



**SCRIPT:**            **The Christmas Story According to  
The Four Evangelists**

*A Biblically-based, Humorous Pageant for Advent,  
Christmas, or Epiphany*

**AUTHOR:**         **Kristin Agudelo**

*We have heard the Christmas story so many times that Christmas pageants can seem a little stale at times. This skit is designed to make the Christmas story come alive again, but with a twist—each evangelist (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tells his version of the story, adding his unique “take” on events to the mix. Through their joint efforts (and sometimes humorous disagreements), the evangelists address the big questions of the season in a light-hearted way that gives the viewers a crash course in Biblical literacy. Your congregation will come away laughing, but also knowing more about the Christmas story and the way it was written.*

*This pageant is intended to be a relatively simple production, with minimal rehearsal time for most characters. It also aims to provide roles for the littlest children in the congregation all the way to the oldest teens or adults. The only speaking roles are those of the Evangelists, who, because of the complexity of the script and the humor, should be played by older teens or adults. All the other roles are non-speaking parts—kids simply walk on and form a living nativity tableau. Many of the roles (angels, shepherds, animals) are designed to be expandable to fit as many (or few) children as necessary. You may want to cast parts that are on stage longer with older children, letting the littlest ones take roles as sheep or the choir of angels.*

*There is a point in the pageant where the gospel for Epiphany is read. Your congregation’s deacon (if you have one) can take this role, or it can be assigned as a character. Thus, this pageant can take place in the midst of a service, with the Gospel reading included so that the presentation encompasses the Gospel as well as sermon-time.*

**Suggestions for Rehearsals & Casting**

*Because there are only a few speaking parts, rehearsals can be held in two sections: 2-3 preliminary rehearsals for the four Evangelists, followed by 1-2 rehearsals involving the whole crew. It has also been successfully performed with the Evangelists holding their scripts rather than memorizing all the lines. In that case, you will still want to rehearse with them to make sure they are familiar enough with the script so that the production flows smoothly.*



*If you are using very young children in some roles, it may also be a good idea to give them a chance to try on costumes ahead of time (or in the case of the angels, practice their simple song). Casting one older child along with the younger ones can help solve the problem of wandering sheep or angels—the older “lead sheep” or “lead angel” can help the younger kids know where to go and what to do once there. Casting can be creative—there’s nothing wrong with using girls to play the evangelists or kings.*

*Costuming can be as simple or elaborate as you like. Often a simple tunic in the color (or for animals, fur) of the character is enough. Animal ears can be made simply by attaching cut-out felt ears to store-bought black or brown headbands.*

### **Adjusting the script**

*While this skit was originally written for use on Epiphany, it can be used for Advent or Christmas with only very minor adjustments to the script—for example, taking out the line about it being Epiphany, and substituting something about Christmas being the season of light.*

*A note about the angels: the song that the angels sing can be as simple or elaborate as you like. The easiest version (best for young children) is simply to have the kids learn the chorus from “Angels we have heard on high” (the part that goes: Glooooo-ria in excelsis deo) and repeat it 2-3 times until they are in place. Older kids could sing a longer version of the hymn, or another song appropriate for angels. Keep the song relatively simple, though, so it doesn’t distract from the message or flow of the play.*

### **CAST:**

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John (The Evangelist)  
John The Baptist  
Mary  
Joseph  
Gabriel  
Donkey  
Other Animals (as necessary—a cow or two, goat,  
even a barnyard cat or mouse would be ok)  
Little Angel  
A Star  
Shepherds (as many or few as necessary)





Sheep (as many or few as you want)  
Deacon (as him/herself; this part can also be played by a priest or lay-reader)  
Three Kings/Queens  
Camel(s) (as many or few as you want, or you can eliminate this role altogether)  
Choir of Angels (as many or few as you want)

## COSTUMES

**MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN THE EVANGELIST:** Simple neutral-colored tunics with belts. Sandals or simple shoes.

**JOHN THE BAPTIST:** Rough burlap tunic or fake fur tunic with rope belt. Bare feet. Crazy “Rastafarian-style” wig or other crazy hairdo. Carries a box of “honeycombs” cereal

**MARY:** Blue tunic and veil/headaddress

**JOSEPH:** Simple brown tunic with belt

**GABRIEL:** White or silver tunic with angel wings and halo (should be slightly fancier than the other angel costumes)

**DONKEY:** Grey tunic with tail, long grey ears on a headband (or other donkey costume)

**ANIMALS:** Fake fur tunics and ears on headbands

**LITTLE ANGEL:** White or silver tunic, angel wings, halo (could be the same costume as the choir of angels)

**STAR:** Gold tunic, carries a large cut-out gold cardboard (or stuffed) star dangling from a stick

**SHEPHERDS:** Brown or tan tunics with rope belts, headscarves held on by headbands, big walking sticks or shepherds’ crooks

**SHEEP:** Faux sheepskin tunics, ears on a headband

**THREE KINGS/ QUEENS:** Long robes or capes, crowns, each carrying a fancy-looking gift (large perfume bottles or decorated boxes; bowls full of fake gold beads or coins)



**CAMEL:** Tan tunic or shirt with a stuffed hump sewn on  
**CHOIR OF ANGELS:** Matching white/silver tunics with angel wings and haloes

**SCENERY/ PROPS:** Baby doll in swaddling clothes (as Jesus)  
Manger  
A stool for Mary to sit on  
The manger and stool are already set up in the front of the church (or on stage) prior to the beginning of the skit. It's also helpful to have someone backstage (or in the back of the church) to control the lighting, and to have an older teen or adult standing to the side helping kids know when to enter/exit.

**SCRIPT:**

**SCENE 1: The Evangelists**

*(Enter the four evangelists, talking softly to each other, as though engaged in a burning discussion. They walk over to the front of the church/stage, then turn to face the congregation as they say the next lines—but they should say them as though it's a continuation of the conversation they were just having.)*

**MARK:** I'm telling you guys, I don't think we need a birth story. I mean, who cares how Jesus was born? The important thing is to tell people about his teachings and ministry!

**LUKE:** Mark! How can you say that? I mean, it's incredibly important how Jesus was born—we need to tell them how God was just one of us. He was poor! He struggled to make ends meet! He was just a normal guy, not some high-falootin' big man on campus!

**MATTHEW:** Luke! Will you stop it with all your socialist baloney? I'm telling you Jesus was the KING, man! He was mighty and powerful. He was GOD! Don't you get it? People should fall down and worship him! He was GOD! GOD! King of Kings, Lord of Lords! Forever and ever, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
*(Gets progressively worked up as he's talking)*

