a script from

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A Change of Scenery: The Christmas Story on the Block

PURCHASE SCRIPT TO WATERMARK AT GODSVERSE.ORG

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A CHANGE OF SCENERY: THE CHRISTMAS STORY ON THE BLOCK

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Summary

This 15-minute Christmas skit retells the nativity story through the lives of a young Black couple, Mary and Joseph, walking through their neighborhood on a cold December night. Instead of traveling ancient roads, they move between a bus stop, a crowded corner store, and Auntie Dee's cozy living room, looking for a safe place to stay as Mary nears the birth of baby Jesus.

Along the way, neighbors, aunties, elders, and children offer what they can—snacks, coats, a seat to rest, and encouraging words. They don't have much money, but they give warmth, love, and practical help that reflect the heart of the original Christmas story.

Mary wrestles with fear about raising a child—God's Child—during hard times in their community. An elder gently reminds her that Jesus has always come right into the middle of real-life struggle, bringing hope and light where people hurt. Three African American soldiers on Christmas leave arrive as "wise men," bringing meaningful gifts from their travels.

The skit ends with the community gathered around Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, singing with gospel joy and reading a verse about the Savior being born for *all people*—especially those in need of hope.

Theme

Christmas, trust in God, hope in hard places, and God's presence in struggling communities.

The message: Jesus didn't just come for quiet, perfect lives—He came right into ordinary neighborhoods, into families with worries and questions, to bring light, peace, and salvation.

Characters

10–15 actors total

- **Narrator** – gentle, clear, guides the story
- **Mary** – young Black woman, pregnant, kind but anxious
- **Joseph** – young Black man, protective, determined, a bit tired but faithful
- **Auntie Dee** – loud, loving, funny, deeply spiritual "auntie of the block"
- **Mr. Harris** – older neighbor/elder, wise, soft-spoken but strong
- **Ms. Rosa** – corner store clerk, practical but secretly tender-hearted
- **Bus Driver** – friendly, observant

- **Child 1 (Jay)** – energetic neighborhood kid, curious
- **Child 2 (Mya)** – sweet, thoughtful kid
- **Soldier Marcus** – Wise Man #1, confident, joyful
- **Soldier DeShawn** – Wise Man #2, jokester, warm
- **Soldier Andre** – Wise Man #3, calm, reflective
- **Extra Neighbors / Kids (2–4)** – can act as people at the bus stop, in the store, or in Auntie's house

(You can double-cast extras as needed.)

When

Modern day, in a present-time urban neighborhood during Christmas week.

Props & Costumes

Keep everything simple and accessible:

- Casual winter clothing: coats, scarves, beanies, hoodies
- One simple "baby" doll wrapped in a blanket (baby Jesus)
- Bus stop sign (can just be a simple sign on a stand or taped to a chair)
- Corner store counter or small table with a few "snack" props (chips, candy, water bottles)
- Couch or chairs and a throw blanket for Auntie Dee's living room
- Small duffel or backpack for Joseph
- Three small gift bags or boxes for the soldiers (representing their "gifts")
- Optional: simple Christmas lights or a small tree for Auntie's living room / final scene
- Optional: handheld mic or simple sign that says "Block Nativity" for the final moment

No elaborate sets are required—just rearrange chairs/tables and signs to suggest each new location.

Why

The skit should end with this verse spoken clearly near the finale:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:11

This verse is the heart of the message:

- **"For unto *you*"** – The good news is personal and for ordinary people on the block.
- **"a Savior"** – Jesus comes to rescue, comfort, and restore.
- **"who is Christ the Lord"** – He is not just a baby or an idea; He is God's promised King.

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How

The setting is one main stage rearranged between scenes:

- **Bus stop area**: a bench or a couple of chairs with a simple “BUS STOP” sign.
- **Corner store**: a small table as the counter, a few snack props, and Ms. Rosa behind it.
- **Auntie Dee’s living room**: a couch or a few chairs, a throw blanket, maybe a small lit tree or lamp.
- **Final “stable” / front room**: Auntie’s living room becomes the simple “manger” space where baby Jesus is laid (on Auntie’s couch or a chair with a blanket to symbolize humble surroundings).

