



follow the star

OLDER CHOIR

WORSHIP SCRIPT



Worship Script

FOLLOW THE STAR

Older Choir

(This script is meant to be used as part of a worship service with the congregation involved, and has been written to be used one of two ways: completely as-is, reading straight through, OR by eliminating the indented portions, which have been included in the voice/levity of a child and might be too light-hearted for some congregations. Additionally, we have included some optional elements that you can incorporate using live instruments or a cappella singing to make the service even more participatory.)

Media Note: *Headset microphones will work best, if available, so kids can have full range of motion for gestures/movements. Mute actor microphones during choir songs.*

Speakers on mics:

Kid 1 _____ Kid 2 _____

Kid 3 _____

Kid 1: Welcome to *(name of your church or school)* this morning/evening!
We're glad you came!

Kid 2: The *(your choir's name)* is really excited to celebrate Christmas with you!
We can't wait to tell you all about Jesus' birth!

Kid 3: You know...that reminds me of some of the characters in the Christmas story.

Kid 2: Characters? Look, we didn't come here to talk about Rudolph or Frosty. This is not a "holiday" special *(use finger/air quotes for "holiday")*. This is...well...*(motioning to the congregation)*...church!

Kid 3: I know that, but the Christmas story still had characters: Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper, shepherds, angels, wise men, extras from Bethlehem...

Kid 2: Extras? I know about angels and shepherds, but now I'm EXTRA confused.

Kid 3: Never mind—back to the story. Let's talk wise men. They thought they were just looking for a king, but they found THE King!

Kid 1: *(start track)* Let's start our story with the wise men! WE will follow the star, just like they did!

“FOLLOW THE STAR”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 1)

Speakers on mics:

Kid 1 _____ Kid 2 _____

Kid 3 _____

Kid 1: I bet the wise men were never the same after they saw Jesus. They probably told the story over and over for the rest of their lives. I wonder if they went back to their hometown—you know, somewhere out east—and made a huge announcement?

Kid 3: I'm sure the whole town wanted to hear about the Messiah! But how did the wise men share such big news? It's not like they had a Twitter account.

Kid 2: *(sarcastically)* You're so funny. OK—first, you gotta get everybody's attention. Maybe they hired a town crier.

Kid 3: Maybe they threw a parade.

Kid 2: Yeah, the Bible says that folks would often throw big, huge festivals with trumpets and singing and processing! And I bet if they had bells, they rang them!

Kid 1: *(over the introduction)* Ring the bells! Shout the good news! The Messiah has come!

“RING THE BELLS” *with* “I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 2)

Speakers on mics:

Kid 1 _____ Kid 2 _____

Kid 3 _____

Kid 1: *(over interlude during “RING THE BELLS”—ms. 39-44)*
Sing this Christmas hymn with us!

*(Type and display the lyrics of “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” on the screen.)
(Song ends.)*

Kid 2: If I were a shepherd or a wise man, it would have changed me forever when I saw Jesus.

Kid 1: Experiencing Jesus changes anyone! No one is EVER the same again once they meet Jesus.

Kid 2: What do you think the people in Bethlehem thought when the shepherds starting telling everyone they met about Jesus?

■ You know—those “extras” you were talking about earlier?

Kid 3: I think they were amazed!

Kid 1: I think they acted just like we do—some people were thrilled, and some still didn’t believe that Jesus was the Savior.

Kid 3: *(over the introduction)* Whether we believe in Jesus or not, we all need a Savior.

“LITTLE TOWN” with “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 1)

Duet on mic: _____ (Verse 1 & 2)

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 2)

Speakers on mics:

Kid 1 _____ Kid 2 _____

Kid 3 _____

(Optional carol singing: After “Little Town” is over, invite congregation to stand and sing the traditional carol, “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” with simple keyboard or guitar accompaniment, rhythm band, or orchestra. Display the words on a screen or use a hymnal.)

Kid 1: **Stand and sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem” with us. Let’s ask the Lord to come and abide with us right here, right now.**

(Song ends. Seat congregation if optional carol was added.)

