

Christmas Drive Thru Character Script

CHARACTER: Shepherd Boy

***Narrator:** Hi! Welcome to Drive Thru Christmas! We are so excited that you have chosen to come on this journey with us. My friend has so much to show and tell you! They will be here in just a second...but before I introduce you to them, here are a few quick things to know about your trip!*

- 1) Drive slowly around the parking lot area, listening to the audio and viewing the scenes as you go.*
- 2) Each banner has a hidden star...see if you can find them all.*
- 3) Oh, and you may want to turn your headlights off...but don't forget to turn them on when you leave!*
- 4) I hear your tour guide coming...enjoy the journey!*

Introduction

Hi! My name is Caleb. I'm 10 years old. I live in a town called Bethlehem. Most of the time, I'm with my father, helping him with his work. He takes care of sheep and makes sure they are fed and safe from wolves. He's a shepherd. And he counts on me to help him, so I guess that makes me a shepherd, too!

I love tending the sheep with my father. I love to run around on the soft grass on the hill and feel the wind that shakes up the pine trees. Then my father will call to me, "Boy, are you working? Or are you playing?" And I will say, "I'm working, Papa, I'm working!" It is fun to be a shepherd. Well, I guess you came to hear about the story of Jesus' birth...let's get started!

Scene 1: Creation

One day I asked my father, "Why does the wind blow and shake up the trees? How do the sheep get big wooly coats? Why don't we have wooly coats, since we're out here in the cold, too?"

Father laughed. He said he didn't have all the answers. But he could tell me how the wind and the trees and the sheep came to be long ago. He told me that in the beginning, before anything, there was God. God made this beautiful world all by himself—the trees, the grass, the wind, the sheep, and even people. The first two people were named Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden and everything was perfect. There wasn't any danger of nasty wolves coming around to try to eat the sheep. Adam and Eve never argued or got angry with each other like sometimes families do now. Then everything changed. "What happened, Papa? What happened?" I asked my father.

He said that Adam and Eve decided to disobey God. They did something He had told them not to do. Like me, when I keep playing after my father asks me to come and help him. Because Adam and Eve decided not to listen to God they weren't perfect anymore. They started arguing, like my family does sometimes.

They started doing whatever they wanted to do, not what God wanted them to do.

“But,” Father said, “listen closely because this is very, very important.” God had a plan to make people perfect again. He was going to send a Savior to us. Somebody who would save us from everything bad just like father saves a helpless little just born sheep from a wolf that wants to eat it. And everybody was waiting for this Savior, starting with Adam and Eve. Everybody waiting, and waiting all those many, many years.

Scene 2: Angel to Mary

Everyone waited many years. And you know what? The Savior finally came!! I saw the Savior, the one who God said he would send those many years ago. My father saw him, too! And I'm going to tell you all about it....

Everything started in another town, a town far away from Bethlehem where I live. This town is called Nazareth. I wasn't there in Nazareth, but my Father told me later what happened.

God had everything planned out about the Savior. He decided that the Savior would come to us from heaven as a little baby. He chose a woman named Mary to be the baby's mother. Now he needed to tell Mary that she would have this very special baby. The baby would be the Savior that everyone has been waiting for!

Father said that such a special message needed a special messenger. And guess who came to tell Mary about the Savior? An angel! Mary was scared at first, but the angel said to her, “Don't be afraid.” Then the angel told her that she was going to have a baby, and this baby was the Savior. Mary wasn't scared anymore. She told the angel that she was ready to do what God wanted. And God wanted her to be the mother of the Savior, a baby named Jesus!

Scene 3: Caesar's Decree

Mary and her husband Joseph would be coming to my town of Bethlehem, with lots and lots of other people visiting, too. Father said it would be very busy because Caesar, the big king in Rome, decided that the government had to count all the people everywhere, in all the lands that he rules over. Caesar is the king, and he lives far, far away from Bethlehem, in a huge palace in a city called Rome. Father says that he's not just the richest man in the world, he's the most powerful. So when he tells people to do something, they do it! And Caesar wanted everybody to go back to the town where their family was from in order for his own soldiers to count everybody and write them down for his records.

Father said that Caesar doesn't just want to count everybody to know how many people he rules over. He wants people to pay taxes. Father said Caesar wants to squeeze more money out of poor folks like him so Caesar can build

more marble bathtubs for his palace. Father does *not* like Caesar, and he was *not* happy that more of Caesar's soldiers and tax collectors were in town to count the people.

The one thing he was happy about was that we didn't have to travel, because our family has always lived in Bethlehem. But Mary and Joseph had to travel all that long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted. After traveling a week they finally made it to Bethlehem safe and sound, just in time since Mary was about to have the baby.

