



(2 Scientists in lab coats & clipboards enter the stage)

S1: Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen. We are so very pleased that you have chosen to join us for this presentation of "Stories of the Savior".

S2: My colleague and I have been discussing the birth of Jesus and we have decided that it doesn't really start in the New Testament.

S1: (nodding in approval) Quite right. You see, it started at the beginning.

S2: So that is where our presentation is going to begin.... (pause) at the beginning.

S1: Yes, at creation, to be exact.

S2: You may be wondering, what does the birth of Jesus have to do with creation?

Declan: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

Anna: And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14



Song - 7 Days of Creation

(Days of Creation sign holders enter as their day is mentioned and hold up their signs as their day is mentioned throughout the song)

S1: Well, that was terrific!

S2: And very familiar! Hmm (holding finger to face thinking)

S1: I would like to back up, just a bit, though. I want to talk specifically about the people who were created on the 6th day of Creation.



(Adam and Eve PowerPoint)

S2: Yes, of course. Adam and Eve.

Klayton: Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

Shalynda: And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man. Genesis 2:22

S1: You may ask why do we bring them up in a Christmas presentation?

S2: Yes, why ARE you bringing them up?

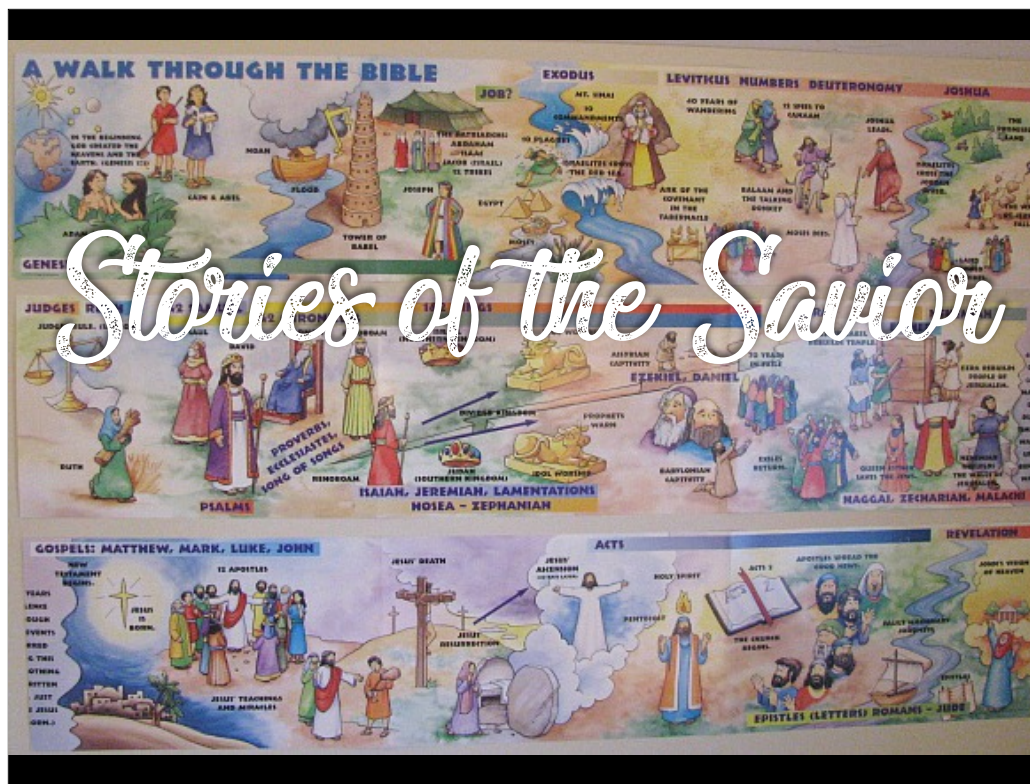
S1: Well, it all started with them. They are the first story of the Savior.

Tim: When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:6

Amelia: And they heard the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid; so, I hid myself." And He said, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and ate." Genesis 3: 8-13

S2: Sounds like the "blame game" to me.

S1: Yes, but by their disobedience, the human race now needed a Savior. That's why we wanted to do this presentation today.



2: Our presentation is called "Stories of the Savior" because we are telling about different people in the Bible and their story of the Savior.

(Chart appears on screen showing Creation, Adam & Eve, and Noah)

S1: Exactly! I have this chart that can help us along the way.

S2: Wow, SO SWANK!

S1: I know. (Acting proud)

S2: So, who's next?



(Ark presentation) (enter Noah) with Hammer- Beard

S1: Noah

Declan: Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. And the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:5-8

S2: How does Noah have a story of the Savior?

Anna: For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so, shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Matthew 24:37-39

Klayton: For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also he went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:18-21

S2: So, Adam and Eve have a story, and so does Noah. Who else?

(Exit Noah) (enter Abraham)



(PowerPoint Abraham and stars)

S1: We are going to move on to Abraham.

S2: So, what was Abraham's story of the Savior?

Shalynda: And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because you have obeyed My voice. Genesis 22:18

Tim: And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:29

Amelia: The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matthew 1:1

S1: Jesus came from the blood line of Abraham.

