



Date: _____

Series: Jesus, Our Savior, Came to Earth
Winter Year 1, Lesson 31

Shepherds Tell About Jesus

Bible Event: Luke 2:8-20

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Tell the good news!*

*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*).

Jesus Link: Jesus died for everyone, even those who do not know about him.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God gave his Son Jesus as a gift to our world. Jesus came as our Savior, giving his life for us so that when we trust and love him, he saves us and takes away our sin. The shepherds learned of his birth in Bethlehem and went to see the wondrous thing God had done. They then shared the good news with others, just as our kids will, because ***JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Tell the good news!***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs, their offerings, and their actions of love in their worship experience.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestions:

- *The Beginner's Bible: The Story of the Nativity*, Sony Music Entertainment, 1995
- *Veggie Tales: The Toy that Saved Christmas*, Big Idea Productions. 1996

Activity Suggestion: Nativity scenes to arrange characters.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Imagination Theater

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's Word, telling us of the wonderful deeds God has done. Then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage.

The Shepherds Come and See – Then Go and Tell!

Let me see what I have inside. Aaah, here's the Bible and it is marked to a very special spot. Oh, here it tells about when Jesus was born. It talks about how Jesus was God's Son but he was born as a baby in a stable. Except for his mother Mary, and his father Joseph, there was nothing but animals around. But God wanted to tell others the Good News. So, he sent angels to visit shepherds who were in the countryside late at night. At first, the shepherds were afraid but then when they heard the Good News they were excited to find Jesus. They searched for Bethlehem and found him. Then, were eager tell others the Good News.

Reaching back into the imagination box,

Now, Let's tell the whole story by acting it out. The first thing I'll need is my imagination hat. Why don't you put yours on, too? Now we can imagine what it must have been that night when Jesus was born. Here are some special people that we will need to help us act it out. I'll need someone to pretend to be Mary and Joseph and they'll be right next to this little baby Jesus, who will be placed in a manger.

Select volunteers and place them off stage until it is their turn. Select several angels.

Angels come up here to the front and put on the angel costumes. Next, we will need the shepherds to get their shepherds outfits on and stand out here. If we have shepherds, we need sheep. Sheep put on your sheep-ears and stay with the shepherds. Okay. I think we're all ready and in our places.

This is what happened: Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because King Augustus made a rule that everyone should go to their family's home town and be counted. Joseph and Mary had to go to the town of Bethlehem. I see them back there coming to Bethlehem.

Mary and Joseph walk on to the stage and then back off again. They remain by the manger.

When they were there, Mary gave birth to a baby and named him Jesus.

Place baby Jesus in the manger.

The angel had told Joseph and Mary that he would be the Savior of the world and his name shall be Jesus. What wonderful news. God had sent his own Son into the world. It was so important that God wanted to tell people what happened. He wanted some people to go welcome the baby Jesus in to the world. This is what happened.

Now it was night. There were shepherds in their fields. Can you hear them sleeping? Some were sleeping and some were even snoring. That's because they were watching their sheep.

Can you hear the sheep? Baa, Baa. Oh, I think more sheep than that, Baa, Baa.

Cup your ear as if to hear them.

Suddenly an angel appeared to them.

Escort the angel on stage.

And the shepherds said, “Ahh,” “Ahh” The angels said, “Don’t be afraid.” “Don’t be afraid.” “Good news.” “Good news”. “Jesus is born.” “Jesus is born.” “He’s the Savior.” “He’s the Savior.” The angels knew that God had given the world the best present ever. He gave his only Son, Jesus, to the world. They just had to sing about it.

Angels sing a song. Choose an angel Christmas song from your own selection.

The angels told them to go to Bethlehem and look in the barns until they found Jesus. They would find him all wrapped up tightly in a baby blanket and lying in a manger. That’s the place where animals eat. So the shepherds would have to leave their sheep. Sheep what do you say to that? Baa, Baa. The shepherds would go welcome the king. So the shepherds said to one another, “Way cool.” “Way cool.” “Let’s go to Bethlehem.” “Let’s go to Bethlehem.” “Let’s find the Savior.” “Let’s find the Savior.” So off they went to Bethlehem. When they got there, they found Jesus in the manger just as the angels had said. When it was time to leave they left. They told everyone what had happened. They were very excited. They now said, “Good news.” “Good news.” “Jesus is born.” “Jesus is born.” “He is the Savior.” “He is the Savior.” Now when Christmas comes close to us we can be the shepherds. We, too, can welcome Jesus who born in to the world as our Savior. And we, too, can tell others that Jesus is born. Remember **JESUS IS THE SAVIOR - Tell the good news.*

Let’s pray. (Children repeat each phrase.)

