



Date: _____
Series: God Gives The Best Gifts
Winter Year 2, Lesson 31

Shepherds Spread the Good News

Take Home Point: *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS
...I Praise God!

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Bible Event: Luke 2:8-20

We will help children know:

- The Bible Event of angels proclaiming Jesus' birth to the shepherds.
- Just as the angels and shepherds praised God, we, too, can praise God.
- We praise God because he sent Jesus to be our Savior.

We will help the children feel:




- Excited about Jesus' birth.
- Worshipful of both the Father and the Son.
- Eager to give their praises to the Father and the Son.

We will help the children do:

- Interact with puppet presentation to introduce the Bible Event.
- Participate in the Bible event.
- Craft: Praise God Banner.
- Snack: Shepherds in the Fields.
- Game: Shepherd's Staff Relay.
- Teach Albie the Take Home Point: GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...*I Praise God!*
- Sing and Pray.

Kingdom Quest Year 2- Lesson 31- 1

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Large Group Opening 	3 5	Puppet Presentation Bible Event	<i>Puppet Presentation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy puppet Advent wreath from last week lighter (candle snuffer is optional) Bible <i>Bible Event:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nativity set Mystery box containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible, sheep, shepherds and two or more angels (from nativity set) Optional, Christmas tree
Small Group Application 	8 9 10 11	Activity 1: Craft-Praise God Banner Activity 2: Snack- Shepherds in the Fields Activity 3: Game-Shepherd's Staff Relay Prayer Time	<i>Activity 1: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix A, copied on cardstock, one per two children; cut in half crayons or markers scissors stapler glue sticks 24" length of 1" wide ribbon Optional: one jingle bell tied on a 6" piece of yarn, one per child <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins, cups, water or juice Option One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ½ graham cracker per child green frosting 3 small marshmallows per child plastic knives Option Two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> saltines, grapes, carrot sticks <i>Activity 3: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> masking tape empty wrapping paper tube for each team (if not available, make one from rolled up newspaper)
Large Group Wrap-up 	13 13	Singing (Optional) Lesson Review with Puppet Skit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> your choice of music Albie puppet Example of craft Example of snack

Pre-Session Singing (10 minutes)

Purpose: *When all children are in one group singing, it is easy for children arriving later to join the group and immediately get involved.*

Large Group Opening (15 minutes)



Purpose: *The puppet demonstrates today's lesson. The children are introduced to the take home point and experience the Bible event.*

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: Judy puppet, Advent wreath with four different colored candles; lighter; optional: candle snuffer; Presenter holds a Bible

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call Judy. (Children call "Judy".)

Judy: Hi everyone. I can hardly wait to tell you my good news!

Presenter: Hi Judy. What is your good news?

Judy: My aunt and uncle came to visit for Christmas.

Presenter: That is good news Judy.

Judy: That's not the good news!

Presenter: Oh, what is your good news?

Judy: They brought their new baby, Claire!

Presenter: Oh. Babies are really nice.

Judy: Claire is my cousin. You should see my dad when he holds her.

Presenter: Why?

Judy: He talks funny and makes silly faces at her.

Presenter: Babies really like funny faces.

Judy: I want to share my good news with everyone!

Presenter: Judy, your good news reminds me of our Bible event today.

Judy: Was a new baby born?

Presenter: Yes. Do you remember what baby was born on Christmas Day?

Judy: Yes, it is baby Jesus!

Presenter: That's right. Now we are going to light our candle of the week. The first week we lit the angel candle. Last week we lit the Mary and Joseph candle.

Judy: Is this one the baby candle?

Presenter: No. This one is the shepherds' candle. (Light candle, keeping it away from flammable items.)

Judy: Why is it called shepherds' candle?

Presenter: Some shepherds were out in a field watching their sheep. An angel appeared and told them that Jesus has been born. Then the sky is filled with angels who praise God.

Judy: That sounds wonderful!

Presenter: I'm sure it was quite a sight! The shepherds go to see Baby Jesus and are so excited that they praise God! They cannot wait to share their Good News with everyone.

Judy: I know what that feels like.

Presenter: Now you can share two pieces of Good News with everyone.

Judy: That's right! I will tell everyone that I have a new baby cousin and that Baby Jesus was born.

Presenter: Judy, do you know why we praise Baby Jesus?

Judy: Because he is God's son?

Presenter: Yes. We also praise him because he was born to be our Savior and take away our sins.

Judy: That is really good news!

Presenter: Would you like to learn more about this Bible event?

Judy: Yes I would.

Presenter: First, let's practice the take home point. I'll say the first part and you say the second part.

Judy: OK

Presenter: *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...now you say, “ I Praise God!”

Judy: I Praise God!

Presenter: Do you think you can teach the boys and girls?

Judy: Sure.

