



Wrap This One Up

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
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Royal Lambs

Jesus The Little Lamb

Jesus The Lamb of God

CHRISTMAS ON STAGE
THE LITTLEST AMONG US

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1



WRAP THIS ONE UP

SONG LYRICS: CHRISTY NOCKELS

Oh, the call of a shepherd in a field nearby
To tend and to carry his flocks by night
They were not ordinary sheep; they were set apart,
Born to be Passover lambs.

And when a spotless male was born, he was held on the manger floor.
Swaddled up just to keep him calm until his time, and the shepherd sang:

**“Wrap this one up, He is a lamb without blemish.
Wrap this one up, He’ll make his way to the temple.
Born for sacrifice, he’ll join the others and pay the price.
Wrap this one up. Wrap this one up.”**

Oh, the call of a mother in a town nearby
To tend and to carry on this holy night
Not an ordinary Child, but the Son of God
Breathed by the Holy Spirit.

And when the Baby King was born, He was held on the manger floor.
As she swaddled Him up, she knew His time would come as she sang:

**“Wrap this one up, He is a lamb without blemish.
Wrap this one up, He’ll wear the crown forevermore.
He’s come for you and me. He’ll finally set us free.
Wrap this one up. Wrap this one up. He’s the One.”**

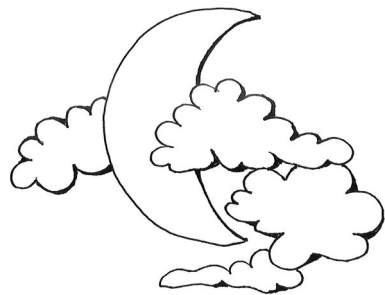
Oh, the call of a Savior on a hill nearby,
All alone, He would carry the weight on all mankind.
Becoming the curse for us, He gave His life
For He knew that His time had come.

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Sing Gloria! In excelsis Deo!
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Sing Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

**“Wrap this one up. He is the lamb without blemish.
Wrap this one up, He paid the price, and it is finished.
That death would have no sting, He rose in victory!
Oh, hallelujah to the King!”**



Wrap This One Up!



This short Christmas program is designed for children ages 3-5. Include older students as desired. Feature Holy Land costumed little ones in an appealing re-telling of the Bethlehem story read/told by our Story Teller.

Children and Story Teller

Share the first Christmas in Bethlehem.

Add simple Holy Land costuming.

Is there anything sweeter than little ones becoming

Christmas people for the first time?

...with a flock of sheep?

Wrap This One Up is rehearsed in classroom with familiar teachers. Teach a few songs. Gather children for a dress rehearsal and this delightful preschool Christmas program is set to go!

So easy! No formal rehearsal needed.

This 20-30 minute presentation is sprinkled with humor and inspiration. Tell the Jesus story and bring Bethlehem to life!



The audience sings familiar Christmas carols.

Create a charming Christmas presentation

by the youngest among us.

Conclude with a fun **WRAP THIS ONE UP Party**. Serve snacks, play Christmas music and celebrate Jesus! A party option makes the program complete!

“Never overlook the power of simplicity.”



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Very Important 'Techy' Information!

IF PURCHASING **WRAP THIS ONE UP**
AS AN INSTANT DOWNLOAD,
PLEASE NOTE ~

**YOU WILL DOWNLOAD AND PRINT
ONE MASTER COPY OF THE PROGRAM.**

THE FILE DOES **NOT** SAVE TO YOUR HARD DRIVE.

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THE ORIGINAL MASTER COPY!!!!
MAKE ALL PRINTED COPIES
FROM THE DOWNLOADED MASTER COPY**



This is a ONE TIME ONLY Instant Download.

Some churches enjoy memorization and others avoid it. Except for young non readers, read all parts. If your church is fond of memorization lead time must be longer and more intense rehearsal is necessary.

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Preschool Christmas Director

Church preschool, Daycare,
Christian school or home school communities!
This is the fun, easy program for you.

A little "cheating" on the upper age range is okay. Fill spots with Kindergarten or older students as needed.

Leaders organize children with Nativity costumes. The result is a simple Christmas presentation by the youngest among us, dressed in costume, excited to be involved. **Be Prepared to Assist.**

No memorization. If memorization is important, lead time must be longer and rehearsal is essential.

"All things work together for Good..." Romans 8:28

Bless Your Heart! ~ Relax!

Mistakes Become Memories. Relax! Let it happen! Parents, grandparents and guests will be blessed. **Dust off your sense of humor.**

"Why me? I cannot do this!" Put those feelings aside. Dive into this charming Christmas skit as seen through the eyes of the Story Teller. Eager preschool children embrace the amazing story about the day Baby Jesus was born. **Everyone will remember it!**

Delegate!

"You can do Anything but You Can't Do Everything!"

Surround yourself with the best people. Trust the staff to complete their tasks. Never apologize when asking people to help. They will be blessed with a Christmas memory for years to come.

Ask With Confidence!



Take To The Stage!

"You'll be swell! You'll be great! Gonna have the whole world on the plate! Starting here, starting now, baby, everything's coming up roses! ... Curtain up! Light the lights! You got nothing to hit but the heights!"

(From "Everything's Coming Up Roses!")

Little ones take to the stage to re-create the Bethlehem story. Sing simple nursery rhyme songs. The Story Teller places them near the manger at appropriate moments. **Make them 'Stars'!**

Positively Positive

"If you Can't be Positive at Least be Quiet."

If the Director's attitude is right, even the grouchiest saint responds cheerfully! This program is worth extra effort in the midst of personal holiday preparations, parties and travel. Statements like, "We can't do it", "We never did it this way", or "No one wants to do it", have no place in the process.

Simple planning appreciated.

Offer It UP!

Nothing Is Impossible! Really!

Pray! Pray for the staff, students and set up. Take details before the Lord and then-Relax! Carry out tasks at hand. **God is in control.**

God's Plans Are Greater Than My Fears!

Every Time I Make a Plan God Laughs at Me!

Read the entire program. Print a personal copy from the master copy. Note areas requiring adaptation. Give printed copies to leaders personally.

Keep That Master Copy!

You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go and see what happens. Create an event that works for your group! Eliminate what cannot be used. Divide parts according to available participants. Combine parts as needed. **Add fun local tradition too!**

Great People Do Things Before they are Ready!

Leaders, teachers, assistants should be "on board" early.

Be specific when assigning tasks.



Adapt!

This preschool program is designed to last 20-30 minutes depending upon added music. **WRAP THIS ONE UP PARTY** is not included in the time frame.

The party is an optional gathering.

Small Church/School

Remove segments requiring more people than available.

