He immediately wants to retreat but Joseph is already on to him.*

**JOSEPH:** Paul, you have to help me, man.

**PAUL:** You're a wreck right now, you know that.

**JOSEPH:** She's coming today. What do I say?

**PAUL:** The mighty preacher doesn't know what to say to a girl?

**JOSEPH:** This is a delicate situation. If I make one mistake, she could be gone forever.

**PAUL:** That's true.

**JOSEPH:** You're not helping.

**PAUL:** Why are you talking to me then?

**JOSEPH:** Can you just be serious for a minute? This is a life and death situation for me.

*Pause.*

**PAUL:** I think you would make a terrible player, so just be yourself. If she is 'The One,' she will appreciate that.

**JOSEPH:** Be myself? She might find that pretty boring.

**PAUL:** True, but it's all you have.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** I think I need to go to the bathroom.

*Joseph quickly exits.*

**PAUL:** This is hopeless.

*Mary enters.*

**MARY:** Hello.

**PAUL:** Hello, angel.

**MARY:** Will you stop that! I prefer to be called by my name. Is the gentleman in charge here?

**PAUL:** Yeah, he went to the latrine.

**MARY:** I really didn't need the finer details of his absence.

**PAUL:** Sorry.

*Pause.*

**MARY:** Is he really the manager of this workshop?

**PAUL:** You can say that. The real boss is hardly here, so he usually leaves Joseph in charge.

**MARY:** Joseph. Is that his name?

**PAUL:** Yes, do I sense a touch of curiosity.

**MARY:** Why would I be curious?

*Pause.*

**MARY:** Is he a player like you guys?

**PAUL:** Don't hate the players, baby, hate the game.

**MARY:** I hate both.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**PAUL:** That really hurts. If you must know, Joseph is very different. Maybe the complete opposite of us.

**MARY:** Really.

**PAUL:** All he ever talks about is God, until three days ago.

**MARY:** What happened three days ago?

**PAUL:** You happened. Now all he talks about is God and you.

**MARY:** Why would he talk about me?

**PAUL:** You can ask him that when you see him.

*Paul exits as Joseph enters. Paul pats him on the shoulder.*

**PAUL:** The stage is set, all the players are in place. Lights, camera --- and action.

*Paul exit.*

*Joseph now appears a little nervous standing before Mary.*

**JOSEPH:** Hi.

**MARY:** Hi, Joseph. Have you really been talking about me?

**JOSEPH:** Goodness, no. Why would you think that?

**MARY:** I also hear you are a man of integrity, a churchman.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** Well, I might have mentioned you a few times. Its normal to talk about customers and the projects we are working on.

**MARY:** Right. Are you done then?

**JOSEPH:** Yes. It's right over there. I hope it suits you.

*Mary goes over to admire the cabinet.*

**MARY:** It looks okay, it looks pretty heavy.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JOSEPH:** Don't worry. We deliver.

**MARY:** That's something you might have wanted to say three days ago, so maybe I wouldn't have to come back down here, unless, of course, you wanted me to do just that.

*Paul & Matthew are offstage gesturing for Joseph to take the hint.*

**JOSEPH:** I didn't think of that.

*Paul and Matthew shake their heads.*

**JOSEPH:** Or maybe I did want to see you again.

**MARY:** Why?

*Pause. Paul & Matthew give more signals.*

**JOSEPH:** Do you like donkey racing?

*Paul & Matthew gives up, throwing their hands in the air. They move out of sight.*

*Mary is stifling a laugh.*

**MARY:** What?

**JOSEPH:** I thought maybe you and I might go see some donkey racing.

**MARY:** You want to take me out on a date, for the first time, to watch donkey race.

**JOSEPH:** I don't really get out much.

**MARY:** That's obvious. Okay. When and where?

**JOSEPH:** Really?

**MARY:** Really.

*Joseph is smiling from ear to ear, elated is not quite the word.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## SCENE 4

### LIGHTS UP

*Mary & Anne at Center Stage, hanging out clothes and washing.*

**ANNE:** You seem to be extremely happy these days.

**MARY:** No more than the usual, mother. Please don't tease me.

**ANNE:** No tease. Just wanted to know if that young carpenter has anything to do with that permanent smile on your face.

