

# NATIVITY IDOL

*by Cathy Graham*



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# Nativity Idol

A Christmas comedy parody  
for youth groups

by Cathy Graham

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

6 females, 4 males, nonspeaking parts for young children

**PRUDENCE PEACOCK**

A nasty, condescending woman on a diet.  
As if she wasn't grouchy enough!

**BEA STING**

A has-been actress whose career never amounted  
to much in the first place.

**MISTY DAWN**

An aging hippie singer who probably attended  
Woodstock in her youth.

**EMCEE LES ISMORE**

A loudmouthed emcee who wears  
gaudy clothes.

**CANDY KANE**

A teen girl who is trying to break free from  
her mother's influence.

**STAGE MOTHER**

Pushy and overbearing, as stage moms usually are.

**ANGELA SWEET**

Happy, positive young teen who is almost  
too good to be true.

**EARL MCGILLICUTTY**

A simple country carpenter with great  
spirituality and vision.

**BABA BLACK**

A young man a little too obsessed  
with his iPod.

**BARTHOLOMEW SPROTT**

A scientist and intellectual.

**APPLAUSE SIGN HOLDERS**

Non-speaking roles for younger children.

*PRODUCTION NOTES*

**Costumes and Props**

**LES ISMORE** — Flashy suit that doesn't fit well, a loud tie that clashes with his suit. Microphone, handkerchief.

**PRUDENCE PEACOCK** — Dark pantsuit with jacket (very conservative and severe), reading glasses to wear on her nose so she can look down at everyone.

**BEA STING** — Shabby, faded dress or skirt that looks tight and outdated; gaudy jewelry.

**MISTY DAWN** — Long gray hair (could use wig or baby powder), long dress or skirt, with baggy sweater and loafers. Guitar, business cards, paper with Nativity story (copy on page 12).

**STAGE MOTHER** — Regular older woman's sensible clothes.

**CANDY KANE** — A Mary costume consisting of a choir gown or nightgown and headdress (a shawl or towel). Baby doll, baby-sitting certificate.

**EARL MCGILLICUTTY** — Joseph costume consisting of a bathrobe, cowboy or straw hat, and a tool belt to show he's a carpenter. Two battery-operated candles (carried in his tool belt), a book, business cards.

**BABA BLACK** — Shepherd costume consisting of a bathrobe, a towel and string for a headdress, and a shepherd's crook. iPod, stuffed toy sheep.

**ANGELA SWEET** — Angel costume consisting of a choir gown, wings, and toy harp (or print out a harp picture on paper and mount on cardboard). Air Miles card.

**BARTHOLOMEW SPROTT** — Wise man costume consisting of a scientist lab coat or shirt and tie (rumped scientist look) and a funny hat.

Two “Applause” signs for younger kids to hold — can make more depending on how many young children want to participate.

Piano or organ for musician to play carols for audience to sing along.

### **Set Design**

This set is very simple. You will need a table and three chairs for the Judges at stage right, six chairs for the waiting contestants and the Stage Mother at stage left, and Upstage center will have the crèche scene with a manger, which can be a wooden box or even a basket with a blanket in it. Contestants will go and sit or stand around it after they win their parts, gradually creating a Nativity tableau.

1           *(Scene opens with LES ISMORE coming out On-stage. KIDS*  
 2           *show applause signs.)*

3

4       **LES:** Hi, everyone! I'm your host, Les Ismore. Welcome to our  
 5       show, *Nativity Idol*. Today's show promises to be very  
 6       exciting. Contestants have been chosen from thousands  
 7       of hopefuls from all over the country. The chance for a  
 8       role in the Nativity play is the chance of a lifetime, and  
 9       it only happens once a year when we celebrate the joy of  
 10      Christ's birth. For this competition, not only do  
 11      contestants need to have talent, they also need to know  
 12      their characters. That's why we need your help, audience.  
 13      After the judges' questions and comments, you will have  
 14      the final say on whether you think the contestant is  
 15      worthy of the role or not. It's not a job to be taken lightly.  
 16      And now, allow me to introduce our esteemed judges.  
 17      First, on my far left is Prudence Peacock, a graduate  
 18      from the esteemed School of Negative Thinking.  
 19      Prudence Peacock is a book and movie critic and prides  
 20      herself on telling it like it is. Welcome, Prudence. *(KIDS*  
 21      *display applause signs.)*

22      **PRUDENCE:** I must start by saying that the only reason I'm  
 23      here is that I didn't have anything else booked. *(Shrugs.)*  
 24      A person needs to pay the rent, you know. By the way,  
 25      Les, I think that outfit you're wearing is the ugliest thing  
 26      I've ever seen. Did you get it from the reject bin at the  
 27      Salvation Army store? I'm pretty sure this show is going  
 28      to be a total flop, but other than that, I'm really happy  
 29      to be here.

