



SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 2:8–20

FOCUS VERSES: 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Matthew 28:19–20;
Psalm 96:3

Summary: Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Shepherds were tending their sheep nearby. An angel appeared and told them that Jesus had been born. Many angels appeared, giving glory to God. The shepherds went immediately to find the baby as they had been told. They glorified God and told everyone about what had happened.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

(LUKE 2:11)

BRITE  *Idea*

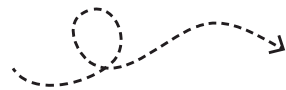
Jesus brings joy.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



WHY IS THE BIRTH OF JESUS GOOD NEWS?

God sent the Savior, Jesus, for all people. He came to bring love, joy, and forgiveness for all who believe in Him.



HOW CAN WE SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS?

We can tell everyone we know about the Gospel and the joy Jesus brings.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: THE STRUGGLING FAMILY

We often don't know what's happening behind closed doors in the lives of the families we serve, so when we encounter a struggling caregiver, let's be prepared to minister to them.

- **Photo Happy.** Take a picture of their kid during group time and write a note on the back about all the things they are learning. Either hand it to their caregiver at pick-up or mail it to them.
- **Anonymous Gift.** Get them a gift card/flower/card with scripture and send it to them anonymously. Let them know they are seen and you are praying for them. Don't give pat Christianese advice; genuinely share with them that they are loved and seen by God.
- **Offer to Pray.** Text this caregiver and offer to pray for them. Don't ask for details; allow them to share if they feel comfortable, but be committed to praying for them.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PRIORITIES

According to Pew Research, only a little over a third of parents feel that it is very important to pass on their religious beliefs to their kids.* This trend plays out in the lives of your church families as many things battle for their attention. Kids in your group may view church or their relationship with God as just another activity in their busy lives. We can best help kids by avoiding guilt-based approaches and instead continually pointing them to the greatness of who God is and all He has done. Helping kids fall in love with Jesus and understand the beauty of the Gospel will encourage them to put God first. Guilt pushes kids away. As a loving, caring adult in their lives, you have the opportunity to model for kids what a life focused on Jesus looks like.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:
britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Forgiveness: not holding someone's wrongs against them

Gospel: the good news that Jesus made a way for people to have a relationship with God

Savior: the only One who can save us from our sins

Bible TEACHING

SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS MATTHEW 1:1–17



PRAY: Jesus, it makes our hearts happy to remember You came to Earth on the first Christmas. Thank You for the good news. Help us praise You with joy, just like the shepherds. Amen.

Say: I need 10 volunteers to come to the front of our space to be our bright lights!

Call 10 volunteers to the front of your space and line them up in front of the 10 angel signs. Hand out the flashlights and let the volunteers practice turning them on and off.

Say: Volunteers, when I tap you on the shoulder, shine your light on the sign in front of you. For the rest of us, we will turn off the lights because our story takes place at night.

Ask another leader to turn off the lights.

Say: Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born in Bethlehem! But so far no one knew except for Mary and Joseph and some animals. But that was about to change!

Say: Nearby shepherds were watching their sheep late at night. All of a sudden there was a bright light.

Tap the shoulder of one volunteer to shine their light on one angel sign.

Say: An angel appeared to them and the glory of the Lord was shining brightly. The shepherds were terrified. They had never seen anything like this before!

Show teaching illustration: Bright Light in the Sky.

Say: The angel spoke to the shepherds!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable page, 10 flashlights, painter's tape

PREP:

Print 10 copies of the printable page. Tape the pages at the front of your space.

LEADER TIP:

Use the brightest flashlights and the darkest space for the best effect. You may also need a light to read the Bible.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Read Luke 2:10–12 directly from the Bible: *And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

Say: Then a great number of angels appeared in the sky.

Tap the shoulders of the other nine volunteers to shine their lights on their angel signs.

Say: They said, “Glory to God in the highest and peace to those He is pleased with.” Then the angels went back into heaven.

Collect the flashlights, have volunteers return to their seats and turn the lights back on.

Say: The shepherds looked at each other, stunned. They said, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see what God has told us!” They immediately left and searched until they found Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Jesus was wrapped in cloths and lying in the manger, just like the angel said.