1. **Combine** parts so fewer children/leaders are needed.
 2. **Eliminate** what you cannot do.
 3. **Involve** children younger or older than the target group.
- Adults/teens are crucial to the small church/school program.

Some people may participate several times.

Medium Church/School

Adaptations are personal preference. Choose the best and leave the rest. Tell the Christmas story but don't leave out anything important! (Like the Baby!)
Keep It Simple!

Large Church/School

Speakers, snack makers, servers, props, video, audio and lighting staff, musicians, costume designers, art team and others make the program exciting.
Use as Many People As Possible.

WRAP THIS ONE UP Party

Adult class, small group of friends or loving parents plan the party. Decorate area, prepare food and arrange clean up. **Wrap It Up Party** is a terrific conclusion. If there is no time, the program is complete without the party.

The party is definitely a fun option.

*“Life’s always changing.
We are always being called to adapt.”*



Christmas Music

Sing traditional Christmas Carols with the audience. Include lyrics in a printed program or on large screen.

Coordinate music with church/school musicians.

Christmas Carols

Choose favorite Carols . Insert the songs wherever desired. Audience may sing before children enter, in middle of the event and at the end.

Preschool Christmas Music

Browse our collection of nursery rhyme melodies with Christmas words. We offer more preschool songs than needed for your enjoyment and for many group sizes.

WORDS ONLY—No piano sheet music or CD available from our end!

Teach children the words. Place songs where you desire in the program. No piano accompaniment is required.

Eliminate preschool songs if time is an issue.

Special Music Options

Feature church and community talent. Special Music options are NOT in the existing program. Add as desired.

Consider time limitations.

Vocal Solo
Vocal Group (Duet-Trio-Quartet)
Youth/Adult Choir

Instrumental Ensemble
Handbell/Chime Choir
Instrumental Solo



Preschool Christmas Songs

Teach unique Christmas words to familiar melodies.
No piano needed. Let them sing a capella in all their
'little voice' glory. We provide printed lyrics.

We do not provide piano sheet music or CD accompaniment.

Consider how much time preschool children can sit still and focus.
Shorter is better. You know your group best.

Shine In My Heart, Lord Jesus (Silent Night, Holy Night)

This is a children's version that is sung during the program.
Teach it to participants. Let them sing it when desired.

Shepherds: Shine in my heart.

Shine in my heart.

Shepherds dear, angels near,

Telling the story of Beth-le-hem

Telling the story to all good men.

I want to follow Jesus.

I want to follow Him. **Chorus**

Wise Men: Shine in my heart.

Shine in my heart.

Wise men come, Star leads on

Telling the story of Bethlehem

Telling the story to all good men.

I want to follow Jesus

I want to follow Him. **Chorus**

Chorus: Shine in my heart.

Shine in my heart.

Shine today, Shine in me

Telling the story of Bethlehem

Telling the story to all good men.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Shine in my heart, dear Lord.



Three Wise Men

(Tune: Three Blind Mice)

Three wise men, three wise men,
Traveling far, See a bright star.
They found the Savior in Bethlehem,
They fell on their knees
and they worshiped Him,
Never before has there ever been
A Baby like Him, A Baby like Him.



Take Me Out To the Stable

(Tune: Take Me Out To the Ball Game)

Take me out to the stable, out to where Jesus was born.
Show me the manger He used for His bed.
Show me the sweet dove who cooed by His head.
And let's look way up to the heavens, look for the star where He lay.
For it's --why--we--have Christmas morning,
It's Jesus' Birth-day!



J-E-S-U-S

(Tune: B-I-N-G-O)

The Lord above us gave His Son and Jesus was His name-o.
J-E-S-U-S! J-E-S-U-S! J-E-S-U-S!
And Jesus was His name-O.

The Baby In The Manger

(Tune: The Wheels On The Bus)

The cow in the manger went moo-moo-moo
Moo-moo-moo! Moo-moo-moo!
The cow in the manger went moo-moo-moo
All through the night.

The hay on the ground went crunch-crunch-crunch...(repeat)
All through the night.

The Baby in the manger went waa-waa-waa...(repeat)
All through the night.

His mother Mary went ssh-ssh-ssh...(repeat) All through the night.



Happy Birthday Jesus

(Tune: Happy Birthday)

On the first Christmas Day
From the Father above,
Came the little Lord Jesus,
To show His great love.

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
I love you dear Jesus,
Happy birthday to you.

Mary Had A Little Lamb

(Tune: Mary Had A Little Lamb)

Choose as many verses as desired

Mary had a little Lamb, little Lamb, little Lamb.
Mary had a little Lamb, born in Bethlehem.

Jesus was her little Lamb, little Lamb, little Lamb.
Jesus was her little Lamb, wrapped in swaddling clothes.

He was in a manger bed, manger bed, manger bed.
He was in a manger bed, sleeping in the hay.

Shepherds came to see the Lamb, see the Lamb, see the Lamb.
Shepherds came to see the Lamb, Angels sent them there.

The wise men brought him three nice gifts,
three nice gifts, three nice gifts.
The wise men brought him three nice gifts, placed before the Lamb.

Mary had a little Lamb, little Lamb, little Lamb.
Mary had a little Lamb, Savior of the earth.



Mary Had A Baby

(Tune: The More We Get Together)

Mary had a baby, a baby, a baby.
Mary had a baby, one glorious night.



She named the baby Jesus, dear Jesus, dear Jesus,
She named the baby Jesus,
'Cause God told her too.

The shepherds came to worship, to worship, to worship.
The shepherds came to worship
The newborn King.

The star above was shining, was shining, was shining.
The star above was shining
On Jesus sweet face.

Joseph gave him baby hugs, baby hugs, baby hugs.
Joseph gave him baby hugs
And Jesus was glad.

Mary and Joseph Went To Bethlehem

(Tune: Ten Little Indians)

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem (3x)
Riding on a donkey. (Act like bouncing on donkey)

So they rested in the stable (3x)
They could go no further. (Fold hand like sleeping)

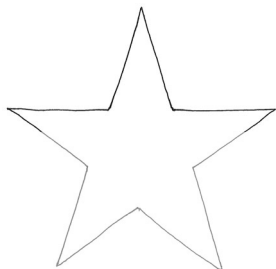
Baby Jesus was born to Mary (3x)
She laid him in a manger. (Rock a baby)

The shepherds and wise men came to Jesus (3x)
to bring the baby gifts. (Hold out hands to give gift.)
Now we celebrate Jesus' birthday (3x)
On each Christmas Day! (Hold arms up to rejoice.)



