



**A Christmas presentation for
preschool and kindergarten children**

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing **Jesus Is My Christmas Gift**. This 30 minute program will delight parents and friends as the children present the Christmas story by opening a series of gift boxes. As each box is unwrapped we discover the great gift that God gave to us in the Bethlehem manger.

Throughout the program the children will participate through various recitations and action songs. Use your discretion in choosing individuals or chorus groups to make the presentations. Feel free to make any adjustments to the program that you deem necessary. The Narrator may be the teacher, pastor, etc.

The assembly is asked to join in singing two songs, “Little Children, Can You Tell”, and “Away in a Manger”. The sheet music has been included with this program, but these two songs do not come with instrumental accompaniment.

The children’s song, “Are You Sleeping” can be sung without accompaniment. The closing children’s song, “Mary Held Her Baby” has an instrumental accompaniment MP3 download included with this purchase.

GIFT BOXES

There are five gift-wrapped boxes used in the program. Have these either set on a table in front of the assembly, or place them under a Christmas tree so that the students can find and open them one at a time.

Gift wrap the boxes as follows:

BOX 1 – Paper ream sized box wrapped in gold. Contains “NO VACANCY” sign. (A designed sign graphic is attached at the end of this file.)

BOX 2 – Smaller box about 8”x8 “x8” wrapped in red. Contains white cloth 36” square. A child will demonstrate how to wrap a baby doll in swaddling clothes using this piece of cloth.

BOX 3 – Long flat box large enough to fit a shepherd’s staff. You will need to make a staff out of wood or corrugated cardboard. Color of giftwrap makes no difference.

BOX 4 – Smaller box about 8”x8”x8” containing gold, frankincense and myrrh. For gold, wrap stone in gold foil. For frankincense and myrrh, use “oriental” style bottles or small boxes. Any color gift wrap will do.

BOX 5 – Box size will be determined by number of students in the class. This box will hold Christmas gifts that the children prepared ahead of time to hand out to everyone attending. (See gift items available through Kremer Resources, or make your own.) Box is to be wrapped in blue paper.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO MAKE AND DISTRIBUTE

These suggested items are available at orientaltrading.com. You may use these to give out to your assembly or feel free to make your own.



Baby Jesus Christmas Ornament Kit

Includes felt and foam pieces, cardboard manger, chenille stems and wooden baby Jesus. Approx. 4" tall.



Nativity Ornament Kit

Includes self-adhesive foam pieces, wooden craft sticks and ribbon. 4½" tall.



Song by Children and Assembly: *Little Children, Can You Tell?*

1. (Assembly)

Little children, can you tell,
Do you know the story well,
Every girl and every boy,
Why the angels sing for joy,
On this Christmas morning?

2. (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 this Christmas morning.

3. (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 this Christmas morning.

4. (Children)

Joy our little hearts shall fill,
Peace and love, and all goodwill;
This fair Babe of Bethlehem,
Children loves, and blesses them,
On this Christmas morning.

Responsive Reading

Children: It's Christmas time, a time of joy,
Assembly: *Since God sent down a baby Boy.*

C: It's Christmas time, we love to tell,
A: *The story that we know so well.*

C: It's Christmas time, a happy day,

A: *For Jesus in the manger lay.*

C: It's Christmas time, our spirit's lift,

A: *Since Jesus is our Christmas Gift.*

Narrator: Gifts! At Christmas time much of our time and energy is spent on gift giving: making lists, shopping, wrapping, and giving gifts. There probably isn't a person here who hasn't enjoyed this Christmas tradition. It's fun to get gifts, and it's even more fun to give them. Of course we give gifts as a symbol of God's very special gift to us at Christmas. Can you imagine the joy in heaven when God gave his gift on that Christmas Day so many years ago?

Today we will tell you all about Christmas gifts. The children have prepared the gifts you see here to help them tell their story.

BOX 1

Child 1: *Let's start with this gold Christmas gift,
And see what's deep inside. (Open box and hold up "NO VACANCY" sign.)
It has the sign that Mary saw
At the end of her tiresome ride. (Hold up sign for all to see)*

All Children: No vacancy!

Narrator: Mary and Joseph needed to go to Bethlehem to register for taxes. Their four day, 70 mile trip, was difficult, especially since Mary was about to have her first baby. When they arrived in tiny Bethlehem, all the homes and inns were filled with other travelers. Can you imagine their grief wondering what to do? But God provided for Joseph and his family. God was to make certain that his Son would not be born in a palace like other kings. Instead the Savior of the world, the King of all Creation would be born to a poor couple, in a humble town, and laid in a cattle manger.

Recitation by Children: *Clop, clop, clop, the old donkey brayed. (Stomp up and down)
"Stop, stop, stop," then dear Joseph said. (Hold up hand as stop sign)
"No, no, no, it just can't be true, (Shake head back and forth)
What, what, what, will I ever do?" (Put hand on chin and roll eyes upward)*

*"Go, go, go," said the innkeeper fair. (Point finger)
"Warm, warm, warm in the stable there. (Cross arms and shiver)
Soft, soft, soft, the crude manger will keep." (Grab hands and rock a baby)
Shh, shh, shh, it's a place for a baby to sleep. (Put finger over mouth to say Shh)*

Narrator: Luke 2:1-7

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 their 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 guest room available for them.

