

LITTLE STARS OF BETHLEHEM: THE MUSICAL

Music and Lyrics by Christy Long
Script by Janet Meili



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Little Stars of Bethlehem:
The Musical

**A children's musical
with many "starring" roles**

music and lyrics by Christy Long
script by Janet Meili

CAST OF CHARACTERS

The Stars of Bethlehem:

Little Star

Small Star

Tiny Star

Wee Star

Baby Star

The Moon

The Stars over Jerusalem

(Any number — five or more)

The Stars over Judea

(Any number)

Orion

(Eight stars)

Polaris

Choir

PRODUCTION NOTES

Setting

This musical may be performed in the sanctuary with no scenery and no special lighting. Either the chancel steps, chairs, or children of various heights may be used to have the stars appear at different heights. Place a manger scene On-stage if desired.

Costumes

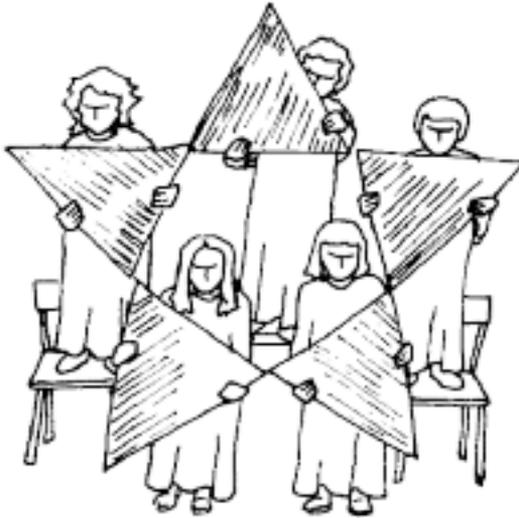
The cast should all wear black to represent the night sky and play up the shiny celestial shapes that they hold. These shapes should be made of gold or silver shiny poster board, which may be found in larger craft stores, such as Hobby Lobby. If you are unable to find the shiny poster board, simply cover regular cardboard in foil. Moon holds either a crescent or full shape. The Stars over Jerusalem and Orion each hold a five-pointed star. The Stars over Judea hold stars of varying sizes. Polaris holds the biggest star. The Stars of Bethlehem each hold one triangle. These triangles will become a large four-foot-wide star at the climax. The choir may either wear robes or dress all in black with a foil-covered cardboard star tied with string and hung around each child's neck.

Music

This musical features three original songs with piano accompaniment. One of the songs, "Not the One," is not sung straight through, but is repeated at intervals with dialogue between each of the five verses. Solo parts are suggested throughout the performance. Smaller groups may prefer that the choir sing every song without solos, or various groups of children may sing one song, divided according to Sunday school classes or grade level. Do what works for your group's size, age, and experience.



Orion constellation formation.



Final star formation.

SONG LIST

1. It's Jesus

2. Not the One

Verse 1

Verse 2

Verse 3

Verse 4

Verse 5

3. Light the Night

1 *(The five STARS OF BETHLEHEM are On-stage, each holding*
 2 *a section of reflective cardboard, triangular in shape. At the*
 3 *conclusion of the performance, each of these one-fifth sections*
 4 *will be combined to become a large star.)*

5 **LITTLE STAR:** Have you heard the good news? The baby
 6 **Jesus is going to be born right here in Bethlehem!**

7 **SMALL STAR:** Isn't that nice? Then we'll all get a chance to
 8 **see him.**

9 **BABY STAR:** Who is the baby Jesus?

10 **LITTLE STAR:** He's going to grow up to be the Messiah.

11 **BABY STAR:** That sounds important!

12 **SMALL STAR:** It is. He's going to redeem the world and start
 13 **the Christian church.**

14 **WEE STAR:** That means he's the most important baby the
 15 **world has ever known.** *(The STARS OF BETHLEHEM stay*
 16 *at Center Stage while CHOIR comes forward for the song.)*

17

18 **SONG: "It's Jesus"**

19 **Chorus:**

20 **ALL:** *(Singing)* It's Jesus, coming down to earth.

