

Christmas Lighthouse©

Theme: Jesus is the light of the world, and like the light from a lighthouse, he keeps us safe when the storms of life abound. This script includes a short pageant for ages approximately 4 – 12, plus drama for teens.

Bible Reference: John 1:6-9, 8:12, 9:5, 12:36, 46

Cast: 32 +
Luke – any age teen and up
Mary
Joseph
Innkeeper
Innkeeper's Wife
3 Shepherds
Group 1 - Shepherds Segment: 6 children (Junior boys and/or girls)
Group 2 – Angels Segment: 5 children (Junior boys and/or girls)
Lighthouse Acronym: 10 children (Primary boys and girls)

Set: Bare stage except for the following:
A raised stage for Luke
A backdrop showing a lighthouse

Props: chair

Lighting: a sharp light at the top of the lighthouse, (could be a strobe but take the usual precautions of informing audience that a strobe is being used, it can create health hazards)
Spotlights would be useful if available

Sound: as available

Costumes: likely all actors would be dressed in traditional Bible-period costumes

Special instructions:

lines for Primary children should be on PowerPoint or overhead, projected on rear wall for those situations where tiny voices are not clear

Music: Christmas carols may be added between segments as desired

Time: 45

Script:

light at top of lighthouse comes on, Luke comes on stage from stage right, looks up intently at the light, speaks

Luke: The light!
What a glorious light!
How timely, how significant, the light from the lighthouse!
(looks around at audience, startled, smiles)
Oh it is you, my honourable friend Theophilus, oh yes, and I see you have brought along some friends as well!
Welcome!
Welcome, indeed!
Since you are here, let me please take advantage of the moment to tell you of all I know regarding the coming of the light.
(pause, looks into the audience, frowns)
The light . . .
(pauses again, confused look, frowns)
The coming of the light . . . the Christ . . . The Messiah.
(starts to smile as though recognizing that the audience now understand)
Yes, yes, He!
(looks deep into the audience, frown more deeply confused)
Ahhhhhh, I see! There is among you more than one sceptic.
Fine, so be it!
Throughout history there has ever been the sceptic.
Has scepticism changed the facts by .. by .. *(holds right thumb and index finger close together)* . . by this much?
(looks into the audience, a smile comes to his face, breaks out in loud laughter)
Oh, my, my!
You would debate the evidence would you?
Come ahead then! Let us debate if you will!
Perhaps first you may want to understand and to know he with whom you are debating?
I am Luke.
I am a man of science.
A doctor.
A physician.
(looks into audience as though listening to a comment, smiles)
Yes, yes, I am indeed sometimes known as the beloved physician.
(angry)
But the beloved physician is no fool!
I weigh facts, evaluate with reason.
And the fact is that so many others tried their hand at putting together a story of the wonderful harvest of scripture and history that took place among us.
I have studied, I have researched, I have interviewed, . *(chuckles)*.
interrogated some may say.
I have examined in minute detail the reports handed down by the original eyewitnesses who served this Word with their very lives.

And more, . . . more . . . thoroughly, than anyone before me, I have systematically, painstakingly, methodically and in great detail examined the evidence, starting from the story's beginning, and continuing through until conclusion.

(pauses, looks into audience, frowns)

The purpose you ask?

The purpose is that you will know beyond the shadow of a doubt the facts as they transpired, and the validity of that which you were taught.

Let us then begin . . . at the beginning.

(pauses, frowns)

No . . . wait . . . on that one point I am wrong . . . for the light was . . . before time . . .

Yes, it is true . . . before time began, the light was there.

However, since feeble human minds can not comprehend such lofty concepts, let us begin that night, when the light was first seen by many humble souls, and sought by only a precious few.

So many lives were touched by the coming of the light . . . so many still are to this day.

*Luke freezes, light comes on at the top of the lighthouse
Innkeeper and wife come on stage*

Wife, *exhausted*:

Thank goodness that day is over!

Innkeeper: You are worn out aren't you, dear one. I don't believe you have ever sat down since the rush began just after midnight. Do you realize that is almost a full day since?

Wife: Yes, my feet tell me that is true. But nor have you slowed down since then.

Innkeeper: Amazing! Every room in our inn has been sold out since this whole process began! *(chuckles)* Perhaps we can convince Caesar Augustus to hold a census three times a year; we could shut down the inn and take a vacation in between.

Wife: Oh dear husband, you would enjoy being idle for one day then you would be searching for things to do.

Innkeeper: Not an empty bed to be found in any of the inns in town tonight.

