a script from

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The Symbols of Christmas Parade

TO
REMOVE
WATERMARK
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The Symbols of Christmas Parade

A No-Stress Preschool Christmas Program About the Meaning Behind the Decorations

PURCHASE

The Symbols of Christmas Parade is a 15-minute, movement-based Christmas object lesson designed for preschoolers (ages 3–6). Instead of memorized lines and complicated blocking, little ones simply walk in a "parade" holding familiar Christmas symbols—star, candy cane, candle, bell, gift, and more—while a narrator explains each one in simple, Christ-centered language.

SCRIPT

It's short, visual, adorable, and deeply meaningful for both kids and adults.

TO

Perfect For

REMOVE

- Churches with limited rehearsal time
- Preschools and Sunday School programs
- Family services where little attention spans are a f**actor**
- Mixed-age ministries (older kids can help!)

Key Features

WATERMARK

- No Memorization Needed
  Preschoolers only carry props and stand with helpers. A single narrator (adult or older child) carries the whole story.
- Flexible Cast Size (5–20+ kids)
  Use as many or as few symbols as you like. Double up roles if you have lots of children (two stars, three bells, etc.).
- Movement-Based & Engaging
  Kids get to walk, hold, and show their symbols instead of standing still for long periods.
- Simple, Repeatable Phrases
  Each symbol includes a short, call-and-response line such as:
  "Jesus is God's gift of love."
  Making it easy for preschoolers to join in and for the congregation to participate.
- Built-In Gospel Focus

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- **Every symbol points clearly back to Jesus:**
    - Star – Follow Jesus
    - Candy Cane – Jesus our Shepherd
    - Candle – Jesus the Light of the World
    - Bell – Sharing the Good News
    - Gift – God's gift of Jesus
    - Wreath – God's never-ending love
    - Tree – New life in Christ
    - Angel – Good news of great joy
    - Heart – God's love for each child
    - Manger – Jesus came close
    - (Optional) Cross – Jesus' big love shown at the cross
- **Music-Friendly Structure**
  Short carols or choruses can be added between symbols for:
    - Costume/prop transitions
    - Involving the congregation
    - Giving shy children a breather

What You Need

- **Simple props:**
    - Star on a stick
    - Cardboard or plush candy cane
    - Flameless candle or paper candle
    - Jingle bell(s)
    - Wrapped gift box
    - Wreath (paper or greenery)
    - Small tree or tree picture
    - Angel halo/wings
    - Paper heart
    - Toy manger/baby doll
    - (Optional) Simple cross
- **1–2 Narrators/Helpers:**
    - Narrator (adult or responsible older child)
    - Helper(s) to guide preschoolers where to stand and when to walk

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Why Leaders Love It

- Ultra low stress: One or two short walk-throughs is usually enough.
- Zero-pressure for kids: No one has to remember lines or stand alone.
- Teaches truth clearly: Every familiar decoration points back to Jesus.
- Adorable & moving: Parents get the cute-factor; the congregation gets a meaningful reminder of the gospel.

If your church or preschool wants a simple, joyful, and Christ-centered way to involve little ones in your Christmas service, *The Symbols of Christmas Parade* is a ready-to-use solution that turns everyday decorations into a beautiful lesson about Jesus.

The Symbols of Christmas Parade

(Cast: 5–20 preschoolers + 1–2 Narrators / Helpers)

CAST & ROLES (Flexible)

- **NARRATOR** (adult or older child – main speaker)
- **HELPER 1** (5th grader or teen; helps kids stand in right place, holds cue cards if needed)
- **HELPER 2** (optional – can lead songs or motions)

Preschoolers as:

- **STAR CHILD** – carries a big star
- **CANDY CANE CHILD** – holds a candy cane prop
- **CANDLE CHILD** – holds a (fake) candle / flameless candle
- **BELL CHILD** – holds a bell or wears jingle bells
- **GIFT CHILD** – holds a wrapped gift box
- **WREATH CHILD** – holds or wears a paper wreath
- **TREE CHILD** – holds a small tree or wears a tree picture
- **ANGEL CHILD** – simple halo or wings
- **HEART CHILD** – holds a big red paper heart
- **MANGER CHILD** – holds a small manger / baby doll
- **CROSS CHILD** – holds a simple wooden / cardboard cross (optional, very simple explanation)

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You do **not** need every single symbol. Choose the ones that fit your group. More kids? Double up the same symbol (two star kids, two bells, etc.).

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SETTING

A simple stage or the front of the church. Chairs/risers at the back for kids to sit until it's their turn.