Twinkle Christmas Star

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)



Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star
How I wonder what you are.
Shining high up in the sky
Show wise men where Jesus lies.
Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star.
How I wonder what you are.

'Tis Christmas

(Tune: Away In A Manger)



'Tis Christmas! 'Tis Christmas! The Christmas bells ring.
The birthday of Jesus, Our Savior and King.
'Tis Christmas! 'Tis Christmas! The candles all glow;
The birthday of Jesus, Let everyone know.
'Tis Christmas! 'Tis Christmas! The Christmas star shines.
The birthday of Jesus, A glad, happy time!
'Tis Christmas, 'Tis Christmas! Our Bible recalls,
The birthday of Jesus, God's love gift to all.

Christmas! Christmas!

(Tune: Praise Him, Praise Him All Ye Little Children)

Christmas, Christmas, now it's time for Christmas.
Jesus came, Jesus came.
Christmas, Christmas; Now it's time for Christmas.
Jesus came, Jesus came!
ADD STANZAS: Angels Sang, I'm so glad, Praise His Name.



Jesus Came

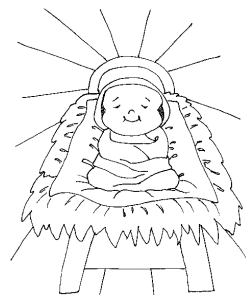
(Tune: Deep And Wide)

Jesus came, Jesus came, Had a manger for His tiny bed.
Jesus came, Jesus came, Had a manger for His tiny bed.

Angels sang, Angels sang, Told the shepherds Baby Jesus came.
Angels sang, Angels sang, Told the shepherds Baby Jesus came.

Star above, Star above, Told the wise men Baby Jesus came.
Star above, Star above, Told the wise men Baby Jesus came.

Jesus grew, Jesus grew, As a Man He made the sick ones well.
Jesus grew, Jesus grew, As a Man He made the sick ones well.



Jesus gave, Jesus gave, Gave Himself to take away our sin.
Jesus gave, Jesus gave, Gave Himself to take away our sin.
Went away, Went away, Went away to make a home for me.
Went away, Went away, Went away to make a home for me.

He will come, He will come, He will come and meet us in the air.
He will come, He will come, He will come and meet us in the air.

Wise Men Still Seek Him!

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
(hold diamond shaped hands above head)
Wise Men followed from afar.
(Shield eyes with hand)
They found the boy of whom we sing
(hold out hand to show height on little boy)
And gave Him gifts fit for a king
(arms, as if giving a gift)
They fell right down and gave a nod
(kneel and bow head)
Jesus was their Gift from God.
(Clasp hands as if in prayer)



WISE MAN POKEY

(Tune: Hokey Pokey)

You put your gold box in.
You put your gold box out
Your put your gold box in.
and you shake it all about.
You do the wise man pokey
and you turn yourself around
(Clap) That's what it's all about!

Additional Verses

Camel
Gold Crown

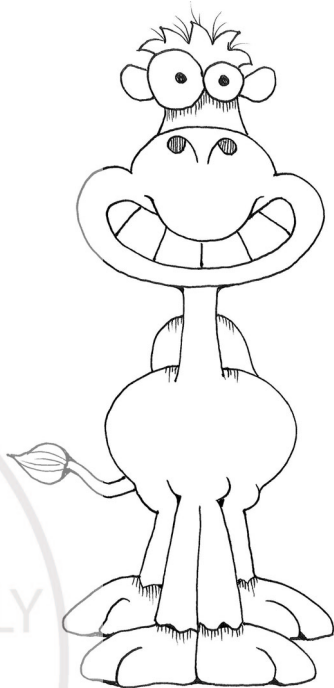
You do the Wise Man Pokey.
You do the Wise Man Pokey.
You do the Wise Man Pokey.
And you shake it all about.
You do the wise man pokey
and you turn yourself around
(Clap) That's what it's all about!

You Wrap the Baby up.
You Wrap the Baby up.
You Wrap the Baby up
And you whisper in His ear.
You do the wise man pokey
and you turn yourself around
(Clap) That's what it's all about!

ENDING: You do the Wise..... Man Pokey
You do the WiseMan Pokey.
(Clap) That's what it's all about!

Consider traditional Christmas songs
preschool children learn quickly.

“Away In A Manger”
“We Wish You A Merry Christmas”.





Stage and Props

Wrap This One Up is a simple preschool presentation of Jesus' Birthday using minimum staging and props.

Set The Mood

Show Off Existing Decor. Christmas trees, nativity scenes, twinkle lights, poinsettias, candles and displays add to the festive atmosphere.
Keep the Decorations.

Staging

Nativity Props: Place an empty manger **center stage**. Add one small bench or stool near the manger. Add simple stable items: a few large baskets, pottery and greenery. Place a full sized white sheet draping from the manger onto the floor. Light from under the sheet.
Keep It Simple.

Story Teller's Chair: One large, comfortable rocking chair or upholstered chair placed **near the manger**. Children sit on the floor around the chair.
Keep it Comfortable.

Lighting: Back light the chair with one small floor spotlight. Only the spotlight and holiday lights are lit. Turn off audience lighting even if program is performed during the day.
Create atmosphere with light.

Seating: Children and leaders enter from the back and move into place on stage.
No student audience seating needed.

Sound System

Use the existing sound system to its' best advantage. Provide a microphone. Attach a wireless microphone. This detail makes the difference between a frustrating experience and a delightful program.
Say It Loud!

Large Screen

If a large screen is available, project a stable view or starry night, or Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus.
Atmosphere!



Creative Costumes

Children hear the Bethlehem story in Holy Land costumes. Jesus' story comes to life as little ones take their place in the scene.

*Clothes make a statement.
Costumes tell a story!*

Set The Scene: The little ones are waiting Christmas morning in all it's exciting glory! First, they help tell the Bethlehem story of the day Jesus was born. They carry their blankets and set the scene lambs from the hill, Jesus the Little Lamb and Jesus the Lamb of God. Fun for kids. Meaningful for grown ups!



Costume Assistance

Check: www.orientaltrading.com This online catalog offers Nativity costumes and animal masks at surprisingly low prices. If choosing simple costumes, this is a great source.

Nativity Animal Masks: www.orientaltrading.com offers the perfect masks to add to the program for your little manger animals. No fancy stage makeup. No problem. Effortlessly transform kids into stable animals. Animals include a cow, horse, camel, white sheep, black sheep and donkey. Each includes elastic band. Felt.

