

# Follow That Shepherd

By

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## Theme:

This play uses the simple desire of a couple of sheep, who long to see the newborn Christ child, to cause us to examine our desire to seek and follow the Him. It's a simple play, meant to be performed for children, yet the simple message will reach into the hearts of adults as well. This play could be done as a puppet show or as a live production.

## Biblical Reference:

The Christmas Story.

## Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

## Props:

Puppets - if you choose to use them.

## Cast of Characters:

**Bob:** Bob is a lamb who saw the angels visit the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night. He saw many of the shepherds head to Bethlehem and he wants to see what all the fuss is about for himself.

**Doug:** Doug is a friend of Bob's. He is a lamb too. He decides to go with Bob to Bethlehem to see this new born King.

**David:** David is a young shepherd boy who has joined some of the other shepherds to see the baby the angels told them about.

**Rover:** Rover is a young Shepherd's dog who has followed the shepherds to see the baby Jesus. He's been snooping around and knows where the three wise men are.

**WM 1:** Wise man number 1. He has brought gold for the newborn king.

Cast of Characters (Continued):

WM 2: Wise man number 2. He has brought incense for the newborn king.

WM 3: Wise man number 3. He has brought Myrrh for the newborn king.

Lion: A young lion that knows about the coming Messiah. He encounters the lambs as they journey to see the Christ child and accompanies them on their journey.

Donkey: Donkey happens to be the donkey that Mary rode into Bethlehem on. She feels special because she has taken part in the special story herself. She is more than happy to tell her newfound friends where the little baby can be found.

Scene:

Doug is sleeping - loudly. He is snoring loud enough to wake others sleeping nearby, but he himself isn't easily awakened. Bob quietly makes his way over to where Doug is sleeping and tries to wake him quietly.

Bob: Psst. Hey Doug. Wake up.

Doug: [*Not wanting to wake up. Mumbling.*] I don't want to go to school today.

Bob: You don't have to go to school today. I've got something incredible to tell you about. Come on, wake up.

Doug: [*Sleepily.*] Tell me about it tomorrow. [*Rolls over and goes back to sleep - snoring loudly.*]

Bob: [*Yelling.*] Will you please wake up?

Doug: [*Waking up abruptly. Looking around.*] What. What. What is it? Who's there? What do ya' want?

Bob: Shhh. Quiet. Don't wake the other sheep.

Doug: I'm not the one yelling.

Bob: Shhh. It's me, Bob. Are you awake yet?

Doug: Yeah, Bob, I'm awake. What do you want? Why did you wake me up?

Bob: Shh. I don't want everyone else to hear what I have to say. This is just between you and me. Got it?

Doug: What is it? Something top secret?

Bob: You could say that. The shepherds know about it, but I don't think that many sheep saw what I saw tonight.

Doug: [*His curiosity is awakened.*] What did you see tonight?

Bob: I was lying down trying to go to sleep, you know how long that takes me, when all of a sudden there were angels in the sky.

Doug: Angels?

Bob: Oh, Doug, there were hundreds of them. Didn't you see them?

Doug: Nope. I was sleeping. Nothin' wakes me when I'm sleeping.

Bob: I could have guessed. You sleep through anything.

Doug: So, why did you think I would wake up tonight? Were the angels really loud?

Bob: No, they weren't really loud.

Doug: Then why would they wake me up?

Bob: They were really bright. They were shining just like the sun. They were shining so bright that it was just like day around here.

Doug: Well, I don't know about that, but I know that I was sleeping right through it, that I know for sure, 'cause I don't remember seeing any angels.

Bob: Well, anyway, you sure missed it. There were angels in the sky, all over the sky, and they said they were here to tell the shepherds about a baby that was born tonight.

Doug: There were angles in the sky to tell the shepherds about a baby that was born? Huh. I would have thought that angels would only be around if there was something really special going on.

Bob: They were here for this birthday announcement. They told the shepherds all about a baby boy that was born in Bethlehem tonight. They told them who he was and where he would be and how they could get to see him.

Doug: That's pretty cool. [*Thinking.*] But Bob?

Bob: What?

Doug: What does that have to do with us sheep? I mean, if the angels came to tell the shepherds about the baby then why should we sheep want to know about him too?

