a script from

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The Wise Men Journey: A Guided Nativity Adventure

PURCHASE SCRIPT TO REMOVE WATERMARK AT GODSVERSE.ORG

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The Wise Men Journey: A Guided Nativity Adventure

A Narrator-Led Christmas Play for Kids & Youth (Approx. 20 Minutes)

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Product Summary

The Wise Men Journey: A Guided Nativity Adventure is a simple, story-driven Christmas play that follows the wise men from "the East" all the way to Bethlehem. Led by a single narrator, this script focuses on their search for "the King of the Jews," their encounter with King Herod, and their joyful worship of Jesus under the guiding star.

SCRIPT

Designed for churches and schools that want something easy to stage but rich in meaning, this script lets children (or youth group actors) bring the Bible story to life with clear movement, simple dialogue, and strong narration. The tone is gentle and fun, with a little humor from the wise men, mild dramatic tension around Herod, and a warm, worshipful ending as everyone gathers around Jesus.

TO

Key Features

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- Length: ~20 minutes – perfect for a Sunday service, Christmas program, or family night
- Cast Size: 6–12 actors (easily expandable with extra guards, messengers, or wise people)
- Style: Narrator-led, story-driven, and easy to follow
- Focus: The journey of the wise men – star, Scriptures, Herod, Bethlehem, and worship

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Roles Included

- Narrator
- Wise Man 1 (Ezra) – serious and thoughtful
- Wise Man 2 (Malachi) – cheerful and practical
- Wise Man 3 (Cyrus) – curious and expressive
- King Herod – dramatic, not scary
- Chief Priest & Scribe – explain the prophecy
- Optional: Guards, Messengers, Mary, Joseph, Star-Bearer

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Why Leaders Will Love It

- Very easy to direct: One main narrator carries the story while kids act it out.
- Flexible casting: Works with a small cast or can be expanded for a larger group.

- Teaching-rich: Highlights prophecy, obedience, worship, and God's guidance.
- Engaging for older kids: Includes geography, Herod's court, and the idea of "journeying" with God.
- Low-pressure performance: Simple blocking, minimal memorization needed.

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What You Need On Stage

SCRIPT

- Simple robes and headscarves
- Crown and basic "throne" chair for Herod
- Scrolls for the priests/scribe
- Star prop on a stick or hanging
- Three gift boxes (gold, frankincense, myrrh)
- A small Bethlehem/house or stable area

TO

This script is ideal for churches that want a more story-driven Christmas play that still centers clearly on Jesus. With minimal prep, *The Wise Men Journey: A Guided Nativity Adventure* gives your kids a meaningful way to explore the Christmas story—and your congregation a fresh way to experience it.

REMOVE

The Wise Men Journey: A Guided Nativity Adventure

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A Narrator-Led Christmas Play for Kids & Youth (About 20 Minutes)

CAST (6–12 actors)

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You can adjust names or combine roles as needed.

Main Roles

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- **NARRATOR** – Tells the story clearly and gently, guides the audience.
- **WISE MAN 1 – Ezra** – Thoughtful, serious, carries a map or scroll.
- **WISE MAN 2 – Malachi** – Cheerful, practical, carries a lantern or telescope.
- **WISE MAN 3 – Cyrus** – Curious, imaginative, strong reactions.
- **KING HEROD** – Proud, dramatic, a little over-the-top but not scary.

- **CHIEF PRIEST** – Knows the prophecy, calm, explains Scripture.
- **SCRIBE** – Helps the Chief Priest, holds a scroll.

Optional / Extra Roles (if you have more kids)

- **MESSENGER(S)** – Run between Herod and the Wise Men.
- **GUARDS** – Stand by Herod's throne, look tough but kid-friendly.
- **MARY** – Gentle and kind.
- **JOSEPH** – Protective and calm.
- **STAR-BEARER** – Holds the star prop and "moves" across the stage.

You can easily include 6–12+ actors by adding more messengers or guards, or letting more kids be "wise people" together.

SIMPLE PROPS & SET

- Crown and robe for **King Herod**
- Simple robes and headscarves for **Wise Men**, Mary, Joseph
- Scrolls for **Chief Priest** and **Scribe**
- **Star prop** on a stick or hanging
- Boxes wrapped or decorated as **gold, frankincense, myrrh**
- A simple **throne** (chair) for Herod
- A low table or small chest to represent **books/scrolls** in Jerusalem
- A small **house or stable area** (cloth backdrop, manger, or simple bench)

Stage Areas (can be very simple)

- **Stage Left:** "The East" – where the Wise Men start
- **Center:** "Road / Desert" – where they travel
- **Stage Right:** "Jerusalem – King Herod's palace" and later a small area nearby as **Bethlehem**

You can label areas with simple cardboard signs: "The East," "Jerusalem," "Bethlehem."

