The Greatest Gift

Christmas Pageant



Included Within

- The Greatest Gift Christmas Pageant Script
- The Greatest Gift Script with Director's Notes
- Steps to a Successful Christmas Pageant
- Costume List and Recommendations
- Optional Backdrop, Props, and Décor Suggestions

All Pages Reproducible

The Greatest Gift
Table of Contents

The Greatest Gift Christmas Pageant Script pp. 3 – 8

The Greatest Gift Script with Director's Notes pp. 9 – 16

Steps to a Successful Christmas Pageant pp. 17 – 18

Costume, Backdrops, Props, and Décor Suggestions p. 19

All Pages Reproducible

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company.
All rights reserved.

The Greatest Gift Christmas Pageant Script

New International Version Translation

Characters

Narrator	Mary	Joseph	Dove	Dog
Shepherd #1	Shepherd #2	Sheep	Camel	King Herod
Wise Man #1	Wise Man #2	Wise Man #3	Angel Gabriel	Joseph's Angel
Shepherds' Angel	Additional Angels	Donkey		

Narrator: What a beautiful season! The bright colors, the delicious cookies, decorating the house and hanging ornaments on the tree – such fun. Christmas is the time of year for smiles, giving and receiving gifts, enjoying family, and spending time with friends.

Song Options
"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (Public Domain)
"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" (Non-Public Domain)
"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" (Non-Public Domain)

Narrator: But wait…there is much more to Christmas. It is sometimes easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. It is important to remember the true reason for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thousands of years ago, the greatest gift ever was prophesized.

Isaiah 7:14 tells us, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel."

Scene One: Mary and the Angel

Dove: Oh, my! How lucky I was to be resting in the tree just above Mary. I heard her joy in her whistling and wanted to be near her. Enjoying the day, we were very surprised when suddenly Angel Gabriel appeared and spoke to Mary. I nearly flew the coop but am so glad I stayed and heard the good news. I was definitely glad I was able to keep my wings from flapping.

Angel Gabriel: Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. *Luke 1:28*

Dove: Mary was a little frightened and didn't really know what to say or do. But she stayed put to listen to the message from the angel. I was scared and ready to fly away but was really curious about what the angel would say next.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Angel Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; His kingdom will never end. *Luke 1:30-33*

Mary: How will this be since I am a virgin? *Luke 1:34*

Angel Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. *Luke 1:35*

Mary: I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled. *Luke 1:38*

Dove: Mary was feeling all kinds of things. She was happy and excited and feeling very blessed. But she was also nervous and a little afraid. And she was wondering how her fiancé Joseph was going to respond to the news.

Song Options
"What Child is This?" (Public Domain)
"Mary, Did You Know?" (Non-Public Domain)
"Breath of Heaven" (Non-Public Domain)

Scene Two: Joseph and the Angel

Dog: Joseph is such a good man. I really like being by his side when he does his carpentry. But he has been a little sad since Mary spoke with him earlier. I hope something happens soon to make his heart full of joy.

Joseph: I love Mary with all my heart. But how can this be true? She told me she was pregnant and that the father of the baby was the Holy Spirit. I want to believe her, but my heart is troubled. (Joseph lays down with a pillow and blanket.)

Dog: Poor Joseph. He is so tired from wrestling with his thoughts. I'm so glad he is finally resting and having a good sleep.

Angel: Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. *Matthew 1:20-21*

Joseph (waking up): I must find Mary and make sure she knows I believe her. I am honored to be part of God's plan and to be Mary's future husband.

Dog: It is so wonderful to see Joseph smile. Mary and Joseph are meant for each other and they will be great parents. They are both faithful and kind.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Song Options
"O Come All Ye Faithful" (Public Domain)
"Be My Son" (Non-Public Domain)
"Joseph's Song" (Non-Public Domain)

Scene Three: The Trip to Bethlehem and the Birth of Jesus

Donkey: This journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem has been quite the trip. I am a little tired. I can't imagine how Mary feels since the baby will be here soon. I can still smile, though. It is an honor for me to be able to help Mary and Joseph, and the baby Mary is carrying.

Joseph: I wish Caesar Augustus had ordered this census for another time. Mary, how are you feeling?

