

Week 4



December 21st - 24th

OVERVIEW CARD

The Angels and Shepherds

Key Question:
Bottom Line:
Memory Verse:

How do we know God loves us?
God gave us Jesus.
“God has given a son to us.”
Isaiah 9:6, NCV

Bible Story:

The angels tell about Jesus.
The Angels and Shepherds
Luke 2:8-18

Coloring Page:

Shepherds come to greet Jesus.

Music:

Merry Christmas to You
Great Big God
Look, Look, Everyone

Video:

A WowieBozowee Christmas with Boz the Bear

Bible Lesson:

Good News
Pages 278 to 283

Story:

J is for Jesus
by Crystal Bowman

Service Time:

73 minutes



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ACTIVITY

The Angels and Shepherds

Scattered

What You Need: A Hula-Hoop®, a stopwatch, a bucket, and plastic balls that are 2 inches in diameter or larger.

What You Do: Gather children around you. Count to five and then throw the balls out into the room. Set the stopwatch. Have the children collect all the balls and place them inside the Hula-Hoop®. Repeat several times. Make it fun by challenging them to collect the balls faster each time.

What You Say: “I have a super fun activity for us today. I have a Hula- Hoop® that we are going to pretend is a sheep pen. I also have this big bucket of balls. Let's pretend these are sheep. “I want you to count to five with me, and then I'll throw all the balls into the room. Then I want you all to go collect all the sheep and put them in their pen. Ready? One, two, three, four, five. Go! (*Start the stopwatch.*) Wow! You got all the sheep back in the pen super quick! Let's do that again! One, two, three, four, five. Go! (*Start the stopwatch.*)”



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ACTIVITY

The Angels and Shepherds

Run and Tell

What You Need: Shepherd, Wise Men, Angel and Sheep Cards and Action Cards, Two Baskets, Large Matching pictures of a Shepherd, Wise Men, Angel and Sheep, a small step stool, and scissors.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy the Character and Action cards onto the cardstock and cut out the cards. Place the Character cards in one basket and the Action cards in another basket. Tape the large pictures of the Shepherd, Wise Men, Angel and Sheep onto the four corners of the room and place the stool just outside the play area.

During the activity: Have the children pick a card one at a time and then walk to the stool and allow them to climb to the top with an adult's help. Once at the top, encourage them to shout what character is on their card and then wait till all of the children have made it to that corresponding picture. Once all the children are there, have the child on the step stool pick an Action card and shout out what action they should do. Once done with that action, have the adult help the child down and have the next child pick a card. (3's Classrooms may find it easier for the leader to tell the children where to go and what to do.)

What You Say:

Before the activity: "The angels told the shepherds about Jesus and then the shepherds ran and told others about the wonderful birth of Jesus. We are going to play a game where we can run and tell just like the shepherds did. I am going to give you a card. Look at the card and see what is on it. Then walk fast to (*leader's name*) and climb on the stool and shout super loud what is on your card. Are you ready to run and tell? (*Pause.*) Great! Here we go!"

At the end of the activity: "Great job! You all would have made wonderful shepherds. The shepherds had such AMAZING news to tell everyone. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! What fantastic news! **How do we know God loves us?** (*Pause.*) Yes! **God gave us Jesus!**"



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ACTIVITY

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Christmas Freeze Dance

What You Need:

Christmas CD and CD player

What You Do: Have the children gather around in one area. Play fun music for the children to dance to. The children should continue dancing as long as you are playing the music. Once you stop the music, the children should immediately stop dancing and freeze. Children should start dancing again when you switch the music back on.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Christmas is the perfect time celebrate God's perfect gift to us. You know, that's my very favorite holiday! So what better treat than to sing and dance about God's special gift and Christmas time all at the SAME time with you! Now that's EXCITING! Let's get up on our feet and dance about how **God gave us Jesus** a long, long, long time ago!"

After the activity: "Excellent singing and dancing! You guys did AWESOME! Can anyone tell me what their very favorite Christmas song is? (*Let a few of the children answer.*) Wow! Those are some really great songs!"



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**ACTIVITY -
3'S AND 4'S**

The Angels and Shepherds

Search for Baby Jesus

What You Need:

Pictures of Baby Jesus and a Bible

What You Do:

Tape the pictures of baby Jesus all around the room. Then, read Luke 2:10 (*what the angels said to the shepherds*). Have the child pretend to be shepherds and search the room to find all the pictures of baby Jesus.

What You Say:.

"We are going to play a super fun game and learn what the angels said to the shepherds (read Luke 2:10). Do you remember what the shepherds did as soon as the angels left? (*Pause.*) Yes, you are right, they went to find baby Jesus. We are going to pretend to be shepherds and look around the room to see if we can find baby Jesus. Are you ready...Go!"