Presenter: Okay everybody, *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...

Judy: (and everyone): I Praise God!

Presenter: One more time. *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...

Judy: (and everyone): I Praise God!

Presenter: Wonderful. Say “goodbye” Judy. (Snuff out candles.)

Judy: Bye everyone!

Bible Event: Mystery Box

Supplies: Manger set; Mystery Box containing the following items, Bible; sheep and shepherds; at least two angels (from manger). Optional: Christmas tree

Before class, set up nativity set on altar or table. Put the gift-wrapped mystery box by the Christmas tree (or prominent location).

Bring out the mystery box. Make a big deal of taking the lid off the gift box and peeking inside to see what surprises it holds. Bring out the Bible and say:

Here’s my Bible. I remember that the Bible is God’s word. It is one of the best gifts we can have because it tells us about the best gift of all, Jesus! Last week we learned from the Bible that (point to the nativity scene on the altar) Baby Jesus was born. Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world. He came to save the people from their sins, including you and me. This week we will learn about some shepherds who learned that Jesus had been born. They were so excited they had to praise God and share the Good News with everyone. It tells about it right here in the Bible.

Let’s peek inside the gift box to see what other surprises it holds for us.

Peek inside the gift box and take out the sheep and shepherds, put them near the stable and say:

Some shepherds were out in the field watching their sheep. In those days shepherds were just boys, maybe 12 or 13 years old. It was dark and cool outside. But something was about to happen that would light up the sky and make their hearts feel warm inside.

Peek inside the gift box and bring out one angel.

Suddenly the shepherds saw an angel and God's glory brightened the night. Angels are big like giants and the shepherds had never seen God's glory, so they were afraid.

But the angels spoke and told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid! I bring you Good News. It will bring joy to everyone. Today in Bethlehem a baby has been born. That baby is the Savior, Jesus. He is Christ, the Lord. You will see a sign. You will see the baby wrapped in blankets and lying in a manger."

Bring out the other angels.

Suddenly a huge crowd of angels appeared. They were praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace to all people!"

After the angels went back to heaven, the shepherds hurried into Bethlehem to see the newborn baby. (Move the shepherds into the stable.) They saw Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. Then they hurried off to praise God and tell everyone the Good News that Jesus was born.

The shepherds were filled with joy because they saw the Savior, Jesus. We, too, are filled with joy because Jesus our Savior is born. He was born to save us from our sins, to make us children of God and to fill our hearts with praise for God.

Boys and girls, let's practice the take home point together. I will say the first part and you repeat the last part. *Let's practice the take home point. *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS.../ Praise God!

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our best gift.
We praise you.**

Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *London Bridge*)

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

GOD gives US the BE-st GIFTS.
BE-st GIFTS. BE-st GIFTS.
GOD gives US the BE-st GIFTS.
WE praise GO-d.

Small Group Application (30 minutes)



Purpose: *Children will break into small groups. Smaller groups enable children to develop closer relationships with adults and peers in the church. In your small groups you will reinforce the take home point with a fun hands-on activity and discuss the Bible event. Review questions help kids apply the take home point to their daily lives.*

Activity 1: Craft “Praise God Banner”

Supplies: Copies of Appendix A on cardstock, one per two children; colors or markers; glue sticks; 24” length of 1” wide ribbon, one per child; scissors; stapler Optional: a jingle bell tied on a 6” piece of yarn, one per child

Before class, cut page in half so you have two strips.

Boys and girls, today we are going to make a Praise God Banner. First, I want you to color the picture of the angel and the shepherd.

In the last square, draw a picture of yourself. When you are finished, we will cut apart the strip into three squares.

Leaving several inches of ribbon at the top, glue the panels vertically onto the ribbon. Glue the angel at the top, the shepherd in the middle, and the drawing at the bottom. You may want to reinforce pictures with a staple.

Staple the length of ribbon at the top of the hanging into a loop.

If using the bell option, tie the yarn into a circle and attach to the loop at the top of the hanging.

Review the Bible Event.

What news did the angel give the shepherds? *(That the Savior had been born and he was a baby in a manger.)*

Let’s practice the take home point. *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS.../ Praise God!

Let’s fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

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Activity 2: Snack “Shepherds in the Fields”

Supplies: napkins, cups, water or juice; Option One: ½ a graham cracker per child; green frosting; three small marshmallows for each child; plastic knives. Option two: grapes; saltines; carrot sticks

*****CAUTION:** *Be aware of food allergies children may have, before you give them anything to eat.*

Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our best gift.
We praise you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Boys and girls, today we are going to make shepherds in the fields.

Option One: I will give you each a ½ of a graham cracker that I have put green frosting on to look like grass.

Next I will give you each three sheep (marshmallows) that you can put in your grass. Now enjoy your snack.

Option Two: I will give each of you a saltine to represent the land. Next I will give you two sheep (grapes) you can put on your land. The carrot stick will remind you of the shepherd's staff. Now enjoy your snack.

Review the Bible event.

After the angel told the shepherds the Good News that Jesus was born, what did the angels do? (*They praised God.*)

**Let's practice the take home point. *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS.../
Praise God!**

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *London Bridge*)

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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BE-st GIFTS. BE-st GIFTS.

GOD gives US the BE-st GIFTS.

WE praise GO-d.

Activity 3: Game “Shepherd's Staff Relay”

Supplies: masking tape; empty wrapping paper tube for each team (if not available, make one from rolled up newspaper)

Boys and girls, today we are going to play Shepherd's Staff Relay.

To set up:

Make two parallel lines of masking tape on the floor, as far from each other as possible. The lines should be about 12 feet long.

Divide each team in half.

Have one half of each team line up behind one line of masking tape (*starting line*) and the other half of each team line up behind the second line (*finish line*) of masking tape.

Give the first child of each team at the starting line a cardboard tube (*shepherd's cane*).

To play:

1. On the word “go” the child holding the cane runs to the end of the line and shouts “Good News!”
2. The first child in the line at the finish line grabs onto the shepherd's cane.
3. Both children holding the cane run back to the starting line and shout “Good News!”
4. At the starting line, a third child grabs the cane and the group continues to run.
5. Play continues in this manner until all the children on the team are holding the shepherd's cane.
6. The entire team continues running until they cross the finish line.
7. The first team to cross the finish line with all the team members on the cane and to shout “Good News!” wins.

Review the Bible event.

What is the Good News? (*Jesus was born.*)

After the shepherds saw Baby Jesus, what did they do? (*They told everyone the Good News and praised God.*)

Let's practice the take home point. ***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS.../**
Praise God!

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our best gift.
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BE-st **GIFTS**. **BE-st** **GIFTS**.
GOD gives **US** the **BE-st** **GIFTS**.
WE praise **GO-d**.

Prayer Time:

How can we praise God? (*Answers will vary but may include singing, praying, and telling others about Jesus.*)

Why do we praise God? (*Because he gave us the best gift—Jesus. Jesus came to be our Savior, to forgive our sins, and to fill our hearts with praise for God.*)

Ask children for prayer requests and pray as a group for child's request.

Let's practice the take home point. ***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS.../**
Praise God!

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

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WE praise GO-d.

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Large Group Wrap-Up (10 minutes)



Purpose: The crazy bird puppet, Albie, struggles with learning the take home point. We try to teach him the take home point, but each time he confuses words or concepts. After three attempts, he finally gets it right.

Singing: (Optional, two or three songs, as time allows)

Supplies: Albie the puppet, sample of today's craft and snack.

Lesson Review with Puppet Skit

Presenter shows Albie an example of each of the Activities done in small group. Then the kids attempt to teach Albie the take home point.

Presenter: We want to welcome all our guests today and thank them for coming.

(If you give guests a gift for coming, do it now.)

Presenter: Albie, look at the craft the children made today. It is a Praise God Banner. The children are going to teach you our take home point. Listen carefully.



Presenter: (says to kids):

Kids say:

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

...I Praise God!

Presenter: (says to Albie):

Albie says:

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

Jingle bells, your foot smells!

Presenter:

Albie, look at the snack we ate. It looks like Shepherds in the Fields. Now listen carefully to the take home point.

Presenter: (says to kids):

Kids say:

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

...I Praise God!

Presenter: (says to Albie):

Albie says:

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

Don't feed marshmallows to alligators!

Presenter:

Albie, today we played a game called Shepherd's Staff Relay. Now, please listen closely to the take home point.

Presenter: (says to kids):

Kids say:

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

...I Praise God!

Presenter: (says to Albie):

Albie says:

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

Why don't you run out and buy me a present?

Presenter says:

“Albie, listen one last time.

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

Kids response:

...I Praise God!

Presenter: (says to Albie):

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS...**

Albie’s response:

(Warms up his singing voice with “*Mee, mee, mee, mee...*” and sings in a silly dramatic opera-like voice)

***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS... I Praise God!**

Presenter says to Albie:

Good job, Albie!

Albie can leave stage or join in the prayer and song.

Let’s fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,

We love you.

Jesus is our best gift.

We praise you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus’ name.

Amen.

Song:

Let’s sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *London Bridge*)

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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BE-st GIFTS. BE-st GIFTS.

GOD gives US the BE-st GIFTS.

WE praise GO-d.

Goodbye boys and girls. Remember that God loves you and he gives you the best gift...Jesus!

Angels praised God!



Shepherds praised God!



I praise God!

Angels praised God!



Shepherds praised God!



I praise God!