

What do You Want for Christmas?

- *Large scripture passages are represented by Biblical reference to avoid copyright issues. Please include scripture in the translation of your choice.*
- *This document can be saved as text, or copied and pasted into a word document. Feel free to make changes necessary for your needs.*
- *Opportunities for additional songs have been suggested.*
- *The “stage group” consists of children dressed in costume who come on stage during the appropriate Bible passages.*

Introduction:

Leader: *Romans 6:23*

Listen as the children remind us that what we need, this Christmas and always, is found in the Baby Jesus.

For the following repeating event the children should be divided into two groups with both groups singing the spiritual verse.

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: Mom asks me every day!

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: It’s not hard to say:

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: GIVE ME JESUS

1. In the morning when I rise / In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise / Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus

You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

Finger play:

Some presents beep “beep, beep, beep”

Some presents speed “rrrrr, rrrrr, rrrrr”

Some presents cry “ma-ma, ma-ma, ma-ma”

Some presents build “snap, snap, snap”

Some presents wail (siren sound)

Baby Jesus doesn’t beep, rrrr, or cry

Baby Jesus loves

Give me Jesus!

action: press a horn while beeping

action: drive while making car sound

action: rub eyes while crying ma-ma

action: snap blocks together

action: circle hands on head (siren light)

action: repeat for sounds

action: hug

Song:

Mary

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: Mom asks me every day!

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: It's not hard to say:

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: GIVE ME JESUS

2. And when I am afraid / Oh, when I am afraid
And when I am afraid / Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus

You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

Narrator: *Luke 1: 26-38*

Stage group: Mary sweeping, drops broom and kneels for angel, raises hands for question, then bows head for last line

Leader: There must have been many things on Mary's list. She was a young girl preparing for married life. Perhaps she spent her days sewing things for her future home. A baby, before marriage, was not what Mary would have been expecting. Indeed, the sight of an Angel as well as the news of the baby must have caused her heart to swell with fear. The news of this pregnancy would likely mean she would be abandoned by her future husband and possibly her family.

Still, Mary received this news with joy. She was chosen to be the mother of the Son of God. She pushed aside her fears and with the help of the Spirit said: "give me Jesus."

Finger play:

Mary was working

The angel said "baby Jesus"

Mary was afraid

The angel said "baby Jesus"

Mary asked How?

The angel said "baby Jesus"

Mary said: "give me Jesus"

action: sweeping with broom

action: rocking baby in arms

action: hands up in fear

action: rocking baby in arms

action: hands up, shoulder shrug

action: rocking baby in arms

action: rocking baby in arms

Leader: Luke 1: 46-55.

Congregation responsive reading:

Leader: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Congregation: for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

Leader: From now on all generations will call me blessed,

Congregation: for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

Leader: His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Congregation: He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

Leader: He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

Congregation: He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

Leader: He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

Congregation: to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.

Joseph

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: Mom asks me every day!

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: It's not hard to say:

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: GIVE ME JESUS

3. And when I am alone / Oh, when I am alone
And when I am alone / Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus

You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

Narrator: *Matthew 1: 18-21*

Stage group: Joseph sitting on bed, shaking head no. Joseph lies down to sleep. Angel appears

Leader: When Joseph heard the news about Mary he must have felt very alone. His friends most likely advised him to publically disgrace Mary, but Joseph planned to leave her quietly. A lonely Joseph had his mind changed by the angel. Joseph was asked to help raise Jesus and to accept Him into a family. Jesus' coming reminds us that we are a part of the family of God. We are never alone, we have each other and we have a loving God. Through the waters of baptism, God welcomes us into this family as we say: "give me Jesus."

Finger play:

Joseph was a builder	action: hands on hips
He used many tools	action: hammers and saws
He could build a chest	action: hammering low
He could build a table	action: sawing at waist height
He could build a house	action: hammering high
He could build a family	action: hands spread wide
He said: "give me Jesus"	action: rocking baby Jesus

Song:

Journey

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?
Group two: Mom asks me every day!
Group one: What do you want for Christmas?
Group two: It's not hard to say:
Group one: What do you want for Christmas?
Group two: GIVE ME JESUS

4. In the evening when I sleep / In the evening when I sleep
In the evening when I sleep/ Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

Narrator: *Luke 2: 1-5*

Stage group: Governor making decree, soldier reading decree, Mary and Joseph traveling

Leader: Due to the impending birth, Mary and Joseph crept along the road to Bethlehem at an agonizingly slow pace. Others, headed to the same census, passed them; their passing only serving to remind Joseph there would be no room for them once they arrived.

Some days our lives feel like long journeys; illness, joblessness, and grief can cause discouragement and depression. Mary and Joseph had to trust that God would provide what was needed for the birth of Jesus. Our trust is misplaced if we feel confident that hard work, money, connections, or material possessions will save us from the long journey. Whether our path is easy or hard our desire must be – give me Jesus.