30      **LES:** *(Looks flustered. Gets out handkerchief and mops sweaty face*  
 31      *and forehead.)* Well, er, um ... Thanks for your honesty,  
 32      Prudence. Now, where was I? Oh, yes. Our next judge is  
 33      the lovely Bea Sting. *(KIDS display applause signs.)* A great  
 34      actor, singer, and dancer in her own right, Bea has been  
 35      delighting audiences for years in her many roles. Can

1           you share with us about your latest project, Bea?

2   **BEA STING:** Thanks so much, Les. I'm very excited about my  
3           latest job. I get to play a singing carrot for a V-8  
4           commercial! At last I can put my online dancing and  
5           drama courses to good use.

6   **LES:** *(Puts on a fake smile showing his teeth.)* That sounds  
7           wonderful, Bea. We wish you well with it and look  
8           forward to seeing the commercial. Now last but not least  
9           we have Misty Dawn, the famous folk singer, as our  
10          judge. *(KIDS display applause signs.)* Misty sings and plays  
11          guitar at various venues throughout the area. Can you  
12          tell us a little about that, Misty?

13   **MISTY:** Sure thing, Les — I'd be happy to. I play guitar and  
14          sing for all kinds of events, both indoor and out. *(Whips*  
15          *out business card and hands one to all the JUDGES and LES.*  
16          *PRUDENCE looks at card, frowns, and throws it over her*  
17          *shoulder.)* I'm available for hire anytime, but I do charge  
18          double for playing in snowstorms and freezing rain. Give  
19          me a call anytime, twenty-four hours a day. *(Strums guitar*  
20          *which could be out of tune to make it sound awful.)*

21   **LES:** There you have it, folks — our esteemed judges. And  
22          now onto what you've all being waiting for. It's time for  
23          *Nativity Idol!* *(Younger KIDS raise applause signs.)* OK, our  
24          contestants are ready. Each contestant will answer  
25          questions from the judges, and then we will have the  
26          verdict from the audience. First up is our contestant  
27          Candy Kane, who's trying out for the role of Mary.  
28          *(Younger KIDS raise applause signs. CANDY KANE, a teen*  
29          *dressed in a Mary costume, enters. She carries a baby doll by*  
30          *its leg. Accompanying her is her MOTHER carrying the baby-*  
31          *sitting certificate. She is a typical stage mother, pushy and*  
32          *annoying.)*

33   **STAGE MOTHER:** *(To CANDY)* OK, Candy. Remember all the  
34          things I told you, and above all, keep smiling. *(STAGE*  
35          *MOTHER sits down close by so that she can shout comments*

1           *from her chair.*)

2     **BEA:** So Candy, what makes you think you can play Mary?

3     **STAGE MOTHER:** (*Jumps up from her chair.*) She has tons of  
4           experience baby-sitting, and she has a younger brother.  
5           Tell them, Candy. Go ahead.

6     **CANDY:** (*Rolls her eyes.*) It's OK, Mom. I can speak for myself.  
7           I just took the baby-sitting course, and I take care of the  
8           Baxter triplets, Bobby, Bart, and Billy. They're the worst  
9           brats ever, but the Baxters pay well. If I can do that, I  
10          would make a good Mary, 'cause she only has Jesus to  
11          take care of, and he's an infant, so he sleeps most of the  
12          time.

13    **PRUDENCE:** Look at how you're holding that doll. Do you  
14          think Mary would hold Jesus that way? Are you sure you  
15          took a baby-sitting course, or are you just lying to get the  
16          part?

17    **CANDY:** (*Looks ready to cry.*) Of course I took it. I don't tell lies.

18    **STAGE MOTHER:** (*Getting angry*) Look here, lady. (*Comes over*  
19          *to table and shows CANDY's baby-sitting certificate to*  
20          *PRUDENCE.*) My daughter has her baby-sitting  
21          certificate. She's better qualified than you to take care of  
22          children. Why, I wouldn't trust my pet rat with you.  
23          You're so cold and unfeeling.

24    **PRUDENCE:** (*Gets all flustered.*) Well, I never ...

