a script from

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A Shepherd's First Christmas

PURCHASE SCRIPT TO REMOVE WATERMARK AT GODSVERSE.ORG

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A Shepherd's First Christmas

PURCHASE

A Shepherd's First Christmas is a gentle, 15-minute Christmas play that tells the nativity story through the eyes of a little shepherd boy. Designed especially for preschoolers and early elementary, this narrated script keeps speaking parts simple and short while still capturing the wonder of the angel's announcement, the shepherds' excitement, and the quiet beauty of meeting baby Jesus in the manger.

SCRIPT

Perfect For:

- Preschool & early elementary programs
- Children's church, kids' services, and school chapels
- Small churches or groups with limited rehearsal time

TO

Key Features:

- Length: ~15 minutes
- Cast Size: 6–10 speaking roles (plus easy non-speaking roles)
- Style: Narrated from an older shepherd's point of view with a child "Little Sam" acting out his younger self
- Age-Friendly: Minimal lines for kids; the Narrator carries the story
- Flexible Music: Built-in spots for simple carols like "Away in a Manger" or "Silent Night"
- Simple Staging: Two basic areas – a hillside field and a small stable – using straw bales, a manger, and simple robes

REMOVE

Why Leaders Love It:

- Easy to rehearse with very young children
- Clear gospel focus: God coming close to ordinary people
- Adorable "little shepherd" visuals that parents and grandparents will love
- Works as a stand-alone kids' program or as part of a larger Christmas service

WATERMARK

What You Need:

- Shepherd robes or oversized T-shirts and scarves
- Simple staffs, lamb plush toys, and angel halos
- **A basic manger with a baby doll and a stable backdrop**

AT

***A Shepherd's First Christmas* gives your youngest kids a meaningful, manageable way to share the story of Jesus' birth—full of wonder, warmth, and just the right amount of "aww."**

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A Shepherd's First Christmas

A 15-Minute Narrated Nativity for Little Ones

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CAST (6–10 roles, easily expandable)

SCRIPT

- **NARRATOR / OLD SHEPHERD – "SAM"** – Main storyteller, older version of the child shepherd, warm and gentle.
- **LITTLE SAM** – Young shepherd child (mostly gestures and a few short lines).
- **SHEPHERD 1** – Older shepherd, kind.
- **SHEPHERD 2** – Older shepherd, a bit grumpy but soft-hearted.
- **ANGEL OF THE LORD** – Main angel, clear voice.
- **ANGEL CHOIR** – 2–6 children as extra angels (simple "Glory to God" line together).
- **MARY** – Quiet, gentle, stays by the manger.
- **JOSEPH** – Protective and calm, stands near Mary.
- (Optional extras: **Lambs**, **stable animals**, **extra shepherds** – no speaking needed.)

TO

SIMPLE SET & PROPS

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- One side of stage: **"Field"** – a few straw bales, maybe a cardboard tree or hill.
- Other side: **"Stable"** – simple backdrop, manger with baby doll wrapped in cloth.
- Angel "glow": clip-on lights, flashlight, or spotlight if available.
- Costumes:
  - Shepherds – big T-shirts or robes, scarves, simple staffs.
  - Angels – white shirts, tinsel halos, simple wings if possible.
  - Mary & Joseph – plain robes, headscarves.

WATERMARK

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SCENE 1 – AN OLD SHEPHERD REMEMBERS

(House lights dim slightly. Soft instrumental Christmas music plays – piano or guitar. NARRATOR SAM walks slowly to the center, carrying a simple shepherd's staff. He looks out at the audience and smiles.)

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NARRATOR SAM:

When people hear the Christmas story, they usually talk about the angels…

or the wise men…

or the bright star in the sky.

But tonight, I want to tell you Christmas

through the eyes of one little shepherd.

That little shepherd… was me.

(He chuckles softly.)

A long time ago, on a dark and ordinary night,

I was just a boy—

small staff, dusty sandals, and a head full of questions.

