

# Christmas Pageant Lesson

**Scripture:** Birth Narratives from Luke and Matthew

**Memory Verse:** Luke 2:20 "Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen..."

**Lesson Focus:** With the successful release of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" in theaters this year we think this is a great year to lead a mini-pageant in RMC kids ministry! Therefore, we will silently act out the birth narratives together across all classrooms. Our hope is that immersing the kids into the Christmas story will heighten their appreciation for what Jesus came to do!

**Teachers:** See each section of Scripture below assigned by grade. You and the kids in your class will be responsible for silently acting out that chunk of Scripture from the Bible. You will have 15 minutes to prepare and then each class will have about 5 minutes to act out their section as the narrator slowly reads through each passage. Your class's "kingdom area" in the Summit Room will be your stage. We encourage you to bring props/supplies and come up with your own motions/designs as a class (ask the kids for their input!). We will provide you with some poster board \* in which you can design signs. If you are drawing blanks, use some of the suggestions we provided below. Some general ideas: if you were to make a house, have two kids stand facing each other and touch hands over their heads to make a pointy roof. Any extra kids can become other objects that make a scene: a table can be a kid on all fours, trees can be a couple of kids standing still in a group, etc. Kids can also just hold up signs. Have FUN!

## **Schedule:**

- 1) Please bring kids into the Summit Room 5-10 minutes after service starts which is 5 minutes EARLIER than usual (we will start countdown earlier).
- 2) After some shortened worship, we will provide instructions and then dismiss you back to your classes to prepare your skit.
- 3) After 15 minutes of prep you will come back out and beginning with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we will work our way through each class in the order below.
- 4) We will wrap it up with a quick teaching and dismiss you back to the classrooms.

**Room Time Afterwards:** All classes will have a special Christmas craft which we'd encourage you all to do. Also consider talking about the memory verse and have some discussion about ways the kids can be like the shepherds and tell others about Jesus this Christmas season!

# Luke 1:26-38 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

## Main Character Parts:

- Gabriel and Mary (also Joseph and David are referred to)

## Suggested Props:

- Have the kids draw a Nazareth sign
- White costume for Gabriel (we will provide)
- Throne for David (we will provide fancy chair)

1:26-27- Have some kids pretend to be tables and chairs in Mary's room. Other kids can put up six fingers in reference to the 6<sup>th</sup> month.

1:28- Have some kids pretend to be bright light shining off of Gabriel as he enters.

1:29- Have Mary look fearful and have other kids join her in looking scared to add dramatic effect.

1:30-31- Have everyone gasp after 'Son' or pretend to be holding a baby. Or consider having the kids line up and spell the letters of JESUS with their arms.

1:32-33- Have a kid sit on the throne and have everyone point to him.

1:34- Have Mary or the whole class shrug their shoulders as this question is asked.

1:35- Consider drawing/making a sign that says "Holy Spirit" and have kids place it upon Mary.

1:36- Everyone gasp in shock at the news and have kids put up six fingers again.

1:37- Everyone show off some muscles or throw some punches in the air to show that with God nothing is impossible.

1:38- As Mary pretends to speak those words, have the angel do some funny disappearing act behind other kids.

## Luke 2:1-7 (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

### Main Character Parts:

- Mary, Joseph, Caesar, Quirinius

### Suggested Props:

- Have the kids draw signs for Bethlehem and other cities
- Fancy chair and table for Caesar
- Baby doll for Jesus and blanket (we will provide)
- **NOTE: We will have one baby Jesus doll shared among all acts**

2:1- Have one kid be Caesar pretending to write and have him give papers to another kid who is Quirinius.

2:2- Have the Quirinius kid pass out papers to other kids in class.

2:3- Put several signs of cities up (i.e. Jerusalem, Denver, etc.) and have the kids scatter and stand under their own assigned city after they receive the decree.

2:4- Make sure the Bethlehem sign is prominent and have several kids make a 'city scape' (houses, buildings, trees, etc.).

2:5- Have Joseph slowly lead Mary, pretending to be pregnant, into the city of Bethlehem. Or all the kids could pretend to hold and rock a baby after the line 'with child'.

2:6- Have several kids point to their wrists indicating that the "time is up" and it's time for baby to be born!

