

Connect Kids Christmas Play 2023 – Title?

<p><u>Lines/reading</u> Kid – greedy, snobby, selfish, short tempered, entitled. Some knowledge of Jesus Angel 1 (leader) – Formal language Angel 2 (upbeat, quick, excited) Angel 3 (sarcastic, darker, straight forward) Mom – lenient and kind (puts up with son’s behaviour) Reader 1 Reader 2 Reader 3 Reader 4 Reader 5 Reader 6 Reader 7</p>	<p><u>No Lines but acting out</u> Arch Angel (visits Mary and Joseph) Mary Joseph Innkeeper Shepherds Crowd of angels (possible dance) Animals?</p>
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Stage Layout

----- a little house ----- open space -----bed/sheep-----
Mic’s are here (**angel** has cordless)

SCENE 1			Kid’s Room
SCENE 2		Angels chatting	Kids Room
SCENE 3	Mary	Kid + Angel stand Readers read here	Joseph
SCENE 4	Mary + Joseph + Inn keeper + baby Possibly little kids here as animal extras for scene	Angels Chatting Kid + Angel	
SCENE 5	Kid + Angel	Angels chatting Crowd of Angels	Shepherds
SCENE 6		Angels final debrief	

Scene 1: Kid's Room

Kid sitting on bed with phone and mom standing near.

Mom: You don't need the newest iPhone, sweetheart. Christmas is about more than gadgets.

Kid: But everyone is getting the iPhone 20 for Christmas! Mine doesn't have the mind-reading abilities the 20 does and the camera isn't the newest in 3D technology!!! Anaya got one as soon as it came out, and I want it too!

Mom: I know it feels like everyone has the newest phones – but it's not true! I still have an iPhone 12 and it's cracked and only works if I hold it a certain way.

Kid: Mom. You don't understand or appreciate technology like I do so you don't need a new phone. ORRRR wait – what if I get a new phone then you can have my 19!

Mom: We're in a two year contract for the 19 and it's costing us sooooo much money – we can't just break that and buy you the latest one.

Kid: Mom. It's Christmasssssss.

Mom: You really need an attitude check – what's gotten into you that you think Christmas is all about what you get? Haven't we taught you better? 13 years of going to church and you still think Christmas is all about YOU. Go to bed, hopefully you'll get some sense in you before tomorrow and will agree to be a part of the church's Christmas play.

Kid: *Muttering to self.* Yeah, right. There's no chance I'll be in that play.
(mom walks out , and the kid starts scrolling on their phone, still grumbling.)

Scene 2: Kid's Dream - Angelic Intervention

Angels chatting centre of stage

Angel 1: Here is our next mission. This is our typical case – a young person who has forgotten the reason for Christmas and thinks it is all about them.

Angel 2: We got this – easy peasy, they grew up going to church and know all about Jesus. We'll just remind them.

Angel 3: Oh joy. Another lost soul. This kid even grew up going to a great church – Connect is awesome. And they got to study the Bible with Justin every week – what went wrong?! *Shaking head.*

Angel 1: They probably weren't doing much to grow in faith outside of going to church and youth group – people seem to think if they go to church once a week all is well...like the big guy hasn't made it clear he wants a personal relationship with everyone.

Angel 2: You go and tell them that!!

Angel 3: Good luck.

(Angel 1 walks beside the kid's bed on right side of stage.)

Angel 1: (In a formal tone) Rise, for you shall see the true meaning of Christmas.

(The kid wakes up, bewildered and scared.)

Kid: What's happening? Who are you?

Angel 1: I am an angel sent to guide you. Your attitude needs a shift. Follow me

Kid: I must be dreaming. This is a dream. I'm just dreaming.

Angel 1: You are NOT dreaming, it is time for you to rise and follow me. Lets go.

Kid follows angel to the center of the stage

Scene 3: Mary and Joseph's Time

(The setting changes to ancient times with Mary and Joseph. Mary is on the left folding some towels, Joseph is on the right side getting ready to go to bed)

Kid: *(To angel)* Did we just end up on a movie set or something? Why is everything looking ancient?

Angel 1: We're in the time of Jesus. Look, this is Mary, the mother of Jesus, folding laundry. This is before Jesus was born – in fact this is a pretty important moment, so shhh.

Angel and kid step back and readers take center stage. The Bible time actors play out what's going on as the reader tells the story.

Reader 1: Luke 1:28-33

The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord is with you; you are very special to him." But Mary was very confused about what the angel said. She wondered, "What does this mean?" The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is very pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant and have a baby boy. You will name him Jesus. He will be great. People will call him the Son of the Most High God, and the Lord God will make him king like his ancestor David. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.

Reader 2: Luke 1:34-38

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am still a virgin." The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of the Most High God will cover you. The baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God. And here's something else: Your relative Elizabeth is pregnant. She is very old, but she is going to

have a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant now for six months. God can do anything!”

Kid: *(to angel):* this is the moment Mary finds out she’s going to have Jesus. I acted this out many times as a kid.

Angel 1: Have you ever stopped to consider how Mary felt in this moment?

Kid: She looks scared and overwhelmed...but at peace.

