a script from

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The First Christmas Morning

PURCHASE SCRIPT TO REMOVE WATERMARK AT GODSVERSE.ORG

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The First Christmas Morning

Length: ~15 minutes

Cast: 6–10 preschoolers (+ adult/teen narrator)

Style: Gentle, traditional Christmas pageant

The First Christmas Morning is a soft, simple preschool nativity script designed especially for little hearts and little voices. With a warm Narrator guiding the story, your youngest kids can act out the birth of Jesus through easy movements, one-word lines, and group responses—no memorization stress, just sweet participation.

Perfect for small churches, children's ministry, or Christian school programs, this script follows Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds, angels, and a shining star in a calm, age-appropriate retelling of Luke 2. Classic Christmas carols are woven between scenes, giving kids and adults a chance to sing and worship together.

Why Leaders Love It

- Preschool–friendly: Minimal or optional speaking lines for kids; the Narrator carries the story.
- Flexible cast: Works with as few as 6 or as many as 10+ children (just add extra angels, animals, or shepherds).
- Simple staging: Stable backdrop, blankets, a manger, a baby doll, and soft lighting are all you need.
- Built–in carols: Includes cues for familiar songs like *Away in a Manger* and *Joy to the World* so your team can use music you already know.
- Gospel–clear, not overwhelming: Keeps the focus on Jesus' birth, God's love, and the joy of the first Christmas morning—at a pace preschoolers can handle.

Best For:

- Preschool Christmas services
- Children's church or Sunday school programs
- Christian school Christmas chapels
- Family services where little ones are featured on stage

If you need an adorable, low–stress way to include your youngest kids in the Christmas story, *The First Christmas Morning* gives you everything you need in one gentle, easy–to–use script.

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The First Christmas Morning

PURCHASE

A Gentle Preschool Nativity Play

CAST (6–10 Preschoolers + 1–2 Adults or Teens)

SCRIPT

Speaking Adult/Teen Roles

- **Narrator** – Tells the story in short, simple sentences.
- **Song Leader** (optional) – Helps start the carols and lead motions.

Preschool Roles

(You can double up roles if you have fewer kids, or add extra angels or shepherds if you have more.)

TO

- **Mary** – Carries baby doll Jesus, sits by the manger.
- **Joseph** – Walks with Mary, stands protectively near her.
- **Innkeeper** – Stands at “door,” says a short line like “No room.”
- **Angel 1** – Leads the angel group, speaks one or two short lines.
- **Angel Helpers** – Stand with Angel 1 and say one word together.
- **Shepherds** – Hold stuffed sheep, sit or stand on the “hillside.”
- **Star Holder** – Holds a star on a stick or stands by a star prop.
- **Extra Animals** (optional) – Children in simple costumes who sit near the manger.

REMOVE

PROPS & SET

WATERMARK

- Simple **stable backdrop** (sheet, cardboard, or boxes).
- **Manger** with cloth or hay.
- **Baby doll Jesus** wrapped in a blanket.
- **Blankets or robes** for costumes.
- **Halos or headbands** for angels.
- **Shepherd staffs** (cardboard tubes or pool noodles).
- **Stuffed animals** (sheep, cow, donkey).
- **Star** on a stick or hanging above the manger.
- Soft, warm **lighting** if possible.

AT

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DIRECTOR NOTES

This script is written especially for preschoolers.

Lines are very short, many are one or two words, and the Narrator carries most of the story.

Feel free to place helpers near each group of children to quietly guide them.

Children who do not want to speak can simply nod, wave, or hold their prop while the Narrator reads the line for them.

Classic Christmas carols are suggested at several points.

Use whatever versions and verses your church or school already knows.

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SCENE 1 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

(Lights up softly. The stage is mostly empty except for the manger and stable on one side. Narrator steps forward.)

NARRATOR:

Welcome, everyone.

Tonight, our preschool friends will help us tell a beautiful story.

We are going back in time

to the very first Christmas morning.

Long ago, in a town called Bethlehem,

God sent His Son into the world.

His name is Jesus.

Our children will act out the story

with simple movements and small words.

You can help by singing with us.

Before we begin, let us sing together.

SONG CUE:

A familiar Christmas carol such as “O Come, All Ye Faithful” or another welcome song.

Children can stand at the side or remain backstage while the congregation sings.

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SCENE 2 – MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL

SCRIPT

(Mary and Joseph walk slowly onto the stage from one side. Joseph may pretend to lead a donkey. Mary holds her tummy or a folded blanket.)

TO

NARRATOR:

This is Mary.

(Mary waves shyly, then places her hands over her heart.)

God chose Mary

to be the mother of Jesus.

REMOVE

Mary loved God.

Mary trusted God.

Mary, can you say, “I trust God”?

WATERMARK

MARY:

I trust God.

NARRATOR:

This is Joseph.

AT

(Joseph steps a little closer and nods.)

Joseph listened to God.

Joseph cared for Mary.

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Joseph, can you say, “I will help”?

JOSEPH:

I will help.

NARRATOR:

A ruler in that land

gave an important order.

Everyone had to travel

to the town of their family.

Mary and Joseph

had to go to Bethlehem.

