



THE
MANY SHAPES
OF **CHRISTMAS**

INTRODUCTION

The Many Shapes of Christmas is a program designed for your preschool and kindergarten children to present to the congregation, or simply at a small gathering with parents and friends. Approximate performance time is 30 minutes.

Children will enjoy sharing the Christmas story through five distinct shapes. Each of the five sections begins with the singing (or reciting if you prefer) of *The Many Shapes of Christmas*. (The accompaniment music is included on the CD and can be used in a CD player. Use Track 1 for parts 1-4 and Track 2 for part 5. Sheet music is also included on this disk.)

There is a small amount of preparation prior to the performance. Have the children make large cutouts of a triangle, circle, star, rectangle and square (templates* on disk). When you come to the part in the program that relates to the shape, have a child hold up the shape for the assembly to see while that section is being presented. On the back of each shape draw huge letters as follows: triangle=J, circle=E, star=S, rectangle=U, square=S. While the children sing the last stanzas of *The Many Shapes of Christmas*, they turn the shapes around to expose the word **JESUS**.



The program includes the following songs by the assembly which are not included on the disk: *O Christmas Tree (O Tannenbaum)*; *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*; *This Night a Wondrous Revelation*; *O Come, All Ye Children*.

* To use templates, make a transparency of the shapes on your computer printer and use an overhead projector to broadcast them on large sheets of paper.

Suggestion: Have your children make Christmas cookies for the assembly in the shapes presented in this program.



(Child steps forward holding a white candle with orange flame.)

Children recite or sing: The many shapes of Christmas here
Can help to add some Christmas cheer.
They tell us of a baby small
Who came to earth to save us all.

A rectangle with flame aglow
Shines candlelight to all we know.
It spreads God's Word both far and near
And warms our hearts with Christmas cheer.

Child: See my big rectangle? It is the shape we see in candles. The candle reminds us that we should shine like lights as we share the Christmas story with everyone.

Leader: Join me as we recall that first Christmas.

Leader and Assembly: Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Assembly sings: *This Night a Wondrous Revelation*

(Tune: O, That I Had a Thousand Voices)

This night a wondrous revelation
Makes known to me God's love and grace;
The Child that merits adoration
Brings light to our benighted race;
And though a thousand suns did shine,
Still brighter were that Light divine.

O Jesus, precious Sun of Gladness,
Fill Thou my soul with light, I pray.
Dispel the gloomy night of sadness
And teach Thou me this Christmas Day
How I a child of light may be,
Aglow with light that comes from Thee.



(Last child comes forward holding a blue square.)

Children recite or sing: The many shapes of Christmas here
Can help to add some Christmas cheer.
They tell us of a baby small
Who came to earth to save us all.

At last the square which we display
Reminds us of a gift today.
For Jesus is God's gift divine
Who lives within this heart of mine.

Child: This is a square. It is the shape of many Christmas presents. We love presents at Christmas time. But the best present we could ever have is Jesus our Savior.

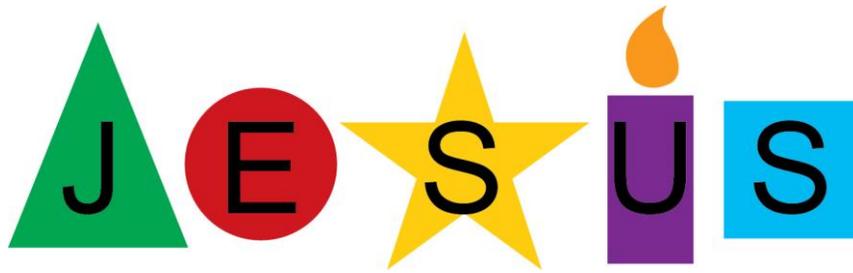
Leader: The Bible says in John 1:14: *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Assembly sings: *O Come, All Ye Children (v. 1,2)*

O come, all ye children, O come one and all,
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small;
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your joy and delight.

He's born in a stable for you and for me,
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels—the heavenly Child.

Children: We are out of shapes, but we have more to say.



(Children sing or recite last song. During the recitation they turn their shapes around to the backside revealing the letters J-E-S-U-S.)

Children sing or recite: The many shapes of Christmas here
Can help to add some Christmas cheer.
They tell us of a baby small
Who came to earth to save us all.

And now with all these shapes we see
They spell a word for you and me
It is the name of Jesus dear
Who shapes our lives through all the year.

Assembly sings: O Come, All Ye Children (v. 3,4)

Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

Dear Christ Child, what gifts can we children bestow,
By which our affection and gladness to show?
No riches and treasures of value can be,
But hearts that believe are accepted with Thee.