

STABLE BOY

SCRIPT SAMPLE

Scene 1

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 9**) the cast members take their seats – fade the music when ready. The main stage is set up to show a stable, with bales of straw (if possible) and empty pens – see staging suggestions. A manger full of hay and a water trough stand in front of the pens. A line of washing hangs across one corner of the stage. James, the stable boy, sits on a bale, holding a pitchfork or a broom. He looks glum!)*

Narrator #1 James was a stable boy. He looked after the animals that lived in a small stable, in a small yard, behind a small inn, in the small town of Bethlehem.

Narrator #2 His days were spent grooming the horse, milking the cow, collecting eggs that the hens laid, and stopping the goat and the sheep eating the washing on the line!

Narrator #3 He had to keep the trough full of water and the manger full of hay. But the worst job of all was cleaning up all the.....well, you-know-what!

(The animals enter; a cow, a horse, two chickens, a sheep and a goat – see staging suggestions/costumes. James stands centre-stage for the opening song, with the animals around him. During verse 2 James uses the pitchfork/broom to clear up.)

Song **All Work, No Play**

*Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 10 - backing track
Lyrics p12*

(As the song ends, the animals go to the back of the stage and into the pens. James sits back down on the bale, exhausted.)

Narrator #4 And if James ever stopped to catch his breath, there was always someone telling him to work harder.....like the innkeeper.

(The innkeeper enters, trailing a finger along the surfaces of the trough and manger, and inspecting it for dust. He stands over James wagging the finger!)

Innkeeper I don't pay you to sit down all day! This stable is filthy!
Get it cleaned properly, you lazy good-for-nothing!

(The innkeeper exits, and his wife enters. She wags her finger at James.)

Narrator #1 Or the innkeeper's wife.....

Wife I've got guests to feed, you know! Hurry up and bring me the
milk and eggs, you lazy good-for-nothing!

*(The wife exits and the maid enters. She inspects the washing on the line, then wags her
finger at James.)*

Narrator #2 Or the maid.....

Maid Have you been letting that goat and sheep nibble my washing
again? Control them, you lazy good-for-nothing?

(She exits and James stands up. He leans on his broom, daydreaming)

James One day my life will change....one day soon.

Narrator #3 For James had a dream. He longed to be a fisherman on the
great Sea of Galilee, just like the ones who would visit the inn to
sell their fish and enjoy a drink and a meal with their friends.

Narrator #4 James would listen to their stories, as they filled the inn with
laughter and song.

(The Fishermen enter, holding tankards, and gather on the floor in front of the stage.)

Fisherman #1 Let's drink to the salty sea! May she always be generous in
her gifts to us!

Song A Fisherman's Life

*Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 11 - backing track
Lyrics p13*

(The Fishermen exit and James lies on the bale, pulling a blanket over himself.)

James Their lives seem so exciting. I'd love to be a fisherman!

Narrator #1 And with thoughts of sea spray and fishing boats filling his
head, James settled down for the night. Little did he know that
tomorrow he would have to work harder than he'd ever done in
his life!

(To intro music (track 12) the lights fade.)

Scene 2

(The lights come up. The innkeeper, wife and maid enter and stand over the sleeping James.)

Narrator #2 In the morning, James was awoken by a very excited innkeeper, his wife and the maid.

Innkeeper Wake up, you lazy good-for-nothing! There’s work to do. Lots of visitors have arrived in Bethlehem and they all want somewhere to stay!

Wife And they all want feeding, so get that cow milked and collect those eggs, you lazy good-for-nothing!

Maid And they all need clean sheets on their beds, so bring in this washing, you lazy good-for-nothing!

Narrator #3 Sure enough, many people had come to Bethlehem – more than ever before! They were people who had been born there and had been told to return to sign a large register.

Narrator #4 Whatever their reason for coming, one thing was for sure, James was in for a busy day!

(Lots of visitors enter, in couples. Each couple has a donkey on a rope – see staging suggestions/costumes. During the song, the innkeeper, wife and maid fuss round them.)

Song Knock! Knock! Knock!

*Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 13 - backing track
Lyrics p14*

(When the song finishes, as they exit each visitor hands their donkey’s rope to James, who is soon surrounded by the animals!)

Visitor 1 There you are, young man. Take good care of her – she’s walked a long way. *(S/he exits.)*

Visitor 2 Make sure you give her lots of hay. She’s got a big appetite! *(S/he exits.)*

Visitor 3 Give this one a good rub-down. He’s a bit hot and sticky after his journey. *(S/he exits.)*

Visitor 4 He needs a bit of TLC, this one. He likes his ears tickling, and his belly patting. Oh, and if it’s not too much trouble, he likes a bedtime story last thing at night. *(S/he exits.)*

Narrator #1 James may have had dreams of becoming a fisherman, but for now there would be no time for anything else but stable-work...
...well, 'donkey-work'!

(During the song James attends to the donkeys – grooming, patting and feeding them!)

Song Donkey Work

*Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 14 - backing track
Lyrics p15*

(To intro music (track 15) James leads the donkeys off-stage, then he returns and again lies on the bale, pulling a blanket over himself. The lights fade.)

Scene 3

Narrator #2 Later that night, as James slept soundly, the stable animals woke up. Something felt strange.....

(As soft music plays (track 16) the animals come from their pens to the front of the stage, looking nervously around. Fade this music before the next song.)

Horse There's something in the air tonight! It's giving me the shivers.
Brrrrrrrr! *(tossing head and whinnying)*

Chicken 1 I'm a *(clucking)* bock...bock...bock...bit nervous. There's something ruffling my feathers!

Cow And look at the sky. The moooooooooon and stars seem so much brighter than usual!

Goat What does it me...ee...ee...an? *(bleating the word 'mean')*

Sheep I hope it's nothing baaaaaaaaaaaaad!

Chicken 2 Of course it isn't. A bock...bock...bock...beautiful sky like that is a sign that something wonderful is on its way.

.....END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE.....