**The Talking Animals**

*By Meghan Brubaker*

***Synopsis***:

In this skit, we get to hear the thoughts of the animals on the night when Jesus was born in their stable. They wrestle with various aspects of His coming due to their own unbelief, selfishness, and unworthiness. In the end, we realize that many of the obstacles they face in believing in Jesus are like the ones we may face, too.

***Length***: 5-7 minutes

***Cast***:

* 15 actors total
* Number of actors could be slightly reduced by combining narrator parts

***Props/Costumes***:

* Manger with doll
* Costumes for Mary and Joseph
* Cow costume (2)
* Sheep costume (2)
* Donkey costume (2)
* Goose costume (2)
* Camel costume (1)

**NARRATOR 1:** The night when Jesus was born was a night when the world was changed. But very few humans were aware of it. There was, however, a group of living beings who witnessed that night. The animals.

**NARRATOR 2**: And if you imagine with us that the animals talked that night, you may notice their responses are not so different than the responses of humans.

**NARRATOR 3:** We break in on the scene just after Mary and Joseph's donkey is led into the stable. The stable is crowded due to the census, and the other animals are not exactly thrilled to see another one enter.

**SHEEP 1:** Oh, look, guys! Another newcomer. Yay. (*sarcastically*)

**DONKEY 1:** Hello, everyone. I'm Darren.

**ALL ANIMALS:** Hi, Darren.

**SHEEP 2:** As you can see, it's really crowded in here. I hope you're "Darren" enough to handle it.

**COW 1:** Don't mind Pete. He thinks he's a comedian. We all just pretty much ignore him.

**GOOSE 1:** (*super enthusiastic*) Welcome, welcome, welcome, Darren! Make yourself at home! We are so happy to have you here!

**CAMEL:** Yes, welcome, Darren. We'll happily make room for you. Sorry that we're a little crowded right now.

**SHEEP 2:** I'm sure cow will be happy to moooooove over.

**DONKEY 1:** Well, I guess I'd better warn you guys of something. The inn was full, so as soon as my humans are done getting some food, they're going to stay in here, too.

**COW 1:** You've got to be kidding me! Not only do we have to share our stable with millions of extra animals because of this silly census thing that everyone is talking about, but now they're sticking humans in here, too?

**COW 2:** It's hardly *millions* of extra animals. It's more like six.

**COW 1:** Well, it feels that crowded. So what's the difference?

**COW 2:** 999, 994, to be exact.

**COW 1**: No one asked you, Stan.

**SHEEP 1:** How are we gonna make room for a couple of humans in here?

**DONKEY 1:** It gets better, guys.

**SHEEP 1:** Oh, I can hardly wait.

**DONKEY 1**: She's going to have a baby.

**ALL ANIMALS:** A baby?!

**GOOSE 1:** Oh, I just love babies! This is so exciting! (*turns to Sheep 1.*) Isn't this exciting?

**SHEEP 1:** Not particularly.

**DONKEY 2:** I just hope he doesn't keep us up at night.

**GOOSE 2:** But...this is no place for a baby human to be born!

**SHEEP 2:** I don't know about that. It seems like a stable environment to me.

**GOOSE 2:** We must have an emergency meeting to decide what to do about this!

**COW 2:** Who has the minutes from our last meeting?

**GOOSE 1:** No time for that! I make a motion that we should plan a party for the baby.

**COW 1:** I don't know why we should throw a celebration for some baby we don't even know...or care about.

**SHEEP 2:** Cow, what's your beef with a little party? You seem udderly antagonistic.

**COW 1:** Seriously, Pete, I'm not in the mood.

**SHEEP 2:** Okay. I'll quit horsing around.

**COW 1:** Horse left last week. You can't even make that joke anymore.

**CAMEL:** Can we get back to business, please? I second the motion to plan a party.

**COW 2:** The next logical step would be to elect a committee to take care of this.

**GOOSE 2:** How about Gertie?

**COW 2:** Or Camilla.

**COW 1:** Or Stan.

**DONKEY 2:** Nominations cease.

**GOOSE 1:** Camilla and Stan, let's get started right away! *(Goose 1, Camel, and Cow 2 move to the corner and "plan party")*

**NARRATOR 4:** As the night stretched on, Gertie, Camilla, and Stan pulled an all-nighter as they finalized the party details. The other animals managed to get some sleep. Even Pete slept a bit, although that didn't stop him from telling more jokes--he's a sleep-talker. And in the middle of it all, Mary did indeed have a baby.

