

## Jesus is Our Rescuer

Luke 2

## What did Jesus do to save us?

Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

-Isaiah 9:6



### PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - Match It
- ☐ Starter Activity - Rescue the Bows



### ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer



### ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Christmas Bow Relay
- ☐ Group Activity - Our Good Shepherd Ornament
- ☐ Group Activity - Christmas Cards

## SHEPHERD GUIDE

The announcement of the birth of Jesus came in a completely unexpected way.

Instead of announcing the birth of the Savior in the halls of power or the seats of religion, God chose for a group of shepherds on the outskirts of Bethlehem to be the first to hear of Christ's birth. The announcement from angels to the shepherds watching over their flocks was significant not only because of the message they gave, but also for the people to whom it was given.

Shepherds spent their days on the fringes of society taking care of animals. Living on the outskirts made it difficult for these men to make it to synagogue and participate in the daily spiritual life of their community. Because these men constantly worked with livestock and were regularly exposed to manure and dead animals, they would have been considered unclean according to Jewish law.

It was no accident that God chose often overlooked and outcast shepherds as the ones to whom the angels would give the announcement of Jesus' birth. This announcement was a powerful statement about the nature of the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is for all people, and no one is outside of God's plan to know of His love.

The long expected announcement was remarkable. Jesus had been born for all people in the city of David. Three significant titles are used here to describe why that is good news for all people. First, Jesus is the Savior—the one who rescues people from sin. Next, He is the Messiah, the anointed one of God who came to lead God's people into God's kingdom. Finally, He is the Lord, the ruler of all the universe.

The shepherds' response to this glorious news included curiosity, awe, and obedience. This Christmas, may we do everything we can to see Jesus, adore Him for who He is, and boldly proclaim the truth that Jesus is Savior, Messiah, and the Lord.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

## MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- \*KNOW that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins.
- \*REMEMBER that Jesus is the greatest gift.
- \*SHARE the good news that Jesus is Savior, Messiah and the Lord!



*As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.*

*Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc. When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.*  
*\*Pen Pal Kit!!*



## PREPARE HEARTS

### OPENING QUESTIONS:

### WELCOME

#### Match It

activity page,  
pencils,  
markers

**What does it mean to rescue someone?**

**Have you ever heard of someone being rescued? When?**

Invite kids to complete the "Match It" activity page.

Today, we will learn that Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.



### STARTER

#### Rescue the Bows

- Christmas bows
- Bowls
- Spatulas

Form kids into four teams. Invite each team to sit at a separate table. Distribute 15-20 wrapping bows on the table and place a bowl on the table.

Place a blindfold on a kid on each team. Provide the blindfolded kids with a spatula. Then challenge the kids to use the spatula to place as many bows in the bowl as they can in 20 seconds.

Count to see which team "rescued" the most bows and award that team a point. Pour the bows back on the table. Repeat, until every kid has a turn. The team with the most points wins.

**SAY:** Great job trying to rescue as many bows as you could! Today, we will learn about a rescue plan that is so much greater. We'll see how Jesus is the promised Messiah who came from heaven to rescue us from sin.



## ACTIVE MINDS

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in LG2

### BIBLE STORY:

#### Jesus is Our Rescuer

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

**What did Jesus do to save us?** Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Open your Bible to Luke 2.

#### STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

**Shout it:** Invite kids to shout “Glory to God” when you share how the angels said these words.

**Remember it:** Remind kids about all the prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament, including Micah 5:2, where the prophet Micah said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

An order went out that each person in the Roman Empire should go to his own town to be counted. So, Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the family line of David. Mary, who was engaged to Joseph and was pregnant, traveled with him.

While they were in Bethlehem, she gave birth to her firstborn son. There was no guest room available for them, so she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger.

Some shepherds were out watching their sheep in the fields nearby. An angel of the Lord stood before them, and glory shone all around them. They were terrified! But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I’m here to tell you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. You will know you have found him when you see a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Then many angels appeared, and they all began praising God. They said, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!”

When the angels had left, the shepherds said, “Let’s go to Bethlehem right away to see what the Lord has told us through the angels!”

The shepherds hurried and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. They shared what they had heard from the angels, and everyone was amazed. Then the shepherds returned to their fields, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard that day.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

The angels told the shepherds the birth of Jesus was good news for all the people. Anyone who believes the good news that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for their sin will be saved.



### REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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Blank paper, Bible  
Story coloring  
page, colored  
pencils/crayons

In small groups (or as a large group), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because of a census (a counting of the people) ordered by Caesar Augustus. When they arrived, there was no guest room available for them. **Where was Jesus laid after He was born?** [Allow responses.] Jesus was placed in a manger. The manger was a feeding trough for animals. Though He is the Son of God, Jesus was born in a lowly place, showing that He would be a King who is humble. He is a King who came to give His life to save people from sin.

Shepherds were in the fields, watching over their sheep, when an angel appeared to them. **What did the angel tell the shepherds?** [Allow responses.] The angel told them that a Savior had been born—Christ the Lord! Jesus is the promised Messiah who came from heaven to rescue us from sin! Then many angels appeared, praising God and declaring peace to those who trust in Jesus. Anyone can trust in Jesus to be saved from sin and made right with God.

The shepherds hurried to find Jesus. **What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus?** [Allow responses.] They worshiped him and told others the good news. The shepherds praised God for all they had seen and heard. Jesus' birth was not just an ordinary event—it was God's plan to save us. Because of sin, we are separated from God, but Jesus came to take away our sins and bring us back to God. Just as the shepherds shared the good news, we are also called to tell others that Jesus is the Savior!



## Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

*That God is our rescuer. He loves us so much that he came to earth to save us and wants to have a relationship with us!*

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

*That I need Jesus to save me from my sinful, yucky heart. He forgives me and loves me with an unstopping, never changing love.*

**Pray together.** *Father, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for inviting us to know Him. Help us to remember that Jesus is the greatest gift, and that we can share this good news with others just like the shepherds did. Thank You for loving us and giving us peace and joy through Jesus. Amen.*



## Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

No Questions from Kids Video this week!



## ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 9:6 together.

### Key Passage Activity:

#### Christmas Bow Relay

- Key Passage Poster
- Bows taped to words from Key Verse on cards
- Bowls

Before the session, write the words of the key passage on individual note cards. Stick a card to a wrapping paper bow. Create two sets and place each set in a bowl. (This will be done for you!)

**SAY:** The angels gave glory to God because Jesus, the Savior, had come. In everything we do, we can glorify God, knowing He has made the way to save us from sin.

On your start, direct a kid from each team to race to their team's bowl, retrieve a bow, and return to his team. The the next kid on the team will do the same.

Continue until all bows have been retrieved. Then guide teams to turn the bows over to identify the key passage words and quickly place the key passage in order. The first team to place it in order wins.

**Pray together:**

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus into the world to rescue us from sin. We praise You and glorify You for how You love us. Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive. Amen.



## Our Good Shepherd Ornament

- White pipe cleaners
- Brown pony beads
- Red ribbon

Read the angel's announcement to the shepherds, found in Luke 2:10-12. Pass out a white pipe cleaner, piece of red ribbon, and brown pony beads to each kid.

Encourage the kids to curve the top of the pipe cleaner so that it resembles a shepherd's hook. Guide them to cover the pipe cleaner with brown pony beads, leaving a little space remaining on the top and bottom.

Next, the kids can bend the ends of the pipe cleaner over so that the beads will stay in place. Lastly, invite the kids to take the ribbon and tie a bow in the middle of the shepherd's hook.

Talk about how the shepherds in the fields were the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth from the angels. Then, talk about how Jesus is our good shepherd. We are like sheep. Ask, what are sheep like? (They wander away, they forget, they need someone to lead them.) They need a shepherd to rescue them. Jesus rescues us! He came to save us so that we can be with Him now and forever.

The kids can use the top of the hook to place it on their tree at home as a reminder that God is our good shepherd. He rescues us!



## Christmas Cards

- Bibles
- Folded cardstock
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Christmas stickers
- Bible Verse cut-outs
- Glue sticks

Have each child get their Bible and encourage them to find the book of Matthew. Then find chapter 1, then find verse 21. Read it together. Talk about how Jesus came to earth to rescue us from our sins.

Provide each kid with a piece of folded cardstock and markers.

Invite kids to create a Christmas card for someone they know who needs to hear the good news of Jesus' birth.

On the cover, invite kids to use Christmas stickers or draw a picture, such as the nativity or the angels sharing the good news with the shepherds. On the inside, invite kids to paste the Bible verse - Matthew 1:21 OR write "Jesus came to save us!"

Invite kids to decorate their card with other drawings.

**SAY:** Christmas cards are a great way to share the good news about Jesus with others. The Word of God is powerful, and when others read God's words, the Holy Spirit can use them to help others see their need for Jesus. Pray over your card and share it with someone you know, asking God to help others trust in Jesus.