a script from

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***The Shepherds' Sleepover***

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## The Shepherds’ Sleepover

Preschool Christmas comedy that retells the angel-and-shepherds story in a way little kids absolutely love. A small group of preschool “shepherds” has a cozy sleepover in the fields—wrapped in blankets, cuddling their sheep, whispering silly questions like, “Do sheep snore?” and “Do angels have pajamas?” In the middle of their giggles and pretend naps, a group of angels suddenly appears with the good news that Jesus has been born. The children’s surprised reactions, pop-up excitement, and joyful trip to the manger create nonstop “aww” moments and perfect photo opportunities for families.

Designed for 10–15 preschoolers, this skit uses simple costumes (blankets, sheep headbands, angel halos) and almost no memorization. Most of the story is carried by a friendly narrator, while kids focus on easy actions—lying down, popping up, walking to Bethlehem, kneeling at the manger, and repeating short group lines like “Jesus is born!” It’s easy to stage in any children’s ministry room, chapel, or Christian school program and works beautifully as a stand-alone piece or part of a larger Christmas service.

With its light humor, gentle message, and preschooler-friendly pacing, The Shepherds’ Sleepover helps young children experience the wonder of the nativity while teaching a simple truth: Jesus came for ordinary people—like sleepy, giggly shepherds—and He loves us all.

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# The Shepherds’ Sleepover

*A Light Christmas Comedy for Preschoolers*

**Length:** ~20 minutes

**Cast:** 10–15 preschoolers (plus 1–2 narrators and helpers)

**Style:** Light Christmas comedy, movement + short lines

## Summary

A group of preschool shepherds is having a “sleepover” in the fields on the night Jesus is born. They wrap up in blankets, cuddle their sheep, whisper, giggle, and ask silly questions like, “Do sheep snore?” and “Do angels eat marshmallows?” In the middle of their silliness, angels suddenly appear with the good news of Jesus’ birth. The shepherds’ surprised reactions and excited dash to Bethlehem create adorable, joy-filled moments for families.

## Cast of Characters

**Narrator 1**

Warm, playful storyteller. Reads most of the script.

**Narrator 2 (optional)**

Helps with lines, leads audience responses, and cues songs.

**Shepherds (6–10 preschoolers)**

Main kid roles. They wear simple “shepherd” outfits and sheep headbands if you like. They mostly pretend to sleep, giggle, react, and walk to Bethlehem.

**Sheep (optional, 2–4 preschoolers)**

Kids in sheep ears or just holding plush lambs. They can bleat, wiggle, and cuddle.

**Angels (3–5 preschoolers)**

Wear simple white shirts, tinsel halos, and maybe small wings. They appear suddenly and say short, happy lines.

**Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus (2–3 older kids or adults)**

Silent roles at the manger. They just smile and stay calm.

**Teacher/Helpers**

Stand at the sides to guide children to their places, whisper cues, and rescue blankets that go flying!

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## What You Need

- Small blankets or sleeping bags for each shepherd
- Sheep headbands, plush lambs, or simple printed sheep masks
- Simple angel costumes (white shirts, tinsel halos, maybe cardboard wings)
- One basic “manger” with a baby doll wrapped in cloth
- Simple robe or shawl for Mary and Joseph
- A dark backdrop or simple “night sky” (optional stars cut from paper)
- Soft Christmas music (instrumental “Silent Night,” “Away in a Manger,” or similar)
- A safe place for 10–15 preschoolers to sit, lie down, and pop up!

## Director Notes

- Preschoolers do **not** need memorized lines—any lines can be spoken along with a teacher.
- Let kids be kids. If someone waves at grandma, it's a win.
- Build in pauses for photos: pretend sleeping, angels' entrance, and at the manger.
- Keep the tone fun and gentle. The comedy comes from kid behavior, not making fun of the Bible story.

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# SCRIPT

### PRELUDE – WELCOME & SETUP

*(Soft instrumental carol plays. Lights are dim but cozy. SHEPHERDS sit with TEACHERS just offstage, wrapped in blankets and holding stuffed sheep. NARRATOR 1 steps forward.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

Welcome to our preschool Christmas program, **The Shepherds' Sleepover**!