**MARY:** *(blushing)* He's nice. What do you think?

**ANNE:** Think about what?

**MARY:** The young carpenter.

*Pause.*

**ANNE:** He's nice.

**MARY:** I think I really like him.

**ANNE:** Then its time he came for dinner.

**MARY:** I don't think that's a good idea.

**ANNE:** Why not?

**MARY:** He's very timid, and I know you guys. You're going to scare him off.

**ANNE:** If we do scare him off, then he's not good enough for you. I'm sure you don't want a walk over.

**MARY:** It's quite cute.

**ANNE:** It won't be, after a while. I can tell you that.

**MARY:** Yes, mother. I think I know exactly where you're coming from.

**ANNE:** Really now.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**MARY:** You and father have been having quite a few arguments these days. It sometimes keeps me up at nights.

**ANNE:** It's not a strange phenomenon for couples to argue. It's quite natural actually, so you shouldn't lose sleep over that.

**MARY:** I know, but I really hate to hear you guys argue.

**ANNE:** Then, take a page from our book. Learn from us, so you don't find yourself in the same kind of marriage.

**MARY:** I will try.

**ANNE:** Take this young man home for dinner. Let him sit and eat with us. If he can survive that, he can survive you.

*Pause.*

**MARY:** I will give it some thought.

**ANNE:** Very good. Can you finish up here for me, sweetie. I need to get dinner going.

**MARY:** Yes, mother.

*Anne smiles and exit leaving Mary to hang out the rest of the clothes.*

*Enter STRANGER, dressed almost in rags. He stands to the side of the stage observing Mary until she realizes someone is there.*

*Mary instantly gets in a defensive mode, finding an object she could use in case she has to defend herself.*

**MARY:** Who are you?

**GABRIEL:** Don't be afraid, Mary.

**MARY:** How do you know my name?

*Pause.*

**MARY:** I will scream. The whole community would come to my aid. You would not see the end of today.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**GABRIEL:** My name is Gabriel. I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all men.

**MARY:** Why do you speak with such a strange accent?

**GABRIEL:** I am not from around here, Mary.

**MARY:** Again I ask, how do you know my name?

**GABRIEL:** You have found favor with God.

**MARY:** God?

**GABRIEL:** From this day forth, your life is going to change, Mary. For once, only this community knew you; but in time the whole world will know your name. Your fame will reach from here to the end of days on earth. You will never be forgotten.

**MARY:** What are you talking about, mister?

**GABRIEL:** I was sent here, a messenger from God to tell you something very important.

*Mary's defenses start to go down.*

**MARY:** A messenger? From God?

**GABRIEL:** Your dreams have been preparing you for this visit.

*Mary realizes that she is now a part of something very important.*

**MARY:** What is the message?

**GABRIEL:** You will give birth to a Son. You will call His name Jesus. He will be great and called the son of the Most High.

**MARY:** How will this even be possible? I have never been with a man.

**GABRIEL:** You will conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost.

*Mary turns away shaking her head.*

**MARY:** This is just a dream.

**GABRIEL:** This is not a dream, Mary. Your cousin Elizabeth, in her old age, is going to have a child. Maybe you should go see her.

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*Pause. Mary is not sure how to respond.*

**MARY:** If this is true, let it be done as my God would have it.

*She turns to face Gabriel, but He is gone.*

*Anne returns.*

**ANNE:** Mary, who are you talking to?

*Mary considers. She is not sure if she can tell her mother the truth.*

**MARY:** I need to go see my cousin, Elizabeth.

**ANNE:** Why?

**MARY:** I don't want to lie to you, mother, but I'm not so sure I can tell you the truth just yet.

*Anne trusts her daughter.*

**ANNE:** I trust you to make the right choice. Do you know how to find Elizabeth?

**MARY:** Yes, I think I remember. I was supposed to meet Joseph, at his shop.

**ANNE:** I will take care of it.

**MARY:** Thank you.

*Mary hugs her mother and exit.*

*Anne has a very troubled look on her face.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## SCENE 5