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ACTIVITY - CLUBHOUSE

The Angels and Shepherds

Merry, Merry, Christmas (aka Duck, Duck, Goose)

What You Need:

No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

Before the activity: Seat all of the children in a circle and explain the rules. Have the Leader say the words, MERRY, MERRY, CHRISTMAS with the children several times. Explain to the children that we are going to play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose, however instead of using those words we are going to say Merry, Merry, Christmas instead. Tell the children when they hear “CHRISTMAS” that will be the signal to chase the person “It”.

What You Say:

“We are going to play a super fun game. How many of you have ever played Duck, Duck, Goose? *(Pause.)* Great, this game is very similar however instead of saying Duck and Goose we are going to say Merry and Christmas. I will pick someone to be “It”. The person “It” will walk around the outside of the circle tapping each child on the head and saying, “MERRY” each time he taps a child on the head. When he reaches the child he wants to pick, “It” says, “CHRISTMAS” as he taps the child’s head. That child must get up from his spot and chase “It” around the circle. Whoever arrives at the empty spot first sits down. The other child becomes “It”. Are you ready to start? *(Pause.)* Great, let’s begin!”



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ACTIVITY

The Angels and Shepherds

Manger Scene

What You Need: Nativity Sticker Scenes

What You Do: Review this week's Bible lesson as you help your preschoolers create their very own Nativity Sticker Scene.

What You Say: "Who knows what special day is coming!? *(Pause.)* That's right! Christmas is coming! Do you know whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas? *(Pause.)* That's right! Jesus' birthday! Last week, we heard about how Jesus was born, but no one but Mary and Joseph knew about Baby Jesus! How was everyone going to find out about Jesus? *(Pause.)* Did Mary and Joseph send a letter? Did they send an email? Or maybe they called on a phone? *(Pause.)* Did they do any of those things? *(Pause.)* No! The first people to find out were shepherds, and they found out in an amazing way!

"One day the shepherds were out in the field watching their sheep. Suddenly a bunch of angels filled the sky and had a message for the shepherds. They said, 'Don't be afraid. We've got great news for you! A baby has been born in Bethlehem. He is God's Son, Jesus! You'll find him wrapped up in blankets and lying in a manger.' And then the angels started to sing, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven! Peace on earth!' Isn't that amazing? The shepherds were so excited they grabbed up all of their stuff and went to where the angel said. The shepherds were so excited to see Jesus! They said, 'Everyone needs to know that Jesus is born! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus.' **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**



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CRAFT

The Angels and Shepherds

Color Your Own Nativity Scene Ornament

What You Need: Ornament and Crayons and/or Markers



What You Do:

Have the children color their ornaments with crayons and/or markers.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "We heard an amazing lesson today about when Jesus was born! We are going to make an ornament that reminds us of God's special gift to us!"

At the end of the activity: "Fantastic job! I love them! Now you can take your ornaments home and tell your families what a wonderful gift God has given to us! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us?** (Pause.) Absolutely! **God gave us Jesus!**"



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SMALL GROUP

The Angels and Shepherds

Small Group Time

What you Need: Stickers, Bible Story, Wall Nativity Set and *J is for Jesus* book by Crystal Bowman

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Wow! What an exciting lesson! Imagine the sky filled with angels singing because Baby Jesus had been born! Do you remember what the shepherds did after the angels told them about Baby Jesus? *(Pause.)* Yes! They ran to see Jesus! That must have been amazing to see Jesus lying there in a manger. Do you remember what the shepherds did after they saw Baby Jesus? *(Pause.)* Right again! They told everyone the good news about Jesus! They said **God gave us Jesus! God gave us Jesus! God gave us Jesus!** And that’s how we know God loves us—because **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: “**God gave us Jesus!**”

SGL: “Our Memory Verse this month says, ‘God has given a son to us,’ Isaiah 9:6. Say that with me.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “‘God has given a son to us,’ Isaiah 9:6.”

SGL: “That verse is saying **God gave us Jesus**, His one and only Son. That’s right! Would anyone like to try and say it all by yourself?”

Give each child the opportunity to say the verse. Make this a special time for them and reward them with a sticker.

SGL: “Today, and all month, we have been making our own manger scene, we have been using it to help us retell our Bible lesson! Our first week, we added Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the angel! Our second week, we added the animals to the scene because Jesus was born in a manger with farm animals. Last week we added presents to our manger scene because birthday parties usually have presents and Jesus is the best present of all! Today, we need to add the shepherds. What do shepherds take care of? *(Pause.)* Sheep! That’s right! Let’s add some sheep to go with our shepherds too! We have one more thing to talk about. Do you remember who told the shepherds about Jesus? *(Pause.)* Angels! Awesome, can you point to the angels? We added them in week one. Christmas is almost here so let’s say happy birthday to Jesus again. Say it with me: ‘Happy birthday, Jesus!’ **How do we know God loves us?** *(Pause.)* **God gave us Jesus.** That’s right, and what a great thing to celebrate!”

SGL: “Are you ready to read a book about Christmas? *(Pause.)* Great, I can’t wait to hear what happens!”



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