



PREVIEW

**APHOBIA-FREE
FAITH-FILLED
FESTIVITY**

SCRIPT & MUSIC
BY RANDY MERRILL

PREVIEW

A PHOBIA-FREE FAITH-FILLED FESTIVITY

Music by Randy Merrill
Script by Randy Merrill and Miranda Peets

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PHOBIA-FREE, FAITH-FILLED FESTIVITY

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All Scripture quoted from the King James Version.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

THEME VERSE

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

SYNOPSIS

This light-hearted program opens with Stephanie getting ready to decorate for Christmas and realizing she’s misplaced her phone, which has her list on it. Fred comes to help her, but his many phobias keep him from venturing into the attic to get the items Stephanie needs.

From rats, to fruitcake, fire and more, Fred (and the audience) embarks on a phobia-freeing journey that leads through the many “Fear Not’s” within the Christmas story. In the end, the audience discovers that true victory over fear is found through faith in Christ! “We don’t have to be afraid. We’re safe in His hands!”

STAGING

This program is designed to be simple and use minimal props and set. The placement of choir, characters, props, microphones, etc. is largely determined by your particular stage layout, entrances, and exits.

DECOR

Decorate the stage for Christmas in advance, or have a few choir members or older kids in your children’s choir decorate during the beginning of “A Phobia-Free, Faith-Filled Festivity” Theme song. This could be as simple as having a tree already set up on stage, adding some tinsel and a few large ornaments from the boxes Stephanie brings in, and plugging in the lights.

ATTIRE

In keeping with the spirit of the program, please have your choir and speakers dress festively, but tactfully in order not to distract from the gospel message.

One color combination option is:

Men: White dress shirts, “Christmas red” ties, dark pants (charcoal or black), black dress shoes

Women: A mixture of White, black, or “Christmas red” dresses or shirts, and skirts / dress pants (depending on your church policy). Optional: a white, black, or “Christmas red” scarf.

Children: Same as adults

SEATING

Those that have speaking parts should sit near a set of microphones with stands.

The children’s choir members may need to wait in a separate room under adult supervision until it is their turn on stage. If there is adequate seating and supervision in the auditorium, the first row or two can be reserved for the children’s choir.

PRE-PROGRAM PREP

Print and distribute promotional materials to church members and local businesses.

Print and hand out the program (include Phobia Quiz) during the event.

CHARACTERS & COSTUMES

MAIN CHARACTERS

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

PASTOR:	Welcome, Prayer, and Mini-Message
DIRECTOR:	Leads the choir, 11 lines (<i>some lines may be given to the speakers if desired</i>)
FRED:	Personality: Animated and somewhat eccentric with a quirky sense of humor, lots of phobias, and terrible spelling skills. Costume: Poorly coordinated shepherd's robe and headdress, socks (<i>a hole in the toe of one sock</i>), and sandals
STEPHANIE:	Personality: Assertive and kind. Amused, but also slightly annoyed by Fred's antics. When she isn't interacting with Fred, she sings with the choir. Costume: Similar to the other choir members, but adds a fun Christmas scarf and/or earrings to set her apart from the others
CHOIR:	See "Attire" note on previous page.

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

(Adult speakers can also be choir members. With a smaller cast, some of the speakers can double parts. Most speakers can read their lines from their books.)

SPEAKER 1:	Lead reading of Luke 2:1-14
SPEAKER 2:	1 line
SPEAKER 3:	1 line
SPEAKER 4:	Energetic older child or young teen, 2 lines
SPEAKER 5:	Male, 1 line Costume: Church or work clothes, or the same color scheme as the choir.
SPEAKER 6:	1 line
SPEAKER 7:	Female, 3 lines
SPEAKER 8:	Female, 3 lines
JOSEPH:	Male, 1 line. No costume needed.
CHILD 1:	Older child or young teen, 3 lines
CHILD 2:	3 lines
CHILD 3:	Young child, 1 line
SOLOIST:	Sings with Child 2 and Child 3 (Bonus if they are related): 1 line and solo
2+ CHEFS:	At least 1 male for moving table and chairs. No lines. The chef's job is to set up a table and chair and add/remove food during the "Sniff, Sniff" song. Costume: White chef coat and black pants, or dressed in all black and wearing white aprons and chef hats.

