

JOHN THE star. The stable was lit by a bright shining star.

MATTHEW What do they call you, child?

JO Josephine Mary Louisa Jefferson. *(or if a boy: Joseph Martin Louis Jefferson)*
But folks round here call me plain 'Jo'.

CHILD 1 Yeah! *(chanting)* Jo-Jo So-And-So! Jo-Jo So-And-So!

[JO and CHILD 1 start to squabble after this comment.]

MATTHEW *(aside to Jo's mother)* What do they teach these kids at school these days?

JO'S MOTHER Things sure ain't what they used to be, sir. No discipline if you ask me.

JOHN That's for sure.

MATTHEW I don't think Jo's impressed, is she Mark?

MARK *(shaking his head)* I don't think Jo's impressed, *(to Luke)* is she Luke?

LUKE *(shaking his head)* I don't think Jo's impressed, *(to John)* is she John?

JOHN *(to Jo and audience generally)* Well then Jo, let's try it another way.

[During the song, the ASSISTANTS encourage the 'audience' to get into the swing of things, clapping etc.]

THE GOSPEL SHOW (© Track 1 / 16)

BORN IN THE LIGHT OF A BRIGHT SHINING STAR
THEY SAY THIS BABY IS SURE TO GO FAR,
SO LET'S GO AND WATCH THE SHOW.

STICK AROUND, OR YOU'LL MISS ALL THE FUN!
THEY SAY THAT HE COULD BE NUMBER ONE,
SO LET'S GO AND WATCH THE SHOW.

WILL HE BE A STAR?
CAN HE GO THAT FAR?
WE ALL WANT TO KNOW,
WE'RE GOING TO THE GOSPEL SHOW,
TO THE GOSPEL SHOW,
TO THE GOSPEL SHOW.

MATTHEW Now. As Jesus grew up, He saw plenty of evil and wrong-doing.

MARK All around Him there was greed and hatred.

LUKE He saw innocent people suffering. People could be so cruel.

JOHN He knew that He had to try to do all He could to change things.

CHILD 2 But He was just one man!

JO How could just one man do anything about it?

MATTHEW He did need others to help Him.
One day He saw a group of fishermen by the side of the lake.

[PETER, ANDREW, JAMES and JOHN (the fisherman) appear from the back of the wagon, and begin to grumble together. JESUS follows and listens quietly in the background.]

MARK They sure didn't look happy. They weren't catching a thing.

[THE FOLLOWING OPTIONAL DIALOGUE PRECEDES THE SONG]

[PETER moves up to Right, with a hopeless gesture. ANDREW also moves, but more slowly, and to Left.]

PETER *(exasperated)* It's no good. We're wasting our time.

ANDREW *(fed up)* I can't remember the last time we caught *anything*.

[JAMES goes to join PETER, speaking as he moves. JOHN also moves to join ANDREW.]

JAMES *(gloomy)* With no fish to sell, we won't be able to buy food for our families...

JOHN (Fisherman) *(puzzled)* I just don't understand it. We've never had such a run of bad luck before.

[JESUS approaches them, centre.]

JESUS Peter! Andrew! Have faith, my friends.
(turning to the other two) Don't give up.

PETER *(recognising Jesus, but not convinced)* We know that you're a good man, Jesus, and you mean well... But this is impossible! There are just no fish!

JESUS *(calmly)* Try again. Cast out your nets on the other side of the boat.