a script from

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The Time Machine Talk Show: Narrator's Edition

PURCHASE SCRIPT TO REMOVE WATERMARK AT GODSVERSE.ORG

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The Time Machine Talk Show: Narrator's Edition

A 20-Minute Interactive Christmas Play for Kids & Youth

PURCHASE

The Time Machine Talk Show: Narrator's Edition is a lively, modern Christmas program that turns the Nativity story into a kid-friendly "talk show with time travel." Guided by a warm NARRATOR and a fun HOST, a cardboard time machine "brings" Bible characters into the studio—Mary, Joseph, the angel Gabriel, a wide-eyed shepherd, and a wise man—each sharing what the first Christmas was like from their point of view. Children act out key scenes (Nazareth, the road to Bethlehem, the shepherds' field, and the manger) while the narrator and host keep the story flowing, ask simple questions, and explain what it all means.

SCRIPT

Designed for churches, children's ministry, VBS, or Christian schools, this 20-minute script mixes humor, simple dialogue, and clear gospel truth. The format is perfect for mixed ages: confident readers can take speaking roles (Host, Narrator, Mary, Gabriel, etc.), while younger kids can participate as shepherds, angels, or "kid panel" reactors with short, easy lines. The show feels fresh and engaging for today's kids while staying completely focused on Jesus—God's Son coming near to us.

TO

With minimal props (cardboard "time machine," simple robes, a manger, and a star), a flexible cast of 8–15, and a narrator-led structure that doesn't require heavy memorization, *The Time Machine Talk Show* is a stress-friendly option for busy leaders. It's playful, interactive, and still deeply meaningful—inviting kids and adults alike to see that the same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem is the One who loves them right now.

REMOVE

At a Glance

WATERMARK

- Length: ~20 minutes
- Cast: 8–15 (easily expandable)
- Style: Interactive, narrator-led "talk show" with time jumps
- Ideal For: Children's church, family services, school programs, Jesus/VBS themes
- Difficulty: Easy to moderate; narrator carries the storyline

AT

Key Features

- Fun "time machine" concept that keeps kids and audiences engaged
- Narration-heavy script that reduces memorization pressure
- Clear gospel message centered on Jesus' birth and God's love
- Flexible roles for younger and older children (including a Kid Panel)
- Simple, low-cost props and costumes
- Plenty of natural spots for optional songs or carols if your church desires

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If you want a Christmas program that feels fresh and fun but still clearly tells the true story of Jesus' birth, *The Time Machine Talk Show: Narrator's Edition* is an easy, joy-filled choice.

PURCHASE

The Time Machine Talk Show: Narrator's Edition

SCRIPT

A 20-Minute Interactive Christmas Play for Kids (8–15 Cast)

TO

CAST (Flexible, 8–15 actors)

- **NARRATOR** – Calm, fun, guides the whole story and speaks to the audience
- **HOST (RILEY or JORDAN)** – Talk show host, energetic, a bit silly
- **TIME TECH (SAM)** – Handles the cardboard time machine, pushes buttons, makes sound effects
- **MARY** – Kind, thoughtful, brave
- **JOSEPH** – Gentle, protective, a little tired but good-humored
- **ANGEL GABRIEL** – Confident, joyful, a little dramatic (wings/halo)
- **SHEPHERD ELI** – Main shepherd, curious and honest
- **EXTRA SHEPHERDS** (1–3) – Can be silent or have short lines
- **WISE MAN MALACHI** – A wise man, speaks politely and thoughtfully
- **EXTRA WISE MEN / ATTENDANTS** (optional) – Can carry gifts
- **INNKEEPER** – Brief role, a bit flustered
- **KID PANEL** – 2–4 kids who sit by the host and react, ask questions

REMOVE

WATERMARK

(You can double-cast roles: shepherds can later be wise men, etc., by changing simple props.)

AT

SET & PROPS

- Simple "talk show" area with chairs or stools
- Cardboard **TIME MACHINE** box labeled: "TIME MACHINE TALK SHOW 3000"
- A few big fake buttons/knobs drawn on paper
- Star prop on a stick
- Manger with baby doll
- Scarves/robes for Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise man
- Wings/halo for Angel
- Gift box for Wise Man

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- Simple sign(s): “Nazareth,” “Road to Bethlehem,” “Bethlehem – No Vacancy,” “Shepherds’ Field”

PURCHASE

Scene 1 – Welcome to the Time Machine Talk Show

SCRIPT

(Lights up on the talk show set. HOST sits in a chair with the KID PANEL nearby. The TIME MACHINE (cardboard box) sits to one side. NARRATOR stands at a podium or side area.)

