

# Part



## “Christmastime or Tinseltime?”



### Act One



### Church Rehearsal

**Stage directions:** The play opens with a traditional Christmas scene, with a manger and Baby Jesus in the front center of the stage. Joseph (Jimmy) and Mary (Hannah), hovering around the manger, are dressed in appropriate Bethlehem attire. Surrounding them are the rest of the children’s choir, dressed as shepherds. Mrs. Smith, the children’s choir director, observes the children from one side of the stage. From the other side of the stage, the Narrator begins to speak.

#### Narrator

The Christmas musical play entitled “*Christmastime or Tinseltime?*” asks a very simple question -- What is the real meaning of Christmas? For many Christians, the real meaning of Christmas is giving. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son . . .” But for many boys and girls, and for many men and women, the commercialism, glitter, and tinsel associated with Christmastime have crowded out Jesus. The spirit of getting has replaced the spirit of giving. Let me ask you . . . should we change the season’s name to Tinseltime?

The play begins at a local church in Anytown, U.S.A. The time is Saturday afternoon, December 23, the day before Christmas Eve. Mrs. Smith and the children’s choir are at the dress rehearsal of tomorrow night’s Christmas musical, entitled “*Christmastime or Tinseltime?*”

**Stage directions:** As the Narrator finishes, Mrs. Smith steps toward the manger scene. Jimmy and Hannah, dressed as Joseph and Mary, are hovering around the manger. Surrounding them on all sides (except the front) are the rest of the children’s choir, dressed in shepherd’s outfits. Mrs. Smith is obviously frazzled.

**Mrs. Smith** Okay, kids, Okaaaaay! Let's try it one . . . more . . . time.  
**Jimmy** (Groans, looking real put out.) Do we gotta, Mrs. Smith!?! I could sing this song in my sleep.

**Mrs. Smith** (Almost screaming.) Jimmy, you aren't concentrating enough. (Scanning the rest of the children, trying to regain her composure.) Now, kids, one . . . more . . . time. Don't forget. Concentrate on Baby Jesus.

### *Away in a Manger*

**Hannah** Away in a manger, No crib for a bed,  
**Jimmy** The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
**Shepherds** The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

(Jimmy yawns through line three. In line four, his eyes start looking around, then his head turns. As the second verse starts, Jimmy shifts uncomfortably. Then, he rises up, yawns and stretches, takes a couple of steps around, and at the appropriate time, pulls on Hannah's pigtails.)

The cattle are lowing. The poor Baby wakes.  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He . . .

(Hannah cries "OUCH!", and the piano player clangs the piano. Other kids giggle.)

**Mrs. Smith** (On the verge of hysteria.) Jimmmeee! Stop pulling Hannah's pigtails!  
**Jimmy** Ahhh, Mrs. Smith, it's okay! Hannah's just my sister.  
**Mrs. Smith** It's not okay, Jimmy. (Almost haughty.) I am quite certain that Joseph did not pull Mary's hair that first Christmas night.  
**Jimmy** (Returning Mrs. Smith's haughtiness.) And I am quite certain that you are old enough to have been there, Mrs. Smith. (Other kids laugh.)  
**Mrs. Smith** (Looking stricken and offended.) Why, I never . . .  
**Hannah** (Pointing to her brother.) Mrs. Smith, maybe Jimmy should play the donkey. (Other kids laugh.)  
**Mrs. Smith** (Trying to regain her composure.) Well, uhh, we don't have time to break in a new Joseph. Jimmy, sometimes I can't believe that you and Hannah are twins. P-P-Please try to act better.  
**Jimmy** (Sticking out his chest and jerking his right thumb toward it.) Don't worry about me, Mrs. Smith. I'll be great tomorrow night.

**Mrs. Smith** Children, let's practice now our theme song, "Christmastime or Tinseltime?" Please, for my sake, put your heart into it. At least act like you have the spirit of Christmas. Music, please.

### *Christmastime or Tinseltime?*

**All children** All that glitters is not gold. All that sparkles is not silver.  
Should we change the season's name to Tinseltime?  
You can keep your Ho-Ho-Ho's. You can keep your shiny nose.  
As for me, I'll just stick to Christmastime.  
Christmastime or Tinseltime?  
Christmastime or Tinseltime?  
You can keep your Ho-Ho-Ho's. You can keep your shiny nose.  
As for me, I'll just stick to Christmastime.  
As for me, I'll just stick to Christmastime.

**Mrs. Smith** Not bad. Not bad. But remember, children, God gave us His only begotten Son. Can't you give me more than that? And Jimmy, you were a little flat.

**Jimmy** Ahhh, Mrs. Smith, I'm getting tired of singing about shepherds and wise men and angels. Can't we sing "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town?"

**Shepherd 1** Or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?"

**Shepherd 2** Or "Frosty the Snowman?"

**Mrs. Smith** (As the kids rapid fire the song suggestions, Mrs. Smith looks horrified.) Why, you kids are impossible. Don't you know the real meaning of Christmas?

**Jimmy** Gifts under the Christmas tree!?!

**Mrs. Smith** (Gives Jimmy an icy stare.) We must practice our final song: "Climbing Mountains."

**Children** (All of the children jump around excited, looking at each other, saying things like "Yeah, we like that song.")

**Mrs. Smith** You kids have me so frazzled I just know I am going to blow my lines. Now, don't forget to sing out loud and to be really wild in your hand motions.

**Jimmy** Don't worry about us, Mrs. Smith. We know how to be really wild!

**Mrs. Smith** Especially you, Jimmy. Now, let me see. (Mrs. Smith fumbles around for a few seconds with her papers.) Where did I put that script? (She finds it, holds it up, uncrinkles it, and starts to read, facing the audience.) The New Testament opens with the following words in Matthew 1:1: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, . . . " Both Joseph and Mary were descended from King David. When the angel appeared unto Mary, the angel said, "Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David."

**Mrs. Smith**  
**(continued)**

Jesus will become a king, but first, he was born in a lowly manger in the little town of Bethlehem, the same town where David was born. Before David became the king, he was a lowly shepherd. Where did David learn how to become a king? In his youth, he learned how to take care of his sheep and to walk with God.

The shepherd David is most famous for his battle with the giant Goliath. How could a little shepherd boy face the giant? Walking with his sheep through the valleys and climbing to the mountain tops prepared the young shepherd David to fight later battles. And young David always remembered that the battle is the Lord's.

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• **Stage directions:** The children should be lined up across the stage. If necessary, make two  
• lines of children. If you have a designated sword wielder, he should be in the front middle  
• of the stage. As Mrs. Smith leads the children, she should not obstruct the audience's view  
• of the children.  
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### *Climbing Mountains*

**All children**

Climbing mountains! Fighting battles!  
Grab your breastplate, boots, helmet, shield, and sword!  
Climbing mountains will prepare us for fighting battles.  
And the battle is the Lord's!

I'm a soldier in the army of the coming King of kings,  
Like the lad who faced the giant with just a sling, sling, sling.  
The soldier's preparation for the battle that he fought  
Was walking through the valley and to the mountain top.

Climbing mountains! Fighting battles!  
Grab your breastplate, boots, helmet, shield, and sword!  
Climbing mountains will prepare us for fighting battles.  
And the battle is the Lord's!  
And the battle is the Lord's!

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• **End of Act One -- Stage directions:** The stage is darkened and cleared out. The car is  
• placed on the stage, facing the audience.  
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