



“THE GREATEST STORY NEVER TOLD”

Written by Joe Rieger

CAST (in order of appearance):

Dad:	Husband, father and storyteller
Mom:	Wife and mother of the two children
Jenny:	5th or 6th grade daughter
Tommy:	3rd or 4th grade son
Voice of Sponge Bob type television character	(Scene 1)
Adam:	Mate of Eve (Scene 2)
Eve:	Mate of Adam (Scene 2)
Serpent	the Tempter (Scene 2)
Voice of God	(Scene 2)
Abraham	formerly known as Abram (Scene 3)
Sarah	formerly known as Sarai (Scene 3)
Jacob	Son of Isaac (Scene 4)
Esau	Isaac's hairy twin (Scene 4)
Twelve sons of Jacob	(Scene 5)
Moses	Leader of the Israelite exodus (Scenes 6,7)
Aaron	Brother of Moses (Scenes 6,7)

Pharaoh	King of Egypt (Scene 6)
Golden Calf Worshipers	(Scene 7)
Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego	(Scene 8)
Daniel	Survivor of the lion's den (Scene 8)
David	young shepherd (Scene 8)
Goliath	Big bad Philistine (Scene 8)
Pageant Director	director of the pageant (Scene 8)
Priest	receiving people's sacrifices (Scene 9)
Worshipers	bringing their sacrifices (Scene 9)
Isaiah	the prophet (Scene 10)
Micah	the prophet (Scene 10)
Zechariah	the prophet (Scene 10)
Jesus	Son of God before His human birth (Scene 11)
Mary	Mother of Jesus (Scene 12)
Joseph	Earthly father of Jesus (Scene 12)
Shepherds	(Scene 12)
Angels	(Scene 12)
Cute little kids in animal outfits	(Scene 12)
Children's Choir	(Scene 12)

SETTING:

The stage is split into two sets: the first consists of a dinner table with four chairs and a nearby living room with a television. The living area is decorated for Christmas. The second set will be used to act out the biblical stories being told. A spotlight on the second set will switch on and off as these biblical scenes are acted out.

ONE

A mother and father are sitting at the table enjoying an after dinner cup of coffee. Two small children are sitting on the floor in front of the television watching a secular Christmas program.

TELEVISION:

(In a Sponge Bob type voice)

What's Christmas all about ... what's Christmas all about? I'll tell you what Christmas is all about. It's about presents and candy and playing out in the snow until mom calls you in for hot chocolate. That's what Christmas is all about.

DAD:

Honey, every night for a whole week now we've been hearing these Christ-less T.V. programs telling us that Christmas is about everything and anything except Jesus. Enough already, I've got an idea.

MOM:

What do you have in mind, honey?

DAD:

When our men's ministry was at that conference up in Boston, I picked up a cool Christmas book. It's a family devotional that sums up the whole Christmas story from Genesis to the Gospels. It's called "The Greatest Story Never Told."

MOM:

Sounds good to me, but how are we going to pry those two away from that television set?

DAD:

That's easy enough. I have the power and the technology ...

(He stands up and grabs the remote and clicks off the television)

KIDS:

DAD!

MOM:

Come on kids, daddy has a great Christmas story that he wants us to read together.

JENNY:

But we were right in the middle of the Sponge Burp Christmas special.

TOMMY:

Yeah, Mandy the squirrel was going to help Mr. Scabs throw a big Texas style Christmas party at the Rusty Scab.

DAD:

Well, not today. Besides, you've already seen this episode once this year and three times last year.

MOM:

Yeah, let's try something different for a change. It'll be nice.

JENNY:

All right, but can we watch the Jimmy Futon Christmas special when we're done?

MOM:

We'll see. It all depends on what time we finish. You do have school tomorrow.

DAD:

Okay you two, come over and have a seat at the table.

(With each arm, dad grabs the chairs on his right and left and slides them over to him. Jenny and Tommy sit on either side of their father)

Now this book tells the real Christmas story. Sure we celebrate Christmas by giving and receiving presents, but Christmas is so much more than candy, days off from school and gifts.

MOM:

It's about the ultimate gift. God's gift of eternal life that He offers to all of us.

DAD:

You see God has a laid out a wonderful plan that's been in progress for thousands and thousands of years. This plan includes you, mom, myself and all of mankind. Do you want to hear about it?