### LIGHTS UP

*Joseph is dressed, waiting, with a rose in his hand.*

*Anne enters. She smiles at the young man.*

**ANNE:** You must be Joseph?

*Joseph is not sure how to respond.*

**ANNE:** I am Anne. Mary's mother.

*Now Joseph is even more agitated and nervous.*

**ANNE:** I don't bite. young man.

**JOSEPH:** I'm sorry. It's just very important to me making a good enough first impression.

**ANNE:** Fair enough. Mary sent me to tell you she won't be able to make your appointment.

**JOSEPH:** Is she okay?

**ANNE:** For the most part, it would seem so, but troubled none the less.

*Joseph is pacing. He's truly concerned.*

**ANNE:** Mary is a responsible child, Joseph. She has been taught to make good decisions, and I implore you to trust her as much as we do, if you truly care about her.

**JOSEPH:** I do.

**ANNE:** You're pacing back and forth. It's a sign of worry.

*Joseph stops pacing.*

**ANNE:** Worry never helps.

**JOSEPH:** I know.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**ANNE:** Mary will contact you when she is ready. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to dinner.

*Silence.*

*More silence.*

**ANNE:** Its good manners to respond to an invitation.

**JOSEPH:** I'm sorry, sorry. Dinner. Yes, wow.

**ANNE:** What?

**JOSEPH:** I've never been invited to dinner by a girl's, I mean, a lady's mother. I have actually never been invited to dinner by anyone.

**ANNE:** You don't really get out much do you?

**JOSEPH:** I see where Mary gets her charm.

**ANNE:** What do you do when you're not working?

**JOSEPH:** I'm either sleeping or at church.

**ANNE:** I hear you preach?

**JOSEPH:** I talk, and people listen. Not sure why, but I guess in some ways you could call it that. There are few things that truly excite me. The word of God is one; working with wood is another.

**ANNE:** And Mary is another?

*Joseph blushes.*

**ANNE:** *(smiles)* Meeting you was a pleasure, young man. I have to go.

**JOSEPH:** Thank you.

**ANNE:** I will let you know when to come by, for dinner.

**JOSEPH:** Yes, thank you.

*Anne offers one last smile and leaves.*

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

*Joseph exhales as if for the first time in the past five minutes.*

*Paul, Matthew, and James appear from offstage.*

**PAUL:** Man, you are serious.

**JOSEPH:** What?

**JAMES:** You best start thinking marriage, kids, and the whole shebang cuz when a mother says come on over for dinner, she usually means leave and cleave, know what I'm saying.

**JOSEPH:** It's not like that. Mary and I are taking it slow. We don't want to rush into anything.

**MATTHEW:** Man, take it from us. When the parents get involved, you just shift over into the fast lane.

**PAUL:** And you need to work on your posture man. You cant be clamming up like that in front of the mother.

**JAMES:** I would give anything to see you stand before the pop.

**JOSEPH:** I got this fellows. I got this.

**PAUL:** Dude. You're starting to sound like us.

**MATTHEW:** That is what love does to you, man. It changes you right here (*touches his chest*)

**JOSEPH:** Will you guys just give me some space so I can take care of my business.

**JAMES:** Sure man. No problem.

**PAUL:** Big preacher man has words now that he found himself a girl.

**MATTHEW:** Not just any girl. She is --- the one.

*Joseph grabs at Matthew who eludes him and exits. James and Paul retreat also.*

**JOSEPH:** I need to change my friends. (*pause, a moment of thought*) God, I know I should not be worried, but I am. Order Marys steps in your word, Lord. Help her to find her way.