**MARY**: Look at Him, Joseph. He's perfect. Even though He came in a not-so-perfect environment.

**JOSEPH**: It certainly is hard to believe that God's Son would be born in a place like this.

**DONKEY 1**: God's Son?! No way! This is so cool! I carried God's son on my back! I'm gonna be famous! People are going to tell stories about me for thousands of years!

**COW 1:** Don't believe everything you hear. Humans are good at making things up and sounding super convincing. I bet this is just a regular baby.

**GOOSE 2:** I don't know, Carl. Maybe this baby is someone special.

**COW 1**: Why would God come as a baby?

**SHEEP 1**: Well, whether He's God's Son or not, I am not impressed that she put Him in *my* manger. What am I supposed to eat now?

**GOOSE 2:** Don't be so selfish.

**SHEEP 1:** Easy for you to say. There's not a human being in your supper. Why do *I* have to give up *my* manger?

**SHEEP 2**: Feeling a little fed up, are you?

**SHEEP 1:** Oh, for Pete's sake!

**SHEEP 2**: Heeey. Good one!

**GOOSE 2**: I feel so bad that God's son is being born here. I mean, we have nothing to offer. We're not talented or special. Why would God choose to come here?

**COW 1:** Maybe He doesn't care about what we have to give him.

**GOOSE 2:** But we only have some hay and a few strips of cloth! The windows don't even close all the way. It gets cold at night, and the humans always say it stinks in here. This is no place for God's Son.

**COW 1**: Exactly. So the logical conclusion is that this baby is not God's Son. If God *were* to come to earth, He would not choose to come here. There's just no way.

**DONKEY 1**: But if He really is God, couldn't He do anything He wanted?

**COW 1**: I still think a stable is an odd choice.

**DONKEY 2:** Probably we'll never know.

*(Goose 1, Camel, and Cow 2 bustle through)*

**GOOSE 2:** Oh, good. There you guys are. You're totally missing it! The baby is here!

**CAMEL:** Sorry, no time to chat. We're off to find some decorations for when the baby comes!

**GOOSE 2:** But the baby is here! He came! And they said that He's...

**COW 2:** We'll talk to you later. We're in a terrible hurry.

**GOOSE 2**: But the baby...

**GOOSE 1:** See you later!

*(other animals shrug at each other helplessly and step into the background)*

**NARRATOR 1**: So obviously, none of this actually happened on that first Christmas night. But it has happened on many Christmases since, in homes and schools and churches.

**NARRATOR 2**: Some people don't believe in Jesus at all. They find it hard to believe that God would come in a stable, as a baby. And admittedly, they have a point. But our ideas of how something should happen are rarely the same as God's creative ideas. He is infinitely wiser than we are, and He always has a purpose for the things that seem crazy to us.

**NARRATOR 3**: Some people don't mind the thought of Jesus, but they don't want to have to give anything up for Him. But God asks us to give Him everything, because that is when we will truly have everything we need.

**NARRATOR 4**: Some people get so caught up in the busyness of Christmas that they totally miss what Christmas is all about. They put more focus on celebrating the holiday than they do on celebrating who the holiday is about.

**NARRATOR 1**: Some people worry about their own inadequacies. They are so concerned about not having enough to give to Jesus. The truth is, we will never have enough to give Him. But that doesn't stop Him from wanting what we have and loving us the way we are.

**NARRATOR 2**: This Christmas, remember what God did for us. That first Christmas night isn't just a story. It was an important event that changed life for all of us. It was a time when God was willing to show His love for us in a most remarkable way. So, remember to celebrate Him, praise Him, thank Him, and love Him. Because that's what this season is all about.