21 **It's Jesus, sent by holy birth.**

22 **It's Jesus, come for me and you.**

23 **It's Jesus, hallelu!**

24 **It's Jesus, hallelu!**

25

26 **Verse:**

27 **Hear our happy song.**

28 **His coming won't be long.**

29 **Blow the trumpet, let the world know**

30 **That the King of Kings is laid in a manger low.**

31 **He has come to save the world this Christmas night.**

32 **Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.**

33

34 *(Repeat chorus and verse, repeat chorus)*

35

36 **It's Jesus, hallelu!**

37

38 *(CHOIR steps back and/or takes a seat.)*

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- 1 TINY STAR: If he's going to be born right here, we ought to
2 do something special in his honor.
- 3 LITTLE STAR: Yes. He ought to have a special star all his
4 own. Would one of you like to be his special star?
- 5 BABY STAR: I'm too young. I don't even know how to twinkle
6 yet.
- 7 TINY STAR: I'm too tiny. Nobody can see me.
- 8 WEE STAR: I'm too weak. My light might go out.
- 9 SMALL STAR: My place in the sky is too inconspicuous. No
10 one would notice me. What about you, Little Star?
- 11 LITTLE STAR: I'm too unimportant. Nobody would pay any
12 attention to me.
- 13 WEE STAR: What are we going to do? None of us can be his
14 special star.
- 15 LITTLE STAR: We'll have to ask someone else. Who would do
16 the best job?
- 17 SMALL STAR: The moon. He's the brightest light in the night
18 sky.
- 19 TINY STAR: Oh, yes. Let's ask the moon. (*MOON enters.*)
- 20 WEE STAR: Go ahead, ask him. It was your idea.
- 21 TINY STAR: Let someone else do it. I'm afraid.
- 22 LITTLE STAR: You don't have to be afraid. He's really very
23 nice.
- 24 SMALL STAR: If you know him so well, then you ask him.
- 25 LITTLE STAR: All right, I will. Mr. Moon, we're the Stars of
26 Bethlehem.
- 27 MOON: Aren't you cute little sparklers, though!
- 28 LITTLE STAR: We came to ask you something.
- 29 MOON: Ask away. I'm sure I'll know the answer.
- 30 SMALL STAR: It isn't that kind of question.
- 31 LITTLE STAR: The baby Jesus is going to be born in
32 Bethlehem, and we think he should have a special star.
- 33 MOON: And you want to know if I approve. I most certainly
34 do.
- 35 LITTLE STAR: No, we want to ask you to be his star. Will
36 you?
- 37 MOON: Of course not. I'm no star, I'm the moon. Why, before
38 humans knew about the one true God, some of them

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1 worshiped me as a god.

2 **LITTLE STAR:** We know how important you are. That's why
3 we asked you.

4 **MOON:** I can't be his special star because I'm not a star. I
5 change my shape and move all through the sky. You'll
6 have to find someone else. *(The STARS OF BETHLEHEM*
7 *stay at Center Stage while MOON and CHOIR come forward*
8 *for the song.)*

9

10 **SONG:** "Not the One," Verse 1

11 **Chorus:**

12 **ALL:** *(Singing)* Not the one to do this job,

13 It's not the work God has for me.

14 Not the one to do this job,

15 Look and you will see.

16 Not the one to do this job,

17 It's not the work God has for me.

18 Not the one to do this job,

19 Look and you will see.

20

21 **Verse 1:**

22 **MOON:** *(Singing)* Sometimes I shine big,

23 Sometimes I shine small.

24 Sometimes a sliver,

25 Sometimes a big ball.

26 I cannot help you.

27 I am the moon.

28 Not a star to shine for Jesus.

29 Not a star to shine for Jesus.

30

31 *(Repeat chorus)*

32

33 *(CHOIR steps back.)*

34 **LITTLE STAR:** I suppose you're right. Thank you anyway.

35 *(MOON exits.)*

36 **WEE STAR:** I'm so disappointed.

37 **TINY STAR:** But what he said was true. He can't get any
38 bigger or brighter than full moon, and he *does* move

1 around. There's no way anyone would know he was
2 doing anything unusual.

