

OUR COMING SAVIOR

HOW-TO PROGRAMMING GUIDE

A NOTE TO PASTORS & DIRECTORS

Thank you so much for trusting SkitGuys.com to help bring creativity to your congregation. We try to picture how these elements can enhance age old stories and also make things a little easier on pastors and volunteers, which is why we're excited to present "Our Coming Savior."

What we are about to share is not THE way, but ONE way. Our hope is that these materials result in an amazing performance for your congregation.

We know each church is different. All of you have different strengths, different weaknesses and different preferences. Understanding that, we wanted to put something together that would give you a variety of options. After all, you guys are the metaphorical cooks, so we want to give all the ingredients necessary in order to set you up for success this Christmas season.

The possibilities are endless.

You could put all these elements together for a one-night, single performance event. You could string them out over 5 worship services. You could even run them all simultaneously in a chaos of audio, video and general sensory overload. That would probably be a very poor decision, but it's your decision to make. So let's look a little closer at the specific "ingredients"...

What's included in the video pack?




OUR COMING
SAVIOR

THE VIDEO PACK INCLUDES 5 VIDEOS...

1. Elizabeth and Zechariah
2. Herod
3. Shepherds
4. Mary and Joseph
5. The Innkeeper



AND PLENTY OF RESOURCES...

- 5 Weeks of in-depth Sermon Notes
 - All 5 pieces of original music used in the videos
 - Sermon Intro Video
 - Countdown Video
 - Motions Pack
 - Stills Pack
 - Sermon Slides
 - Artwork for your church programs and promotion
 - Promotional materials
 - Promotional video
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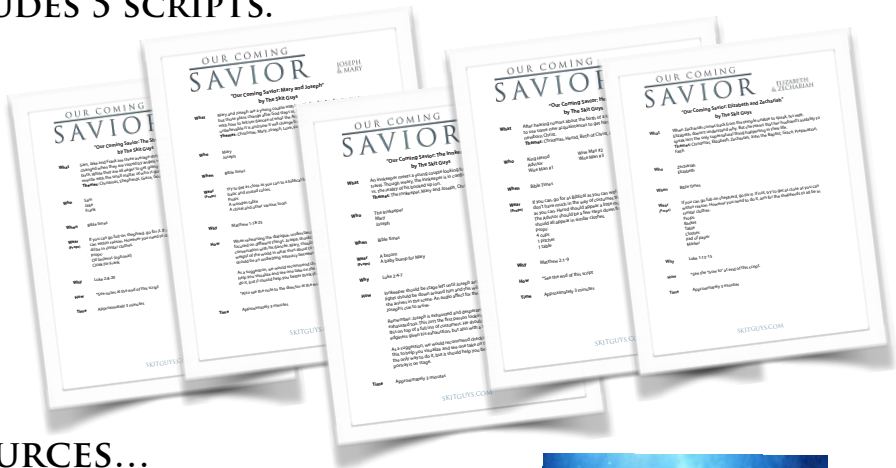


OUR COMING SAVIOR

Ok, great. Awesome. Excellent. But what is in the script pack?

THE SCRIPT PACK INCLUDES 5 SCRIPTS.

1. Elizabeth and Zechariah
2. Herod
3. Shepherds
4. Mary and Joseph
5. The Innkeeper



AND PLENTY OF RESOURCES...

- All 5 pieces of original music used in the videos
- 5 Weeks of in-depth Sermon Notes
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- Promotional video



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WHAT ABOUT ADVENT?

WILL THESE WORK IF WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT?

One hundred billion percent yes. We put this package together understanding that some churches want to emphasize Advent and so we made sure to synchronize our topics and themes with the Advent calendar.

- Elizabeth and Zechariah (First Sunday)
- Herod (Second Sunday: Preparation Candle)
- Shepherds (Third Sunday: Joy Candle)
- Mary and Joseph (Fourth Sunday: Love Candle)
- The Innkeeper (Christmas Eve: Christ Candle)

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR HOW I CAN USE OUR COMING SAVIOR?

OPTION A (WEEKLY)

This option allows you to use the content provided to start an Our Coming Savior teaching series the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continue showing them each Sunday and on your Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service.

If you opt for this, we would advise you to use the following order for the videos, scripts, and sermons:

WEEK 1: ELIZABETH AND ZECHARIAH

- Opening Song: “O Come O Come Emmanuel”
- Read: Malachi 3:1
- Action: Light the first candle, the Prophecy Candle
- Watch/Perform: Elizabeth and Zechariah
- Traditional Song Idea: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- Contemporary Song Idea: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Marcy Priest

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WEEK 2: HEROD

- Opening Song: “Hark The Herald Angels Sing”
- Read: Isaiah 9:6-7
- Action: Light the second candle, the Preparation Candle
- Watch/Perform: Herod
- Traditional Song Idea: All Hail The Power of Jesus’ Name
- Contemporary Song Idea: Even So Come, Chris Tomlin

WEEK 3: SHEPHERDS

- Opening Song: “Joy To The World”
- Read: Luke 2:8-20
- Action: Light the third candle, the Joy Candle
- Watch/Perform: Shepherds
- Traditional Song Idea: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
- Contemporary Song Idea: Everlasting God

WEEK 4: MARY AND JOSEPH

- Opening Song: “Mary Did You Know?”
- Read: Luke 1:26-38
- Action: Light the fourth candle, the Love Candle
- Watch/Perform: Joseph and Mary
- Traditional Song Idea: O Come All Ye Faithful
- Contemporary Song Idea: Light of The World, Matt Redman
- Sermon Idea: ‘Joseph and Mary’ Sermon Notes

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WEEK 5 / CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY: THE INNKEEPER

- Opening Song: “O Holy Night”
- Read: Luke 2:1-20
- Action: Light the fifth candle, the Christ Candle
- Watch/Perform: The Innkeeper
- Traditional Song Idea: O Night Divine
- Contemporary Song Idea: Build Your Kingdom Here, Rend Collective
- Closing Sermon Idea: ‘The Innkeeper’ Sermon Notes
- Action: From the Christ candle, spread the light of Christ to the congregation with candle lightings.