Lighting can be basic: slightly dimmer for outside scenes, warmer for Auntie’s house, and the final worship moment.

Time

15 minutes

Scene 1: Bus Stop in the Cold

(Lights up on a bus stop: a bench/chairs, and a “BUS STOP” sign. Mary and Joseph enter slowly, both bundled in coats. Mary is visibly pregnant and tired. Joseph carries a small bag.)

Narrator:
On a cold December night, on a regular block in a regular city, a young couple walked together in the streetlights.
They weren’t on a donkey.
They didn’t see palm trees.
They were just trying to catch the bus… and catch their breath.

Joseph:
(gently)
You okay, Mary? Want to sit for a second?

Mary:
(sits, hand on her belly)
Yeah… I’m okay. Just… everything feels heavy.
My feet. My back. My heart.

Joseph:
I know it’s been a long day. Doctor visit, long lines, then the landlord talking about rent again—

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Mary:
And now we're still looking for a place to stay tonight.
(tries to smile)
Not exactly how I pictured preparing to have the Son of God.

Joseph:
(sits beside her)
I get it. I didn't picture it like this either. But… God picked us. That means He's with us. Even here.

(Bus Driver enters, checking a pretend watch, then looks at them kindly.)

Bus Driver:
Y'all doing okay out here? The last bus is running late. City's a little wild tonight.

Joseph:
We're alright. Just trying to get over to Auntie Dee's place.

Mary:
She said she might have room for us. If not… We'll figure something out.

Bus Driver:
(nods)
Baby almost here?

Mary:
(soft laugh)
Oh, very almost.

Bus Driver:
Well, listen… the bus is still ten minutes out.
(takes off scarf)
Here, miss. Take this. Keep that little one warm, okay?

Mary:
(touched)
Oh—thank you. You don't have to—

Bus Driver:
It's Christmas, baby. We look out for each other.

Narrator:
There was no stable.
No animals.
Just a bus stop, a borrowed scarf, and the whisper of God:
"I see you."

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(Lights dim slightly as they “board” and move to the next area.)

Scene 2: The Corner Store Detour

(Lights up on a small table as a store counter. Ms. Rosa stands behind it. Joseph and Mary enter, shivering a little. A couple of kids—Jay and Mya—wander around pretending to look at snacks.)

Narrator:
Before they made it to Auntie Dee’s, they stopped at the corner store for a little strength.
Because sometimes, faith walks on tired feet… and needs a snack.

Ms. Rosa:
(cheerfully)
Evening, babies. Y’all look cold.

Joseph:
Yeah, the bus dropped us off early. We’ve got a little walk ahead. Thought we’d grab something small.

Mary:
(checking pockets)
Small-small.

(Jay and Mya whisper as they stare at Mary’s belly.)

Jay:
Woah. You think the baby kicks like… POW!

Mya:
Jay! Don’t say pow. That’s rude.
(to Mary)
Sorry. He doesn’t have a filter.

Mary:
(laughs)
It’s okay. And yes… sometimes it’s like pow.

(Ms. Rosa watches them, concern in her eyes.)

Ms. Rosa:
Y’all eating okay? You look… tired.

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Joseph:
We're fine, Miss Rosa. Just been a long day.

Mary:
We're trying to get to Auntie Dee's to sleep there tonight. Everything's… tight. Money, space, life.

Ms. Rosa:
Mmm. I know that song.
(rings up two items)
This is your total.

(Mary and Joseph look at each other; Joseph hesitates, counting cash.)

Ms. Rosa:
And with the "I-See-You Discount," it comes to… zero.

Joseph:
Miss Rosa—

Ms. Rosa:
(firm but kind)
Don't argue with me, child. Let me be part of this blessing.
(hands them snacks and a small water)
You're carrying something special. He deserves a mama who isn't fainting on my sidewalk.

Mary:
(eyes misting)
Thank you.

Ms. Rosa:
And when that baby comes, you bring him by. I got little booties I made last winter just waiting for someone special.

Mya:
What's his name gonna be?

Mary:
(softly, with awe)
Jesus.

Jay:
That's a strong name.

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Narrator:
On the block, generosity doesn't always look like gold or frankincense.
Sometimes, it looks like free snacks and a promise of baby shoes.