(LIGHTS come up a bit on the "field" side of the stage. LITTLE SAM enters and sits near a straw bale, pretending to watch the sheep. Optional: a couple of kids in lamb headbands crawl or sit nearby.)

NARRATOR SAM:

We didn't live in a big city.

We didn't have fancy clothes.

We didn't live in a palace.

We lived right here, on the hills outside a little town called **Bethlehem**.

(He gestures toward LITTLE SAM.)

That boy you see is **Little Sam**—

the younger me.

He thought that night would be like every other night.

He was wrong.

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SCENE 2 – AN ORDINARY NIGHT (OR SO WE THOUGHT)

(SHEPHERD 1 and SHEPHERD 2 enter and sit near LITTLE SAM, "warming hands" by an imaginary fire.)

NARRATOR SAM:

We watched our sheep,

we listened to the wind,

and we kept one eye open for danger.

(SHEPHERD 1 pats LITTLE SAM on the shoulder.)

SHEPHERD 1 (kindly):

Sam, how are the lambs? All quiet?

LITTLE SAM (short line, softly):

All quiet.

(He pats a plush lamb.)

SHEPHERD 2 (stretching, slightly grumpy):

I hope it stays quiet.

I could use a peaceful night for once.

NARRATOR SAM:

I thought the same thing.

Shepherds liked quiet nights.

No wolves.

No storms.

No problems.

(He leans in a little.)

But God had a different plan.

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(Optional: short hummed or instrumental piece here – e.g. music leader or small group hums a phrase from "O Little Town of Bethlehem" while shepherds mime talking softly and watching sheep. Then the music fades.)

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SCENE 3 – HEAVEN BREAKS INTO THE FIELD

SCRIPT

(Lights dim over the field. SHEPHERDS lie or sit as if it's very late and they're sleepy. LITTLE SAM lies down, hugging a lamb.)

NARRATOR SAM (quiet, building):

Midnight came…

TO

The stars shimmered…

The world seemed still.

And suddenly…

(A small sound cue: shimmering chime, or soft drum roll. A LIGHT snaps on or brightens where the ANGEL OF THE LORD will appear.)

REMOVE

NARRATOR SAM (a bit louder):

The dark hills of Bethlehem

were filled with **light.**

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(ANGEL OF THE LORD enters from the side or behind the audience if possible, to surprise the children. The ANGEL lifts arms. LIGHT on the angel brightens.)

LITTLE SAM (sits up, afraid, simple line):

What is that?!

AT

(SHEPHERD 1 and SHEPHERD 2 jump up, acting scared. They shield their eyes.)

SHEPHERD 1:

Is it… fire?

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SHEPHERD 2:

Is it a storm?

NARRATOR SAM:

We were terrified.

Not just “spooky story” scared—

heart-thumping, knees-shaking, can’t-breathe scared.

But then, the bright figure spoke.

(ANGEL OF THE LORD steps forward slowly, voice clear.)

ANGEL OF THE LORD (gently, but strong):

Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news

of great joy

that will be for all people.

Today… in the town of David…

a Savior has been born to you.

He is Christ the Lord.

You will find the baby

wrapped in cloths

and lying in a manger.

(As the angel finishes, ANGEL CHOIR enters and forms a small group behind or beside the main angel.)

NARRATOR SAM:

And then, we were not alone with just one angel…

Heaven’s doors seemed to swing open,

and they were everywhere.

(ANGEL CHOIR lifts arms.)

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ANGEL CHOIR (together, short line):

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth peace

to those on whom His favor rests!

(They hold the pose. Soft background music can begin – instrumental of "Angels We Have Heard on High" or similar.)

NARRATOR SAM:

Our little hill looked like heaven

had stepped down for a visit.

I had never seen anything so bright…

so beautiful…

so full of joy.

(ANGELS slowly lower arms. After a brief, silent beat, ANGEL CHOIR and ANGEL OF THE LORD exit quietly.)

NARRATOR SAM:

And just as suddenly as they came…

they were gone.

The sky was dark again.

The night was quiet again.

But we weren't the same.

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SCENE 4 – SHALL WE GO TO BETHLEHEM?

