



Christmas Sings

A Christmas Sing provides a lovely occasion for inspiration and camaraderie. Its purpose is to share Principia with the field while ushering in the Christ-idea of joy and peace. The program can be very simple. A typical format is an hour-long program (additional time for food) featuring the following:

- Reading of Bible verses from the Christmas story
- Singing of carols and hymns
- Solo or small group participation by children, teens, or adults
- Showing of winter scene/ history of Prin slides, or the Christmas video
- Refreshments and socializing

Our major focus is metaphysical. Be sure to not get caught up in the flurry of busy work and neglect this most important foundation. Establish in thought that a right idea brings with it everything it needs for completion. Divine Mind is already in control of every aspect. Divine Love is welcoming its own ideas and they cannot resist this spiritual attraction.

Keep in mind...

The more people you involve, the smoother things will run.

The more people you involve, the less you have to do.

The more people you involve, the more family members will come with them.

The smaller the responsibility, the more willing people are to help.

The less advance prep they have to do, the more willing people are to help.

(Have people come just one hour early to do everything.)

If the Acorn group performs, you'll attract parents and grandparents.

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Please note -

"Principia Christmas Carol Books have been created with words and music, color photos of Principia, and information about the school and the tradition of Christmas Sings.

These Carol books are Principia's gift to our Prin Clubs and are not for sale. The First Church of Christ, Scientist has given Principia permission to include Christmas hymns from the Christian Science Hymnal with the understanding that the Carol Books would not be sold.

Each book includes Christmas favorites that have been approved by the Mother Church or are in public domain. Any club wishing to add a supplement to their carol books is welcome to do so, but Principia cannot legally publish such a supplement."



Reminder List

CHAIRMAN: _____

- Decide date, time, food
- Arrange for hall or home, musical instrument(s), and chairs
- Submit form to Principia to order invitations
- Submit form to Principia for insurance (if needed)
- Encourage Sunday School teachers to bring their classes
- Offer transportation to those who might need it
- If possible, split up list and call people to remind them
- Send evaluation form to Principia
- Arrange for the following helpers:

SET-UP: _____

- Keys
- Door unlocked
- Heat on
- Podium and food tables arranged
- Bathroom in order (paper, soap, towels)
- Chairs set up (children can help)
- Song books distributed (children can help)
- Place for coats (children can help)
- Chairs taken down
- Temperature back to normal
- Doors locked and keys returned

PROGRAM: _____

- Arrange for MC and script
- Choose Bible verses and carols
- Arrange for pianist or other kind of musician
- Pre-sing music
- Arrange for any A/V equipment (microphone, recorder, projector, screen)
- Any other entertainment (storyteller, individual musicians or musical groups)
- Use of slides or videos
- Have program printed (optional)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES (optional): _____

- Older kids or adults to help supervise
- Special part in program
- Separate refreshments or treat packages
- Arts and crafts

FOOD: _____

- Tablecloths
- Centerpieces (or Decorations Chairman)
- Serving pieces and utensils
- Paper products (napkins, plates, cups, utensils)
- Dish towels and paper towels
- Beverages (people to make and serve)
- Water pitcher/ice
- People to take food at door
- Food cleanup

DECORATIONS: _____

- Entrance
- Main Room
- Food Area
- Podium
- Principia Club Banner - each Club should have a new Prin banner, it helps to identify the Sing location
- Poinsettias (optional, can be given to hostess or helpers following event or sold)
- Take down at end (unless hall or home wishes them left)

MAN TABLES: _____

- Bring card table and items for that table
- Nametags and Guest Book (special nametags for current students)
- Membership
- Literature
- Calendars/Cookbook sales
- Tapes/Videos to loan out
- Old Prin yearbooks/scrapbooks from club

USHERS: _____

- Outdoors for parking help
- At front door to welcome
- Indoors to assist with seating
- At exit door to say goodbye
- Boutonnieres or special nametags (optional)

SIGNS: _____

- On streets leading to Sing
- In front of hall or home
- Directions into room
- Directions to place for coats
- Directions to bathroom

PHOTOGRAPHER: _____

- Take lots of pictures! Consider taking both 35mm and digital photos, and then be sure to send your great results to the Field Activities Office so we can feature your Prin Club on our web-site!



Locations to Consider

If there is room in someone’s home this is ideal for the cozy atmosphere, the likelihood of having a piano, and the ease of using already existing holiday decorations. There needs to be a place for young children, either a basement or playroom, and a piano would be helpful.