Scene 4: Shepherds

Now is the best, most exciting part. This is the part that my father and I saw ourselves, with our own eyes, the part that I will never forget! All the people were still in Bethlehem being counted for Caesar's records. Father and I are up on the hill outside Bethlehem, tending the sheep. The sun is going down and it's getting cold. We make our fire and sit down. I watch the stars come out. It gets dark, very dark. I look up into the huge, black sky with bright pricks of light from the stars, and my eyes start getting heavy and closing.

Suddenly I hear a gasp and my eyes open. I see an amazing angel with clothes so bright white they hurt my eyes. My legs start shaking. My father falls to his knees and says in a shaky voice, almost crying, "God, save us!" Then I got really scared, the most scared I've ever been.

The amazing man speaks! He says, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy." The man says that the Savior has been born! Then as soon as the man stops speaking, the most amazing thing of all happens. Suddenly we see the sky light up with more men in shining clothes! More, and more, and more—nobody could ever count that high! They light up the whole sky, like the sun coming up in the morning. They start singing. The sound of their voices fills up the whole night—maybe even the whole world.

Then they all vanish, just like that. All the shepherds are shouting and they all start running! "Come, on boy!" my father shouts to me, and he's laughing! "Hurry boy! We're going to see the Savior!"

Scene 5: Nativity

All the shepherds finally stop in front of a little wood building. My father puts me down, because he had to carry me the last little bit; it was a long way into Bethlehem. "Is this it?" I ask father. "It looks like just a barn where a farmer keeps his animals." "Yes, it is a stable," my father says. "It is in just such a place that the angel told us we would find the Savior."

We walk in, and it's dark. I hear and smell animals. Then I see something amazing. There is a man and a woman, and a baby! The baby is all wrapped up tight and tucked in the manger, where they put the animals' food. The man and woman are Mary and Joseph, and the baby is the Savior that God said would come! We all start talking at once, about the angels coming to us in the field. My

father walks up to the baby, and says, "Now we see that it is all true, and the Savior is here with us." "Boy," he said to me, "Come and see the one who will save us, our king." Father kneels down in front of the manger. I kneel down next to him. I can see that my father is crying. I don't understand everything. It is just a tiny baby in front of me. But I believe that somehow what dad said is true. THIS baby is our Savior, the one God promised long ago. The one who would come to earth to save us from our sins so we can live in heaven with God one day! This tiny baby *will* save us just like we save the sheep from wolves. I will never forget that night!

Scene 6: Wise men

Later on, more people came to see the Savior, who was named Jesus. We didn't know it, but after that night when the angels sang and we ran to see Jesus, a group of very important men started a long, long journey to see him, too. They were very wise men from another country who studied old books. They knew all about the sky and how all the stars move across it. The night that Jesus was born, they saw a different star shining in the sky. They knew from the books they had read what this new star meant. It meant that the Savior was born!

These wise men started on their long trip. They traveled through the hot desert. They traveled across great rivers. They climbed over high mountains, always following this new star. This trip took months! Finally, they came to my town, Bethlehem, to see the Savior. And do you know how they found Mary and Joseph and Jesus? They stopped to ask King Herod, but he did not know Jesus was born! Prophets wrote he was to be born in Bethlehem, so the wise man continued on their way. The star that they were following for all those weeks and weeks stopped right above the place where Jesus was.

They were so happy, just like my father and I were the night Jesus was born. These wise men came and bowed down in front of Jesus, and then they gave him very expensive gifts. The gifts showed how important they thought Jesus was. I said to Father that I felt bad that we didn't have any expensive gifts to give Jesus. Father said not to worry about that. He said the Savior loves rich, important people like the wise men, and poor shepherding families like ours all the same. He loves people who grew up right here in Bethlehem, like me, and people from other countries far away.

Sometimes, when I'm up on the hill watching the sheep with Father, I think about that night when the angels filled up the sky and we ran to see the Savior. I just think of all the years that everyone waited and waited, and finally, that night, he came! I am so thankful that the waiting is over and the best Christmas gift of all was given. God gave his son Jesus to you and me to forgive us when we make mistakes and to live perfectly for us so can live safely in Jesus arms forever! Jesus is the best gift ever!

Narrator:

Congratulations, you have now completed your Drive Thru Christmas Experience! Thank you for going on this journey with us! We pray that you have been blessed by your time here. You are welcome to come back and go through as another character anytime you want!

One more special note I don't want to forget! You are invited to join us for worship online or in person on Christmas Eve

God bless your Christmas preparations and may your celebrations be filled with joy and peace as we praise God for the greatest gift of all – His Son Jesus Christ! Thank you for visiting the Christmas Drive Thru and Merry Christmas!