

Week 1: **Shepherds: Humble Witnesses to the Glory of God**

Lesson Overview:

Memory Verse:

Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people:

Today’s Point: God reveals His love to those who listen.

Scriptures: Luke 2:8-20

Overview: Just like the shepherds, God reveals His love to us when we take the time to listen. The shepherds were ordinary people doing their job when they heard the incredible news of Jesus' birth. This shows us that even in our ordinary lives, God can do extraordinary things. When we listen and trust in God, we can experience His love and joy, just like the shepherds did.

Lesson Video: The Shepherds and the Angels

<https://youtu.be/gSBMkKxE-s?si=AURLVlw7aaDa5N00>

December Songs:

Birthday Party for Jesus

https://youtu.be/7lrbeWmK0P0?si=tl_0wtgnwPK4ZIG-

Go Tell It On the Mountain

<https://youtu.be/UVX6to3OZsM?si=VaelkqpDeEUQKQxh>

Schedule:

Warm Up Question (3 min.):

What is the strangest/scariest thing that has ever happened to you?

Review Classroom Rules (3 min.)

Review giving and collect offerings (2 min.)

Review point and Key verse: (5 min.)

Today's Point: God reveals His love to those who listen.

Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people:

Lead Song Time: (7 min.)

Birthday Party for Jesus

https://youtu.be/7lrbeWmK0P0?si=tl_0wtgnwPK4ZIG-

Go Tell It On the Mountain

<https://youtu.be/UVX6to3OZsM?si=VaelkqpDeEUQKQxh>

Welcome Script: Good morning, kids! I am so excited to see all of you here today, bright-eyed and ready to journey with us on a remarkable adventure. We're starting a brand-new series called "Heroes of the Nativity," where we'll learn about the incredible people in the Bible who were part of the first Christmas. We'll discover how God was with them in their journeys and how they found joy, love, and miracles in their faith.

Today, we will travel back in time and meet some humble people called shepherds.

- Can anyone tell me what a shepherd's job is?

That's right! Shepherds take care of sheep. And they are very important characters in our story today. They were the first ones to hear about the birth of Jesus!

So, are you ready to dive into the story and find out why these shepherds were heroes of the Nativity? Fantastic! But before we get started, how about we play a little game?

Game: "The Listening Shepherds" (5 min.)

This game is all about listening, just like the shepherds had to listen to the angel's message. Here's how we play:

1. We will all sit in a circle. I'll start by whispering a message to the person on my right. It might be something like, "Jesus loves us," or "God is with us."
2. That person will then turn and whisper the message to the person next to them, and so on, until the message goes all the way around the circle.
3. The last person will then say the message out loud. We'll see if the message stayed the same or if it got a little mixed up along the way!

Remember, the shepherds had to listen carefully to the angel's message and then tell others. Let's see how well we can listen and pass along our message.

Bible Story: (15 min.)

Shepherds Witness God's Glory

Say: Alright, everyone! Gather around and get comfortable. We're about to embark on an amazing journey to the hills of Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

(Encourage the children to close their eyes and imagine as you describe it.)

Imagine, if you will, a dark night sky filled with countless twinkling stars. You are in the fields surrounding Bethlehem, surrounded by the quiet sounds of sheep. You are a shepherd, watching your flock with fellow shepherds. It's a typical night, calm and peaceful. But then, something extraordinary happens!

Show Lesson Video

READ: Luke 2:8-10

Suddenly, a bright light appears in the sky, and an angel of the Lord appears before you.

- How would you feel if you were one of those shepherds? What emotions would you have? (Allow responses.)

I bet you would be terrified just like the shepherds were. After all, it's not every day that an angel appears in the sky!

But the angel quickly comforts them. Do you remember our memory verse? It comes right from this part of the story.

READ: Luke 2:10-11

The angel brings good news of great joy. A Savior has been born in Bethlehem! This is the message that the shepherds hear.

- What do you think the shepherds might do after hearing this news? (Allow responses.) Let's find out!

READ: Luke 2:12-15

The shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem and see what happened. They are curious and excited. So they leave their sheep and set off for the town. What an adventure! When they arrive, they find everything just as the angel had said.

READ: Luke 2:16-18

And when they had seen Jesus, they couldn't keep it to themselves. They went out and spread the good news, telling everyone about what they had heard and seen.

- How do you think people reacted to the shepherds' story? (Allow responses.)

READ: Luke 2:19-20

And that's the story of the shepherds, humble witnesses to the glory of God. They were ordinary people who were given an extraordinary message. And they listened to that message, believed it, and shared it with others.

That's our challenge too. We should be ready to listen to God, believe His good news, and share it with others.

Now, let's talk about how we can apply what we learned from the shepherds in our everyday lives.

Gospel Connection: God sent Jesus to earth as the first and best Christmas present. Jesus came to the world to die for our sins. Have you asked Jesus to be your savior? Who can you tell about Jesus this Christmas so that they can have the best Christmas ever?

Review the ABC's of Salvation

Discussion: (5 min.)