Bob: Well, the shepherds are treating this as if it's really important. A bunch of them have headed out to visit this new baby. I want to go and see this new baby too. I want to find out why angels would come to tell the shepherds about a baby that was born.

Doug: You do?

Bob: Yeah.

Doug: Why?

Bob: This baby must be someone special. I mean, if there were hundreds of angles here to tell the shepherds about his birth, he must be someone we sheep would want to meet too.

Doug: So you really want to go and see this baby?

Bob: Uh-huh.

Doug: And nothing is gonna' stop you?

Bob: Nuh-huh.

Doug: And you're gonna' go with or without me?

Bob: Uh-huh.

Doug: Well, then I'd better go with you.

Bob: [*Incredibly excited.*] Awesome! I knew you'd want to see him when you heard about him.

Doug: How do we know which way to go?

Bob: I heard the angels tell the shepherds where he would be. They said that He was born in the city of David and that they would find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Doug: Do you mean that thing they use to feed cows?

Bob: I guess that's what they mean.

Doug: Isn't that weird? Angels come to tell the shepherds about a baby that is born in a barn. Are you sure we should be doing this?

Bob: All we have to do is follow the shepherds. The longer we wait the farther ahead of us they get.

Doug: All right. Let's get going.

*[They begin walking. They quickly gain on a shepherd boy who has been straggling behind the other shepherds.]*

Bob: *[Calling out to David.]* Hello there.

Doug: Look Bob, it's David, one of the young shepherds from our flock.

David: *[Seeing Bob and Doug.]* Hey you two. What are you doing here?

Bob: We saw the angles that visited you tonight and we wanted to see the newborn Child too.

David: Are there any other sheep following you?

Doug: I don't think so. They're all back home, sleeping.

David: Good. You know, if the other shepherds knew that you were here they'd probably tell me to take you back home. We can't let them know that you're here.

Doug: That sounds good to me.

Bob: How do you know where you're going?

David: The angles told us that we would find the Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Doug: Do you have any idea how many mangers there are in Bethlehem?

Bob: No.

Doug: There's got to be a lot.

David: The shepherds don't really care. They'll look all night if they have to. They were pretty impressed with the angels and I know they'll find the Baby.

Bob: I hope we do too.

David: Look, I'd better get back to the others. They're probably wondering where I am. You'd better be sure that they don't find you. I don't want to miss this either.

Doug: We've come all this way. It would have been a waste a time if we don't get to see the Baby.

Bob: *[To Doug.]* We'll see the Baby. *[To David.]* Hopefully we can talk about it with you tomorrow.

David: Remember, don't get caught.

Bob: We won't.

*[David runs ahead. Bob and Doug wait a few minutes to let him get ahead of them.]*

Doug: Well, now we know they know we're following them.

Bob: I sure hope that we don't get caught. I don't want to miss this. I'm sure we'll be okay if we just pay attention to where we're going and who we talk to. Well, we'd better get going.

*[They begin walking. As they walk Doug begins to murmur to himself.]*

Doug: I can't believe I let you talk me into this. Right about now I would have been dreaming, counting sheep in my sleep, but no, I have to be make my way to the city of David to see some Baby in a cow manger. And now the shepherds know that we're here too. I just hope that we don't get into trouble. I mean, if one of those shepherds finds us, we're in big trouble, and I don't want to get in trouble.

Rover: *[Jumps out in front of them barking. Then yelling...]* Sheep. Sheep. I've spotted sheep.

Doug: *[Doug begins to panic.]* Now what are we gonna' do. Be quiet Rover. Don't tell anyone we're here.

Rover: Hey shepherds, there are sheep over here. Don't worry, I'll get them back to the pasture all right.

Doug: I told you not to tell anyone.

Bob: Rover. Sit. *[Rover sits.]* Rover. Quiet. *[Rover stays quiet.]* Rover. Stay. *[Rover stays.]* Rover. Listen to me. *[Rover lifts an ear and listens.]* Good dog.

Doug: Wow. I can't believe you can do that with this dog.

Bob: I saw the shepherds do it, so if figured why can't a sheep do what a shepherd can do. *[To Rover.]* Now don't tell the shepherds that we're here. We're trying to find the special manger so that we can find the newborn Baby that the angels told the shepherds about.