(Lights shift as Mary and Joseph exit toward "Auntie Dee's.")

PURCHASE

Scene: Auntie Dee's Living Room

SCRIPT

(Lights up on a cozy living space: couch or chairs, a throw blanket, maybe a small tree. Auntie Dee bustles in, humming a Christmas tune. There's a knock.)

Auntie Dee:
Come iiiin! Door's open—this ain't the Ritz, but it's warm!

TO

(Mary and Joseph enter, weary but smiling.)

Auntie Dee:
(arms wide)
There y'all are! My favorite young couple. Come, let me see this belly.

REMOVE

Mary:
(laughs, letting Auntie hug her)
Auntie Dee…

Auntie Dee:
Turn to the side—oh yes. That's a whole miracle right there.

WATERMARK

Joseph:
Thanks for letting us come by, Auntie. We didn't want to impose.

Auntie Dee:
Boy, hush. You can't "impose" on family. Sit down before I fuss harder.

AT

(They sit. Auntie Dee wraps a blanket around Mary's shoulders.)

Mary:
Auntie… we're just… we're tired. The landlord is talking about maybe raising the rent, jobs are shaky, and bills keep coming.
And God chose us? To raise His Son? Here? In times like this?

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Joseph:
It doesn't feel… holy. It feels stressful.

(A moment of quiet. Auntie Dee shifts to a more serious, gentle tone.)

Auntie Dee:
Baby girl… do you think Jesus was born into easy times?
The first Christmas wasn't shiny.
His mama and daddy couldn't find a proper room.
They laid Him where animals eat.
They were just as tired and unsure as you.

Mary:
But what if… what if I'm not enough?

Auntie Dee:
Nobody is "enough" on their own.
That's why God comes close.
This neighborhood? These struggles?
This is exactly the kind of place He loves to step into.
He's not afraid of our broken sidewalks or overdue bills.
He's Emmanuel—God with us.

Joseph:
With *us*… right here on the block.

(A gentle knock. Mr. Harris, the older neighbor, peeks in.)

Mr. Harris:
I hear we have an important company in town. Thought I'd stop by and say a little prayer.

Auntie Dee:
Come on in, Mr. Harris. Bring that wisdom in here.

(Mr. Harris enters slowly, sits.)

Mr. Harris:
Y'all know… when I was young, I thought God only moved in big churches and big buildings.
Took me years to learn. He shows up in small rooms, too.
And tonight… He's showing up right here, in y'all.

Mary:
I'm still scared.

Mr. Harris:
That's alright. Courage isn't "no fear."
Courage is walking with God while your knees are shaking.

Narrator:
In a living room filled with mismatched furniture and a whole lot of love,
God was preparing a place… for a King.

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(Lights soften. A small pause.)

Scene 4: The “Wise Men” Come Home

(There’s a knock at the door. Auntie Dee perks up.)

Auntie Dee:
Now who's banging on my door like the rent man at Christmas? Come in!

(Enter Soldier Marcus, Soldier DeShawn, and Soldier Andre in simple military-style jackets or matching colors. They carry three small gift bags or boxes.)

Soldier Marcus:
Auntie Dee! We made it! Christmas leave approved and everything.

Auntie Dee:
(excited)
My boys! My heroes! Come let me see y’all faces.

DeShawn:
(doing a little dance)
Home-cooked food, here we come!

Andre:
And home prayers. Been needing those too.

(They notice Mary and Joseph.)

Soldier Marcus:
Oh, are we interrupting something holy?

Auntie Dee:
Actually, yes—and you're right on time.
This is Mary and Joseph. Baby due any minute.

DeShawn:
(eyes wide)
Like… any-any minute?

Mary:
(laughs nervously)
Hopefully not in your lap.

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Andre:
We heard rumors from Auntie over the phone… said God had big plans for this child.

Mr. Harris:
Oh, He does.

Soldier Marcus:
Then we couldn't come home empty-handed.
We've been all over—different bases, different countries.
We wanted to bring gifts that mean something.

(They step forward one by one.)