3 **BABY STAR:** Who do we ask now?

4 **SMALL STAR:** It's too big a job for one star. Let's ask a
5 constellation. *(The constellation ORION enters. TINY, WEE*
6 *and BABY STARS exit. The eight stars of ORION form their*
7 *constellation [see diagram in the Production Notes on page iii]*
8 *by squatting down, standing on the steps of the chancel, and*
9 *standing on chairs so their stars form the shape vertically.)*

10 **LITTLE STAR:** I don't think this is going to work!

11 **SMALL STAR:** One star can't do it. A constellation is the
12 perfect solution.

13 **LITTLE STAR:** But constellations are so clannish. They stick
14 together and ignore the rest of us.

15 **SMALL STAR:** That is what makes them a constellation.

16 **LITTLE STAR:** And Orion is so gruff. If the three littlest stars
17 are afraid even to come with us to ask him —

18 **SMALL STAR:** It will make it an even greater honor if he
19 says yes. Oh, Mr. Orion?

20 **ORION:** *(All eight in unison)* Who dares to speak to Orion?

21 **SMALL STAR:** I'm Small Star of Bethlehem.

22 **ORION:** *(Together)* You must be small. We can't see you.

23 **SMALL STAR:** It doesn't matter. I just wanted to ask you to
24 come to Bethlehem to be an honor guard for the baby
25 Jesus.

26 **ORION:** *(Together)* The Bethlehem babe is the Prince of
27 Peace.

28 **SMALL STAR:** Yes, he is. You know about him, then?

29 **ORION:** *(Together)* We are a constellation of violence. We are
30 not fit to honor the babe.

31 **SMALL STAR:** Do you really think so? Maybe you're just
32 being humble.

33 **ORION:** *(Together)* We are not fit to honor the Prince of Peace.
34 *(The STARS OF BETHLEHEM stay at Center Stage while*
35 *CHOIR comes forward and stands by ORION for the song.)*

36
37
38

1 SONG: "Not the One," Verse 2

2 Chorus:

3 ALL: (*Singing*) Not the one to do this job,

4 It's not the work God has for me.

5 Not the one to do this job,

6 Look and you will see.

7 Not the one to do this job,

8 It's not the work God has for me.

9 Not the one to do this job,

10 Look and you will see.

11

12 Verse 2:

13 ORION: (*Singing together*) Eight is our number,

14 All together.

15 More than the others,

16 We shine much better.

17 We cannot help you.

18 Orion are we.

19 Not fit to shine for Jesus.

20 Not fit to shine for Jesus.

21

22 (*Repeat chorus*)

23

24 SMALL STAR: All right, if you say so. (*CHOIR steps back.*

25 *ORION exits. TINY, WEE, and BABY STARS come back.*)

26 TINY STAR: Can you imagine gruff old Orion having such a

27 conscience?

28 BABY STAR: What are we going to do? Who else is there to

29 ask?

30 WEE STAR: There are thousands of other stars in the sky.

31 TINY STAR: But how do we choose?

32 LITTLE STAR: What about the Stars over Jerusalem?

33 They're used to guarding royalty.

34 WEE STAR: Oh, Little Star, you're so smart! That's the

35 perfect solution. (*Enter STARS OVER JERUSALEM, any*

36 *number, with various sized stars.*)

37 SMALL STAR: It's your turn to ask.

38 WEE STAR: All right. Here I go. Oh, Stars over Jerusalem,

1 may we talk to you?

2 **JERUSALEM STAR:** (*One speaks for GROUP.*) Why, you're so
3 small, your rays only go in one direction!

4 **WEE STAR:** We know we're small! That's why we've come to
5 you for help.

6 **JERUSALEM STAR:** What do you want?

7 **WEE STAR:** We'd like you to be an honor guard for a baby
8 who's going to be born in Bethlehem.

9 **JERUSALEM STAR:** Impossible! We only guard royalty.

10 **WEE STAR:** He's the Prince of Peace.