Tonight, we'll visit the hillside outside Bethlehem,

where some very sleepy shepherds are having a nighttime "sleepover" with their sheep.

They will pretend to nap…

they will giggle…

they will ask some very silly questions…

and then—

something amazing will happen.

*(Short pause for smiles.)*

**NARRATOR 2 (optional):**

Our little ones don't have many lines to say.

They'll mostly use their bodies—

snuggling under blankets, popping up in surprise,

and following the angels' directions with big, excited eyes.

We invite you to relax, enjoy, and take pictures

as we share the good news that came to some very ordinary shepherds on a very special night.

*(Music gently fades, lights dim slightly to a "night sky" blue.)*

## SCENE 1 – THE HILLSIDE SLEEPOVER BEGINS

**Setting:** "Hillside" – a section of the stage with blankets on the floor. Maybe a cardboard tree or "hill."

**NARRATOR 1:**

Long ago, not far from Bethlehem,

some shepherds were taking care of their sheep all night long.

*(TEACHERS lead SHEPHERDS onto the stage, each with a small blanket and maybe a plush lamb. They settle on the floor in a cozy circle or row.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

They weren't in a house…

they weren't in a bedroom…

they were outside, under the big, wide-open sky.

**ACTION – Get Cozy**

- TEACHER quietly tells kids, "Lay down and get comfy."
- SHEPHERDS lie down, snuggle their blankets, put heads on rolled-up coats or little pillows.
- Some kids are on their backs, some on their sides (all cute).

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**NARRATOR 1:**

It was bedtime for the shepherds' sleepover.

But shepherds don't have real beds in the fields…

they use blankets on the grass…

and their sheep are never very far away.

*(If you have children playing SHEEP, they curl up next to shepherds. If not, each shepherd hugs a stuffed sheep.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

The sheep were supposed to be sleeping too…

but you know how it is at a sleepover.

Sometimes, bedtime is when the giggles begin.

*(Soft ripple of laughter from the audience is okay. TEACHER whispers: "Wiggle a little… whisper… then freeze.")*

## SCENE 2 – SILLY SLEEPY QUESTIONS

**NARRATOR 1:**

It was quiet for a little while.

The stars were shining.

The night was still.

*(Pause. SHEPHERDS pretend to sleep: loud fake snores if they want.)*

**NARRATOR 2 (playful):**

But then…

one shepherd had a question.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 1 to sit up.)*

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**SHEPHERD 1** *(short line with teacher prompting softly)*:

Do sheep snore?

*(A few SHEEP kids or plush sheep "answer" with a funny **Baa-snore** sound. Audience laughs.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

Another shepherd sat up.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 2.)*

**SHEPHERD 2:**

Do sheep have nightmares about wolves?

*(SHEPHERD 3 hugs their sheep tight.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

One shepherd was very serious.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 3.)*

**SHEPHERD 3:**

If a sheep sleepwalks… is it called "sheep-walking"?

*(A beat. NARRATOR gives them a look.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

The other shepherds weren't sure.

But they knew one thing:

SHEPHERDS *(all together, teacher leads)*:

We're not sleepy!

*(Giggles, kids sit up. TEACHER waves arms down for "settle down again.")*

**NARRATOR 2:**

The older shepherds—

maybe a big brother or a teacher out there—

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said, “Shhh, it’s time to rest.”

But the questions kept coming.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 4.)*

**SHEPHERD 4:**

Do stars ever fall asleep?

*(LITTLE pause. NARRATORS answer.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

No… stars don’t fall asleep.

They shine all night long.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 5.)*

**SHEPHERD 5:**

Do angels have pajamas?

*(Audience chuckles; a few kids might repeat the line.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

We don’t know about angel pajamas…

but we do know angels have a very important job.

*(TEACHER motions everyone to lie down again.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

Finally, the shepherds got a little quieter.

They pulled their blankets up…

they hugged their sheep…

and they tried—just for a moment—

to sleep.