Here are a number of suggestions for public places:

Athletic Clubs	Botanical Gardens	Public schools
Businesses	Historical societies	Restaurants
Churches - not CS*	Hotels	Restored public homes
Civic centers	Jr. League facilities	Senior centers
Colleges	Libraries	Shopping malls
Community centers	Museums	Women’s clubs
Condo community rooms	Parks	Yacht clubs
Country clubs	YMCA’s or YWCA’s	Private schools

*Prin Club events in a Christian Science church -

- “It shall be made clear that The Principia is a private philanthropy and not an official activity of the Christian Science Church (Policy #1 of Purpose and Policies of The Principia)”.
- Clearly, this policy speaks to the requirement of a separation of the Church and its branches from Principia and its activities. Therefore, Prin Clubs are asked not to hold events, meetings, activities, etc. in Christian Science branch churches.

Food

Food should be festive and reflective of the season and could be either light refreshments or a meal. (See recipe ideas at the back of this book, for cooking with children and for serving at the Sing.)

Decorations

In addition to appropriate seasonal décor, each Club should hang their Principia banner, which helps to identify the Sing location.

Creative Program Ideas – Key Elements to a Successful Christmas Sing

Welcome

- Have the Club President or Event Coordinator welcome the group and share announcements (visiting weekends, and other upcoming club events)

Music

- Consider having music playing before the Sing begins, either recorded or live.
- Duets or small group choral selections
- Kid or adult solos
- Individual instrument solos or duets
- Rhythm instruments for kids to accompany certain songs (an elementary or pre-school teacher may have some)
- Small orchestra
- Entertainment by a talented family
- Pre-rehearsed adult choir
- Locally based entertainment (light opera, madrigals, etc.)
- Have younger children (perhaps the Acorn group) sit on floor in front to sing together and listen to story (consider candy canes with jingle bells on them to accompany “Jingle Bells” and to keep them busy eating when finished singing)

Games to Introduce Carols

- Pictionary – draw clues before each carol – audience must guess which one is next
- Name That Tune – divide audience into two sides – 1st side tries to guess in 1 note, then the second side gets two notes, 1st side in 3, etc. – keep score, winning side gets to go to refreshment table first

Specific Carols

Twelve Days of Christmas –

- Assign parts to different tables or rows – have them stand when their part comes around
- Assign parts to different people who hold up signs or objects to represent each gift
- Group audience in special categories (present parents, past parents, children under twenty, former club board members, present board, alumni, men, women, current students, people wearing red, people wearing green) to sing specific parts

We Three Kings -

- Have three men wear crowns and carry gold (chocolate coins), frankincense (tea ball on a chain), and myrrh (silver dust) in an old jar
- Child carry long pole with a silver star at end which “the kings” follow

Jingle Bells -

- Children come up to front and jiggle parent’s keys in time to the music
- Give children pipe cleaners strung with three or more jingle bells
- Candy canes with jingle bells for children

The Story of the Christ (Principia carol)-

- Alumni to sing first verse with rest of audience to follow

Silent Night -

- Small group to parade into darkened room carrying candles - blow out one by one until only one candle is left - blow this one out at very end of carol to end the Sing

Christmas Story from Bible interspersed with carols -

Matthew 2:1,2	O Little Town of Bethlehem
Matthew 2: 7,9,10	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
	To Us a Child of Hope is Born
Matthew 2:11	We Three Kings
Luke 2: 8-11	The First Noel
	Angels at the Savior’s Birth
Luke 2: 13,14	Joy to the World
Luke 2: 40	Blest Christmas Morn
	The Story of the Christ

-or-

Isaiah 7:14 (Behold)	Away in a Manger
Luke 2: 1, 3-7	To Us a Child of Hope is Born
Matthew 2: 1, 2, 11	We Three Kings
Luke 2: 8,9	While Shepherds Watch’d Their Flocks
	The First Noel
Luke 2: 10,11	Angels at the Savior’s Birth
	Joy to the World
Luke 2: 12,13,14	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Luke 2:15	O Little Town of Bethlehem
Luke 2:16, 17,18, 20	O Come, All Ye Faithful
	Silent Night

Other Ideas –

- Short Nativity Play
- Christmas Poem
- Read the history of Principia Sings (pg. 42, Christmas Carol Book)
- As each guest arrives, have them write down their Christmas wish on a red or green strip – read them aloud as part of the program and then form into a chain
- Have people stand and tell about their own favorite Christmas traditions or memories
- Have current students give brief remarks spread throughout program about how they are enjoying Prin
- Festive dancing by children or other talented guests
- Video or slide show
- Caroling in neighborhood or at a care facility following Sing

