

A CAPITAL C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

by Gail Gaymer Martin



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A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

A Christmas program for children

by Gail Gaymer Martin

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

Leader

An older child

Letter R Children*

including Speaker(s)** and Letter R Child***

Letter C Children

including Speaker(s), and Letter C Child

Letter T Children

including Speaker(s), and Letter T Child

Letter I Children

including Speaker(s) and Letter I Child

Letter S [Shepherds] Children

including Speaker(s) and Letter S [Shepherds] Child

Letter A Children

including Speaker(s) and Letter A Child

Letter M Children

including Speaker(s) and Letter M Child

Letter S [Savior] Children

including Speaker(s) and Letter S [Savior] Child

Letter H Children

including Speaker(s) and Letter H Child

*The Letter Children groups may be any size from two children to a large Sunday school class.

**The Speaker may be one child or up to four.

***The designated Letter Child carries the poster bearing that letter. Small casts may ask a Speaker to do this.

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Introduction

A *Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S* is a Christmas program for children in either a Sunday school or Christian school setting. Each letter in the word “Christmas” is designated to represent a key word in the Christmas story. Eventually, when these alphabet letters are rearranged, they spell “Christmas.” This is done as the children present a Christmas poem.

The script is written so that a few or many children may participate. Each speaking part is subdivided with each sentence numbered so that different children may be assigned one or more of the lines. Having fewer lines makes memorization easier for the children. If the parts are to be read, the children may carry them on a note card or, if only one child is speaking for each alphabet letter, the sentences may be placed on the back of the poster which the child carries and may be easily read. The Letter Children, referring to a class or other group of children, may deliver their lines before or after the speakers, if so desired. The Christmas Poem may be read by one child while other children display the capital letter posters, or each Letter Child may say his or her own line. The Leader may be a Sunday school teacher or the pastor.

The capital letters are designed on decorative posters which may be created as an Advent activity. The posters are described more fully in the next section.

Music selections are suggested. They may be altered to fit the needs or desires of the presenters. The music may be done by small groups or classes, a junior choir, or individual soloists. Some carols could be sung by the audience. Student instrumentalists may also be used to enhance the program and involve more children.

The children’s choral anthem “Run, Shepherds, Run!” by Sarah Siegler is included on page 7 (Or available on the Internet for a nominal fee at <http://www.sibeliusmusic.com/index.php?sm=home.score&scoreID=135289>). The song is simple enough for children of most ages to learn.

Advent Activity

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of Christmas. This Advent activity will prepare the children for the Christmas season as well as their performance of *A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S*.

Capital letters spelling “Christmas” are used as part of the program. Nine groups or classes will decorate large capital letter posters, each letter on its own piece of poster board. The letters may be decorated in various colors and designs using a variety of media such as sparkle paint, collage, attached items (such as straw), children’s drawings, or any other media. Banners may be created instead of posters if you prefer.

The letters needed in order of appearance, their meaning, and some possible suggestions for drawings follow:

- R: Root of Jesse — Tree stump, tree branch, star.
- C: Caesar Augustus — Scrolled document, Bethlehem, Roman figures.
- T: Traveler — Travelers with donkey.
- I: Innkeeper — Stable, animals, straw, inn, manger.
- S: Shepherds — Shepherds, shepherd’s crook, sheep, star.
- A: Angels — Angels, star, words such as “glory,” etc.
- M: Manger — Manger, Joseph, Mary and Jesus, stable, animals, straw.
- S: Savior — Baby Jesus with halo, manger, cross.
- H: Holy night — Silhouetted city of Bethlehem, stars, Nativity.

The Advent activity may include preparing the cover for the Christmas program to be distributed to those in attendance. Drawings made by the children in black and white may be cut to form a collage design that covers an 8 1/2-by-11-inch program or a 4 1/4-by-7-inch program.

CAROL: “O Come, Little Children”

(LEADER stands and faces audience while other CHILDREN respond from their seats.)