- Kid 1:** When we find new life in Jesus, Christmas becomes a different kind of celebration.
- Kid 3:** Just like the shepherds were amazed at what they experienced that night, our lives can be different, too.
- Kid 2:** The birth of Christ brought us Christmas, and we should celebrate that glorious day! *(Song starts and Kid 2 continues over introduction.)* Gloria in excelsis Deo! Jesus has come to save!

“GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS DAY” with “O COME, LET US ADORE HIM”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 1)

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 2)

Speakers on mics:

Kid 1 _____ Kid 2 _____

Kid 3 _____

(Optional Carol Singing: After “Glorious Christmas Day” is over, invite congregation to stand and sing the traditional carol, “Angels We Have Heard on High,” with simple keyboard or guitar accompaniment, rhythm band, or orchestra. Display the words on a screen or use a hymnal.)

Kid 2: **Join us as we continue to give glory to God. Let’s sing like the angels sang. Please stand and worship with us.**

(Song ends. Seat congregation if optional carol was added.)

Kid 3: Isaiah 7:14 says, “The Lord Himself will give you a sign. The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name Him Immanuel.”¹

Kid 1: We first heard the name Emmanuel from prophets, centuries before Jesus was born! It means that God has come to earth. It showed a change in the way we have a relationship with God. We didn’t have to follow rules and laws to reach up to Him. Instead, He came down to us. God is WITH us.

Kid 2: God is with us whether we believe in Him or not. God is with us whether we obey Him or not. God is with us whether we worship Him or not. But He wants for us to believe Him, obey Him, and worship Him.

Kid 3: God is with us and His love has no limits. He loved us so much He came to save us. *(Song starts and Kid 3 continues over introduction.)* Emmanuel is here and He deserves our praise.

“EMMANUEL IS BORN TODAY”

Speakers on mics:

Kid 3 _____

Kid 3: The God that came down to us in the form of a baby is right here, right now. Let’s stand and sing a carol together that tells His story. Let’s ask Him to be near to each of us.

“AWAY IN A MANGER” with “BE NEAR”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 2 & End)

Speakers on mics:

Kid 1 _____ Kid 2 _____

Kid 3 _____

Kid 2: *(over the introduction)* James 4:8 says, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”¹ Lord, as we worship and pray, bring Your presence close to us!

(Display lyrics to “Away in a Manger” with “Be Near” so congregation can join.)

(Optional Extended Worship: Have congregation remain standing and sing “You Are My King” by Billy Foote, Jr. There is a arrangement of this in Lifeway’s CWS—Children’s Worship Series—Spring 2014, or use an arrangement from your own church library.)

(Congregation remains standing as speakers lead into the song of commitment.)

Kid 1: The Lord your God is in your midst. The Mighty One will save.

Kid 2: He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will quiet you with His love.

Kid 3: He will rejoice over you with singing.

Kid 1: Emmanuel, God with us, is mighty to save! He loves us and sings over us.

Kid 2: Jesus IS mighty to save, and we need to share His love story with the world.

(Pastor presents a time of commitment or offers the plan of salvation.)

“MIGHTY TO SAVE” *(invitation)*

(Pastor offers a benediction.)

“FOLLOW THE STAR” (REPRISE) *(optional)*

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follow the star

YOUNGER CHOIR

CHARACTER SCRIPT



Character Script

FOLLOW THE STAR

Younger Choir

CHARACTERS:

Director – This can be an adult, teenager, or mature Kids Choir member capable of memorizing many lines, and exhibiting spiritual maturity.

Assistant Director - Addie

Shepherds, Angels, Wise Men – Only one member of each group has lines, but some can be split into 2-3 very small parts. Choose as many kids as you'd like for non-speaking shepherds, angels, or wise men. This is especially useful for small choirs, so as not to leave any child out.

Choir Member – Should be somebody from your Kids Choir. If you plan to use all kids as costumed characters, this can be a member of the tech crew.

Choir – Because this is meant to be staged as a group practicing for their own church performance, you can use them as a traditional choir in t-shirts, or let them dress as any part of the nativity, including animals.

(Stage as a Kids Choir practicing for their church performance.)