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# SCENE 3 – ALMOST ASLEEP

PURCHASE

**ACTION – Big Sleep Acting**

- TEACHER whispers: “Close your eyes… hug your sheep… big snores!”
- SHEPHERDS do their best exaggerated snoring.
- A few “wake up” and switch positions. Very cute.

SCRIPT

**NARRATOR 1:**

Maybe you’ve had a sleepover like this.

The one where everyone is “supposed” to sleep…

but nobody is really asleep yet.

TO

*(Pause, smile to audience.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

On that night, the shepherds didn’t know

REMOVE

that their sleepover was about to turn into

the greatest surprise party in the whole world.

*(Soft musical note or chime. Lights dim a little more.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

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The sky was dark.

The fields were still.

Everyone was almost asleep…

AT

*(TEACHER cues: “Freeze like statues.” Kids hold whatever position they’re in.)*

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## SCENE 4 – SURPRISE! ANGELS!

**Setting:** SHEPHERDS still on the hillside. ANGELS offstage, ready.

PURCHASE

*(Soft "whoosh" sound or bell. Lights brighten just a little with a warm glow.)*

**NARRATOR 2 (excited whisper):**

SCRIPT

And then… it happened.

*(ANGELS tiptoe onto the stage in white shirts and halos, forming a line or semi-circle behind the shepherds.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

TO

In the middle of the quiet night,

right over the sleepy shepherds' heads,

a bright light filled the sky!

*(Lighting tech can raise lights a bit. ANGELS spread their arms wide.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

REMOVE

Angels appeared…

real, live angels…

WATERMARK

shining with God's glory.

**ACTION – Shepherds Freak Out (In a Cute Way)**

- TEACHER whispers: "Wake up! Look surprised!"
- SHEPHERDS pop up, eyes wide, mouths open.
- Some may hide under blankets, some cling to their sheep.

AT

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**NARRATOR 1:**

The shepherds were very, very, VERY surprised.

SHEPHERDS *(all together, teacher leads)*:

AHHHH!

*(Audience laughs. Kids might scream-laugh. TEACHER calms them with a "shhh" gesture.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

One shepherd peeked out from under a blanket.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 1.)*

**SHEPHERD 1:**

Is this a dream?

**NARRATOR 1:**

Another shepherd rubbed their eyes.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 2.)*

**SHEPHERD 2:**

Did my sheep turn into an angel?

*(Maybe a child looks at their plush sheep suspiciously.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

But the angels had come

with a very important message.

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## SCENE 5 – THE ANGELS' MESSAGE

**ACTION – Main Angel Steps Forward**

One ANGEL (or an older child or teacher dressed as an angel) takes one step forward. The others stand behind, arms slightly raised.

**NARRATOR 1:**

The angel said:

*(TEACHER may say line into mic while the ANGEL moves or mouths the words.)*

**MAIN ANGEL (simple line):**

Do not be afraid!

*(SHEPHERDS take a big breath and try to calm down. Some might still peek nervously.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

The shepherds were still a little scared…

but they listened.

**NARRATOR 1:**

The angel continued:

**MAIN ANGEL (line):**

I bring you good news

of great joy

for all people!

*(ANGELS behind lift their hands in a "ta-da!" motion.)*

**NARRATOR 2 (explaining for kids):**

Good news means something wonderful is happening.

Great joy means it will make people really, really happy.

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**NARRATOR 1:**

The angel told them:

**MAIN ANGEL (line, short and slow):**

Today in Bethlehem,

a Savior has been born.

He is Christ the Lord.

*(SHEPHERDS react with wide eyes and gasps.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

A Savior!

Not a toy…

Not a snack…

Not extra bedtime…

but a Savior from God.

**NARRATOR 1:**

Then the angel told them where to go:

**MAIN ANGEL (line):**

You will find the baby

wrapped in cloths

and lying in a manger.

*(MAIN ANGEL points gently toward where the manger will be.)*

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**NARRATOR 2:**

A manger is like a little feeding box for animals.

Not a fancy crib.

Not a golden bed.

Just a simple place…

for a very special baby.

## SCENE 6 – ANGEL CHOIR PARTY

**NARRATOR 1:**

And then, suddenly…

*(Cue gentle drum roll or rising chord.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

More angels appeared!