OPTION B (SINGLE EVENT)

This option allows you to use Our Coming Savior as a Christmas pageant, play, or even as your entire Christmas Eve/Day service.

If you opt for this, use the outline below as an example for how to structure the event.

Obviously, you can go as big or as little with these as you need within the context of your service, but we feel like these give a good jumping-off point.

PRE-SERVICE:

- Use the provided Our Coming Savior promotional material in your church and community to promote your event.
- Before the service begins, use the Our Coming Savior Motion Logo and Countdown video on auditorium screens.
- Place an Advent candelabra (with five candles) in a prominent position on the stage.
- Pass out candles to the congregation as they enter.

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I. OPENING SONG IDEAS:

- Joy To The World
- Glory is Here
- O Come O Come Emmanuel

II. READ: MALACHI 3:1

1. Light the first candle, the Prophecy Candle
2. Watch/Perform: Elizabeth and Zechariah
3. Traditional Song Idea: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
4. Contemporary Song Idea: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Marcy Priest

III. READ: ISAIAH 9:6-7

1. Light the second candle, the Preparation Candle
2. Watch/Perform: Herod
3. Traditional Song Idea: All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name
4. Contemporary Song Idea: Even So Come, Chris Tomlin

IV. READ: LUKE 2:8-20

1. Light the third candle, the Joy Candle
2. Watch/Perform: Shepherds
3. Traditional Song Idea: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
4. Contemporary Song Idea: Everlasting God

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V. READ: LUKE 1:26-38

- Light the fourth candle, the Love Candle
- Watch/Perform: Joseph and Mary
- Traditional Song Idea: O Come All Ye Faithful
- Contemporary Song Idea: Light of The World, Matt Redman
- Sermon Idea: 'Joseph and Mary' Sermon Notes

VI. READ: LUKE 2:1-20

- Light the fifth candle, the Christ Candle
- Watch/Perform: The Innkeeper
- Closing Sermon Idea: 'The Innkeeper' Sermon Notes
- From the Christ candle, spread the light of Christ to the congregation with candle lightings.
- Traditional Song Idea: O Night Divine
- Contemporary Song Idea: Build Your Kingdom Here, Rend Collective
- Closing Song Idea: "Silent Night"

WHAT IF WE WANT TO GET CRAZY AND REALLY MIX IT UP?

In that case, we have some recommendations...

- Splice in some testimonies from your own church that speak to the themes discussed in each performance.
- Have the children's choir sing a few of the songs.
- Deliver a mini sermon in the 2nd half of the presentation.
- Intro and outro each vignette.

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TIPS FOR USING THE SCRIPTS FOR LIVE STAGE PERFORMANCES.

1. Music can add an extra level of depth and emotion to the scenes. Rehearse and perform the scenes to the original musical score that is included with Our Coming Savior.

2. If you are using Our Coming Savior scripts for a one-night event, then in terms of the actual performances and staging you can get as creative as you want, but something that has worked great for us in the past is using two spotlights and alternating between Stage Left and Stage Right. Just alternate the two between vignettes of each performance. Center stage would be reserved for the final vignette.

EXAMPLE: Elizabeth and Zechariah would perform Stage Left. Mary and Joseph would take place on Stage Right. The Innkeeper would take place on Stage Left, etc.

3. If you are performing this as a play on a smaller stage and aren't able to set up multiple scenes across the stage, it's a good idea to rehearse your transitions for resetting the stage. Because once each scene is over, you'll need to reset the stage for the next scene. Do this as quickly and as quietly as possible. Require your stagehands to dress in black or give them similar costumes as the actors.

4. Think about your transitions. Music is a great way to transition between scenes, whether it be instrumental, a Christmas carol, or a hymn. There are song recommendations in the Option B outline above.

5. Another idea for smaller stages is to perform the scenes in the aisles. The Shepherds scene would play really well with the actors running up and down the aisle and performing in the middle of the aisle. You might even have them ad-lib with the audience- "Did you see the angels?" etc. The Innkeeper scene would also play well with Mary and Joseph coming down the aisle to greet the Innkeeper on the steps of the stage.

6. Eliminate the stage altogether. Have a progressive play through the hallways of your church. Choose one hallway and have people travel from room to room with a guide and watch each scene. A candlelight prayer/worship service could be had at the last room or in your worship center.

There are many possibilities for each of these scenes if you think outside of the box and don't limit yourself to just the space on your stage.

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ANY LAST THOUGHTS?

Yep. Remember: the story of Jesus can and should be told all year long, so don't feel like this content is only relegated to Christmas. It's Jesus, after all, right? That's a story for the whole year.

And again, these are all just ideas and building blocks. Our goal is to give you the freedom to use these elements for what suits your church best.

After all, who has a better feel for that than you? Certainly not us. See what you like, see what you don't and tweak our materials accordingly. Our hope is that we can help you make these the best they can be.