***Media Note:** Headset microphones will work best, if available, so kids can have full range of motion for gestures/movements. Mute actor microphones during choir songs.*

“FOLLOW THE STAR”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 1)

Speakers on mics:

Director _____ Addie _____

Shepherd #1 _____ Angel #1 _____

Director: Great job, choir! Great job. Singing was awesome. But has anyone seen my wise men? They just missed the rehearsal for their song!

Addie: *(checks clip board and looks around nervously)* I think they're still in costuming. Should I go and get them?

Director: No, no, no. They'll just have to wait to practice later. The choir sounded great on "Follow the Star," but we need to move on. Shepherds—are YOU guys ready?

Shepherd #1: *(runs in with half costume on, holding the rest)* Umm...not yet! The costume director is adding some bling to our costumes, and we are all busy holding the bags of sequins, so...

Director: BLING? On the WHAT? No, no, no, no, no. Those sequins are for the wings and halos! Not the shepherds. Whoever heard of glamming up a bunch of guys who were hanging out in a field with sheep?!

Shepherd #1: Maybe they just wanted to look a little special?

Director: Not these guys! I promise. They only wanted to watch sheep. **No. More. Bling!** *(to assistant director)* Addie: go get the angels and tell them to be ready in two minutes. *(to shepherd)* And will you PLEASE tell the rest of the shepherds to get into costume? You guys will be up next.

Addie: Angels are on their way! And the stage crew is grabbing the harp from the orchestra.

Director: The...harp?

Addie: Yeah, for the angel's scenes? *(starts to look uncertain)* You know, when they play the harp and the angels sing? "Harp and the bells, sweet silver bells?" I thought I saw it in the research on angels. *(begins flipping through her clipboard)*

Director: Hark! Har-K! Not har-P. *(Make sure to emphasize the "K" and the "P" at the end of each word.)* Two totally different words.

Addie: Oh no! All the pictures I saw of angels had them playing harps, and sitting on little clouds, and...

Director: It's ok, Addie, it's ok. Harps will fit right in. But the angels in the Bible were saying "Hark!" It means—Hey! Listen up! I'm about to say something important.

Addie: Ohhhhh...

Angel #1: We're here, we're here!

Director: All right! Places, everyone! Hark! We're ready to go! Hit it!

“LISTEN”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 1)

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 2)

Speakers on mics:

Addie _____ Angel #1 _____

Director _____

(During this song, angels in costume are featured. They could do a small group, choreographed dance; OR choir choreography front and center as leaders; OR they can do motions to act out the lyrics.)

Addie: So why do you think the angels had to say, “Listen?” If a bunch of angels showed up around here, I think I would pay attention! That would be CRAZY!

Angel #1: I bet they had to say, “Listen” BECAUSE it was so crazy to the shepherds. They were probably scared. Or maybe they thought they were seeing things. Or maybe they thought it was a dream and they were trying to wake up...or maybe...

Director: Exactly. They were a bit distracted. The angels said “Listen” because the next thing they did was tell the shepherds about Jesus. They wanted to make sure they were paying attention to the good news!

Angel #1: Yeah! And after that, they got a chance to celebrate: they sang, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”¹

Director: That sounds like our cue! Places everyone!

“GLORY TO GOD”

Speakers on mics:

Director _____ Shepherd #1 _____

Addie _____ Choir Member _____

(During this song, angels can come back to the front, leading choreography for verse 1. Shepherds should come running in during the verse 2 and join with the angels in doing choreography.)

Director: Good job, angels! Shepherds, so glad you could join us!

Shepherd #1: No problem. We were cutting it pretty close, coordinating the colors of our robes.

Director: I think you guys might be the best-dressed shepherds of any Christmas play ever!

Shepherd #1: Hey, you picked my mom to be in charge of costuming! Everybody knows she is the accessory queen!

Director: That's true! Hey, where are your staves?

Shepherd #1: Mom still has 'em. She says she's got something special in store.

Director: I'm afraid to ask. OK, angels, thank you for your hard work. It's time for the shepherds to do their thing. Addie, what notes do I have for the shepherds from the last rehearsal?

Addie: *(consults clipboard)* Need more excitement from the shepherds. More smiling. More jumping. Tell shepherds the song is called "Jump for Jesus" not "GRUMP for Jesus."

