

THE ABC NATIVITY

by Teisha L.C. Strelow



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The ABC Nativity

An artistic children's program for Christmas

by Teisha L. C. Strelow

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SPEAKERS 1-7:

Older children who read Scripture prophecies.

PAGE TURNERS 1 and 2:

Children who assist with the handling of the book.

SPEAKERS 8-33:

Young children who read a page of the book —
one-sentence lines.

SPEAKERS 34-42:

Older children who read the Christmas story from Luke.

SPEAKERS 43-49:

Children who read short rhymes about the Nativity.

Optional Non-Speaking Parts:

MARY

JOSEPH

ANGELS

SHEPHERDS

WISE MEN

PRODUCTION NOTES

The actual running time of this Christmas program may vary, due to the length of hymns, the pastor's message, and the temperaments of young speakers.

Props

- Large easel
- The ABCs of Christmas book (see directions)
- Three gifts for the wise men to place in front of the manger
- A Nativity set (Options 2 and 3 — see page 6)
- A doll for baby Jesus and a manger (Option 1)

Costumes

(For Option 1, explained on page 6) The children in the Nativity wear traditional biblical attire. All others wear their own clothes.

Music

There are places to insert music from your hymnal to make this Christmas program uniquely yours.

Making the book

You will need:

- 15 sheets of white poster board
- Art supplies
- 5 hinged metal rings
- Hole punch
- Volunteers

1. Punch five holes down the long left edge of the poster board. Align the holes as you go.

2. The first poster board is not numbered. The remaining are numbered as follows: With the holes to the left, put a 1 (the odd numbers) in the bottom right corner. Turn the page, the holes are on the right. Put a 2 (the even numbers) in the bottom left corner. Repeat for 3 and 4 through 27 and 28. (Z has two pages to illustrate. “So, don’t zip through this Christmas season,” on page 27, and “without remembering his birth,” written on page 28.)
3. The unnumbered poster board is for the cover. With the holes to the left, write, “The ABCs of Christmas” on the poster board. Write “Illustrators” and list them on the other side.
4. Write a letter of the alphabet centered at the top of each page. Write the line for each letter at the bottom of its page. (See SPEAKERS 8-33.)
5. Illustrating. The fun part! Have different families, groups, or organizations within your congregation illustrate the pages. Let them be creative. Just tell them to decorate the poster board, both sides, using the lines of text at the bottom as a guide. Let them know that the artwork must be flat to fit in a book. Give them plenty of time and a deadline. This gets the entire congregation involved and interested in the Christmas program early. One word of advice: The deadline should be a couple of weeks before the program. That way if anyone forgets, you’ll have time to remind them or do it yourself.
6. Once you have all the pages returned, bind them with the hinged metal rings. They can be found at most office supply stores or discount stores.

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PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

INVOCATION and OPENING PRAYER

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PASTOR: In the name of the Father, who gave us his Son,
and of the Son, whose birth we celebrate, and of the
Holy Spirit, who gives us faith,

CONGREGATION: Amen.

PASTOR: We come together to celebrate the Nativity.

CONGREGATION: We have come together to celebrate God's
gift to the world.

PASTOR: Father, we have come together to celebrate the
birth of your Son, Jesus.

CONGREGATION: Be with us, O God.

PASTOR: Forgive us of our sins and open our hearts.

CONGREGATION: Help us to celebrate your Son's Nativity.

PASTOR: In Jesus' name we pray,

CONGREGATION: Amen.

HYMN of your choice

RESPONSIVE READING

PASTOR: I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise
your name forever and ever.

CONGREGATION: Every day I will praise you and extol your
name for ever and ever.

PASTOR: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his
greatness no one can fathom.

CONGREGATION: One generation will commend your
works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.

PASTOR: They will speak of the glorious splendor of your
majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

CONGREGATION: They will tell of the power of your
awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds.

PASTOR: They will celebrate your abundant goodness and
joyfully sing of your righteousness (*Psalm 145: 1-7*).

CONGREGATION: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,

1 and will be forever.

2

3 PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Optional)

4 HYMN of your choice

5

6 **THE SCRIPTURE PROPHECIES**

7 *(SPEAKERS 1-7 assemble around the podium.)*

8 **SPEAKER 1: The promises are given. Micah 5:2-5. But you,**
 9 **Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the**
 10 **clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will**
 11 **be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from**
 12 **ancient times.**

13 **SPEAKER 2: Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the**
 14 **time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest**
 15 **of his brothers return to join the Israelites.**

16 **SPEAKER 3: He will stand and shepherd his flock in the**
 17 **strength of the ... Lord his God. And they will live**
 18 **securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of**
 19 **the earth. And he will be their peace.**

20 **SPEAKER 4: Isaiah 7:14. Therefore the Lord himself will give**
 21 **you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give**
 22 **birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.**

23 **SPEAKER 5: Isaiah 9:6-7. For to us a child is born, to us a son**
 24 **is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.**
 25 **And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**
 26 **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

27 **SPEAKER 6: Of the increase of his government and peace**
 28 **there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne**
 29 **and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it**
 30 **with justice and righteousness from that time on and**
 31 **forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish**
 32 **this.**