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Scene 1 – A Star Appears in the East

(Lights up on "The East." WISE MEN EZRA, MALACHI, and CYRUS are looking up, holding simple props: a scroll, a lantern, a toy telescope, etc. The STAR-BEARER stands off to one side with the star at a low height.)

NARRATOR:

Long ago, far to the east of Bethlehem, there were wise men who studied the stars.

They watched the sky at night, reading signs and looking for messages from God.

Their names were Ezra, Malachi, and Cyrus.

(WISE MEN wave shyly to the audience.)

NARRATOR:

They had seen many stars before… but one night, something new appeared.

(STAR-BEARER raises the star slowly. The Wise Men gasp and point.)

EZRA:

Brothers, look! Do you see it?

MALACHI (peering):

That star is brighter than all the others!

CYRUS (eyes wide):

It's like it's shouting, "Look at me!" I can't look away!

NARRATOR:

The wise men had read ancient writings that spoke of a special star.

A star that would appear when a great King—

the **King of the Jews**—was born.

EZRA (unrolling scroll):

We've studied this for years.

The writings say that when this star rises, a new King has been born.

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MALACHI:

A King… but not just any King.

A King sent by God.

CYRUS (excited):

Then we must go find Him!

We can't just sit here and stare at the sky.

NARRATOR:

And so, they decided to follow the star.

They packed their things and chose gifts fit for a King.

(Each Wise Man picks up a gift box and holds it up as the Narrator names them.)

NARRATOR:

Ezra brought **gold**, a gift for a royal King.

Malachi brought **frankincense**, used in worship.

Cyrus brought **myrrh**, a precious, costly perfume.

CYRUS (whispering to gift box):

I hope the King likes this…

MALACHI (encouraging):

He will. We bring our very best.

NARRATOR:

They checked their map.

They looked up at the star.

They prayed for God to guide them.

EZRA:

Brothers, are we ready?

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MALACHI & CYRUS (together):

Ready!

NARRATOR:

And so, from their own city in the east,

the wise men began their long journey.

(WISE MEN move slowly toward center stage, "walking" in place and pretending to travel.)

Scene 2 – On the Road to Jerusalem

(WISE MEN are now center stage, "on the road." STAR-BEARER moves slowly across the front, leading them. NARRATOR moves to the side.)

NARRATOR:

Day after day they traveled.

Over hills and valleys, through hot days and cold nights.

They crossed deserts and distant lands, following the star.

(They wipe their brows, shiver, pretend to drink water. Add a little humor.)

CYRUS (dramatic):

My feet are tired…

My sandals are tired…

Even my **shadow** is tired.

MALACHI (laughing):

We'll rest soon. Look—the star is still ahead of us.

EZRA (pointing):

If a King of the Jews has been born,

then surely he must be in the capital city… **Jerusalem**.

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NARRATOR:

Jerusalem was the city of the great King David,

and now King Herod ruled there.

So the wise men decided to go first to Jerusalem,

to ask where the child King could be found.

(STAR-BEARER slowly moves to "Jerusalem" side and then stops, lowering the star for now.)

NARRATOR:

They did not yet know

that their question would trouble the King.

(Lights dim a little on the road and brighten slightly on the "Jerusalem" area where HEROD sits on a chair or simple throne. GUARDS may stand nearby.)

Scene 3 – King Herod's Palace

(HEROD sits tall with a crown. CHIEF PRIEST and SCRIBE stand to one side with scrolls. GUARDS at attention.)

NARRATOR:

In Jerusalem, King Herod sat in his palace.

He liked being King.

He liked his crown.

He liked his power.

He did **not** like the idea of another King.

(WISE MEN approach the palace and bow respectfully.)

HEROD (grand voice):

Who are these visitors from far away?

Step forward!

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EZRA (bowing):

Your Majesty, we are scholars from the east.

MALACHI:

We study the stars and the writings of old.

CYRUS:

We come with a question, Your Majesty.

(HEROD leans forward, interested.)

HEROD:

A question?

Very well. Ask your question.

EZRA (clear and calm):

Where is the one who has been born

King of the Jews?

MALACHI (gesturing upward):

We saw His star in the east…

CYRUS:

…and we have come to worship Him.

(HEROD freezes, eyes wide. Then he leans back, frowning.)