PROPS

GENERAL PROPS

ITEM(S)	CHARACTER(S)
Music stand or podium	Director and/or Pastor
2 large boxes	Stephanie
Christmas tree box	Fred
Staff or shepherd's crook	Fred
Phone	Fred
Large (red) box with phone inside	Fred
Clipboard, cardstock, fat marker	Fred

(Note: You may wish to write out the cards in advance and place them on the clipboard so Fred just pretends to write on the cards before he shows the audience.)

Confetti Popper	Choir member
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SMIFF, SNIFF SONG

ITEM(S)	CHARACTER(S)
Paper chef hats	One per choir member (<i>placed in front pocket of music folder</i>)
2 decorative candy canes (<i>2 ft. tall</i>)	2 choir members (<i>1 candy cane each</i>)

Chefs need the following items:

Apron (*1 each*)

Small table (*like a card table*) and chair

Festive tablecloth and table decor

Flatware (*1 setting*), cup, and large cloth napkin (*to be used as bib*)

Bowls or plates of apples, fruitcake, hot chocolate, popcorn, tea kettle, cookies, etc.

AUDIO/VISUAL

MICROPHONES

ITEM(S)	CHARACTER(S)
Belt packs	Pastor, Fred, Stephanie, Director (<i>can use stand mic if needed</i>)
Choir Mics	Choir members
(?) Mic stands and mics	Children's choir, speakers, and small group ensembles
3+ Handheld Mics	Child 1, Speaker 5, and 1+ mics for various speakers to share

SLIDE PRESENTATION

Slides containing song titles, words for Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Phobia Quiz and answers, responsive reading text, Pastor's message illustrations, etc. (See .zip folder for presentation backgrounds)

A PHOBIA-FREE FAITH-FILLED FESTIVITY

PRELUDE: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

See downloaded .zip file for piano solo or brass trio music.

OPENING HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Use music in hymnal on screen.

WELCOME & PRAYER: Pastor

SCENE 1

STEPHANIE: *(enters carrying boxes)* **Let's see, garland, lights, tinsel... Let me check the list on my phone... *(looks around, perplexed)* Oh, no! Where's my phone!?**

FRED: *(enters, clumsily carrying Christmas tree box, staff, clipboard, and marker)*
Hey, Stephanie! Where do you want this?

STEPHANIE: *(absently, still looking for her phone)* **Oh, hi, Fred. Thanks. You can put it right there.**

FRED: *(sets items down, then stands up and stretches awkwardly)* **Whew!**

STEPHANIE: *(sees Fred and does a double-take at his outfit)* **What are you wearing!?**

FRED: *(proudly)* **This is my costume! I'm going to be a shepherd in the Christmas play so I wanted to *(forced acting voice)* "get into character"!**

STEPHANIE: *(amused)* **I see.**

FRED: **So, is there anything else I can help you with?**

STEPHANIE: **Actually, yes! I've lost my phone and my list was on it.**

FRED: *(picks up clipboard and marker from top of box)* **Well, if you remember some of the things on the list, I can write them down for you.**

STEPHANIE: **Perfect! Let's see... There's a big red box of ornaments...**

FRED: *(thinking out loud)* **Whew, that's a big word. Or-na-ments.**

STEPHANIE: **...and a wreath.**

FRED: **Wreath. "R-E- *(sounds out)* th, th, th." Hmm. How do you spell *(sounds out)* "th"?**

STEPHANIE: **"T-H"—and if you could look for my phone too, that would be great.**

FRED: *(sounds out)* **"f", "f" like Fred. "f" F-O-N *(proudly)* "phone"!**

STEPHANIE: *(looks at the list)* **What is that!? That isn't how you spell phone! The "f" sound is written P-H like in my name, "Stephanie".**