KIDS:

Sure!

(Dad begins to read from the book)

DAD:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He also created man in the image of God and called him "Adam."

TWO

Spotlight comes up and reveals a lush garden where Adam pops up his head from behind a hedge.

DAD: (CONT'D)

So that Adam wouldn't be alone, God created woman to be his helper and companion. Her name was "Eve."

On cue, Eve pops up her head from behind the hedge. Only their heads and shoulders are showing.

DAD: (CONT'D)

The LORD gave Adam and Eve all kinds food from the garden. And they could eat from any tree, EXCEPT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That was the one fruit that God forbid them to eat.

Enter large serpent standing erect. He begins to entice Eve with the forbidden fruit. Eve motions no and makes a gesture with her finger (crossing her throat as to indicate that she would die if she ate the fruit).

SERPENT:

Surely you will not die if you eat the fruit. God is just trying to keep you from becoming like Him - knowing the difference between good and evil. Go ahead, munge!

DAD:

So Eve took the fruit and ate it .
(show her really enjoying the fruit)

DAD: (CONT'D)

And then she offered it to Adam who ate it also. And after eating the fruit, their eyes were opened.

(Both Adam and Eve look at each other - as if for the first time - and cross their arms to cover themselves)

VOICE OF GOD:

Adam!

(The serpent flees and Adam and Eve duck down behind the hedge)

Turn off spotlight on the Garden.

DAD:

Because Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit and disobeyed God, sin had entered into the world. Man and woman would never be the same again. From that first sin, came other sins like lying, stealing and killing. These sins spread throughout the world, throughout the ages. Worst of all, our sin would separate mankind from a holy God.

TOMMY:

Thanks a lot Adam and Eve.

JENNY:

Yeah, nice goin'.

MOM:

But fortunately for us, our story doesn't end there.

DAD:

Mom's right. There's much more.

(Dad resumes reading from the book)

Many years later, God chose a righteous man - a man of strong faith - to become the father of a great nation. His name was Abraham. And even though Abraham and his wife Sarah were old and childless, God promised that his descendants would be as numerous as stars in the sky.

THREE

Spot light comes up as Abraham and Sarah come on stage with walkers.

DAD: (CONT'D)

And God kept His promise. At the ripe old age of 100, Abraham became a father. His wife Sarah gave birth to a son and they named him Isaac.

(Sarah pulls out a baby from behind her walker)

And God promised that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through Abraham and his son Isaac.

Spotlight is turned off and Abraham and Sarah exit

DAD: (CONT'D)

In keeping with God's promise to make a great nation out of this family, the LORD gave Isaac two sons, Jacob and Esau.

FOUR

Spotlight comes up as two males come on stage. Esau has red hair and hairy arms and legs (exaggerate this hairy feature). Have Jacob continually tricking Esau with childish pranks such as "Your sandals are untied" and then flips his nose as Esau looks down. Followed by the tapping of Esau's right shoulder while Jacob looks on innocently from Esau's left.

DAD: (CONT'D)

Yes, Jacob was quite the trickster. In fact, he even tricked Esau - the older twin - out of his birthright ... but that's another story.

FIVE

Spotlight stays on as twelve males come on stage and stand on either side of Jacob (have Esau discreetly disappear by bending down behind the crowd). One of the twelve males will be wearing a multi-colored coat (Joseph).

DAD: (CONT'D)

The LORD blessed Jacob with twelve sons. These twelve sons and their families would become the twelve tribes of Israel. In keeping with His covenant with Abraham, God watched over Jacob and his family. They lived safely in the land of Canaan until a great famine struck the land.

(Everyone rubs their stomachs, grabs their suitcases and exits off stage)

DAD: (CONT'D)

Then the LORD brought Jacob's family to Egypt where they found favor with Pharaoh. They were given food, shelter and land for their flocks. In the safe surroundings of Goshen, the LORD began to multiply the Israelites into a great nation. Over a period of four generations, their numbers grew from seventy to over one and a half million. Just as God had promised, Abraham's descendants had become as numerous as the stars in the sky.

TOMMY:

Hey dad, what about the mean Pharaoh and Moses?

JENNY:

Yeah, you know ...

(she begins to sing and is joined by her brother) KIDS:

Pharaoh, Pharaoh, whoa whoa let my people go.

