

Children Go Where I Send Thee

Traditional Spiritual

E

Children go where I send thee.

E

How shall I send thee?

E

I'm gonna send you one by one;

E

One for the little bitty baby,

[*Jesus the Christ*]

A E B⁷ E

Was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

E

Children go where I send thee.

E

How shall I send thee?

E

I'm gonna send you two by two;

E

Two for Paul and Silas,

[*two of the early missionaries*]

E

One for the little bitty baby,

A E B⁷ E

Was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

E

Children go where I send thee.

E

How shall I send thee?

E

I'm gonna send you three by three;

E

Three for the Hebrew children,

[*Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego*]

E

Two for Paul and Silas,

E

One for the little bitty baby,

A E B⁷ E

Was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

- Four for the four who stood at the door, [*Matthew, Mark, Luke & John*]
- Five for the Gospel preachers, [*All of the Gospel Preachers*]
- Six for the jars where the wine was mixed, [*Jesus' first miracle in Cana*]
- Seven for the seven who came from heaven, [*Seven-fold Spirit of God*]
- Eight for the eight who sealed their fate, [*The eight that entered Noah's Ark*]
- Nine for the ninety-nine in line, [*Those waiting while the Good Shepherd seeks the lost one*]
- Ten for the Ten Commandments,
- Eleven for the eleven who went to heaven, [*The eleven Apostles minus Judas Iscariot*]
- Twelve for the twelve Apostles,

Scripture and History

"**Children, Go Where I Send Thee**" is a traditional cumulative spiritual brought by those of us who's families came from Africa. It's also known as "The Holy Baby" or "Born in Bethlehem" and is sung in many versions, each giving a Biblical meaning to the numbers mentioned.

A **cumulative song** is a song with a simple verse structure modified by progressive addition so that each verse is longer than the verse before.

Cumulative songs are popular for group singing, in part because they require relatively little memorization of lyrics, and because remembering the previous verse to concatenate it to form the current verse can become a kind of game. They are also used in the early teaching and learning of little children.

Wikipedia



Image from [Family Christmas Online](#)