NARRATOR:

Welcome, everyone, to **The Time Machine Talk Show: Christmas Edition!**

Tonight, we’re going to do something a little… unusual.

TO

HOST (RILEY/JORDAN, big smile):

Unusual is my favorite! Hi, everybody! Are you ready to go… *back in time*?

(Kids in the audience respond. HOST cups their ear.)

REMOVE

HOST:

Hmm… I couldn’t quite hear you. Are you ready to go back in time?

(Audience responds louder.)

WATERMARK

HOST:

That’s better! Welcome to our show, where we don’t just *talk* about Bible stories—we *visit* them.

NARRATOR:

All night long, our Time Machine will take us to different moments from the very first Christmas.

We’ll meet real people—Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, an angel, even a very wise man—

AT

and we’ll hear how they experienced the birth of Jesus.

HOST (to KID PANEL):

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I’m here with our Kid Panel—(gestures to them) these amazing time-travel helpers.

Your job is to react, ask good questions, and help our audience think. Deal?

KID PANEL MEMBER 1:

Do we also get snacks?

HOST (grinning):

If the Time Machine behaves… maybe.

NARRATOR:

And over here, we have our brave Time Machine technician… SAM!

(TIME TECH SAM waves, maybe wearing goggles or a silly headset.)

SAM:

Time coordinates locked, snacks… pending.

HOST:

Okay, Sam. Our first stop is… the town of **Nazareth**, a long time ago.

Audience, when Sam pulls the lever, I want you to all say,

"**Time Machine, take us there!**" Can you practice?

NARRATOR (leading the audience):

On three: One… two… three!

ALL (audience + cast):

Time Machine, take us there!

SAM (overacting, presses buttons, pulls imaginary lever):

Beep-boop! ZZZZZT! WHOOSH! Time Machine engaged!

(Lights flicker or a sound effect plays. Mary steps onto another area of the stage, a simple "Nazareth" sign visible. HOST and KID PANEL stay "in the studio" while NARRATOR moves near Mary's scene.)

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Scene 2 – Time Jump: The Angel Visits Mary (Nazareth)

NARRATOR:

Our first guest tonight is a young woman from Nazareth.

She's engaged to a man named Joseph, and she's about to receive very big news.

(MARY is on stage, pretending to do simple chores or reading.)

NARRATOR (to audience):

Her name is **Mary**. She doesn't know it yet,

but God has chosen her for a very special part in His plan.

(ANGEL GABRIEL enters quietly behind her with light, or just walks on with a gentle glow.)

ANGEL GABRIEL (kind but a little grand):

Greetings, Mary! The Lord is with you!

(MARY jumps a little, surprised.)

MARY:

Oh! I… I'm sorry… who are you?

ANGEL GABRIEL:

Don't be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you.

You will have a baby—a Son—and you will name Him **Jesus**.

He will be called the Son of the Most High God.

MARY (thinking, a little nervous):

But… how can this be? I'm just Mary from Nazareth.

ANGEL GABRIEL:

Nothing is impossible for God.

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and this child will be God's own Son.

(MARY pauses, takes a breath, looking out toward the audience.)

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MARY (slowly, quietly):

I am the Lord's servant.

Let it be just as you have said.

(ANGEL smiles, then exits slowly, maybe giving a small bow.)

NARRATOR:

Mary doesn't have all the answers.

But she trusts the One who does.

(NARRATOR signals to SAM.)

NARRATOR:

Time Machine, can we bring Mary into the studio?

SAM (presses button):

Transporting guest… in three… two… one… *bloop!*

(MARY walks to the talk show area and sits by HOST.)

Scene 3 – Talk Show Interview: Mary's Perspective

HOST (warmly):

Mary, welcome to the Time Machine Talk Show.

MARY (smiling shyly):

Thank you. This is… a very interesting place.

KID PANEL MEMBER 2:

Were you scared when you saw the angel?

MARY (nods):

Yes. I was scared and confused.

But I also felt something else… peace.

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I knew this was from God.

HOST:

Did you understand everything the angel said?

MARY:

No. Not everything.

But I understood this: God loved His people so much

that He was sending His Son.

And somehow, He was letting me be part of that story.

NARRATOR (to audience):

Kids, sometimes God asks us to trust Him

even when we don't understand all the details.

That's what Mary did.

HOST (to audience):

If you were Mary, and an angel suddenly appeared in your room,

what would your face look like? Show us!

(Allow kids to make faces; HOST and KID PANEL react.)

