

God's Greatest Gift

By Judy Land

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SYNOPSIS

Here is a back-to-basics Christmas program using your whole church family as they celebrate and perform together. Narration, directly from God's Word, is read by adult actors from written scrolls so there is minimal memorization. The music is treasured and joyful Christmas carols and hymns. Use your youth and adults for solos, ensembles or instrumentals. At certain points, the whole congregation is invited to sing as well. School-aged kids can just dress up and pantomime with a few speaking parts and preschoolers are either sheep or tiny shepherds - cute either way! The costumes, props and staging are simple. Helpful tips are included for the director at the end of the script. Finally, a low-stress, flexible church program everyone can enjoy!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Speaking Parts:

5 Narrators – (Adults. Don't have to memorize; they each hold a scroll.)
 Angel Gabriel
 Mary
 Elizabeth
 Four Angels
 Simeon

Non-Speaking Parts:

Shepherds
 Sheep (preschoolers - optional)
 Worshippers at temple
 Anna
 Joseph
 4 Wise Men (not 3!)
 Toddler Jesus

COSTUMES

Narrators and all characters in Biblical costumes; angel costume for Gabriel; sheep costumes for preschoolers; shepherd's crooks; 4 wise men costumes

PROPS

For all scenes: large scrolls with text for narrators

Scene 1: A two-sided corner of a fence, plastic flowers, clay pot, fake tree or plant

Scene 2: Fake tree for field, stuffed toy sheep if preschoolers are going to be small shepherds, panel, manger, stool, hay on opposite side

Scene 3: Standing candelabra for temple scene on SL, panel, stool for Mary, wooden toys for toddler Jesus at home on SR, three fancy jars for Magi

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- Scene 1 - The Gift Is Promised
(Isaiah's prophecy, Angel Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth)
 Scene 2 - The Gift Is Given
(Shepherds and manger scene)
 Scene 3 - The Gift Is Received
(Simeon and Anna in the temple; Wise Men)
 Closing - Rejoicing in the Gift!

MUSIC OPTIONS

- SONG #1: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day** - Adult and Youth Trio
 or **Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne** - Adult Solo
- SONG #2: Joy to the World** - Children's Choir as they enter
- SONG #3: O Come, O Come Emmanuel** - Adult solo with Children's Choir
- SONG #4: O Come All Ye Faithful** - Children's Choir
- SONG #5: In the Little Village of Bethlehem** - Children's Choir with Adult Male Solo, then instrumental segue to **Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know**
- SONG #6: O Holy Night** - Adult Solo with Children's Choir
 or **The First Noel** - Children's Choir
- SONG #7: Silent Night** - Children's Choir and Audience for verses 2-4
 and **Noche De Paz** - Children's Choir Verse 1
- SONG #8: Angels From the Realms of Glory** - Children's Choir and Congregation
- SONG #9: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** - Children's Choir
- SONG #10: Joy to the World** - Congregation

Feel free to add instrumental solos too; ask around and get everyone involved.

End of Freeview

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