NARRATOR:

When King Herod heard this,

he was deeply troubled.

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HEROD (to himself, aside):

Another King?

A King of the Jews?

But **I** am the king here…

(He pretends to adjust his crown nervously.)

NARRATOR:

Herod did not understand

that Jesus was a different kind of King—

a King sent to save, not to take power.

So Herod called for the chief priests and the scribes.

HEROD (snapping fingers):

Chief Priests! Scribes!

Come here at once!

(CHIEF PRIEST and SCRIBE step forward with scrolls.)

CHIEF PRIEST (respectful):

Yes, Your Majesty?

HEROD:

These men say a King of the Jews has been born.

Tell me—where is the Messiah supposed to be born?

(SCRIBE unrolls a scroll, scanning it.)

SCRIBE:

Your Majesty, the writings of the prophet say:

(Short paraphrase, not too long.)

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CHIEF PRIEST (reading steadily):

“In Bethlehem in Judea,

for this is what the prophet wrote:

‘From Bethlehem will come a ruler

who will shepherd My people.’”

NARRATOR:

The Scriptures had spoken long ago.

The Savior, the Messiah,

would be born in **Bethlehem**.

(HEROD turns back to the Wise Men, now smiling in a fake, friendly way.)

HEROD (sweet but sly):

Ahh… Bethlehem!

A small town, not far from here.

You have traveled so far.

You must be very tired.

CYRUS (honest):

Yes, my feet agree with you.

(Audience chuckle.)

HEROD (smoothly):

Go to Bethlehem.

Search carefully for the child.

And when you find Him…

(He leans in, lowering his voice.)

…come back and tell **me**,

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so that **I** may go and worship Him too.

(He smiles, but NARRATOR speaks over this moment.)

NARRATOR:

But Herod was not telling the truth.

He did not want to worship Jesus.

He was afraid of losing his throne.

Still, the wise men did not yet know this.

They bowed to the King and prepared to leave.

EZRA, MALACHI, CYRUS (bowing):

Thank you, Your Majesty.

(WISE MEN exit slowly toward center stage again.)

Scene 4 – The Star Leads to Bethlehem

(Back at center stage / "road". STAR-BEARER is low and still. WISE MEN pause, looking a bit unsure.)

EZRA:

We know now that the child is in Bethlehem.

MALACHI:

But the star is gone.

I don't see it anymore.

CYRUS (worried):

What if we took a wrong turn?

What if we misread the scroll?

What if we—

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(STAR-BEARER suddenly raises the star high again, maybe with a little twirl.)

MALACHI (pointing):

Look! The star!

CYRUS:

It's back! It's back!

EZRA (relieved):

Praise God.

The star is going ahead of us again.

NARRATOR:

The star they had seen in the east reappeared.

It moved before them,

guiding them all the way from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

(STAR-BEARER walks slowly toward the "Bethlehem" area. WISE MEN follow, rejoicing.)

CYRUS (almost dancing):

We're close! I can feel it!

MALACHI (joyful):

After all this walking,

we're finally on the last part of our journey.

EZRA (looking up):

Thank You, Lord, for guiding us.

NARRATOR:

The star led them until it stopped

right over the place where the child was.

(STAR-BEARER stands still above the Bethlehem area—a simple house or stable where MARY and JOSEPH are quietly waiting with a baby doll.)

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NARRATOR:

When the wise men saw the star stop,

they were **filled with joy**.

CYRUS (spinning):

This is it! We found Him!

MALACHI (happily):

All the dust, all the miles—

they were worth it.

EZRA (softly):

Let's go inside with humble hearts.

(WISE MEN slowly approach the Bethlehem area.)

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Scene 5 – Worship in Bethlehem

(Lights soften on Bethlehem. MARY and JOSEPH are seated near the baby. The Wise Men approach and kneel. The STAR remains shining above.)

NARRATOR:

Not in a palace…

Not in a mighty city…

Not surrounded by soldiers or servants…

But in a small place,

in Bethlehem,

the wise men found Jesus.

MARY (gentle smile):

Welcome, travelers.

JOSEPH:

You have come from far away.

EZRA (bowing low):

We followed the star,

searching for the One born

King of the Jews.

MALACHI:

We have come to worship Him.

CYRUS (softly, looking at the baby):

He is so small…

and yet, my heart feels so full.

NARRATOR:

Though Jesus looked like an ordinary child,

the wise men knew He was no ordinary King.

(Wise Men present their gifts one by one.)

EZRA (offering his box):

Lord Jesus, I bring You **gold**,

for You are the true King.

