

INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:

The Fumbly Bumbly Angels

by

Sandy Cope and Sandy Dillbeck



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HOW TO USE THIS *Pageant*

Congratulations! Most of the hard work in preparing your children's Christmas pageant is already done! You hold the result of that work in your hands right now—*The Fumbly Bumbly Angels*, an Instant Christmas Pageant.

The Fumbly Bumbly Angels provides you with a complete Christmas program on compact disc. All the spoken dialogue, sound effects, and music are prerecorded. You even get songs for the whole congregation to sing along with the children.

This Instant Christmas Pageant is flexible. Your kids can perform it for:

- a Sunday morning service,
- an afternoon or evening children's program,
- a family night program,
- a special Sunday school program,
- a nursing home program, and more!

And it can be performed by children from ages four through eighty-four.

Even teenagers and senior citizens will enjoy putting on this pageant! Or you can have a puppet group perform the pageant.

The Fumbly Bumbly Angels is easy to prepare for, too. Just follow these simple steps:

1. Read the rest of this book, and listen to the CD.
2. Photocopy the clip art on page 22 to decorate fliers, bulletins, and posters publicizing the pageant. You'll also find clip art on *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels* CD. Simply put the CD into any Macintosh- or IBM-compatible CD-ROM drive, and read the instructions in the "Read Me" file to use clip art that'll create dynamite publicity pages!
3. Determine how you'll adjust the number of roles in the play to match the number of children who'll be in your program. You'll find a few ideas on page 7 on how to add or subtract to the roles.
4. Have kids help you collect and create costumes and props. Many props can be collected from kids' homes. And you can create the rest using the photocopiable patterns beginning on page 13.
5. Play the CD for your children. Then assign parts to children.
6. Practice the play with your children. Here's the fun part—kids don't need to memorize their lines! Don't have them lip-sync the parts, either. Instead, direct kids to follow the action and movement instructions in the script. After one or two times through, kids will know how to pantomime all the actions needed! Or have kids come up with their own actions.
7. Perform the play. During the play, invite the congregation to sing along with the Christmas carols.

It's that simple!

Here are a few tips to help you get the most of *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels*:

- Practice the actions and movements a few times so kids feel comfortable with their roles before a performance.
- 1 ● Refer to the CD icon (see margin) throughout the script to find exactly where the CD selections occur in the pageant. That way you'll be able to practice a particular segment of the script without hunting for the corresponding CD selection.

Helpful Hint

You might want to have the Fumbly, Bumbly Angels and the Archangel practice separately a few times since it might take more time to learn movements to the words.

- Because each setup is different, you may want to pause the CD during the pageant, allowing time for kids to move across the stage.
- Have a child or adult volunteer introduce the pageant before hitting the “play” button on your CD player. This is a good time to let the congregation know they'll be singing along during the pageant.
- Use teenagers, adults, or senior citizens to supplement roles if you don't have a large enough group of children.
- Increase the length of your program by having children read aloud sections of Luke's account of Jesus' birth before, during, or after the play.
- Read and discuss Luke 2:1-20 with your children as you prepare for the program. Use the costume-creation times and rehearsal times as mini-Bible studies.

ASSIGNING THE *Roles*

One of the best features of *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels* is that any child in your church can play almost any role. Since the spoken parts are prerecorded and kids don't need to memorize lines, younger children can become the main characters as easily as older children. The role of the Archangel is probably best suited to an older child or an adult since an older and wiser appearance is essential for the part.

Each role in *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels* is listed in the "Creating the Costumes" section (p. 8).

If you have fewer than twenty-two children, have only one Sheep, three Travelers, and one Shepherd. Or have the same children who play the Travelers also be the Innkeeper and/or the Shepherds and/or the Three Kings. Or teenagers and adults can help out by playing such roles as the Three Kings, Mary and Joseph, the Shepherd, the Innkeeper, and the Archangel.

If you have more than twenty-two children, increase the number of Travelers, Sheep, Shepherds, and young Angels for the Heavenly Choir during the finale. Or form a separate children's choir to lead the congregation in singing the hymns.

THE FUMBLY BUMBLY ANGELS:

The Script

Use this script to familiarize yourself with the dialogue and actions in *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels*. Remember, kids don't need to memorize these lines or even lip-sync the words.

Scattered throughout the script are suggestions to assist you in planning the movement and action for the Christmas pageant. Your kids may think up new ideas and actions—that's great! Incorporate their ideas into the pageant as much as possible.

Allow someone to introduce the pageant and to remind the congregation that they'll be singing along with the carols during the program. Introduce the song "Go Tell It on the Mountain" to begin the program.

Helpful Hint

The songs in *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels* are familiar Christmas carols. But just in case some congregation members don't know all the words, photocopy the flier on page 56, and pass out copies at the beginning of the pageant.

