

General Church Education



Shepherds Worship the Lord

Luke 2:8-20

Lesson 29

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

SHEPHERDS WORSHIP THE LORD

Luke 2:8-20

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

Certain shepherds were told by angel messengers at night about the birth of the Baby Lord Jesus. They went immediately to find Him and worship Him.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ When the Lord came into the world, goodness and truth had almost been blotted out by evil. This is represented by the Lord being born at night.
- ❖ Only a few people, like the shepherds, who truly desired to live a good life were able to recognize the Lord when He came.
- ❖ Shepherds take care of sheep, which represent innocence and trust. Those who cherish innocence and trust in the Lord are spiritual shepherds. They will recognize the Lord when they see Him in His Word and in their lives.
- ❖ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" The angels' message is the heart of heaven. It is the same message that the Lord later gave when He reminded the people of the two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

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IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

The shepherds were the first to be told about the Lord's birth because they were trusting, innocent people.

Trusting, innocent people are willing to be led by the Lord.

We can trust the Lord like the shepherds.

LET'S REMEMBER:

Now we have learned about two special babies. The first one was named John and he grew up to do the important job of preparing people for the Lord.

- ◆ Do you remember the name of the other very special Baby? (Jesus.)
- ◆ Who was His mother? (Mary.)
- ◆ Who was Mary's husband? (Joseph.)

Jesus was different from any other baby ever born because He was God Himself come to live on earth.

- ◆ Where was Jesus born? (In a stable in Bethlehem.)
- ◆ What was used for His bed? (A manger.)
- ◆ Why did He come on earth? (To help people get to heaven.)



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

When Jesus was born, only a few people were told. They were good people who wanted to know the truth so that they could obey the Lord in their daily lives. At this time, people in the church followed leaders who only cared about themselves.

The first people to be told about the Lord's birth were shepherds. Do you know what a shepherd does? (Takes care of sheep.) Yes, shepherds take good care of their flocks or groups of sheep. They live a simple life out in the fields with

them. Shepherds protect them from wild animals. Do you remember that David saved his sheep from a lion and a bear when he was a shepherd boy?

Shepherds lead their flocks from place to place to find fields of green grass for the animals to eat and water for them to drink. Shepherds know their sheep by name and the sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd. At night they gather together or round up the sheep and stay with them to keep them safe.

What do you suppose it would be like to be a shepherd out on the hills at night with your flocks? Perhaps in the dark you might feel lonely and cold and have to sleep on the hard ground for a bed. But you would also learn to know the stars in the night sky and feel at home with your sheep.

Close your eyes for a minute and pretend that you are a shepherd boy or girl out on a dark hillside at night. The animals have settled down and are going to sleep. You and the other shepherds begin to settle down also. Then, all of a sudden, you see a strange light in the sky. It gets bigger and brighter and is very beautiful! As you look up, you see an angel of the Lord and you are afraid at this unexpected sight. Then the angel says:



Read **Luke 2:8-14**.

Open your eyes now. What would you think about this if you were there? What would you do?

The shepherds went as quickly as they could to Bethlehem, because that was the city of David, to see if they could find this special Baby. Let's see what they found.



Read **Luke 2:15-16**.

Where did they find the Baby? (Lying in a manger in a stable.) Yes, just as the angels had said, they found this very special Baby.

The angels had said He was the Savior, Christ the Lord. The shepherds were good people. They believed the angels and immediately went to find the Baby Lord. The shepherds were so amazed by this wonderful happening that they told everyone. They praised God because they had seen this very special Baby.

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when the shepherds came to see them and told them about the host of angels?



Read **Luke 2:17-20**.

Most people heard the good news and then quickly forgot. What did Mary do? (Kept all these things in her heart and pondered them.) Yes, she remembered and pondered or thought deeply about all this.



We are like the shepherds when we eagerly look for the Lord in our lives. We do this when we learn more about the Lord from His Word and then try to do what He tells us.

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Who were the first people to be told about Jesus' birth?** (Shepherds.)
- ♦ **Why did the shepherds hear the news first?** (Because they were good people.)
- ♦ **Who told the shepherds about the Lord's birth?** (Angels.)
- ♦ **What did the shepherds do when they heard this news?** (They went to Bethlehem right away to find this special Baby.)
- ♦ **Why do you think more people did not learn about the Lord's birth right away?** (Because at that time most people were evil and selfish, and did not care about the Lord.)
- ♦ **How would you feel if you could have been one of those first people to see the Baby Lord?**

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ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Luke 2:9-11



Project choices:

Angels Appear to the Shepherds project
Color a picture of the shepherds and the angels



Songs:

Away in a Manger—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-away-in-a-manger/>

O Tell Me, Gentle Shepherd—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-o-tell-me-gentle-shepherd/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Set up a simple nativity scene. Let children move the figures to retell the events of the story.

- ❖ Take children to a farm or zoo to see sheep.

- ❖ Feel soft fleece or wool. Do a wool craft.

- ❖ Listen to Christmas songs:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-hark-the-herald-angels-sing/>

Blessed Night, <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-blessed-night/>

Angels from the Realms of Glory, <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-angels-from-the-realms-of-glory/>

Angels Appear to the Shepherds

This project illustrates the angels appearing to the shepherds.