Not just one…

not just two…

but a whole sky full of them!

*(Remaining ANGELS step forward, forming a big line or arc. They lift their arms and sway.)*

**ACTION – Angel Choir**

ANGELS say (or sing simply with a teacher):

ANGELS *(all together, teacher leads):*

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace!

*(You can repeat it twice so kids get the hang of it.)*

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**NARRATOR 1:**

The angels praised God with all their hearts.

The shepherds watched, mouths open wide,

blankets forgotten on the ground.

**NARRATOR 2:**

The whole sky felt like a party—

a shining, glowing, angel party—

celebrating the birth of Jesus.

*(If you want, play a gentle instrumental of "Angels We Have Heard on High." ANGELS sway slowly, doing tiny "dance" motions with their arms.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

And just as suddenly as they came…

the angels went back to heaven.

*(ANGELS slowly lower arms, take a few steps back, and sit or stand quietly at the side of the stage.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

The night was quiet again—

but nothing was the same.

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## SCENE 7 – “WE HAVE TO GO!”

PURCHASE

**NARRATOR 1:**

For a moment, the shepherds just stared at the sky.

*(SHEPHERDS look up, mouths open.)*

SCRIPT

**NARRATOR 2:**

Then one shepherd said…

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 3.)*

TO

**SHEPHERD 3:**

Did that really just happen?

**NARRATOR 1:**

Another shepherd looked at their sheep.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 4.)*

REMOVE

**SHEPHERD 4:**

Did you see that too?

*(TEACHER prompts a SHEEP child to nod or bleat: “Baaa!”)*

WATERMARK

**NARRATOR 2:**

They talked and talked for a few seconds…

and then one shepherd finally said

what everyone was thinking.

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 5.)*

AT

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**SHEPHERD 5 (excited):**

We have to go see the baby!

SHEPHERDS *(all together, teacher leads):*

YES!

*(Some jump up, some tangle in blankets—adorably chaotic. TEACHER helps.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

They didn't want to miss it.

A Savior was born…

and they were invited!

**NARRATOR 2:**

So the shepherds gathered their sheep,

packed up their blankets,

and got ready to go.

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# SCENE 8 – HURRY TO BETHLEHEM

**Setting:** Stage becomes a “path” from hillside to Bethlehem (manger on other side).

PURCHASE

**ACTION – Get Ready Marching**

- TEACHERS help kids stand in a line or small groups.
- Each child carries their blanket rolled up and holds onto their sheep or plush toy.

SCRIPT

**NARRATOR 1:**

Sometimes, when you go somewhere special,

you walk very slowly and carefully.

TO

**NARRATOR 2 (teasing):**

This was not one of those times.

**ACTION – Quick March**

- TEACHER says quietly, “Fast walking feet—but not running.”
- SHEPHERDS do a quick, excited walk in place.

REMOVE

**NARRATOR 1:**

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem…

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their hearts beating fast,

their feet almost tripping over their blankets.

*(They begin walking across stage in a snake-like path, following a TEACHER.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

AT

One shepherd kept turning around to double-check:

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 6.)*

**SHEPHERD 6:**

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Are the sheep coming too?

*(SHEEP kids bleat and follow.)*

**NARRATOR 1:**

One tiny shepherd tried to roll up their blanket

but got a little tangled.

*(TEACHER can gently untangle a child's blanket for a natural laugh.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

The angels had said,

"Go and see."

So they went.

*(While they walk, you can play a soft instrumental: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" or "Away in a Manger.")*

## SCENE 9 – AT THE MANGER

**Setting:** On the opposite side, a manger with a baby doll. Mary and Joseph (older kids or adults) kneel beside it.

**NARRATOR 1:**

At last, the shepherds reached Bethlehem.

*(SHEPHERDS slow down and gather near the manger.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

They found a stable—

a simple place with hay,

animals,

and a manger.

*(Optional: a couple of kids as cow or donkey sit near the manger.)*

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**NARRATOR 1 (gentle):**

Inside the manger…

they saw Him.

*(MARY gently lifts the baby doll slightly, then sets Him back in the manger.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

Jesus.