Mary: I'm doing okay. But I think I might have the baby while we are in Bethlehem. I don't think He is going to wait until we get back home.

Donkey: Oh, my! We have a problem. There are no guest rooms. Where will Mary and Joseph rest and where, oh where, will she give birth to the baby?

Joseph: I cannot believe there are no guest rooms. I've asked about the use of a stable but I'm worried, Mary. What will we do?

Mary: Joseph, everything will be ok. The Lord is watching over us. We can make do with where the animals are kept.

Donkey: I was actually pretty excited about Mary's suggestion. I would get to witness the birth of the baby since I would be staying with the other animals. And I couldn't wait to welcome that little baby.

Narrator: 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. Luke 2:6-7

Song Options
"Away in a Manger" (Public Domain)
"Hope was Born this Night" (Non-Public Domain)

Scene Four: The Shepherds and the Angels

Sheep: It is so beautiful and peaceful here in these hills and fields outside of Bethlehem. The shepherds and the rest of the flock are calm and relaxed. It is going to be a great night. That is what I was thinking anyway. But this night sure became energized and full of big news in a great big hurry.

Shepherd #1: What is happening? What is that light?

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Shepherd #2: I'm not sure but the sheep are not running or acting scared, so we should not be afraid either.

Shepherds' Angel: 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. *Luke 2:10-12*

All Angels: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests. *Luke 2:14*

Sheep: That was quite awesome to see and hear. I wonder what the shepherds will do with this news?

Shepherd #1: Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. *Luke 2:15*

Shepherd #2: Most definitely!

Sheep: I'm going to make sure to tag along. I want to see and love this baby.

Sheep: It did not take us long to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby, and seeing them was as precious as we all thought it would be.

Shepherd #2: Let's return to our fields and our flocks, but on the way, and from now on, we must tell everyone we see and know about what has happened.

Shepherd #1: Yes, let's praise and glorify God for all that we have seen and heard.

Song Options
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (Public Domain)
"Angels and Shepherds" (Non-Public Domain)

Scene Five: The Wise Men and the Star

Camel: What a bright star! I've never seen that star in the night sky. It is like the star is trying to tell us something.

Wise Man #1: This new star is amazing. From our studies of the sky, we know that this has been prophesized.

Wise Man #2: Yes, the old writings say a new star would appear with the birth of a great king.

Wise Man #3: And this is happening right now as we speak. Let's find this new king, celebrate his birth, and bring him gifts.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Camel: I'm so excited, we're going on a trip. I hope it isn't too far. The sooner the better to see this new king. How will we find him? The wise men believe we need to start in Jerusalem.

Wise Man #3: Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? *Matthew 2:2*

Wise Man #2: We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. *Matthew 2:2*

Camel: No one in Jerusalem seems to know the answer. Then came an invite from King Herod. He wanted to ask the wise men about when the star had appeared and where to find the child.

King Herod: The chief priests and teachers of the law have told me that the child you seek is somewhere in Bethlehem.

Wise Man #1: That is great news! We will travel to Bethlehem and find the child.

King Herod: Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him. *Matthew 2:8*

Camel: I'm glad for the wisdom of these wise men. They not only found the child but they knew that something wasn't right with King Herod. They had a hunch that King Herod wanted to do harm to this precious child, King of the Jews.

Wise Man #1: We have found the child that they have named Jesus.

Wise Man #2: We must bow down and worship the child.

Wise Man #3: Yes, indeed. We must glorify this child.

Camel: Although a long journey, seeing Jesus was well worth the trip. What a magnificent sight to see. The wise men presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Narrator: And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. *Matthew 2:12*

Song Options
"We Three Kings" (Public Domain)
"Do You Hear What I Hear?" (Non-Public Domain)

Narrator: And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him. Luke 2:40

Song Options
"Joy to the World" (Public Domain)
"Silent Night" (Public Domain)

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Please Note:

Pay special attention to the music that you select for your Christmas pageant. Your Music Director should be able to assist with determining permissions needed for selected songs. There are lots of Christmas songs in the Public Domain, and these songs do not require licensing or permission. For songs that are not in the Public Domain, do the research and determine if you need to obtain licensing or permission. If someone in the congregation has a background in law, he/she may be able to help with the laws concerning copyright. Both public domain and non-public domain songs have been listed as options for you to consider with performing The Greatest Gift.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

The Greatest Gift Christmas Pageant Script with Director's Notes

New International Version Translation

Characters

Narrator	Mary	Joseph	Dove	Dog
Shepherd #1	Shepherd #2	Sheep	Camel	King Herod
Wise Man #1	Wise Man #2	Wise Man #3	Angel Gabriel	Joseph's Angel
Shepherds' Angel	Additional Angels	Donkey		

Director Notes
All lights in the audience and performance area are up as the players enter.

