

# A BETHLEHEM

## A-B-C

A PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



# A BETHLEHEM A-B-C

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

*A BETHLEHEM A-B-C* is designed for preschool or kindergarten children to present in church or in their classroom for friends and relatives. This program includes recitations, poems, songs and readings. The theme, of course, is the alphabet. The children will present the Announcement of Christmas, the Birthday of Jesus, and the Christmas Cheer that we find in the Bethlehem manger.

### **COSTUMES**

Children need not wear any costumes for this program.

### **PREPARATION**

#### **Letters**

Children will hold up letters of the alphabet during the recitation "The Christmas Alphabet". Letter templates are included on this disk. Have the children color the letters.

#### **Instruments**

The spoken song "D' Is for the Drum I Play" is performed with instruments the children play. Instructions for making these instruments are included on this disk. You may use your own classroom instruments if you desire.

#### **Coloring Booklet**

A handout coloring booklet for the parents and friends is also included on this disk. Feel free to make copies. Children can color in the letters before stapling together. Make enough for all your visitors.

### **THE DISK**

This disk includes all the written materials necessary and artwork templates. However, it ALSO INCLUDES the accompaniment and sing-along versions of the song "Just Like Me". This can be played on your CD player. Feel free to use the accompaniment version for the performance.

### **SONGS AND POEMS**

Feel free to make any substitutions you wish.

- 1: "Little Children, Can You Tell" is the opening song. You will find sheet music for it on this disk. This song is sung responsively by children and the assembly.
- 2: "D Is for the Drum I Play" is a spoken song and has no music. Children play their rhythm instruments during the recitation of this song. Instructions for making the instruments are on this disk.
- 3: "Away in the Manger" is to be sung by the assembly and the children.
- 4: "The Christmas Alphabet" is a spoken poem by the children. As children recite the poem they hold up the next letter of the alphabet. Large letters are found on this disk.
- 4: "Just Like Me" is the closing song by the children. The sheet music, accompaniment and sing-along versions are included on this CD.

"Just Like Me" is protected by copyright of Paul Wilde.

"D Is for the Drum I Play" is protected by copyright of Reynold R. Kremer.

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# A BETHLEHEM A-B-C

## **Song Assembly and Children: Little Children, Can You Tell**

(Sheet music is on this disk)

*(Assembly)* Little children, can you tell,  
Do you know the story well,  
Every girl and every boy,  
Why the angels sing for joy,  
On the Christmas morning.

*(Children)* Yes, we know the story well;  
Listen now, and hear us tell  
Every girl and every boy,  
Why the angels sing for joy,  
On the Christmas morning.

*(Assembly)* For a little Babe that day  
Cradled in a manger lay,  
Born on earth our Lord to be;  
This the wondering angels see  
On the Christmas morning.

*(Children)* Joy our little hearts shall fill,  
Peace and love, and all good-will;  
This fair Babe of Bethlehem  
Children loves, and blesses them  
On the Christmas morning.

**Pastor or Leader:** Good morning everyone and welcome to *A BETHLEHEM A-B-C*. Where would we be today if there were no letters or alphabets? Certainly there would be no libraries or books to read. There would be no more signs on the highway to give us directions or instruction books. There would be no labels in our clothes or any need for printing presses. And think how confused we all would be without any names or words.

Letters are very important to our children today. In class, they have been learning about letters, how they look and the sounds that they make. In fact I would like the children to introduce themselves to you by spelling for you their first names.

(Children march in and line up in a row. They all spell their first name as they go down the line.)

**Pastor or Leader:** Our program today is called *A BETHLEHEM A-B-C*. It is divided into three parts that we've aptly named Part A, Part B, and Part C. Let's see what the children can teach us today as we begin with:

## **“A” IS FOR ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Pastor or Leader:** From the time of Adam and Eve right up until Jesus’ birth, the people knew that a Savior or Messiah would come as a sacrifice for their sins. They didn’t know when this would take place, but throughout the Old Testament they were given small announcements of this birth. Each contained a hint about the first Christmas. I am going to ask the children to help me with these little announcements.

Children, can you tell me where Jesus was to be born?

**Children:** Micah announced in chapter 5:2. “But you, Bethlehem . . . out of you will come . . . one who will be ruler over Israel.”

**Pastor or Leader:** And can you tell me about the birth?

**Children:** Isaiah announced in chapter 7:14. “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

**Pastor or Leader:** God also announced to the mother of Jesus that she would give birth to the Son of God.

**Children:** Luke wrote in chapter 1:30,31. “The angels said, ‘Mary, you have found favor with God. You will . . . give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.’”

**Pastor or Leader:** God also sent an angel to Joseph to announce to him what was about to take place.

**Children:** Matthew said in chapter 1. “Joseph . . . [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.”

**Pastor or Leader:** All these announcements were given as the people waited anxiously for the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

### **SPOKEN INSTRUMENT SONG (Children): “D” Is for the Drum I Play**

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(See instrument craft ideas. While some children are playing the rhythm instruments, one child can hold up the letter for that instrument. Use the same letters as are intended for the “Christmas Alphabet”.)

“D” is for the drum I play  
I can rat-a-tat-a-tat-tat all the day.  
I’ll play my drum for the Baby small;  
Cradled in the lonely cattle stall.

“S” is for the scraper’s song.  
I can shush-shush-shush it all day long.  
It’s a new sound that I gladly bring.  
I will play it for my Christmas King.

“R” is for the rattle can  
That I shake, shake, shake with my little hand.  
It will tell the shepherds lying on the ground  
That a baby’s born in Bethle’em town.

“T” is for the tambourine  
That I tink-tink-tink and I ring-ring-ring.  
I can play it for the angels bright  
Who came to the shepherds late that night.

“B” is for the bells that say  
That the Savior’s born here on Christmas Day.  
They will ring a tune that will tell the earth  
That salvation’s found in this Baby’s birth.

## “B” IS FOR THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS

(Children sit on floor as they listen to the parents read the Christmas story.)

**Pastor or Leader:** We would not be here today if it were not to celebrate the Birthday of Jesus. We think back to the night when Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem. That was just the beginning of Jesus’ life here on earth that would end in his death and resurrection. It all happened because we needed Jesus to save us from our sins.

Let us listen once again to the wonderful Christmas story we find in the book of Luke. Today, however, instead of the children reciting it to you, I would like you to read it to them. As you can see, they are sitting here ready for us to begin.

### **Assembly:**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,