



The Gingerbread Man's Christmas Adventure

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Characters

Gingerbread Man (**G. Man**)

Angel Gabriel (**Gabriel**)

Mary

Joseph

Shepherds (**Shep 1, 2, 3**)

Angels (**Angel 1, 2, 3**)

Wise man **Casper**

Wise man Melchior (**Melchi**)

Wise man Balthazar (**Balth**)

Nativity scene – this can be done using above characters or younger children

Scene 1

*Enter **Gingerbread Man***

G. Man Hello everyone – my name is George and I'm a gingerbread man. In fact, you have probably heard a story about a relative of mine before – you know the one where he runs away shouting, 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!' Well, if you know that story, you will know that my distant cousin comes to a bit of a sticky end. However, I'm sure you'll be glad to know that not all us gingerbreads are that silly and some of us actually survive to tell our tales. And that is exactly why I am here today – to tell you all about an exciting adventure I had – one which has me on the most amazing journey.

But I don't want to just tell you about it – I want you all to journey with me and to meet some of the amazing people I met, so together we can discover something special for ourselves this Christmas. So 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

*Exit **Gingerbread Man***

Scene 2

Enter **Gingerbread Man**

G. Man Hi again – it's me, George the gingerbread man, here to take you all on my special Christmas adventure. Are you ready?

'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

I was baked in a little town called Nazareth, far away from here where the sun shines brightly every day and the smell of spices like ginger fill the air all the time. Having just come out of the stone oven, I was cooling on the side and listening to Mary, the oldest daughter of the house, who was singing as she busily swept the floor. Suddenly, the whole room was filled with a bright light and for one moment I thought I had been put back in the oven! But no, it wasn't that at all – there was now something, or should I say *someone*, else in the room – it was an angel!

Enter **Angel Gabriel**

Gabriel Now then, young George – what are you saying to these good people about me?

G. Man Oh hi there again, angel Gabriel. I was just telling them about my adventure and about the day you came to Nazareth to make a very special announcement.

Gabriel Indeed! God himself had told me eons before about how he planned to save the world by sending his only son. All of heaven and earth had been waiting for him to fulfil his promise. We know without a doubt that God always keeps every promise he makes, but sometimes we have to wait a long time for the promise to be fulfilled. We can't always understand God's timing with these things, but we have to trust that it will happen at exactly the right time in order to fit with God's divine plan.

G. Man And is that what happened when you visited Mary that day?

Gabriel Yes! God came to me and said, 'The time we have longed for has at last arrived! Go to visit my chosen one, Mary, and tell her of what is to come.' So that's exactly what I did.

G. Man She was more than a little surprised to see you that day!

Gabriel My appearance did startle her a bit but, then again, it's not very often that a heavenly messenger arrives in your front room, is it?

G. Man No, I suppose it isn't. However, you were very reassuring and Mary soon stopped shaking when you spoke so gently to her.

Gabriel It wasn't an easy message to bring to her, so I knew I had to be sensitive – after all, what young girl wants to hear she is going to have a baby before she is married? I think she took it rather well under the circumstances.

G. Man She did question what you said, though.

Gabriel Well, wouldn't you have?

G. Man I would have dissolved into crumbs if you'd told me I was going to have a baby – let alone that it was God's son!!

Gabriel Exactly. She just needed some reassurance that God had it all planned and that her son would be the promised Saviour of the world. She had heard of the promise all her life and now she was going to be integral to its fulfilment.

G. Man I have to tell you, Gabriel, that she was not quite as calm after you left! She paced the floor talking about what her parents would say and about how her fiancé Joseph would take this news! In fact, at one point, she was so stressed that I thought she might eat me – they call it comfort eating – so I slipped gently to the floor and hid, as I knew I had witnessed something amazing and there was no way I was going to be eaten and miss what happened next.

Gabriel It was a big responsibility for her, but God had chosen her especially. He knew that, even with all her misgivings, she would accept his plan and that he would fulfil his promise through her.