(Lights brighten a bit on the field. SHEPHERDS look at one another, amazed. LITTLE SAM jumps up, excited.)

LITTLE SAM (eager):

We have to go!

We have to see Him!

SHEPHERD 2 (still catching breath):

Did that really just happen?

Did we all see the same thing?

SHEPHERD 1 (firm, inspired):

Yes. We did.

And the angel gave us a sign—

a baby in a manger.

We can't stay here.

Let's go to Bethlehem

and see what the Lord has told us about.

NARRATOR SAM:

I was just a child,

but I ran faster than any of them.

(He chuckles.)

My heart felt like it would explode—

not from fear this time,

but from **joy**.

(Shepherds begin to "run" in place. LITTLE SAM runs in front, leading them. Optional: they can move down an aisle if you have space, then circle to the "stable" side.)

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NARRATOR SAM (as they move):

We left our sheep behind,

trusting that God could watch them better than we could.

We hurried down stony paths,

past quiet houses,

through the cool night air.

All the while, one thought ran through my mind:

"**God sent a Savior. For us. For me.**"

SCENE 5 – THE STABLE AND THE KING

(Lights rise on the "stable" side. MARY sits by the manger with the baby doll. JOSEPH stands protectively nearby. Maybe a couple of children as "animals" sit quietly—cow, donkey, etc. The stable is peaceful and still.)

NARRATOR SAM:

Bethlehem was crowded,

but one place was quiet—

a small stable tucked behind the houses.

It didn't look like a palace.

It smelled like hay and animals.

Yet the angel's words led us right there.

(SHEPHERDS and LITTLE SAM slow down as they reach the stable. They stop, stare in awe. Then they slowly walk nearer.)

SHEPHERD 1 (softly, to Mary and Joseph):

Um… we… we're the shepherds.

The angel told us about your baby.

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JOSEPH (gentle smile):

You're welcome here.

Come and see.

(He gestures toward the manger. LITTLE SAM steps forward, wide-eyed.)

NARRATOR SAM (very tender):

I had seen many lambs born.

I had watched them stand on wobbly legs

and drink from their mothers.

But this…

this was different.

Here was a tiny baby—

God's own Son—

in a feeding box…

wrapped in simple cloths…

on a bed of straw.

(LITTLE SAM kneels by the manger, hands folded or placed gently on the edge.)

LITTLE SAM (whisper, simple line):

Hello… Jesus.

(Pause for a quiet moment. Let the audience feel the stillness.)

NARRATOR SAM:

I didn't know big words.

I didn't know how to pray long prayers.

But I knew this:

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God had come close.

Not just to kings.

Not just to rich people.

To **shepherds**.

To **children**.

To **me**.

(Optional SONG MOMENT: children's choir or congregation sings one short verse of a carol such as "Away in a Manger." Keep it simple; children on stage remain in their positions, listening or softly swaying.)

SCENE 6 – TELLING EVERYONE

(As the song ends or the music fades, SHEPHERDS slowly stand. LITTLE SAM stands last, still looking at the baby.)

SHEPHERD 2 (softly, amazed):

I didn't think anything important

could ever happen to shepherds.

SHEPHERD 1:

We can't keep this to ourselves.

People need to know

what we've seen tonight.

NARRATOR SAM:

We didn't have flyers.

We didn't have phones.

We only had our **voices**

and our **feet**.

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And so… we used them.

(SHEPHERDS and LITTLE SAM turn away from the manger and begin walking toward the front of the stage, as if going into the town and beyond.)

SHEPHERD 1 (calling out, to imaginary people):

The Savior is born!

The Lord has come—

in Bethlehem!

SHEPHERD 2 (excited now):

We saw angels!

We saw the Child!

NARRATOR SAM:

We told anyone who would listen.

We couldn’t stop smiling.

We couldn’t stop talking.

Our feet were tired,

but our hearts were full.

And do you know what people did

when they heard our story?

Some wondered.

Some frowned.

Some smiled.

But **Mary**, the baby’s mother,

she tucked every word in her heart

like a treasure.