SCRIPT

- Musician ready to play short bits of familiar carols between symbols (optional).
- Each child begins **offstage or seated**, holding their symbol.
- As their symbol is announced, the child **parades** slowly to the front, stands beside the NARRATOR, and then turns to face the audience.

TO

SCRIPT

Opening – "Welcome to the Parade"

REMOVE

(Lights up. **NARRATOR** stands center stage. **HELPER 1** stands off to the side near children.)

NARRATOR

(cheerful, warm)

WATERMARK

Welcome, everyone, to our **Symbols of Christmas Parade**!

Tonight, our preschool friends are going to show us some things we see at Christmas time—

and we'll learn what each one can remind us about **Jesus**.

Children, can you all wave "hello" to everyone?

AT

(ALL CHILDREN wave from their seats. Audience can wave back.)

Some of our little ones may be shy, and that's okay.

They don't have to say any big lines.

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They just get to **carry something special** and stand proudly so we can all see.

When I say your symbol's name, you'll hear me call,

“Come to the front!” and you can walk nicely with your helper.

Are you ready for the parade?

(Encourage kids to shout “YES!”)

NARRATOR

Let’s begin… with the **star**.

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Symbol 1 – The Star

NARRATOR

Our first symbol is… the **Star of Christmas**.

(**HELPER 1** gently guides **STAR CHILD** to walk slowly to the front, holding the star up high. Little music jingle if desired.)

NARRATOR

(to the Star Child)

Can you hold your star up **big and tall** so we can all see it?

(Wait for child to hold it up. If needed, helper lifts their hand.)

Everyone, let’s say together:

(gesture to audience and kids)

“**Shine, star, shine!**”

(ALL CHILDREN and audience repeat: “Shine, star, shine!”)

NARRATOR

The star reminds us that God put a **special star** in the sky when Jesus was born.

Wise men saw the star and followed it so they could find **Jesus**.

The star says,

(repeatable phrase, with motions)

"**Follow Jesus. He will show you the way.**"

Let's all say that together:

(Lead slowly so preschoolers can echo.)

"Follow Jesus…"

(ALL repeat)

"He will show you the way."

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

(to Star Child)

Thank you for showing us the star.

(Star Child stays at the front, off to one side, or moves to a marked spot.)

Optional short song cue:

Play or sing **"We Three Kings" (first lines)** or a brief instrumental as transition.

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Symbol 2 – The Candy Cane

NARRATOR

Our next symbol is sweet and stripey…

It's the **Candy Cane**!

(HELPER brings **CANDY CANE CHILD** to the front, holding a big candy cane prop.)

NARRATOR

We see candy canes in stores, on trees, and in our stockings.

But candy canes can also **teach us** about Jesus.

Look at the **shape**.

(turns cane upside-down like a "J")

When we turn it this way, it looks like the letter **J**—

Everyone say, “J for Jesus!”

(ALL: “J for Jesus!”)

NARRATOR

When we turn it the other way, it looks like a **shepherd’s staff**.

Shepherds used their staffs to gently pull sheep close and keep them safe.

Jesus is our **Good Shepherd**.

He loves us and takes care of us.

Let’s say this together:

(phrase with actions)

“**Jesus, my Shepherd, I follow You.**”

Say it slowly:

“Jesus, my Shepherd…”

(ALL repeat)

“I follow You.”

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

(to Candy Cane Child)

Thank you for our candy cane reminder.

(CANDY CANE CHILD stands in line near STAR CHILD.)

Optional short song cue:

Sing one verse of **“The Friendly Beasts”** or just a short refrain of a Christmas song.

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Symbol 3 – The Candle

NARRATOR

Now, let's see a little **light**.

We have the **Candle of Christmas**.

(HELPER brings **CANDLE CHILD** with a flameless candle or paper candle.)

NARRATOR

At Christmas, we light candles.

Candles are small, but they can make a **dark room bright**.

Jesus said, "I am the **Light of the World**."

Everyone say: "Light of the World!"

(ALL: "Light of the World!")

NARRATOR

When we see a candle, we remember that **Jesus brings light** into our hearts.

He helps us when we are scared or sad.

Let's say this together with our hands on our hearts:

"**Jesus, You are my light.**"

Say it slowly:

"Jesus…"

(ALL repeat)

"You are my light."

(ALL repeat)

(Encourage kids to hold their "light" up high for a moment.)

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NARRATOR

(to Candle Child)

Thank you for bringing your light today.

(CANDLE CHILD goes to stand near the others.)

