



Ring Those
Bethlehem Bells

INTRODUCTION

Ring those Bethlehem Bells is a program designed for preschool and kindergarten age children to present to the church or simply a small group of families and friends. The approximate running time is about 30 minutes. This program may include more material than you wish to use. Please make adjustments and changes to fit the material to your schedule and situation.

The theme of this program is Christmas bells. Throughout the telling of the Christmas story, children present poems, songs, and even handbell songs. There are also a few songs chosen for the assembly. Sheet music for many of the songs is included. Those not included can be easily located.

THE BELLS

Since the theme is centered around bells, it would be best if each child had his or her own set of bells. Instructions are included for simple wrist bells that your children can make.

There are two songs included that can be played with an octave set of 8 children's handbells or handchimes. These songs are optional. You can still easily perform a wonderful program without the use of these two songs.

[If your school would like to purchase a set, Kremer Resources has made available Schylling Handbells for only \\$34.99 per set. Bells are color-coded to the sheet music that is included for the two songs. Order at 855-873-4566.](#)

SONGS

Children Sing -	<i>O Come, Little Children</i> <i>Christmas Bells (Tune of Jingle Bells)</i> <i>Away in the Manger</i> <i>This Little Gospel Bell of Mine (Tune of This Little Gospel Light of Mine)</i> <i>O Christmas Bells (Tune of O Christmas Tree)</i>
Assembly Sings -	<i>O Come, Little Children (Optional)</i> <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>
Children Ring -	<i>One Bell Ringer (Processional)</i> <i>O Come, Little Children</i> <i>Little Baby in a Manger</i>
Children Finger Play -	<i>Five Little Bells</i>

GIFT ITEM

This file includes instructions for making two different Christmas tree ornaments. One is made from a clay flower pot and the other using disposable communion cups. Children can make these for guests and friends ahead of time.

SUGGESTION

Have your children decorate bell-shaped Christmas cookies.

Ring Those Bethlehem Bells

Children gather in another room.

Teacher: Thank you for joining us today. We've been anxiously waiting for the opportunity to share our Christmas message with you. Maybe we could say to **ring out** our Christmas message to you, since our program is all about bells.

Bells are important to us at Christmastime. We love to hear the church bells calling out to the community that we are about to gather to worship the Savior. We enjoy songs like *The Carol of the Bells* and *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*. Some of us may decorate our trees with bell shaped ornaments, or maybe we even hang special bells on our front doors.

Our children enjoy the sounds that bells make and they are eager to ring out the message that Jesus is born.

CHILDREN ENTER (Give each child a bell to ring as they file into the room one by one.)

 **Child One:** (ringing bell) *One bell ringer, walking through town, ringing his (her) bell, up and down.* (Child one keeps ringing bell as child two enters room.)

 **Child Two:** (ringing bell) *Two bell ringers, walking through town, ringing their bells, up and down.* (Both children keep ringing as third child enters room.)

 **Child Three:** (and so on until all children are in room ringing their bells.) *Three bell ringers . . .*
(Stop ringing)



PART ONE: We First See a Man and a Lady

Children Say: *First we all see that a man and a lady
Ride o'er the hills and the dells,
They've come a long way so that they could be counted,
In our story of Bethlehem bells.*

Teacher: *"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"* (Luke 2:1-3).

 **Children Ring and Sing:** *O Come, Little Children*
(You may have adults join in singing)

*O come, little children, O come one and all,
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small,
God's son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.*

*He's born in a stable for you and for me,
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels the heavenly Child.*

*See Mary and Joseph, with love beaming eyes,
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.*

*Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.*



Part Two: Oh, Oh, There Seems to be Trouble

(Part 2 is deleted in this sample pdf)



Part Three: Look, Way up in the Heavens

Children Say: *O, look now, we see that way up in the heavens,
An angel rejoices and tells,
That a Baby's been born in the Bethlehem manger,
Announced by those Bethlehem bells.*

Teacher: *“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 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, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:8-14).

Assembly and Children: *Away in the Manger*
(Children sing verse two)

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay*

*Children: The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there*



Part Four: Forever, and Ever, and Ever!

Children Say: *And forever, and ever, and ever, and ever,
A wonderful melody dwells
In the tender sweet ringing and joyfully singing,
Of the beautiful Bethlehem bells.*

Children Sing: *This Little Gospel Bell of Mine*
(Tune of *This Little Gospel Light of Mine*)

*This little Gospel bell of mine, I'm gonna let it ring.
This little Gospel bell of mine, I'm gonna let it ring.
This little Gospel bell of mine, I'm gonna let it ring.
Let it ring, while I sing, Let it ring.*

Teacher: *“So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told” (Luke 2:16-20).*

Assembly: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light,
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above;
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And Peace to men on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels;
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

 **Children Ring: Little Baby in a Manger**

(Some children may sing while others ring)

Little Baby in the manger, I love you,
Lying there, to earth a stranger, I love you;
Wise men saw the star and answered, "I love you,"
Shepherds heard the angels saying, "I love you."

Little Baby down from heaven, I love you,
By the Father to us given, I love you;
Star of hope for every nation, I love you,
Angels gave you adoration, I love you.

Little Baby meek and lowly, I love you,
Son of God so pure and holy, I love you;
Wonderful in grace and power, I love you,
Sharon's Rose, the sweetest flower, I love you.

Children Sing: *O Christmas Bells*

(Tune of *O Christmas Tree*)

*O Christmas bells, O Christmas bells,
We love to hear you ringing.
O Christmas bells, O Christmas bells,
You make us feel like singing.
You chime your songs from up above,
They tell the world about God's love.
O Christmas bells, O Christmas bells,
We love to hear you ringing.*

Children Show: *Five Little Bells*

(Finger play)

(Hold up one closed fist)

Five little bells, hanging in a row,

(Hold up one finger & wave it back and forth)

The first one said, "Ring me slow."

(Hold up two fingers & quickly wave them back & forth)

The second one said, "Ring me fast."

(Hold up three fingers and ring back and forth)

The third one said, "Ring me last."

(Hold out four fingers, but this time point them to the floor and ring them back & forth)

The fourth one said, "I'm like a chime."

(Children hold up all five fingers & wave to the audience as they exit)

The fifth one said, "Ring us all at Christmastime!"