Advent 3: Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:1-7

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Set: The set for God of Wonders Units 7-10 is designed as a seventeenth century pirate ship viewed from the port (left) side. The Caribbean Queen's bow is stage right. On stage left, there is a raised wheelhouse with a door to the Captain's quarters. Characters and puppets may pop up from several trap doors in the deck and from the crow's nest near the top of the center stage mast. There is a pulley system to raise the treasure chest from below deck where the Bible is kept. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Captain Billy Ocean is a rough and tough former pirate who has given his heart to Jesus and uses his ship to serve God's kingdom. Cody is one of Captain Billy Ocean's "skater" nephews. He is fairly simple, speaks in surfer terms, and is excited by most things, especially God's Word.

Plot: Captain Billy teaches Cody about Advent. He tells the story of how Jesus was born in a manger. We learn Jesus sacrificed the comfort of heaven and chose to be born in a stable for our sake.

Costumes: Captain: Blousy shirt, vest, belt, boots, scarf, and an eye patch; Cody: Skater caps, skater shorts, knee socks, sandals

Props: Bibles, treasure chest, advent wreath and candles, Christmas decorations

Sound effects (SFX):
1. Intro/Outro music suggestion: "Pirate Theme" from productiontrax.com tracks #19253 or #40794
2. Treasure chest suggestion: Music with voiceover as chests opens to reveal Bible: **"His Words for you are treasures true!"**

Visual effects (VFX):
1. Video Intro is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Treasure chest contains the Bible. Whenever it is opened, light shines out and music with voiceover plays.
3. Scripture slide: ***...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7***
4. Closing Slide: "**May the God of Wonders fill your sails and guide your path!**"

Adaptations:
1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

Voice over (VFX: Video bump)
Ahoy lads and lassies! There be a legend centuries old of a lost treasure, more valuable than gold! Though the Pirates searched both land and sea, they could not find where it might be! Until Captain Billy sailed the ocean blue and brought that treasure home to you. So grab yer treasure map, climb aboard the Caribbean Queen and join us as Captain Billy Ocean and his crew unveil the greatest wonders God has ever shown!

Cody (pops up)
Ahoy, Dudes! It is I, Cody. Can you believe Christmas is almost here? Uncle Captain Billy has been teaching me all about Advent. That's a big word but it just means "coming" because we look forward to the coming of Jesus!

Captain
I always look forward to being near Jesus.

Cody
Yeah and Jesus came near to us, didn't He Uncle Captain Billy?

Captain
Indeed He did. And today we are talking about that very story.

Cody
You mean when Jesus was born? Awesome!

Captain
It was awesome. Reach in that chest there and get out me traysure map and I'll show 'ya.

Cody
I'll get it out, right now! (SFX: "Joy to the World," VFX: Light shines from treasure chest)
Righteous! I think I know this story. Mary

and Joseph went to Bethlehem for some reason.

Captain
It was for the census.

Cody
You mean like hearing and tasting and smelling...?!

Captain
No, not those kinds of senses. The census was a time when all of the people had to take their families back to their hometown so they could be counted.

Cody
So, did Mary count as two people?

Captain
She might as well have because she was going to give birth to Jesus any day.

Cody
Oh yeah, and then they looked for a place to have the baby but there was no room at the inn! So, they ended up having to place Jesus in a manger.

Captain (Choose volunteer.)
Aye, let's choose a volunteer to help us light today's Advent candle. Come on up.

Cody
Ooh! Uncle Captain Billy, may I read the Bible part?

Captain
You may.

Cody
Sweet! Okay Dudes, as you watch the candle flicker, check out these words from the Word of God! (VFX: Scripture slide)
...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Captain
Very nice. Thank you volunteer. You may have a seat.

Cody
Wow, I love the fact that Jesus came near to us as a baby. I love those tiny little critters with their tiny hands and their little tootsies.

Captain
Everyone loves babies. Maybe that's why God chose to come near to us as a baby.

Cody
Yeah, 'cause when all those angels showed up people would get freaked out and the angels would have to say: "Do not be afraid!" But I don't know anyone who's freaked out by a baby.

Captain
Good point, Cody.

Cody
Yeah, it's just so sad.

Captain
God sent us a Savior. Why is that sad?

Cody
I'm happy that we have a Savior. It's just sad that he had to leave His awesome life in heaven and come down here and sleep on some itchy, scratchy hay in a manger.

Captain
Aye, but He chose that for our sake.

Cody
Jesus chose to be born in a manger?

Captain
Aye, the Bible says: Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Cody
Wow, Jesus came as a servant?

Captain
Aye, that's what makes our Savior so special. He loves us with a love that is full of sacrifice.

Cody
I wish I could have visited baby Jesus. I would have brought Him a pillow and some soft blankets.

Captain
That's very sweet of you Cody. We're gonna learn about some special visitors that came to worship the baby Jesus.

Cody
Who, who?

Captain
You'll find out next week.
(SFX: "Joy to the World," VFX: Closing slide)
Until then, may the God of Wonders fill your sails and guide your path!

Cody
And have a holly, jolly Christmas!

(they exit)