LEADER: *(Reading from Isaiah 9:6 and Isaiah 60:1)* For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Arise, shine, for your light has come,

ALL: And the glory of the Lord rises upon you. *(LEADER exits.)*

The Letter R

(The first group, the LETTER R CHILDREN, rises; LETTER R CHILD holds a large decorated poster with an R. The lines may be spoken by one or more CHILDREN by assigning numbered sentences.)

LETTER R CHILDREN: *(Together)* R stands for the Root of Jesse.

LETTER R SPEAKER(S): (1) In the Old Testament, Prophets foretold the birth of Jesus. (2) The prophet Isaiah wrote that out of the root of Jesse, a branch would grow. (3) This branch would rule the Gentiles and bring light to a darkened world. *(The LETTER R CHILDREN are seated.)*

The Letter C

(The second group, the LETTER C CHILDREN, rises; LETTER C CHILD holds the poster with the letter C.)

LETTER C CHILDREN: *(Together)* C stands for Caesar Augustus.

LETTER C SPEAKER(S): (1) In the Gospel of St. Luke, we are told there was a decree from Caesar Augustus that all people had to register for a tax. (2) Each family was to register in the city of their family’s origin. (3) Joseph

1 had to go to the city of David, which was Bethlehem.
 2 (4) It was also prophesied that the Messiah would be
 3 born in Bethlehem. (*The LETTER C CHILDREN are*
 4 *seated.*)

6 The Letter T

7 (*The third group, the LETTER T CHILDREN, rises;*
 8 *LETTER T CHILD holds the poster with the letter T.*)

9 **LETTER T CHILDREN:** (*Together*) **T** stands for Travelers.

10 **LETTER T SPEAKER(S):** (1) People from near and far
 11 traveled to Bethlehem. (2) The roads were crowded
 12 with people walking or riding donkeys. (3) Among them
 13 were Joseph and Mary. (4) Mary's baby would be born
 14 very soon, and the trip was long and tiring. (*The*
 15 *LETTER T CHILDREN are seated.*)

16 **CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"** (*Or Christmas song of*
 17 *your choosing*)

19 The Letter I

20 (*The fourth group, the LETTER I CHILDREN, rises;*
 21 *LETTER I CHILD holds the I poster.*)

22 **LETTER I CHILDREN:** (*Together*) **I** stands for Innkeeper.

23 **LETTER I SPEAKER(S):** (1) When Mary and Joseph arrived
 24 in Bethlehem, it was very crowded and they could not
 25 find a place to stay. (2) An innkeeper, who had no room
 26 left in his inn, told Joseph that they could rest in the
 27 stable. (3) In that humble place, Jesus was born. (4)
 28 Only the animals were there to see this wonderful
 29 miracle. (*The LETTER I CHILDREN are seated.*)

31 The Letter S [Shepherds]

32 (*The fifth group, the LETTER S [Shepherds] CHILDREN*
 33 *rises; LETTER S CHILD holds the S [Shepherds] poster.*)

34 **LETTER S [Shepherds] CHILDREN:** (*Together*) **S** stands for
 35 **Shepherds.**

LETTER S [Shepherds] SPEAKER(S): (1) On the hills
 outside Bethlehem, shepherds were watching their
 flocks of sheep. (2) The shepherds spent most evenings
 outside, so they were familiar with the night sky. (3) On
 this night, the shepherds knew that something unusual
 was happening. (4) They saw a brightness in the sky
 over Bethlehem which they had never seen before. *(The
 previous groups of CHILDREN rises and joins the song, or
 it may be sung by a junior choir or a selected group.)*

**CHORAL ANTHEM: "Run, Shepherds, Run!" by Sarah
 Siegler** *(See page 7)*

Verse 1

**Run, shepherds, run
 Run, shepherds, fast as you can.
 Run, shepherds, run
 Run, shepherds, to Bethlehem.**

**There in the manger
 You'll find the Savior.
 Run, shepherds, run
 Tell everyone Jesus is born.**

Verse 2

**Run, shepherds, run
 Run, shepherds, fast as you can.
 Run, shepherds, run
 Run, shepherds, to Bethlehem.**

**Sing with the angels,
 "Glory to God!"
 Run, shepherds, run,
 Tell everyone Jesus is born**

(All CHILDREN are seated.)