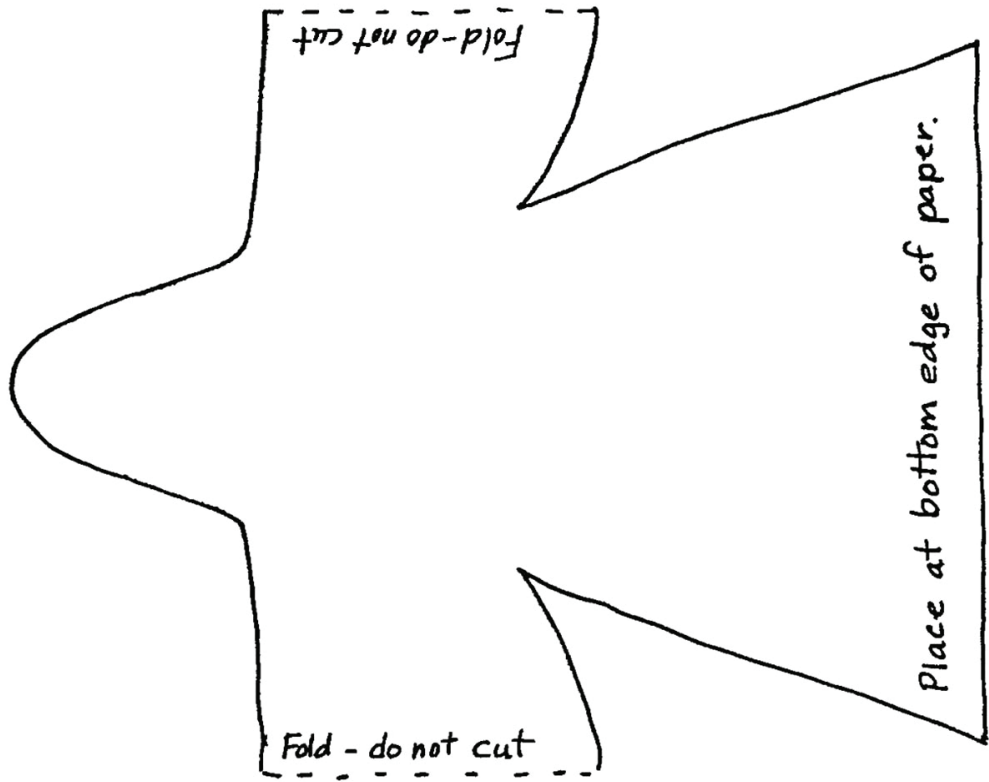
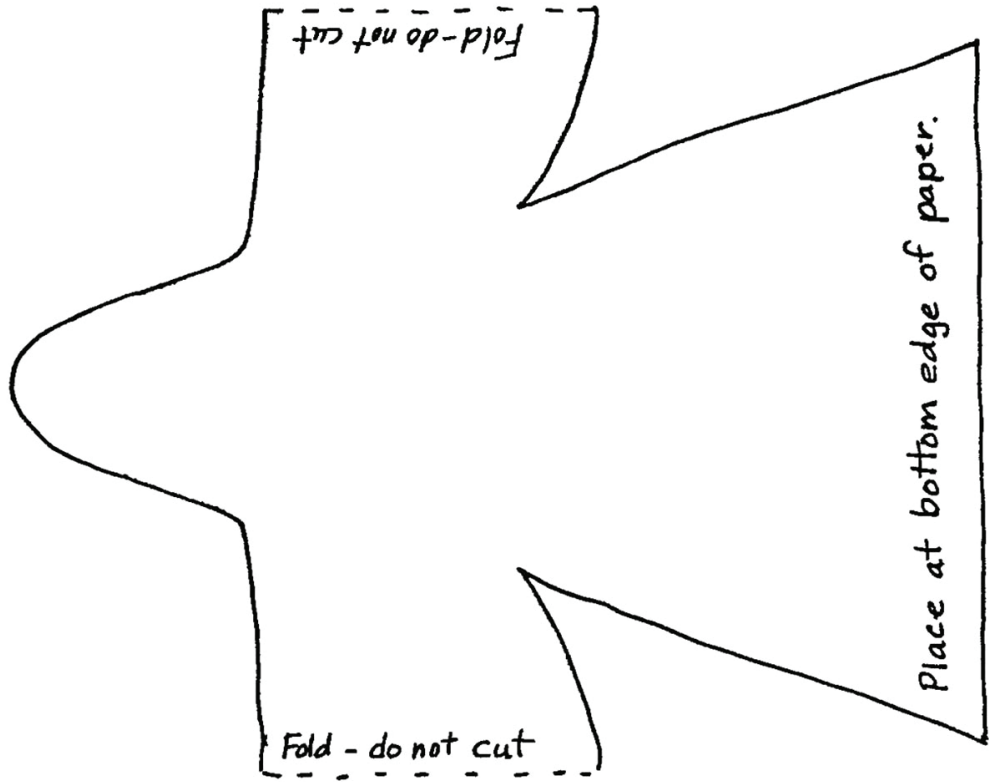
Supplies:

1 printed page
2 pieces of yellow paper
scissors
pencil
crayons or markers
glitter
tape

Project instructions:

1. Fold each piece of yellow paper in half twice, creating a top surface of 4.5" x 6".
2. Cut out one of the angel shapes on the printed page and use it as a template to trace an angel on the top of each of your folded yellow papers.
3. Cut out the angel shapes through all layers, being careful to leave the folds intact by the arms at the sides. You should end up with four rows of two angels each.
4. Use crayons or markers and glitter to decorate the angels.
5. Tape the four groups of angels together. You will now have eight angels in a row. Fold the row of angels first one way, then the other in a zig-zag or accordian fashion.
6. Fold the angels up to have one angel telling the good news of the Lord's birth on earth. Then unfold them to reveal the host of angels proclaiming, "Glory to God in the highest!"







Recitation Award: Shepherds Worship the Lord

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

