

A Lamb
for
Christmas



SAMPLE BEGINNING OF PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *A LAMB FOR CHRISTMAS*. This short Christmas presentation is intended for children in preschool and kindergarten and may be enjoyed by any number of children. This presentation is built around the truth that Jesus, the Lamb of God, is our Christmas Lamb.

THE NARRATION

The narration throughout the program may be done by the teacher or pastor.

THE RECITATIONS

Throughout the presentation the children will be assigned some short recitations plus a few songs. These may be done by the entire class or by individuals.

THE SONGS

The following songs are included:

LITTLE BABY IN A MANGER (Children) Sheet music is included.

MY JESUS IS THE CHRISTMAS LAMB (Children) Sheet music is included.

(Tune: Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men” – included)

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING (Assembly) Sheet music is included.

SILENT NIGHT (Assembly) Sheet music is included.

THE SPOKEN POEMS

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB (Children)

THE LONELY SHEPHERD BOY (Assembly)

MASK SUGGESTION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Included in this file is the graphic for a lamb’s mask. It is suggested that the children cut out the mask, including the eyes. Color the ears pink, and glue cotton on the tuft of wool at the top of the head. Next, tape a tongue depressor to the bottom back of the lamb as a handle. The masks are to be held in front of the children’s faces while they recite the poem, “Mary Had a Little Lamb”.

INVITATION

The template for an invitation is also included. Children may color them and glue cotton to the invitations before giving them to family and friends.

SNACK IDEA

Have the children decorate lamb-shaped cut out cookies with white icing.

This program uses the NIV 1984 edition.

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A LAMB FOR CHRISTMAS

Teacher: Everyone loves to hold baby animals. Puppies and kittens, fawns and chicks can put a smile on anyone's face. But of all the cuddly baby animals, perhaps the one in first place is the lamb. The soft, curly wool and high squeaky bleats can certainly capture our hearts. Today our children will tell you about a very special Lamb that was born at Christmas.

Children's Song: *"Little Baby in a Manger"*

*Little Baby in the manger, I love you,
Lying there, to earth a stranger, I love you;
Wise men saw the star and answered, "I love you,"
Shepherds heard the angels saying, "I love you."*

*Little Baby down from heaven, I love you,
By the Father to us given, I love you;
Star of hope for every nation, I love you,
Angels gave you adoration, I love you.*

*Little Baby meek and lowly, I love you,
Son of God so pure and holy, I love you;
Wonderful in grace and power, I love you,
Sharon's Rose, the sweetest flower, I love you.*

Pastor: Did you know that lambs and sheep are mentioned over 400 times in the Bible? We find them mentioned as early as Genesis 4 and as late as Revelation 22. That's because sheep and lambs played an important part in the Bible messages for God's people.

Many well-known Bible people spent long days and nights caring for their flocks. You might remember some of these people.

Children

Genesis 12 says that Abraham was a shepherd.

Genesis 29 tells us that Rachel was a shepherdess.

Genesis 30 says that Jacob was a shepherd.

And Exodus 3 tells us that Moses tended flocks.

David raised his father's sheep as we see in 1 Samuel 16.

Nabal had 3000 sheep.

And Job had fourteen thousand.

Teacher: Shepherds loved their sheep. They fed them, protected them, and even played music for them. They even gave names to each of their sheep, and the sheep responded to that name and to the shepherd's voice. Shepherds often spent long, lonely nights watching over their sheep and keeping them safe from outside predators.

Assembly Antiphonal Response: "The Lonely Shepherd Boy"

(Divide assembly into Group A and Group B)

Group A

*There was a lonely shepherd boy who set out late one night,
To search the black Judean hills with all his shepherd's might.*

Group B

*A lamb had left the fold that day, 'twas but a little one.
It wandered off among the rocks, 'til it was lost and gone.*

Group A

*His footsteps brought him to a town 'twas nestled down below,
Where one, small flick'ring candle light was giving off its glow.*

Group B

*He rushed down to the cattle shed as tears streamed down his cheek,
And stretched above the window sill to take a little peek.*

Group A

*New hope began to fill his eyes; they opened wide with joy,
For snuggled there in manger bed there lay a little Boy.*

Group B

*But little did he know quite then that he had found the One
Who was to be the Lamb of God, his Savior, God's own Son.*

ALL

*Now if you ever find yourself as did that shepherd boy,
A-wandering through the lonely night in search of peace and joy,
Just look into that manger bed where lies the great I Am,
And all your wanderings will end, for you'll have found your Lamb!*

Pastor: Because the lambs and sheep of the Bible were used for many purposes, including food, milk, and clothing, they were considered very precious. Perhaps it was because they were such an important animal for the people that God also chose lambs and sheep to be sacrificed to him on a regular basis. To sacrifice means to give up something precious for a reason. God wanted to teach the people that the sacrifice was a sign that the precious blood of the lamb was given in payment for the sins of the people. Every sacrifice pointed to the day when a special Lamb was to die for the sins of the people.

Every morning and every evening sheep were sacrificed on the huge temple altar. On the Sabbath, 96 lambs were sacrificed. In all, every year more than 1000 lambs were put to death on the temple altar. It is possible that the sheep kept by the shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem were raised for the special purpose of one day making the short trip to Jerusalem to be sacrificed.

Teacher: Many years ago someone wrote a little poem that started like this, “Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow.” Of course that lamb only wanted to follow Mary to school each day. We’d like to share a poem about another Mary who had a little Lamb. Our Mary lived in Nazareth, and her Lamb was about to become the Christmas Lamb.

(Mary Had a Little Lamb @sermons4kids www.sermonsforkids.com)

Children: *“Mary Had a Little Lamb”*

Mary had a little Lamb,
He was born on Christmas day.
She laid him in a manger bed
To sleep upon the hay.

Angels filled the night-time sky
And they began to sing.
Shepherds heard them all proclaim
The birthday of a King.

Mary had a little Lamb,
But He wasn't hers, you know,
He was the very Son of God,
The One who loves us so.

The Father of this little Lamb
Loved the world so much
He sent his only Son to earth
So we could feel His touch.

He came to give us joy and peace
And take away our sin.

So when He knocks on your heart's door,
Be sure to let Him in.

Why do I love this precious Lamb?
What can the reason be?
The answer is quite plain to see,
It's because He first loved me!

Assembly: *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

***Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain***

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"
Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel. Refrain***

***Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. Refrain***

Teacher: Let's take a moment to enjoy the account of the birth of our Christmas Lamb as told in Luke 2.

PROGRAM CONTINUES HERE

