

WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM

Cast Descriptions

Our goal is to recreate the ancient city of Bethlehem with as much authenticity as possible. Therefore, some roles and actors will be subject to approval by the Drama Coordinator.

This document provides an overview of the characters/roles needed and a basic descriptor of each position. You may use this in conjunction with the script to determine the amount of memorization required. Please feel free to contact the drama coordinator with any questions.

SPEAKING PARTS

GUIDE

The Guide is the primary contact our guests will have as they tour the city. The guide may be male or female. Please be aware the guide is sharing the gospel story. The guide is influential with all other actors in the city and must be strong in voice, animated and excited to share this most precious story. The guide does have a significant number of lines and also cues the other actors in the city. It is our hope that the guides will make a connection with their guests and be open to questions they may have at the end of the tour. Please be sensitive to any special circumstances you may encounter including handicapped or special needs guests or non-English speakers. In most cases our team will assist in coordination of these situations; it is just important for the guides to be prepared and flexible. The guides are also responsible to keep up the pace of the tour groups in order to minimize the wait time in the sanctuary. An audition will be required during rehearsal and approval from the Drama Coordinator.

CENSUS TAKER

Male over the age of 18 is the preference for this role. This individual also assists the drama coordinators monitoring tour groups' pace in the city.

LEPERS

Children are welcome in the role of lepers; however, they must also have adult supervision in this area. While lines are few and basic, it is important to set the tone from the very beginning and remain in character.

ROMAN SOLDIER

The soldiers are very important in maintaining order and creating an atmosphere of "control." Men who are from 5'10" to 6'2" and are 16 or older are required to portray the role. While we do want the soldier to be menacing and "mean business" we do not want to frighten young children or distract from hearing the guide's story. The "soldiers" should remain in character at all times and avoid casual conversations with other participants. Again, we are looking to create an authentic environment.

TAX COLLECTOR

Is a male who is somewhat loud and rude to the travelers but not so loud as to be a distraction to other groups of travelers.

CITY MERCHANTS INCLUDING: BASKET WEAVER; BREAD BAKER; FRUIT SELLER;

VEGETABLE SELLER; FISH SELLER; OIL AND LAMP MERCHANT; BRASS AND METAL SELLER – Men and women for any of these roles are appropriate. Frequently we use a mother and her children in the basket shop and bakery. Teenagers are also welcome in the market area, again with the understanding we are creating an authentic atmosphere and need to remain in character and not distract as groups move through the city.

WOMEN AT THE WELL – all ages welcome. An adult 16 or older must be available to deliver speaking lines. Other positions will be non-speaking.

JEWISH HOME

Looking for a typical family to include husband and wife with children of all ages. Lines are of moderate length.

BEGGARS

Supervised children welcome. Lines are short.

INN KEEPER & WIFE

The Inn Keeper and Wife need to have strong voices to deliver their lines. They also are responsible for assisting with the flow and keeping the pace with the tour groups. The Inn Keeper may oversee the beggars as well.

SHEPHERDS

Young boys and men welcome for these positions. Also, must be strong in voice and excited to deliver the lines.

MARY, JOSEPH & Baby Jesus – ideally a young couple with a newborn baby. We will monitor this role closely and we do have an authentic looking doll as a backup as needed. Signup will require approval by the Drama Coordinator. Lines are short.

WISE MEN

Adult men 18 and older.

ANGEL

Male or female appropriate with a strong voice. An audition will be required during rehearsal and approval from the Drama Coordinator.

NON-SPEAKING PARTS

SYNAGOGUE TEACHER

Male 18 or older responsible for keeping students occupied in this area.

SYNAGOGUE STUDENT

Children welcome under the supervision of the Synagogue Teacher.

INN OCCUPANT

Small Groups must sign up as individuals and may be asked to fill vacant speaking or non-speaking positions.

CARPENTER SHOP

Father and young son up to age 10.

SUPPORT ROLES

GREETERS

Workers are needed to greet guests as they arrive and seat them in the auditorium for staging of groups.

HOSPITALITY

There is opportunity for those who are interested in interacting with guests as they relax in the refreshment area. They would also be required to keep refreshments on the tables for guests.

SECURITY

Volunteers are needed to monitor inside and outside during performances.

CHILD CARE

Workers are needed to watch and entertain the children of those who are helping during construction, during rehearsals, during performances, and for tear down. Child care will be offered for children ages nursery through 5th grade. Children will not be permitted to wander the building unsupervised during the performances.

COSTUME ASSISTANTS

Volunteers are needed to assist the actors in finding costumes and putting them on properly.

CITY COORDINATION

Helpers are needed to be in costume and coordinate activities in the city during performances. They assist the actors and facilitate the performance.