BOX 2

Child 2: *Next we see a Christmas gift*
 Wrapped in red galore. (Open gift box and pull out white swaddling cloth)
 It has a special coat inside
 That baby Jesus wore. (Hold up for all to see)

All Children: Swaddling clothes!

(While Narrator is reading the following paragraph, have one of the girls take the swaddling cloth that was in the gift box, and wrap a baby doll demonstrating how it was done.)

Narrator: Just after a baby was born, he or she was washed with warm water and laid diagonally on a cloth about a yard square. The mother, or another helper, laid the child's legs together and held his arms at his side. The corners were then folded over the feet and body and under the head. Finally, thin strips of cloth were tied around the bundle to hold the baby snugly. Usually this practice was followed for up to a year. Jewish women believed this would keep the baby safe and warm and help him or her grow strong and healthy. Although handmaids were often used, Mary likely completed the wrapping on her own.

Assembly: *Away in a Manger*

- 1. 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.*
- 2. 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.*
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there.*

Narrator: Luke 2:9-12

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 that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

BOX 3

Child 3: *Next we have a long, long box.
What could there be inside? (Open long box and take out staff)
It's a long, long stick that shepherd's used (Hold up for all to see)
To keep their sheep nearby.*

All Children: A shepherd's staff.

Narrator: A shepherd's staff or crook was an important item for all shepherds to have. It was usually about six feet long and had a large curved hook at the top. Shepherd's used these sticks as a cane to help them walk up stony paths. The curved part was used to hook around a straying sheep's neck to gently pull it back into the herd. It could also be used to rescue sheep when they were caught in thickets or were in danger.

Children's Song: *Are You Sleeping?* (To tune of "Are You Sleeping Brother John?")

1. Are you sleeping, are you sleeping, shepherds dear, shepherds dear?
Hear the angels singing, hear the angels singing, far and near, far and near.
2. Are you running, are you running, shepherds dear, shepherds dear?
See the baby Jesus, see the baby Jesus, He is here, He is here.
3. Are you praising, are you praising, shepherds dear, shepherds dear?
You have found the Savior, you have found the Savior, go in cheer, go in cheer.

Narrator: Luke 2:13-20

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

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.

BOX 4

Child 4: *Now we see a pretty box
What could it ever hold? (Open box and remove gold, frankincense and myrrh)
Let's look deep down inside it now
Frankincense, myrrh and gold!*

All Children: Gold, frankincense and myrrh!

Narrator: Sometime after Jesus was born, some wise men from far away followed a star that led them to Mary, Joseph and Jesus. They knew that Jesus was a special king so they brought gifts and came to worship Jesus. First they gave him gold, a precious metal which would help pay for the long trip to Egypt that they would soon be making. Next they gave him frankincense, a white resin or gum that comes from a very special tree. Frankincense was used in worship when the people burned it as an offering to God. Jesus would be a special offering who would sacrifice himself for our sins. Myrrh also came from a tree in Arabia. It was sometimes mixed with wine to drink. It was also used to wrap around the body of someone who had died. Jesus was wrapped in myrrh when he was placed in the tomb. These gifts which were highly prized by kings and emperors were the gifts the wise men gave to young Jesus.

Assembly Recitation: *O'er Thy cradle shone a star,
Guiding pilgrims from afar,
Bearing to their maker's feet
Gold and myrrh and incense sweet.*

*Jesus! Lord of life divine!
Let Thy star upon us shine,
Enter in our hearts today
There to wash our sin away.*

Narrator: Matthew 2:9-11

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

BOX 5

Child 5: *The Christmas story's ended
But there's still a box that is blue. (Open last box. Pull out one of the gifts.)
I'll reach inside to see what's there.
Oh, look, some gifts for you!*

All Children: Jesus is my Christmas gift!
(Children each take handful of gifts and distribute them to the assembly.)

Narrator: (While children are distributing gifts) Gifts are wonderful things to give and to receive. These children all like giving and getting Christmas gifts. Yet they learned here at our school that the best Christmas gift ever is the gift of Jesus. As the Bible says in John 3:16,

All Children: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Children's Closing Song: *Mary Held Her Baby* (With hand signs)

1. *Mary held her baby dear,
Nestled him so very near;
Smiled and gently whispered clear,
"I'm holding you with two hands."* (Clasp hands with palms up and rock back and forth)

2. *Shepherds wakened in their sleep
Ran and left their flock of sheep;
For their silence could not keep
To worship him with two hands.* (Fold hands)

3. *And from countries far away,
Wise men brought their gifts to pay
Tribute to the Babe that day;
They offered gifts with two hands.* (Hold hands out near chest with palms up)

4. *Now I know that baby small
Sleeping soundly in the stall,
Would forgive the sins of all
When nails would pierce His two hands.* (Hold arms outstretched like crucifixion)

5. *So today I clearly see
All the things Christ did for me.
I will fall down on my knees* (Drop to knees)
And give to Him my two hands. (Hold arms straight out with palms up)

NO VACANCY SIGN

Print on heavy paper, cut out, and use in BOX 1.



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

**If you do not have a wooden staff, you can enlarge the one below.
Print out pattern, copy onto transparency to use with overhead
projector and enlarge to fit on corrugated cardboard.
Cut out for use in BOX 3.**