All children, and adults, involved in the production enter and act very happy about the upcoming holiday. The children and adults smile and greet one another, smile and greet those in the audience. Some may be carrying presents, some may be putting decorations on a tree. After several minutes…

As the Narrator begins the line, all players make their way to the performance area. All players are to sing the first song, singing as they join the ensemble in the performance area.

Narrator: What a beautiful season! The bright colors, the delicious cookies, decorating the house and hanging ornaments on the tree – such fun. Christmas is the time of year for smiles, giving and receiving gifts, enjoying family, and spending time with friends.

Song Options
"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (Public Domain)
"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" (Non-Public Domain)
"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" (Non-Public Domain)

Director Notes
Lighting in the audience area is dimmed to low with lighting (spotlight) on the narrator. Players sit quietly around the performance area. Have teachers or guides sit with children in order to help with behavior and to assist players when it is time for them to speak and sing.

Narrator: But wait…there is much more to Christmas. It is sometimes easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. It is important to remember the true reason for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thousands of years ago, the greatest gift ever was prophesized. *Isaiah 7:14* tells us, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel."

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Director Notes
Lights dim from the Narrator and lights are brought up on Scene One. Mary is whistling while she is sitting in a garden. Mary could be doing a number of things, i.e. sweeping with a broom, smelling a flower – have Mary doing an everyday activity…

Scene One: Mary and the Angel

Dove: Oh, my! How lucky I was to be resting in the tree just above Mary. I heard her joy in her whistling and wanted to be near her. Enjoying the day, we were very surprised when suddenly Angel Gabriel appeared and spoke to Mary. I nearly flew the coop but am so glad I stayed and heard the good news. I was definitely glad I was able to keep my wings from flapping.

Angel Gabriel: Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. *Luke 1:28*

Dove: Mary was a little frightened and didn't really know what to say or do. But she stayed put to listen to the message from the angel. I was scared and ready to fly away but was really curious about what the angel would say next.

Angel Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; His kingdom will never end. *Luke 1:30-33*

Mary: How will this be since I am a virgin? *Luke 1:34*

Angel Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. *Luke 1:35*

Mary: I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled. *Luke 1:38*

Dove: Mary was feeling all kinds of things. She was happy and excited and feeling very blessed. But she was also nervous and a little afraid. And she was wondering how her fiancé Joseph was going to respond to the news.

Director Notes
Lights dim from over Scene One. Lights come up around the performance area. All players stand where they were sitting and sing the following song.

Song Options
"What Child is This?" (Public Domain)
"Mary, Did You Know?" (Non-Public Domain)
"Breath of Heaven" (Non-Public Domain)

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Director Notes
Lights dim around the performance area. Players sit quietly around the performance area. Lights come up on Scene Two.

Scene Two: Joseph and the Angel

Dog: Joseph is such a good man. I really like being by his side when he does his carpentry. But he has been a little sad since Mary spoke with him earlier. I hope something happens soon to make his heart full of joy.

Joseph: I love Mary with all my heart. But how can this be true? She told me she was pregnant and that the father of the baby was the Holy Spirit. I want to believe her, but my heart is troubled. (Joseph lays down with a pillow and blanket.)

Dog: Poor Joseph. He is so tired from wrestling with his thoughts. I'm so glad he is finally resting and having a good sleep.

Angel: Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. *Matthew 1:20-21*

Joseph (waking up): I must find Mary and make sure she knows I believe her. I am honored to be part of God's plan and to be Mary's future husband.

Dog: It is so wonderful to see Joseph smile. Mary and Joseph are meant for each other and they will be great parents. They are both faithful and kind.

