

The shepherds go down to Bethlehem (*Preschoolers*)

The script is put on the screen for congregation to follow and join in.

The little children are dressed as angels or shepherds. Have one adult or teacher angel to guide the little angels and one adult or teacher shepherd to guide the little shepherds. They do the speaking parts.

This little drama for preschoolers can be done alone or inserted into a larger drama.

Narrator (Adult) On a hill near Bethlehem, some shepherds were looking after their sheep. Suddenly there was a dazzling bright light in the sky above them. They had to cover their eyes and they were so scared they started to shake.

Adult Shepherd: Shake, shake, shake, shake, (*encourage little ones to shake*)

Congregation: Shake shake shake shake

Narrator : An angel appeared and spoke to the shepherds.

Adult angel and little angels gather at front.

Adult Angel: Don't be afraid – I have some happy news for you.

Shepherd: It's OK. Stop shaking guys. It's just a bunch of angels and some of them are quite small.

Narrator: The angel told the shepherds that a special baby boy had been born in Bethlehem.

Congregation join in angels' song

(Little teapot tune) We are little angels and we sing,
Don't be scared – good news we bring
There's a special baby born today
In Bethlehem not far away.

Narrator: The shepherds went at once to go and find the baby.

The adult Shepherd leads the young shepherds (and maybe the little angels too) using the following "Bear hunt" sort of journey story. Congregation to say responses. This could be done walking around or just sitting with the kids pretending and using actions. Some little children will also join in the responses, but some will be too shy, so having the congregation say it too helps. Some parents could be used to join in the journey to encourage the children along.

Shepherd. We're going down to Bethlehem, we're not scared.

Cong We're not scared!

S. We're going to find a baby

Cong We're going to find a baby

S. Uh Oh, We've come to a hill. Can't go round it. Can't go under it, We'll have to climb over it.
Puff, Puff, puff, puff, (*climbing actions*)

Cong Puff, puff, puff, puff.

S Were going down the other side. Run, run, run, run. (*running actions*)

Cong: Run, run, run, run.

S. We're going down to Bethlehem, we're not scared.

Cong We're not scared

S. We're going to find a baby

Cong We're going to find a baby

S. Uh Oh We've come to a river. Can't go round it. Can't go under it. We'll have to go through it.
Splish splosh splish splosh (*big stepping actions*)

Cong: Splish splosh splish splosh

S. We're going down to Bethlehem, we're not scared.

Cong We're not scared

S. We're going to find a baby

Cong We're going to find a baby

S. Uh Oh . We've come to some mud. Can't go round it, can't go under it. We've got to go through it. Ickey stickey ickey stickey (*Slow stepping actions*)

Cong: Ickey, stickey, ickey, stickey,

S. We're going down to Bethlehem, we're not scared.

Cong We're not scared

S. We're going to find a baby

Cong We're going to find a baby

S. Uh Oh we've come to some long grass. Can't go round it, Can't go under it. We'll have to go through it. Swish, swish, swish, swish (*hand actions*)

Cong. Swish swish swish swish

S. We're creeping into Bethlehem. Tip Toe Tip Toe (*creeping action*)

Cong: Tip toe tip toe

S. Don't wake the baby Shh Shh Shh Shh

Cong: Shh Shh Shh Shh

Gather around the manger

Narrator: The shepherds had found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. He was asleep in a manger just as the angel had said. They would never forget this night. They were very happy and praised God for his special gift.

Sing a carol eg. Away in a manger