NOT THE LAST STRAW

[Opens to a traditional nativity scene with Mary and Joseph. The manger is empty and without straw to put the baby Jesus in. Mary is holding the baby. The angel stands behind the nativity scene directly behind the manger.]

Angel: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy. For today, in the city of David, there is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

[Each youth enters from stage right with a handful of straw, goes to lower center stage and holds it out while saying his/her line. Narrator speaks once the line is delivered and while the youth goes to upper center stage to place the straw gently in the manger.]

Narrator: Jesus was born in a stable. He would be laid in a manger with a bed made of straw.

[First youth enters stage right and goes to lower center stage with a handful of straw]

Youth1: Before this was wheat, it was a mere handful of tiny seed.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger.]

Narrator: These little seeds, left isolated and away from soil, sun and water would remind tiny. However, Jesus reminded us that little things, like seeds, can become big things when God is behind them. Jesus’ teachings were once known only by a few but now are known by millions the world over.

Youth2: When this wheat was planted some of the seed landed on infertile land or rock while other seeds found rich soil and grew into strong plants.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger]

Narrator: Jesus said when we plant ourselves in God's love we grow strong and have the ability to withstand the many storms and droughts that we may face in life.

Youth3: When this wheat started growing it grew up next to other plants, and some of these plants were weeds.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger]

Narrator: The farmer waits until harvest when it is easier to separate the wheat from the weeds. He selects the wheat and throws away the weeds. Jesus said that at the end of one's time on earth God selects those to join him in heaven and sets aside the weeds.

Youth4: When this wheat grew up it bore fruit and produced seeds a plenty.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger]

Narrator: Jesus taught that God is happiest when we bloom and bear fruit by helping others, praying, reading the bible and spreading the word of God.

Youth5: When this wheat was harvested, some of it became flour that was turned into bread.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger]

Narrator: On at least two occasions, Jesus took a small number of loaves, prayed to God, and fed thousands of people. Jesus told us that he is the bread of life. He feeds our spirits and those that come to him will never be hungry.
Youth6: When this wheat was harvested some of it also became bread for special occasions, called communion.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger]

Narrator: Communion is a time to remember that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus broke bread and said "take this bread and eat it. This is my body broken for you."

Youth7: When this wheat was harvested, some of it was bagged and sent to market.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger]

Narrator: Some farmers would be tempted by greed to mix chaff with the wheat and to lie about its contents. Jesus reminds us that God sees what's in our hearts and is not fooled by outer appearances. He warns us that greed and possession can ruin one's soul

Youth8: When this wheat was harvested some of it was saved as seed to grow more wheat in the spring.

[Goes and places straw in manger and kneels down to the side of the manger]

Narrator: These little seeds, though seemingly dead, possess the ability to be reborn and sprout to life. This reminds us that Jesus died, was buried, and on the 3rd day, rose from the dead then ascended into heaven.

Angel: You will find a baby there lying in a manger.

[Mary places baby Jesus in the manger now full of straw]

Narrator: With the birth of baby Jesus, God forever changed the world. For all, there would never be a last straw - an end. Through the belief in Jesus, and the following of his life's teachings, God offered all of us hope and life everlasting. Glory to God in the highest. Peace on the earth to all.

NOTE: This play is free for non-profit and church/Sunday school use. We only ask that you write us and tell us about how your performance turned out and what, if any, modifications you made so others may benefit from your performance. Our only reward is knowing we helped you make an occasion special.


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