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*Pause.*

*Gabriel is standing not too far from Joseph, who isn't aware that he's being watched.*

*Gabriel remains for a beat, then exit. It's not time yet.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## SCENE 6

### LIGHTS UP

*Elizabeth is onstage sweeping her yard.*

*Mary enters.*

**MARY:** Elizabeth.

*Elizabeth's back is turned, but she senses something. She drops the Broom and hold her stomach. The baby just leaped. Elizabeth turns around to greet her cousin. Her face glowing.*

**ELIZABETH:** You are blessed, my cousin, above all women.

*Pause.*

**MARY:** You know? How?

**ELIZABETH:** When you called my name just now, my baby kicked me.

**MARY:** Oh my God, then it is true. You are pregnant.

**ELIZABETH:** Duh. *(gestures to her protruding stomach)*

**MARY:** I thought that was just an overdose of mama's potato pudding.

*They share a laugh.*

**ELIZABETH:** No, dear cousin, I am only a few months ahead of you.

*Mary is beyond astonished.*

**MARY:** This is really happening.

**ELIZABETH:** You have been given a great honor, my cousin. You will give birth and raise my Lord. You will be His earthly mother.

**MARY:** I'm not sure I can do this, Elizabeth.

**ELIZABETH:** You would not have been chosen if there was somebody else.

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**MARY:** I know, but, we are talking about God's son.

**ELIZABETH:** I know.

**MARY:** In my stomach.

**ELIZABETH:** *(getting all excited)* I know.

*Pause.*

**MARY:** How am I going to tell Joseph?

**ELIZABETH:** Who?

**MARY:** I'm sorry. I met someone.

**ELIZABETH:** I hope he handles this better than my husband did.

**MARY:** Where is your husband?

**ELIZABETH:** Around back. Chopping wood.

**MARY:** Is he okay?

**ELIZABETH:** He can't speak, so basically I am having the time of my life.

**MARY:** He can't speak.

**ELIZABETH:** He doubted God, so he can't speak until this child is born.

**MARY:** That's terrible.

**ELIZABETH:** He's pretty talkative as you know, so I'm kinda enjoying the vacation, and where is my manners? Let's go inside, Mary. We have a lot to talk about.

*They exit.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## SCENE 7

### LIGHTS UP

*Joseph is at his shop, pacing back and forth.*

*A beat.*

*Mary enters and stands to one side watching him, until he notices her standing there.*

**JOSEPH:** *Mary (goes to her, notices she isn't glowing as before)* Are you okay?

**MARY:** Yes, I'm, I'm fine. We just --- we need to talk.

**JOSEPH:** Yes we do. I have been looking forward to seeing you every second for the past three days.

**MARY:** You did get my message?

**JOSEPH:** Yes and met your mom also.

**MARY:** Really! How did that go?

**JOSEPH:** Well, I thought it went well, but other observers said I clammed up.

**MARY:** Good thing I didn't send my father then.

**JOSEPH:** I really think it went well. I got a dinner invitation.

**MARY:** You mean, you invited yourself?

**JOSEPH:** Nope. I was invited. Really.

**MARY:** I believe you, Joseph. *(pause)* I need to tell you something.

**JOSEPH:** Yes, I think I love you too, Mary.

**MARY:** What?

**JOSEPH:** *(a little embarrassed)* I thought you were going to say you loved me?

**MARY:** Joseph, I can't deny that there is interest, but aren't you going a little too fast.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JOSEPH:** I am convinced in my mind that I have found the one for me. Why would I need to go slow?

**MARY:** You really believe that I am the girl for you?

**JOSEPH:** Without the slightest bit of doubt.

**MARY:** What if I told you that I was pregnant?

*Pause.*

*Longer Pause.*

*Even longer pause.*

*All the emotion and excitement drains from Josephs' face.*

**JOSEPH:** What?

**MARY:** It's not what you think, Joseph.

**JOSEPH:** Really. *(He finds it hard to sit or remain still)* What am I supposed to think? I know what people do to get pregnant.

