

# Counting Down to

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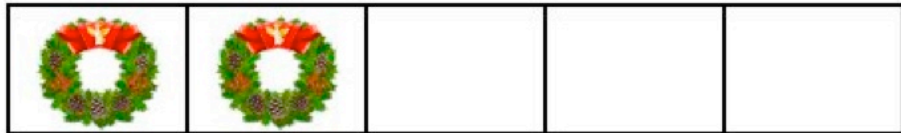
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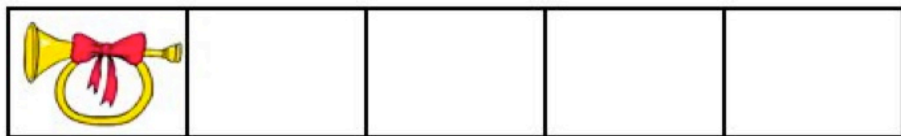
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# Christmas

# COUNTING DOWN TO CHRISTMAS

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# OVERVIEW

Thank you for purchasing "Counting Down to Christmas." This play may be used by various sized preschools or groups. You are encouraged to use your imagination to adapt this Christmas play to fit the needs of your school and students.

There are five songs that your students will practice and learn. It is recommended that all the preschool students sing each of the songs together. However, if you are directing a large preschool, you may wish to have individual classes learn and sing only individual songs.

"Counting Down to Christmas" is written in such a way so that the story of Christmas is told by a narrator. This narrator may be the school director, a teacher, or another adult. The narration may also be broken into parts and read by several different people. Special emphasis should be applied during the narration when a number is highlighted and underlined.

Have fun! Use your imagination! And may God bless your efforts as you tell the important story of Jesus' birth.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

As a part of the play, there is an option for having children act out the parts for Mary and Joseph, a choir of angels, shepherds, and wise men. It is recommended that you have a costume for every child. You will have a limited number of children play Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men. The rest can play the part of the angel choir.

Children should be assigned as one of the following:

1. 4 shepherds
2. Mary and Joseph
3. 3 Wisemen
4. All other children are part of the "angel choir."

## DECORATIONS

To "set the stage" for the program, you may choose to use simple Christmas decorations to decorate with. If you desire to use a backdrop, it could be a backdrop of the town of Bethlehem. In the center of the stage, place a large basket or manger where baby Jesus will be placed during song number 4.

## PROPS

1. Manger or basket filled with hay in the middle center of the stage
2. Baby Jesus doll
3. Large numbers on large pieces of poster board that 4 different children will hold up at various points during the play. You will need numbers 4, 3, 2, 1. The children would hold up these numbers whenever you see a number both highlighted and underlined in the script.
4. Optional: You could place a few large stuffed sheep around the area that the 4 shepherds will be standing and they will "leave their sheep" there when they go to see Jesus.

5. Optional: A large star that will be attached to a pole that one of the children can carry as the Wise Men make their way to Jesus. This star can also be suspended from the ceiling above the manger.

# SCRIPT

## Counting Down to Christmas

**Narrator:** "We just can't wait for Christmas! It's our favorite time of year! There are only \_\_\_\_ days until Christmas, and we will count down each day until it's here. Counting is so fun to do. We can count our fingers and even our toes too! We can count our toys. We can count people. And we can even count days...days until Christmas! Thank you, God, for numbers. And thank you, God, for Christmas!"

*Play and sing: Song #1 "Counting Down to Christmas (Theme)"*

*Counting down to Christmas,  
We're counting on our way  
Counting down to Christmas  
To celebrate Christmas day*

*Jesus is God's Son  
He is the only one  
Counting to Christmas  
Come and join the fun*

*Five four three two*

**Narrator:** "It took God seven days to make the world. And as He made everything, the angels were singing His praises.

*All children (as the angel choir) say in unison: "Glory to God on high.  
And peace to all men."*

Not only did He make everything, but He is also the One who saved our world from all of its sins. He saved the world by sending His one and only Son, Jesus. Did you know that on the day Jesus was born, the angels also sang God's praises?

*All children (as the angel choir) say in unison: "Glory to God on high.  
And peace to all men."*

**Narrator:** "Look at these four shepherd boys. They couldn't have imagined what they saw. The angels appeared telling them that a Savior was born. The shepherds were so amazed at what they heard. They immediately left their sheep to go and see Jesus themselves."

*(The four shepherds go and surround the manger scene and remain there for the rest of the play.)*

*Play and sing: Song #2 "Four Shepherds"*

*One...Two...Three...Four...Five...Six....Seven*

*A long time ago  
In seven days  
God made all that we see  
The earth, the sky, the birds, the air,  
The fish that swim the sea*

*The angels sang on that day  
They sang a joyful tune  
Praise to our God who reigns above  
And peace on earth too.*

*One...Two...Three...Four...*

*They showed up to four shepherd boys  
Outside of Bethlehem*