2:7- Create the manger scene. One kid could be the manger on all fours, others could be sheep and donkeys quietly milling around. Also consider having an "inn" sign and have Joseph/Mary walk their first with the innkeeper refusing them. **Tastefully** bring out the baby, swaddle him, and place him in the manger! (Consider having the teacher hide the baby Jesus behind her back right standing by the manger and privately give the baby to Mary at the appropriate time)

## Luke 2:8-14 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

### Main Character Parts:

- Angels and shepherds

### Suggested Props:

- White costume for the main angel (we will provide)
- Flashlight to shine light
- Canes for the shepherds and tails for sheep
- Sign that says "Fields" with grass drawn on it
- Sign with a picture of the baby Jesus in a manger

2:8- Have some kids be shepherds, others sheep. Set the stage by having the shepherds and sheep wander around.

2:9- Have the angel come out of the room with the flashlight on his face and have him then shine it on the shepherds who look scared.

2:10- Have the sheep all look out at the audience with the hugest smiles as the words "great joy" are read.

2:11- Have the shepherds and the sheep all jump up and celebrate after it is announced that Christ the Savior has been born!

2:12- Have another kid waiting in the room come out holding a big "sign" with a picture of the baby Jesus in the manger to show everyone.

2:13- Have several kids waiting behind in the classroom and have them come out pretending to "fly" as angels.

2:14- Have everyone raise their hands above their heads in worship as these words are read.

## Luke 2:22-33 (4<sup>th</sup> grade)

### Main Character Parts:

- Simeon, Mary, and Joseph

### Suggested Props:

- Beard for Simeon (we will provide)
- Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and temple sign
- Flashlight
- Baby Jesus doll (we will provide)
- **NOTE: We will have one baby Jesus doll shared among all acts**

2:22- Setup a Bethlehem sign in one part of area and Jerusalem sign in another. Have Mary and Joseph go from Bethlehem to Jerusalem with the baby Jesus.

2:23-24- Have two kids pretend to be birds flapping their wings.

2:25-26- Have Simeon near the Jerusalem sign on his knees praying and looking up to heaven. Consider having another kid come and shine a flashlight on him to indicate the Holy Spirit being upon him.

2:27- Have two kids stand on chairs holding high a temple sign together. Have Simeon, Mary, and Joseph walk under the sign "into" the temple.

2:28- Have Simeon hold high the baby Jesus

2:29-32- Have several kids stand in a row and silently act out or use sign language for words of this prayer (peace, word, eyes have seen, light, glory, etc.)

2:33- Have Joseph and Mary turn to the audience wide-eyed in amazement.

# Matthew 2:1-12 (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

## Main Character Parts:

- Wise men, king Herod, priests, and Mary

## Suggested Props:

- Beards for wise men (we will provide)
- Bethlehem and big star signs
- Clock (use the one in the room!)
- Crown and throne for the king (we will provide)
- Presents to give to Jesus
- Baby Jesus doll (we will provide)
- **NOTE: We will have one baby Jesus doll shared among all acts**

2:1- Have King Herod sitting proudly with guards and have the wise men (doesn't have to be three!) approach him.

2:2- Have someone come out of the class holding a sign with a star on it.

2:3- Have the king and his guards look very troubled and mad.

2:4- Have the wise men step back and have a few priests approach King Herod with a questioning look.

2:5-6- Have the priests raise up high a sign that says, "Duh! He is in Bethlehem!"

2:7- Have the priests step back while the wise men come forward again with Herod holding up a clock.

2:8-9- Have the kid with the "star sign" walk over to where Mary are sitting off to the side with the baby Jesus.

2:10- The wise men jump with joy over to Mary with Jesus.

2:11- Have the wise men bow down before the baby Jesus and present the gifts to Him.

2:12- Have the wise men exit the other way and have Herod throw a little tantrum.

# Bring It Home

**P**aul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

*To the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

## First

Read Matthew 1:21 which tells us what Jesus came to do when he entered the world at Christmas. See also 1 Timothy 1:15. What was His mission?

## Second

Read Luke 2:16-20. How did the shepherds respond when they met the baby Jesus? In what ways can you respond in the same way?

## Parent Challenge

Read Matthew 2:11. How will you worship Jesus this Christmas season?

*By His Grace,*

**P**  
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