The Savior.

The One the angels had told them about.

**ACTION – Kneel & Gaze**

- TEACHER quietly guides SHEPHERDS to kneel or sit around the manger in a semicircle.
- Each child holds their sheep or blanket close.

**NARRATOR 1:**

The shepherds didn't bring fancy gifts.

They didn't have gold

or treasures

or shiny packages.

**NARRATOR 2:**

But they did bring something special—

their hearts,

their love,

their joy.

*(Pause for a quiet moment. Let families soak in the image.)*

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**NARRATOR 1:**

One shepherd whispered…

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 7.)*

**SHEPHERD 7 (soft):**

Thank You, God, for Jesus.

*(Others nod. Some kids might repeat softly, which is fine.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

Another shepherd smiled and said…

*(TEACHER taps SHEPHERD 8.)*

**SHEPHERD 8:**

This is the best sleepover ever.

*(Audience laughs softly.)*

## SCENE 10 – TELL THE GOOD NEWS

**NARRATOR 1:**

After they saw Jesus,

the shepherds didn't just go back to sleep.

They couldn't keep the news to themselves.

**NARRATOR 2:**

The Bible says they went out

and told everyone they met

about the special child they had seen.

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**ACTION – Turn to Audience**

- TEACHER cues SHEPHERDS to slowly stand up.
- They turn to face the audience, still holding sheep and blankets.

**NARRATOR 1:**

Tonight, our little shepherds get to do that too—

they get to remind us that

Jesus came for all of us.

**NARRATOR 2:**

Big people…

little people…

quiet people…

silly people…

people who fall asleep fast

and people who talk all night at sleepovers.

God's love is for everyone.

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## SCENE 11 – SHINE YOUR LIGHT

**NARRATOR 1:**

The angels brought good news.

The shepherds shared good news.

And now, it's our turn.

**ACTION – Simple Group Line**

TEACHER prompts the children slowly, in short bits:

**TEACHER (phrase by phrase):**

"Jesus is born."

**KIDS (repeat):**

Jesus is born.

**TEACHER:**

"Jesus loves you."

**KIDS:**

Jesus loves you.

**TEACHER:**

"Glory to God!"

**KIDS (loud):**

Glory to God!

*(Applause encouraged.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

Every time you are kind…

every time you share…

every time you say "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you,"

you are a little like those shepherds—

You're showing the world

what it looks like to know Jesus.

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## SCENE 12 – CLOSING PRAYER & SONG

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**NARRATOR 1:**

Before we finish,

let's say a simple prayer together.

*(KIDS stay standing or kneel around the manger. TEACHER helps them fold hands.)*

**NARRATOR 1 (prayer):**

Dear God,

thank You for Jesus,

born in Bethlehem on that holy night.

Thank You for the angels who shared the good news,

and for the shepherds who ran to see Him.

Help us be like those shepherds—

quick to listen,

quick to go,

and quick to share Your love.

In Jesus' name we pray,

amen.

*(KIDS can softly say "amen" with the narrator.)*

**NARRATOR 2:**

Now, we invite you to sing with us

as our shepherds and angels stay right here by the manger.

**SONG OPTIONS (choose one):**

- “Away in a Manger”
- “Silent Night”
- “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (fun and upbeat)
- “Joy to the World” (short version)

**ACTION – During the Song**

- SHEPHERDS sway gently.
- ANGELS (if brought back onstage) stand behind them with hands folded.
- Mary “rocks” the baby gently.
- Joseph stands protectively nearby.

## SCENE 13 – FINAL BLESSING & BOW

**NARRATOR 1:**

Thank you for joining us for **The Shepherds’ Sleepover**.

**NARRATOR 2:**

We hope you remember that

the same Jesus the shepherds met in the stable

is the Jesus who loves you

right now.

*(TEACHER cues kids.)*

**KIDS (all together, with teacher prompting):**

Merry Christmas!

God loves you!

*(Children wave joyfully at the audience. TEACHERS help them do a small group bow—just a gentle lean forward.)*

Lights fade to a warm glow, then slowly down as music plays

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**[END OF SKIT]**

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