1 **The Letter A**

2 *(Group six, the LETTER A CHILDREN, rises; LETTER A*
 3 *CHILD holds the poster with the letter A.)*

4 **LETTER A CHILDREN: (Together) A stands for Angels.**

5 **LETTER A SPEAKER(S):** *(1) As the shepherds were looking*
 6 *into the sky, an angel appeared and told them that a*
 7 *Savior had been born in Bethlehem. (2) They would*
 8 *find him lying in a manger. (3) Suddenly, the sky was*
 9 *filled with angels singing praises to God. (The LETTER*
 10 *A CHILDREN are seated.)*

11 **The Letter M**

12 *(The seventh group, the LETTER M CHILDREN, rises;*
 13 *LETTER M CHILD holds the letter M poster.)*

14 **LETTER M CHILDREN: (Together) M stands for Manger.**

15 **LETTER M SPEAKER(S):** *(1) The shepherds hurried to*
 16 *Bethlehem and found the stable. (2) There, they found*
 17 *Mary and Joseph and, laying in the manger, the*
 18 *newborn baby Jesus, wrapped in pieces of cloth. (They*
 19 *may be joined by the preschool class to sing.)*

20 **CHILDREN'S CAROL: "Away in a Manger"** *(Traditional*
 21 *Carol)*

22 *(All CHILDREN are seated.)*

23 **The Letter S [Savior]**

24 *(The eighth group, the LETTER S [Savior] CHILDREN,*
 25 *rises; LETTER S CHILD holds the letter S [Savior] poster.)*

26 **LETTER S [Savior] CHILDREN: (Together) S stands for**
 27 **Savior.**

28 **LETTER S [Savior] SPEAKER(S):** *(1) The shepherds told*
 29 *Mary and Joseph all that had happened to them on the*
 30 *hillside outside Bethlehem. (2) They shared in wonder*
 31 *how the heavenly angels sang God's praises. (3) Joseph*
 32 *remembered the angel who had appeared to him and*

1 told him that Mary would give birth to God's Son, the
 2 Savior of the world. (*The LETTER S [Savior] CHILDREN*
 3 *are seated.*)
 4

5 The Letter H

6 (*The ninth and final group, the LETTER H CHILDREN,*
 7 *rises; LETTER H CHILD holds the H poster.*)

8 **LETTER H CHILDREN:** (*Together*) **H is for Holy night.**

9 **LETTER H SPEAKER(S):** (1) And so it was that God
 10 touched the earth in the form of a tiny child, born of a
 11 virgin in a lowly stable on that holy night many years
 12 ago. (2) This little baby would become the King of
 13 Kings and the Savior of the world, just as the prophets
 14 foretold. (*The LETTER H CHILDREN are seated.*)

15 **CAROL: "Silent Night"** (*Traditional, or Christmas song of your*
 16 *choosing*)

17 (*Following the song, the LETTER C CHILD rises with the*
 18 *poster, either reciting or having someone else read a line from*
 19 *the Christmas poem. Each LETTER CHILD rises in turn*
 20 *with his or her letter poster. When the poem is completed, the*
 21 *letters spelling "CHRISTMAS" will be in the correct order,*
 22 *spanning across the front of the sanctuary.*)
 23

24 The Christmas Poem

25 **LETTER C CHILD:** C — The Christ Child in the manger lay,

26 **LETTER H CHILD:** (*Stepping up beside C*) H — In swaddling
 27 clothes upon the Hay.

28 **LETTER R CHILD:** (*Stepping up beside H*) R — There, our
 29 Redeemer came to earth,

30 **LETTER I CHILD:** (*Stepping up beside R*) I — An Infant born
 31 of lowly birth.

32 **LETTER S CHILD:** (*Stepping up beside I*) S — The Shepherds
 33 heard the angels sing,

34 **LETTER T CHILD:** (*Stepping up beside S*) T — And Traveled
 35 to the newborn King,



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