Show teaching illustration: Shepherds Visit Jesus.

Say: The shepherds shared the news of what had happened with everyone they came across. The Savior of the world had been born in a manger! People were amazed by what they had to say. The shepherds returned to their field, praising and worshiping God for all that had happened. They gave God all of the glory, all of the honor and praise, for sending the Savior.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: The Savior of the world came in an unlikely way. He was the King of the whole world, born in a lowly manger, and His birth was announced to unlikely messengers. God’s plan was different than what anyone could have expected. The promised Savior came as a baby who grew up to die on the cross for our sins. He made a way for every single one of us to be forgiven and be made right with God. That is good news worthy of being shared!



Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS

SUPPLIES: Painter's tape

OR

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

SUPPLIES: Paper (1 per kid), 5 gift boxes, 20 craft jingle bells, writing supplies

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

HEAVENLY HOST

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

J IS FOR JESUS

SUPPLIES: Bible, red pipe cleaners (1 per kid), white pipe cleaners (1 per kid), printable page, coloring supplies, glue (1 per kid)

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

GOSPEL MOTIONS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page

OR

THE LIGHT OF JESUS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, battery-operated tealight candles (1 per kid)



SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS

SUPPLIES:

Painter's tape

PREP:

Make a line on the floor in the middle of your small group area.

LEADER TIP: If you are playing in a very large space or one without walls, mark a painter's tape line that kids have to cross instead of running to a wall.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: This activity could be very exciting and overwhelming for some. For added structure, stand behind a struggling kid or allow them to watch from a safer viewpoint.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that Jesus is our Savior! How have you seen this week that Jesus is the Savior?
4. **Say:** Let's play a game!
5. *Divide kids into two equal teams: Sheep and Shepherds. Each team will line up facing each other in the middle of your space. Call out either "sheep" or "shepherd." Whichever team you call out must run past the opposing team to the wall behind them. The opposing team will stand still and try to tag them as they run past. If kids are tagged, they join the opposing team.*
6. *For example, call out "sheep." The Shepherds will stand still and try to tag the Sheep as they run past them. If any Sheep are tagged, they become Shepherds for the next round.*
7. *Have kids return to the middle for each round. Alternate which team you call.*
8. *Continue playing until everyone has become either a Sheep or a Shepherd.*
9. **Discuss:** Do you know any stories in the Bible about sheep and shepherds?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

There are a number of stories about sheep and shepherds in the Bible. Today we are learning about a Bible story where some shepherds heard amazing news from an unlikely and surprising place.



CAN YOU HEAR IT?

SUPPLIES:

Paper (1 per kid), 5 gift boxes, 20 craft jingle bells, writing supplies

PREP:

Place a different number of jingle bells in each box. Label the boxes 1–5.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Pair kids who may struggle with this activity with a friend who can help.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that Jesus is our Savior! How have you seen this week that Jesus is the Savior?
4. **Say:** Let's play a game to test your hearing!
5. **Say:** I have five boxes, and each box has a different number of jingle bells inside. Your job is to guess the correct number of jingle bells in each box. To play, I will shake the boxes one at a time. Then, you will use your paper to record the number of bells you think are in each box.
6. *Pass out paper and writing supplies to everyone. Have kids number their paper 1–5 so they can record their guess for each box.*
7. *Shake the boxes one at a time. You can pass the boxes around, or even shake them all one time, and then a second time before the kids write their answers.*
8. *After you are finished, reveal the number of jingle bells in each box.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You have good ears to hear all those little bells! Today we are learning about when some shepherds heard some surprising and amazing news from a choir of angels.