Wife, *angrily*: No, not even our own bed.

Innkeeper: Sorry, but when that elderly couple came in I simply didn't have the heart to turn them away.

Wife, *chuckling*:

When you told me you had given away our own bed I had a good mind to toss both you and the couple out on the street.

Innkeeper: I know it was wrong to give up our bed but . . .

Wife: You are a good man Abraham, and I am proud to be your wife, even though I will have to snuggle down on the cold hard floor tonight.

Mary and Joseph come slowly on stage, Joseph assisting Mary

Innkeeper: Well, no matter, the old couple will be gone by tonight and we will have our nice soft bed . . .

Joseph: Excuse me. Sir, excuse me!

Wife, *angry*: Can't you see, we are closed, and we are full.

Joseph: But my wife . . she is tired, she is . . .

Wife: All of us are tired. Now as I was saying we are . . .

Joseph: Mary is pregnant, she must lay down, she . . .

Wife: Pregnant! What kind of husband are you to bring a pregnant woman here from . . . wherever you are from!

Innkeeper: Caesar Augustus has given no exemption for age or incapacitation. This was a party to which every man, woman and child received an invitation they dare not refuse.

(to Mary, slides a chair over to Mary)

Here, rest young lady.

Mary, *weakly, smiles*:

Thank you.

Wife: Abraham, what are you doing? They can't stay here! Look at her! She is already having birthing pains, are you not?

Mary nods affirmative

Wife: There is no way she can give birth here on the floor, the baby would never survive!

Innkeeper: You are quite right, dear wife. What are we to do then?

Wife: We are to keep our noses out of the business which does not affect us, that is what we are to do!

Joseph: You must help us sir, we have been everywhere, there is nowhere, not so much as an old shed.

Innkeeper: An old shed would be of no value on a night this cold . .

Wife: . . .besides, my dear business tycoon husband has already rented out our shed!

Innkeeper: I could not see that family sleeping on the street.

Wife: Meet my husband, the defender of all.

Innkeeper, *gets an idea*:

Like you said, dear wife, our shed has been taken, but perhaps all is not lost!

Wife: Don't tell me, you plan to construct a temporary dwelling?

Innkeeper: A temporary dwelling, yes, but one already standing. *(to Joseph)* Come along then young man, help your wife, we will go to the stable at the back, it is nothing special but it is clean, and the animals will provide the warmth.

Wife: Husband! Have you lost your mind! A barn. To birth a baby child?

Innkeeper: Perhaps you have a better suggestion?

Wife: When will you learn that every misfortune on earth does not have to result in you rushing to find a solution.

Innkeeper: That is my lesson for tomorrow dear one, but for tonight we have a stable to make ready and you must get ready to be midwife.

Mary: I would feel better if you were there dear lady.

Wife, *looking at Innkeeper*:

My husband will single-handedly be responsible for driving me crazy! . . . *(to Joseph)* Well, don't just stand there . . you . . . you . . father-to-be, quickly, get her out back. *(to Innkeeper)* And as for you husband dear, there are blankets on the shelf over the stove, and water, we need water. And we will need a light!

*Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper and wife move to upstage position where they freeze
Luke moves*

Luke: Poor Joseph!
The reluctant father figure, who knew full well he was not father at all,
forced to see his beloved Mary exposed to the ridicule and scandal in their
own home town.
To be with her as she was forced to endure the painful experience of
torturous travel.
And then, this, (*hand sweeps across to indicate where Mary and Joseph
now are located*)
A . . . barn . . . as the birthplace for his firstborn son.
(*looks upward to the light of the lighthouse*)
How dim the light of hope must have seemed as Joseph did his best to
attend to the needs of his beloved wife.
(*looks out into the audience*)
But out there, (*hand sweeps to indicate everywhere*), people were
watching the light, that amazingly bright light, finding guidance to this
same stable.

*Luke freezes
three kings come on stage from rear of sanctuary, gazing up at the light*

King1: Look! It is growing much brighter now.

King2, *almost giddy*:
I told you! I told all of you! My calculations were correct! Perfectly
correct!

King3, *chuckling*:
Yes my learned friend, it does appear that you indeed were right.

King1: Perhaps Herod's men were right; the star does look to be just over
Bethlehem.

King3: There is something about that king which frightens me.

King2: A madman is what.

King3: Did you notice when Herod spoke of coming to worship the child how his
fingers took tight hold of his sword.

King1: We will need to be very careful that we do the right thing in announcing
the whereabouts of the child when we find him.

King3: If we find him.