(6 pcs. Per unit 6 1/2" x 12" x 5 1/2" x 12")
IN-13665038 \$11.99/Price may change

Wise Men Gifts: Wrap a box with gold wrapping paper. Spray glitter the box. Spray glitter a large vase for frankincense/perfume. Spray glitter a large bowl for myrrh/oil.

Star: One child becomes the Bethlehem Star. Make a large posterboard star for them to carry.

Secret: Draw a large Cross on the opposite side to be revealed at the end of the program. The star wears glo stick bracelets and anklets.



Simple Props

Children: Carry small blankets. These may be their own blankets from home or blankets provided for them.

Story Teller: Carry a large handmade story book . Print WRAP THIS ONE UP in large **black** letters on the audience side. Place the program script inside the story book prop.

HINT: *Brightly colored poster board works great.
Big, bright and spray glittered is charming!*

Bright Ideas!

Story Teller reads while sitting in the chair. As the children sit on the floor around the chair they spread their blankets on the floor, hold them or wrap themselves in them as the manger story of the Lamb springs to 'life'.

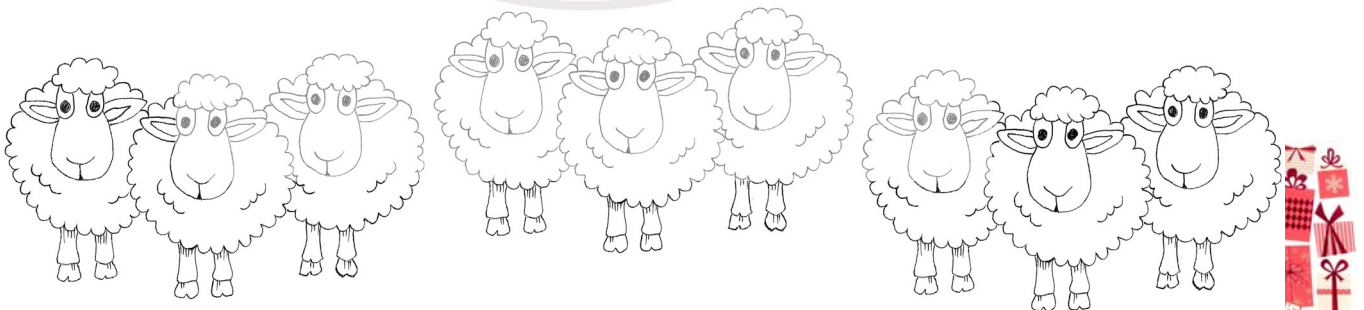
Needed: *'Art inclined' people who make simple props. We offer simple patterns. Enlarge on posterboard and feature highlights with markers, acrylic paint, glitter, acrylic jewels, old jewelry, fabric (as desired).*

Use patterns or create your own props.

OR: Omit if there are enough Christmas decorations in place.

Wall of Lambs

Check out the graphic patterns included. Create a Wall of Lambs across the front and/or back of the stage. Repeat the pattern as often as desired on large posterboard, white cardboard or thin plywood. Paint/Marker simple details on each identical lamb. Add the sideways lamb at ends of the 'wall'.



~ Plush Lambs ~

www.orientaltrading.com To remind the little ones of lambs and give them a keepsake, purchase small soft pastel plush lambs. There are several inexpensive choices online at Oriental Trading. Consider buying one white lamb that can be wrapped in a small blanket and placed in the manger.

Other options: *Baby Girls Lucky Lil' Lamb Costume, kid's full body lamb costume, deluxe nativity lamb costume, cardboard stand ups for the stage. Mini flock of lambs for WRAP THIS ONE UP PARTY tables.*

Check www.amazon.com or any other supplier of children's stuff animals.

~ Children Nativity People ~ Adapt characters to the number of participants.

Mary and Joseph

Example: 1-2-3 + shepherds....you decide.

1-2-3 + wise men....you decide.

Manger animals: as many as needed.

Stars and angels: as many as possible.

A Bit Of Angel Fun

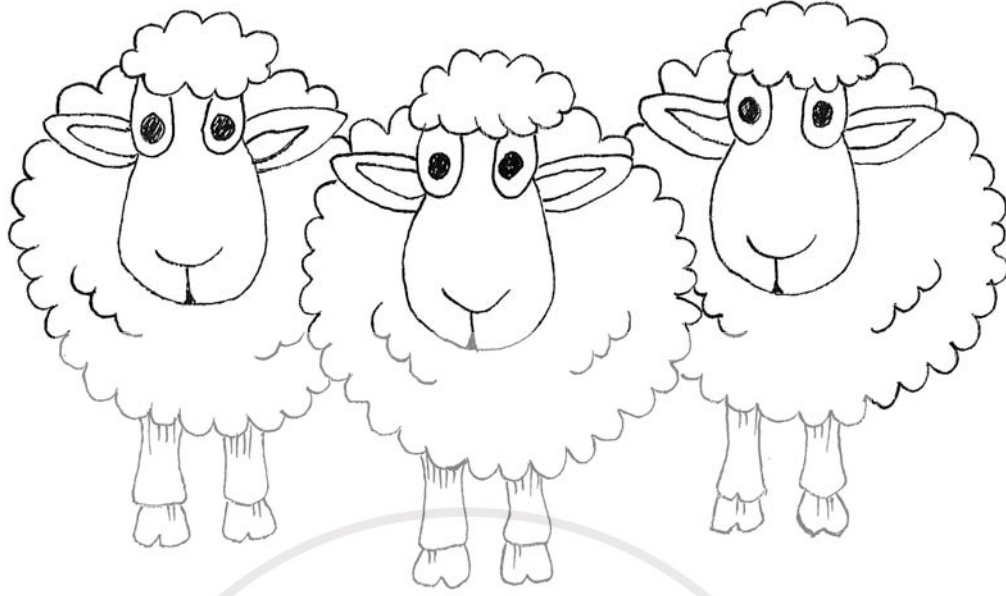
Hand glo sticks to the little angels. At the right time, ask them to wave and shine their 'angel' light.