G. Man And he was right – everything happened to her just as you said. Nothing is impossible with God.

Gabriel That's right, George. Now, I can't stay here reminiscing with you for ever – got people to watch over and songs to sing – never a dull moment in the service of God Almighty!

Exit Angel Gabriel

G. Man Now, all of you probably want to know what happened next, so: 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

Exit Gingerbread Man

Song 'The servant king'

Scene 3

Enter Gingerbread Man

G. Man 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

Me again! Thought you might like to hear what happened after I escaped being eaten by Mary after she'd received the 'news' from the angel Gabriel.

Enter Mary

Mary Oh yes – I'd definitely like to hear that, because I looked for you everywhere that day! I knew there was a freshly baked gingerbread man cooling on the side, but in my hour of need you had simply vanished!

G. Man Ahh, Mary... Ermm – good to see you. Well, I have to confess that I knew you might be in need of a sweet treat to calm your nerves after your heavenly visitor left and I just couldn't risk going the way of my famous ancestor... so I made myself scarce!

Mary You certainly did that – I looked everywhere for you. In the end, I convinced myself that the angel was more real than you were!

G. Man I'm so sorry, Mary, but I hope you understand that, having witnessed what happened, I just had to be part of the story and find out what happened next – so I ran away.

Mary And where did you go?

G. Man I went to Joseph's house, because I knew at some point he would also have to be told the news.

Mary I will never forget the look of total shock and horror on his face when I told him. He seemed okay about the visit by an angel – he'd read of those in the scriptures – but even though he also knew about God's promised Saviour, he was not so keen on the idea that I was the one chosen to be his mother. I tried to tell him all the angel had said about us naming him Jesus, which means 'God saves', and that, like Isaiah foretold, he would also be called Immanuel, which means 'God is with us' – but he just couldn't take any of it in and, when he left that night, I thought I'd never see him again.

G. Man He was in a real state when he got home! I had hidden myself behind a large water jar and, from there, I could see him trying to get his head round all that you had told him. He kept saying, 'I don't believe it.' I wanted to tell him it was true, but I daren't because in the state he was in, the last thing he needed to see was a talking gingerbread man! In the end, before he settled to sleep, he had decided he would call the wedding off quietly.

Mary He told me as much afterwards, but I'm so glad he didn't.

G. Man I tried to have a nap too, but I was unable to settle with everything that was happening. In fact, I hadn't even felt this mixed up when I was in the bowl! But then I couldn't believe my currants – another heavenly messenger appeared – but this time it was in dream form. This angel told Joseph he had to marry you because everything you said was true.

Mary I was so shocked when he arrived back at my house the next morning. He told me all about the dream and how the angel had confirmed the baby's name and how we needed to go ahead with the wedding. He talked with my mum and together they decided I should go and stay with my cousin Elizabeth for a while until all the gossip died down.

G. Man Do you know what my name means, Mary?

Mary Umm... Does it mean delicious?

G. Man No, it definitely does not! George means 'farmer'.

Mary Really – that's not really you, is it? But Immanuel is the right name for God's son. He promised to be with us throughout our lives – in the good times and the not-so-good – and he is always there to help and guide us and to keep us safe.

G. Man He has certainly been with me and saved me from a few hungry humans along the way!

Mary Hmm, now that you mention it, I am feeling a little peckish!

G. Man Quick! 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

*Exit **Gingerbread Man** running, with **Mary** chasing*

Song 'Emmanuel' or 'Jesus, name above all names'

Scene 4

Enter **Gingerbread Man**

G. Man That was a close escape before. I can't believe Mary wanted to nibble on me – although I do seem to bring out that tendency in people! Luckily, I managed to get away, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to tell you the rest of my adventure.

So 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

Having found a safe place to hide at Joseph's, I decided it would be good to stay there while Mary was away, just so I could keep an eye on things. I watched daily as Joseph went about his carpenter's workshop. I could hear the things people were saying about them, but he just kept praying and saying to himself that nothing is impossible with God. I had a few near misses with some local mice and the neighbour's cat, but I was too clever to be eaten by them! And anyway, Joseph needed me.