HOST (laughs):

I see a lot of "whoa!" faces out there.

NARRATOR:

Mary's story doesn't end in Nazareth.

The Roman leader said everyone had to go to their family hometown to be counted.

So Mary and Joseph had to travel… a long way… to **Bethlehem**.

HOST (to SAM):

Time Tech Sam, set the dial for Bethlehem—

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somewhere on a bumpy road, very tired travelers, one very pregnant lady.

SAM (salutes):

Coordinates locked. Audience, ready?

NARRATOR:

Once again—on three:

One… two… three!

ALL:

Time Machine, take us there!

(SAM makes more sound effects. MARY exits the studio and joins JOSEPH on another part of stage with a “Road to Bethlehem” sign. HOST, KID PANEL, NARRATOR shift focus that direction.)

Scene 4 – Time Jump: On the Road to Bethlehem

(JOSEPH is leading an invisible donkey or just walking with Mary, who holds her back and belly dramatically.)

JOSEPH:

We’re almost there, Mary. Just a little further.

MARY (tired but trusting):

I’m okay, Joseph. God brought us this far.

He won’t leave us now.

NARRATOR:

Mary and Joseph traveled from their own town,

all the way to **Bethlehem**,

because that’s where Joseph’s family came from.

KID PANEL MEMBER 1 (calling from studio):

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How long did you walk?

JOSEPH (wipes forehead):

Long. Very long.

Think “Are we there yet?” times fifty.

(Audience laughs.)

NARRATOR:

When they finally reached Bethlehem,

the town was crowded, noisy, and full of travelers.

(INNKEEPER enters near a “Bethlehem – No Vacancy” sign. Mary and Joseph walk up.)

JOSEPH (politely):

Excuse me, sir—do you have any room?

My wife is expecting a baby.

INNKEEPER (flustered, shaking head):

I’m so sorry. Every room is taken.

People are sleeping in the hallways! I’ve got nothing left.

MARY (quiet but hopeful):

Anywhere warm and safe would help.

We don’t need something fancy.

INNKEEPER (thinks, then points):

Well… there’s a stable out back.

It’s not much, but it’s dry.

You’d have to share with the animals.

JOSEPH (relieved):

We’re grateful. Thank you.

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(Mary and Joseph move to another area where straw and manger are set—"the stable." INNKEEPER exits.)

NARRATOR:

And so, the greatest King the world has ever known

was about to be born…

not in a palace, but in a simple place for animals.

HOST (to audience):

If you expected to meet a king,

you'd probably picture a sparkly crown, big throne…

maybe some fancy snacks.

KID PANEL MEMBER 2:

Definitely snacks.

HOST:

But God chose a different way—

a quiet night, a humble town,

a simple manger.

NARRATOR:

Let's jump ahead just a little.

In that stable, with animals nearby,

Mary had her baby—Jesus.

(Mary places baby doll in manger. Joseph stands protectively nearby.)

NARRATOR (softly):

And she wrapped Him in cloths

and laid Him in a manger.

(Short pause. A gentle, quiet moment.)

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HOST (gently):

Sam… can you freeze this moment?

I want everyone to see this.

SAM:

Freezing time… now. *Click.*

(Mary and Joseph hold still in a tableau.)

NARRATOR (to audience):

Take a good look at this scene.

God's Son… born as a tiny baby.

He came not to be far away and fancy,

but to be close to us.

(Pause, then NARRATOR nods to SAM.)

SAM:

Unfreeze in three… two… one… *click.*

(Mary and Joseph relax slightly, staying by the manger.)

NARRATOR:

But we're not done yet.

In the hills outside Bethlehem,

something else was happening.

HOST (excited):

Time for our next jump!

We're heading to the **Shepherds' Field**

for a surprise from the sky.

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Scene 5 – Time Jump: Shepherds in the Field

(SAM does the button/lever routine. Lights shift to another side of stage with a “Shepherds’ Field” sign. SHEPHERD ELI and extra SHEPHERDS sit or stand, watching fake “sheep” or just looking bored.)

NARRATOR:

Meet **Eli**, a shepherd.

He and his friends are doing the same thing they always do—

watching sheep, trying not to fall asleep.

SHEPHERD ELI (yawning):

Another night… more sheep…

Baah here, baah there…

I wish *something* exciting would happen.

SHEPHERD 2 (shrugs):

Exciting and sheep don’t really go together.

SHEPHERD 3:

Unless a sheep sits on you. That’s pretty exciting.

(They laugh a little.)

NARRATOR:

But on this night,

they were about to see something

they would never forget.