Dear God, (repeat)
Thank you for being here. (repeat)
Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)
He is our friend. (repeat)
Help us give him our best. (repeat)
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)
Amen. (repeat)



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: On a paper plate, use one-fourth of a soft flat tortilla to be the bundling clothes for the baby Jesus. Let a half slice of cheese be Jesus. Let the children bundle it together and then enjoy their snack.

Drama Zone: Use the props from today's drama to let the children create the story.

Messy Zone: From newspaper, print the cutout of an angel, 8 ½" by 11". Glue this on to card stock or construction paper. Place on a sticker that says, "Tell the good news." Decorate the angel with paint, glitter, glue, markers or crayons.

Option: If you have a special Christmas program, print a label with times and dates so that it can be placed on the art project and turn it into an invitation card.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Puppet Zone: Use animal puppets to describe what they saw in the manger when the shepherds came and visited.

Option: As the puppets to tell the Good News story of how Jesus was born.

Play Zone: Let children set up nativity sets and tell the story of Jesus being born.

Quiet Reading Zone: Place the manger by the basket of books for extra special effect. Get a bail of hay to lean against while reading.

Music Zone: Practice the music the children will sing for their Christmas program.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a Santa hat on and full of excitement. He is yelling, "Good News, Christmas is coming." He wants everyone to know the Good News. The presenter asks him, "What is the Good News?" Bubba says that it means we get presents on Christmas. The presenter concedes it is Good News, but that's not the BEST news about Christmas. The best news is that God gave a present to the world. And that's the Good News that we need to tell others. Bubba doesn't seem to understand how God gave a present and why it's such Good News. The presenter offers to let the kids tell Bubba the story. The kids fill in the words to the following story.

God loved all the people in the world, but God knew all the people of the world had done wrong things or sinned. Because of their sin, they needed someone to take their sin away so they could be friends with God. They needed a rescuer or Savior. God decided he would send a Savior. That's the Good News. He sent his son. His son's name was _____. (Jesus.)

Mary and Joseph were to be Jesus' parents on earth. When it was time to be born, Mary and Joseph walked a long way to the city of _____. (Bethlehem.)

In Bethlehem, he was born in a place where animals stay. It was called a _____. (Stable.)

When Mary had the baby Jesus, she laid him in a _____. (Manger.)

Now in the fields, there were some people watching their sheep. They were _____. (Shepherds.)

Suddenly, from heaven, a bright creature appeared. He was an _____. (Angel)

He said, "There's Good News for you. Today, a Savior is born for you. He is born in Bethlehem and he will take away the sin of the world." When the shepherds saw the angel and heard him, at first they were _____. (Afraid.)

But the angel told them not to be afraid. Then there were hundreds and hundreds of angels in the sky. All of them were singing praises to _____ (God), who had sent his Son.

When the angels went into heaven, the shepherds said, "Let's go find the baby. He is right here in the town of _____ (Bethlehem).

We'll find him in a lying a _____ (Manger)."

So they went to find him and soon they did. They were amazed that God would send his Son into the world even if he was born in a stable. This was Good News for everyone. After that, they told everyone, "Good news", "Good News." "Jesus is born." "Jesus is born." "He is the Savior." "He is the Savior."

Prayer Time:

***Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.*

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- videos: *Story of the Nativity* (order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/6304132603/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance> or from: http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_777.vhtml) OR *Toy that Saved Christmas, A Christmas Story*—order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B000055WAK/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance> or from: <http://store.yahoo.net/yhst-54787164184156/toythsach.html>
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- imagination hat and box
- manger
- costumes for angels, shepherds, Mary and Joseph.
- sheep ears

Action Zones:

Snack:

- flat tortilla
- ½ slice of cheese

Drama:

- props from today's drama

Play

- nativity sets

Messy:

- newspaper
- angel stencil
- card stock
- labels: Tell the Good News
- paint, glitter, glue, markers and crayons

Quiet Reading:

- manger
- bale of hay

Music:

- music for Christmas program

Puppet:

- animal puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- Santa hat and items from Opening Worship

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

Angel template:

