



SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BIBLE PASSAGE *LUKE 2:8-20*

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.

Today's Brite Idea is: Jesus brings joy.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*Unto you is born
this day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born? To save us!



Jesus saves us.



We can tell
the world.



I can tell
my friends.

LEADER TRAINING: MAKE IT PERSONAL

Handwritten, customized notes are a simple yet powerful way to connect with kids and their parents. Taking the time to celebrate a milestone, encourage effort or simply say “we’re thinking of you” communicates care, builds trust and reinforces the partnership between home and ministry. Personalized notes show that each kid and family is seen, valued and celebrated as part of God’s story.

- **Be specific and meaningful.** Highlight a kid’s recent effort, curiosity or kindness and connect it to God’s work in their life.
- **Include encouragement for parents.** A note can reaffirm the parent’s influence, effort and faithfulness, helping them feel supported in their role.
- **Make it personal, not generic.** A few thoughtful sentences tailored to the kid’s personality or family circumstances mean more than a standard message.
- **Model Gospel-centered encouragement.** Each note can point families to the fact that God rejoices in both their kids and their parenting, building joy and confidence in the home as they work to be disciplinarians.

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. Encourage kids to seek Jesus by praying, reading Bible stories at home, listening to worship songs and asking questions about their faith.

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

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Bethlehem: a town

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

1

BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

BEANBAG TOSS AND SHARE

SUPPLIES: Beanbag

OR

SHEPHERD SCENE

SUPPLIES: 20 craft sticks, cotton balls (5 per kid)

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

(LUKE 2:8-20)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, printable page, scissors (prep), flashlight

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

MEMORY VERSE POP

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse Song, music player, bubble machine, bubble solution

OR

BRIGHT LIGHT SHADOWS

SUPPLIES: Flashlight

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

TELL THE WORLD

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, printable page, coloring supplies, green tissue paper, blue tissue paper, scissors (prep), glue sticks (1 per 2 kids)

OR

JOYFUL DELIVERY

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, small items (stickers, small toys, or treats, 1-2 per kid), gift bags (1 per kid)



BEANBAG TOSS AND SHARE

SUPPLIES:

Beanbag

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Model gentle tossing and saying the phrase first. Encourage each kid to celebrate others' turns, reinforcing connection and helping kids feel safe and included.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with mobility needs, allow extra space and time for specialized equipment or buddy them up with a familiar friend to assist.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to stand in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Today we will pass this beanbag and say, "Jesus is good news!"
3. **Say:** When you get the beanbag, say the phrase and then gently toss it to the next kid.
4. *Toss the beanbag to the first kid and say, "Jesus is good news!" Then lead them to toss it to the next kid.*
5. *Continue around the circle, making sure each kid has a turn to say the phrase and toss the beanbag.*
6. **Ask:** What is good news about Jesus?
7. **Ask:** Who is Jesus?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Jesus is God's Son. Jesus was born and is the Savior just as God promised. Jesus being the Savior means He is the only One who can save us from our sins. We can tell others the good news of Jesus. Today we will learn about some people who were told about the good news. Let's learn more about how they found out Jesus was born.



SHEPHERD SCENE

SUPPLIES:

20 craft sticks, cotton balls (5 per kid)

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: If time allows, provide glue and paper for kids to create a craft.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids struggling with fine motor skills may require additional encouragement and support. If a kid has sensory needs, provide alternate supplies such as paper and crayons.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will learn about when shepherds heard the good news that Jesus was born!
2. **Ask:** Do you know what animal shepherds take care of?
3. **Say:** Shepherds take care of sheep! Let's make a shepherd scene with the craft sticks as fences and the cotton balls as the sheep.
4. *Hand out the craft sticks and cotton balls. Lead kids to use the supplies to make a shepherd scene.*
5. **Ask:** What do you think it would be like to be a shepherd?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

That was so much fun playing with the cotton balls as sheep and making the fences around where they go. Today we will learn more about how an angel appeared to the shepherds and shared with them the best news! Let's learn more about what the angel said and who the shepherds told about Jesus!

INTRO:

Play the Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Merry Christmas! It's so good to see you all! I can't wait to tell you about some shepherds who had an amazing experience after Jesus was born.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: At the start of this month we learned about Jesus' family and how they show us He brings hope.

Show teaching image: Family Line.

