



ALL AGE CHRISTMAS SCRIPT

A CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

By Rachel Gotobed - Family Ministries Outreach Mission Partner

Characters

- + Countdown Host - Robin Red (RR)
- + Numbers Expert - Carol Singer (CS)
- + Dictionary Expert - Holly Berry (HB)
- + Dictionary Corner Guest - Jedd Shepherd (JS)
- + Contestant 1 - Joseph Joiner (JJ)
- + Contestant 2 - Gabriel Messenger (GM)

SCRIPT

RR Hello and welcome everyone to A Christmas Countdown - the letters and numbers game for all to enjoy. I'm your host - *Robin Red* - and with me is Holly Berry in dictionary corner and Carol Singer on the letters and numbers. We're also thrilled to have joining us today our special guest for a Christmas Countdown, Jedd Shepherd. Welcome to you, Jedd.

JS Why, thank you, Robin - it's great to be here and I have a special treat to share with you all later.

RR That sounds great, Jedd - we'll look forward to that.

Now let me introduce our contestants for this afternoon - Joseph Joiner and Gabriel Messenger.

Hello, Joseph - welcome to Countdown. Tell us something about yourself.

JJ Hi there. Well as you said, I'm Joseph Joiner - I'm a carpenter from Nazareth - and Christmas is a very special time of year for me and my family, so I'm thrilled to be here today.

RR That's excellent, Joseph - I'm sure we'll learn more about that as we play our Christmas Countdown.

And how about you, Gabriel?





GM Yes, I'm Gabriel Messenger and also very pleased to be here today. I too have a special connection to Christmas which I hope will prove helpful.

RR Fantastic! Sounds like we're in for a great Christmas Countdown!

So, let's start with a letters and words round, and Joseph, please can you choose the letters?

Letters/Numbers can be displayed on card or electronically

JJ Consonant please, Carol.

CS N.

JJ And another, please.

CS C.

JJ Vowel please, Carol.

CS O.

JJ And another vowel, please.

CS It's an E.

JJ Two more consonants, please.

CS That's a B and another N.

JJ And two more vowels, please, Carol.

CS A and U.

JJ And a final consonant, please.

CS Oh dear - another N!

RR Wow - three N's - that's not necessarily nice! But let's see what you make of it. Your time starts now ...

A Christmas Countdown music plays - please note you don't need to do 30 seconds but may shorten to keep the flow

RR So how many letters then, Joseph?

JJ Six.





RR And you, Gabriel?

GM Eight.

H OK then, let's hear your six, please, Joseph.

JJ Bounce.

RR Now that's a moving word! And how about your eight, please, Gabriel.

GM Announce.

RR Announce - I hear you! But especially well done in using all three N's. Can we beat that over in Dictionary Corner?

HB No - we got 'announce' too, didn't we, Jedd?

JS Yes, we did, Holly, and I am very happy to recall that I once heard Gabriel over there *announce* that a special baby had been born in Bethlehem.

RR Is that right, Gabriel?

GM Well yes, it is, actually. I took a choir of angels out to the Bethlehem hillside to *announce* to some shepherds when Jesus had been born that first Christmas.

JS Yes, I was there that night - scared us half to death you did - filling the sky with light so bright we were petrified.

GM Sorry about that, Jedd, but it was a very important announcement I had to make, so I needed to make sure I got your full attention.

Some months earlier I had also made a special announcement to Joseph's then fiancée, Mary, to tell her she was going to have said baby, and then I appeared in a dream to Joseph himself.

JJ Yes, you did - in fact it was more like a nightmare - telling me I should marry Mary even though she was already pregnant. I was scared of the scandal it would cause, but you reassured me that this was God's Son she was carrying and that all would be well.

RR Wow! So, you're a bit of announcer yourself, then, Gabriel?

GM Yes - that's me - a Messenger by name and Messenger by occupation.

RR Fantastic. Well, you got the points for the first round, Gabriel, so perhaps you can now *announce* the letters for the second round?

GM Vowel please, Carol.





CS A.
GM And a consonant, please.
CS V.
GM Another one, please, Carol.
CS R.
GM And another vowel, please.
CS U.
GM Two more consonants, please.
CS S and T.
GM And two more vowels, please, Carol.
CS O and I.
GM And one last vowel, please.
CS Another O there.
RR Thank you, Carol. Everyone ready? Your time starts again now.

A Christmas Countdown music plays

RR So then, Gabriel, how many for you?
GM Seven this time.
RR And you, Joseph?
JJ I got seven as well.
RR Ooh, a tiebreaker! What's your seven, then, Gabriel?
GM Various.
RR That's good, but you can only give one answer in Countdown, not various!
So, what about you, Joseph?
JJ Saviour.
RR Saviour - now that's another good seasonal word for this Christmas special.





JJ Yes - I thought so too. When Gabriel appeared to me in my dream he told me that we had to name the baby 'Jesus' because he would save his people from their sins.

JS He told us shepherds the very same. That in the town of David a 'Saviour' had been born and that we would find him wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger - which is exactly what we did.

GM Oh, I have given various messages over the centuries, but nothing beats sharing news about the Saviour.

RR Amazing! Gabriel came to *announce* a *saviour* - that's good news and good scoring in both rounds. And what about over in Dictionary Corner - did you get anything different?

HB We got 'Saviour' and 'various' too, but we also got an eight - virtuoso.

RR Well done, Holly - a virtuoso performance as always. But it's seven points each to both Joseph and Gabriel, which means Joseph has seven points and Gabriel's in the lead with 15.

Now then, let's play the numbers round, and Joseph, please will you pick them?

JJ Thank you, Robin. Please can I have one large number, Carol, and five little ones?