11 **JERUSALEM STAR:** We guard the representatives of the
12 Imperial Caesar.

13 **WEE STAR:** He's going to be the most important man in the
14 world when he grows up.

15 **JERUSALEM STAR:** If he were that important, he would be
16 born here in Jerusalem. Go away, little specks, and stop
17 bothering us. (*The STARS OF BETHLEHEM stay at Center*
18 *Stage while CHOIR and STARS OVER JERUSALEM come*
19 *forward for the song.*)

20

21 **SONG:** "Not the One," Verse 3

22 **Chorus:**

23 **ALL:** (*Singing*) Not the one to do this job,

24 It's not the work God has for me.

25 Not the one to do this job,

26 Look and you will see.

27 Not the one to do this job,

28 It's not the work God has for me.

29 Not the one to do this job,

30 Look and you will see.

31

32 **Verse 3:**

33 **STARS OVER JERUSALEM:** (*Singing*) We are important.

34 You are a bother.

35 We shine for kings

36 And simply no other.

37 We will not help you.

38 Leave us alone.

1 **We don't want to shine for Jesus.**

2 **We don't want to shine for Jesus.**

3

4 *(Repeat chorus)*

5

6 *(CHOIR steps back. STARS OVER JERUSALEM exit.)*

7 **SMALL STAR: I'm ashamed to admit that they're stars like**
8 **us.**

9 **TINY STAR: They're much more important than we are or**
10 **ever will be.**

11 **WEE STAR: There isn't much time left. Who else can we ask?**

12 **BABY STAR: What about our own Judean stars?**

13 **LITTLE STAR: I don't know. They're pretty busy.**

14 **BABY STAR: They wouldn't have to go far. And they'd**
15 **understand the importance of what has to be done.**

16 **TINY STAR: All we can do is ask. You ask. You're the**
17 **youngest. They won't refuse you. (STARS OVER JUDEA**
18 *enter.)*

19 **BABY STAR: Stars that shine over Judea, do you have a**
20 **minute?**

21 **JUDEAN STAR: (One speaks for GROUP.) We have all eternity.**

22 **BABY STAR: The baby Jesus is going to be born in**
23 **Bethlehem very soon now.**

24 **JUDEAN STAR: Yes, we know.**

25 **BABY STAR: He's the Son of God and should have a special**
26 **star to honor him.**

27 **JUDEAN STAR: That sounds like a good idea.**

28 **BABY STAR: Will you provide the honor star?**

29 **JUDEAN STAR: Us? We can't do anything like that.**

30 **BABY STAR: Why not?**

31 **JUDEAN STAR: We're old stars, set in our ways. We have**
32 **guided and comforted the shepherds of these hills for**
33 **generations. We can't change now.**

34 **BABY STAR: Why not?**

35 **JUDEAN STAR: We have our own job, and we do it well. If**
36 **you want somebody to do something out of the ordinary**
37 **like that, it should be some youngster. Young ones are**
38 **always willing to try something new. (The STARS OF**

1 *BETHLEHEM* stay at Center Stage while *CHOIR* and *STARS*
 2 *OVER JUDEA* come forward for the song.)

3

4 **SONG: “Not the One,” Verse 4**

5 **Chorus:**

6 **ALL:** (*Singing*) **Not the one to do this job,**

7 **It’s not the work God has for me.**

8 **Not the one to do this job,**

9 **Look and you will see.**

10 **Not the one to do this job,**

11 **It’s not the work God has for me.**

12 **Not the one to do this job,**

13 **Look and you will see.**

14

15 **Verse 4:**

16 **STARS OVER JUDEA:** (*Singing together*) **Judea is our home,**

17 **Lighting the night sky.**

18 **Helping the shepherds**

19 **For such a long time.**

20 **Set in our ways,**

21 **Too old to change.**

22 **Too old to shine for Jesus.**

23 **Too old to shine for Jesus.**

24

25 (*Repeat chorus*)

26

27 (*CHOIR steps back.*)

28 **BABY STAR:** But where can we find some young stars who
 29 can do it?

30 **JUDEAN STAR:** Ask the North Star. He knows everything.

