



A NEIGHBOR NATIVITY

By Lorraine Starks
(Based on a true story)

“For unto us a child is born” (2 Nephi 19:6).

Rose bounced on her toes as she peeked out the window. Their friends would be here any minute!

Every year at Christmastime, Rose and her family acted out the Nativity. They always invited people to come over and join them. This time they had invited their neighbors and the missionaries! Rose was excited because their neighbors had a baby to be baby Jesus.

Everything was almost ready. Mom was taking the treats out of the oven. Rose’s little brothers had picked up all their toys. Ellen was getting the costumes. And Rose had even taped a big, yellow star to the wall for decoration.

“Rose,” Mom called from the kitchen. “Can you help Ellen get the costumes ready?”

“OK, Mom!” Rose turned to help her sister, who was carrying an armful of blankets.

“We have blankets, towels, and dress-up clothes from the closet,” Ellen said. “We can even use this basket as a pretend manger.” She handed Rose a big basket. Rose put a soft blanket inside it for the baby.

“Perfect,” said Rose.

Rose’s little brother Jack pulled a gray blanket over his head and made a funny face. “Can I be the donkey?”

Rose laughed. “No, silly! You wanted to be a Wise Man, remember?”

“Oh yeah!” said Jack. He grabbed the toy crown and put it on his head.

Then there was a knock at the door.

“They’re here!” Rose said. “I’ll get it.”

Soon the house was full of happy people. Rose helped everyone get their costumes on. The sister missionaries were the shepherds. Her brothers and sister were the Wise Men. The cute baby was baby Jesus, and his parents were Mary and Joseph.

Rose put on a soft, white hat. She was a sheep.

Finally everyone was dressed and ready to go. Elder and Sister Yancey, a missionary couple from their ward, opened the New Testament to the Nativity story. They read the verses out loud. Everyone acted out their part.

At the end of the story, everyone sang “Silent Night.” Rose felt warm and happy. She knew she was feeling the Holy Ghost. It felt like Jesus was close to her heart.

After the song, Mom played the video “Samuel and the Star.”* Ellen said a prayer. Then they brought out the treats. Everyone had fun visiting.

“So, what was your favorite part?” Sister Yancey asked.

“I liked singing the song,” Ellen said. “And playing with baby Jesus.” Ellen bounced the baby on her lap. She had been playing with him ever since the song ended.

“I liked bringing Jesus gifts,” Jack said. He was still wearing the pretend crown.

“What about you, Rose?”

Rose spread her arms out wide. “I liked everything!” she said in a loud voice. “But most of all, I liked having everyone here to celebrate Jesus. Because that’s what Christmas is all about.” ●

The author lives in Texas, USA.

* See pages 26–27 to read this story about Jesus’s birth.

Who could you invite to celebrate Jesus’s birth with you this year?