S2: So, Abraham was Jesus' great, great, great, great, great, (counts on fingers, then pauses) really great grandpa.

S1: I guess you could say it like that.

(Exit Abraham)



(enter David) King or shepherd

(powerpoint of?

S2: But they also said that Jesus came from David. Should we go on to him next?

Declan: He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will." From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus. Acts 13:22-23

S2: Jesus came from the line of David.

S1: And that leads us up to the actual birth of Jesus.

S2: We skipped a lot of people in the Bible who have stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus.

S1: Yes, but if we showed every one of them, we would maybe still be presenting them until Jesus came the second time. So, we decided just to show a few.

S2: That makes sense. I would probably get hungry.

S1: We are going to move on to the people who had a personal story of the Savior.

S2: There are many people who have stories that directly relate to the birth of Jesus.

(Exit David) (enter Mary & Gabriel)



Shalynda: O Come O Come Emmanuel



PP Mary's house (Mary's sewing)

S1: Let's start with Mary's story. She is the best place to start when we're discussing the actual birth of Jesus.

S2: Her story was a deeply personal one.

Anna: Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at this statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. Luke 1:26-29

Klayton: And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." Luke 1:30-33

(Gabriel & Mary sits on the side of stage)



(enter Zacharias)

S1: Mary's story starts with her being told that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Savior.

S2: That truly is an amazing story.

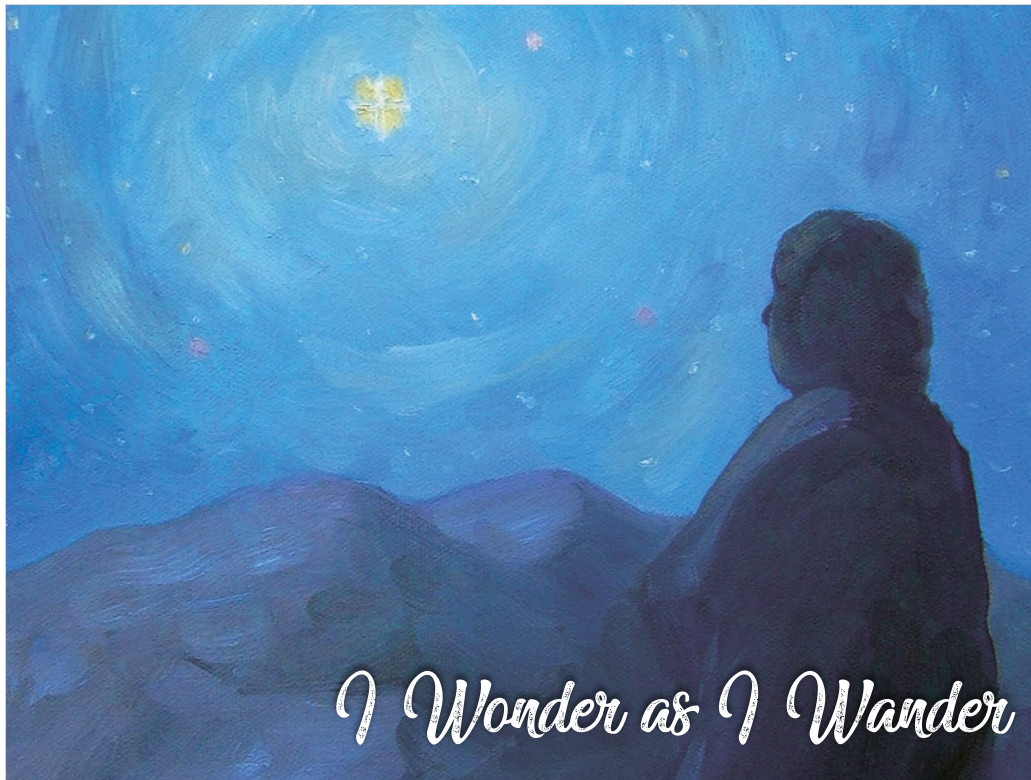
S1: This is where John's story is started as well.

S2: John's story started before He was even born.

Shalynda: But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb. And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. Luke 1:13-16

Tim: And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and the power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17

(Exit Zacharias) (enter Elizabeth)



Tracy- I Wonder as I Wander



Amelia: Now at this time Mary arose and went with haste to the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed among women are you, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. Luke 1:39-44

S1: John's story of the Savior continues, but that will have to be for another presentation.

S2: Right you are. We are just talking about the stories of the Savior as they have to do with His birth today.

(Exit Elizabeth and Mary)



(enter Joseph and angel)

S1: Joseph's story fits in here.

S2: Joseph was questioning whether he should take Mary as his wife, when an angel came to him in a dream and told him that it would be ok. The angel told him,

Declan: "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 And Joseph arose from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took her as his wife. Matthew 1:24

S1: Joseph's story is that God chose him to raise His one and only Son. To be His father here on earth.

S2: That is an incredible story! Can you imagine raising the Son of God as your very own child? The pressure!

