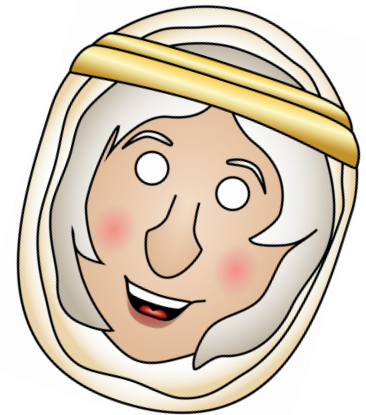


INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Use this download to put on your own Instant Christmas Pageant for Christmas Eve services or any other Christmas event where you want to tell the Christmas story in a unique and creative (and super cute) way.

Basics:

- 1) Prep the masks and props.
- 2) Appoint a couple of adult or youth helpers.
- 3) Practice YOUR part (see the script).
- 4) Assign parts and pass out masks as children arrive at service.
- 5) Be the highlight of the Christmas Eve service!



What You Need:

- 2 posters
- black paint & paintbrush
- white cardstock
- tape or stapler
- jumbo popsicle sticks
- printed masks from [The Dating Divas](#)
- Avery 5395 Name Tag Labels



JUST ADD CHILDREN

INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Prep the Masks

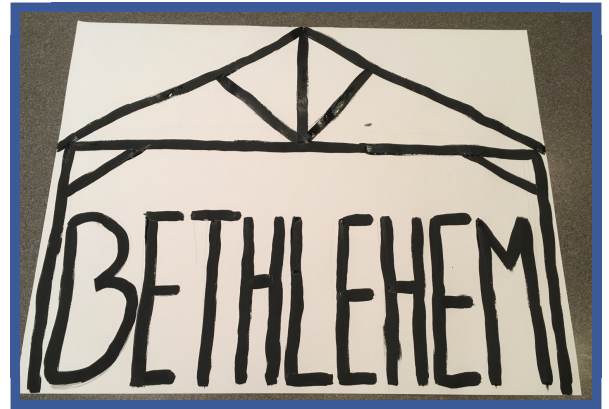
1. Print the masks on white cardstock. Print 1 mask for Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus, and print multiple masks for the shepherds, angels, and sheep. The number of masks you'll need to print for the shepherds, angels, and sheep will depend on the number of children you expect at the service. These parts are "extra" parts and are a way to include everyone in the show.
2. Cut out the masks and their eyeholes and staple/tape them to jumbo popsicle sticks.
3. Print the labels (starting on page 9) on [Avery Template 5395 Name Tag Labels](#). Print one "Read This First" Label for every single mask. Print the same number of labels as masks (1 Joseph label, 1 Mary label, multiple sheep labels, etc
4. Peel and stick the labels on the back of the appropriate masks, making sure each mask has its own "Read This First" label and a label corresponding to its specific character.

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INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Prep the Props

1. Buy 2 poster boards and some black paint.
2. Draw a simple stable on one posterboard and write "Bethlehem" inside it. Go over the pencil in black paint, making sure it is thick enough to see from the stage.
3. Write "fields nearby" in pencil on the other poster and draw a couple of sheep. Go over these pencil marks with black paint, again making sure the lines are thick enough to see from a distance.
4. Let dry and stick the appropriate labels on the back of each sign.



JUST ADD CHILDREN

INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Prep Yourself

1. Make sure you've read and reviewed the script (page 6), making any notes or changes. (Note: While the mask download includes the wise men, I chose to leave them out of the script because they technically weren't there the night Jesus was born; they came later.)
2. Start thinking about the volunteers and children you want to ask for each part. We all know that some children will be better at being in the spotlight than others, so have a couple of options in mind when "casting" your instant Christmas pageant, and think ahead to how well the children in your ministry will handle these roles.
3. As you head to the service, make sure you have everything on your showtime checklist:
 - Prepped masks & name tags
 - Bethlehem sign
 - Fields Nearby sign
 - A copy of the script for you
 - Blank cast list
 - Pens to write down parts

JUST ADD CHILDREN

INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Show Time!

1. When you arrive at service, recruit some volunteers (volunteers who serve in your ministry, your kidmin staff, other staff members, etc) to help with your instant Christmas pageant. You'll need adults for the following parts:

- Bethlehem sign
- Fields Nearby sign
- Shepherds

**These parts could also be filled by student volunteers or even your preteens. I always like to find ways to give my preteens a leadership role, and these parts would be great for them.

2. Assign parts to children as they arrive! Be sure to write down their name on your cast list (page 8), give them their character name tag, and give them their character mask, showing them the instruction labels on the back. Make sure to also tell them when they should be ready to line up.

3. Be the best part of the Christmas Eve service!

JUST ADD CHILDREN

Instant Christmas Pageant Script

Reader on stage, Bethlehem sign holder offstage stage left (right side from audience's point of view), all children gathering offstage stage right (left side from audience's point of view) with Fields Nearby sign holder

Before we get too caught up in the Christmas lights and Christmas carols, we're going to take a moment to remind ourselves what Christmas is all about.

Kids, grab your masks and come on down to the front here. Come up on stage, stand in the side/wings (*direct all children to stage right, left side from the audience's point of view*), and listen for your parts as we tell the story.