Angel Gabriel walks from Mary to Joseph’s side of the stage

Angel 1: Stand up straight and show some respect to the arch angel as they are passing us and heading over to Joseph *(Angel 1 salutes Gabriel as they walk over to Joseph’s side)*

Joseph and angel act this out (by end Joseph walks over to Mary and they sit down together – for what will soon become the nativity scene)

Reader 3: Matthew 1:18-21

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins.”

Reader 4: Matthew 1:22-25

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”^[d] (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Kid: They’re going to get married AND have a baby? It’s not even Joseph’s baby That’s rough for Joseph. But what’s this got to do with me and getting an iPhone 20?

Angel 1: THIS is what Christmas is about, not the latest gadget.

Kid: sure. *Pulls out phone and sits down in front row, while angels come out to debrief.*

Angel 1: Alright, I did my part. This case thinks they know everything. Hopefully you can get through to them angel 2.

Angel 2: Totally, I got this! No problemo!! What's my part again?

Angel 3: You always take them to the first Christmas and show them how Jesus was born. How do you forget something you do EVERYDAY?

Angel 1: Don't forget to share the Gospel!

Scene 4: Manger Scene

Manger scene on the left - Mary and Joseph start at top of aisle and walk down during narration to find innkeeper and manger. By end they are sitting with baby Jesus. Animals around them if possible – perhaps the little kids sitting there and they can perform mid-way if it works out.

Angel 2: Hey! You're missing it!! Turn off your phone and check this amazing thing out!!!

Kid: Why am I in a barn now? Oh man it stinks!! Are we still back in Jesus' time?

Angel 2: yes! this is where Jesus was born, the reason for Christmas.

Kid: Like I told your angel friend – I know all this – but thanks for the trip. Can we go back now?

Angel 2: You're missing it! Shhhhh

Reader 5: Luke 2: 1-7

Manger scene on left acts this part of the story out.

It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list. ² This was the first counting of all the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ Everyone traveled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.

⁴ So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. ⁵ Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.) ⁶ While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full

This would be a great time to have the little children sing their song.

Kid: I get this. I KNOW this story. Now can I go back to my bed?

Angel 2: You clearly DON'T know this story because if you did you would realize that JESUS, God's Son, left his comfy throne up in heaven and came into the earth as a baby! A BABY!!! He gave up all his power and authority and...well let me read you Philippians 2:6-8

[Jesus] Who, being in very nature^[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

THIS Is what Christmas is all about. God loving the people of the world so much that he sent his one and only son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life – John 3:16.

Kid: So the reason we celebrate Christmas is because God became a baby...and he did that knowing he would one day die the worst death possible? How is this something to celebrate? *Goes back to sit down and on their phone.*

Angel 3 arrives on scene

Angel 2: (Whispering to Angel 1) Progress, but more to go.

Scene 5: Angels and Shepherds

Shepherds on the right side of stage with sheep. Suddenly a Crowd of Angels appear in center and they are doing a choreographed dance.

Reader 6: Luke 2:8-12

That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds were very afraid. ¹⁰ The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy. ¹¹ Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

Reader 7: Luke 2:13-15

¹³ Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying, "Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please him." The angels left the

shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about."

Angel 3: *Pulls kid up and pulls away their phone.* How did you not notice a HOST of angels in front of you?!

Kid: Oh woah. This is crazy!!!

Angel 3: Peace on earth – now THAT'S crazy.

Kid: Clearly you haven't read the news lately. There is NO peace on earth and in fact it's really sad and terrible what's going on.

Angel 3: You're right. This isn't God's plan for the earth. However, because Jesus came as a baby, lived on earth, died and rose again – we CAN experience peace – God's peace. This means that our separation with God is over – because of Jesus we can now have a relationship with God.

Kid: Here's the thing. I believe in God – but it's just felt like God doesn't get it. He doesn't know what it's like to be a human – he's all high and mighty and living it up in heaven, but I'm down here struggling! I get made fun of if I don't have the newest phone or if I do my hair wrong. Kids are so cruel these days and living for God honestly is really hard sometimes and it makes me feel like an outsider!

Angel 3: You think God doesn't understand what it's like for you? You think Jesus had it easy when he was on earth? He was rejected by so many people, he KNOWS!

Kid: I didn't think of it that way. I guess it's just easy to forget that Jesus knows what it's like because he became human. He gave up A LOT to do this. Wow.

Angel 3: He did it for you. He came to earth, died and rose again so that YOU could have peace with God.

Kid: Thanks for this. It's so easy to get caught up in my world. It doesn't really matter I have the latest iPhone. I could have everything, but without Jesus – it would all be useless. Wow – what a gift. I need to be in the Christmas play so other people can hear the Good News about Jesus! *Walks away*

Angels debrief

Angel 3: As always – I finish what you guys start.

Angel 1: That is your assigned duty.

Angel 2: Wow! Great job team – angel 3 I'm not even bitter that you always get the "ah-ha" moment because it just is always so great!! We're a great team!

Angel 1: Ready for our next mission? It's a granny who may have become a little bitter – we have to hurry, it's nearly 6pm and she's already asleep!

Angel 2: Who goes to bed so early?!?

Angel 3: When you get old you'll understand.

End