

# Shepherds in the Field

## Circle Time

*During this time welcome children, open in prayer, review the Bible verses, and sing songs! This is the time of preparation for getting our hearts and minds ready to learn about and worship God 😊*

## Prayer

Dear God,  
I am thankful for all you give,  
For food, for love, a place to live;  
I thank you for my family too,  
And I want you to know that I love you.  
Amen!

**Bible Verse:** I bring good news to you-wonderful joyous news for all people!" -Luke 2:10

## Activity Time

**During this time you may do as many of the activities listed below as you would like. Let the Spirit direct this special teaching time!**

**Intro:** *(Who visited Jesus after his birth?)*

Before class, locate figures from a Nativity set, greeting card, or story illustration.

Place Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and the animals already in the stable. Put the shepherds in a bag

As our time together starts greet the children. Hold up the bag with the shepherds in it. Choose a child to reach into the bag and discover what is inside. Have them show the group and then pass it around so each child has a turn to hold it (if it is fragile you may have to hold it yourself or this is a good time to discuss the important of being gentle with things that we hold dear). After this, place the shepherds in the stable.

**Say:** The shepherds were one of the first people to visit Jesus after he was born. They came with great excitement when they heard the news.

**Ask:** Have you ever gone to visit a baby after they were born? Maybe in the hospital or even at someone's house. How do we need to act around babies (gentle, quiet, etc). Let this be a moment to have children share if they want to.

**Story #1:** *(Shepherds in the Field)*

Have video prepared to show (The Jesus Storybook DVD Volume 3; Number 2). Children may sit at the table to watch and when it is over return to sit on the carpet or remain at the table (choice of the Kids Worship Volunteer). Ask children

questions about what they saw in the video and talk about the 5 W's with them (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How).

*\*Many of the Jesus Storybook videos are available on YouTube; or the DVDs make a great spiritual resource for your family and are available through many online retailers.*

***Song and Movement: Go Tell It On The Mountain***

Go tell it on the mountain, *(hold hands to mouth and pretend to shout)*  
Over the hills and everywhere, *(make a mountain shape with arms)*  
Go tell it on the mountain, *(hold hands to mouth and pretend to shout)*  
That Jesus Christ is born! *(point up to heaven)*

*\*during the verses, you can allow children to move around the room if you want to (like a free dance time) but then on the chorus have them return to you to do the group motions.*

***Activity: Shepherd Craft***

***Supplies: toilet paper roll, construction paper, pipe cleaner, marker, fabric***

- 1. Wrap a piece of construction paper around toilet paper roll for the shepherd's robe.***
- 2. Bend pipe cleaner into shepherds hook shape and attach by tying on with small strip of fabric.***
- 3. Glue piece of fabric cover top for the shepherd's head covering.***
- 4. Draw face with marker.***



### ***Activity: Filled with J-O-Y***

How should we feel when we study the scriptures about Jesus' birth? Stop and think for a minute about God sending His Son to earth. Does this make you feel happy, excited and joyful, just like the angels?

Why should we feel JOY when we learn about the first coming of Jesus?

We know that God created man to rule over the earth. Because Adam and the Woman disobeyed God, mankind lost this position of rulership. We also know God has a perfect plan that was created before the foundation of the world.

God sent His Son as Savior to the earth. We can be full of JOY when we study this because we know Jesus, our Savior, was born a baby, grew up and died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' sacrifice gets us a step closer to His second coming and the future day when we will rule and reign with Christ over all the earth.

We can find JOY in Jesus' birth because we know God keeps His promises and one day Jesus will return to gather all the faithful Christians in order to rule with him in His kingdom.

This Christmas season, when we read about Jesus' birth, let's remember why His birth is so important and why we should find JOY in it!

#### **"Joy" Craft**

Supplies:

- White Foam Board and Paintbrushes
- Colored Tissue Paper cut into squares
- Mod Podge

Cut out three large letters

("J", "O", and "Y") from the foam board.

Have children use paintbrushes to apply glue on the foam board letters in sections. Then place the tissue paper squares on top of glue. Over lap and layer the tissue paper to create a stained glass look. Let dry completely. Then apply a layer of Mod Podge glue over each individual letter.

### ***Activity: Spreading the Good News!***

Materials needed: balloons

Say: Imagine being a shepherd long, long ago. You're in a field watching over your sheep at night. The stars are shining and it's pretty quiet—maybe you're even a little bit sleepy—when suddenly an angel appears and tells you the most joyous news ever!

The shepherds couldn't wait to tell others what they'd seen, so they shared their news about Jesus with everyone. Let's try that ourselves. One person will bat some "good news balloons" into the room. We'll pretend that these balloons carry the wonderful news about Jesus' birth. It's important that all of you have a chance to spread that news, and each of you can do that by batting a balloon at least once as it makes its way to the front of the room. You'll all have one minute to pass the good news.

Have fun with children as they take turns batting the balloons around that carry the good news. You could also write words on balloons when put together "spell out" the gospel truth (Jesus – Is – Born – In – Bethelhem) and then see if once caught the message can be put together.

#### ***Coloring***

Have children go to the table and sit down to color. As they color continue conversations about the gospel of Jesus, how much he loves us, and how we can tell others about the good news of Jesus coming (this is a great time for them to ask questions or talk to each other); also feel free to turn on some music.

\*Coloring page included on last page 😊

## *Closing Time*

### *Prayer Time:*

During this time ask the children if there is anything they would like to have prayer for (have conversations about how we can talk to God, like a friend, about anything and he hears us always).

If children need assistance thinking of things try these questions:

What can we thank God for? (family, friends, church, home, food, sunshine, etc)

Who can we pray for? (family, friends, pets, neighbors, our church family, etc)

What do we need God's help with?

\*Any other prompts that come to mind

Close in prayer with the children. The volunteer could start and then at the end have everyone say "Thank You God for today; bless all that we think, do, and say. Amen."