(ANGEL GABRIEL appears again, maybe with extra “Angels” silently behind. A soft “ahhh” sound or bell can play.)

ANGEL GABRIEL (brightly):

Do not be afraid!

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(SHEPHERDS jump, scream, or hide.)

SHEPHERD ELI:

Too late! Too late! We are definitely afraid!

ANGEL GABRIEL (gentler):

Don't be afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people.

Today in the town of David—a.k.a. Bethlehem—

a Savior has been born to you.

He is Christ, the Lord.

You will find the baby wrapped in cloths

and lying in a manger.

NARRATOR (steps closer to audience):

The shepherds were normal people,

just doing their jobs.

But God chose to tell *them* first that Jesus had been born.

ANGEL GABRIEL (to shepherds):

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests!

(EXTRA ANGELS lift their arms like a "heavenly choir." They can hum or softly sing a short "Gloria" or simple line if your church allows music.)

SHEPHERD 2 (awed):

Did you… did you see that?

SHEPHERD 3:

I'm not sure if I should cheer or faint.

SHEPHERD ELI (deciding):

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We have to go!

We have to see this baby!

SHEPHERD 2:

Right now?

SHEPHERD ELI:

Yes, right now!

Let's go to Bethlehem and see what God has told us about!

(Shepherds hurry toward the manger area. Angels exit or move aside.)

NARRATOR:

They left their ordinary night

to run toward God's extraordinary news.

Scene 6 – Talk Show Double Interview: Shepherd & Angel

(SAM makes a sound. SHEPHERD ELI and ANGEL GABRIEL move to talk show area with HOST and KID PANEL. Mary and Joseph remain at manger.)

HOST:

Welcome back to our studio.

Let's hear from two brand-new guests:

Eli the shepherd, and… the angel.

SHEPHERD ELI (still wide-eyed):

Hi. I'm still not sure if this is a dream.

ANGEL GABRIEL (relaxed):

No dream. Just very creative staging.

HOST (to SHEPHERD):

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Eli, what were you thinking

when the sky suddenly lit up?

SHEPHERD ELI:

I was thinking,

“Uh-oh, we’re in trouble.”

Then I realized…

God had chosen *us*

to hear the good news first.

And my heart felt like it might…

explode with joy. In a good way.

KID PANEL MEMBER 1:

Did you bring anything to baby Jesus? Like a present?

SHEPHERD ELI (shakes head):

We didn’t bring gold or fancy gifts.

We just brought ourselves.

We knelt, we worshiped, we told everyone what we’d seen.

NARRATOR (to audience):

Sometimes the best gift we can bring Jesus

is simply our hearts and our worship.

HOST (to ANGEL):

Gabriel, why did heaven make such a big announcement?

ANGEL GABRIEL:

Because this night changed everything.

The Savior had come.

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Heaven couldn't stay quiet—

we had to sing, shout, shine!

HOST (to kids):

When something amazing happens—

like you get a big surprise or see something really cool—

do you want to keep it a secret?

KID PANEL & (hopefully) audience kids:

No!

HOST:

Exactly. Heaven didn't want to keep Jesus a secret, either.

NARRATOR:

But there's still one guest

we haven't heard from yet—

someone who traveled a long way

following a special star.

HOST (grinning):

Time for one more jump.

Sam, set the machine for:

"Far Away, Late Night, Star Watching Headquarters."

SAM:

On it.

Audience, one last time—ready?

NARRATOR:

One… two… three!

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ALL:

Time Machine, take us there!

(SAM makes sound effects. Lights shift to another part of stage where WISE MAN MALACHI stands with a scroll and telescope prop, and a big STAR is visible.)

Scene 7 – Time Jump: The Wise Man and the Star

NARRATOR:

This is **Malachi**, a wise man from far away.

He studies stars, scrolls, and ancient promises.

WISE MAN MALACHI (reading scroll):

“A star shall come out of Jacob…

a ruler shall rise…”

(He looks up dramatically at the star prop.)

WISE MAN MALACHI:

That star…

it’s different.

It’s brighter.

It means something.

NARRATOR:

Malachi and his fellow wise men

had read the old writings.

They knew a King of the Jews was coming.

When they saw the star,

they packed their bags and began a long journey.

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WISE MAN MALACHI (to invisible companions or extra wise men):

We must follow the star.

We're going to find the newborn King

and worship Him.

(They "travel" slowly across the stage, perhaps circling once. STAR moves or they move toward it. Eventually they arrive near Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and manger—if you like, show a brief visit with King Herod offstage, but for time we can skip that or keep it very short.)

