



“Don’t Settle for the Wrappings”

Welcome...Let’s Get Started

I am Pastor Roger Theimer, author of “Don’t Settle for the Wrappings.” I hope you find this experience as meaningful and engaging as our church did! It was a wonderful Christmas worship! Here are some helpful hints.

What happens in this worship service?

The worship experience will be engaging for all ages, but it especially will hold the attention of children. Children are key actors in the drama sketches and are encouraged to be part of the worship team, leading music. Three drama sketches are woven together, interspersed with song and prayer. The opening sketch introduces a family of five in their living room on Christmas Eve. As they discuss their Christmas presents, the father calls their attention to a storybook: “Don’t Settle for the Wrappings.” While each family member helps read this rhyming story, the audience watches a dramatic version come to life. Four giant wrapped presents emerge. Inside each of the boxes are young costumed children who act out the personality of their gift. One of the presents, which is wrapped in straw, delivers the gift of the Christ-child. The third dramatic presentation is the family reading of the Christmas narrative from Luke. Children dressed as shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph act out the event. The congregation joins in, singing Christmas carols as the story unfolds.

What materials are enclosed?

- 1) **Bulletin: “Don’t Settle for the Wrappings – Christmas Eve Family Service.”**
This is the worship service outline to print in your bulletin. First, edit it according to your own musical selections and other options. It’s in a Word document, so it

should be easy to modify. Also enclosed is a front cover for easy duplication on your copier. If you use it for a service other than a Christmas Eve service, be sure to correct the subtitles. There are two options available for your bulletin cover.

2) **Script: “Don’t Settle for the Wrappings”**

Run off copies for all speaking parts.

3) **Script, Staging and Lighting: “Don’t Settle for the Wrappings.”**

This is needed for the director and the sound and light technicians.

How many people will be needed?

This is flexible Adjust accordingly. This list is in order of appearance.

Welcome	Pastor
Prayer	Grandparent, parent, child
Music/Worship	Worship team. (<i>Suggestion: include children.</i>)
Dramatic sketch	Dad, Mom, teenage sister, middle school brother, and older elementary brother
Storybook Comes to Life	Four children, ages 5 to 7, who can move expressively
Offering Song	Solo or special music
Christmas Narrative	Any age children for Mary, Joseph, three or four shepherds, and three or four angels
Prayer	Pastor
Blessings	Grandparent, parent, child