Say: I'm so proud of you all for paying such good attention during our Bible lesson today. I could see the curiosity and understanding on your faces. You guys are fantastic! Now, let's talk a bit more about our story today. Here are some questions I want us to discuss:

- Why do you think the angel appeared to the shepherds first to announce Jesus' birth? What does that tell us about God?
- What would you do if you were one of the shepherds that night? Would you go to see baby Jesus like they did?
- How did the shepherds show their faith and trust in God during this event?
- Our point today is: "God reveals His love to those who listen." What are some ways that we can better listen to God in our daily lives?

Practice Bible Verse: (5 min.)

Konnect: Use verse cards to put the verse in order. Consider teaming boys against girls or dividing the kids by their grades.

Crosstown: Review the verse again a few times. Feel free to make up some motions and share them with the team.

Konnnect Only Skit: (5 min.)

Characters:

NARRATOR, SHEPHERD 1, SHEPHERD 2, ANGEL, TOWNSPERSON 1, TOWNSPERSON 2

(NARRATOR stands to the side and reads their lines. SHEPHERD 1 and SHEPHERD 2 are sitting together, ANGEL stands off to the side until their cue, TOWNSPERSON 1 and TOWNSPERSON 2 stand apart until their cues.)

NARRATOR: Once upon a time, two shepherds watched over their flock of sheep on a quiet night in the fields of Bethlehem.

SHEPHERD 1: (Yawning) Another quiet night, isn't it?

SHEPHERD 2: Yes, just the sheep and the stars.

(Suddenly, ANGEL enters, acting very excited and joyful.)

ANGEL: Shepherds, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy!

SHEPHERD 1: (Pretends to be scared) What's happening?

SHEPHERD 2: (Also pretends to be scared) Who are you?

ANGEL: I am an angel of the Lord. A Savior has been born in Bethlehem. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

NARRATOR: The angel disappeared with that, leaving the shepherds in awe.

SHEPHERD 2: (Excited) We must go to Bethlehem and see this baby!

SHEPHERD 1: (Also excited) Yes, let's go!

(The SHEPHERDS pretend to walk a distance, then TOWNSPERSON 1 and TOWNSPERSON 2 enter.)

TOWNSPERSON 1: (Pretends to be surprised) Why are you shepherds in town at this hour?

SHEPHERD 1: We have heard the good news about a special baby born here in Bethlehem.

TOWNSPERSON 2: (Curious) Good news? What news?

SHEPHERD 2: An angel told us that a Savior has been born. We are here to find Him and worship Him.

NARRATOR: The shepherds shared the good news they heard with everyone they met. Remember, just like the shepherds, God reveals His love to us when we take the time to listen.

After the skit, the teacher can facilitate a discussion about the main ideas of the skit and how they relate to the lesson: God reveals His love to those who listen, and we should share the good news of Jesus just like the shepherds did.

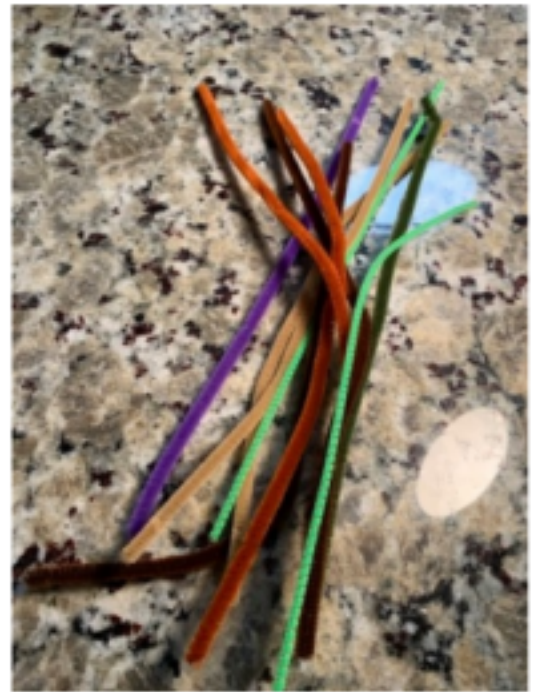
Craft: Shepherd's Staff (5-7 min.)

Supplies:

- Pipe cleaners (assorted colors)

Procedure:

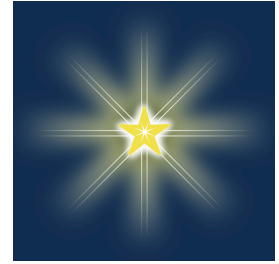
1. Allow students to select **at least three** pipe cleaners in their choice of colors.
2. Help children twist and braid pipe cleaners together, crossing over in an alternating left/right pattern as a braid.
3. Wrap around a candy cane, if desired.
4. Hook the pipe cleaners into the shape of a shepherd staff.





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December Verse: Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people:

Questions to Discuss with Your Child:

- Why do you think the angel appeared to the shepherds first to announce Jesus' birth? What does that tell us about God?
- What would you do if you were one of the shepherds that night? Would you go to see baby Jesus like they did?
- How did the shepherds show their faith and trust in God during this event?
- Our point today is: "God reveals His love to those who listen." What are some ways that we can better listen to God in our daily lives?