~ Think About It ~

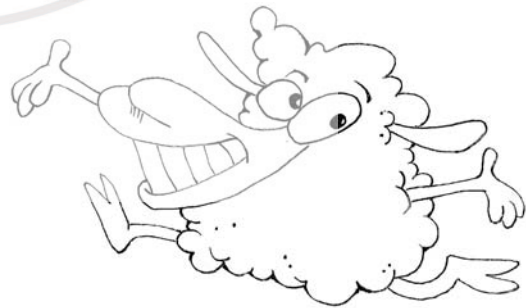
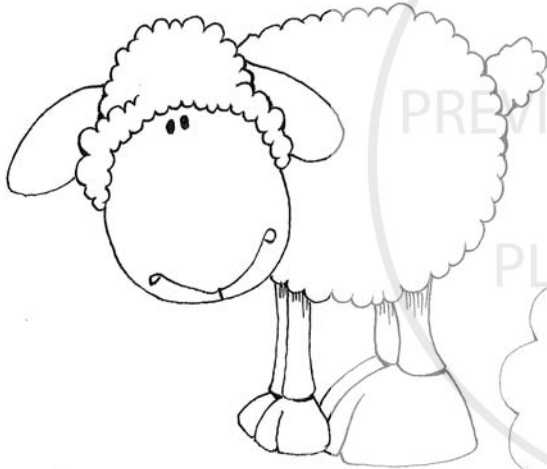
Take a few minutes to apply stage makeup—rosy red cheeks, big eyelashes and eyeshadow on willing students.

Sprinkle spray glitter on angels and stars to guarantee they glisten in the stage lights.





Lamb Graphics
Enlarge on Posterboard.
Group across stage, at entrances .
Make as Many as Desired!

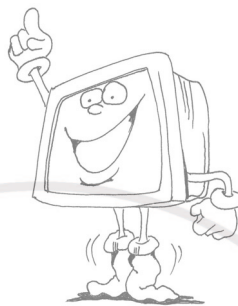


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Publicity ~ Talk It Up!

Publicize WRAP THIS ONE UP through church/school communication channels. Announce it online, newsletter, worship bulletin and from the pulpit.



Bulletin And Newsletter

Print announcements in November and December newsletters. If planning WRAP THIS ONE UP PARTY, tell families there will be a Christmas celebration following the program. **Time and Place is Important!**

Local News and Social Media

Contact the local news source. Add announcements with church holiday information. Ask a reporter/photographer if a feature article is possible. Print quick announcements on the website and social media page. **Try It!**

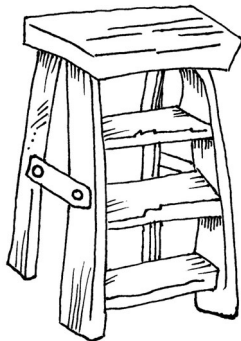
Talk it up with announcements and pictures on your private face book page and twitter.

Television And Radio

Advertise on your local television cable advertising channel. Radio stations often have free spots available as community service. **Reach out!**

Christmas Card Invitations

Sending family invitations home is effective for families not involved. Use real Christmas cards with invitations tucked inside. Or, Preschool children make paper Christmas cards as a project and tuck each invitation inside their backpack. **The Personal Touch!**





Teachers! Helpers!

Pray! Prepare! Present!
When you play with 'puppies', expect puppy tricks!

The Youngest Among Us! ~ On Stage!

Preschool children do NOT have individual speaking parts. They sing. They become the Nativity scene. Add simple costumes appropriate for their character. **Give 'Em A Break! They Are Littles!**

Story Teller ~ You're On!

Story Teller leads the way. Program material is written in a readable format. Preschool children responses are short and coached. Helpers appreciated. **Optional 'grown up' monologues are inserted. Use as desired.**

Practice Makes Perfect ~ Or Not!

Practice music. Prepare children for the big event. Adapt. Make changes as needed. Keep Calm. No one will care. **Memories are made!**

Communicate With Parents

Little rehearsal needed. Tell parents when to have children at rehearsal and performance. Invite families to attend. Communicate specific props or costuming for their child. **Parents are the KEY!**

Don't Forget To... Smile!

Smile. Enter the performance area. Lead your group onto the stage. Perform your part with enthusiasm.

Coach students quietly as needed.

Stage fright is not uncommon. Preschool children are notorious for wiggling, saying and doing the unexpected. Keep your sense of humor! Go with the flow! The audience will love whatever happens.



Stay For The Party!

Stay! Collect props before children attend the party. Mingle with party goers. Enjoy the experience with your children and their families.

Meet their families!

I Still Need Help!

Ask The Director. The program comes together at the last moment with little formal large group rehearsal.

Don't sweat the small stuff!

Teachers Just Wanna Have Fun!

Enjoy your small part of the bigger picture. Bethlehem's Jesus Story is life changing. The spiritual experience is delightful! Enjoy this once in a lifetime opportunity to touch lives of young children and grown ups.

Have Fun!

'Click It' Up A Notch!

Bring your camera! There will be picture taking opportunities. You will be amazed in 20 years how precious these memories become.

"Click" for 'posterity' and your photo album!

*Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.
Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven
belongs to those who are like these children.'*

Matthew 19:14 nlt

Stage Helpers

Sit on floor with children on stage.

Look Like 'Christmas'!

Keep it simple. When guiding children or sitting with them on stage, wear a comfortable Christmas outfit.

Carry a soft blanket.

If assigned a short part, speak with enthusiasm.

Memorization is not necessary.

Sing Along

The suggested songs are short nursery rhyme tunes with Christmas lyrics repeated two or three times. Sing along and add to the over all sound.

Sing a capella!



Music Makers Prelude

Play and sing Christmas Carols as the audience gathers. Choose happy music suited to a children's program. A variety of instruments can be included as available. **Add to the Christmas feeling with music!**

'Wrap Them Up' Procession

Gather children in an outer room. Audience welcome, introductions, first audience song, Narrator and offering (*If appropriate*) is completed before the little ones enter the performance area. This lessens the time they must be on stage. **Get out the wiggles!**

Dim the Lights. Existing holiday lights are left to glow merrily in the background. Leave stage lights, spotlights, twinkle lights shining.

*Invite Children to join the Story Teller On Stage.
Create a dramatic entrance and photographic moments
with the children wrapped in their little blankets.*

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On Stage ~ Keep It Short!

Keep children focused. Let them sit on your lap or place your arms around them as they sit near you. Guide them gently into position. Leaders mixed with little ones is charming. It is an excellent way to keep order on stage.

Tune Into Story Teller Instructions!

Seat the children on the floor around the Story Teller as they arrive at the stage. As the story is told, place Mary and Joseph near the manger, angels in the back, shepherds on one side and wise men on the other side.

*Scatter angels along the edges.
Children dressed as 'stars' mingle with angels.
Children masked as animals, sit on the floor.*

Insert preschool songs at the beginning, middle and end of the program. We suggest song options. **Choose music as desired.**



Story Teller

*Read the "Wrap This One Up" story aloud.
Create a Mini Nativity scene.*



Follow Script Directions

Your gentle personality as *Story Teller* makes *child involvement* delightful as you place them in the Nativity scene. Prompt children to respond casually. Repeat their responses with them.

Whatever happens....happens!

Sing!

