

Massachusetts James and the Quest for the Christmas Treasure

CAST

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES
 TIMOTHY
 SARAH
 TWO THUGS (non-speaking roles)
 THREE SHEPHERDS
 SHEEP (non-speaking roles for small children)
 ANGEL OF THE LORD
 ANGELS
 The Holy Family (non-speaking roles)
 MARY
 JOSEPH
 JESUS

Props Needed:

Curtain depicting the night sky of Bethlehem
 Bible
 Cardboard or plastic bricks
 Costumes for MASSACHUSETTS, TIMOTHY and SARAH
 (such as khaki shorts, wide brimmed hats, etc.)
 Reading glasses for SARAH
 Costumes for the TWO THUGS (such as ski masks)
 SHEPHERD'S costumes and staffs
 Costumes for MARY, JOSEPH and JESUS
 SHEEP costumes (optional)
 ANGEL costumes
 Portable GPS device (or something that looks like one)

Setting:

Time: alternates between the past and the present.

Place: the stage area is in the past, during the time of Jesus' birth during the narration of the Christmas story from the Bible, and the floor and rest of the room is set in the present time.

Near the stage is a wall of bricks. On the stage is a curtain depicting the night sky of Bethlehem, with space behind for characters to remain backstage. The SHEPHERDS and the HOLY FAMILY will appear from behind the curtain; the ANGELS can appear either on the stage, in another corner of the room, or on a balcony, if there is one.

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES, TIMOTHY AND SARAH are dressed like modern-day archaeological explorers.

Scene 1

An adventurous theme song begins to play, as MASSACHUSETTS JAMES, TIMOTHY AND SARAH enter from the rear (or side) of the room. MASSACHUSETTS JAMES has a portable GPS in his hand. They walk slowly towards the brick wall, stopping to search on the floor, looking up above, and checking the reading on the GPS.

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

It's here, I can almost feel it!

TIMOTHY

(sighing heavily) Mr. James, where have you taken us now?

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

(sounding frustrated) For the last time, Timothy, we're in the ancient city of Bethlehem, looking for the Christmas Treasure!

SARAH

Massachusetts James, you've taken us all over the world, but never to a place like this! Are you sure it's here?

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Of course, I'm positive Sarah. Everyone knows Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a manger, right? So we've just got to find the right spot, which our trusty GPS will help us find!

TIMOTHY

And that's where the treasure will be?

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Treasure-hunters have been looking for the Christmas Treasure for centuries, but we will be the first to find it, my friends! But we must beware—there are others searching for the treasure also!

SARAH

What exactly is this treasure?

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Frankincense, myrrh, and...*(pauses while looking at the GPS in front of the brick wall)* gold! It must be right here!

TIMOTHY

What are we waiting for then? Start searching!

(MASSACHUSETTS JAMES, SARAH and TIMOTHY start pulling down bricks from the top of the wall).

SARAH

I've found something! Look, look!

(SARAH pulls out an old Bible from the brick wall)

(Musical interlude; EVERYONE sings the first verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem)

Scene 2

TIMOTHY

What is that? That doesn't look like frankincense, myrrh or gold!

SARAH

I think this is really important, Timothy. I think this can help us find the treasure!

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Sarah, I think there may be a passage in there that might help us!

SARAH

(opens the Bible, puts on reading glasses, and reads from the Gospel of Matthew) In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem.

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

(smacks his own head in disbelief) Of course! Jerusalem, not Bethlehem—the Wise Men came to Jerusalem!

TIMOTHY

What? You mean the treasure isn't here?

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

No, Timothy, it's not here. It must be in Jerusalem then.

SARAH

I should read on... there may be more important clues here!

TIMOTHY

Oh, well, in that case... *(the doors to the room are shut hard by the TWO THUGS who were waiting outside)*. I'll be taking that book of clues, Sarah! *(takes the Bible from SARAH's hands)*

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Timothy! What are you doing?

(the TWO THUGS join TIMOTHY down in front, with their arms folded across their chest).

TIMOTHY

Massachusetts James, I want that treasure, and I want it for myself! So I'll take this book of clues and be on my way. Enjoy eternity trapped in this ancient building!

(TIMOTHY and the TWO THUGS escape with the BIBLE out of the room)

SARAH

Now what are we going to do, Massachusetts? *(pauses as she watches MASSACHUSETTS JAMES, posed as if he is thinking hard)* Massachusetts?

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Sorry, I was just trying to think of an escape plan. But I've got nothing.

SARAH

(Stands by MASSACHUSETTS) I think Timothy has it wrong. I don't think going to Jerusalem is going to get him any closer to the treasure. Because it's not what he thinks it is.

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Really? What do you mean?

SARAH

You see, I know that book of clues. It's the Bible, and I've read it before. Do you know the whole story of the Christmas Treasure?

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

No, I don't know the whole story. Tell me.

(Musical interlude; EVERYONE sings the first verse of Away in a Manger)

Scene 3

(the SHEPHERDS move out onto the stage in front of the curtain)

SARAH

Long ago, in those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Joseph came from the town of Nazareth to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from David. Mary also came with him, who he was engaged to and was expecting his child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SHEPHERD #1

In that region, we were keeping watch over our flocks by night.

SHEPHERD #2

Then an angel of the Lord stood before us, and the glory of the Lord shown around us, and we were terrified!

SHEPHERD #3

But the angel said to us,

(ANGEL OF THE LORD appears)

ANGEL OF THE LORD

Do not be afraid! For see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

(more ANGELS appear with the ANGEL OF THE LORD)

SHEPHERD #1

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

ANGELS

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace!

(ANGELS disappear)

SHEPHERD #2

Then the angels left and went to heaven, and we said to each other,

SHEPHERD #3

Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place!

(SHEPHERDS pull back the curtain to reveal the HOLY FAMILY)

SARAH

So they went as fast as they could and they found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and everyone was amazed. But Mary **treasured** all these words and pondered them in her heart.

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

That's the Christmas Treasure isn't it? This little child who came for the world!

SARAH

It's not just this little baby, but all the words that have been said about him. Mary treasured all those words and pondered them in her heart. And we have so many of those words right here, in this book.

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Then we had found the treasure after all!

(TIMOTHY and TWO THUGS come back into the room)

TIMOTHY

You knew it, didn't you, Sarah? This was the treasure after all!

(TIMOTHY and TWO THUGS come up near SARAH and MASSACHUSETTS JAMES)

I am sorry we took the book from you and left you here. I had no idea that the Christmas Treasure wasn't about things, but about a child born for us, and all these wonderful words that have been spoken about him! I didn't know until I started reading what the true Christmas Treasure was!

SARAH

It's a treasure we can all share together! Timothy, we forgive you.

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

How about we go from this place and share this treasure with everyone?

TIMOTHY

Sounds like a good idea!

MASSACHUSETTS JAMES

Let us share the Good News—Christmas isn't about treasures like gold or presents that cost money, but about God's love for us that came in Jesus the Christ.

TIMOTHY AND SARAH

Amen!

(EVERYONE sings the first verse of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)