25    **CANDY:** OK, Mom. Thanks. I'm OK, really. (*Takes deep breath,*  
26          *composes self, and picks up baby doll and cradles it in her*  
27          *arms.*) I can hold Jesus just the way Mary would. See?  
28          (*Shows her best Mother Mary pose.*)

29    **STAGE MOTHER:** (*Beaming and clapping hands together*) That's  
30          my girl!

31    **BEA:** Don't be so hard on the poor kid, Prudence. She's trying  
32          her best. That's very good, Candy. So how are you with  
33          barn animals? Can you handle cattle lowing, donkeys  
34          braying, that kind of thing?

35    **STAGE MOTHER:** (*Looks worried.*) Is the stable clean? Do you

1 use disinfectant? Do you want me to recommend a good  
2 brand? With all those nasty viruses around these days, I  
3 demand you disinfect. Candy's got allergies, you know. I  
4 don't want those dirty animals making her sick.

5 **BEA:** Don't worry, our stage crew will clean everything.

6 **CANDY:** Mom, relax. Let me speak for myself, OK? It's time  
7 to let go. I'm sixteen now. (*CANDY looks at JUDGES.*) In  
8 answer to your question, I just love animals. I want to  
9 have my own house in the country someday and raise  
10 horses.

11 **STAGE MOTHER:** (*Wrinkles nose.*) Eeeew, Candy dear. Horses  
12 are so unhygienic. And what about your dream to buy  
13 the house next door to me, marry a rich doctor, and raise  
14 lots of kids?

15 **CANDY:** That's *your* dream, Mom. Not mine. You have to let  
16 me live my life. (*STAGE MOTHER looks deflated and pouts.*)

17 **MISTY:** OK, moving right along. Candy, we need you to do a  
18 reading so you can familiarize yourself with the Nativity  
19 story. We want to hear your voice and assess your stage  
20 presence. We're going to ask each contestant to do the  
21 same, so it's nothing for you to get nervous about. (*Shows*  
22 *CANDY a paper with the Nativity story on it.*)

23 **CANDY:** Um, sure thing. (*Takes paper from MISTY and reads.*)  
24 About two thousand years ago, in the town of Nazareth,  
25 there lived a young woman named Mary. She was  
26 engaged to be married to Joseph, a carpenter. One day  
27 an angel appeared before her and told her she had been  
28 chosen to have a special baby. The baby would be God's  
29 son, and she must call him Jesus. Soon after the angel's  
30 visit, Mary and Joseph were married. Mary was due to  
31 have her baby when they were told they had to go on a  
32 long journey to Bethlehem, which was where Joseph  
33 came from. This was because they had to pay a special  
34 tax. Mary had to ride on a donkey for a few days over  
35 the hills of Galilee. (*Hands paper back to MISTY.*)

1 **STAGE MOTHER:** *(Practically in tears)* Isn't she absolutely  
 2 wonderful? *(Clutches hands together, bursting with pride.)*  
 3 That's my girl!

4 **LES:** *(Looking flustered, mops brow with handkerchief.)* Er, yes.  
 5 Good job, Candy. And there you have it. What do you  
 6 think, audience? Should Candy get to be our Mary?  
 7 *(Pauses.)* We'll find out after this commercial break. *(KIDS*  
 8 *hold up applause signs. LES and CANDY have a seat.*  
 9 *Musician plays "Away in a Manger" as congregation sings*  
 10 *along. After the song, LES and CANDY resume their places.)*  
 11 Welcome back. OK, the audience has voted, and we have  
 12 a final decision. *(Pauses for effect.)* Congratulations,  
 13 Candy. You are our new Mary. *(KIDS show applause signs.*  
 14 *CANDY jumps up and down and squeals with delight. STAGE*  
 15 *MOTHER rushes over and hugs CANDY and they both jump*  
 16 *up and down, squealing.)* OK, Candy. You and your mother  
 17 can sit down so we can carry on. *(CANDY sits down in the*  
 18 *crèche scene as Mary and STAGE MOTHER goes back to her*  
 19 *chair.)* Next up we have Earl McGillicutty, trying out for  
 20 the role of Joseph. *(EARL comes in wearing a Joseph*  
 21 *costume, complete with straw hat and tool belt. He is a country*  
 22 *bumpkin character, but he's wholesome and honest.)*

23 **PRUDENCE:** So, Mr. McGillicutty, why do you think you  
 24 would make a good Joseph? You don't seem suited for  
 25 the role at all. You're going to have to work hard to  
 26 prove yourself to me.

