

- *Loosely based on material from SU's "All Age Service Annual, volume 1"*

The Nativity Scene

- If we were to put on a nativity play, what would happen?
 - who would we need to find actors for?
 - what would they do?
 - angels, shepherds, wise men, animals, inn-keeper, Mary, Joseph and the baby, all crowded into one stable...
 - often in those nativity plays we don't focus much on how everyone got there!
 - particularly the shepherds and the wise men
 - unlike in a school nativity play, the wise men from the East didn't just walk from the classroom to the assembly hall (!), but from Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) to Bethlehem...
 - wise men would have arrived later than the shepherds... perhaps as much as a year!

Are we nearly there yet?

- *Monologue*
- This is an imaginary situation - angels coming to earth...
- Very much imaginary - can't really identify with an angel!
 - but perhaps this next monologue might be more accessible, what might it have been like for one of the wise men, remembering the events of the first Christmas years later?

A Wise Man remembers

- *Monologue*

Jesus Journeys

- Reflect on Jesus journeying all the way from heaven to earth:
 - God has entered the planet!
 - the beginning of a journey that would take him through his life of perfect obedience to his Father in heaven
 - through his earthly ministry, demonstrating God's power and compassion, teaching God's word
 - facing the opposition of the leaders of his people
 - and finally journeying to his death on the Cross
 - but the journey was not then over - for Jesus was raised to life again by God, returning to glory and now reigns there on high!
- *Conclude with prayer of thanks for Jesus' coming, his long journey from heaven to earth and back again...*
 - *closing carol is 344, "Come, O long expected Jesus"*