FRED: **P-H. P-H-O-N.**

STEPHANIE: **Oh, forget it!**

FRED: **Spelling is fun! *(writes "PHUN" on card and holds it up)***

STEPHANIE: **No, that starts with "f."**

FRED: *(scratches his head)* **So, where is all this stuff?**

STEPHANIE: *(nonchalantly)* **It's up in the attic.**

FRED: **The attic?! Oh, no! *(suddenly panics and speaks quickly)* You've got the wrong guy! I do NOT do attics! They're dark and scary and filled with spiders and mice. *(acts it out as he speaks)* Besides, you have to climb that rickety little ladder to get up there and I'm afraid of heights. What's more, the ceiling is short and I can't breathe, and I start sweating, and my heart goes thumpity-thump when I'm in small spaces like closets and elevators. *(starts hyperventilating)* The last time I was in an elevator the power went out and I was stuck in there for hours! *(very dramatically)* It was the *worst* day of my life! *(takes a big breath and tries to calm down)***

STEPHANIE: *(raises her eyebrows)* **Wow! Sounds like you've got a lot of phobias.**

FRED: **Phoba—what?**

STEPHANIE: **Phobias! You know, fears. You're afraid of a lot of things.**

FRED: **You're telling me! I've got P-H-E-R bad!**

STEPHANIE: **What?**

FRED: **Fear!**

DIRECTOR: *(enters)* **Hi, you two! What are you doing?**

STEPHANIE: **We're getting the Christmas decorations put up and Fred was just telling me about some of his phobias.**

DIRECTOR: **Well, all of us are afraid of something. In fact, there are names for them.** *(Turns to audience)* **Let's find out how you did on your quiz!**

FRED: **I hope it's not a spelling quiz.**

STEPHANIE: *(with a long-suffering smile)* **Fred, are you going to go get those things for me or not?** *(watches Fred leave, then sits down with the choir)*

FRED: *(sighs)* **I guess I better go face my phobias.** *(exits down the center aisle and out the back door)*

DIRECTOR: *(leads Phobias Quiz)*

PHOBIAS QUIZ

See Phobias Quiz at the back of this book.

CHOIR: A Phobia-Free, Faith-Filled Festivity!

See "Decor" note on page 2.

A Phobia-Free, Faith-Filled Festivity

Theme

Words and Music by Randy Merrill

$\bullet = 112$

F C/E Dm Am/C Gm7/Bb Am7 Dm7 Gm7 C_{sus}

mf

Optional: Repeat first 4 measures for the choir entrance. If so, play 1st time 8va.

5 F C/E Dm Bb/D F/C Bb Am7 Dm7 Gm7 C7sus C

This is the time for Christ-mas cheer, not fear. This is the hap - pi - est time of the year.

9 F C Dm F+2/C Bb Gm/C 3 F

Let's cel - e - brate and have a pho - bi - a - free, faith - filled fes - tiv - i - ty!

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13 F C/E B \flat Csus C F Dm7 Gm C7

1. Luke says the shep - herds were "sore a - fraid" and in - stant-ly filled with fright. when
 2. Near Beth - le - hem joy - ful tid - ings came an - nounc - ing the Sav - ior's birth. This

17 F F7 B \flat 9 Gm7 F/C Gm/C C Fsus F

an - gels sud - den - ly did ap - pear, all wrapped in glo - ri - ous light.
 new - born ba - by in swad - dling clothes would bring true peace on the earth.

21 F C/E Dm B \flat /D F/C B \flat Am7 Dm7 Gm7 C7sus C

This is the time for Christ - mas cheer, not fear. This is the hap - pi - est time of the year.