CS Yes, of course, Joseph. Let's see - that's 25, 6, 4, 7, 5, 2 ... and the target to reach is ... 316.

RR And your time starts now!

A Christmas Countdown music plays

RR OK then, Joseph, how did you do?

JJ 316.

RR And you, Gabriel?

GM 318 for me.

RR Oh dear - two away there, Gabriel - so let's hear your 316, please, Joseph.

JJ $25 \times 2 = 50$ 50×6 is 300 and then add on 7, 4, 5 and that gives you 316.

CS Exactly how I did it, Joseph - well done.





RR So that's 10 points to Joseph which brings the scores closer now as Gabriel still has 15 but Joseph is in the lead with 17.

GM Excuse me, but even though I didn't get it right, I'd just like to point out how 3-16 is a very significant number at Christmas. You see, in the Bible we read in John 3:16, 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life', and in a nutshell this is why we celebrate Christmas because Jesus came as God's gift of love for us all.

RR Wow - thank you, Gabriel. So your job that first Christmas was to announce a Saviour who is God's gift to the whole world. That's brilliant! What a shame I can't give you any bonus points for pointing that out for us.

Now, have you got anything amazing like that to share with us, Jedd?

JS Actually I have, Robin - I've written a little something especially for today called 'A Christmas Countdown' and I've brought some friends along to help me with it - is that OK?

RR Why, of course - we're always glad to welcome other guests especially for our Christmas special.

Toddlers/primary perform 'A Christmas Countdown' action rhyme - can be in Nativity costumes

A CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

Ten angels shining bright

Hold up ten fingers

Fill the sky with heavenly light
sparkling light

Wiggle fingers to represent

Nine people rushing round

Hold up nine fingers and wiggle

'Til a place to sleep is found
eyes

Sleeping hands by head and close

Eight sheep on a hill

Hold up eight fingers

Munching grass while all is still

Rub tummy - say 'Baaa!'

Seven camels form a chain

Hold up seven fingers





Travel far through dust and rain

Walk on the spot and fingers rain down

Six stars way up high

Hold up six fingers

See them sparkle in the sky

Twinkle, twinkle hands

Five beds at the Inn

Hold up five fingers

There's no room - you can't come in

Wag finger and shake head

Four shepherds hear the news

Hold up four fingers - cup ear

Run to see - no time to lose

Hand over eyes and run on the spot

Three gifts rare and old

Hold up three fingers

Myrrh and frankincense and gold

Count up 1, 2, 3.

Two parents full of joy

Hold up two fingers

Cradling their little boy

Rock the baby

One baby - God's own Son

Hold up one finger

Born today for everyone!

Large circle to represent the world

RR That was outstanding, everyone - I don't think I could remember all those actions. What did you think, Carol and Holly?

CS They were all fantastic at remembering their numbers - it's not easy to count backwards.

HB Yes, it was excellent - a great way to help the children learn the story of the first Christmas.

RR Thank you so much for bringing your friends to see us, Jedd. I think they all deserve another round of applause.

Toddler group exit

RR So now it's time now to play the final round of the show and, as it's very close today, it's a crucial, Christmas Countdown Conundrum! So, if everyone's ready, then please reveal today's crucial Christmas Countdown conundrum.





CARSMITHS displayed and 'A Christmas Countdown' music starts to play. But JJ immediately gives the answer.

JJ It's Christmas! The conundrum is Christmas!

RR Let's take a look, shall we. Yes, it's Christmas - well done, Joseph - and that means you are today's Christmas Countdown winner with 27 points. Commiserations to you, Gabriel - it was a close contest and I hope you've enjoyed being on this special edition of the show. It's certainly been heavenly having you around today.

GM Thank you, Robin - it's been great to be part of this Christmas Countdown. But I hope you don't mind me saying that Christmas is certainly not a conundrum ... it is the celebration of the most wonderful truth that God sent his son to be the Saviour for all, and I really hope that people have heard the true message of Christmas today. I also need to say that Jesus has promised to come again, so we are all living in a countdown to when he will return and, even though we don't know when this will be, we are assured that he will.

RR Wow! That is some promise, Gabriel - a countdown that we can all celebrate.

And special congratulations to you, Joseph - you are our Christmas Countdown winner today.

JJ Why, thank you, Robin - I'm so pleased to have been here too, and I never expected a lowly carpenter like me would ever win.

RR And finally, special thanks also to Carol and Holly and especially to Jedd Shepherd.

JS It's been a joy to be here, and I'd like to finish with a special Christmas Countdown song for everyone to join in with - is that OK?

RR That would be brilliant, Jedd - a great way to finish the show.

So, all that's left for me to do now is to wish you all a very happy Countdown to the best Christmas ever!





SONG

Tick-tock
Tick-tock
Tick-tock, tick-tock
Tick-tock, tick-tock

We're counting down to Christmas
Advent time is here
We're counting down to Christmas
A special time of year
We're counting down to Christmas
There's lots to see and do
We're counting down to Christmas
It's fun for me and you

10, 9, 8,
7, 6, 5,
4, 3, 2 and 1
Counting down to Christmas,
Come on everyone!

Baby Jesus born today the Saviour of the world
Let's clap and shout and sing out loud that Jesus is the Lord.

Tick-tock
Tick-tock
Tick-tock, tick-tock
Tick-tock, tick-tock

We're counting down to Christmas
There's presents round the tree
We're counting down to Christmas
With friends and family
We're counting down to Christmas
Sing carols old and new
We're counting down to Christmas
God's love forever true.

10, 9, 8,
7, 6, 5,
4, 3, 2 and 1
Counting down to Christmas,
Come on everyone!

Baby Jesus born today the Saviour of the world
Let's clap and shout and sing out loud that Jesus is the Lord.





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