Song options included with this event are short, Repeat melodies a couple of times.

Sing a capella.

Choose Audience Christmas Carols.

Decide where to insert traditional Carols.

Lead The Children!

Assign specific characters. Children do not have speaking lines. They become part of the visual Nativity scene. All children should wear Nativity costumes.

Keep it simple.

Children sit on stage. They stand in the Nativity scene when their part of the story is told. Place them near the manger on stage.

Prepare for wiggles.

Get Ready! Get Set! Go!

Carry the script inside a large story book. Dress in Christmas colors. Young children bring Jesus' story to life visually, standing in their stable places.

No Memorization!

Be Flexible ~ Just Be Cool!

Relax! When young children say or do something unexpected this does not ruin the program. Their innocence, enthusiasm and curiosity make their first 'on stage' experience enjoyable.

And That's the Truth!



After their entrance, seat children on the floor around the chair. Once placed in the Nativity scene, they stay there. If a few children wander, keep your sense of humor. It is helpful to have helpers on stage.

Remind them of their important part!

Be Gentle

Young children are comfortable with people they know best. Visit their classroom, talk with them. Become an approachable friend. This preparation reaps great benefits. **The youngest children will not be afraid.**

Create a fascinating Bible Journey for preschoolers.
Hands on learning with a knowledgeable, fun staff!

*Jesus said, 'Go into all the world
and preach the Good News to everyone.'*

Mark 16:15

Preschool Participation

Encourage children to respond with joy.
Focus on the manger and, becoming their character.

'Tis A Gift To Be Simple...and Childlike.

Easy songs with familiar melodies like "Away In A Manger" or nursery rhymes are well received by the audience.

Hand Signal Option: Consider a hand sign to signal it's time for the appropriate on stage group response.

Place one grown up in the front row to guide the group.

Rehearse: Preparation lessens the 'deer in the headlights' look! Practice songs, include assistants. **Tip: Practice in the actual performance space.**

Free To Be Three ~ No Matter What Happens!

Perfection? Pshaw! If one or two children cry, wave, greet 'mommy and daddy', comment or run off stage, don't panic. Handle the issue with humor and regroup. The more casual the effort, the better the result.

Don't aim for perfection.



“Because I’m Little, I Can’t Tell You Who I Am.”



“I get scared.”

Is there a shaking, clinging, crying child? Hold their hand. Ask a parent to ‘come along’, be supportive. The solution can be as simple as giving a mask on stage to hide behind so they can “dance like no one is watching” or allowing them to sit down on a step!

“I’m a little show-off!”

Most little ones are ready to take to the stage. They are excited to be there and seem to sense what to expect with big smiles. Can't predict it! Go with the flow as they wave and wink and twirl.



“I’m so shy.”

This little person wants to be in the show but stands at the group edge, head down, sucking a comforting thumb. Let them be shy and comfortable.

“Can I just watch this year?”

This child wants to stand on the sidelines or sit in the front row. It takes a lot of guts for a three year old to be on stage in front of a crowd. Remind them how proud you are that they got out there to tell about Jesus!

“It’s mostly about me!”

This child wants to ‘steal the show’. They shout to parents from the stage, wave, say something funny, pick their nose or start doing their own thing. If this happens to you, you have a star on your hands!
Good Luck!



*“Every time you find some humor
in a difficult situation, you win.” ~ Snoopy*

Gently encourage any child that goes too far off script to come back to the story. As long as they are having fun and not being too distracting to the rest of their friends, it's all okay. The preschool program is meant to be loose, fun and super cute!



Think On The Fly!

Make Friends!

It is helpful when the children know each other, love their teacher and are familiar with the stage. Getting to know the story and staff that will be present on show day goes a long way.



Practice!

Give the children every opportunity to stand in front of a group and get big applause. Encourage excitement about the performance.

Let them try on their costume.

Let Children Teach YOU!

Participate according to size, age and attention span. It's okay if they don't do all the moves right.

Help them during the program.

Sing Loud and Proud!

Teach songs and sing them often before the program. They will associate moves and theme as they hear their songs in class. We offer many song options. Choose favorites. Insert where desired.

Sing the songs they are capable of singing.

Take To The Stage! Often!

Take the little ones on stage privately. It gives them a sense of what to expect on show day. Talk about the friendly audience, story, lights, backstage area. Walk them around the audience area and let them choose seats to sit in. They become familiar with the sights, sounds and smells.

Tell them who they will become in the program.

*Jesus said,
‘Whoever welcomes one such child
in My Name welcomes Me.’*

Matthew 18:5



Wrap This One Up!

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Royal Lambs
Jesus The Little Lamb
Jesus The Lamb of God

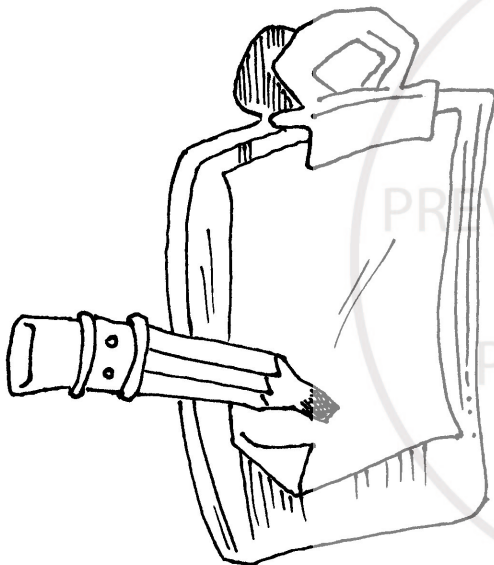


Wrap This One Up At A Glance

Insert Christmas Carols sung by the audience. Add special music as available and sing songs performed by preschoolers.

Add where appropriate.

Consider the total time when planning music options.



Christmas Prelude

Welcome

Introduction

Preschool Entrance

The Story Teller: Wrap This One Up

Featuring: Our Littlest Children

Nursery Rhyme Songs

Audience Christmas Carols

Special Music

Conclusion

Come To Our
Wrap This One Up Party!



Introduction

**Invite the audience to open "Wrap This One Up"
singing this song written by Gloria and Bill Gaither.
Print words in a program or project on large screen.**

Because He Lives

(Lyrics: Gloria Gaither/William Gaither)

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days, because He lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

And then one day, I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives



The

Royal

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Lambs



Preschool Entrance

Instrumental Music

“Away In A Manger”

Audience may sing along quietly.

Entrance

Children wearing Holy Land costumes,
walk along the center aisle with helpers.

Each child carries a small blanket to sit on while on stage.