Gifts for guests –

- Small Principia item from the bookstore
- Photo of family taken at the sing and slipped into a pre-made ornament
- Candy canes
- Treat bags for children (treats can be wrapped in tissue paper and called “Sugar Plums” following the Principia Pre-School tradition)
- Gingerbread men
- Poinsettias for hosts
- Principia calendars for hosts

Community Service -

- Guests bring ornaments (or children make them) for a tree to be given afterwards to a charity
- Donations of canned goods for a charity serve as “tickets of admission” to Sing
- Have a “Mitten Tree” with everyone bringing mittens or scarves for disadvantaged children
- Everyone brings an extra plate of cookies for a homeless shelter
- Assemble a “Christmas Basket” for a family in need or a family new to the area. Each guest brings something to contribute to the basket.
- Check within your community to find local needs (Chamber of Commerce, Fire-stations). Check with local C.S. nursing or local nursing facilities for needs they may have.

Fun for the Kids

Consider designating someone as the coordinator for all the children's activities, and, if possible, hold the Sing in a space that would allow room (an extra room) for cooking or a craft activity. Make sure you have projects or enough helpers (teenagers) to supervise and entertain children of all ages.

Children's Stories –

Need a quiet activity? Here is a list of Christmas books, recommended by one of our Principia librarians, appropriate for reading aloud.

The Cobweb Christmas, by Shirley Climo

Mittens, by Clare Turlay Newberry

A Tale of Three Trees, by Angela Elwell Hunt

The Littlest Christmas Tree, by Janie Jasin

Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg

Little Engine That Could, by Wally Pipe

A Wish for Wings That Work, by Berkley Breathed

Santa's Favorite Story, by Hisako Aoki

The Bird Tree, by Frans Van Anrooy



Crafts -

- **Christmas Luminaries**

A Christmas tradition in many homes and neighborhoods is the lining of driveways and sidewalks with candle luminaries. You can line the sidewalk of the Sing location with luminaries that the kids make themselves.

You can purchase brown or white quart sized paper bags and let the kids draw their own Christmas designs on them, and then have an adult or older child cut out the design. You could use cookie cutters to trace a design on to each bag. These are easily lit with small decorative candles or sterno candles. Make sure you place small pebbles inside the bag to keep it from blowing in the wind.

- **A Christmas Tree for Birds**

Have the children decorate a small tree outside for the neighborhood birds, using bird friendly decorations.

1 Pinecone
Pure honey
seed
yarn

1. Take your Pinecone and wash it off with water to take off any dirt that may be lurking around on it.
2. Take your honey and coat the pinecone all over, I would say a medium layer of honey.
3. Take the pinecone and roll it all around in the seed until it is covered.
4. Take your yarn and tie it around near the top of the pine cone enough to hang from a tree and whala! Your Pinecone Special!

Another pinecone treat for birds -

Mix four parts cornmeal with one part each peanut butter and vegetable shortening. Spread on a pinecone and hang outdoors for a fine, feathered feast.



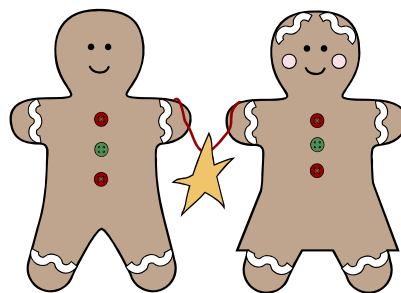
- **Gingerbread Houses**

Consider assembling a pre-made gingerbread house from a kit or have a volunteer put together the house beforehand. Ask guests to each bring a bag of Christmas candy for decorating the house. Have the children frost and decorate one large house together, or have them make their own smaller houses using graham crackers.

<p><u>Gingerbread</u> Ingredients: 5 cups all purpose flour 1 teaspoon baking soda 1 teaspoon salt 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg 1 cup shortening 1 tablespoon ground ginger 1 cup white sugar 1 cup molasses</p>	<p><u>Frosting</u> Ingredients: 2 ½ cups confectioners' sugar ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar 2 eggs whites ½ teaspoon vanilla extract</p>
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Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Melt shortening in a saucepan large enough for mixing the dough. Mix in sugar and molasses. Combine the flour, salt, baking soda, nutmeg and ginger; gradually stir into the pan, using your hands to work in the last bit. Dough should be stiff
3. On a floured surface, roll out dough to ¼ inch thickness, and cut out as desired. Make sure the gingerbread is of uniform thickness, or the edges may burn before the center is done. Place pieces onto cookie sheets.
4. Bake for 13 to 15 minutes in the preheated oven. Let cool for several minutes on the cookie sheet, then remove to racks to finish cooling.
5. When the gingerbread has cooled completely, make the frosting cement. In a medium bowl, mix together confectioners' sugar and cream of tartar. Add egg whites and vanilla. Beat on high speed until frosting holds its shape. If necessary, add more confectioners' sugar to thicken the icing. Cover frosting with a damp cloth to prevent drying.