(He sets the gift near the baby.)

MALACHI (offering his box):

I bring You **frankincense**,

to honor You as the One we worship.

(He sets down his gift as well.)

CYRUS (offering his box):

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I bring You **myrrh**,

to show that Your life is precious,

and that You came to save us.

(He sets the last gift down, then all three Wise Men bow their heads deeply.)

NARRATOR:

The wise men bowed down

and worshiped Him.

Not just as a baby in a small house,

but as the Savior King promised long ago.

(There can be a brief soft musical underscore here, or the group can sing one short verse of a carol like “O Come, Let Us Adore Him” while the Wise Men kneel.)

(Short pause for reverence.)

Scene 6 – A Warning in a Dream

(After the quiet moment, Wise Men stay near Bethlehem area but shift slightly as NARRATOR speaks.)

NARRATOR:

That night, as the wise men rested,

God spoke to them in a dream.

(WISE MEN recline or sit as if sleeping. MARY and JOSEPH stay quietly in the background.)

NARRATOR (continued):

God warned them:

“Do not go back to Herod.”

Herod’s heart was not good.

He did not want to worship Jesus.

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EZRA (waking suddenly):

Brothers…

I had a dream.

MALACHI:

So did I.

An angel warned us about Herod.

CYRUS:

We must not return to his palace.

NARRATOR:

The wise men listened.

Instead of going back to Jerusalem,

they returned to their own country

by a different road.

(WISE MEN stand, bow once more to the Holy Family.)

EZRA (to Mary and Joseph):

May God bless you and your child.

MALACHI:

Thank you for allowing us

to see the King who has come.

CYRUS (softly):

I will never forget this day.

(They slowly walk away toward the opposite side from Jerusalem, following an "imaginary" different route. The STAR may move with them a little, then lower.)

NARRATOR:

They left Bethlehem changed forever—

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not just because they traveled far,

but because they had met Jesus.

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Scene 7 – The Meaning of the Journey

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(Lights focus gently on NARRATOR in center. Mary, Joseph, and the child remain in soft light at Bethlehem, and the Wise Men freeze on their "road home.")

NARRATOR:

This is the story of the wise men's journey.

TO

They began in a faraway land,

with only a star and the old writings to guide them.

They crossed mountains and deserts.

They met a troubled king in Jerusalem.

REMOVE

They listened to Scripture and followed God's sign in the sky.

And at last, they found Jesus.

(NARRATOR turns slightly toward the Wise Men.)

NARRATOR:

WATERMARK

From them, we learn:

- To follow the light God gives us—
  even when we don't see the whole path yet.
- To listen to God's Word,
  which points us to Jesus.
- To bring our best gifts to Jesus—
  our time, our worship, our hearts.

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(NARRATOR turns slightly toward the audience.)

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NARRATOR:

The wise men traveled many miles

because they believed this child was worth it.

And He still is.

Today, we may not travel by camel,

or sleep under desert stars,

or visit kings in palaces.

But we still make a journey of the heart—

a journey to Jesus.

When we choose to trust Him,

when we choose to worship Him,

our hearts become like gifts at His feet.

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Scene 8 – Closing Moment of Worship

(All actors move slowly to gather near the Bethlehem area: Wise Men, Herod (now without drama, maybe standing in the back to show that even kings are invited), Chief Priest, Scribe, Guards, Mary, Joseph, STAR-BEARER.)

NARRATOR:

Kings and shepherds,

wise men and simple travelers,

children and grown-ups—

we are all invited

to come and worship Jesus.

(NARRATOR addresses the audience.)

NARRATOR:

In just a moment,

we will say a simple Christmas prayer together.

But first, look at this scene:

- A baby, lying in a small home in Bethlehem.
- A star shining above.
- Travelers kneeling in worship.
- The promise of God kept.

This is the heart of Christmas.

(Short pause for silence. Then NARRATOR leads a simple response.)

NARRATOR:

If you would like,

say these words quietly or out loud with us:

“Thank You, God, for sending Jesus.

Thank You for Your light.

Help us to follow You.

Amen.”

(Cast bows their heads for a moment. Then NARRATOR brightens.)

NARRATOR:

The wise men’s journey is over,

but ours continues—

walking with the King who came to us.

On behalf of all our actors today—

(gestures to the cast)

—we wish you a very blessed…

NARRATOR (leading cast):

Merry Christmas!

ALL CAST (loud and joyful):

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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(Cast waves. Optional: short reprise of a carol like “We Three Kings” or “Joy to the World” while everyone stays on stage and bows.)

[END OF PLAY]

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