Director Notes
Lights go down on Scene Two. Lights come up surrounding the performance area. All players stand where they were sitting and sing the following song.

Song Options
"O Come All Ye Faithful" (Public Domain)
"Be My Son" (Non-Public Domain)
"Joseph's Song" (Non-Public Domain)

Scene Three: The Trip to Bethlehem and the Birth of Jesus

Director Notes
Mary and Joseph travel to the performance area.

Donkey: This journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem has been quite the trip. I am a little tired. I can't imagine how Mary feels since the baby will be here soon. I can still smile, though. It is an honor for me to be able to help Mary and Joseph, and the baby Mary is carrying.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Joseph: I wish Caesar Augustus had ordered this census for another time. Mary, how are you feeling?

Mary: I'm doing okay. But I think I might have the baby while we are in Bethlehem. I don't think He is going to wait until we get back home.

Director Notes
Lights dim and when they come back up, Joseph should be knocking on doors with players answering and shaking their heads "no." As an alternative, there could also be signs that simply say, "No Rooms," and Joseph shaking his head as if he doesn't know what to do.

Donkey: Oh, my! We have a problem. There are no guest rooms. Where will Mary and Joseph rest and where, oh where, will she give birth to the baby?

Joseph: I cannot believe there are no guest rooms. I've asked about the use of a stable but I'm worried, Mary. What will we do?

Mary: Joseph, everything will be ok. The Lord is watching over us. We can make do with where the animals are kept.

Donkey: I was actually pretty excited about Mary's suggestion. I would get to witness the birth of the baby since I would be staying with the other animals. And I couldn't wait to welcome that little baby.

Director Notes
Lights dim around the performance area. Players who are the nativity animals join Mary and Joseph in the presentation area. The manger is also placed at this time. Play the instrumental music for "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (Public Domain) while players are getting in place. Cut the music once players are in place and lights come up on the Narrator.

Narrator: 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. Luke 2:6-7

Song Options
"Away in a Manger" (Public Domain)
"Hope was Born this Night" (Non-Public Domain)

Director Notes
Lights dim on Scene Three. Mary, Joseph, and some animals remain off to the side of the presentation area. All other players return and sit quietly around the performance area. Lights come up on Scene Four. Keep lights dim on Mary and Joseph, but lights up on the shepherds and angels.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Scene Four: The Shepherds and the Angels

Director Notes
Lights remain dim in the presentation area around Mary and Joseph. Players sit quietly around the performance area. Lights come up on the shepherds and angels in Scene Four.

Sheep: It is so beautiful and peaceful here in these hills and fields outside of Bethlehem. The shepherds and the rest of the flock are calm and relaxed. It is going to be a great night. That is what I was thinking anyway. But this night sure became energized and full of big news in a great big hurry.

Shepherd #1: What is happening? What is that light?

Shepherd #2: I'm not sure but the sheep are not running or acting scared, so we should not be afraid either.

Shepherds' Angel: 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. Luke 2:10-12

All Angels: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests. Luke 2:14

Sheep: That was quite awesome to see and hear. I wonder what the shepherds will do with this news?

Shepherd #1: Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. Luke 2:15

Shepherd #2: Most definitely!

Sheep: I'm going to make sure to tag along. I want to see and love this baby.

Director Notes
Lights dim around the performance area where the angels appeared to the shepherds. The shepherds walk a predetermined path to Mary, Joseph, and the baby. Lights come up on the visit of the shepherds.

Sheep: It did not take us long to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby, and seeing them was as precious as we all thought it would be.

Shepherd #2: Let's return to our fields and our flocks, but on the way, and from now on, we must tell everyone we see and know about what has happened.

Shepherd #1: Yes, let's praise and glorify God for all that we have seen and heard.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Director Notes
Lights go down on Scene Four. Lights come up surrounding the performance area. All players stand where they were sitting and sing the following song.

Song Options
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (Public Domain)
"Angels and Shepherds" (Non-Public Domain)

Scene Five: The Wise Men and the Star

Director Notes
Lights come up on the three wise men and the camel in the performance area.

Camel: What a bright star! I've never seen that star in the night sky. It is like the star is trying to tell us something.