HEAVENLY HOST

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 2:11 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What news did the angels tell the shepherds?
3. **Discuss:** Why is the birth of Jesus good news?
4. **Say:** God sent the Savior, Jesus, for all people. He came to bring love, joy and forgiveness for all who believe in Him.
5. **Discuss:** How many angels were in our story?
6. **Say:** The Bible tells us that one angel appeared to tell the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. That angel was then joined by a heavenly host, all giving glory to God! They told the shepherds: *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord* (Luke 2:11).
7. **Say:** Let's be a heavenly host together, praising Jesus that He is Christ the Lord!
8. *Divide your group into equal sections.*
9. *Say the verse aloud.*
10. *Section one will then say the verse with you. Then have sections one and two say the verse with you. Continue repeating the verse and adding a section each time until everyone is saying the verse together.*
11. *Have kids all say the verse together as loud as your space allows.*
12. **Say:** Wow! Our praise for Jesus got louder each time!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

The heavenly host praised God and said: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!*"



J IS FOR JESUS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, red pipe cleaners (1 per kid), white pipe cleaners (1 per kid), printable page, coloring supplies, glue (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids with fine motor needs may require support when making the hook. Allow them to work with a friend for assistance.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What news did the angels tell the shepherds?
2. **Discuss:** Why is the birth of Jesus good news?
3. **Say:** God sent the Savior, Jesus, for all people. He came to bring love, joy and forgiveness for all who believe in Him.
4. **Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:3–4.
5. **Say:** Jesus came as a baby, was the perfect sacrifice for our sins and rose again, defeating death and sin! When we believe in Him, we will be with Him forever.
6. *Pass out a coloring page and coloring supplies to everyone and encourage kids to color in their shepherd.*
7. *Pass out a red and white pipe cleaner to everyone. Help kids twist their pipe cleaners together and bend them so they look like a shepherd's hook.*
8. **Discuss:** What does your pipe cleaner look like?
9. *Encourage kids to answer that it looks like a shepherd's hook, but it also looks like the letter J when they hold it a certain way.*
10. **Say:** J is for Jesus. When we see a shepherd's hook, we can remember that Christmas is all about Jesus! The shepherds rushed off to see baby Jesus because He was Christ the Lord.
11. **Say:** The red and white colors of our pipe cleaners remind us that Jesus loves us so much. He came to bring love, joy and forgiveness to all who believe in Him.
12. *Have kids glue their shepherd's hook to their coloring page.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

In our story today we learned about some shepherds who were told good news of great joy: Jesus was born! That is the best news of all!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: The arrival of Jesus was good news of great joy. Why? In His goodness, God kept His promise to send a Savior to rescue the world from sin. One day, in His goodness, this Savior will return and make all things new.

Read Luke 2:10 directly from the Bible: *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... PRIORITIES?

Discuss: What are some things that are most important to kids your age?

Discuss: How do kids show that those things are most important?

Discuss: What does God have to say about our priorities or what is important to us?

Say: Many things battle for our attention. Between school, sports, video games, electronics, friends and so much more we often feel pulled in different directions. We also have things that we really like the most and those things get the majority of our attention. We probably wouldn't say we worship video games or sports, but when things like that get the majority of our attention, it is possible we are giving them focus that should belong to God alone. Matthew 6:33 says: *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* When so many things battle for our attention, we have to be intentional to put God first. One way we can do this by making time to pray each day and read His Word.



GOSPEL MOTIONS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with mobility needs, allow modified movements specific to their needs.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What news did the angels tell the shepherds?
2. **Discuss:** How can we share the good news of Jesus?
3. **Say:** We can tell everyone we know about the Gospel and the joy Jesus brings.
4. **Read:** Matthew 28:19–20.
5. **Discuss:** What does it mean to “make disciples?”
6. **Say:** Like the shepherds in our story, God wants us to tell others about Jesus!
7. **Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:3–4.
8. **Say:** Jesus came as a baby, was the perfect sacrifice for our sins and rose again, defeating death and sin! When we believe in Him, we will be with Him forever.
9. **Say:** I will teach you some motions that share the Gospel. We will practice them together and learn how to share about Jesus’ love with others!
10. *Have kids stand up. Use the printable page to teach kids the Gospel motions.*
11. **Discuss:** Who can you share this good news with?
12. *Divide kids into pairs. Have them practice sharing the Gospel with the motions.*
13. **Pray:** Dear Jesus, thank You for being the best news of all and love, joy and forgiveness. Help us to share this good news with others. Amen.
14. **Say:** Jesus brings joy! Let’s take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the “Me Question” box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



