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STAR

SEARCH

The time has come for our Creator God to put His plan into motion, and the search for *the* Star of Bethlehem has begun! When a Meteorite delivers a memo scroll announcing the search for a special star, most of the stars in the sky are too busy worrying about the competition to read the qualifications. Bob, the sweetest and most humble of stars, shines his light big and bright, to welcome the promised Messiah. What an Illumination Celebration!

SUMMARY

#### Based on Philippians 2:3-7 (NLT)

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.



Note: All characters have been written to be played by boy or girl actors of any age.

## **COSTUME SUGGESTIONS**

**CHOIR:** A perfect uniform for your children's choir is the "Star Search" T-shirt available from *wordchoralclub.com*.

**STARS:** Dress the main cast in lots of yellow, gold, silver, glitter and sparkles. Faces and headgear should be shiny, glittery, and appropriate for a star costume.

**METEORITE:** Paint a garbage bag with yellow and red paint to create a blaze. Cut holes for the head, arms and legs. Put the costume on, stuff the garbage bag with paper, and secure with tape.

ANGEL JUDGE: Traditional angel costume

**BOB:** Bob needs to be dressed very simply, with minimal glitter. At the end, when he/she becomes *the* Star of Bethlehem, Bob changes into a brighter, shinier, more over-the-top costume than the other stars.

# SET DESIGN AND STAGING

The entire musical takes place amongst the stars in the sky. Use stars and galaxies for inspiration.



Optional: If you wish to include preschoolers, seat them in the front row of the audience. To preserve continuity in the program, cue the youngsters to stand, face the audience, and sing along to "Away in a Manger" in Scene 4, when the main cast and choir join hands.



### **Lighting**

Light the stage and risers uniformly Add spotlights as necessary for main actors.

### <u>Audio</u>

For best results, mic your children's choir separately and provide wireless headsets/lavalier mics for the speaking characters. Check the microphone batteries before the start of the show!

## <u>Visual</u>

To fully enhance your production, the easy-to-use Accompaniment DVD available from Word Music & Church Resources at *wordchoralclub.com* is the perfect background complement that displays the lyrics in a fur way! (visit *youtube.com* and search for the WORDCHORALCLUB channel for a full video preview)

## PROPS

- Barrier (between Stars and Earth)
- Phone
- Sunglasses
- (available through wordchoralclub.com) Memo Scroll
- Clipboard
- Glitter Stool

- Hand weights or exercise equipment
- Shoe polishing sponge
- Blue light

Memo Scroll (Oversized, 2-sided scroll with the word "QUALIFICATIONS" written on the back...big enough for audience to read. Finish it off with glitter!)

# **BLOCKING AND CHOREOGRAPHY**

Your choreography can be as simple or as advanced as you like. To fully involve the choir, incorporate easy movements or hand gestures in each song.



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### **SCENE 1**

(The scene opens with Andy, a star, standing behind a barrier. He is looking down over it with interest. Percy enters.)

- PERCY: Whatcha doin'?
- ANDY: Looking at the earth.
- PERCY: **Oooh, it is** really bright tonight!
- ANDY: Yeah, it is! Sometimes I like to look at their little lights and see what shapes I can find.
- PERCY: What do you mean?
- ANDY: Well, see over there, (pointing) how those lights sort of line up? It looks like a lonnnng ribbon.
- PERCY: **Oh**, yeah! I see that.
- ANDY: *(motions)* And over there is a big circle.
- PERCY: Aw . . . they're little campfires, I'll bet!
- ANDY: (getting more excited) And look on this side, you can see a ton of little lights.
- PERCY: Uh, oil lamps?
- ANDY: (nods) Maybe. Hey, we should name the shapes we see!
- PERCY: Name them?

PER

ANDY: Sure! They name us! According to the humans, I'm part of the constellation Pegasus, the winged horse! (gestures dramatically with arms outstretched)

Well, since you mentioned it, I AM known as the HERO. (puffs up chest, grins at the audience)

Sorry I mentioned it! (steps back and looks at Percy; pauses) You know Percy, you look more ... I don't know ... shiny. More than usual, I mean.

