



PREVIEW

# SCRIPT

by Dana Anderson and Dave Ray

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# UNTO US

## Script

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### Vision and Purpose

The purpose of a Doorpost Songs Family Worship Experience is to have a lasting impact in the lives of families: kids, parents, grandparents, and guardians. God's design for discipleship is generational, both in the home and at church. Psalm 78:4 says, "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD." We hope to create a place for families to come together, share a worship experience, and see the power of God's Word in their lives.

You can use all of our suggestions or use your own. This is not a magic formula; it is simply a place to begin.

### Prepare

#### Participants

- Greeters (Consider using kids or having families fill this role together.)
- Worship Leader
- Host
- Narrators (six)
- Scripture Readers (five)
- Child actors: Mary and Joseph
- Child actors: shepherds (four to six)
- Candlelighters (youth or adults to stand at the end of rows with lit candles; each candlelighter can cover several rows)

#### Supplies

- Computer graphics slides and videos
- One-minute countdown video (not included)
- Intro video (included)
- Lyric videos for each song (included)
- Nativity set, including manger and baby wrapped in cloth
- Costumes for Mary, Joseph, and shepherds
- Candles (You can purchase drip protectors or make your own.)

#### Before the Event

- Download the slides and videos and have them ready to use.
- Place two mics on stands near the worship leader for kid narrators.
- Prepare candles to be distributed.
- Place Nativity set.

## Pre-Service

*(As parents and kids are walking in, make sure you have the environment ready for them. Ensure **Greeters** are in place and play upbeat, familiar music. Display a video or slide of the event or ministry title.)*

*(At one minute until start time, play the COUNTDOWN VIDEO.)*

## Welcome

**HOST:** Welcome! We are glad you are here! This is a night for families. It is a night to celebrate Christmas as we sing, dance, laugh, and worship together. When we think of the story of Jesus' birth, most of us think of Luke 2, which says, "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree." But that is just the beginning of the final chapter. The story truly begins hundreds of years before.

*(Play the INTRO VIDEO. As video begins, band and worship leaders, including kids, get into place.)*

**SONG:** "Unto Us" *(Use the LYRIC VIDEO or a live band.)*

**SONG:** "Ends of the Earth" *(Use the LYRIC VIDEO or a live band.)*

*(As the song ends, **Narrators** get in place in front of mics.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** We sang Isaiah 9:2: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

**NARRATOR 2:** Isaiah 9:6-7 says, "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. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end."

**NARRATOR 3:** And Micah 5 says, "But you, Bethlehem . . . , though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel."

**NARRATOR 4:** "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God."

**NARRATOR 5:** “And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace.”

**NARRATOR 6:** Those verses in the Bible are just a few of the prophecies made about the birth of Jesus.

**NARRATOR 1:** A prophecy is a message God sends, telling His people what is coming. It is a promise. It is God’s way of telling His people that He has a plan.

**NARRATOR 2:** God promised His people salvation. But when that prophecy was fulfilled, it came in a way no one expected.

**NARRATOR 3:** A baby. A baby was the answer to the prophecy. Small, helpless—some might even say ... ordinary.

**NARRATOR 4:** But this was no ordinary baby. Even His name—Jesus, “the Lord saves”—was a promise that God would save His people.

**NARRATOR 5:** Not just the people of Bethlehem or the people of Israel, but all people everywhere. This extraordinary promise reaches the ends of the earth.

**NARRATOR 6:** His light—just like the light of the star on that first Christmas night—shatters the darkness of sin and death in our lives. His light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

*(Scripture from Micah 5:2,4-5)*

**SONG:** “In the Beginning” *(Use the LYRIC VIDEO or a live band.)*

*(During this section of narration, **Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds** enter and get into place on cue and pantomime as Scripture is read. NOTE: We have used the New International Version, but use the version that your church is most familiar with.)*

**READER 1:** “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)”

**READER 2:** *(Joseph and Mary enter)* “And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”

## Tips and Tools

It makes God's heart glad when we teach children the true meaning of Christmas. We do not just want to teach them ABOUT Jesus. We want them to internalize and learn to live out these wonderful truths as you teach the songs. Pray and ask God what He wants you to emphasize with your kids and where He wants your choir to focus this season.