THE LIGHT OF JESUS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, battery-operated tealight candles (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What news did the angels tell the shepherds?
2. **Discuss:** How can we share the good news of Jesus?
3. **Say:** We can tell everyone we know about the Gospel and the joy Jesus brings.
4. **Say:** Like the shepherds in our story, God wants us to tell others about Jesus!
5. **Say:** Sometimes the world can feel dark. Jesus is like a light in the darkness!
6. **Read:** John 1:5.
7. **Say:** When we believe in Him as our Savior, Jesus brings joy and light. We can become like Him by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. We can show that light to others.
8. **Read:** Psalm 27:1.
9. **Discuss:** Who can you tell about Jesus?
10. *Pass out a candle to everyone and show kids how to turn them on.*
11. *Turn out the lights.*
12. **Say:** Let's pray for the person you are thinking of. Let's pray that they will believe in Jesus and their lives will be filled with His joy and light.
13. *Have kids repeat the following prayer after you:*
14. **Pray:** Jesus, thank You for being my light and salvation. Thank You for bringing love, joy and forgiveness. Help me share Your love with _____. Amen.
15. **Say:** Jesus brings joy! Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



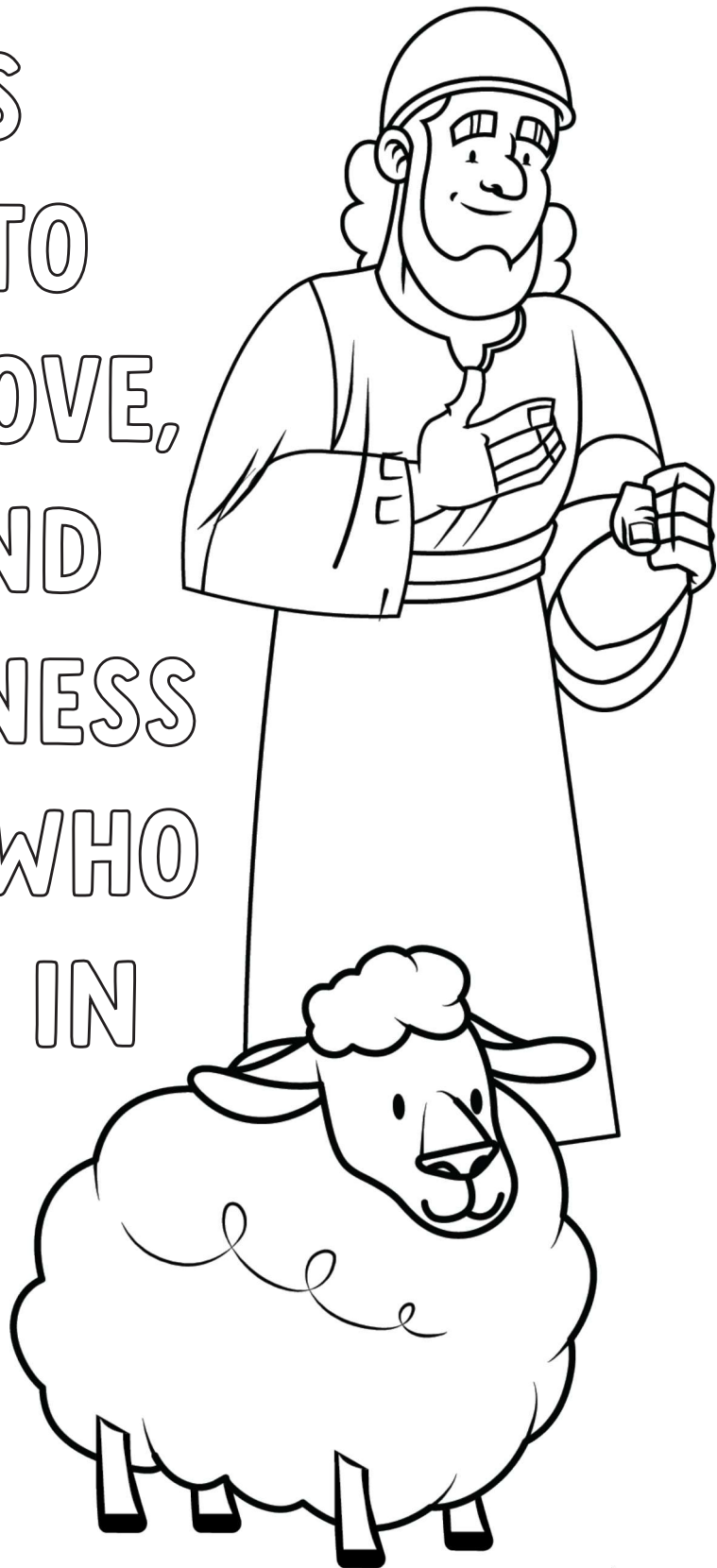
J IS FOR JESUS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page (1 per kid).