**MARY:** I am still a virgin, Joseph. I have been with no man.

**JOSEPH:** How stupid do you think I am, woman? You couldn't find a more rational explanation.

**MARY:** Joseph ---

**JOSEPH:** Virgins don't get pregnant, Mary, and for you to ask me to believe that says you have no respect for me.

**MARY:** This wasn't easy for me to do.

**JOSEPH:** I'm sure it wasn't.

**MARY:** Can we just sit and talk about this like adults, please.

**JOSEPH:** There's nothing to talk about, Mary. I think you have overstayed your welcome.

**MARY:** You want me to leave?

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JOSEPH:** I thought that was obvious enough.

**MARY:** I am telling you the truth, Joseph.

**JOSEPH:** Please, just go, Mary.

*Mary reluctantly turns and exit.*

*Joseph breaks down in tears.*

*Paul, James, and Matthew are quickly on the scene. Joseph tries to compose Himself, as his friends help themselves to a healthy laugh.*

**PAUL:** Man, that's cold I tell you.

**JAMES:** A virgin getting pregnant.

**MATTHEW:** And I thought I heard them all. I have heard 'It meant nothing to me' 'It was a mistake' 'I was drunk' but yours won the trophy cuz that one is not even in the books, man.

**JOSEPH:** You guys should stop eavesdropping in peoples business.

**PAUL:** Hey, you asked for our help remember. We are just trying to make sure your practical lines up with the theory, ya know, correct any mistakes ya make.

**JOSEPH:** I want to be alone.

**JAMES:** No sweat, man. Its natural to choose solitude when a babe rips your heart out of your chest.

**MATTHEW:** That's why we playas, man. Relationships without the commitment equals no pain. I can't tell the last time I cried over a girl, man.

**PAUL:** It's just a pity the first time you throw yourself at a girl, she ditches you in the first week.

**JAMES:** Yeah, that's just cold.

**PAUL:** But it's the way of love, man. It's a risk not all us brothers are willing to take, ya know.

**JOSEPH:** I just want to be alone, please. You guys are not helping me.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JAMES:** Yeah, yeah, we getting to that part.

**PAUL:** We are going on the town tonight, bro. We want you to come with us.

**JAMES:** Yeah, man. What you need now is an unlimited supply of alcohol and some uncommitted dancing babes to help you forget, man.

**MATTHEW:** Indulge in that for a few days straight, and you won't even remember that girls name. I guarantee that.

*Pause.*

**PAUL:** What do ya say?

**JOSEPH:** No.

**JAMES:** Man, seriously. You think your God is gonna come down and comfort you, man. We know how this works.

**JOSEPH:** Just leave me alone. I have work to do.

**MATTHEW, PAUL & JAMES:** Work?

*More tears flow freely from Josephs' eyes. He finds something to do in the shop i.e. sand a piece of board or try to put something together.*

**PAUL:** Are you serious, man?

*Joseph is done talking.*

**JAMES:** Guys, let's go. Leave the church boy in his pain.

*They start to exit.*

**MATTHEW:** A virgin getting pregnant! That was a good one.

*They start to laugh again as they exit.*

*Joseph sees that they are gone. He starts to throw things in anger as he cries some more.*

*He falls to his knees on the stage with his face buried in his hands.*

*Gabriel enters and stands a little way off, watching for a beat.*

**GABRIEL:** Joseph.

**JOSEPH:** WHAT! (*sees the stranger standing there*) Sorry, we are closed.

**GABRIEL:** I know.

**JOSEPH:** What is it you want then?

**GABRIEL:** You are a part of something very important, Joseph. You just don't know it yet.

**JOSEPH:** Who are you? How did you know my name?

**GABRIEL:** Your friends asked you if you thought God would come down and comfort you. If you were to answer that question, what would be your answer?

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** He would, if He could.

**GABRIEL:** You really believe that?

**JOSEPH:** Yes.

**GABRIEL:** You are a believer of what most would think to be impossible.

**JOSEPH:** I believe that all things are possible with God.

**GABRIEL:** And you don't believe your love interest could be pregnant without committing a sin?

**JOSEPH:** God designed the laws of reproduction. Pregnancy is the result of a premeditated act.

**GABRIEL:** God can change his own design to suit His purposes. He can stop the earth from spinning, so the sun stands still for 12 hours. He can strengthen one man to bring down thousands, and you doubt He can put a child in a woman's stomach?