Say: Two weeks ago we heard about an angel who visited Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph to name his baby Jesus because He would save people from their sins.

Show teaching image: Angel Appears to Joseph.

Say: Last week we celebrated the time Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Show teaching image: Mary Holds Jesus.

Say: Today, we will learn a true story from the Bible about shepherds discovering that Jesus was born and spreading that good news!

? BIG QUESTION

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? 1, 2, 3 ... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Why was Jesus born? We will find out more in today's Bible story!

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the New Testament in the book of Luke. The New Testament is filled with lots of stories about Jesus coming to Earth to save us!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, printable page, scissors (prep), flashlight

PREP:

Print the printable page. Fold accordion-style along the dotted lines and cut through the entire page so that a chain of paper dolls results.

LEADER TIP:

Fold the paper dolls so that they look like one doll before telling the story.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE
Bible Song

SHEPHERDS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS **(LUKE 2:8–20)**

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Luke. Let's open up the Bible to Luke chapter 2. *Pick a kid to help you open the Bible and then hold it up for everyone else to see.*

Say: Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**! At first, no one knew this BIG event happened but Mary, Joseph and some animals. But that was about to change!

Say: Near the place where Jesus was born, some shepherds were working late at night. Their job was to take care of sheep in fields. All of a sudden a bright light appeared!

Show teaching image: Bright Light in the Sky.

Turn on the flashlight and shine it all around.

Say: It was an angel! The shepherds were really, really scared. They'd never seen anything like this before.

Show the kids the prepared folded paper dolls so it looks like just one.

Say: The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people! Today a **Savior** has been born! This is how you'll know it is Him—you will find the baby wrapped up in cloths and lying in a box where animals eat."

Say: Then lots and lots and lots of angels appeared up high in the sky.

Unfold the paper dolls and lift them high.

Say: The angels praised God with their voices! They said words of praise about God and about peace for those who follow Him.

Say: The angels went back to heaven.

Fold up the paper dolls and put them away.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Bethlehem: a town

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

 **(CONTINUED)**



Say: The shepherds looked at each other with wow on their faces. Can you make your faces look like wow?

Say: They said to each other, "Let's go to **Bethlehem!**" And that's what they did. They left right at that moment and looked all around **Bethlehem** until they found Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Jesus was wrapped up in cloths and lying in the animal feeding box just like the angel said!

Show teaching image: Shepherds Visit Jesus.

Say: After seeing Jesus, the shepherds shared the news of what happened with everyone they saw. Jesus, the **Savior** of the world, was born! Tell your neighbor, "Jesus is born!"

Say: People were amazed by what they had to say. The shepherds went back to their field, celebrating and praising God for all that happened!

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: The shepherds were some of the very first people to know that Jesus came to Earth. It was such good news that they shared with everyone they could! We can be glad that Jesus came at Christmas and we can share that news with others!

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Jesus, You coming to Earth is the very best news! Help us to share that news just like the shepherds. Amen.



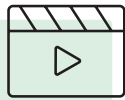
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show the Big Question and Answer Teaching Image.

Say: Why was Jesus born? To save us!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches that our joy comes from Jesus. He is the One who loves us and forgives all our sin.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after
the verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Unto you (point out)
- is born (rock a baby)
- this day a (point downwards)
- Savior. (jump up)
- Luke 2:11 (open hands like a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Unto you is born this
day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "Jesus saves us."

Have the kids point up and say, "Jesus saves us."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "We can tell the world."

Have the kids reach out and say, "We can tell the world."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "I can tell my friends."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "I can tell my friends."



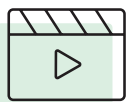
Jesus saves us.



We can tell the world.



I can tell my friends.



**Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.*



MEMORY VERSE POP

SUPPLIES:

Memory Verse Song, music player, bubble machine, bubble solution

PREP:

Pour the bubble solution into the bubble machine.

LEADER TIP: Use a bubble wand if you don't have a bubble machine.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is our Savior and that He is good news for everyone.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Our memory verse says, *Unto you is born this day a Savior (Luke 2:11)*. Let's say it all together!
2. *Repeat the verse with the kids.*
3. **Say:** I will play our Memory Verse Song. As it plays, I have some bubbles for us to pop as we listen.
4. *Play the Memory Verse Song and start the bubble machine.*
5. *Lead kids to take turns popping the bubbles as they listen to the song.*
6. *Repeat as time allows.*
7. **Ask:** What does our verse teach us about Jesus?
8. **Ask:** Who can you tell that Jesus is the Savior?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Great job listening to our Memory Verse Song! Remember, Luke 2:11 tells us that Jesus is our Savior. We can remember this verse anytime and share the good news with everyone!