Rover: You're looking for the Baby too?

Doug: Yep. And we don't want to get caught by the shepherds, so don't tell them that you've seen us.

Bob: Do you know where the shepherds are heading?

Rover: It sounds as if I know about as much as you know already.

Doug: So what do we do now? Do we just look around the city until we find the right manger?

Rover: I saw three wise men who have stopped to rest just over that hill over there. They seemed to know where they were going. Maybe you can get directions from them.

Bob: Well, how are you going to get to the manger?

Rover: I'm just going to follow the shepherds scent until I catch up to them. You're welcome to follow me if you'd like, but I don't think that's a good idea, considering you are sheep and all.

Bob: I think we'll check out those wise men.

Doug: Well, thanks for the information.

Rover: Good luck.

Bob: You too.

*[Rover sniffs his way off stage, hot on the trail of the shepherds. Bob and Doug begin to walk towards the hill.]*

Doug: So, now we head over that hill to find out some information from those wise guys?

Bob: Wise men. Not wise guys.

Doug: What's the difference?

Bob: A wise guy is someone who is a practical joker. A wise man is someone is very intelligent and wise. I wouldn't be going to these guys if I thought that they were practical jokers.

Doug: I don't care what they are, I just hope they can tell us where this baby is.

Bob: Let's lay down here by the edge of this hill and peek over the top at them. I don't want to disturb them. Let's see what we can learn by just listening to them.

*[Bob and Doug lay down close to the edge of the stage. The three wise men appear on the other side of the stage. The wise men do not notice Bob and Doug.]*

WM 1: How much longer do you think we should wait?

WM 2: We've come this far, we will get to see the Baby soon, don't worry.

WM 3: I think that we should get going. The camels have been watered and rested and so have we.

WM 1: Let's take a minute to think about where we are going. Do we have everything we need? Are we sure how to get there. You can never be too sure about these kinds of things.

WM 2: You're always worried about the details.

WM 3: We've been following the same star for months. Do you think that the star will suddenly disappear when we get this close to it?

WM 2: You worry too much.

WM 1: Well, do we at least have the gifts that we've brought with us? Are they ready to be given to this King we've been seeking?

WM 3: Let's see, the gold is ready, the myrrh is ready, but where is the perfume? [*Looking all around for it.*]

WM 1: Did somebody let the camels near the incense?

WM 2: They do smell a lot better than they normally do.

WM 3: That's because I gave them a bath. [*Finding the perfume.*] Here's the incense we've been looking for. It was right under my nose and I couldn't find it.

WM 2: You'd better have your sinuses checked when we get back home.

WM 3: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Look, are we ready to get going are we going to stay here all night?

WM 1: I believe, gentlemen, that we're ready to go and meet the King we've come all this way to see.

[*They exit.*]

Bob: Wow. Did you see the gifts those wise men had?

Doug: Gold, incense, and myrrh.

Bob: We don't have any gifts like that for the Baby.

Doug: I didn't know we were supposed to bring a gift.

Bob: The only thing that we have with us is the wool on our backs.

Doug: And we kind'a need that, if you know what I mean.

Bob: Well, they said that they've been following a star. [*Looking up into the sky.*] I wonder if we can tell which one they mean.

Doug: Whoa. [*Pointing in to the sky.*] Look at how bright that big star is.



Bob:           *[Tracing it through the sky with his hand.]* And it looks like it's leading us towards...*[he gets really excited.]* ...that city right over there! Come on, let's get going.

*[They both begin to move quickly in the direction that Bob was pointing. They are so preoccupied with the star that they don't see that a lion is right on the corner of the stage. Suddenly, the lion jumps out in front of them, growling ferociously. Doug is terrified but Bob boldly confronts him.]*

Bob:           Can you please get out of our way?

Lion:          Get out of your way? I'm not gonna' get out of your way, I'm gonna' eat you.

Bob:           But you can't do that.

Lion:          Why not. Eating sheep is one of the things that lions do best.

Bob:           We're on a mission to see the new Baby that the angels came to tell the shepherds about.

Lion:          What did you say?

Bob:           That star over there marks the town where the newborn Child lay in a manger in swaddling clothes.

Lion:          Do you mean that the Christ child has been born?