Wise Man #1: This new star is amazing. From our studies of the sky, we know that this has been prophesized.

Wise Man #2: Yes, the old writings say a new star would appear with the birth of a great king.

Wise Man #3: And this is happening right now as we speak. Let's find this new king, celebrate his birth, and bring him gifts.

Camel: I'm so excited, we're going on a trip. I hope it isn't too far. The sooner the better to see this new king. How will we find him? The wise men believe we need to start in Jerusalem.

Director Notes
The wise men walk a predetermined path to Jerusalem. Lights come up on the wise men asking questions in Jerusalem (a few players are those in Jerusalem who do not have the answers).

Wise Man #3: Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? *Matthew 2:2*

Wise Man #2: We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Matthew 2:2

Camel: No one in Jerusalem seems to know the answer. Then came an invite from King Herod. He wanted to ask the wise men about when the star had appeared and where to find the child.

Director Notes
The wise men walk a predetermined path to King Herod. Lights follow the wise men and come up on King Herod.

King Herod: The chief priests and teachers of the law have told me that the child you seek is somewhere in Bethlehem.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Wise Man #1: That is great news! We will travel to Bethlehem and find the child.

King Herod: Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him. *Matthew 2:8*

Director Notes
The wise men walk a predetermined path to Bethlehem. Lights come up on the wise men, and Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

Camel: I'm glad for the wisdom of these wise men. They not only found the child but they knew that something wasn't right with King Herod. They had a hunch that King Herod wanted to do harm to this precious child, King of the Jews.

Wise Man #1: We have found the child that they have named Jesus.

Wise Man #2: We must bow down and worship the child.

Wise Man #3: Yes, indeed. We must glorify this child.

Camel: Although a long journey, seeing Jesus was well worth the trip. What a magnificent sight to see. The wise men presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Narrator: And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. *Matthew 2:12*

Director Notes
Lights go down on Scene Five. Lights come up surrounding the performance area. All players stand where they were sitting and sing the following song. As the song is being performed, the Holy Family, the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, and the stable animals gather in the performance area.

Song Options
"We Three Kings" (Public Domain)
"Do You Hear What I Hear?" (Non-Public Domain)

Director Notes
Lights go up on the Narrator and stay dimmed on the remaining players.

Narrator: And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him. *Luke 2:40*

Director Notes
Lights come up on the performance area and the surrounding area. All players stand or remain in the nativity scene and sing the following song.

Song Options
"Joy to the World" (Public Domain)
"Silent Night" (Public Domain)

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Please Note:

Pay special attention to the music that you select for your Christmas pageant. Your Music Director should be able to assist with determining permissions needed for selected songs. There are lots of Christmas songs in the Public Domain, and these songs do not require licensing or permission. For songs that are not in the Public Domain, do the research and determine if you need to obtain licensing or permission. If someone in the congregation has a background in law, he/she may be able to help with the laws concerning copyright. Both public domain and non-public domain songs have been listed as options for you to consider with performing The Greatest Gift.



Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Steps to a Successful Christmas Pagent

Step 1 – Staff and Schedule Coordination

Coordinate efforts with appropriate church staff members. Verify availability of church leader, reserve all rooms or areas needed for the pageant and all rehearsals, and secure any staff persons needed for the day of the performance. Determine needed support from staff members for the production, i.e. Music Department, Light and Sound, or Maintenance. Include all staff and volunteers on all future communications regarding the Christmas pageant, e.g. rehearsal schedule. Do not forget about what and who is needed for set-up and clean-up.

Step 2 – Skit and Song Selection

Consider age and maturity of students, number of students, rehearsals required, costume and set needs, and budget when selecting the skit that is right for your situation. Never forget to ask yourself, "Does the skit deliver the message or tell the story of God's love through the Christmas story?" Once confirmed, and matching the skit to your needs, purchase the rights to the selected script.

For song selection, it is very important to include your Music Director. Working together, determine who will be singing, what they will be singing, and when they will be singing. You may select to have certain grade levels performing some of the songs. You may select to have solo or small ensembles sing some songs or parts of songs. You may select to include the audience with certain songs. Make the skit and the music fit your church family.