27 **EARL:** You should relax more, gal. You're way too uptight. I  
 28 know some great spiritual meditation exercises. Here,  
 29 read this book. *(Tosses a book at PRUDENCE who glances*  
 30 *at it, shrugs, and throws it over her shoulder in disgust.)* First  
 31 of all, let me introduce myself. I'm a carpenter by trade,  
 32 but I dabble in holistic healing and yoga on the side.  
 33 Here's my card. *(Passes it out to everyone. PRUDENCE takes*  
 34 *it and throws it over her shoulder.)*

35 **BEA:** So how do you feel about being a father?

1 EARL: Oh, I love kids. I have three boys of my own. They're  
2 great.

3 MISTY: Do you think you can handle the responsibility of  
4 Jesus' birth in a stable in the middle of nowhere? Mary  
5 will be counting on you.

6 EARL: Oh, sure. I was there for all three of my sons' births.  
7 I still can't understand why my wife was so grouchy,  
8 though. She kept shouting at me to get out of the  
9 room — and the language! Well, I can't repeat it here.

10 BEA: If only men could experience a labor pain just once.

11 MISTY: Have you had kids?

12 BEA: Me? You must be joking. I can't even tolerate a  
13 hangnail. But I have heard that the pain is brutal.

14 MISTY: OK, Earl. Here is your reading. Just take your time.  
15 *(Hands him the reading of the Nativity story.)*

16 EARL: Why, sure thing. Be glad to. *(Takes paper and begins to*  
17 *read where CANDY left off.)* At last Mary and Joseph  
18 arrived in Bethlehem. It was crowded with other people  
19 who needed to pay their taxes. Mary was very tired and  
20 needed a place to stay. At each inn, the story was the  
21 same: There was no room for them. Eventually, one kind  
22 innkeeper said he had a stable where he kept his  
23 animals. They were welcome to stay there. And so it was  
24 that a few hours later, Mary gave birth to her son in that  
25 stable. She wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth and laid him  
26 in a manger full of hay. *(Gives paper back to MISTY.)*

27 LES: OK, thank you, Earl. Well done. Moving right along.  
28 What do you think, audience? Is he our Joseph?

29 PRUDENCE: Isn't it time for a commercial break? I'm on a  
30 special diet and have to eat every three hours or I get  
31 really grouchy. It's been two hours and thirty-three  
32 minutes already. You don't want me getting *really*  
33 grouchy, do you? *(Frowns at LES.)*

34 LES: No, of course not. *(Looks nervous. Mops sweating brow with*  
35 *handkerchief. Shouts Off-stage.)* Hear that, Stage Crew? Get

1 Prudence a snack as soon as possible. Whatever she  
 2 wants. Spare no expense. (*Mops brow again.*) And we'll  
 3 find out if Earl is our Joseph after this next commercial  
 4 break. (*KIDS show applause signs. LES and EARL take a*  
 5 *seat. Musician plays "Silent Night" as congregation sings along.*  
 6 *After the song, LES and EARL resume their places.*) Welcome  
 7 back, ladies and gentlemen. Well, the votes are in.  
 8 (*Pauses for effect.*) Congratulations, Earl! You are our new  
 9 Joseph. (*KIDS show applause signs. EARL gives LES a high*  
 10 *five and crosses over to sit beside MARY in the crèche scene set*  
 11 *up at Center Stage.*) Next up is our contestant for the role  
 12 of the shepherd here on *Nativity Idol*. Here is Baba Black!  
 13 (*BABA BLACK walks in carrying a stuffed sheep and boogying*  
 14 *to his iPod.*)

15 PRUDENCE: Excuse me, Mr. Black. Are you with us? This is  
 16 an audition here.

17 BABA: Sorry. (*Takes out headphones.*) What do you want to  
 18 know?

19 BEA: What made you want to audition for the role of the  
 20 shepherd? You don't look very interested.

21 BABA: Oh, I am, I am. Well, to start with, I like hiking with  
 22 my friends in the great outdoors, and I do like sheep.

23 PRUDENCE: What's so fascinating about sheep? I think  
 24 they're pretty boring myself, unless they're cut up on my  
 25 plate smothered in mint sauce.