Shepherd #1: Jumping in these costumes is hard! They are really heavy! What are we so excited about anyway?

Director: What are you so excited about? What are you so excited about!? *(looking and talking to choir)* Can somebody help me here?

Choir Member: I can! This is my favorite part of the story!

Director: Please! Help me get these shepherds inspired.

Choir Member: The shepherds were excited because they had just visited Jesus! He was the King they had been waiting for.

Shepherd #1: Waiting? How would they even know Jesus was coming? It isn't like there was TV or a newspaper back then.

Choir Member: Years and years and YEARS before Jesus was born, a prophet named Isaiah told about the Messiah who was coming to save God's people. He said: "A child will be born to us, a SON will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty GOD, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."²

Shepherd #1: OK...that sounds like it might be a little bit interesting.

Choir Member: It was more than a little interesting! Once the shepherds saw the angels, then saw the baby in the manger, they went crazy! He was there just like the angels said! They went running through the streets of Bethlehem telling everybody they could find about Jesus!

Shepherd #1: All right, I hear ya. *(turns to the other shepherds)* Hey, I've got a great idea! Shepherds, we've just met the Savior of the world! Let's get excited!

Director: Your...idea? Your... You know what? You're excited—that works for me! Let's see you guys jumping for Jesus!

“JUMP FOR JESUS”

Solos on mics: _____ (Verse 1)

_____ (Verse 2)

Speakers on mics:

Director _____ Addie _____

Angel #1 _____

Director: Yes! Now that's what I'm talking about! Your excitement is gonna get people on their feet jumping for Jesus with you!

Addie: I'm still a little confused. WHY did the shepherds get so excited? What was the big deal about a baby and some old stories?

Angel #1: It was more than stories, Addie! The Jewish people had been waiting for thousands of years for a Savior to come. And Jesus fulfilled the prophecies over and over again—the time and place He was born, the family He would be born into: even the fact that He would be called Emmanuel!

Addie: Emmanuel?

Angel #1: Yes. Emmanuel means God with us. He was finally on earth with people long ago. God, with His people. And He IS with us, even now! He's our Helper, our Savior, and our Friend!

“EMMANUEL IS BORN TODAY”

Solos on mics: _____ (Verse 1)

Speakers on mics:

Director _____ Angel #1 _____

Choir Member _____

Director: That night in the little town of Bethlehem was just the beginning of God’s plan to save us! Jesus grew up and lived a perfect life as an example for the rest of us.

Angel #1: He did miracles that drew big crowds. He was able to teach thousands of people about God the Father.

Choir Member: He died on the cross as payment for our sins and three days later, He rose!

Director: After Jesus went back to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. All we have to do is accept Jesus as our Savior, and the Holy Spirit will fill us and live in us. THAT is my favorite miracle of Christmas: that a plan to save all of mankind would start with a baby, born in a barn.

“AWAY IN A MANGER” with “BE NEAR”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 2)

Solo on mic: _____ (Bridge)

Speakers on mics:

Director _____ Addie _____

Addie: I know about the Christmas story; I’ve heard it since I was a little girl. I guess I never thought about it as the beginning of a bigger plan. I want the Lord to be near me, too. Will you help me ask Jesus to live in my heart?

Director: Let’s pray right now! We have an amazing God and He is mighty to save!

“MIGHTY TO SAVE”

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 1)

Solo on mic: _____ (Verse 2)

Ensemble on mic: _____ (Bridge)

Speakers on mics:

Director _____ Wise man _____

(During this song, Director and Addie walk off to the side for silent interaction. Director shows Addie verses in the Bible, they pray, hug, and join the choir.)

Wise man #1: Hey! We never got to practice our song!

Director: You're right! Ok, everyone! Get into your places; we're going to practice our big finale! Big smiles everyone; let's tell everyone about following the star to Jesus!

“FOLLOW THE STAR” (REPRISE)

*(Bring all characters back on stage. This can be used as their finale or curtain call.
Shepherds should be carrying blinged-out/rhinestoned shepherd's staffs
for added comic relief.)*

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