25 F C Dm F+2/C Bb Gm/C

Let's cel - e - brate and have a pho - bi - a - free, faith - filled fes - tiv - i -

28 F Bridge Db+2 Db Eb/F F+2 Db+2 Db Eb/F

ty! There's no rea - son to cow - er in terror. There's no cause — for a -

32 F+2 F Db+2 Db Eb/F F+2 Db Gm C sus C

- larm. Just by faith — trust in Je - sus a - lone. Then you'll be safe from all harm. —

37 F B \flat C F Dm7 Gm C

mf 3. All men are born with a sin - ful heart and so all must die. It's clear. (It's clear.) But

mf

41 F/A F7 B \flat 9/D Gm7 F/C C C7 F sus F F/E \flat

Je - sus con-quer-ed the dread of death. His per - fect love casts out fear. — Casts out

45 *accel.* D sus D G D/F \sharp Em C/E G/D

fear. *f* This is the time — for Christ-mas cheer, not fear.

f

48 C Bm7 Em7 Am7 D+4sus D G D/F

This is the hap - pi - est time of the year. Let's cel - e - brate and have a

51 Em G+2/D C Am/D 3 G+2 G D/F

pho - bi - a - free, faith - filled fes - tiv - i - ty! Let's cel - e - brate and have a

55 Em G+2/D C /D Am/D 3 G

pho - bi - a - free, faith - filled fes - tiv - i - ty!

SCENE 2

SPEAKER 1: **What a festivity! But what are we celebrating and why? Let's find the answer in Luke 2. You fill in the blanks as I read. (pause for audience to answer at the underlined words)**

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

CHIMES/PIANO DUET: Angels from the Realms of Glory

See downloaded .zip file for piano duet or chime music.

DIRECTOR: *(Instruct audience to jingle keys at appointed times during song)*

SCENE 3

DIRECTOR: Notice verses 8 and 9 of Luke 2. Remember what we learned about phobias? That word is right here! When the angels appeared to the shepherds, it says that they were “sore afraid.” Those two words require 3 Greek words: “phobeo (fōb-eh-ō) megas phobos (fō-bōs).” We get our English word “phobia” from “phobeo.” When something is huge or massive, we still use the word “mega” and phobos is the root of phobeo. In other words, “the shepherds were fearful with great big fear, alarm or fright.” Obviously, this was a mega scare...like a pouncing lion coming out of nowhere, a surprised growling grizzly bear or an unexpected firecracker exploding nearby.

(Choir member shoots off confetti popper and choir reacts.)

SPEAKER 2: *(jumps up)* I’m afraid of snakes!

SPEAKER 3: I’m afraid of getting fat! *(Raises hand)* Anyone else? *(other in choir raise hands)*

SPEAKER 4: *(stands up excitedly)* You know what I’m afraid of...? *(shivers)* Fruitcake!

(Choir reacts as if frightened.)

DIRECTOR: *(turns to audience)* How about you? What scares you?

(Audience responds or Director gives examples... death, darkness, danger, accidents/falling, failure, your boss, skeletons, your neighbor’s dog, loud noises, heavy traffic, elevators, black cats, etc.)

(Children’s Choir enters)

DIRECTOR: Well, it’s normal to be afraid, especially when taken by surprise! Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds were, but you don’t have to stay frightened. Why? Because 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

CHILDREN’S CHOIR: God Has Not Given Us the Spirit of Fear

God Has Not Given Us the Spirit of Fear

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Words and Music by Randy Merrill

$\text{♩} = 112$

mf For God has not gi - ven the

spir - it of fear, — but of pow - er and of love and of a (*) sound mind. For

God has not gi - ven us the spir - it of fear, but of po - wer, love — and a

PREVIEW

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It features a vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The score is divided into three systems. The first system covers measures 1-3, the second covers measures 4-6, and the third covers measures 7-9. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: D and D/F# for measures 1-3; G, Em7, A, D, and G/A for measures 4-6; and D, D/F#, G, Em7, E7/G#, A, and A9/C# for measures 7-9. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present at the start of the first system. A tempo marking of quarter note = 112 is at the top left. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

* Optional: Clap on the quarter rest each time before the words "sound mind."

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