

CITY SG – Dec 27th

Bible Story: Shepherd Guys Are Comin' to Town (Shepherds visit Jesus) • *Luke 2:8-20*

Bottom Line: God gave us great news. Who will you tell?

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16, NIV*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to show your few that the perfect response to Christmas is to go and tell others about Jesus! Pray for opportunities for your kids to show their friends what Christ has done in their lives and to share Him with others.

Lights! Camera! Action! (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: Pipe cleaners, cotton balls, feathers, candy canes, doll, Bethlehem sign

What You Do:

- Lead kids to reenact the story of the shepherds visiting Jesus.
- Select kids to be the shepherds. Give the "shepherds" a candy cane for their "staff."
- Select a couple of kids to be the angels. Make a halo out of pipe cleaners and place on the "angels'" heads and give them a feather for each hand for their "wings."
- Retell the story, encouraging kids to act out their roles in the story. Be prepared to prompt kids or give them hints as to what happens next in the story or with what they say. Below is a sample story review.

Shepherds Visiting Jesus – Take One!

- "Shepherds, where are you at the beginning of our story today? (*In the field herding sheep*) That's right! You are herding sheep. (*Throw a bunch of cotton balls on the ground.*) Here are all your sheep. Use your staff to gather them together."
- (*While the shepherds are herding, say to the angels*) "This is when you angels make an appearance." (*Encourage the angels to "fly" around the shepherds, using their feathers as wings.*)
- "Shepherds, you see the angels and you are terrified. Show me your 'I am scared' look; you are so afraid you are shaking."
- "Angels, do you remember what you said to the terrified shepherds?" (*Don't be afraid. I bring good news to you. Jesus is born and He is your Lord and Savior. Jesus is in a manger in Bethlehem.*)
- (*Say to the shepherds*) "The Angel of the Lord told you Jesus has just been born. I think you need to look shocked and amazed because that is some really good news! Show me your best surprised face."
- "The angels are very happy; perhaps even joyous, you may say. They are singing glory to God in the highest." (*Encourage the angels to dance, and sing and dance with them.*)
- "Shepherds, you just heard good news. Jesus is born. What do you decide to do? (*Go to Bethlehem to visit Jesus.*) Let's head to Bethlehem to visit Jesus." (*Walk to "Bethlehem" to visit the baby.*)

- “Shepherds, after you meet Jesus, what do you do?” (*Tell the good news to everyone they meet. Encourage kids to put their hands to their mouth and say, “Jesus is born!”*)

What You Say:

“You did an excellent job telling the story. The shepherds were so excited when they heard the good news that they told everyone they saw. God wants us to be like the shepherds in the story. He wants us to be excited about Jesus’ birth. He wants us to share the good news with others. **[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?** That’s our Compassion Challenge for today: to think about who in our lives needs to hear the good news about God’s love, and how we can share it with them.”

Good News Relay (*application activity / a possible environment-wide activity*)

What You Need: “Jesus Loves You” stickers, masking tape

What You Do:

- Using tape make a start line.
- Divide the group into two teams and line the teams up at the starting line.
- About 15-20 feet from the starting line, put enough “Jesus Loves You” stickers for each kid in your group, plus two extra ones.
- When you say, “GO,” a member of each team races to the stickers, grabs one, and returns to their team.
- The “runner” places a sticker on a teammate and says, “Jesus Loves You.” Once a kid receives a sticker, he becomes the next “runner” and races down to get a sticker for another teammate.
- The last kid to receive a sticker races down, gets a sticker, and puts it on you.
- The first team to put a sticker on every teammate and you is the winner.

What You Say:

“Jesus loves you! That is good news! And it is important to tell others Jesus loves them. What are some ways you can share God’s good news with your friends or family? (*Invite a friend to church, tell them the Bible stories you learned in class, treat them the way you want to be treated, etc.*) Our Compassion Challenge for this week is to tell someone about Jesus! **[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?** Is there is someone you know who needs to hear about Jesus? One way you could tell someone about the good news is to give them a sticker to let them know Jesus loves them. **[Make It Personal]** (*Tell the kids who you are going to give a sticker to this week and why. Or share about a time when you told someone about God’s good news or a time someone shared the Good News with you.*) Here is an extra sticker for you to give to someone to share God’s good news.” (*Give kids an extra “Jesus Loves You” sticker.*)

Share the News (*Memory verse Activity*)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Whisper sections of the memory verse to the kid next to you, who will whisper it to the next kid and so on around the circle. Sections of the sentences are below. Younger groups will want to

break the verse down into these small sections but older groups may want to combine for longer sections.

- For God so loved the world
- that he gave his one and only Son
- that whoever believes in him
- shall not perish but have eternal life
- *John 3:16.*
- The last kid says the sentence out loud.
- See how close the final sentence is to the original sentence.
- If kids are old enough try to say the entire sentence at once!

What You Say:

“You did a great job of sharing the news down the line. This memory verse is all about the good news that God loves us and He gave us the greatest gift ever: Jesus. And when we believe in Jesus, we get to live with Him now and forever. Now that is good news! One way to share God’s good news is to share this memory verse with someone. **[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?**”

Prayer Activity

What You Need: “Megaphone” Activity Page, blank paper, tape, crayons or markers

What You Do:

- Show kids the picture of a megaphone.
- Explain megaphones are used to make your voice really loud. Often megaphones are used to speak to a large number of people to make sure everyone can hear you clearly.
- Help kids make megaphones by rolling a piece of paper into a cone shape, with one small opening and one large opening.
- Help kids place tape on the outside edge of the paper to secure the cone.
- Kids can write “Jesus loves you” and decorate their megaphone with crayons if time.
- Pray with the kids using the megaphones.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “God gave us great news! Who will you tell?” Who will you tell about Jesus? Maybe it is a friend or a family member. When we tell others about how much Jesus loves them, we want to be sure they can hear us; we don’t want anyone to miss out on God’s good news. Let’s use our megaphones to tell the world, ‘Jesus loves me.’ (*Wait while kids say, ‘Jesus loves me,’ into their megaphones.*) Good job! That news was loud and clear! Now let’s use our megaphones to say, ‘Jesus loves YOU.’ (*Wait while kids say, ‘Jesus loves you,’ into their megaphones.*) Wow! I could hear you all! **[Bottom Line] God gave us great news! Who will you tell?** Let’s pray and ask God for help in sharing the good news with others! God, You are awesome! Thank You for loving us and sending us Jesus. Help us to share Your good news and to share Your love with others. Amen.”

PARENT CONNECTION AT PICK UP

Tell parents the kids learned about when the shepherds visited Jesus. Remind kids to give their stickers to someone to share God’s good news.