If you do not have a children's choir, Christmas is a great time to bring kids together. Plan a time after a church service to gather and personally invite kid leaders from your ministry. Cast the vision of leading their parents and families in worship. Plan a manageable rehearsal schedule, and invite kids to be a part of the new group. You might be surprised just how many kids and parents will jump at the opportunity. In our experience, this is a surefire win for the families in your congregation.

Always encourage your choir to sing beautifully. When kids get excited about a song, they will often shout rather than sing. Help them remember to sing out, not shout. In the various styles of the songs in this collection, they will have a chance to create a number of different vocal sounds: pop, high energy, lyrical, and worshipful.

All good singing starts with good breathing and good vocal technique. Begin each rehearsal with a short warm-up that includes some of these concepts and techniques:

- A reminder about good posture—back straight, shoulders relaxed. (Be prepared to give reminders throughout rehearsal.)
- A breathing exercise such as this: take a deep breath and sing the alphabet on one pitch as many times as you can before you run out of breath.
- A vocal warm-up on scale tones 1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1 (for resonance).
- Help the kids discover that they can sing with different sounds or different kinds of voices: whispering, talking, shouting, and singing. They have a head voice that is high and light. They have a chest voice that is high energy and full. Experiment with these voices. Ensure they do not push too hard and get harsh or sound like they are yelling.

Repetition is the key to confidence. Think of ways to allow the children to sing each song many times. Do not just sing all the way through each song every time. Plan to spend five to ten minutes per song during each rehearsal. Strive to practice all songs at each rehearsal, even if it means just singing through a short section.

When the kids have the lyrics fairly well memorized, play a Sing/Think Game. Use the split-track without vocals or just sing without accompaniment. Have them start singing, then, at your signal (maybe finger over lips), stop singing and just mouth the words. At your next signal, they should all start singing again. If you are doing this without tracks, it makes everyone pay attention so they can stay together. You can do a phrase at a time or just a few words at a time. A variation of this would be to speak the words in rhythm, keep it going silently in your head at the signal, then aloud again at the next signal.

Always make sure that the kids know what the words mean. Since these songs are straight from Scripture, there are phrases that will need to be explained.

Even in rehearsal, give them the opportunity to sing the songs as worship, offering their best and most beautiful singing to God. Resist the urge to stop and fix things during this time. For these moments, this is not rehearsal; it is worship.

## Teaching Moments

Because these songs are each based on a Scripture passage, they offer a unique opportunity to teach children the biblical story of Christ's birth. There may be words and phrases that require a bit of explanation to understand. Take a few moments during each rehearsal to discuss one song. Here are some ideas and suggestions.

### "Unto Us"

Scripture Passage: Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Big Idea: Jesus is the promised Messiah.

### Teaching Thoughts

- Ask the children if they have ever waited for something they really wanted. Ask them what it felt like while they were waiting.
- Explain that a prophecy is a promise that God makes about something He is going to do in the future. God's people waited more than seven hundred years for the prophecies in Isaiah to come true.
- In the days before Christmas we celebrate the season of Advent. Advent means "arrival," and it is a time when we look forward to the arrival of Jesus, just like God's people did for hundreds of years.
- Now we know the prophecy did come true. Jesus is the Promised One, the Messiah. Ask the children what it must have felt like when God finally fulfilled His promise. Remind them that God always keeps His promises.

## Unto Us

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**INTRO 1:** A /// | Asus /// | A /// | Asus /// :||

**INTRO 2:** F#m7 /// | D2 /// | A /// | E /// :||

A /// | Asus /// | A /// | Asus /// |

### VERSE 1:

A Asus A Asus  
On the people who were walking in darkness  
A Asus A /// | Asus  
Into the darkness has shined a light  
A Asus A Asus  
And on those who, who were living in darkness  
A Asus A /// | Asus  
Deep in the darkness has dawned a light  
D E D/F# Esus/G#  
And He is light and life to all mankind

### CHORUS:

A Ama7  
Unto us a child is born  
F#m7 D2  
Unto us a Son is given  
A  
And His name shall be  
Ama7 Ama7/C#  
Wonderful Counselor  
Dma7 F#m7 Esus /// | /// |  
Mighty God, Everlasting One  
F#m7 /// | D2 /// | A /// | E /// |  
Unto us