PERCY: Yeah, steppin' up my game. I'm tired of being mistaken for a planet!

PERCY: (gets out a phone) Good advice. I should put that on my Spacebook page.

ANDY: You have a Spacebook page? Wait, you have a ... phone?

PERCY: **Sure do!** *(motions to the sky)* **Reception is great up here, so close to the satellites.** *(Andy shakes his head again.)* 

(Cassie and Jack enter.)

- ANDY: Hi, Jack! Hi, Cassie!
- CASSIE: (looks down over the barrier) Ahhh, Earth! One of the most beautiful places in the whole universe!
- JACK: *(all join in looking down)* Is it just me, or does it feel like something BIG is about to happen down there?

PERCY: I feel it, too!

- CASSIE: I'm sure there's something happening. Right here (pats heart) in my electrons!
- ANDY: An extra little shimmer?

JACK: Or twinkling, maybe?

( SFX-Meteorite. Meteorite runs quickly across the stage and hands off a bound scroll to Andy like a baton in a relay race. The stars turn their heads to follow the meteorite's path.)

PERCY: Wow, that was fast!

CASSIE: What is it? (peering curiously at what the meteorite delivered)

ANDY: **Oh, probably just another memo.** (tucks the scroll under his arm without reading it)

JACK.

(already peering down) **Oh**, look . . . their night is almost over.

(The rest of the stars turn back to look down over the barrier.)

Their little lights are going out.

ANDY: *(looks to the east)* Yep, here comes the sun!

(Raise stage lighting to bright as everyone on stage puts their sunglasses as sunrise occurs. 8 Music begins to "Stars Gazing")



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### **SCENE 2**

(All remove sunglasses. Andy, Percy, Cassie and Jack are center front. They are looking at the meteorite's memo, a large scroll of paper with writing on both sides. However, they only read the front. They do not see "QUALIFICATIONS" in large letters written on the back of the scroll. Nell and Carl enter. Bob follows them quietly.)

CASSIE: **Hi, Nell. Hi, Carl. Have you seen this?** (Nell and Carl immediately stop their banter and smile happily.)

CARL: What is it?

- JACK: It's sort of a . . . calendar.
- NELL: So, what does it say?
- ANDY: It looks like the time has come for our Creator God to put His plan into motion.
- NELL: What plan?
- PERCY: His plan from eternity, to send His one and only Son to Earth to be a Savior.
- CARL: To ... Earth? Why Earth? It's just a little speck in the cosmos!
- NELL: Carl, you *always* say that!
- CARL: Well, it's true! What makes Earth so special? Just because it has humans?
- ANDY: *(jumping in)* That's easy.
- CASSIE: Yes. One word: Love.

PERCY:

God made the humans in His image! And He loves them so much, He is ready to send His only Son there.

And believe me, they need Him. Boy, do they need Him!

CARL: Okay, yeah. I've heard about that.

NELL: But what does that have to do with *us*?

ANDY: Look at this! (points to the scroll) It says that one special star will get

- CARL: **OOOH! Now that's a job for a BIGGG star!** (*puffs out chest*)
- NELL: **The brightest star!** (stands up straight and tall)
- PERCY: Can you imagine? The King of kings going to the earth!
- JACK: No wonder one of us will be asked to shine!
- CASSIE: It will be so . . . magnificent!
- PERCY: He will be called Wonderful Counselor...
- ANDY: Mighty God, Everlasting Father...
- JACK: The Prince of Peace.
- CASSIE: Doesn't that call for an entire constellation?
- PERCY: (looks over Andy's shoulder and points to the scroll) It says here, "just one star."
- JACK: (looks around Percy) Really? Just one?
- ANDY: It must be one really bright, incredible star then!
- NELL: Finding the right star for the job . . . that could take (pause) light years!
- CASSIE: Well, God *did* create all of the stars. And He calls each of us by name.
- PERCY: There are so many. How will He decide?
- JACK: I don't know about all of you, (brushing and flexing his arms) but I'm going to shine as brightly as possible!

