Christmas Program for Small Churches

About 20 minutes · order of service, parts, rehearsal plan, family note

Min.	Part	Who
1	**Welcome:** poem 1 "Welcome"	a preschooler
3	**Carol:** Joy to the World	everyone
2	**Reading 1:** Joseph's dream, Matthew 1:18–25 (KJV)	reader 1
1	**Poems:** 3 "Mary Said Yes", 7 "God With Us"	two older kids
5	**The play:** Easy Nativity Play for Preschoolers (Luke 2 and Matthew 2), or Room for Jesus (7 min) for older kids	narrator + cast
2	**Carol:** Away in a Manger (first verse)	the youngest kids
2	**Poems:** 2 "No Room", 4 "What the Angel Said", 5 "The Shepherds Hurried"	three kids
3	**Reading 2:** the wise men, Matthew 2:1–12 (KJV), then poem 6 "The Wise Men"	reader 2 + one kid
3	**Carol:** Go, Tell It on the Mountain	everyone
1	**Poem 8** "The Greatest Gift", then every child says Luke 2:14 together	all the kids
2	**Closing prayer**; candy canes with the candy cane poem at the door	pastor

The readings, poems and play are free at vbshq.com: The Christmas Story in the Bible, Christmas Poems for Church, Easy Nativity Play for Preschoolers, Room for Jesus, and the Candy Cane Poem About Jesus.

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Rehearsal plan

3 weeks out: give out parts and poems, and send the family note home.
2 weeks out: first rehearsal, 20 minutes after Sunday school. Walk the play from spot to spot and sing the three carols once.
1 week out: second rehearsal in costume. Run the whole program once with both readers.
Program day: arrive 30 minutes early. Set the manger, the star and a row of chairs for the cast.

Parts

Reader 1 _____ Reader 2 _____ Narrator _____
Mary _____ Joseph _____ Gabriel _____ Star _____
Angels _____ Shepherds _____
Sheep _____ Wise men _____
Poems 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____
Song leader _____ Piano or guitar _____ Costume helper _____

Note for families (cut and send home)
Our children's Christmas program is on _____ at _____.
Your child's part: _____
Costume: a bathrobe and towel, or a long white robe for angels. Please keep costumes modest and ankle-length.
Please practice the poem or line at home a few times each week. Thank you!

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