



Resource Centre

From our Churches

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SO YOU WANNA BE MARY?

A Christmas Pageant for all Sunday School Children

Big Picture

This Christmas play is in the format of a T.V. show (in the genre of "American Idol," "So you think you can Dance," etc). In this play contestants audition for a part in the Nativity Play. The running theme is everyone wants a part, and everyone (the judges discover) brings potential and possibility. In this Show no one is rejected, rather we discover that 'everyone has a part to play'. The overarching message and the undercurrent theme: in God's Play there is a part for everyone. This is seen clearly in the Nativity story....and is true for us today. The hope is that the Sunday School students will catch this vision...they have an important part to play 'in this play' and in God's never ending story.

Cast

Show Host (Adult)
Panel of Judges (Senior Youth)
Contestants (Sunday school Students)
Show Security (Sunday school teachers)
Audience (Congregation)

Basic Flow

Contestants arrive at the Show for auditions. Each group/individual gets their chance before the judges. Host sets up each audition. After the audition the judges respond. Commercials will be congregational songs. Mid-Show break will be a Sunday school Choir song. Show ends with an All Cast Celebration Number.

Scene Format

Each Scene includes a Scripture passage and short dialogue piece with the judges. Teachers are asked to create the class 'Audition' with their students. (Some pre-class work and brain storming for options will be necessary). Each audition scene should be about 3 minutes long.

Staging

Set of T.V. Show. Glitzy Nativity Scene with Show Logo.

Costumes

Traditional Nativity Wear with a bit of bling.

Pre-Play Scene

3-4 contestants in church foyer with sleeping bags/lawn chairs...camped out waiting for the Auditions to start.

Scene 1

All Cast. Contestants filing into Sanctuary. Excited, anxious for their audition. They are already in costume and have their 'contestant numbers' on. Some carry backpacks, water bottles, etc ... ready for the wait. Show Security (Sunday school teachers) escort them in to their place in the 'pews' and sit among them.

Scene 2

Host opens the Show. Welcomes the contestants. Introduces the Judges (3 Senior High Students). Explains the Show. Encourages audience to participate with enthusiasm.

Scene 3

Audition #1 'The Flock'.

K/Gr.1 Class.

Host intro: Focus on 'all creation, even sheep, part of the story'. Audition will consist of contestants demonstrating their 'sheep skills'.

Scripture Passage: Luke 1:8, Psalm 23

Script: Judges engage one or two sheep in discussion and make comments. (2-3 lines)

Scene 4

Audition #2 'Behind the Sceners'

Stage Hands/Make-up/Costume Designers

Gr. 2/3 Class

Host intro: Focus on importance of support people and talk about what they can offer - e.g. Structural integrity of Creche, wardrobe considerations, swaddling cloths, bales of hay. Audition will consist of contestants showing how eager they are to provide excellent back-up support to this significant event and how seriously they take their job of preparing thoroughly.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 3:3b

Script: Judges affirm their importance and thank them for taking their jobs so seriously.

Commercial Break

Congregational Hymn

Scene 5

Audition #3 'Minor-yet essential parts'

Gr. 4/5 Class.

This is a protest scene....with the contestants demanding an audition. They will be holding placards and bust through the Show Security. The Host will let them audition and at the end admits they were right....God does need everybody. The class can choose the parts they would like to audition for...might include: John the Baptist, Mary's parents, Elizabeth, Roman Soldiers, King Herod, Inn Keeper, etc. The Audition will consist of contestants selling to the judges how important the 'minor parts' were, the class can choose a spokesperson who will introduce the 'Minor-yet essential roles' and each person can illustrate the skill they have for the part.

Scripture Passage: Scripture references that highlight the parts being auditioned for.

Script: Group Spokesperson explaining their passion for their parts. Judges will ask them if they are content playing a 'minor role'.

Scene 6

Audition #4 'Joseph'

Sr. Youth Class

Host Intro: Focus on Joseph's need to be brave and able to handle much. Audition will consist of two Josephs debating who would be the better one. They will engage in 'manly one-up-manship'.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 1:19-21,24

Script: Judges will reflect upon the reality that it was not easy being Joseph.

Mid-Show Break

Song by Sunday School group

Scene 7

Audition #5 'Team Shepherd'

Gr. 6/7 Class

Host intro: Focus on the inclusion of this group and their response to 'the glory of the Lord' (terrified). The contestants will demonstrate their ability to work together, even when terrified.

Scripture Passage: Luke 2:8-10

Script: Judges question the Shepherds on how they plan to deal with their fear.

Scene 8

Audition #6 'Angel Band'

Gr. 8 Class

Host intro: Focus on how spectacular this scene was...music filled the skies....this was a Show Stopper! The Audition will consist of the contestants illustrating their ability to provide a Show Stopping Band Number. This could take the form of an 'air-band number', a song-dance routine, a Karaoke number, a band instrument number.

Scripture Passage: Luke 2:13-14

Script: Judges will marvel at how spectacular this part of the Story is....obviously something Big was 'going down'.

Scene 9

'Audition #7 'Magi'

Senior Youth Class (2-3)

Host intro: Focus on how this event attracted people from 'far and wide'. The Audition will consist of contestants demonstrating their skills of calculating and gift wrapping.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 2: 9-11

Script: Judges impressed by dedication and determination of Magi in getting themselves to Bethlehem.

Commercial Break

Congregational Hymn

Scene 10

Audition #8 'Mary'

Senior Youth Class (3)

Host Intro: Focus on Mary being ordinary...yet ready to be part of something extraordinary. Form of audition will have elements of a 'Beauty Pageant'...with the contestants responding to questions. Contestants will reflect upon how they think playing Mary will affect them. Each will recite a portion of Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-55).

Scripture Passage: Luke 1:46-55

Script: Judges pose the question to all three...'How do imagine playing this part will affect you?'

Closing Scene

Host will wrap up Show...thanking all Contestants for trying out and announcing that the judges have decided that "Everyone has a Part to Play."

All Cast Closing Number