BRIGHT LIGHT SHADOWS

SUPPLIES:

Flashlight

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is our Savior and that He is good news for everyone.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Let's play a fun activity as we repeat three words that tell about the good news.
3. *Shine a flashlight on a wall.*
4. *Assign three fingers for three words: "Jesus saves us."*
5. *Hold one finger in the flashlight "Jesus" hold up the next finger "saves" and then hold up the third finger "us."*
6. *Kids can take turns holding up their three fingers and saying the three words for each finger.*
7. **Ask:** Who can you tell about this good news?
8. **Ask:** Who saves us?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Just like the shepherds, we can share the joy of Jesus with everyone! Remember, Jesus brings joy to everyone because He is our Savior.



TELL THE WORLD

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page (1 per kid), printable page, coloring supplies, green tissue paper, blue tissue paper, scissors (prep), glue sticks (1 per 2 kids)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page and fold in half to create a card (1 per kid). Cut the tissue paper into 2-inch squares (1 handful per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with sensory needs, have alternative supplies available such as paper and crayons or dry-erase materials.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each kid a prefolded card and a handful of precut tissue paper squares and glue sticks.
2. **Say:** Today we will make special cards to tell our friends about Jesus. We can remember that we can tell the whole world, "Jesus saves us!"
3. **Say:** Use the glue stick to make the world all sticky and then stick the tissue paper squares onto it.
4. Then pass out coloring supplies for kids to decorate and color the inside of their card.
5. Write each kid's name on their card and set aside for parent pickup.
6. **Say:** Jesus saves is the best news! We can tell the whole world about Jesus. That means we can tell our friends, family, neighbors and anyone you see that Jesus saves and loves them!
7. **Ask:** Who can you tell about Jesus?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who was taking care of the sheep?
- What did the angel say to the shepherds?
- Where was Jesus laid after He was born?
- Who can you tell the good news of Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for being born as a baby. Thank You for being our Savior and bringing joy to everyone. Help us tell our friends and family the good news about You. We love You, Jesus! Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



JOYFUL DELIVERY

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, small items (stickers, toys, treats ,1-2 per kid), gift bags (1 per kid)

PREP:

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

LEADER TIP: Encourage kids to speak clearly and move carefully while sharing joy with a friend or leader.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will get to share joy, just like the shepherds shared the good news about Jesus. You can fill your delivery bag with one or two items and bring it to another kid or teacher while saying, "I'm sharing this joy!"
2. *Demonstrate filling a bag, saying the phrase and delivering it gently.*
3. *Have each kid take a turn filling and delivering their bag while saying, "I'm sharing this joy!"*
4. **Say:** Just as the shepherds shared the joy of Jesus, we can share the joy of Jesus with others! That is a very special and joyful delivery!
5. **Say:** After everyone has delivered once, we can even try delivering our bags with a big, happy voice or sneaking quietly like a little shepherd or even skipping like we're so excited about Jesus!
6. *Celebrate each delivery with claps and smiles to make it extra fun!*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who was taking care of the sheep?
- What did the angel say to the shepherds?
- Where was Jesus laid after He was born?
- Who can you tell the good news of Jesus?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for being born as a baby. Thank You for being our Savior and bringing joy to everyone. Help us tell our friends and family the good news about You. We love You, Jesus! Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions of what kids should do in each center.

- **Dramatic Play:** Provide little plastic animals (including sheep) for kids to play with. Lead them to make the animal sounds.
- **Dress Up:** Provide robes for kids to be shepherds. Encourage them to tell others about Jesus.
- **Modeling Dough:** Provide modeling dough and modeling dough tools for kids to make sheep and shepherd staffs. Share how the shepherds heard the good news of Jesus from the angel.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time, or while waiting for parents.

Say: Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Nearby, shepherds were watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared and told them that Jesus, God's Son, had been born. Then countless angels appeared, singing and giving glory to God! The shepherds were so amazed that they went right away to see this baby, Jesus. When they found Him, they praised God and told everyone they met about the wonderful news of Jesus' birth!



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!