Enter **Joseph**

Joseph Yes, I did need you, George – but I could never find you! I could smell yummy gingerbread wherever I was, but thought I must be imagining it!

G. Man Oh, hello Joseph. I'm so sorry if my smell deceived you – I just can't help giving off a strong aroma, especially on a warm day, but there was no way I was letting anyone find me. I had to be saved so I could see what happened to you and Mary.

Joseph Funny you should say that, George, because we have learnt that people want to be saved from all sorts – from failure, poverty, ill health, broken relationships and, most of all, death. And that's exactly why Jesus was born – to save us.

G. Man Well, I've had a few near misses in my time, especially with your donkey! I had hidden in your travel bag to hitch a ride with you and Mary when you had to travel to Bethlehem for the census, but I think he knew I was there. Every time we stopped, his big hairy nose would try and snuffle me out.

Joseph That was a difficult journey for us, too, what with Mary being so heavily pregnant. Then, when we eventually got there, the inns were all full and the only room for us was in a stable. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that the son of God would be born in a shed full of animals, but that's exactly how it was.

G. Man It was a bit grim in the stable, but the manger made a great crib for the baby, didn't it?

Joseph Oh yes, it did – although I'm not sure how the animals felt about us using their feeding trough.

G. Man Well, I can tell you that there were a few in there who thought gingerbread was on the menu that night instead of hay!

Joseph As we looked in wonder at the baby lying there, we could not begin to know what was in store for him. In reality, because he came as God's gift to save the world, it meant that this was just the beginning of his journey that would ultimately lead to his death on the cross.

G. Man Thank goodness none of us knew that in the stable, though – to us, it was a day of rejoicing because the Saviour of the world had been born.

Joseph I think Mary knew more than she let on, but she just pondered it all in her heart.

G. Man I'm so glad I was saved to witness all of that and, of course, even more glad that God gave his only son to save us all.

Joseph So then, George, do you think you were saved all those times so I could eat you today?

G. Man Definitely not! Time for me go! 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

*Exit **Gingerbread Man** followed by Joseph*

Scene 5

*Enter three **Angels** all in a hurry*

Angel 1 Come on, you two – we don't want to be late.

Angel 2 Please slow down a bit – my wings can't keep up.

Angel 3 And my halo keeps slipping!

Angel 1 Oh, you two! You know it's time for choir practice and we must be there on time today.

Angel 2 You say that every week.

Angel 3 Yes, every week since you were late for the big sing.

Angel 2 I thought we weren't allowed to mention that...

Angel 1 You're not!! Gabriel said the subject was closed!

*Enter **Gingerbread Man***

G. Man Excuse me, girls – but haven't we met before?

Angel 1 I don't think so.

Angel 3 Me neither. I'd certainly remember it.

Angel 2 Ooh yes – you smell lovely.

G. Man I heard you mention the big sing – were you some of the angels who sang to the shepherds over the hills of Bethlehem?

Angel 3 We were, but she was late! *(Points to Angel 1)*

Angel 2 And we're not allowed to mention that!

G. Man Well, I was at the stable with the baby Jesus and the shepherds told us all about what happened.

Angel 1 Really? What did they say?

G. Man At first, they were very quiet – sort of shell-shocked at what they had seen and heard. But in the end, they were so excited that they just couldn't stop talking.

*Enter three **Shepherds***

Shep 1 Good news! Good news!

Shep 2 Hear all about it!

Shep 3 Baby born in Bethlehem!

G. Man I don't believe it – we were just talking about you!

Shep 1 What – us?

G. Man Yes! You are the shepherds from the Bethlehem hills?

Shep 2 We are. We're sharing the good news with everyone that the Saviour has been born.

Shep 3 And we have seen him.

G. Man Me too! Isn't it wonderful.

Shep 1 Were you there, too? I didn't see you. But I did see you (*points to Angel 1*) in the sky over the hillside – you were late!

Angels 2 and 3 You're not allowed to mention that!

Angel 1 I didn't mean to be late – I just thought that I had time to polish my halo for such an important occasion and I missed the angel train. But I got there just in time to sing!