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** Are you saying this is an act of God?

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**GABRIEL:** That's exactly what I am saying, Joseph. One of man's greatest weaknesses is to be blinded to reason by his emotions.

**JOSEPH:** Who are you?

**GABRIEL:** I'm just a messenger. Joseph.

**JOSEPH:** You mean you are an angel?

**GABRIEL:** You could say that.

**JOSEPH:** You look just like a man.

**GABRIEL:** I figured if I came with wings and had the head of a lion or eagle with dozens of eyes, you would probably be halfway across town by now.

**JOSEPH:** I probably would.

**GABRIEL:** Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child she now carries is a blessed thing conceived of the Holy Spirit. God has chosen you to be His Son's earthly father.

*Joseph turns away from Gabriel, trying to process what he is hearing.*

**JOSEPH:** This must be a dream.

**GABRIEL:** Also, you may want to consider changing your friends.

*Joseph turns to face Gabriel, but Gabriel is gone.*

*Joseph considers, but only for a moment.*

*He exits quickly.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## SCENE 8

### LIGHTS UP

*Anne is busy, as usual, washing clothes. Mary sits leaning on a nearby rock, crying uncontrollably.*

**ANNE:** Are you going to tell your mother why you are crying, child?

*Mary can't stop crying. Anne stops washing and goes over to Mary to comfort her.*

**ANNE:** I can be patient for so long, Mary.

**MARY:** Why was I chosen for this?

**ANNE:** As servants of God, we don't have the privilege of choosing our own destiny, child. God chose you for this. He favors you above many.

**MARY:** I had no problem being a simple servant.

**ANNE:** It is the humble He exalts, my child.

**MARY:** I am a single virgin who is pregnant with God's child. How am I going to explain that to our brethren? They will see me as an adulteress. They will want to kill me.

**ANNE:** That's all true. But God will not leave you to be persecuted like that. I'm sure the way has already been made.

**MARY:** I want to believe that. But I have so many doubts, so many questions.

**ANNE:** Mary, don't spend time worrying about things you can do nothing about. Just trust God to make the way.

**MARY:** I will try, mother.

**ANNE:** Have you talked to Joseph?

**MARY:** I thought he was different. I thought he would have believed me if I just told him the truth.

**ANNE:** He didn't?

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**MARY:** No.

**ANNE:** I'm sorry to hear that.

**MARY:** He was so angry I began to think that maybe I had really done something wrong. I love him, mother, and I didn't want to tell him too soon. Now he won't hear it.

**ANNE:** If he feels the same way about you, he will not let you go so easily.

**MARY:** You should have seen his eyes. I'm pretty sure I will never see him again.

*Joseph enters quickly, but stops a little way off. Anne sees him, but Mary's back is turned to him.*

**ANNE:** If I was you, I wouldn't bet my salvation on that.

*Mary realizes that someone else is there. She turns to see Joseph standing there with apologetic eyes.*

**JOSEPH:** Miss Anne. Mary.

**ANNE:** Hi, Joseph. I will leave you two to talk. I have to start dinner. Will you stay for dinner, Joseph?

**JOSEPH:** I would love to.

**ANNE:** Good.

*Anne exits.*

**MARY:** I thought I would never see you again.

**JOSEPH:** Me too. I made a big mistake Mary, and I hope you can forgive me.

**MARY:** Why would I do that?

**JOSEPH:** Because you love me as I love you and its easy to forgive someone you love.

**MARY:** You are making some big assumptions here, mister.

**JOSEPH:** Am I?

*Pause.*

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**MARY:** You hurt me very bad.