JESUS
CAME TO
BRING LOVE,
JOY, AND
FORGIVENESS
FOR ALL WHO
BELIEVE IN
HIM!





Make a circle with your arms

Say: God made the world and He is in charge.



Point down

Say: Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God. We all sin and cannot save ourselves.



Make a cross with your arms

Say: God loved us so much He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Three days later He rose again, making it possible for us to be forgiven and be right with God.



Point up

Say: When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, He makes our relationship right with God and we can live with Him forever.



Point out

Say: We can choose to follow Him and share His love with others!



TAKE-HOME

SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS (LUKE 2:8-20) Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Shepherds nearby were told by an angel, and then many angels appeared and praised God. The shepherds went to find the baby, glorified God and then told everyone what had happened.

POINT TO JESUS: The Savior came in an unexpected way—born in a lowly manger and announced to unlikely people. He grew up to die for our sins, making a way for us to be forgiven and made right with God. That is good news worthy of being shared!



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

(LUKE 2:11)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE
THREE QUESTIONS!

?

**WHAT MADE YOU EXPERIENCE JOY AT
CHURCH TODAY?**

HE

**WHY IS THE BIRTH OF JESUS GOOD
NEWS?**

God sent the Savior, Jesus, for all people. He came to bring love, joy, and forgiveness for all who believe in Him.

WE

**HOW CAN WE SHARE THE GOOD NEWS
OF JESUS?**

We can tell everyone we know about the Gospel and the joy Jesus brings.

HOW IS GOD INVITING **ME** TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Light a candle and read John 1:1-5,14 together. Talk about Jesus as the true light and make a plan to share His light with someone. Love to your community matters.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Priorities can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. [Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://www.britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.



DAY 1

Read: Luke 2:8-12

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 2

Read: Luke 2:13-20

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 3

Read: Psalm 16:7-11

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 4

Read: Philippians 4:4-7

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

LESSON

COLOR THE ILLUSTRATION



WORD SCRAMBLE

EHESP

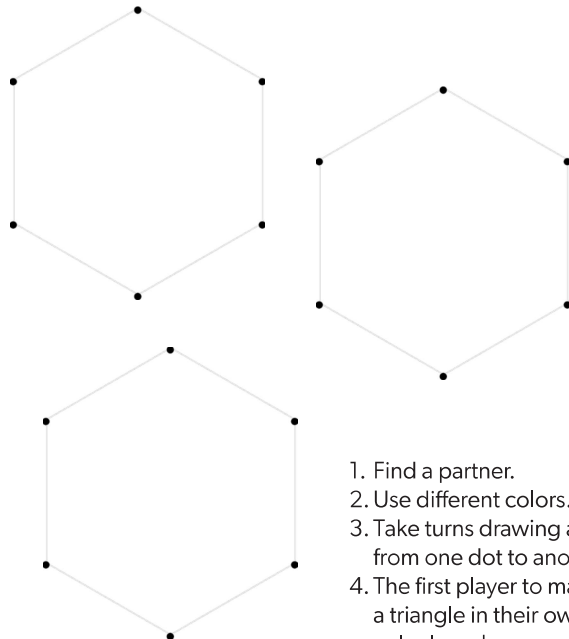
OYJ

SJEUS

YABB

GNEAL

SIM



1. Find a partner.
2. Use different colors.
3. Take turns drawing a line from one dot to another.
4. The first player to make a triangle in their own color loses!

Answer Key: sheep, joy, Jesus, baby, angel

LUKE 2:8-20

SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