1

THE PAGEANT

MARY and JOSEPH quietly enter while the congregation sings "Go Tell It on the Mountain." They take their seats near the manger. They sit motionless with their heads down throughout the play until the Stable scene near the end of the play.

2

When the congregation stops singing, the FOUR FUMBLY, BUMBLY ANGELS enter and take their seats among the clouds in “Heaven.” A laundry basket sits in front of them, overflowing with angel attire that needs to be mended. Three ANGELS take something from the basket and begin working. CHANCE takes off one sandal and inspects it.

DAPHNE begins working on the sock with the hole in it. CHANCE fumbles with his broken sandal, trying to mend it. GEORGE is wrapping a halo with garland. Much to his dismay, his own halo, which is too large, keeps falling down around his shoulders. PENELOPE is meticulously mending an angel robe (a white sheet) that rests in her lap. DAPHNE is darning socks.

The ANGELS begin their vocal practice by comically running up and down the scales, loosening their vocal chords. At the same time, DAPHNE sticks her hand in the sock, quickly discovers she has made a puppet, and uses it to lip-sync her words as she sings.

ACTIONS	WORDS
CHANCE	
	<i>(Singing)</i> Do, do, do, do, do, do, do, do...
GEORGE	
	<i>(Singing)</i> Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do...
PENELOPE	
	<i>(Singing)</i> Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah...

ACTIONS

WORDS

DAPHNE

Uses the sock with a hole in it as puppet to “sing” the scales.

(Singing)

**Do, re, mi. Do, re, mi. Do, re, mi.
Do, do, do, do, re, mi. Do, do, do,
re miiiiiiiiiiiiiii...**

The other ANGELS cringe as DAPHNE gets carried away with her singing and puppetry. They stop and frown at her antics.

DAPHNE

Sticks her finger out of the hole near the toe of the sock and wiggles it like a tongue with great animation.

Aaaaaaaaaa-mmmmmmmnnnn!

The other ANGELS roll their eyes.

Smiles sweetly.

How was that?

PENELOPE

Rubs ear with finger, as if Daphne’s singing hurt her ears.

We are simply pathetic.

CHANCE

Dances in his seat.

I don’t know, Penelope, I thought Daphne was kinda jammin’.

DAPHNE

Smiles proudly, then turns to George.

Thank you, Chance. So what did you think, George?

ACTIONS

WORDS

GEORGE

Points upward.

I think we're all in a jam. And it's gonna take a doozy of a miracle to get us up there...

...in the Heavenly Choir.

The ANGELS pause as they hear three bells chime consecutively. All the ANGELS look up as CHANCE counts aloud.

CHANCE

Uses fingers to count.

One...two...three...

DAPHNE

Claps with excitement.

Oh joy! Three more angels just earned their places in the Heavenly Choir!

PENELOPE

Suddenly pricks her finger and frowns.

Ouch! My finger!...And here we sit...

GEORGE

Sets down the halo he's mending.

...songless...

ACTIONS

WORDS

DAPHNE

Paces the floor frantically, getting faster as she goes.

(Worried, Daphne begins to whine and ramble uncontrollably.)

What if we never make it into the choir? What if they run out of room? What if we sound like a flock of screeching geese for the rest of our angelic lives? What will we do? We'll just be honks in the wind.

Flaps arms like a goose.

(Daphne pathetically honks and yodels like a goose.)

Ahhonk. Ahhonk. Ahhonk.

The other ANGELS hold their ears in agony.

PENELOPE

Grabs Daphne by the shoulders to stop her from pacing. DAPHNE looks bewildered.

Daphne!...Dear, you're rambling again. Of course we're going to make it. We're Angels...Heaven forbid there be an angel in the clouds that doesn't sing in the choir. You're such a worrywart.

Sits down and continues her work.

GEORGE

Jumps up.

You know why we're not in the choir, don't you? We've never finished an assignment. We always fumble and bumble it up.

Fumbles with the halo he's fixing and drops it.

ACTIONS

WORDS

ALL ANGELS (Except DAPHNE)

CHANCE knocks on his head, GEORGE waves his hand in front of Daphne's eyes, PENELOPE rolls her eyes in aggravation.

Hello. Knock. Knock. Heaven to Daphne.

DAPHNE

"Wakes up" from her dazed look.

(Innocently)

What?

PENELOPE

Points to herself, then flaps arms, imitating Daphne.

I, for one, am tired of yodeling like a honking goose. It's embarrassing.

GEORGE

Looks upward.

Tosses another halo from the laundry basket.

Someday we'll get our voices and be promoted upstairs, then someone else can do all this mending and repairing.

CHANCE

Holds up his sandal.

I pray we get to move up the ranks soon. The tread on my sandals is wearing a little thin.

PENELOPE

Puts finger to temple, as if thinking.

I was so certain we'd get our promotion after that last assignment in the desert.