DAD:

(Dad laughs as he lifts his head from the book and answers them)

Be patient, I'm getting to them!

(Dad resumes reading from the book)

By this time, the descendants of Abraham had become so numerous that the Egyptian king - called Pharaoh- had become fearful of them. He was afraid that these Israelites would try to overthrow his kingdom. To prevent this from happening, Pharaoh forced them into slavery and put slave masters over them. Under the most brutal conditions, these Israelite slaves were forced to build Egyptian cities for Pharaoh. The people's cries rose up to to the LORD and it reached a point where He could no longer stand their suffering. In response, God called Moses to lead His chosen people to freedom and bring them to the Promised Land. The LORD then sent Moses and his brother Aaron to Pharaoh and ordered him to let God's people go.

SIX

Spotlight illuminates as Moses (with a staff) and Aaron walk up to Pharaoh.

MOSES:

Let my people go!"

PHAROAH:

Yeah right, in your dreams.

Powerpoint slide illuminates on the screen "Ten Plagues Later"

PHAROAH: (CONT'D)

Go already! In fact,

(begins to sing)

Go where you wanna wanna go ... do what you wanna wanna do ...
with who-ever you wanna wanna do it with.

Moses and Aaron exit as the spotlight fades to black.

DAD:

And with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt. He parted the Red Sea and delivered them safely into the Desert of Shur. The Israelites were on their way to the Promised Land. Unfortunately, God's chosen people - the children of the promise made to Abraham - were easily drawn away by sin. To help keep them from doing wrong, the LORD gave Moses the Ten Commandments. By obeying these laws, the Israelites could stay close to God and stay out of trouble. The only problem was that the Israelites couldn't even obey the very first Commandment.

SEVEN

Spotlight comes on as Moses enters with two stone tablets (the Ten Commandments). He is horrified to see his fellow Israelites - including his brother Aaron - dancing around the golden calf and worshipping this idol.

Play audio track (portion of song "These Words (I love you, I love you)" as the Israelites adore the golden calf.

MOSES:

(Slams down the two stone tablets and rushes over to his brother Aaron.)
Aaron, what is going on here?

AARON:

Um, we're worshipping god.

MOSES:

You're worshipping a cow.

AARON:

Is that a bad thing?

MOSES:

(Moses picks up the stone tablets and quickly looks them over.)

You broke the very first commandment ... and number two as well ... and from the looks of things, you blew # 7 right out of the water.

AARON:

Am I in trouble again?

Spot light fades and actors exit

TOMMY:

Dad, this is a great story and all, but what does it have to do with Christmas?

DAD:

Let me try to explain this to you. The true Christmas story doesn't begin and end with shepherds, wise men and baby Jesus in a manger. It's a long running story of God's incredible love for us and how He's been pursuing a love relationship with us since the Garden of Eden.

TOMMY:

Huh?

MOM:

What dad is trying to say is that God loves us and that He has a great plan for His children. The only problem is that we keep messing it up because of our sin.

JENNY:

I know that Jesus came into the world to save us from our sin, but it'll be Easter before dad finishes telling this story.

MOM:

(Turns to her husband)

Honey, is there any way you can speed this up a little? The kids do have school tomorrow.

DAD:

Fine, fine I'll skip a few sections ... including this great chapter on heroes of the Bible who actually obeyed God.

EIGHT

Spotlight comes on and shows various heroes of the Bible: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego (in a cardboard fiery furnace), Daniel (with two stuffed lions under his arms) and David and Goliath (played by a small boy and large adult). The pageant's director comes on stage approaches these characters.

DIRECTOR:

Excuse me everyone ... excuse me. We've decided not to do this scene, so you can all go home now. Sorry about that. We'll contact your agents if we need you again. Off you go.

The characters all go off stage grumbling as the spotlight fades to black.

DAD:

For thousands of years, God provided for His people and guided them ... but people - sinners that we are - just couldn't keep the Ten Commandments. And as far as the Old Testament ritual where animal sacrifices were offered to cleanse people of their sins goes, ...

NINE

Spotlight comes up on a scene where people are offering sacrifices to God. There will be a priest, an altar and a line of people with their animal offerings (have people holding various stuffed animals including "Big Bird", "Elmo," etc. One by one they present their offerings to the priest until one man offers up Sponge Bob Square Pants. At this point the high priest loses it. All of this is acted out without spoken words.