ANDY:

### (eagerly) Me, too! I want to be that special star!

(Andy tosses the scroll to the side. The stars talk excitedly about the memo. Bob quietly picks up the scroll, unrolls it to read the front, then turns it over to read the "QUALIFICATIONS.")

- CASSIE:
- (notices Bob) Would you look at Bob! (smiling) He's just the sweetest little star!

JACK: *(shrugs)* Maybe a little *dim* compared to the rest of us.

ANDY: True, but he's always doing nice things like ... like ...

- PERCY: **Picking up after stars like you?** (Andy socks Percy lightly in the arm, but they end with a friendly fist bump.)
- CASSIE: (still looking at Bob as he reads) Do you think maybe... (trails of
- CARL: Think what?
- CASSIE: **That Bob might . . . I don't know . . . have the right idea? You know, about how to be the best star?** (They all look at each other and shake their heads.)

TOGETHER: NAAAAAH! (cast exits)

(Lights up on Choir)

( 25 13 music begins to "If You Wanna Be a Star")



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# **SCENE 3**

(Lights down on choir, up on center stage)

(Characters are preparing for "the star" auditions by lifting weights, doing jumping jacks, shining shoes, polishing costumes, etc. The stars check themselves in a mirror, strut around, strike a pose, and will often look at what the others are doing. Bob is off to the side, reading the scroll memo. He kneels to pray. An Angel with a clipboard is walking back and forth, watching all the stars and making notes. One or two of the stars briefly notice Bob, shake their heads, and keep working out.)

- PERCY: (*out of breath*) **Oh, man, this is hard work! HEY! Look at Bob over there. He does** *not* **stand a chance.**
- ANDY: What is he doing anyway?
- JACK: *(breathless from running in place, then stops)* Well, he's NOT working out like we are, I can tell you that:
- ANDY: But all for a good cause, right?
- CASSIE: Right! Who wouldn't want to be the Star of Bethlehem!
- PERCY: No kidding! That would definitely get you on the star charts!
- ANDY: Would it? Isn't this just a one-time gig?
- PERCY: Yeah, but it's still worth it.
- CASSIE: Shine on! (fist pumps Percy in agreement)
- JACK: *(doing stretches)* Reach for the stars!

(Workouts' resume . . . Angel continues to observe the stars and makes notes. 30 Opt. SFX–Child Praying. A child's voice is heard from off-stage.)

CHILD: (off-stage)

Starlight . . . (pause)

(The stars, excluding Bob who is praying, immediately gather by the barrier and look down at the earth. One star puts a hand up to his/her ear to hear the child.)

CHILD: (slowly, praying) ... star bright ... (off-stage)

### NELL: Look! (pointing down at Earth) There it is!

(They suddenly look at each other and jockey for position along the barrier, puff out chests, stand tall, primp and pose, etc.)

#### ALL STARS

(except BOB): "I want to be the first star!", "Move over. You know I'm brighter", "Make room!", "Hey, this my spot!", "Aren't you supposed to be in the WESTERN hemisphere?", "My space, my star field", "Relax your electrons!" "It's MY time to shine!" *etc.* 

- CHILD: ... First star I see tonight ... (fades out)
- (off-stage)

(Stars strike poses. The observing Angel makes some final notes on the clipboard, nods and exits)

(  $\bigcirc$  17 SFX-Timpani 1. At the sound effect, the stars look around and up.)

- CARL: What's that?
- NELL: I don't know! Where's it coming from?

(Bob exits the stage; the stars turn to watch him go.)

- PERCY: Hey, where is Bob going?
- JACK: He hasn't even worked out yet.
- CASSIE: Or shined up, or ... anything!
- PERCY: WHOA! Look! (points down to Earth) I think the time has come!
- CASSIE: **Oh, this is so exciting!!**

CARL: (shaking his head) I still can't believe it! So tiny ...

NELL. Do you see anything happening? Has anyone down THERE noticed?

**PERCY:** Right there! (pointing down) There's a woman on a donkey.

- JACK: Her husband seems . . . worried.
- CASSIE: They can't find a place to stay!