Your Music Director should be able to assist with determining permissions needed for selected songs. There are lots of Christmas songs in the Public Domain, and these songs do not require licensing or permission. For songs that are not in the Public Domain, do the research and determine if you need to obtain licensing or permission. If someone in the congregation has a background in law, he/she may be able to help with the laws concerning copyright.

Step 3 – Assign Parts and Songs

Determine how parts will be assigned or if you will have tryouts for speaking roles. If having tryouts, include several people on the selection committee. Do your best to provide speaking parts to all students who are interested in having a speaking part. Make sure students understand that they will be responsible for knowing their parts and attending rehearsals.

Provide copies of the script to all students, teachers, and volunteers. If students will be singing as a class, assign songs for each grade. Provide copies of the songs or lyrics to students. Work out if the songs need to be memorized or if the students will be able to use handouts when singing.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Step 4 – Costume and Décor

Determine costume needs for each character. In reviewing each character, what needs to be purchased or crafted? Match costumes to size and character. If purchasing costumes, please see www.orientaltrading.com (Oriental Trading Company) for a wide variety of costumes at reasonable prices.

Review scenes in the script to decide on backgrounds, staging, décor, and props. In reviewing each scene, determine what needs to be purchased and what can be crafted. If purchasing for sets and props, please see www.orientaltrading.com (Oriental Trading Company) for a wide variety of backdrops, scene setters, nativity décor and stand-ups, and props at reasonable prices. Give yourself plenty of time to hang backdrops, set the scene, and complete all décor prior to the performance. If possible, include the full set during dress rehearsal.

Step 5 – Rehearse

The purpose of rehearsals is to make the students comfortable, engaged, and excited about the performance. Use children worship time the weeks ahead of the performance to practice and rehearse the script and the songs. Limit additional rehearsal times as children's schedules may not be able to accommodate. Have a dress rehearsal with all the bells and whistles prior to performance. Make sure parents or guardians are aware of all scheduled times and responsibilities of their children.

Step 6 – Performance Night

Relax and encourage. Tell the children, "You are going to be great! Have fun, you got this." Take several photographs of the cast members together in their costumes before the performance. If you had a program bulletin created, have ushers hand out the program. Ushers can be children in costume, older children not in the program, or adults. Programs should include when audience is to participate.

Additional Options

Video the performance. Try to have a volunteer with some expertise help with the recording. Provide a DVD recording to each family or charge a nominal fee to cover the costs of making the DVDs.

Plan for a reception after the performance for families and performers.
Ask families to each bring 1 – 2 dozen holiday treats. Keep this simple. Serve punch and holiday treats.

Conduct a special offering for a selected mission. The mission could be one that the church already supports or could be a new mission that will be helped out with this one-time pageant offering.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.

Costumes, Backdrops, Props, and Décor Suggestions

The Greatest Gift Characters to Assess for Costume Needs

- Mary
- Joseph
- Angels (suggest minimum of 4)
- 1 could be Joseph's Angel as well as those visiting the shepherds
- 1 could be the Shepherds' Angel
- Wise Men (minimum of 3)
- Story / Script Animals (dove, dog, donkey, sheep, camel)
- Additional Manger Animals (sheep, oxen, donkeys)
- Shepherds (minimum of 2)
- Angel Gabriel
- King Herod
- Narrator (does not require a costume)

The Greatest Gift Optional Background Ideas

- Bethlehem
- Night Sky
- Star of Bethlehem
- Stable
- Design-A-Room Nativity

The Greatest Gift Optional Props, Décor, Accessories, and Extras

- Baby Jesus
- Nativity Gowns
- Crowns
- Nativity Hats/Belts/Sashes
- Angel Wings, Headbands, and Halos
- Nativity Story and Stable Animal Stand-Ups
- Beards
- Shepherd Staffs
- Stable Stand-Up
- Nativity Character Stand-Ups
- Bethlehem Star
- Goody Bags

If purchasing costumes, settings or backdrops, or props, décor, and accessories, please visit www.orientaltrading.com (Oriental Trading Company) for a wide variety of options at reasonable prices.

Text © 2019 Oriental Trading Company. All rights reserved. All Pages Reproducible.



orientaltrading.com