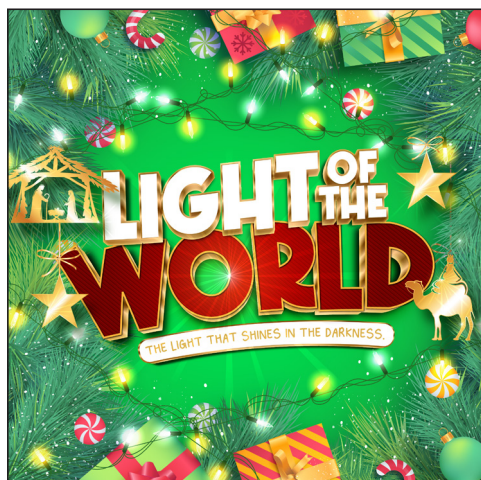




SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

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:

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.

ME

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

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME**
(8 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, newspaper, 2 straws, 2 small bowls, table, timer**2****FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE**
(2 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slides**3****BIBLE
TEACHING**
(10 MINUTES)**SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS**
(LUKE 2:8–20)**SUPPLIES:** Bible, teaching slides, printable page, 10 flashlights, painter's tape**4****REVIEW**
(8 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides**5****LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP**
(5 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: Welcome, everyone! Let's start with a game about carrying news. I need two volunteers to help.

Choose two players and have them stand at the table. Give each player a straw.

Say: Your job is to carry the news! Use your straw to pick up one newspaper piece at a time and move it to your bowl. You may not use your hands. The player who carries the most pieces in 30 seconds wins!

Play the game, count the pieces and announce the winner.

Say: In our story today, shepherds heard good news and couldn't keep it to themselves. They carried that good news to everyone they could!

SUPPLIES:

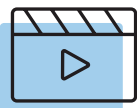
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, newspaper, 2 straws, 2 small bowls, table, timer

PREP:

Place the table at the front of your space. Tear the newspaper into small pieces and place them in the center of the table. Put one bowl at each end.

LEADER TIP:

Tear a few newspaper pieces in front of the kids so they can see where the pieces came from.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Building a marshmallow tower on a moving bus looked really hard, but fun! I think everybody on the Christmas Light Bus was so happy to ride along.

Discuss: What are some things you did during the Christmas season that made you happy?

Say: Wes and Isaiah told us there is something deeper and greater than happiness—joy. Today's Brite Idea is: Jesus brings joy.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:

- HE** Why is the birth of Jesus good news?
- WE** How can we share the good news of Jesus?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:

- ME** How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE



Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: Family Line

Say: This month we learned about Jesus' genealogy and how He brings hope.

Show teaching image: Angel Appears to Joseph

Say: Then we learned about Joseph and the angel and how Jesus brings salvation.

Show teaching image: Mary Holds Jesus

Say: Last week we learned about the birth of Jesus and how Jesus brings love.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Luke. Luke is right between the books of Mark and John in the New Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Arrival of Jesus" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened right after the events of Jesus' birth!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme.

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that Jesus is our Savior.

Say: This week we will learn about some shepherds in a nearby field who saw Jesus and shared the good news of His birth.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Luke. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Luke 2:8–20).

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.

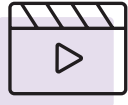
Say: The shepherds shared the news of what had happened with everyone they came across. The Savior of the world had been born in a manger! People were amazed by what they had to say. The shepherds returned to their field, praising and worshiping God for all that had happened. They gave God all of the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



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS: Have kids partner up. They will answer the question by working together to make a "T" out of their bodies for True and an "F" out of their bodies for False.

1. An angel, shining in the glory of the Lord, appeared to shepherds in a field. (True)

2. The shepherds trembled in fear when they saw the angel. (True)

3. The shepherds waited until morning and then went to find baby Jesus. (False)

They immediately left and searched until they found Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

4. The shepherds left Mary and Joseph quiet and confused about everything that happened. (False)

The shepherds returned to their field, praising and worshiping God for all that had happened.

5. God sent Jesus to save only good people. (False)

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

6. We can tell everyone we know about the Gospel and the joy Jesus brings. (True)



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



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.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



How can we share the good news of Jesus?

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



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

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

(LUKE 2:11)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video after the verse is read.



PRAY: Jesus thank You for bringing great joy to the world. Your birth is good news for everyone! Help us share this good news with others so they can know You and the joy You bring. Amen.