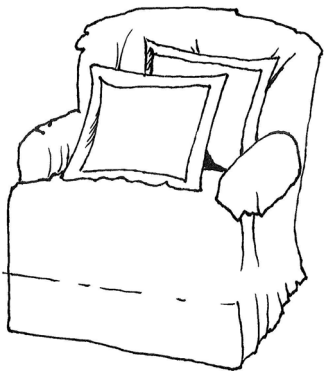
Seat the children on their blankets around the feet of the
Story Teller as they reach the stage.

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Story Teller Introduction

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Look at all of you sitting so “Christmas-y” on your soft blankets. You look like little lambs and shepherds and angels and wise men. Do you have something important to tell me about Jesus?



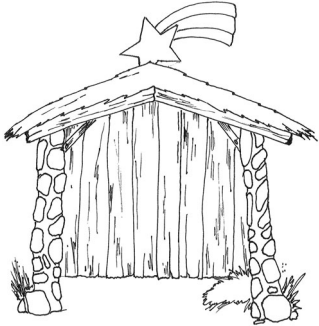
Lean in closer. I have a wonderful story to tell you and you have a wonderful story to hear. You are the perfect children to show everyone what happened in Bethlehem long ago.

Are you comfortable sitting on your blankets? Is your costume cozy? Are you ready to listen with your ears and see with your eyes? Can you be quiet with your mouth?

Dive into my story book with me. Let's see what we discover.



Part One: The Royal Lambs



When I was little, like you, my mom had a beautiful ceramic nativity set in our living room. She said, "Don't touch!" When she wasn't looking I had the best time moving the Bethlehem people around to suit me. I made up stories about each one and made sure the Christmas story was told the right way. My way!

My mom said Jesus was wrapped up in swaddling clothes. I didn't know what 'swaddling' was. I found what I needed in the bathroom drawer. I wrapped Baby Jesus up in Band-Aids!

The wise men didn't show up until later. I carried them to the dining room table so they could arrive at the right time. They fell over but that's okay. Well, they were mostly okay. They had plenty of time to get to Bethlehem.

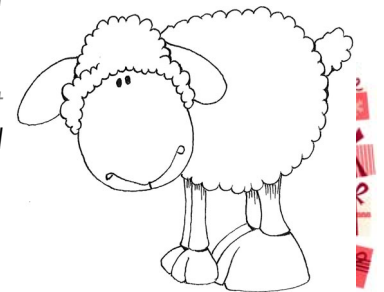
You know the Bethlehem story, don't you? The story about Jesus and the night He was born? Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem only to find there was no room for them at the inn. And Mary was going to have a baby...any minute!

When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. There were animals all around and shepherds and Joseph and an Innkeeper.

But....why Bethlehem? Why was the Savior of the whole world born in a dusty little village to people nobody knew?

Lean in a little closer and I will tell you a secret that even your moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas don't know. The secret is: Royal Lambs!

Where are my Shepherds! This part of the story book is about YOU! Stand over there, right on the pretend hillside. Pretend to take care of your sheep.



Reading: Long ago, before I was born, before YOU were born, before Jesus was born, even before Mary and Joseph were born, there were shepherds. Some were ordinary shepherds. Some were special Bethlehem shepherds!

Just like OUR shepherds here!



Sheep grazed on the Bethlehem hillsides, shepherds watched and newborn, perfect lambs were chosen and set apart. Not a spot or bad thing about them, handpicked and approved for a privileged job. There were other towns who raised other lambs but it was only Bethlehem that birthed lambs pure and special enough to be called worthy of God. They were Temple Lambs. Royal lambs.

They didn't wear a crown!

Bethlehem shepherds were famous, the rock stars of all shepherds, set apart and called priest shepherds. They were trained with special skills to keep the Royal lambs perfect and spotless in every way.

And they studied God's laws.

When a perfect lamb was born, the shepherds gathered around and looked it over. Ears were fluffy and pink inside, little eyes sparkled, fur was fuzzy with no ugly spots. The little lamb was already wagging its tiny tail and all four sweet feet were perfect in every way.

Don't you love cute, little lambs?

Shepherds wrapped the perfect lamb in swaddling clothes and placed it securely in a manger. The manger usually held animal food but now the manger protected each perfect lamb. Guess what the shepherds said when a perfect lamb was born. They scratched their beards, nodded their heads and said,

“Wrap This One Up”.



Jesus

The

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Little

Lamb



Part Two: Jesus The Little Lamb

My favorite pieces in my family ceramic nativity set were the angels. There was one angel flying with wings. I used to pretend it was flying all around the living room. One angel was kneeling at the manger.

I love sparkling angels.

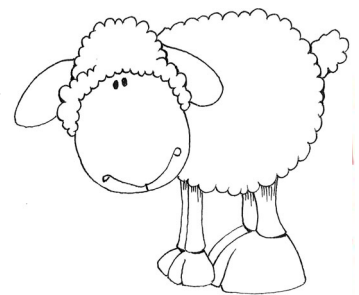
Where are my angels? Come and stand near the Bethlehem shepherds. Pretend you are flying with very good news. Some of you stand near them. Others can sit down like you are petting their sheep.

Reading: While the shepherds were eating supper and talking, an angel appeared. It was a total surprise. The angel was so bright and shiny they just knew it was an angel from heaven. No time to put on their sunglasses. **They probably choked on their juice box.**

The men were used to living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks at night. Angels were never part of evening around the campfire. Yet, here they were, shining and sparkling and flying all around the shepherds, the sheep, the campfire. First one angel and then thousands shared good news!

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. We have wonderful, amazing, good news from God! It's for everybody! A baby, Christ the Lord, can be found in the village of Bethlehem wrapped in cloths, laying in a manger."
Then the angels went back to heaven!

How did the shepherds know where to find this baby? They knew more than anyone **exactly** where to look. There was one place near Bethlehem where they protected their flocks. It was safe and warm and there was a manger there. They ran directly to the spot they probably knew well. It was part of an inn; the watch tower, the stall, the stable where animals stayed. That's where Jesus was born.





Our ceramic nativity set had the prettiest Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus! Mary looked so sweet and calm. Joseph stood beside her strong and quiet, looking at the baby...who was wrapped up in Band-Aids perfectly. I pretended to put them in the stable with shepherds, angels and sheep all around them.

Let's do that. Come around the manger and look at the baby. Is our baby a LAMB? No Band-Aids, just a tight swaddle to make him feel safe.

What about Jesus? Mary "wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn." Mary took strips of cloth used for wrapping little newborn lambs and tightly wrapped them around her baby boy. The Perfect Lamb. The Royal Lamb of God.

