

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM!
A Christmas Skit for Youth

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

Creating a Christmas Pageant:

In addition to simply doing the skit as written, you can always make it part of a full-fledged Christmas Pageant. A pageant would include adding things like music before and after the skit, prayers (or even a short message) offered by the Pastor, and possibly even a reception to follow with punch and cookies! Don't forget programs. And take LOTS of pictures to share!

These events are a LOT of fun to do at Christmas and they have the effect of bringing the whole church family a little bit closer together at this special time of year.

Adding the Christmas Carols:

During the skit there are places indicated where you might choose to sing Christmas carols. This can be done by the audience, by children's choirs, or by adult choirs and musical ensembles. If the audience is to sing, remember to provide song sheets (or slides) with the words on them.

Choosing the Songs:

For young choirs, and for church sing-alongs, I suggest choosing carols which are well-loved and familiar. Families love singing these together at Christmas. Have fun adding some special new pieces for your more experienced vocal and instrumental ensembles, but don't forget the true Christmas classics. In other words... *It's just not Christmas without Silent Night!*

Suggestions for Christmas Carols include:

O, Little Town of Bethlehem
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
The First Noel
Angels We Have Heard on High
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Away in a Manger
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Angels from the Realms of Glory
We Three Kings of Orient Are
O, Come All Ye Faithful
Silent Night

Suggestions for Additional Christmas Songs:

On the Way to Bethlehem (*The Shepherd's Pipe Carol by Johon Rutter*)
Mary, Did You Know? (*Music by Buddy Greene and Lyrics by Mark Lowry*)
Do You Hear What I Hear? (*Music by Gloria Shayne Baker and Lyrics by Noel Regney*)
O Holy Night
The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Carol of the Bells

NOTE: Please feel free to choose your own Christmas carols and songs. You know which ones would be most appreciated by your church membership. Keep in mind the age of the children who will be singing the songs when choosing musical options for children's choirs.
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A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM!

A Christmas Skit for Youth

How This All Got Started:

This Christmas Skit for Youth, “A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM!” was originally written (by me) to accompany a “Hands-On Holy Land Experience” by Group Publishing with the same title. This family learning experience was set up in a different location in the church and when the skit was over families went there to experience the feel, the sights, the sounds, and even the smells (!) of what it might have been like all those years ago in Ancient Bethlehem.

This is a lot of fun and, if you consider doing it, you can contact [Group Publishing](#), which still sells their [“A Night in Bethlehem Kit”](#). They also have a new kit called “One Starry Night.”

Town of Bethlehem Option:

If you wish to design your own family learning experience for after the skit, here are some ideas.

General Suggestions:

- Set up a sort of village in a large common room of your church
- Invite the families to visit this village after the skit
- Hand out tokens to everyone, as they enter, with which they can “buy” things
- Have your actors (or other helpers) come in costume and mingle with the crowd
 - Actors should stay “in character” and go around talking about what they saw and experienced on that night in Bethlehem
 - Have “townspeople” go around through the crowd talking about all the wonderful things that have happened in Bethlehem lately
- Have “vendors” walk through the crowd with baskets of bread, etc to “sell”
 - Fun food items include things like pieces of pita bread, small wheat rolls, hummus, cheese, and fruit. (*NOTE: No nuts! Allergy and choking hazard!*)
- Have an area where families can get their photos made together or with some of the cast.
- Set up booths or small areas where guests can do different activities

Activity Ideas:

- Make a simple craft (*preferably something that reminds us of ancient Israel*)
- Visit with animals (*small live animals such as rabbits or chickens, etc.*)
- Investigate a manger with some real hay. (*Note: Place a sheet or tarp under the hay!*)
- Visit a pen with a “flock” of sheep (*preferably the “stuffed animal” type of sheep*)
- Have snacks, including food from a “vendor” and water from a “well.”

Decorating Ideas:

Be creative and use your imagination. You can use many things you have on hand already. Drape tables with sheets, blankets, or other large pieces of fabric, to create dividers or to serve as backdrops. Tarps, partially suspended overhead and draping down the wall, make great “shops” for your village. To create a “well” use a large pot filled with water sitting on a low table. Set artificial plants or silk flowers around the table, and the pot, to make it look like a “well.” Have a volunteer fill cups for the crowd with a large ladle. Refill with cold water as necessary. Create a sheep pen. Consider placing folding chairs (facing outward) in a circle and draping them with sheets. Round up all of the stuffed animal figures of sheep that you can find and put them inside the pen. The “Sheep Pen” will be a big hit with the Little Guys! (*Always have an adult present!*)
Have fun and enjoy! God bless you!!