- ANDY: See those shepherds over there with the sheep?
- PERCY: (motions to the East) Look way over there in the East. Are those (squints, hand above eyes)... Wise Men?
- NELL: **Hey guys, does anyone feel bigger? Or brighter?** (turns aside, mumbles sadly) **'Cause I don't.**
- CARL: *(same sadness)* Me, neither.
- PERCY: This can't be the way it should happen . . . for a King to come to Earth?
- ANDY: **No one is paying attention!** (cast looks exasperated, hands on hips)
- CASSIE: **People!** (addressing the people of Earth) **Emmanuel is near!**
- JACK: This is . . . astronomical! There should be some kind of huge party some super celebration—for the birth of the Savior!

( **PP**7 18 Music begins to "Time to Shine")



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## **SCENE 4**

(Stars lean slightly forward to look down at Earth. Lights dim as a warm, blue light glows from the barrier/Earth.)

(A few emit short gasps and "oohs," immediately fall to their knees and bow their heads.)

CARL: *(looking up)* A *Baby*? I can't believe it! God sent His Son to Earth as a tiny Baby?

[Cast stands and joins hands in a semi-circle to sing. Choir members join hands. 22 Music begins to "Away in a Manger with Star of Wonder (We Three Kings)"]



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(As song ends, spotlight follows Bob, who enters wearing an over-the-top shiny, sparkly costume. He steps up on a stool that has been hidden behind the barrier, looks down, stretches out his arms, and smiles.)

### **SCENE 5**

( **PR9** [25] SFX-Timpani 2. Bob fully extends his arms as the cast watches him, mouths open in amazement.)

- ANDY: (stunned) Bob? Is that ... (stutters) BOB?
- PERCY: It can't be! Can it?
- CASSIE: Bob? Sweet little *Bob* is the . . . Star of Bethlehem?
- NELL: But WE are so bright and shiny! Aren't we?
- CARL: And big and famous . . . right?
- CASSIE: Look! (Cast looks down over the barrier at Earth) The Wise Men! They're turning towards Bethlehem now!
- PERCY: (points and motions the way to Bethlehem) Yeah, this way. This way!
- NELL: (also points) Wise Men, there's your Savior!
- CARL: Way to go, Wise Men!
- CASSIE: I think we should say: WAY TO GO ... BOB!!

(Cast all look up at Bob who lowers his arms and steps off the stool. Spotlight dims.)

PERCY: (shakes hands with Bob) Bob! Dude! That was ... amazing.

(Other stars high five and offer fist bumps to congratulate Bob.)

NELL: Yeah. How did you? I mean ...

(Bob pulls the scroll memo out of his robe and hands it to Andy who unrolls it and looks at the front. Bob reaches for it, turns it over, and points out the writing on the back side. Andy looks at it, nods, and begins to read aloud from the "QUALIFICATIONS" list.)

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being." (Philippians 2:3-7 NLT)

- NELL: *(contrite)* Wow.
- PERCY: I think THAT explains how we could have qualified. (All nod)

NELL: And they were right there the whole time. (gestures towards the scroll)

- CARL: I guess we should've made sure we read the *whole* memo, huh?
- PERCY: Especially when the words came from God Himself.
- JACK: *(turning)* Bob, thanks for showing us what it means to be a REAL star.
- ANDY: (lifts up the scroll, the cast turns towards Andy who reads again) "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky." (Philippians 2:14-15 NIV) (pauses, turns to the cast and shouts) LIKE STARS IN THE SKY!

(Cast and Choir cheer!)

- PERCY: Now *that's* star power!
- CARL: I think I'm a little starstruck, Bob.
- BOB: Thank you, guys. But I'm just a little star that God used to help fulfill His plan. All the glory and praise goes to HIM!
- NELL: You're right, Bob! Come on, everyone, let's gather 'round. I think we all know what to say:
- ALL: "And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!' " (Luke 2:13-14 KJV) Merrry Christmas!

( 26 Music begins to "Star Finale")



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