**JOSEPH:** I know, but I thought you had hurt me.

**MARY:** What changed your mind?

**JOSEPH:** I was visited by an angel who told me everything.

**MARY:** What did he tell you?

**JOSEPH:** That I was chosen to father your child, God's son.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** I am so nervous you would not believe, Mary. I thought the hardest thing I would have to do in this life was to propose to you, but all things considered, proposing is the easy part.

*Joseph goes on his knees taking Mary's hand in his.*

**JOSEPH:** If you can forgive me and you love me as much as I think you do, I would love to have you as my wife.

**MARY:** Yes to all the above.

**JOSEPH:** You forgive me?

**MARY:** Yes.

**JOSEPH:** You love me?

**MARY:** Yes.

**JOSEPH:** You will be my wife?

**MARY:** Yes.

*They hug.*

**JOSEPH:** Now about this Child.

*Mary holds her stomach excitedly.*

**MARY:** We are to give him the name Jesus.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## SCENE 9

### LIGHTS UP

*Mary, in an advanced stage of pregnancy, sits waiting.*

*Joseph enters.*

**JOSEPH:** I'm sorry to keep you waiting so long, dear, but the line was really long. I did tell you to remain in Nazareth.

**MARY:** And be the subject of gossip. I don't think so.

**JOSEPH:** I am glad for the company, but now I feel insensitive to have agreed for you to come.

**MARY:** Is it done?

**JOSEPH:** Yes, I just registered us both.

**MARY:** That's good, because I have some really bad news.

*Joseph goes to her side. She is rubbing her stomach.*

**MARY:** I can't make it back.

**JOSEPH:** What do you mean?

**MARY:** I can't make the journey back, Joseph. This baby is coming today.

**JOSEPH:** Can't you hold Him like you hold everything else?

**MARY:** I don't think it works like that. We need somewhere to stay.

**JOSEPH:** Everybody who comes from the house and lineage of David is here today, and will be here for a few days. There is no way we're going to find an available room to rent.

**MARY:** Well then, you should start praying, because I need a room. I'm not breaking water in the streets. There's an inn over there (*points Stage Right*) and one over there (*points Stage Left*). Get us a room now, Joseph. Please!

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

*Joseph paces back and forth a bit. He decides to approach far Stage Left. He knocks on a door.*

*A short plump man eventually answers.*

**MAN:** Greetings. What can I do for you?

**JOSEPH:** My wife is having a baby, and we need a room.

**MAN:** I am filled to capacity.

**JOSEPH:** Can you at least check to see if you have a room available?

**MAN:** Are you implying that I don't know my own Inn?

**JOSEPH:** No, sir. I'm just desperate and think it would do no harm to just double check.

**MAN:** I love money. Turning people away gives me no pleasure whatsoever, especially considering how slow this year has been. God bless Caesar, if I had room to hold more, I would gladly take you and your wife, but as I said before, we are filled to capacity.

**JOSEPH:** What do I do?

**MAN:** Well now, that would be your problem. Not mine!

*The Plump Man closes the door in Joseph's face.*

*Mary grabs her stomach, her face twisted in pain.*

*Joseph runs to her side.*

**JOSEPH:** Whatever you do, Mary, do not push.

**MARY:** Get me off this street, Joseph. Please.

**JOSEPH:** God, I know this is something great, but I don't really understand it, and it makes me nervous. Please help us.

*Joseph goes far Stage Right and knocks on another door.*

*MAURINE answers.*

**MAURINE:** Yes.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JOSEPH:** We need a room. Please.

**MAURINE:** We have no more available room.

**JOSEPH:** Please, help us. Please. My wife is about to give birth. Is there anything you can do for us?

*Maurine looks past Joseph at Mary, twisted and yelping in pain.*

**MAURINE:** Let me talk to my husband.

*Maurine closes the door for a beat.*

*Joseph goes for his wife. Maurine comes back out and closes the door behind her.*

**MAURINE:** Follow me.

*Maurine leads them offstage. A beat.*

*The door opens, and the INNKEEPER steps out. He looks around, walks further Stage Left, still looking.*