Optional: short refrain of **"This Little Light of Mine"**.

Symbol 4 – The Bell

NARRATOR

Now it's time for a joyful sound—

Here comes the **Christmas Bell**!

(HELPER brings **BELL CHILD**, who can gently ring the bell or jingle bells.)

NARRATOR

Bells ring at Christmas to say,

"**Good news! Jesus is born!**"

Can you ring your bell **one time**?

(Bell Child rings once. Encourage audience "ooh.")

Now everyone, with soft inside voices, say:

"Ding-dong, Jesus is born!"

(ALL: "Ding-dong, Jesus is born!")

NARRATOR

The bell reminds us to **tell others** the good news.

Let's say:

"**I can share the good news.**"

"**I can share…**"

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(ALL repeat)

"**the good news.**"

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

(to Bell Child)

Thank you for your beautiful bell.

(BELL CHILD joins the growing "parade line.")

Optional music: pianist or guitarist plays a few bars of **"Joy to the World"** or kids sing the first line.

Symbol 5 – The Gift

NARRATOR

Next, something we all get excited about…

A **Gift**!

(HELPER brings **GIFT CHILD** with a wrapped box.)

NARRATOR

At Christmas, we give gifts to people we love.

But the **greatest gift** of all was not in a shiny box.

The greatest gift was a **baby named Jesus**.

God loved the world so much that He **gave** us His Son.

Everyone, wrap your arms around yourself in a big pretend hug.

Now say:

"**Jesus is God's gift of love.**"

"Jesus is…"

(ALL repeat)

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“God’s gift of love.”

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

Every time we see a present, we can remember:

“**God loves me and gave me Jesus.**”

(to Gift Child)

Thank you for your special reminder.

(GIFT CHILD stands with others.)

Optional music: Sing the chorus of **“Away in a Manger”** or another gentle carol.

Symbol 6 – The Wreath

NARRATOR

Our next symbol is round and green…

It’s the **Christmas Wreath**!

(HELPER brings **WREATH CHILD** holding a wreath or simple paper circle with leaves.)

NARRATOR

A wreath is a **circle**—it goes **round and round and never stops**.

It doesn’t have a beginning or an end.

That circle can remind us that **God’s love never stops**.

It goes on **forever**.

Everyone, make a big circle in the air with your hands.

Now say:

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"**God's love never ends.**"

"God's love…"

(ALL repeat)

"never ends."

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

(to Wreath Child)

Thank you for your beautiful wreath.

(WREATH CHILD joins the parade line.)

Optional: soft music under, or very short phrase of **"O Come, Let Us Adore Him."**

Symbol 7 – The Christmas Tree

NARRATOR

Now we'll see something that might be in your house right now…

The **Christmas Tree**!

(HELPER brings **TREE CHILD**, holding a small tree decoration or wearing a tree picture.)

NARRATOR

Christmas trees are **evergreen**—they stay green all year long.

That reminds us of the **new life** Jesus gives us.

We decorate our trees with lights and ornaments because we are **celebrating**.

Everyone, hold your hands up like a tall tree.

(Children raise their arms.)

Now wiggle your fingers like lights.

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NARRATOR

Let's say:

"**Thank You, Jesus, for new life.**"

"Thank You, Jesus…"

(ALL repeat)

"for new life."

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

(to Tree Child)

Thank you for sharing your Christmas tree with us.

(TREE CHILD joins the others.)

Optional song: One verse or chorus of **"O Christmas Tree"** (keeping it short), or a different carol if you prefer.

Symbol 8 – The Angel

NARRATOR

Now we welcome a very special messenger…

the **Angel of Christmas**.

(HELPER brings **ANGEL CHILD** wearing simple wings or a halo. Child can stand with hands folded.)

NARRATOR

Angels are God's helpers.

On the first Christmas, an angel said to the shepherds:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news of great joy**.

Today a **Savior** has been born to you."

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Everyone, let's put one hand on our heart and one hand up high, like we're sharing good news.

Now say:

"**Good news! Jesus is born!**"

"Good news!"

(ALL repeat)

"Jesus is born!"

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

The angel reminds us that the Christmas story is **good news for everyone**.

(to Angel Child)

Thank you for bringing God's message.

(ANGEL CHILD joins the line.)

Optional: short refrain of **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** or just "Gloria…" once.

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Symbol 9 – The Heart

NARRATOR

Now we'll see something very simple…

a **Heart**.

(HELPER brings **HEART CHILD** holding a big red heart.)

NARRATOR

The heart reminds us of **love**.