All the people living then knew about royal lambs and their privileged gift of life given at the Temple. The message woven within the cloths:

**"This One is Perfect!
Wrap This One Up!"**



Jesus The Lamb

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of God



Part Three: Jesus The Lamb of God

The last part of my family ceramic nativity set and the last part of Jesus' birthday story is about strangers. Interesting strangers from far away. I set the wise men on our dining room table and when I thought the time was right I pretended I was the star they followed me as I 'sparkled' all the way to the coffee table. They followed. Until I broke their camel by accident. Oops!

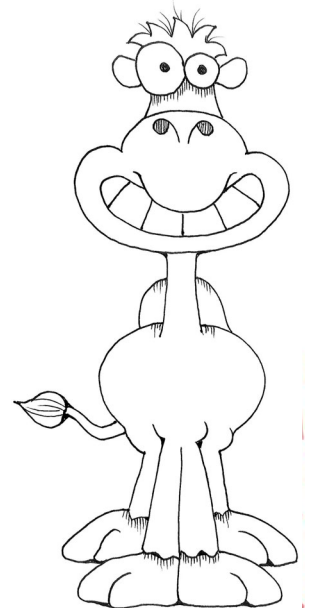
Reading: Wise men from the east followed a bright star all the way to Bethlehem. The wise men were smart and had lots of money. They brought presents for the baby!

Where are my wise men? Are you ready to see the Baby? Where is my bright star? Star, you shine behind everybody. Wise men, you gather round and bow in front of the manger with your gifts.

The first gift of the wise men: GOLD! In the days of Jesus only the richest people had gold not babies born in mangers. Or lambs. Kings wore gold crowns. Jesus, the Little Lamb in the manger would grow up to become Jesus, the Lamb of God. King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The second gift of the wise men: FRANKINCENSE! ...a burning kind of perfume. It was so sweet smelling that the temple priests burned it in the temple every morning and evening. It reminded people of God to pray when they smelled the sweetness. Jesus, the Little Lamb in the manger grew up to become Jesus, our faithful Leader we can talk to.

The third gift of the wise men: MYRRH! Myrrh was a holy anointing oil and was poured on priests, kings and on the Tabernacle where God's followers gathered. Jesus, the Little Lamb in the manger grew up to become Jesus, God's Chosen One who is our Savior.



Three gifts. 1-2-3! Three meanings about God's Lamb, Jesus reminding us of one BIG gift from God...Jesus! "For God so loved the world that He gave **His only Son** that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Jesus didn't stay a baby in the manger. He grew up and showed us how to live for God. Jesus is God's Son, our Savior. He died on a Cross and rose again. Which is a story for another day!

Star! Please turn your star around so we can see what's on the other side!
Star turns large posterboard to reverse side to reveal a hand drawn Cross. Hold it high over the manger scene.

When the grown up people who loved Jesus, tucked Him away in the tomb for three days, they remembered the Royal Lambs and shepherds saying, "Wrap This One Up". They remembered the baby, God's Baby in the manger and Mary who said, "Wrap This One Up". Now His sad grown up friends said to each other:

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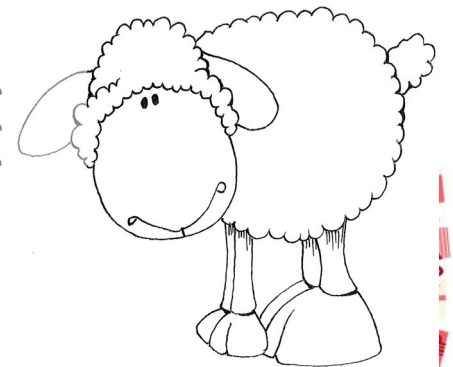
"Wrap This One Up!"

Jesus, God's Lamb, didn't stay wrapped up in a tomb! He became alive and is our Savior today.

From The Royal Lambs to Jesus the Little Lamb to Jesus the Lamb of God, God certainly made a story we can tell when we are very young and when we are very old. It's the whole story of Jesus the Lamb of God! And it all began in a manger, in a stable, in a dusty little village called Bethlehem.

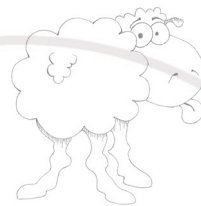
Ok, everyone! Line up! It's time to take a bow. We have told our story. We have sung our songs. We have completed our Christmas gift for our families. It's time to:

"Wrap This One Up!"



Conclusion

Audience sings first verses
of favorite Christmas Carols.



Close In Prayer!

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Children leave stage
to join their families
or their leaders.

Invite Everyone to the
WRAP THIS ONE UP PARTY!



Wrap This One Up Party!

*Assign party planning to one small group:
Specific grown ups or a Sunday School Class.
Preschool parents may set up the party area.*

*Offer delicious Food,
Christmas music, Casual fellowship.*

Preparations Before Party Day

Menu: Ask people to share their favorite Christmas dessert. If this is a Sunday morning event, serve a Continental Breakfast including ham and egg sandwiches or egg casserole, doughnuts.

Provide favorite beverages: Coffee, tea, orange juice, fruit drink.

Seating: Arrange tables and chairs depending upon the size of the gathering. Serve buffet style with space for guests to move around the room.

Place chairs in intimate circles for group conversation.

Music: Fill the air with Christmas music. This could be live music performed by local church/school musicians or favorite CD performances. **Low volume to allow comfortable conversation.**

Centerpieces: Cover tables with colorful tablecloths. Add wrapped Christmas boxes with ribbon and large lamb gift tags. Add one piece of a Nativity scene set to each table.

Gift Tag Pattern Option! ==>



Preparations On Party Day

Decorate the serving table and guest tables. Plug in the coffee pot and boil tea water while the program is in progress. Set out paper products, cups, silverware, food, cream and sugar.

Make Christmas Punch and place on a nearby serving table.

During The Party

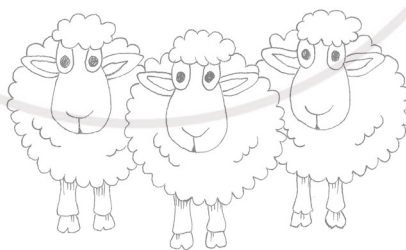
Assign people to serve food, pour beverages and refill dishes as needed. Greet guests cordially as they wait in the serving line. Move around the group to be sure everyone feels welcome. Find seats for those who may not be familiar with your church. Introduce people.

Enjoy the compliments.

After The Party

The party is not over until clean up is complete. Ask everyone to help with dishes, removing tables and chairs and sweeping the area clean.

Go home!
Good and faithful servant.



Well Done!
“Wrap This One Up”!