Doug:          *[Stuttering.]* Y-y-y-y-y-y-you've h-h-h-h-heard of-f-f-f-f the Christ child?

Lion:          Of course. He's the Lion of Judah, the King of all Kings, every lion knows about Jesus.

Bob:           Well, that's who we're going to see.

Lion:          How do you know that baby Jesus has been born?

Bob:           Angels visited the shepherds as they watched over their flocks tonight. They told them about His birth. I overheard them and I want to see him too.

Lion:          Well, that would make sense. He is the great shepherd. He will lead all of his sheep to the great pasture in the sky.

Bob:           Then we overheard wise men talking about where He was.

Lion:          This must be the One that we've been waiting for. *[Sheepishly.]* Do you, uh, guys, think that I could, uh, come with you to see the newborn King?

Doug:          I don't know.

Bob:           I don't see any reason why not.

Doug: Excuse us for a minute. [*He pulls Bob to the side.*] You don't see a reason why us sheep shouldn't let a lion walk with us? Don't you remember, lions eat sheep?

Bob: I heard the shepherds say something about the lion lying down with the lamb in the great pasture in the sky. Maybe this lion knows about this and can be our friend.

Doug: Maybe he's just using it so that he can eat us.

Bob: I don't think we should make him mad. [*Turning toward the lion.*] We've decided you can go with us.

Lion: That's great. [*Really roaring out the word "Great."*]

Bob: Let's get going. I can see the city over there. We're not too far away now.

[*They begin walking again. Doug begins murmuring again.*]

Doug: This is just great. Not only am I missing my nap, but now we're hanging out with a lion. I can't believe Bob got me into this.

Bob: Well, I don't see that shepherd boy anymore. I'm not sure where we should be going from here.

Doug: Just look for the star the wise men were talking about. [*Pointing up.*] It's right there.

Bob: Hey, it's shining right over that town over there.

Doug: Let's go. [*They begin running towards the town. They stop running all out of breath.*]

Bob: Great. Now that we're here, how are we gonna' find the Baby?

Lion: Hey, look at the donkey over there. Maybe she knows where the baby is.

Bob: Let's go ask her. [*They approach the donkey.*] Mrs. Donkey, do know where we can find the Christ child?

Donkey: Do I know where you can find the Christ child? Why, as a matter of fact I do. You see, his mother rode on my back because she was too pregnant to walk comfortably. I got her here safely, and just in time too. Joseph and Mary, that's Jesus' mother and father, couldn't find a place to stay in one of the inns in town, but they did find one innkeeper who would let them sleep in the stable out back. That's where the King of Kings was born. Then He was laid in a manger.

Bob: We heard about that part from the angels.

Donkey: The angels?

Doug: Yeah, angles visited the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night. That's why we're here.

Lion: And I met these two sheep on the road. When they told me about the birth of the Lion of Judah I just had to come along with them.

Bob: What did you say about Jesus being a King?

Donkey: He is a King, in fact He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, and Prince of Peace. But He won't be a king like those wise men that you saw outside of the city. He won't rule here on earth, but He'll rule in heaven.

Doug: Wow. That's incredible.

Bob: Can you show us where He is?

Donkey: He's right over there in that stable.

Bob: [*He can hardly wait.*] Oh, let's go see Him right now!

Lion: Sounds Great [*again, emphasize "great"*] to me.

Doug: Thanks for your help, Mrs. Donkey.

Donkey: You're welcome. [*She leaves.*]

[*They slowly approach the manger scene in great awe.*]

Bob: There He is.

Doug: It's hard to believe that He is a king.

Lion: He's just a baby lying there in a manger.

Bob: But someday He'll enter Jerusalem as the King of all Kings.

Doug: It's hard to imagine.

Lion: He is the Lion of Judah.

Bob: The Great Shepherd.

Doug: The King of all Kings.

Lion: He will defeat the enemy and we will reign with Him forever and ever.

Bob: Boy, the angels sure knew what they were talking about.

Doug: Bob?

Bob: Yeah, Doug.

Doug: Thanks for waking me up.

Bob: No problem.

Doug: I think that we've found a new Shepherd to follow.

Bob: Yeah, and for as long as we live.

*[They briefly stare at the baby Jesus and the play ends.]*

- CURTAIN -



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