

# BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

## SAMPLE SCRIPT

*The angels exit. The shepherds disperse and we return to the inn.*

**Saul** A remarkable story. So what are you doing here then? This isn't a stable.

**Shepherd 1** We ran so quickly, we got here a bit early.

**Shepherd 2** The stars don't come out during the day.

**Shepherd 3** So we thought we'd do some baking. We all love baking.

**Lou** Wonderful. Well, good luck.

**Saul** I'm sure you'll rise to the occasion.

**Lou** It's unleavened bread, Josiah!

**Saul** I know, but I couldn't help myself.

*Action shifts to the four presenters who are with three other contestants, very wise-looking men!*

**Joanna** *(reading from a cue card)* So, here we have Caspar ...

**Caspar** Present.

**Joanna** Melchior ...

**Melchior** Present.

**Joanna** And Balthazar ...

**Balthazar** Present.

**Josiah** Three presents.

**Caspar**            We have indeed. Gold ...

**Melchior**        Frankincense ...

**Balthazar**        And myrrh.

**Caspar**            They are offerings for the baby. We have travelled a long way.

**Martha**            It says here you have come from the East.

**Melchior**        Yes, we have been following a star.

**Matthew**        You too?

**Balthazar**        No, us three.

**Matthew**        I mean, like the shepherds. Were you visited by angels too?

**Balthazar**        We were not. But we saw the star in the East and knew of its huge significance

**Melchior**        So we set off on our camels to pay homage to the baby.

**Joanna**            How was the journey? It sounds ... bumpy.

**Josiah**            And humpy.

**Caspar**            It was. But we knew it would be worth it.

*Music begins. The Three Wise Men join their 'camels' and entourage at the front of the stage.*

## **BETHLEHEM IS A LONG WAY OFF**

**Bumpy bumpy journey,  
We travel from afar,  
Sitting on our camels,  
And following a star.  
From the East together  
To meet a baby boy,  
Here to bring us joy.**

**Bethlehem is a long way off,  
But we will find our way.  
Bethlehem is a long way off,  
As night turns into day.**

**Pacing ever onwards,  
Another sun and moon,  
To the West we hurry,  
We hope we get there soon.  
Still the star it leads us,  
Towards the baby boy.  
Here to bring us joy.**

**Bethlehem is a long way off,  
But we will find our way.  
Bethlehem is a long way off,  
As night turns into day.**

**Bethlehem is a long way off,  
But we will find our way.  
Bethlehem is a long way off,  
As night turns into day.  
We will find our way.**

- Attendant 1** (to the other attendants) Do you think we're nearly there?
- Attendant 2** I hope so: I think I'm getting a blister.
- Attendant 3** Only one? I've got blisters on my blisters.
- Attendant 4** It's certainly further than I thought.
- Attendant 5** I know. Who would have thought following a star across the night sky would be such a long journey?
- Attendant 1** I hope we're following the right star. There's plenty to choose from.
- Attendant 2** Don't worry about that. The Wise Men aren't called Wise Men for no reason. Come on, let's pick our feet up.

*They hurry off. The Wise Men dismount their 'camels' and return to their counters as action returns to the competition.*

- Josiah** You must be ravenous after a journey like that.
- Joanna** This is no time for eating. Well, not for them at least. Everybody, it's judgement time in our first challenge. Lou and Saul will now taste your unleavened bread.

*Lou and Saul walk over to each of the contestants in turn, giving their bread a cursory glance. Now and then they utter some comments.*

- Saul** Bit dry.
- Lou** A little lacking in flavour for me.
- Saul** You've overworked it.
- Lou** Did you run out of time?

*They arrive at Balthazar. They taste his bread.*

- Lou** Delicious. Crisp. Chewy. Plenty of flavour.

*Saul looks at Balthazar and holds his eye for a moment. Then he offers his hand. Balthazar shakes it happily.*

- Saul** I can't fault it.

*Balthazar gasps. The other Wise Men smile generously and give him the thumbs up.*

**Martha**            A Bethlehem handshake! That alone's worth the long journey.

**Matthew**          And speaking of journeys, let's take a look at the reason for our special edition today.

**Joanna**            A young couple, Mary and Joseph, travelling from Nazareth for the Roman census.

**Josiah**            It's not been easy for them, especially as Mary is with child, but they haven't far to go.

*Mary and Joseph enter at the front of the stage, along with their donkey and other people making their way to Bethlehem.*