OPTIONAL SHORT HEROD MOMENT (if you want the "drama"):

(KING HEROD—small crown—steps in their path.)

HEROD:

You're searching for a new King?

When you find Him, come back and tell me,

so I can… "worship" Him too.

(WISE MAN MALACHI gives him a polite but suspicious look.)

WISE MAN MALACHI:

We will see what God says.

(HEROD exits looking annoyed.)

NARRATOR:

Herod was not happy about another King.

But God would warn the wise men later

not to go back to him.

(The wise men arrive at manger scene.)

WISE MAN MALACHI (kneels, placing gift box):

We have followed the star

to worship You, little King.

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You are more precious than gold,

more holy than incense,

more costly than anything we own.

(Mary smiles gratefully. Joseph nods. Shepherds look on.)

NARRATOR:

People from near and far

came to see Jesus—

shepherds from the fields,

a young mother and father from their own town,

wise men from a distant land.

They all had different stories…

but they all knelt before the same Savior.

Scene 8 – Final Talk Show: All Guests Together

(SAM “zaps” everyone to the talk show set in imagination only—really, the whole cast can now gather around the manger at center stage, with HOST and KID PANEL nearby. NARRATOR stands where all can see.)

HOST:

Look at this!

We’ve got Mary, Joseph, Eli the shepherd,

the angel, Wise Man Malachi…

And right at the center of it all—Jesus.

(HOST turns to each character.)

HOST (to MARY):

Mary, in one short sentence,

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what would you tell kids today about Jesus' birth?

MARY:

God keeps His promises,

even in quiet places.

HOST (to JOSEPH):

Joseph?

JOSEPH:

Following God might be hard,

but it's always worth it.

HOST (to SHEPHERD ELI):

Shepherd Eli?

SHEPHERD ELI:

Jesus is good news

even for ordinary people like us.

HOST (to ANGEL GABRIEL):

Gabriel?

ANGEL GABRIEL:

Heaven still rejoices

because the Savior has come.

HOST (to WISE MAN MALACHI):

Malachi?

WISE MAN MALACHI:

If you seek Him,

you will find Him—

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and He is worth any journey.

NARRATOR (to the audience):

Boys and girls,

the Time Machine can't take us everywhere.

It can't fly us into the future

or send us into every Bible story.

But it has shown us something important tonight.

God planned the coming of Jesus

from long ago.

He sent angels, guided stars,

and used ordinary people

all to bring His Son into our world.

HOST (to kids):

And now it's your turn.

You're not in Nazareth or Bethlehem

you're right here.

But the same Jesus who was in that manger

is the same Jesus who loves you today.

NARRATOR:

You may not see angels in the sky,

but you can hear the good news in God's Word.

You may not follow a star across the desert,

but you can follow Jesus with your heart.

HOST (to Kid Panel):

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If you wanted to “worship” Jesus today,

what could that look like?

KID PANEL MEMBER 1:

I could talk to Him in prayer.

KID PANEL MEMBER 2:

I could sing songs about Him.

KID PANEL MEMBER 3:

I could be kind to other kids

because He’s been kind to me.

NARRATOR (smiling):

Those are beautiful answers.

Worship isn’t just something we do in Bethlehem.

It’s something we do here, now,

every time we love Him and love others.

Scene 9 – Closing Moment & Group Line

HOST (stands center):

On our show, we always end

with one final “time travel” question.

If we could jump from that first Christmas

straight to your heart tonight…

what would we find?

(Pauses, looks around gently.)

HOST:

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I hope we'd find

a heart that knows

Jesus came for *you*.

Not just for shepherds.

Not just for wise men.

But for *you*.

NARRATOR:

The time travel part of our story

is finished for now.

But the real story—knowing and following Jesus

goes on and on.

HOST (to the kids & cast):

Let's all stand together around the manger.

(All cast members gather around the manger in a semi-circle, facing the audience. KID PANEL joins them. Mary and Joseph near the manger; others around them.)

NARRATOR (final words):

From Nazareth to Bethlehem,

from the fields to the far-off lands,

every step of the journey

leads us back to this truth:

God so loved the world

that He sent His Son, Jesus.

That's the greatest gift

of every Christmas.

HOST (to cast):

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Okay, everyone,

on the count of three,

we'll say our final line.

One… two… three!

ENTIRE CAST (loud and joyful):

Merry Christmas! Jesus is here!

(They wave. Optional: soft music begins. Lights slowly fade to warm glow on the manger as everyone continues waving.)

[END OF PLAY]

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