



Bible Drama Scripts
presents

BIRTH PAINS

By Patricia Souder

SYNOPSIS: A thought-provoking monologue in poetic form that reflects on the pain
Father, Mother, and Son experienced as Jesus became “Emmanuel, God with us.”

SETTING: Present.

CHARACTER: A Mother.

PERFORMANCE TIME: 2-3 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Speak slowly and expressively. Emphasize and savor each
word. Gesture as appropriate. Create a growing sense of wonder. Suggested arm
movements at the end should flow smoothly from one to another. Build to a
climax with the last two lines.

TOPICS: Christmas, Mary, Emmanuel, Cost of the Incarnation, Advent.

PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES: Worship Service, Outreach Event, Readers
Theatre.

BIBLE REFERENCES: Matthew 1: 20-24; Luke 2: 6-14.

PROPS: Small table. Large basket filled with laundry to be folded. Place a towel near
the top where it can be pulled out. Optional: Christmas tree or other decorations in
the background.

BIRTH PAINS

Sing "Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright" as enter with laundry basket. Set basket on table. Pull out a towel and start folding it. Stop and look thoughtful. Throw towel back into basket and gesture toward audience to ask . . .

Do we really think Emmanuel
Slid silently into our world
On a quiet, peaceful night?

My firstborn came

Crying
Kicking
Gasping for air
As I shivered and shook,
Exhausted from
Panting
Pushing
Praying.

Was Christ's coming less labored?
Or do we
Sterilize the stable . . .
Sentimentalize the saga . . . and
Ceremonialize the Incarnation

To minimize the birth pains
Father (*Raise right arm to point to God*)
Mother (*Bend arms at elbows with palms up*)
and Baby (*Cross wrists and move arms as if rocking a baby*)

Suffered

As God stripped Himself of glory that night . . . (*Fling arms apart, palms down*)

Giving (*Extend arms, palms up, to audience*)
Grieving (*Arms form an "X" across chest as if hugging self*)
Groaning (*Bow head, close eyes, form fists, groan as say "groaning"*)

To be one with us . . . (*Extend arms, then bring them together in wide circle of inclusion*)

So we can be one with Him? (*Raise right arm heavenward as left arm braces right arm*)