Christmas is all about **God's love** coming close to us in Jesus.

God doesn't just love the world in general—

He loves **you**.

He knows your name.

He made you.

He is always with you.

Everyone, put your hand on your heart.

Now say:

"**Jesus, thank You for loving me.**"

"Jesus, thank You…"

(ALL repeat)

"for loving me."

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

(to Heart Child)

Thank you for reminding us of God's love.

(HEART CHILD stands with the others.)

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Symbol 10 – The Manger

NARRATOR

We're almost at the end of our parade.

Now we come to the place where it all happened…

the **Manger**.

(HELPER brings **MANGER CHILD**, carefully holding a small manger or baby doll wrapped like baby Jesus.)

NARRATOR

On the first Christmas night, there was **no room at the inn**.

So Mary and Joseph stayed where the animals slept.

Baby Jesus was born and laid in a **manger—**

a little feeding box for animals.

It was not fancy.

It was not a palace.

But it was **full of God's love**.

Everyone, kneel (or bow heads) just a little, to show respect.

(Those who can kneel may; others just bow heads.)

Let's say softly:

"**Happy Birthday, Jesus.**"

"Happy Birthday…"

(ALL repeat)

"Jesus."

(ALL repeat)

NARRATOR

The manger reminds us that **Jesus came close—**

to poor people, to busy people, to everyday people,

to **all of us**.

(to Manger Child)

Thank you for bringing us to the manger.

(MANGER CHILD takes a special place front and center, with other kids forming a gentle half-circle around.)

Optional: Sing one verse of **"Away in a Manger"** with the congregation.

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The Cross (Gently & Briefly)

(Use only if appropriate for your preschool group; keep language very simple and gentle.)

NARRATOR

We have one more symbol that's very important…

It's the **Cross**.

(HELPER brings **CROSS CHILD** holding a simple wooden or cardboard cross.)

NARRATOR

The baby in the manger did not stay a baby.

Jesus grew up.

He taught people, healed people, and loved everyone.

One day, Jesus died on a **cross**

to take away our sins—

all the wrong things we do—

because He loves us.

But the story did not end there.

Jesus came back to life!

Everyone, spread your arms wide like a cross.

Now say:

"**Thank You, Jesus, for loving me so much.**"

"Thank You, Jesus…"

(ALL repeat)

"for loving me so much."

(ALL repeat)

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NARRATOR

(to Cross Child)

Thank you for reminding us of how big Jesus' love is.

(CROSS CHILD joins the group.)

Final Parade & Review of Symbols

NARRATOR

Look at all of our Christmas symbols!

Let's say them together:

(Points to each group of kids as they raise their symbol.)

- The **Star** – reminds us to **follow Jesus**.
- The **Candy Cane** – reminds us **Jesus is our Shepherd**.
- The **Candle –** reminds us **Jesus is the Light of the World**.
- The **Bell** – reminds us to **share the good news**.
- The **Gift** – reminds us **Jesus is God's gift of love**.
- The **Wreath** – reminds us **God's love never ends**.
- The **Tree** – reminds us **Jesus gives us new life**.
- The **Angel** – reminds us it's **good news of great joy**.
- The **Heart** – reminds us **God loves each one of us**.
- The **Manger** – reminds us **Jesus came close**.
- The **Cross** (if used) – reminds us **Jesus died and rose again for us**.

Now, children, can you all take **one small step forward** and face the people?

(HELPER adjusts kids so they're in a neat line or semicircle.)

NARRATOR

(to kids)

On the count of three, we're going to say,

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“**Merry Christmas! Jesus loves you!**”

Ready?

1… 2… 3…

(ALL CHILDREN, as loud as they can)

“**Merry Christmas! Jesus loves you!**”

(Big applause from audience.)

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Closing Prayer & Song

NARRATOR

Let’s bow our heads for a very short prayer.

(Demonstrates; kids follow as they are able.)

NARRATOR

Dear God,

thank You for Christmas.

Thank You for Jesus—

Your special gift of love.

Help us remember,

every time we see a Christmas symbol,

that You love us

and are always with us.

In Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen.

(Amen.)

NARRATOR

Now, let's sing together one more song to celebrate Jesus' birth.

(Lead congregation and children in a simple carol such as **"Silent Night," "Joy to the World,"** or **"Away in a Manger."**)

As the song ends, the **HELPER** gently leads children in a slow **"exit parade"** down the aisle or offstage, still holding their symbols for everyone to see.

(Lights fade as music finishes.)

[END OF SKIT – "THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS PARADE"]

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