DAD: (CONT'D)

... it just wasn't cutting it.

Spotlight fades and actors exit.

DAD: (CONT'D)

The time was approaching when God would have to do for man, what man could not do for himself. The Lord would become one of us in order to show us the way to heaven. He would offer Himself up as the perfect sacrifice for all man's sins. Centuries before this would take place, however, the LORD would send us prophets to tell of the coming Messiah.

TEN

Spotlight comes on as one prophet is followed by another (in series). Each one prophesying of the wondrous things that were to come.

ISAIAH:

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

MICAH:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

ZECHARIAH:

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation.

Spotlight fades to black.

DAD:

In the days of Caesar Augustus, in the obscure town of Nazareth in Galilee, the Son of God humbled Himself by stepping down from heaven ...to the womb of a virgin.

ELEVEN

Ultra bright lights shine on Jesus as He delivers a quote from Hebrews 10:6-7, as He departs heaven for Galilee.

JESUS:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am - it is written about me in the scroll. I have come to do your will, O God.'

Spotlight fades to black.

DAD:

And God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to inform a virgin named Mary that she would be with child and give birth to a son. She was to name the child Jesus for He will be great and called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His kingdom will have no end.

Mary became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. When it came time to be counted in the Roman census, she and her husband Joseph went to Bethlehem because Joseph was of the house and line of David. When they arrived in Bethlehem, it was time for the baby to be born. Since there was no room for them at the inn, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son in a stable. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger.

TWELVE

Spotlight comes up on a manger scene with Jesus, Mary and Joseph surrounded by animals (cute kids in costumes), shepherds and angels. A choir forms and sings "Silent Night." After the song, the spotlight fades on the manger scene.

Suggestion: From this point on, try to incorporate silent film footage - perhaps from "The Jesus Video" or "The Passion of the Christ" (nothing graphic) where appropriate.

DAD:

But the Christmas message doesn't stop here. Jesus grew up and lived a sinless life. He reached out to the poor, the sick and the sinful with a message of forgiveness and salvation. The religious leaders, burning with jealousy and outraged by Jesus' claims to be Messiah, turned the Lord over to the Romans for execution.

(Show the cross on the screen via PowerPoint)

DAD: (CONT'D)

Jesus was crucified on a cross where He suffered, died and was buried. Wow, you might be wondering, "Is this the end of the story?" Absolutely not! On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus - a descendant of Abraham - would bless all the nations. The LORD kept His promise. That's how much God loves us!

PowerPoint comes up on the screen (John 3:16-17) as dad reads it from the book.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

DAD: (CONT'D)

Through Christ, our sin problem has been dealt with once and for all. If you are a child of the blessing, rejoice in the riches that you have in Christ. If you have yet to accept this gift from God, ask for it now. He's waiting to make you a child of the blessing. This Christmas, ask Jesus for the greatest gift of all ... Himself. The End.

JENNY:

Wow dad, that is "The Greatest Story Never Told." Why don't we ever hear about stuff like that at school or on T.V?

MOM:

Honey, our culture has been removing Jesus from Christmas for years. The mere mention of the name Jesus seems to offend more and more people. Even at Christmas time! It's sad, but true.

DAD:

But it's our job as Christians to tell this great story to people who've either forgotten it or never heard it in the first place. And not just during Christmas, but throughout the year.

MOM:

Okay, let's get ready for bed.

KIDS:

Aw, do we have to?

MOM:

Yes you have to. Dad went 45 minutes past your bedtime.

TOMMY:

Hey dad ... can you read us stories like that every night? It sure beats reruns of Spongeburp Hair Pants.

DAD:

Sure, I'll try. Now go get ready for bed and I'll stop by in a few minutes to pray with you and say good night.

KIDS:

Okay dad.

Both kids kiss mom and exit off stage.

MOM:

Well dad, it looks like you're going to be busy for the next few nights.

DAD:

Sure looks that way. We'd better get on Amazon.com to find some Christian books in a hurry or it's back to "Sponge Burp" or "The Hairy God Parents."

MOM:

You go upstairs and tuck them in and I'll go online.

DAD:

Sounds like a plan to me.

MOM:

I've got a feeling that this is going to be an extra special Christmas. We've got the blessing. He smiles, nods in agreement, kisses the top of her head and heads off stage.

THE END