31 **BABY STAR:** Oh, yes. He’s just the one to ask. Thank you.

32 (*STARS OVER JUDEA exit.*) **Did you hear that?**

33 **WEE STAR:** We should have thought of him ourselves.

34 (*POLARIS enters.*)

35 **LITTLE STAR:** Tiny Star, it’s your turn to ask.

36 **TINY STAR:** I’d be glad to. (*Sing-song voice*) Oh, Mr. Polaris!

37 **POLARIS:** Well, well, what are you Bethlehem stars doing up
 38 here at the North Pole?

1 TINY STAR: Mr. Polaris, we know you're the most important
2 star in the sky.

3 POLARIS: Flattery, flattery. You must want a favor.

4 TINY STAR: Yes, we do, but not for ourselves. We're looking
5 for a way to honor the baby Jesus, and we thought
6 maybe you'd come to Bethlehem and be his special star.

7 POLARIS: That would be an honor indeed, and I'd like to do
8 it, but I'm afraid I can't.

9 BABY STAR: Please, won't you think it over before you say
10 no?

11 POLARIS: I'm sorry, but there's just no way I could manage
12 it. All the travelers in the world use me as their
13 direction finder, and if I were to move, many ships
14 would flounder and many lives would be lost. And what
15 sort of honor would *that* be for the baby? (*The STARS OF*
16 *BETHLEHEM stay at Center Stage while POLARIS and*
17 *CHOIR come forward for the song.*)

18

19 SONG: "Not the One," Verse 5

20 Chorus:

21 ALL: (*Singing*) Not the one to do this job,

22 It's not the work God has for me.

23 Not the one to do this job,

24 Look and you will see.

25 Not the one to do this job,

26 It's not the work God has for me.

27 Not the one to do this job,

28 Look and you will see.

29

30 Verse 5:

31 POLARIS: (*Singing*) I am the North Star.

32 Set in the north sky.

33 Giving direction,

34 Guiding with my light.

35 I have a job

36 That I must do.

37 I cannot shine for Jesus.

38 I cannot shine for Jesus.

1 (Repeat chorus)

2

3 (CHOIR steps back.)

4 **SMALL STAR:** We didn't think of that!

5 **POLARIS:** Thank you for asking me. I'm honored that you
6 thought of me. Let me know if there's anything else I
7 can do to help.

8 **TINY STAR:** There is. You can help us find a star who will be
9 his special star. We've asked *everyone*, and they all said
10 no.

11 **POLARIS:** Whom have you asked?

12 **SMALL STAR:** We asked the Moon.

13 **LITTLE STAR:** But he said he wasn't a star.

14 **WEE STAR:** And we asked Orion.

15 **SMALL STAR:** He said he wasn't good enough.

16 **TINY STAR:** Next, we asked the Stars over Jerusalem.

17 **WEE STAR:** They said they were too important.

18 **LITTLE STAR:** So we asked the Stars over Judea.

19 **BABY:** And they said they were too old to change, and we
20 should ask you.

21 **TINY STAR:** And you have your own job to do.

22 **POLARIS:** I guess you'll just have to do it yourselves.

23 **BABY STAR:** But I'm too young. I don't even know how to
24 twinkle yet.

25 **WEE STAR:** And I'm too weak. My light might go out.

26 **TINY STAR:** And I'm too tiny. Nobody can see me.

27 **SMALL STAR:** My place in the sky is too inconspicuous. No
28 one will notice me.

29 **LITTLE STAR:** I'm too unimportant. Nobody will pay any
30 attention to me.

31 **POLARIS:** Maybe each of you alone is too small, but what
32 would happen if you'd all work together?

33 **LITTLE STARS:** *(Together)* We never thought of that!

34 **SMALL STAR:** Maybe we could do it.

35 **TINY STAR:** If we all really try our very best.

36 **WEE STAR:** Let's all try! *(LITTLE STAR, SMALL STAR, TINY*
37 *STAR, WEE STAR, and BABY STAR stand Stage Right*
38 *holding up their individual reflective triangles so they make a*



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