### VERSE 2:

A Asus A Asus  
On the people who were walking in darkness  
A Asus A /// | Asus  
Into the darkness has shined a light  
D/F# Esus/G#  
And He is light and life, oh

# Unto Us (Isaiah 9)

Based on the recording from the album Doorpost Songs: Unto Us by Dave & Jess Ray



David Ray  
Jessica Ray

**1 = 146**  
drum fill intro

**A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** **A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** **A**

piano cues

**A<sup>sus</sup>** **A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** **Intro F#m7** full time sync. groove

piano & EG mel.

**D2** **A** **E**

**F#m7** **D2** **A**

**E** **A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** **A** **A<sup>sus</sup>**

W.L., or opt ALL  
On the

**1 Verse**

**A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** **A** **A<sup>sus</sup>**

peo - ple who were walk - ing in dark - ness, in - to the

**A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** **A** **A<sup>sus</sup>**

dark - ness has shined a light. And on

**1a Verse**

**A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** **A** **A<sup>sus</sup>** cue notes 2x

those who, who were liv - ing in dark - ness, deep in the  
peo - ple who were walk - ing in dark - ness, in - to the



Unto Us

33 **A** **A<sub>sus</sub>** **A** **A<sub>sus</sub>** **2X to Coda 1**

*cue notes 2x* *2x opt W.L. only*

dark - ness has dawned a light. And He is light  
 dark - ness has shined a light.

37 **D** **E** **D** **E<sub>sus</sub>** **G#**

*cresc.* *opt. ornament* *ALL unis.*

and life to all man - kind!

**2 Chorus** **A** **A<sub>ma</sub><sup>7</sup>**

*drums out*

Un - to us a child is born, un - to us

45 **F#m7** **D2**

a Son is giv - en. And His

49 **A** **A<sub>ma</sub><sup>7</sup>** **A<sub>ma</sub><sup>7</sup>** **C#**

name shall be Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Might -

53 **D<sub>ma</sub><sup>7</sup>** **F#m7** **E<sub>sus</sub>**

y God, Ev - er - last - ing One, un - to us!

57 **F#m7** **D2** **A** **E**

*full time sync. groove* *piano & EG mel.*

On the

**Coda 1** **D** **E<sub>sus</sub>** **G#** **2a Chorus** **A**

*half time rock groove*

light and life! Oh, un - to us a child is born,

# Unto Us (Isaiah 9)

Based on the recording from the album Doorpost Songs: Unto Us by Dave & Jess Ray



David Ray  
Jessica Ray

♩ = 146      A      Asus      A      Asus      A

Asus      A      Asus      Intro  $F\#m7$       D2

A      E      F#m7      D2      A

E      A      Asus      A      Asus

**1 Verse**      A      Asus      A      Asus

ALL On the

21      A      Asus      A      Asus

peo - ple      who were walk - ing in      dark - ness,      in - to the

25      A      Asus      A      Asus

dark - ness has shined      a light.      And on

**1a Verse**      A      Asus      A      Asus

cue notes 2x

29      A      Asus      A      Asus

those who,      who were liv - ing in      dark - ness,      deep in - to the  
peo - ple      who were walk - ing in      dark - ness,      in - to the

33      A      Asus      A      Asus

cue notes 2x      2x opt W.L. only      2X to Coda 1

dark - ness      has      dawned      a light.      And He      is      light  
dark - ness      has      shined      a light.      in - to      the

# Unto Us (Isaiah 9)

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David Ray  
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$\text{♩} = 146$   
drum fill intro

A A<sup>sus</sup> A

4 A<sup>sus</sup> A A<sup>sus</sup> A

8 **Intro** F<sup>♯</sup>m7 *If playing with band, both hands play treble melody in octaves* D2

11 A E F<sup>♯</sup>m7



24

in - to the dark - ness has shined a light.

A sus A A sus A

28

1a Verse

And on those peo - ple who were liv - ing in who were walk - ing in

2x opt Ten 8va

A sus A If playing with band, both hands play treble melody in octaves A sus

31

cue notes 2x

dark dark ness, ness, deep in - to the dark - ness ness has dawned shined

A A sus A