33 **SPEAKER 7: John 3:16-17. For God so loved the world that he**
 34 **gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him**
 35 **shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not**
 36 **send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but**
 37 **to save the world through him. (SPEAKERS 1-7 move to**
 38 **the rear of the stage.)**

1 **HYMN of your choice**

2

3

THE ABCS OF CHRISTMAS

4 *(SPEAKERS 8-33 are young children. They assemble On-stage*

5 *where they read their part[s] from the picture book.* PAGE*

6 *TURNERS 1 and 2 carry the book On-stage and place it on the*

7 *easel. They remain On-stage and turn the pages as needed.)*

8 **PAGE TURNER 1:** *(Reads front cover.)* **The ABCs of Christmas.**

9 **PAGE TURNER 2:** *(Opens book.)* **Illustrated by** *(List the names of*
10 *families or church organizations that helped make your book.)*

11 **SPEAKER 8:** **A. Angels told the wonderful news about our**
12 **Savior's birth.**

13 **SPEAKER 9:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **B. Baby Jesus was**
14 **born in Bethlehem.**

15 **SPEAKER 10:** **C. Christmas carolers sing songs of joy and**
16 **peace on earth.**

17 **SPEAKER 11:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **D. December**
18 **delights us with Christmas Day.**

19 **SPEAKER 12:** **E. Evergreen trees are decorated, reminding**
20 **every Christian of eternal life.**

21 **SPEAKER 13:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **F. Fire from the**
22 **fireplace cannot match the fire in our hearts.**

23 **SPEAKER 14:** **G. God gave a great gift to the world.**

24 **SPEAKER 15:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **H. Hearts are**
25 **happy and full of hope at this time of year.**

26 **SPEAKER 16:** **I. Instruments fill the air with music.**

27 **SPEAKER 17:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **J. Jesus, our Lord,**
28 **has brought joy to the world.**

29 **SPEAKER 18:** **K. The King of Kings has come at last.**

30 **SPEAKER 19:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **L. "Love one**
31 **another" is God's command.**

32 **SPEAKER 20:** **M. Mary, the mother of Jesus, laid him in a**
33 **manger.**

34 **SPEAKER 21:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **N. Naughty King**
35 **Herod searched for the baby King.**

36 **SPEAKER 22:** **O. Only God could keep his Son from danger.**

37

38 * See: "Making the Book," Page ii.

1 **SPEAKER 23:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **P. Precious baby,**
2 **sleep while the angels sing.**

3 **SPEAKER 24: Q.** “Quick,” the wise men said, “let’s follow the
4 **star.”**

5 **SPEAKER 25:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **R. Roaming the**
6 **land, they traveled quite far.**

7 **SPEAKER 26: S.** Songs of the season fill the air.

8 **SPEAKER 27:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **T. “Thanks be to**
9 **God!” is our cheer.**

10 **SPEAKER 28: U.** Understanding is our God, who provides us
11 **with love and care.**

12 **SPEAKER 29:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **V. Visit your**
13 **friends and family, spreading the news with good cheer.**

14 **SPEAKER 30: W.** We wish you a merry Christmas and a
15 **happy New Year.**

16 **SPEAKER 31:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **X. Please, don’t X**
17 **Christ out of Christmas.**

18 **SPEAKER 32: Y.** You are the reason Jesus came to earth.

19 **SPEAKER 33:** *(PAGE TURNERS turn page.)* **Z. So, don’t zip**
20 **through this Christmas season without remembering**
21 **his birth.** *(PAGE TURNERS 1 and 2 and SPEAKERS 8-33*
22 *move to the rear of the stage.)*

23
24 **HYMN of your choice**

25

26 **THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

27 *(SPEAKERS 34-42 assemble at the podium.)*

28 **SPEAKER 34: Luke 2:1-20.** In those days Caesar Augustus
29 **issued a decree that a census should be taken of the**
30 **entire Roman world. (This was the first census that**
31 **took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And**
32 **everyone went to his own town to register.**

33 **SPEAKER 35: So Joseph also went up from the town of**
34 **Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of**
35 **David ... He went there to register with Mary, who was**
36 **pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.**

37 **SPEAKER 36: While they were there, the time came for the**
38 **baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a**

1 son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a
2 manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

3 **SPEAKER 37:** And there were shepherds living out in the
4 fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.
5 An angel of the Lord appeared to them ... and they were
6 terrified.

7 **SPEAKER 38:** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.
8 I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the
9 people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been
10 born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to
11 you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in
12 a manger.”

13 **SPEAKER 39:** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly
14 host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
15 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men
16 on whom his favor rests.”

17 **SPEAKER 40:** When the angels had left them and gone into
18 heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to
19 Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which
20 the Lord has told us about.”

21 **SPEAKER 41:** So they hurried off and found Mary and
22 Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
23 When they had seen him, they spread the word
24 concerning what had been told them about this child,
25 and all who heard it were amazed at what the
26 shepherds said to them.

27 **SPEAKER 42:** But Mary treasured up all these things and
28 pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned,
29 glorifying and praising God for all the things they had
30 heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.
31 *(SPEAKERS 34-42 move to the rear of the stage.)*

32

33 **HYMN** of your choice

34

35

THE NATIVITY

36 **Option 1:** Children dressed as the characters come
37 down the center aisle and take places On-stage,
38 creating a tableau. An older child carries the manger



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by Teisha Strelow.

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