(MARY looks down at the baby, then out at the shepherds with a gentle smile.)

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SCENE 7 – A CHILD GROWS UP

(Lights soften. SHEPHERDS drift back toward the "field." MARY and JOSEPH remain in the stable, quietly. LITTLE SAM sits near a bale again as if back in the fields. NARRATOR SAM steps closer to him.)

NARRATOR SAM:

After that night,

life went on.

Sheep still needed watching.

Fields still needed guarding.

The sun still rose and set.

But something had changed—

inside me.

(He looks at LITTLE SAM with affection.)

That little shepherd grew up.

He faced hard days,

lonely nights,

and many questions.

But no matter what,

he could look back to one moment—

one night—

and remember:

"I saw angels.

I saw God's promise.

I saw Jesus."

And every Christmas after that,

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I remembered how close God came,

right there in the straw.

(He turns to the audience.)

Children, maybe you feel small.

Maybe you feel like nobody important

knows your name.

But that first Christmas shows us

something beautiful:

God loves to show His glory

to ordinary people…

in ordinary places…

even on a quiet hill

with sleepy sheep.

(Pause.)

And He loves **you**,

right now,

just as you are.

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SCENE 8 – INVITING TODAY'S LITTLE SHEPHERDS

(NARRATOR SAM addresses the children on stage and in the audience.)

NARRATOR SAM:

Tonight, we had little shepherds…

little angels…

Mary and Joseph…

a tiny "baby Jesus" in a manger.

But do you know who else

is part of this story?

You.

Every time you sing a carol,

you're like the angels.

Every time you share a toy

or help someone who's sad,

you're like the shepherds,

telling good news with your actions.

And every time you remember

that Jesus loves you,

you are standing right there

by that manger in Bethlehem again.

(He looks back toward the stable. LITTLE SAM stands and walks to join MARY and JOSEPH by the manger. SHEPHERDS gather around again. ANGELS quietly re-enter and stand behind them, forming a gentle semi-circle.

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NARRATOR SAM:

So now,

let's all be shepherds for a moment.

Kids on stage,

kids in the seats,

grown-ups, too—

Let's all look toward the manger.

(He gently gestures. Everyone on stage turns their eyes to the manger. Encourage audience to look, too.)

In your heart,

you can whisper with me:

"**Thank You, God, for sending Jesus.**

Thank You for loving us."

(A soft instrumental of "Silent Night" or similar begins underneath.)

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SCENE 9 – A SHEPHERD'S BLESSING

(NARRATOR SAM steps slightly forward, leaving the tableau behind him.)

NARRATOR SAM:

From that first Christmas

until this very night,

shepherds have come and gone.

Kings and kingdoms

have risen and fallen.

But **Jesus**

is still the Savior.

He is still the Light in the darkness.

He is still the Good Shepherd

who cares for every lamb—

big or little.

Tonight, I stand here

as an old shepherd in a story,

and I bless you with the same good news

that changed my life:

A Savior has been born to you.

He is Christ the Lord.

(He smiles softly.)

May your Christmas be filled with peace.

May your homes be filled with song.

May your hearts be filled with Jesus.

OPTIONAL FINAL CAROL

(Director or music leader steps in briefly.)

MUSIC LEADER (if you use one):

We'd like to end

just like the shepherds did—

with joy.

Please stand and sing with us

our closing carol.

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(Children and cast remain gathered around the manger as everyone sings one joyful carol together—such as "Joy to the World" or "Go, Tell It on the Mountain." Keep it to one verse or chorus if you want to stay near 15 minutes.)

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FINAL MOMENT

(After the song, music fades. Cast stays in place; NARRATOR SAM gives one last line.)

SCRIPT

NARRATOR SAM:

From one small shepherd's heart

to all of you—

TO

Merry Christmas,

and may you always remember

the night the Savior came near.

(All CAST turn to the audience and wave.)

REMOVE

CAST (together, simple):

Merry Christmas!

(Lights fade to a warm glow on the manger, then slowly down to black.)

[END OF PLAY]

WATERMARK

AT

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