



STORY TIME

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.



DIRECTIONS

Choose one activity out of each section on the next page. When you complete your chosen activity in a section, place a sticker on your sticker chart.

Having fun and don't want to stop? Do more than one activity in your favorite section(s)!



REFLECTION SECTION

Questions for Grown-Ups

1. The shepherds were having a normal evening outside with their sheep when the angel surprised them with news from God. When has God surprised you? Whether it felt like a miracle, a coincidence, or something else, how did you respond? How can you be more open to God's surprises?
2. Jesus' mother Mary thought she was insignificant. The shepherds would be considered somewhat unimportant in society. Yet God sent angels and gave each of them important tasks. God calls upon all sorts of people to do important things. What might God be calling you to do?

Questions for Young Disciples

The shepherds were hanging out like any regular night when the angel appeared. Has there been a time in your life that you were surprised? It could be a time that you found out you were receiving a class award or maybe a surprise for your birthday. God has ways of surprising us too. This can look like an offer to try something new or being lead down a certain path to discovering a talent. This can also look like people or situations being put into your life. Can you think of any times that this has happened?

Questions for Younger Disciples

Have you ever felt ordinary? Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough? The shepherds thought this way sometimes too. The cool thing about God is that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things! God see each of our gifts and talents. God also puts us to the challenge to try new things and do things better. What is something that you weren't good at when you first started but then with some practice you got better at? What is something that you have wanted to try but haven't yet? This could be things like learning to ride a bike without training wheels, learning to play an instrument, or learning how to cook.



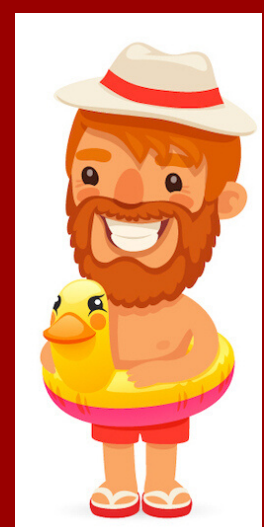
IMAGINATION STATION

Option One:

Complete today's Angel Craft.

Option Two:

Color the Shepherds Coloring Page.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Option One:

The shepherds lived outside. Why not have a "Christmas campout?" Spend part or all of the night outside. Maybe put up some Christmas lights around your campout area. Sing a few Christmas carols. It's Christmas in July!

Activity for Families

Make a list of things you would like to learn about or learn how to do. What outdoor things or places do you want to discover?



MISSION MOMENT

Option One:

When have you noticed that someone is good at something, and may be called to do it more? Tell them. People may not have considered how God is calling them until someone else says it. Be their "angel."

Option Two:

Sing Christmas carols at a senior living facility. Call ahead to make sure that people will be able to hear you from balconies and windows if you are not allowed inside.

Activity for Families:

Act out the Bible Story. Be creative! Take a photo or film the entire story, and then send it to someone who needs to hear the story or post it on social media. Don't forget to sing a Christmas carol as part of your skit!

You're done! Be sure to head inside and celebrate your progress on your Sticker Chart, and then let us know what you discovered in the Facebook group!

VBS FOR BACKYARDS Week Four: Shepherds

No popsicle sticks required.



Paper Plate Angels

You need:

- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Gold glitter
- Paper
- Gold sparkly pipe cleaner
- Tape/glue
- Sharpie/crayons

Step One: Cut a deep triangle out of a white paper plate. Put lines of glue all around the plate and shake glitter on it.

Step Two: Cut out the angel's head out of a piece of paper, then add facial features, hair, and hands with the sharpie and crayons. (The hands will go on the deep triangle you cut out.)

Step Three: Bend a gold pipe cleaner to look like a halo and tape it to the back of the head. Glue or tape it onto the back of the head, then tape or glue the body and head to the angel wings.





The Angel Telling the Shepherds the Good News