Andre:
(offers a small wrapped box)
This is a little jar of oil from overseas.
No magic in it…
But let it remind you that God will anoint this child—set Him apart for something great.

Mary:
(softly)
Thank you.

DeShawn:
(offers a small folded cloth or scarf)
This cloth is from a market near where we were stationed.
It's been through dust, heat, and long days.
Let it remind you that wherever life takes Him… God will cover Him.

Joseph:
We'll treasure it.

Soldier Marcus:
(holds up a simple wooden cross pendant or small carved item)
I carved this on quiet nights.
It's just wood. Nothing fancy.
But let it remind you that this child didn't just come to be cute in a crib.
He came to save. To carry a cross for all of us.

(A hush falls. Everyone is moved.)

Narrator:
They didn't bring gold or frankincense or myrrh.
They brought what they had.
And God saw it as worship.

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(Brief light humor moment.)

DeShawn:
Also… we can bring one more gift.
(strikes a playful pose)
A slightly off-key but very enthusiastic musical number.

Auntie Dee:
Lord, help us.

Marcus & Andre:
(groan, then grin)

DeShawn:
I'm just saying…
(snaps fingers)
"We three kings of the neighborhood are,
bringing gifts from near and far—"

Andre:
Okay, okay, that's enough remix for one night.

(Light laughter. The mood is still joyful and reverent.)

Scene 5: A Child is Born on the Block

(Mary suddenly holds her stomach and takes a breath.)

Mary:
Um… everyone?
I think… It's time.

Joseph:
(alert)
Time-time?

Auntie Dee:
Let's get her comfortable. Couch, now.

(They help Mary sit or recline with a blanket. The Narrator steps slightly forward as the stage quiets. No birth needs to be acted out; just a time passage.)

Narrator:
And in that little living room,

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with neighbors and aunties and soldiers and kids,
on a regular block in a regular city…
The most extraordinary thing happened.

(Lights dim briefly, then come back up softer. Mary now holds a baby doll wrapped in a blanket. Everyone gathers around, quiet and in awe.)

Jay:
(whispers)
He's so small.

Mya:
And so important.

Joseph:
(voice thick with emotion)
Jesus.
Welcome to the block, little King.

Mary:
We don't have much, Lord.
But you can have all of us.

(Mr. Harris steps closer, voice gentle.)

Mr. Harris:
The angel told the shepherds long ago… and the message still stands tonight.

(He nods to the Narrator or to one of the Soldiers to speak the verse.)

Narrator (or Soldier Andre, clearly):
"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:11

Narrator:
Not just "unto them" back then.
Unto you.
Unto this block.
Unto every place where people are tired, hurting, or afraid.

Auntie Dee:
He came for folks paying bills and catching buses.
For kids playing in the street and mamas praying in their kitchens.

Soldier Marcus:
For those overseas and those right here at home.

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Joyful Neighbor (one of the extras):
For every heart that needs hope.

Mary:
(looking at the baby)
I was scared, Lord…
But you came right into the middle of our real life.

Joseph:
And you're not leaving.

Narrator:
And so in a small room on a regular block.
The first Christmas came alive all over again.

Scene 6: Carols on the Block (Finale)

(Auntie Dee claps her hands softly.)

Auntie Dee:
Family… I think it's time we say "Happy Birthday" the right way.

DeShawn:
With food?

Auntie Dee:
With praise. Food later.

(Everyone laughs. Then they gather in a semi-circle around Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. One person starts a simple gospel-style hum or clap rhythm. They can sing a short, simple chorus like "Happy Birthday, Jesus" or a very short piece of a well-known carol, keeping it brief and not lyric-heavy.)

Narrator:
They didn't have a choir robe between them.
No spotlights.
Just open hearts, tired hands, and a tiny baby in a borrowed blanket.
But Heaven smiled…
because the Savior was welcomed.

(After the short song moment, the group faces the audience.)

Mary:
To everyone sitting here tonight…

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If you've ever wondered if God sees your street,
your family, your struggle—
This baby is your answer.

Joseph:
He is Emmanuel.
God with us—right here, right now.

All Together (strong and joyful):
Merry Christmas!

(Lights fade slowly as they hold the scene—Mary with baby Jesus, surrounded by their block family.)

END

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