Snowflakes on a Stick –

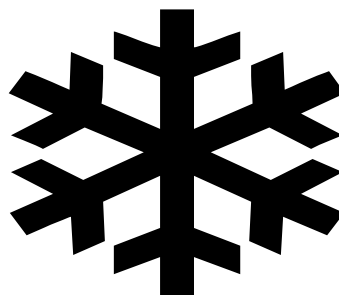
Snowflake cutters and decorative sugars make these cookies simple, yet stunning. Consider assembling the snowflakes prior to the event, and letting the children decorate them with white edible glitter, nonpareils, and/or coarse sugar; then bake.

Ingredients –

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. Finely shredded orange, lemon or lime peel
1 cup butter
1 Tbsp. Milk
16 lollipop sticks
Milk
Decorative sprinkles, nonpareils, coarse sugar.

Directions –

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. In a mixing bowl combine flour, sugar, and orange peel. Using a pastry blender, cut in butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs and starts to cling. Stir in the 1 tablespoon milk. Form mixture into a ball. Knead until smooth. Divide dough in half.
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to ½ inch thickness. Using a 3 to 4 inch snowflake cutter, cut out dough. Place cutouts about 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Insert a lollipop stick at least 1 inch into each cutout.
3. Brush tops of cutouts with additional milk. If using edible glitter, stir together equal proportions of glitter and granulated sugar. Sprinkle glitter mixture, nonpareils, and/or sugar over cutouts. Bake in a 325 F oven for 15 minutes or until very light brown around edges. Cool on cookie sheet for 1 minutes. Transfer cookies to a wire rack; cool completely. Makes about sixteen 3-inch cookies.



Candied Candy Canes –

Have the children make these prior to beginning the Sing. The canes will need time to stand until chocolate is firm. These make a nice treat to take home!

Ingredients –

1 cup white baking pieces or semisweet chocolate pieces

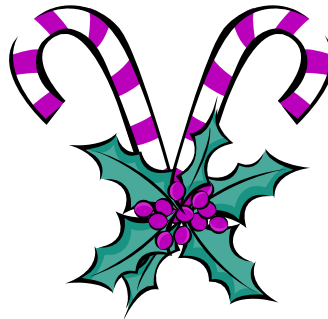
1 tsp. Shortening

12 candy canes, about 5 ½ inches long

Decorative red sugar, nonpareils, and sprinkles

Directions –

1. In a saucepan combine baking pieces or chocolate and shortening. Stir over low heat until melted. (Or, combine baking pieces and shortening in a microwave-safe bowl. Micro-cook on 70 percent power for 1 to 2 minutes or until baking pieces are melted, stirring every 30 seconds.)
2. Transfer melted baking pieces or chocolate to a 1-cup glass liquid measuring cup. Dip the bottom or top half of each candy cane into melted baking pieces, tilting cup if necessary to coat candy cane. Immediately sprinkle or roll in decorative sugar, nonpareils, or sprinkles. Place on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Let stand for 1 hour or until chocolate is firm. Makes 12 candy canes.



Marshmallow Snowmen –

These cute little snowmen are made from toasted marshmallows, pretzel sticks and mini M&M's. If you have the Sing in a location with a fireplace, the kids can toast the marshmallows themselves!



Ingredients –

Thin wooden branches, cleaned (for toasting marshmallows)
12 large marshmallows
12 mini marshmallows
8 pretzel sticks
16 plain mini M&M's

Directions –

1. For each snowman, thread a branch through three large marshmallows so they're touching. To make arms, place a pretzel stick on the right and left sides of the middle marshmallow. Attach a small marshmallow to the ends of all the pretzels to make hands.
2. Lightly toast marshmallows until golden. Arrange mini M&M's on the top marshmallow to make eyes, a nose, and a mouth. Remove branches before serving.

Triple Hot Chocolate –

Ingredients –

1 qt. Low-fat milk
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chocolate syrup
6 tbs. Chocolate chips
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup low-fat aerosol whipped cream
Shaved white chocolate

Directions –

1. In a large pot, place milk over medium heat, stirring frequently, until small bubbles appear at sides of the pot. Add syrup; stir.
2. Divide mixture among mugs and stir 1 tablespoon chocolate chips into each. Top with whipped cream and white chocolate shavings.