(to congregation, as children get in their places) **We're going to put on a little Christmas pageant for all of you. We have been rehearsing and practicing for about 5 minutes, so you know as much as I do how this will actually turn out. This version of the Christmas story will be raw and real, just like the first Christmas, and it is completely unrehearsed. We're going to use our talented children to give you a visual of that very first Christmas. Let me set the stage for you as they finish getting in place.**

We are starting our story in a little town called Bethlehem *(Bethlehem sign holder move on stage and stand stage left, holding up their Bethlehem poster)*

Please enjoy this re-enactment of the very first Christmas from the gospels of Luke and Matthew.

(As the children finish walking up on stage) **In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register to be counted, kind of like taking attendance of the whole country.**

So Joseph *(Mary & Joseph begin walking to Bethlehem sign)* **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 in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. *(baby Jesus walk out on stage)* **She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them in the inn.** *(baby Jesus sit down in between Mary and Joseph, M&J can kneel/stand next to baby Jesus)*

And out in the fields nearby *(Fields Nearby sign, shepherds, and sheep walk out on stage)*, **there were shepherds keeping watch over their flocks at night.** *(invite the sheep to baa)* **Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them,** *(first angel walk out)* **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."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, *(all the angels come out)* **praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."** *(invite a child to say "glory to God in the highest heaven" into the microphone)*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, *(angels walk back upstage, further back)* **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."** *(shepherds & sheep move to Bethlehem)*

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. *(shepherds and sheep go to Bethlehem sign & kneel around Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus)*

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. *(have kids say "wow!")* **But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.**

Thank you, and let's give our wonderful actors a big round of applause!
Invite children to give a bow, wave, and say "Merry Christmas", then head back to their seats.

Instant Christmas Pageant Cast List

"Bethlehem" Sign Holder:

"Fields Nearby" Sign Holder:

Joseph:

Mary:

Baby Jesus:

Shepherd(s):

Sheep:

First Angel:

Heavenly Host:

Bethlehem Sign

Where to start: offstage stage left (right side from audience's point of view)

When to appear: when you hear "a little town called Bethlehem"

Walk to: stage left

End: Wave/ bow & say "Merry Christmas!"

Fields Nearby Sign

Where to start: offstage stage right (left side from the audience's point of view)

When to appear: when you hear "out in the fields nearby"

Walk to: stage right

End: Wave/ bow & say "Merry Christmas!"

Mary

When to appear: with Joseph

Walk to: the Bethlehem sign

End: Wave or bow and say "Merry Christmas!"

Other actions: pretend to rock a baby, smile at baby Jesus, welcome shepherds when they come to the stable

Joseph

When to appear: with Mary when you hear your name in the story

Walk to: the Bethlehem sign

End: Wave or bow and say "Merry Christmas!"

Other actions: look at Mary, look at baby Jesus, welcome shepherds when they come to the stable

Baby Jesus

When to appear: when you hear "the time came for the baby to be born"

Walk to: the Bethlehem sign & sit down between Mary and Joseph

End: Wave or bow and say "Merry Christmas!"

First Angel

When to appear: when you hear "an angel of the Lord appeared to them"

Walk to: the "Fields Nearby" sign & look at the shepherds/sheep

Move: when you hear "after the angels left" move to the back of the stage with group of angels

End: Wave/ bow & say "Merry Christmas!"

Other actions: move hands/point fingers when talking to shepherds

Shepherd

When to appear: when you hear "out in the fields nearby"

Walk to: the "Fields Nearby" sign & get in a group with your sheep

Move: after the angels, move to Bethlehem sign to see baby Jesus; kneel before baby Jesus

End: Wave/ bow & say "Merry Christmas!"

Other actions: look scared when angels come out; keep your sheep in a group

Sheep

When to appear: when you hear "out in the fields nearby"

Walk to: the "Fields Nearby" sign & get in a group with your shepherd

Move: after the angels, move to Bethlehem sign to see baby Jesus; kneel before baby Jesus

End: Wave/ bow & say "Merry Christmas!"

Other actions: look scared when angels come out; stay with your shepherd

Heavenly Host Angel

When to appear: when you hear "a great company of the heavenly host appeared"

Walk to: the "Fields Nearby" sign & stand with first angel

Move: when you hear "after the angels left" move to the back of the stage with all the angels

End: Wave/ bow & say "Merry Christmas!"

Read This First!

You're going to help make the Christmas story come to life by being one of our on-stage actors! Bring this mask & meet us to the left of the stage when we invite you from the stage. Pay close attention to the story and listen for action cues.

Don't forget:

- Hold your mask up!
- Always face the audience (don't let them see your back)
- Stay quiet but add motions if you want!

Mary

Joseph

Baby Jesus

Shepherd

Sheep

Angel

Shepherd

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Heavenly Host Angel

When to appear: when you hear "a great company of the heavenly host appeared"

Walk to: the "Fields Nearby" sign & stand with first angel

Move: when you hear "after the angels left" move to the back of the stage with all the angels

End: Wave/ bow & say "Merry Christmas!"

Heavenly Host Angel

When to appear: when you hear "a great company of the heavenly host appeared"

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You're going to help make the Christmas story come to life by being one of our on-stage actors! Bring this mask & meet us to the left of the stage when we invite you from the stage. Pay close attention to the story and listen for action cues.

Don't forget:

- Hold your mask up!
- Always face the audience (don't let them see your back)
- Stay quiet but add motions if you want!

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Shepherd

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Heavenly
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