The trip was long.

They walked and walked.

(Mary and Joseph slowly cross the stage, taking careful steps.)

Mary grew tired,

but Joseph stayed with her.

Mary, can you say, “Tired”?

MARY:

Tired.

NARRATOR:

Joseph, can you say, “Almost there”?

JOSEPH:

Almost there.

(They reach the other side of the stage where the Innkeeper waits beside a simple door prop.)

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SCENE 3 – NO ROOM AT THE INN

NARRATOR:

At last they arrived in Bethlehem.

The town was busy.

The streets were full.

Many people had come to stay.

Mary and Joseph

needed a place to sleep.

They went to an inn.

(Joseph gently knocks on the "door." Mary stands beside him.)

Joseph, can you say, "Room, please?"

JOSEPH (to Innkeeper):

Room, please?

(Innkeeper shakes their head sadly.)

NARRATOR:

The innkeeper felt sorry,

but there were no rooms left.

Innkeeper, can you say, "No room"?

INNKEEPER:

No room.

NARRATOR:

But the innkeeper

had an idea.

There was a stable—

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a quiet place for animals.

It was not fancy,

but it was dry,

and it was safe.

Innkeeper, can you say, “Stable”?

INNKEEPER:

Stable.

NARRATOR:

Mary and Joseph

went to the stable.

(Mary and Joseph move to the manger area with help from a teacher. Innkeeper steps aside.)

The night was very still.

The stars were bright.

Mary knew

that her baby would come soon.

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SCENE 4 – JESUS IS BORN

(Mary kneels or sits beside the manger. Joseph stands nearby. If you wish, animal-costumed children can quietly join them now and sit or kneel.)

NARRATOR:

In that simple stable,

with hay on the floor

and animals nearby,

Mary had her baby.

The baby was Jesus—

God's own Son.

Mary wrapped Jesus

in soft cloths.

Mary, can you gently lay the baby in the manger?

(Mary places the baby doll in the manger.)

NARRATOR:

Joseph watched

and thanked God.

Joseph, can you say, "Thank You, God"?

JOSEPH:

Thank You, God.

NARRATOR:

There was no crib,

no fancy bed,

just a manger

where animals ate their food.

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But it was enough.

Jesus, the King of Kings,

slept in a manger that night.

Let us sing a song

to thank God

for sending Jesus.

SONG CUE:

A gentle carol such as “Away in a Manger.”

Children at the stable stay still and quiet while everyone sings.

SCENE 5 – SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS

(Lights dim slightly on the stable and rise on the opposite side. Several shepherds sit on the floor or small steps, holding stuffed sheep. A helper may sit nearby.)

NARRATOR:

Not far away,

on a dark hillside,

some shepherds

were watching their sheep.

These are our shepherds.

(Shepherds wave to the audience.)

They stayed awake at night

to keep the sheep safe.

It was quiet.

It was dark.

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Shepherds, can you say, “Shhh”?

SHEPHERDS (together):

Shhh.

NARRATOR:

Suddenly,

something bright

shone in the sky.

(A light or star is slowly raised. Angel 1 and Angel Helpers step forward behind the shepherds.)

An angel of the Lord

stood before them.

The shepherds were afraid.

Shepherds, show us your “afraid” faces.

(Shepherds make surprised faces and huddle with their sheep.)

NARRATOR:

But the angel

had good news.

Angel, can you say, “Don’t be afraid”?

ANGEL 1:

Don’t be afraid.

NARRATOR:

The angel said,

“I bring you good news

of great joy.

Today in Bethlehem

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a Savior has been born.

He is Christ the Lord."

Angel, can you say, "Good news"?

ANGEL 1:

Good news.

NARRATOR:

Then many angels appeared.

(Angel Helpers step beside Angel 1, raising their arms like wings.)

They praised God together.

Angels, can you say, "Glory to God"?

ALL ANGELS:

Glory to God!

NARRATOR:

The shepherds listened.

Their hearts were full of joy.

Shepherds, can you say, "Let's go"?

SHEPHERDS (excited):

Let's go!

NARRATOR:

They hurried

to find baby Jesus.

(Shepherds stand and walk carefully toward the stable. Angels follow behind or move to the sides.)

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SONG CUE:

A song about angels and shepherds, such as “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

Children keep walking gently while the song is sung.

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SCENE 6 – SHEPHERDS VISIT JESUS

SCRIPT

(All lights warm on the stable. Mary, Joseph, animals, star holder, and baby Jesus are in place. Shepherds arrive and gather near the manger.)

NARRATOR:

TO

The shepherds

came to the stable.

They found Mary…

(Narrator gestures toward Mary.)

REMOVE

Joseph…

(Gestures toward Joseph.)

and the baby.

WATERMARK

(Gestures toward the manger.)

Mary, can you show them the baby?

(Mary gently touches the blanket around baby Jesus.)

NARRATOR:

AT

The shepherds knelt down.

Shepherds, can you kneel or bend low?

(Shepherds kneel or crouch.)

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They worshiped Jesus.

They thanked God

for this wonderful gift.

Shepherds, can you say, “Thank You, Jesus”?

