

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 - The Announcement
- ☐ Starter Activity - Great Joy



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:

When was the last time you heard some good news? What was it?

Invite kids to complete the "The Announcement" activity page.

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

WELCOME

The Announcement

activity page,
pencils,
markers



STARTER

Great Joy

- Ball

Lead kids to stand in a circle. Distribute a ball to one kid and direct him to toss the ball to someone else in the circle when the music plays. Play music as kids pass the ball.

When the music stops, the kid holding the ball must share something that brings her great joy. She might say, "drawing" or "playing outside" or "spending time with friends." Continue playing, trying to allow every kid to share something that brings them joy.

SAY: God has given us many ways to experience joy. He is a good God who gives good gifts. But the greatest gift God has given us is Jesus! Today, we will hear how the angels announced good news of great joy for all people. Through Jesus, the greatest joy can be found. Jesus is better than anything else because He saves us from sin and satisfies our hearts.



ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th 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!

**

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 ordered by Caesar Augustus. When they arrived, there was no guest room available for them. **Where was Jesus placed after He was born?** Look at Luke 2:7. [Ask a volunteer to read Luke 2:7 aloud.] Jesus was laid in a manger—a feeding trough for animals. Even though He is the Son of God, He was born in a lowly place, showing that He would be a humble King. Jesus did not come as a rich or powerful Ruler, but as a King who would give His life to save people from sin.

An angel appeared to shepherds who were in the fields watching over their sheep. **What did the angel tell the shepherds?** Look at Luke 2:10-11. [Ask a volunteer to read Luke 2:10-11 aloud.] The angel announced good news of great joy to all people because Jesus, the Savior, had been born. This was an incredible message—Jesus is the promised Messiah who came from heaven to rescue us from sin! Then a host of angels appeared, praising God and declaring peace to those who trust in Jesus. God deserves all glory, and the birth of the Savior, reminds us of how we can glorify God for the salvation He provided.

What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? Look at Luke 2:17-18,20. [Ask a volunteer to read Luke 2:17-18,20 aloud.] They worshiped Him and shared the good news with others. 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 Him. Just as the shepherds joyfully shared the good news, we are also called to tell others that Jesus is the Savior!



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

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

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

That I can

Pray together.



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.