

PROPS:

SCENE ONE — THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

Two Baby Doll Children of Penninah

SCENE TWO — THE ANNUNCIATION

None

SCENE THREE — THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

Baby Doll Jesus

SCENE FOUR — THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Manger

Baby Doll Jesus

SCRIPT

SCENE 1:

The Birth of Samuel

NARRATOR:

This pageant will be in four parts. The fourth part will be the story you expect in a Christmas pageant. The first three parts are other stories from the Bible that help to set the stage for the Christmas story.

This is not a rehearsed pageant. The children have not seen the script. They have to listen to me to find out what they are supposed to do. Many of you know these stories, but only the Angel and I know the script.

As you know, the first Christmas was about two thousand years ago. The first story in our pageant starts thousands of years before that.

After the Israelites had been brought up out of Egypt and settled in the land of Israel and before King Solomon oversaw the building of the big, fancy temple in Jerusalem, the Israelites worshipped God in a big tent known as a tabernacle in a place called Shiloh.

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To help you imagine the tabernacle, we'll ask our assistants to come out now with a wall of material.

(Scenery Helpers carry out a large piece of fabric on poles.)

NARRATOR: At the time of our first story, the high priest in charge of that temple is a man named Eli.

(Eli enters from the side.)

Here he comes now. Eli is walking very slowly because he is quite an old man. On this particular day, Eli came alongside the tabernacle and sat down on the steps up here.

Out in the countryside, back in the back of the church is the town of Ramah, where a woman named Hannah lives with her husband. There they are now.

(Hannah and Elkanah enter from the back.)

NARRATOR: More than anything else in the world, Hannah wants to have a child. Every day, she gets down on her knees and prays for a child. And do you know why? I'm afraid it's not a very good reason. Back in those days, people sometimes got married more than once at the same time. Hannah's husband also had another wife. Here she comes now.

(Enter Peninnah, carrying two babies from the back.)

NARRATOR: And the other wife had all the children. And the other wife had her nose up in the air and looked down on Hannah and acted like she was much more important than Hannah and that Hannah should be her servant, because she was the wife who had children.