SHEPHERDS (softly):

Thank You, Jesus.

NARRATOR:

They were so happy

that they had seen the Savior.

Soon they would tell others

what they had heard and seen.

Shepherds, can you say, “Jesus is here”?

SHEPHERDS (a little louder):

Jesus is here!

NARRATOR:

Mary listened.

She remembered every word.

Mary, place your hand on your heart.

(Mary does so and smiles down at the baby.)

She kept these memories

deep inside her heart.

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SCENE 7 – THE STAR AND THE STABLE

(Star Holder moves to stand where everyone can see the star above the manger. If you do not have a separate Star Holder, a helper can raise the star.)

NARRATOR:

High above the stable,

a bright star shone.

It was like God's sign

in the night sky,

saying, "Look here.

My Son is here."

Star Holder,

please lift the star high.

(Star is lifted and held steady.)

NARRATOR:

Look at this picture.

We see Mary and Joseph,

who trusted God.

We see a tiny baby,

God's own Son.

We see shepherds,

simple workers

who were invited

to be the first visitors.

We see angels,

who praised God.

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We see a star,

shining over it all.

This is the first

Christmas morning.

It was quiet.

It was small.

But it was full

of God's great love.

SCENE 8 – CHILDREN RESPOND

(All children remain around the manger. If some are very young, helpers can gently guide them into a simple semicircle.)

NARRATOR:

Boys and girls,

you have helped us

tell the story tonight.

You showed us

Mary's trust,

Joseph's care,

the angels' joy,

and the shepherds' worship.

Most of all,

you reminded us

that Jesus

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is God's gift of love.

Now we are going to say

a very simple prayer together.

Grown–ups,

you are welcome

to pray with us too.

(Invite children to fold hands or place a hand over their heart.)

I will say a few words.

You can repeat after me.

NARRATOR (line by line):

Dear God…

CHILDREN AND AUDIENCE:

Dear God…

NARRATOR:

Thank You for Jesus…

CHILDREN AND AUDIENCE:

Thank You for Jesus…

NARRATOR:

Thank You for Christmas…

CHILDREN AND AUDIENCE:

Thank You for Christmas…

NARRATOR:

Help us love You…

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CHILDREN AND AUDIENCE:

Help us love You…

NARRATOR:

And love other people too.

CHILDREN AND AUDIENCE:

And love other people too.

NARRATOR:

In Jesus' name we pray…

CHILDREN AND AUDIENCE:

In Jesus' name we pray…

NARRATOR:

Amen.

CHILDREN AND AUDIENCE:

Amen.

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SCENE 9 – FINAL SONG AND BLESSING

NARRATOR:

This is the story

of the first Christmas morning.

A tiny baby

in a simple place,

bringing hope

to the whole world.

From this little stable

to your homes and hearts,

we pray that you will remember

God's love every day.

Children,

on the count of three,

let's say, "Merry Christmas!"

Ready?

One… two… three!

ALL CHILDREN:

Merry Christmas!

(Children wave at the audience. The star remains lifted. Lights stay warm and bright.)

SONG CUE:

A joyful closing carol such as "Joy to the World."

During the song, children may stay by the manger or slowly exit with their teachers.

When the song ends,

the lights gently fade.

The first Christmas morning

is still good news today.

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SCENE 10 – FAMILY BLESSING MOMENT

(This scene is optional, but it can help you reach the full time if your children walk quickly or if songs are short. It also gives families a sweet memory.)

NARRATOR:

Before we finish,

we want to do something simple

and very special.

Christmas is not only

about lights and presents.

It is about families,

about church family,

and about God's big family

all over the world.

In a moment,

our children will stay right here

around the manger.

If you would like,

you may lift a hand toward them

as a sign of blessing.

You can also place a gentle hand

on the shoulder of your child

or grandchild

who is in the play today.

We are going to speak

a blessing of peace together.

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I will say the words first.

Then we will say them again

all together as one family.

Listen to the blessing.

“May the Lord bless you

and keep you.

May He fill your heart

with His peace.

May you remember Jesus

on every day,

not just on Christmas morning.

May your home be a place

of kindness,

love,

and joy.”

Now,

let us say it together

as a church family.

NARRATOR AND AUDIENCE (together, slowly):

May the Lord bless you

and keep you.

May He fill your heart

with His peace.

May you remember Jesus

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on every day,

not just on Christmas morning.

May your home be a place

of kindness,

love,

and joy.

NARRATOR:

Thank you for sharing

this holy story with us tonight.

If you would like

to take a quick picture

of your little shepherd,

angel,

or Mary and Joseph,

you may do that now

before they return to their seats.

Please remember

to move slowly and kindly,

and to notice the manger

one more time.

Jesus is God's gift.

He is with us

today,

tomorrow,

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and always.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

As you leave tonight,

may every twinkling light you see

remind you of the star over Bethlehem.

When you hear laughter,

remember the joy of the angels.

When you wrap in a warm blanket,

remember the stable and the manger.

And when you pause to pray,

remember that Jesus hears you,

loves you,

and will never let you go.

This is the wonder of Christmas, shining softly in trusting heart, tonight and tomorrow.

[END OF PLAY]

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