S1: And the pleasure! Just like it is raising any wonderfully gifted child (feeling proud of herself) ...Ahem! We are now going to move on to the innkeeper.

(Exit angel) (Joseph to the side with Mary)



(enter innkeeper- Joseph and Mary Meet him)

Anna: Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
Luke 2:1-7

S2: That didn't mention an innkeeper.

S1: It does say that Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid Him in a manger. Do you know what a manger is?

S2: Sure. It's like a trough that animals eat out of.

S1: Where do we usually find troughs that animals eat out of?

S2: In barns.

S1: What's another name for a barn?

S2: A stable.

S1: Someone must own the stables, don't they?

S2: Yeah.

S1: That is who I am calling the "innkeeper". He was the owner of the place where Mary and Joseph stayed and where Jesus was born.

S2: Right! He has a story of the Savior. He didn't know that by telling Mary and Joseph that they could stay in his stable, that he was giving housing to the son of God! Wow! What a thought!

S1: Yes. He was able to provide a place to stay for His Savior, and he didn't even know it!



Ava: Always Carry You



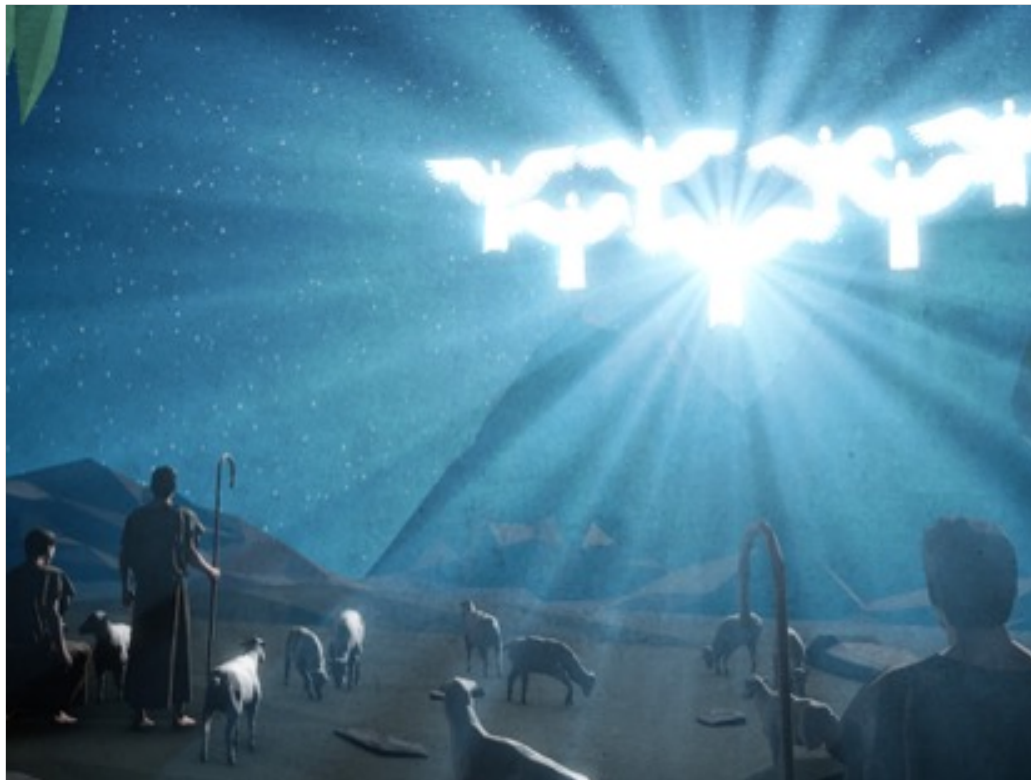
(Enter shepherds and angel(s) stand off to the side) Power point of starry night

S2: This is where the shepherds' story fits in also.

Klayton: In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

(Shepherds frightened)

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12



(PowerPoint host of angels)

Shalynda: And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." Luke 2:13-14

(Exit all angels)

(Mary and Joseph enter with baby Jesus and trough)

Shepherds go towards Mary and Joseph



Power point

Tim: When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So, they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. Luke 2:15-20

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.



Congregation Sings

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.



No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.



He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.





(Exit shepherds with trough) (enter Simeon with staff)

S1: There was a man named Simeon who also had a story of the Savior.

S2: He was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the Savior.

Enter Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, Mary hands Baby to Simeon

Amelia: And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." Luke 2:27-32

S1: He was actually able to hold the Savior in his arms!

(Enter Anna then kneels)

S2: But, let's not forget about Anna. Her story was right there with Simeon's.

Declan: And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fasting and prayers. At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:36-38

Anna: As Christmas approaches allow yourself to be astonished as God's great gift of love to us, the Christ child. Worship Him, Glorify Him and Praise Him in all you do and everyone you meet.



(All kids come back on stage)

S1: So that concludes today's presentation.

S2: Of course, you all know, that today's presentation is only the beginning of the story.....
This is only the beginning of the... Stories of the Savior.

S1: There are so many people who have a story of the Savior.

S2: (Slow). What's your story?

(All bow)



Special: Steve (It Came Upon A Midnight Clear)



Message