



Advent 3: Birthplace of the King

Luke 2:1-7

Running time: Approximately 4 minutes

Setting: The set for Units 7-10 is designed to look like the outside of the King City Herald, a large newspaper building circa 1940's. A door leads to the office. A phone booth provides the place for the superheroes' quick costume changes. The center panel can be removed to reveal the superheroes "Secret Lab," filled with screens and gadgets (similar to Batman's Bat Cave), where the heroes watch over the city. There is a useable fire escape with a door and a ladder down to ground level. There is a ramp on stage right. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Scoop Gibson is a street-wise, savvy reporter who hides his secret identity as superhero "Scripture Guy." Kasey Carter is a young, college-educated reporter (can be male or female) whose secret identity is superhero "Kingdom Crusader."

Plot: Scripture Guy explains why God chose to let Jesus be born in a tiny manger in the humble town of Bethlehem. We learn God sent Jesus to all people. Anyone can come to Him anytime.

Costumes: Superhero costumes: capes, face masks, body suit, tights, etc., "SG" emblem on Scripture Guy costume, "KC" emblem on Kingdom Crusader costume.

Props: Bible, gift box

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/Outro music suggestion: Heroic music
2. Newspaper box: "Good news" or other triumphant song clip. Music plays when box is opened to reveal the Bible.

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring superheroes is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Fallback slide reads "King City Chronicles"
3. A newspaper box holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide: **"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David." Luke 2:4**
5. Motto Slide: **"We Give Everything to Honor Our King!"**

Note to Director: The scripts are abbreviated during the Unit 10 lessons to allow time for the lighting of the Advent candle in THE WORSHIP.

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

King City Chronicles
Unit 10, Lesson 50
Advent 2: Birthplace of the King
Luke 2:1-7

Voiceover (VFX: short video intro)

Dateline: King City, a city devoted to the glory of God. But in her dark underbelly there are villains gathering...evil men who seek to steal God's glory! Will King City find her hero? Can she be saved and restored to her former glory? For the answer to these questions and more, tune in every week to the King City Chronicles!

Scripture Guy (enters carrying gift)

Hey kids, Scripture Guy here. I'm so excited I just bought this swell Christmas present for The Philistine. I can't wait to see his face when he opens it!

Kingdom Crusader
Hi, Scripture Guy.

Scripture Guy

Hello, Kingdom Crusader. I got this nifty present for The Philistine. You haven't seen him, have you?

Kingdom Crusader
He's gone. He went back home to Godly Acres.

Scripture Guy

He did? But he was so helpful to us here in King City. I'm going to miss that big lug.

Kingdom Crusader
Yeah, me too. He ran this great ad in the paper, and he spread the good news about Jesus. He even visited the Obliterator in prison. But then he said it was time to go home and reunite with Aunt Till...I mean, his wife, Tillie and get back to his hometown.

Scripture Guy

Well, I can understand that. It's good to remember our birthplace and family history, because God chose all of those things for us. God did that for His own Son, too. I'll get the Bible out right now! (He opens box, SFX: Good

News, VFX: Beam of light shines from box) You know, God could have chosen any place for the King to be born, but he chose the least likely place.

Kingdom Crusader

You mean the manger?

Scripture Guy

Yes, the manger, but I also meant Bethlehem. Bethlehem wasn't a big, important, capital city. It was just a tiny, little town.

Kingdom Crusader

So, why did they go there?

Scripture Guy (VFX: Scripture slide)

Well, you see, the Emperor Caesar Augustus, had ordered a census - that's when all the people have to go back to their hometown to be counted, and Joseph's family was from Bethlehem. The Bible says, *So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.*

Kingdom Crusader

So, actually it was the Emperor that chose the place.

Scripture Guy

Oh no, it was God's plan all along that Jesus be born in that humble place.

Kingdom Crusader

But why? Jesus is the King of heaven! He should have been born in the most glorious palace in the biggest city in all of Israel!

Scripture Guy

If he were born in a palace, there would be gates and guards to keep the common people out. You would have to get special permission just to see the King. Jesus was born in a place where anyone who wanted to was free to visit him. God sent Jesus to save *all* people not just a special few.

Kingdom Crusader

I get it. The manger in Bethlehem is like a picture that shows us that anyone can come to Jesus.

Scripture Guy

God's kingdom is open to everyone. There's no secret way to enter. You just come through Jesus.

Kingdom Crusader

Amen. Speaking of secrets . . . there's something I've been wanting to tell you. I'm Kasey Carter.

Scripture Guy

I know.

Kingdom Crusader

I just thought Superheroes were supposed to have secret identities and then after a while I didn't know how to tell you and I ... wait a minute. You knew?

Scripture Guy

Of course! You only slipped and gave it away about a million times. And now, I have a secret for you.

Kingdom Crusader

You're Scoop Gibson?

Scripture Guy

Yes, how'd you know?

Kingdom Crusader

Well, I am a reporter, and I learned from the best!

Scripture Guy

Thanks, kid. Well, there you have it, The Redeem Team is open and honest; no more secrets between us.

Kingdom Crusader

I know one thing that's never been a secret, our motto! Let's all say it together.

Both

We give everything to honor our King! (exit through office, SFX: "Heroic music," VFX: Motto Slide) **So long, kids!**