Finger play:

Mary went up the hill	action: right hand going up hill
Joseph went up the hill	action: left hand going up hill
Mary went down the hill	action: right hand going down hill
Joseph went down the hill	action: left hand going down hill
Mary went around the corner	action: right hand turning
Joseph went around the corner	action: left hand turning
Mary looked both ways	action: look both ways
Joseph looked both ways	action: look both ways
Mary was tired	action: head rest on hands
Joseph was tired	action: head rest on hands
They said: "give me Jesus"	action: rocking baby Jesus

Birth

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: Mom asks me every day!

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: It's not hard to say:

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: GIVE ME JESUS

5. And when I feel His joy/ And when I feel His joy
And when I feel His joy/ Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

Narrator: *Luke 2:6-7*

Stage group: Mary, Joseph and baby in manger

Leader: Over the ages, women have given birth in many strange places. Each of us has heard stories of births that took place in cars or even elevators on the way to the delivery room. Even for Mary and Joseph, tired from the long trip and eager to lay down their

heads for rest, a barn and a pile of hay as the delivery room for the Son of God must have seemed a mystery. Nevertheless, they said: “give me Jesus” and welcomed this baby into the world, wrapping him in cloths and borrowing a manger, from the animals, for his resting place.

Our hearts are not a welcome place for the baby Jesus. Our hearts are full of sin, desires, and egos. Yet, Jesus is glad to reside there and to call us His own. Jesus willingly came to earth as a baby to live a perfect life, take our sins to the cross and rise again in victory. He does not wait for us to say: “give me Jesus.” He comes to us with open arms.

Finger play:

Mary and Joseph in a barn	action: use hands to make roof over head
Keeping Jesus safe and warm	action: hug self and rock gently
Mary and Joseph say a prayer	action: hands folded
They feel God is everywhere	action: arms spread wide
Mary and Joseph kiss the babe	action: throw a kiss
They know Jesus came to save	action: make a cross with fingers
God gave us Jesus	

Song:

Shepherds

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: Mom asks me every day!

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: It's not hard to say:

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: GIVE ME JESUS

6. And when I spread His love/ And when I spread His love
And when I spread His love/ Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

Narrator: *Luke 2: 8-18*

Stage group: Shepherds with sheep, shepherds kneel when angel appears, shepherds stand when group of angels appear.

Leader: The shepherds did not know about Mary and Joseph or the birth of the Messiah. They were going about their work and living their lives as best they knew how. We do not know about their struggles or needs, but we do know about the event that must have changed their lives. The news brought by the angels changed their perspective and directed their faith toward a newborn Savior. In an instant, lives were changed as simple shepherds knelt to worship their new King.

Finger play:

Shepherds care for sheep	action: hand over eyes and turn head to watch sheep
Shepherds do not sleep	action: rub eyes
They can't believe their eyes	action: look of surprise on face
The angel shares a surprise	action: angel wings
The angels fill the skies	action: hands sweeping across the sky
Everyone sings: "give me Jesus"	

Joy

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: Mom asks me every day!

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: It's not hard to say:

Group one: What do you want for Christmas?

Group two: GIVE ME JESUS

7. In the morning when I rise / In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise / Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus

You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

Leader: Upon hearing the news the shepherds left behind their work to find their King. Afterwards they could not stop themselves from sharing the word of Jesus' birth; and all were amazed.

We too, have had our lives changed by the news of Jesus. His love fills our hearts with joy and the desire to share that joy with others. There are many people in the world with the same cry in their hearts: "give me Jesus."

Finger play:

There are many children in the world	action: hold up hands with fingers spread
Some children are little	action: scrunch down small
Some children are big	action: spread out big
Some children are fast	action: run in place
Some children sing	action: direct music
All children play	action: spread arms wide
All children say	action: spread arms wide
Give me Jesus	

Leader: Our prayer for you is that you are reminded of the love of a Heavenly Father willing to send His Son to earth. That you would be reminded of the Salvation earned for you by that precious baby. And that you would be reminded of the faith given to you by the Spirit. Go with joy, and a willingness to share that joy. What do you want for Christmas? May your list have one item: give me Jesus.

Benediction: Philippians 4: 6-7 (NIV)

Song:

In the Morning When I rise

(A Spiritual with adapted verses)

1. In the morning when I rise / In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise / Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

2. And when I am alone / Oh, when I am alone
And when I am alone / Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus

3. And when I am afraid/ oh, when I am afraid
And when I am afraid/Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus (kdm)

4. In the evening when I sleep / In the evening when I sleep
In the evening when I sleep/ Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus (kdm)

5. And when I feel His joy/ And when I feel His joy
And when I feel His joy/ Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus (kdm)

6. And when I spread His love/ And when I spread His love
And when I spread His love/ Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus (kdm)

7. In the morning when I rise / In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise / Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus / Give me Jesus
You can have all this world / But give me Jesus