

Epiphany Pageant
Greg Tuttle

Narrator 1

When we last left our heroes, they were gathered around the manger, adoring the newly born Jesus. As we know, that's just the beginning of their story...

Narrator 2

But, just as Luke's journey continued after he destroyed the Death Star

Gabriel

The WHAT star?!

Gabrielle

You'll see...

Narrator 2

The saga continues twelve days

Narrator 1

(leans in to whisper) And a couple years

Narrator 1

After that scene in the manger.

Gabrielle

We stayed with them, for good measure. I'm The Angel Gabrielle and he's Gabriel. As any parent has experienced, Mary and Joseph have had their own adventure raising baby Jesus.

Gabriel

Midnight diaper changes, fear of infant mortality, constant comparisons from the neighbors about how their son potty-trained sooner, or when *their* daughter "slept through the night,"

Gabrielle

or how their son walked to grandma over Passover Vacation.

Through it all, we were with them, sharing God's comforting voice in dreams and reassurance during the most trying times, especially the time when Jesus...

Gabriel

(interrupting) we promised not to tell.

Gabrielle

Uhhh.... Nevermind.

Narrator 1

We catch up with our friends as Jesus is grown and loves “working” in Joseph’s workshop or “helping” Mary change James’ diapers in their home in Nazareth.

Narrator 2

You see, their family of five

Gabriel

Three

Narrator 2

Three, thank you, grew so quickly that they chose to continue gentrifying their more established neighborhood rather than move to the suburbs as many of their friends did.

Narrator 1

So here we are, helping and working and living and being a growing family in a small hill town in northwestern Israel.

Narrator 2

Meanwhile, about 25 parasa

Narrator 1

(Whispering)
about 100 miles

Narrator 2

south. The latest from the Herod family, imaginatively named, Herod, sits as Tetrarch of Galilee. Also called Antipas, he is a very insecure ruler and a little crazy.

Magi 1

We have come seeking the king.

Herod

Here I am

Magi 2

I’m sorry, your highness. We’re looking for the new king

Herod

It’s been a few years since my coronation, but it’s me and you haven’t visited yet, so I’m happy to welcome you at court.

Magi 3

We have seen the star in the sky and it has brought us to this area. We have traveled for years to greet the child king, the new king of the Jews.

Herod

Oh.... I see... He's gone out for some milk and will be back in a sec so you're welcome to wait here.

Narrator 1

Remember the part about insecurity? Hold on tightly...

Gabriel

For years, we tried to share this wonderful news

Gabrielle

But some people just *don't* pay attention to dreams.

Herod

OK, so-called 'learn-ed scribes and chief priests' do what you do in this era and tell me where this imposter is so that I can kill him!

Learn-ed Scribe

We shall comb through our most ancient texts but there's a problem

Herod

What's that?

Learn-ed Scribe

Our best book is broken

Herod

Then fix IT!

Learn-ed Scribe

We'll need some goo or some glue to bind the book with the answer

Herod

Goo/glue a book?

Learn-ed Scribe

Use goo or some glue

Herod

Fine. Whatever. Just Googled it.

Gabrielle

As much as we tried to distract them, they Googled it then told the Magi where Jesus was.

Gabriel

The family returned to their hill town of Nazareth, halfway between the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee.

Gabrielle

Imagine if you lived between two idea and picturesque locations, somewhere completely practical where nothing interesting ever happens.

Gabriel

Kind of like Hemet.

Narrator 1

The Magi traveled up the Jordan River Valley, turned left at the Sea of Galilee, through the valley of the crescent moon, then entered this modest hill town of well-meaning and kind people.

Narrator 2

You know... kind of like Hemet.

Narrator 1

Can you imagine the commotion that this caravan must have caused when these travelers, their entourage... entourages... entrouagum...

Narrator 2

Ok kid, don't hurt yourself...

Narrator 1

When they entered this modest town?

Citizen

Excuse me, what's all this?

Magi 1

Our entourage.

Citizen

Do you mind moving it out of my driveway, I gotta get to work!

Gabriel

We shared Jesus' precise location with the Magi that night

Gabrielle

One of us did, because the *other* visited the dreams of this Polynesian teenager with the idea to seek the Heart of Te Fiti.

Gabriel

(Sing-speak)
You're welcome.

Gabrielle

Like I said, the next day, the Magi descended on the home of the unwitting, wholly unexpected family.

Gabriel

Hey... *Wholy* Family has a nice ring to it...

Narrator 1

Our scene unfolds as Joseph is rushing out the garbage before the Trash Cart rounds the corner for morning pickup.

Trash Collector

Bring out your trash... bring out your trash...

Narrator 2

Seeing the Magi and their entourage, Joseph drops his bags in astonishment

Joseph

(Silently Stunned)

Jesus

Mommy, there's an entourage of wise ones *from orient are* outside my window, may I please have a glass of water?

Narrator 1

Upon entering the house, the Magi adored the child then spoke

Magi 1

We have seen the star

Mary

What star?

Magi 2

The star in the sky that foretold the coming of the king.

Joseph

That was, like, three years ago.

Magi 3

Hey, it takes a long time to travel across the known world.

Mary

Fair enough.

Magi 1

We bring gifts of gold

Mary

Wow, that's incredibly generous

Magi 2

Frankincense

Joseph

Well ok, thank you.

Magi 3

And Myrrh

Mary

Now that's just (weird)...

Magi 1

After seeing the star,

Magi 2

We have traveled in and out of weeks and almost over a year to where the wild things are... can he please hold still?

Mary

(Shakes head "no")

Magi 2

We've traveled from across the known world to meet here, at this time, for this moment with your son.

(Begins rehearsed speech)

Because of ancient voices calling throughout the years of your son's royalty... can he *please* sit still?

Toddlers. Gotta love 'em. Joseph

(flustered) Magi 2
We five...

Three Magi 1

Three Magi 2
Three Magi having heard the ancient voices calling throughout the years of your son's royalty... (fades)

Gabriel
Remember how Herod is very insecure and a little crazy, this next part is why.

Narrator 1
That night, Herod solidified his scheme and his plan moved into action.

Gabriel
We visited the family, in their dreams, and told them to get out of Dodge.

Gabrielle
We visited the Magi too and told them to take the coast road back home, because what's next is one of the darkest moments in history.

Gabriel
Like Pharaoh before him,

Gabrielle
And too many leaders since,

Gabriel
Herod gave in to his insecurity and a generation of innocent children was killed.

Gabrielle
God still cries when telling that story.
(Ten second pause)

You see, because of the Magi

Mary

And shepherds

Shepherd 1

And angels

Gabriel

And Inn Keepers

Inn Keeper 1

And you,

Gabrielle

Billions of people have known about Jesus

Joseph

Christmas is when Jesus was revealed to modest locals, Epiphany is when Jesus was revered by astrologers and scientists and scholars and gentiles.

Gabriel

The outsiders.

Gabrielle

The rest of us.