*Maurine speedily returns and heads for the door.*

**INNKEEPER:** Hold up there, missy. What are you doing?

**MAURINE:** They need some stuff, blankets, alcohol, sterilizers.

**INNKEEPER:** Where did you put them? I told you there was no room.

**MAURINE:** They are in the manger.

**INNKEEPER:** Whose manger? My manger?

**MAURINE:** Would you have rather I left them on the streets?

**INNKEEPER:** When will you stop trying to save the world woman?

**MAURINE:** Would you want your son to be born on the streets?

*Pause.*

**MAURINE:** I thought so. Either you help me or keep out of my way.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

*Maurine disappears through the door.*

**INNKEEPER:** *(shakes his head)* Women! They got our ribs, but they don't got our heart.

*Innkeeper exits behind his wife.*

**LIGHTS FADE**

## SCENE 10

### KEEP THE LIGHTS OUT

**JOSEPH'S VOICE:** Okay, now this is strange.

**MARYS VOICE:** What is strange, husband?

**JOSEPH'S VOICE:** Our Son hasn't cried even once. He doesn't keep us up during the nights, and He is potty trained. He doesn't even puke. This really is no ordinary child, is He?

**MARY'S VOICE:** You were expecting all that?

**JOSEPH'S VOICE:** Weren't you?

**MARY'S VOICE:** Look, He's smiling at you.

**JOSEPH'S VOICE:** I think He is laughing at me.

**MARY'S VOICE:** You're right. I think He is laughing at you.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH'S VOICE:** We should get some sleep. We begin our journey home first thing tomorrow morning.

**MARY'S VOICE:** I can't wait to get home. I think mom is going to love her grandson.

### LIGHTS UP

**SONG:** *Mary did you know* ([Click Here to Watch on YouTube](#))

*Mary sits behind a feeding trough where baby Jesus is lying.*

*Joseph kneels by her side, and they are both looking at the baby and smiling.*

*Maurine leads the Shepherds in. It is a moment of awe, unbelief and worship.*

*They bow and offer gifts to Mary & Joseph, who places them around where Jesus is.*

*The Wise Men appear from another direction. They point towards the sky apparently at where the star has stopped moving; it now rest over this very spot.*

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

*Mary is in tears to see the well-learned men approaching with gifts and bowing in worship to her Baby.*

*Gabriel and a host of angels appear.*

*The Wise Men offer their gifts one after the other.*

*The Innkeeper enters. He joins with his wife, astonished at the scene unfolding before him.*

*Mary takes Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes (loose clothes) and holds Him close to her bosom on the last line of the song (This sleeping child you're holding, is the great I Am)*

**WISEMAN:** What is the name of the child?

**MARY:** His name is Jesus.

**WISEMAN:** God with us!

*Pause.*

**MARY:** You have blessed us with three gifts that I believe are symbolic to the journey which lies before us. Gold to represent His Royalty, Frankincense His priesthood and Myrrh His death.

**WISEMAN:** It is no secret to those who study scriptures. Isaiah makes it too plain to even be repeated here and now. Today we celebrate the birth of our Messiah. No need to think about anything else at this point.

**JOSEPH:** Well said.

**MARY:** You traveled many months to get here.

**WISEMAN:** And we have an even longer journey ahead of us. King Herod charged us to bring him back word when we found the child, but God has shown us his true intentions. We take a different road home.

**MARY:** Thank you.

**WISEMAN:** Be careful.

*The Wise Men leave.*

**MARK:** We will speak about this day until the day we die, and our children and children's children will tell this story.

*The Shepherds shake their hands and leaves.*

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

*Maurine hugs Mary and Joseph.*

**MARY:** Thank you.

**MAURINE:** Will you two be okay?

**MARY:** Yes.

**JOSEPH:** We must go now. We have a long journey ahead of us.

**MAURINE:** Take care of yourselves, and baby Jesus and please feel free to visit us again, whenever.

**MARY:** Okay.

*Joseph shakes the Innkeepers hand as they exit.*

*The Innkeeper and Maurine watch them leave.*

**LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK**