



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Comes
Winter Year 1, Lesson 30

Shepherds and Angels

Take Home Point: *Praise God for Jesus.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Luke 2:8-20

We will help children know:

- Angels appeared to shepherds.
- The shepherds visited Jesus and praised God for him.
- We need to praise God for giving us Jesus.




We will help children feel:

- Happy to praise God.
- Excited about God's gift of Jesus.

We will help children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that looks like an angel.
- Make an angel craft.
- Play a game called *Send the Shepherd to the Manger*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the learning of today's Take Home Point: ***Praise God for Jesus.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bubba puppet
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 11	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<p><i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Book on Jesus' Birth • Children's. Picture Bible <p><i>Activity 2: Snack</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • napkins, cups and water • Bugle crackers • mini-marshmallows <p><i>Activity 3: Craft</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one copy of Appendix A per child on regular paper • one coffee filter per child • spray bottle with water • newspaper • tape • glue • washable markers • optional: yellow yarn cut into 2-3" pieces and/or gold glitter <p><i>Activity 4: Game</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or three cotton balls for each student • One straw for each student • A simple manger drawn in the center of a piece of paper
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	13	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Bubba’s Learns About God’s Gift To Us

Supplies:

- *Bubba puppet*
- *any small toy*

Presenter: Kids, let’s call Bubba!

Kids call for Bubba: **Bubba...Bubba...Bubba**. Bubba comes up with a small gift taped to his hand.

Presenter: Hi, Bubba. What do you have today?

Bubba: Hi, everybody. Hey, look what I’ve got.

Presenter: What do you have? I can tell you are really excited.

Bubba: I finally opened my present. It’s wonderful.

Presenter: What is it?

Bubba: It’s a.... (Excitedly describe whatever gift you’ve taped to Bubba’s hand.)

Presenter: Where did you get this gift?

Bubba: My grandma gave it to me. When I see her, I’m going to tell her “Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

Presenter: Good.

Bubba: Then I think I'll give her a hug...

Presenter: Great...

Bubba: Then I think I'll give her a kiss!

Presenter: Wonderful! She gave you a special gift and you are excited. Did you know that today we are going to tell you about some people who got a special gift from God?

Bubba: Who got a gift from God?

Presenter: You did!

Bubba: What did I get?

Presenter: Jesus. God promised to send Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God and he would save the world. God keeps his promises. He sent Jesus as a gift to the *whole world*—to each one of us. Jesus is the best gift ever.

Bubba: A gift better than...(Describe gift on Bubba's hand.)

Presenter: A much better gift. In fact, he is the *best* gift. Jesus was such a special gift that God sent angels to tell shepherds about Jesus' birth. Shepherds are people who watch over sheep out in the fields.

Bubba: I bet they were excited to hear the angels' message.

Presenter: Yes, they were. The shepherds were so excited to hear about God's gift of Jesus, they went to see him. They found Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus resting in the barn. They were so excited for this special gift that they praised God. Let's remember that God gave *us* Jesus as a special gift, too.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you and the children repeat after me. *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

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

**JESUS IS the GIFT,
HE'S the SON of GOD.
PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.
HE'S the SON of GOD.**

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

You gave us your Son Jesus. You gave us your Son Jesus.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: Big Book: Jesus' Birth, produced by Group Publishing (order from www.group.com) or children's picture Bible

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read the Big Book: Jesus' Birth or read about Jesus' birth, the angels and shepherds from a children's picture Bible.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Supplies: Children's' Picture Bible

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

Angels give a special message to Mary and Joseph.

- **Angels are special messengers of God. Sometimes God sends them to tell people a special message. Let's pretend we are telling someone a special message.** (Close fingers and talk through your fist.)
- **One time an angel appeared to Mary. Stretch out your arms and pretend you are an angel giving an important message.**
- **The angel told Mary she would have a very special baby. His name would be Jesus.**
- **The angel also visited Joseph who was going to be Mary's husband. The angel told Joseph to take care of Mary. The angel said she would have a very special baby. She would be the**

mother of Jesus. Let's pretend to be angels talking to Joseph. Say, "Jesus will be born."

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem.

- Some time later, Mary and Joseph made a trip to Bethlehem. It was where Jesus was to be born. Let's pretend to walk like Mary and Joseph did when they went to Bethlehem.
- When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay. A kind man let them stay in his barn.

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields.

- When Jesus was born that night, there were shepherds living nearby in the fields, keeping watch over their sheep. Let's pretend to be shepherds watching over our sheep. Put your hand above your eyes.
- Let's make the sound that sheep make. Baaa.
- Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared with bright lights all around it. The shepherds were really scared. Let's fall down and say, "ahhh!"
- The angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid." Let's stand up and raise our hands, pretending to be angels.
- Repeat after me. Say, "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Good News! Good News! Jesus is born. Jesus is born.
- The angels told the shepherds where they would find Baby Jesus. They said, "Look for him in a barn in Bethlehem." Suddenly, many more angels appeared, praising God. Let's raise our hands and say, "Praise God for Jesus." Praise God for Jesus.

The shepherds find Baby Jesus.

- The angels left and went back to heaven. The shepherds were so excited about Baby Jesus that they hurried off to Bethlehem to see him. Let's pretend we are the shepherds going to see Baby Jesus. Hurry, hurry. Follow me. Lead the children around the room quickly and return them back to their places.
- When they arrived at the barn, the shepherds found Baby Jesus lying in the manger, just like the angels said. Jesus was God's gift to them.
- The shepherds were so happy. Show me your happy face.

The shepherds tell everyone about Jesus.

- The shepherds told everyone, "Jesus is born." Let's pretend to be the shepherds and say, "Jesus is born!" Jesus is born!
- Let's clap because we are happy.

- The shepherds spread the word about Jesus. Everyone who heard was amazed. Show me your amazed face. (Mouth open, palms on cheeks.)

Lets all say, "Praise God for Jesus." Praise God for Jesus.

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us your Son Jesus. You gave us your Son Jesus.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JESUS IS the GIFT,
HE'S the SON of GOD.
PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.
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Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me:
*Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: Bugle crackers, mini marshmallows

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

Boys and girls, today our snack will remind us of the angels that had special messages for Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and pray.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us your Son Jesus. You gave us your Son Jesus.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

These Bugle snacks remind us of horns that you would blow to make a big noise—to announce to everyone that Jesus is born. Let's all take one Bugle and pretend we are angels making an announcement to the shepherds.

Take one Bugle and illustrate the “tooting” of the horn.

Did you know we can make an angel out of the Bugles? Watch this.

Shepherd demonstrates making an angel with three Bugles, narrow points to the center and mini-marshmallow at the top for the angel's head.

You can use your imagination and pretend this is an angel. Do you see the arms and the head? Who did the angels say was born? Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

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Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *copies of Appendix A, one per child*
- *small household-sized coffee filters, one per child*
- *washable markers*
- *spray bottle with water*
- *newspaper*
- *tape*

Optional—gold glitter and glue for halo, yellow yarn cut into 2-3" lengths

Boys and girls, today we are going to make a special angel. An angel was God's messenger to tell the world that Jesus was born. First we are going to color on our angel's gown (*small coffee filters*) with our markers.

When you are finished with that, we will spray a little bit of water on them to make them really special.



Let the children spray the water on the coffee filter, but do not let them get it dripping wet. Set between layers of newspaper to dry while you continue with craft. Be sure to keep track of which angel belongs to which child.

Distribute one copy of Appendix A on cardstock. If using the options, let the children decorate the angel's head.

Options:

If you are using the option of gold glitter, have children put it on the halo with glue. If using the yarn, let the children glue the yellow yarn on the hair with the glue.

When you have finished working on your angel gown and angel head, I will fold your angel's gown (coffee filter) in half and tape it on your picture.

Tape straight edge of folded circle about a half inch below the angel's head.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

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**JESUS IS the GIFT,
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PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us your Son Jesus. You gave us your Son Jesus.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies:

- *Two or three cotton balls for each student*
- *One straw for each student*
- *A simple manger drawn in the center of a piece of paper*

Today we are going to play a game called, called *Send the Shepherd to the Manger*. This cotton ball reminds us of sheep and the shepherd that takes care of them. Today we found out how the angels told the shepherds to go find Jesus in a manger. Let's see if we can help the shepherds find their way to the manger. Gather the children around a table with the manger picture in the center. Give each child two or three cotton balls and a straw. When I say, "go", I want you to put your cotton balls on the edge of the table and use the straw to blow them onto the manger. As soon as a cotton ball arrives at the manger, everyone shouts, "Praise God for Jesus!" just like the shepherds did.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

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In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***Praise God for Jesus.**

Lesson Prayer:

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

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Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

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

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Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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Praise God for Jesus! He has come!