26 BABA: I don't know, exactly. I've always liked sheep. I've  
 27 liked them ever since I was little and first heard "Mary  
 28 Had a Little Lamb" and "Baa Baa Black Sheep." I still  
 29 like to count sheep to get to sleep each night, I like a  
 30 good wool sweater, and I want to have my own sheep  
 31 farm someday.

32 MISTY: So how are you at finding your way in the dark? The  
 33 shepherds didn't have any streetlights in the fields years  
 34 ago.

35 BABA: No problem. (*Holds up iPod.*) This iPod has its own

1           **built-in GPS system.**

2   **BEA: Amazing! And to think in the old days, they had nothing**  
3           **to guide them.**

4   **BABA: That's not true. What about the star that guided the**  
5           **wise men to the stable?**

6   **MISTY: You're a smart guy, Baba. Glad to see all that listening**  
7           **to iPods hasn't fried your brain. Now if you'd do this**  
8           **reading, please. (*Hands the Nativity story reading to BABA.*)**

9   **BABA: At the same time, on a hillside overlooking Bethlehem,**  
10           **some shepherds were watching over their sheep. A bright**  
11           **light appeared in the sky. They were very afraid. It was**  
12           **an angel sent by God. The angel told them not to be**  
13           **afraid, because he had some good news. He said the Son**  
14           **of God had been born, and they would find him in**  
15           **Bethlehem. The shepherds wanted to go and see the**  
16           **baby. When they arrived at the stable, they were filled**  
17           **with joy at seeing Jesus lying in the manger. They knelt**  
18           **down and worshiped him. They told Mary and Joseph**  
19           **how the angel had appeared in the sky and announced**  
20           **that Jesus was to be the Savior of the world. (*Hands paper***  
21           ***back to MISTY.*)**

22   **LES: What do you think, audience? Does he deserve to be a**  
23           **shepherd? We'll find out in a moment. Stay tuned. (*KIDS***  
24           ***show applause signs. LES and BABA have a seat. Musician***  
25           ***plays "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" as congregation***  
26           ***sings along. After the song, LES and BABA resume their***  
27           ***places.*) So audience, the votes are in. (*Pauses.*) **You have****  
28           **voted for Baba as our shepherd. Congratulations, Baba.**  
29           **(*KIDS show applause signs. BABA has his iPod on again and***  
30           ***is lost in his music.*) Oh, Baba ... (*LES taps BABA on the***  
31           ***shoulder, and BABA jumps in surprise.*)**

32   **BABA: What? What?**

33   **LES: You got the part of the shepherd. Congratulations!**

34   **BABA: I did? Woo-hoo! (*Jumps up and down. KIDS show***  
35           ***applause signs. BABA bows to the audience while they clap,***

- 1           *and he crosses to join the crèche scene. Plugs in iPod again.)*
- 2   **LES:** Next up we have Angela Sweet, trying out for the angel
- 3           part. (*ANGELA comes in carrying a harp and dancing. She is*
- 4           *singing "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" to herself.)*
- 5   **PRUDENCE:** (*Covers ears.*) Stop that noise! I hope your harp
- 6           playing is better than your singing.
- 7   **ANGELA:** (*Takes a deep breath and stands proudly.*) As a matter
- 8           of fact, I've been taking lessons.
- 9   **BEA:** That's great, Angela. Nice to see you so enthused about
- 10          the part.
- 11   **PRUDENCE:** She may be able to play harp, but there's much
- 12          more to being an angel than just that. What about the
- 13          flying? What are your qualifications?
- 14   **ANGELA:** I have my pilot's wings, and I've got something
- 15          even better than that. (*Pulls out card and shows everyone.*)
- 16          Here's my Air Miles card.
- 17   **MISTY and BEA:** (*Together*) Impressive.
- 18   **MISTY:** In fact, I'm so impressed with her qualifications, I'm
- 19          not even going to make her do a reading.
- 20   **PRUDENCE:** Hmph. Doesn't take much to impress you two.
- 21   **BEA:** Oh, lighten up, Prudence. You're going to give yourself
- 22          a heart attack.
- 23   **MISTY:** Yeah, Prudence. Quit being such a drudge!
- 24   **EARL:** (*Picks up the book that PRUDENCE threw on the floor. He*
- 25          *flips it open and hands it to PRUDENCE.*) I recommend
- 26          page twenty-four. Try the meditation with the deep
- 27          breathing exercises. You'll feel like a new woman, I
- 28          guarantee it.
- 29   **PRUDENCE:** (*Throws book down again.*) I don't need this
- 30          aggravation. That does it! I'm leaving. (*Gets up and*
- 31          *prepares to leave.*)
- 32   **LES:** Now, Prudence. Don't be hasty. Remember your
- 33          contract. Besides, the show is almost over. Can't you
- 34          wait? (*PRUDENCE sits down again with an angry look on her*
- 35          *face and crosses her arms. Wise man character*