Shep 2 And what singing it was! Never heard anything so beautiful.

Shep 3 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

Angel 2 It was an amazing song to sing – we had been practising for eons.

Angel 3 But we never imagined we'd be singing such an important song to a bunch of shepherds in a field!

G. Man God has this way of doing things that no one else expects, but he knows exactly what he is doing.

Shep 1 That's right. He knew that we would spread the good news of the Saviour's birth far and wide – telling everyone that the Messiah had come.

Shep 2 And we need to get on with it, too – still lots of people to tell.

G. Man Yes – and everyone who hears this good news needs to tell it too, so that the whole world can know that Jesus came to be our Saviour.

***Shepherds** turn to exit*

Shep 1 Good news! Good news!

Shep 2 Hear all about it!

Shep 3 Baby born in Bethlehem!

Exit Shepherds

Angel 1 And we need to be going too – or we will be late!

Angel 2 (*Behind her hands*) Again!

G. Man Well, you can all run with me if you like – I'm fast! 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, we're sharing good news, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

Exit all

Song 'Hark the herald angels sing'

Scene 6

Enter Gingerbread Man

G. Man Good news! The angels got to choir practise on time! It's a good job that running fast runs in my family. So 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

Enter the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar) carrying shopping bags

Caspar Whoever thought that going Christmas shopping would be so difficult?

Melchi We didn't have any of these problems that first Christmas, did we?

Balth None whatsoever – we knew exactly what gifts were needed for a baby King!

Caspar And to think that, because we gave gifts to the Christ-child, we started a tradition of giving gifts at Christmas that means I have to find something special for my wife every year!

G. Man Hello there – I might be able to help you find something nice for your wife!

Caspar Really? What do you suggest? Gingerbread?

G. Man Definitely not! Well, not unless you mean baking your own!

Caspar Me? Baking? Not likely! I much prefer to use my time stargazing.

Melchi And that's exactly what got us into this Christmas gift thing in the first place!

Balth He's right! If you hadn't seen that star and persuaded us to follow it, we would never have needed to take gifts for the baby Jesus and, in turn, we would never have to ever go Christmas shopping again!

Caspar I see what you mean, but I'm glad I did see that star and I'm glad that we did follow it and were able to present our gifts to the King of kings.

G. Man I saw your gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh – quite strange things to give a baby, really, but Mary and Joseph treasured them, you know.

Balth They were chosen especially for their meaning. Gold for a king, Frankincense for the great High Priest and Myrrh for one born to die.

G. Man Wow! I never realised that. Just thought a blanket or a toy would have been more useful at the time.

Melchi It had been foretold that this child would be born as God's gift to all men – the greatest gift ever – and so we had to make sure the gifts we gave represented that.

Caspar And so now my wife expects me to buy her a Christmas gift that has a significant meaning and it is just so hard to keep thinking of something different every year!

G. Man Well – I'm not happy for you to have me as your gift to her – but I could teach you how to bake your own gingerbread if you like – that would be something very different.

Balth That's a fantastic idea – we could all learn and that would solve the gift problem for us all.

Melchi Brilliant! Lead the way, Mr Gingerbread Man!

G. Man 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come bake with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

Exit all

Scene 7

*Enter **Gingerbread Man***

G. Man 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

So now you know all about my Christmas adventure and all about what we have learnt through the Gingerbread Nativity.

Angel Gabriel reminded us that Jesus came to keep God's promise and fulfil his plan to save the world. Mary explained how Jesus came to be God with us – Immanuel – always there, wherever we are. Joseph taught us that Jesus came to be the Saviour – that he was born to die that we can all be saved. The angels and the shepherds told us how Jesus came to bring good news – good news that means we can all know Jesus as our friend. And the wise men showed us how Jesus came to be God's gift – a gift for the whole world that means whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

I hope you've enjoyed my Christmas adventure and that through it you have learnt something about why Jesus came just for you!

'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, 'cos I'm the gingerbread man!'

Gingerbread Man moves to one side – **Nativity Scene** forms up during singing of carol/song.