- 1           *BARTHOLOMEW SPROTT enters.*
- 2 **BARTHOLOMEW:** Is it my turn yet?
- 3 **LES:** Just a moment, Bartholomew. Go sit down, and we'll call  
4           you in a moment. Thank you for being so patient.
- 5 **ANGELA:** *(Getting angry)* But what about me? Did I get the  
6           angel part or not? Just what kind of show is this,  
7           anyhow?
- 8 **LES:** *(Looks nervous and mops forehead again.)* I think it's time  
9           for another commercial break. *(KIDS show applause signs.*  
10           *LES and ANGELA take a seat. Musician plays "Angels We*  
11           *Have Heard on High" as congregation sings along. LES and*  
12           *ANGELA resume their places.)*
- 13 **LES:** And we're back, ladies and gentlemen. The vote is in,  
14           and I'm happy to say that yes, *(Pauses)* Angela is our  
15           angel on *Nativity Idol*. *(KIDS hold applause signs. ANGELA*  
16           *jumps up and down with excitement and crosses to join the*  
17           *crèche scene.)* And now we have our next contestant,  
18           Bartholomew Sprott, waiting to try out for the part of the  
19           wise man.
- 20 **BARTHOLOMEW:** *(Stands.)* Hi, Les.
- 21 **BEA:** Hey, why aren't there three wise men? Didn't the  
22           original Nativity story have three?
- 23 **LES:** *(LES takes BEA aside and talks in a low voice.)* These are  
24           tough times, Bea. We decided we could only afford to  
25           hire one wise man this year.
- 26 **PRUDENCE:** Hey, what are you whispering about? You'd  
27           better not be talking about me.
- 28 **MISTY:** So, Bartholomew ... How do you feel about traveling  
29           long distances by camel?
- 30 **BARTHOLOMEW:** It doesn't bother me. I like to read my  
31           quantum physics books on long trips. I can't do it too  
32           much, though. I get motion sickness, especially on  
33           camels.
- 34 **BEA:** Quantum physics, eh? You do sound wise, Bartholomew.  
35           Tell us more about yourself.

- 1     **BARTHOLOMEW:** I have my Ph.D. in mathematics, medicine,  
2             and computer science.
- 3     **MISTY:** If you have all those qualifications, why are you  
4             trying to get a job as an actor in a play that doesn't even  
5             pay well?
- 6     **BARTHOLOMEW:** I'm in between research jobs at the  
7             moment. I thought it would be fun for a change of pace.
- 8     **PRUDENCE:** OK, wise guy. If you're so wise, prove it to me.  
9             Tell me what frankincense and myrrh are.
- 10    **BEA:** I've always wondered that myself.
- 11    **BARTHOLOMEW:** Frankincense and myrrh are both resins,  
12             which means dried tree sap. They both come from trees  
13             of the genus *Boswellia* (frankincense) and *Commiphora*  
14             (myrrh), which are common to Somalia. Back in the time  
15             of the three wise men and today, frankincense and myrrh  
16             are commonly used to create incense, which is like a  
17             strong perfume.
- 18    **MISTY:** Very interesting, Bartholomew. Thanks for sharing  
19             that with us. And now, if you'd be so kind as to do your  
20             reading ... *(Hands him the paper.)*
- 21    **BARTHOLOMEW:** Sure thing. Far away in the East, wise men  
22             saw a new star shining high in the sky. These men  
23             studied the stars, and they knew this was a very special  
24             one. They knew from reading their scrolls that whenever  
25             a bright new star appeared, it meant that a great ruler  
26             had been born. The wise men set off to find the baby.  
27             They were guided by the star to the stable in Bethlehem.  
28             There they knelt down and worshiped Jesus. They gave  
29             him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 30    **LES:** What do you think, audience? Should Bartholomew be  
31             our wise man? Let's have one more commercial and give  
32             the audience time to decide. *(KIDS show applause signs.*  
33             *LES and BARTHOLOMEW take a seat. Musician plays "The*  
34             *First Noel" and congregation sings along. After the song, LES*  
35             *and BARTHOLOMEW resume their places.)*



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