



“Heroes of the Nativity” is a Christmas series to help kids experience joy through faith in God. Life can sometimes be a little scary and uncertain, can't it? Even in the Bible, people faced challenges and unknowns. Just imagine being a shepherd out in the fields, a wise man following a star, or Mary and Joseph being told they would have a very special baby! That's a lot to handle! But guess what? They weren't alone in their journeys, and neither are we. God was with them every step of the way, showing His love, guiding them, and turning their faith into miraculous experiences. This curriculum will teach kids that when we trust God, we too can discover joy, love, and miracles in our everyday lives.

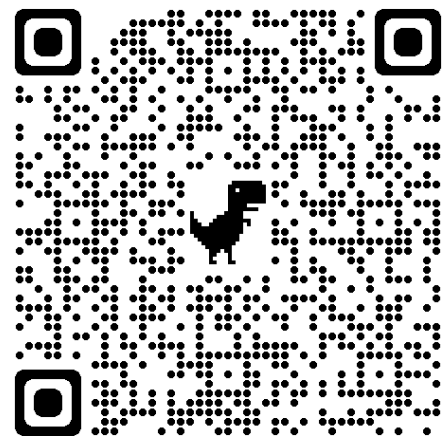
Big Idea: Even when things seem tough or confusing, God guides us with His love, just like He did with the Heroes of the Nativity!

Recommended Age: 6-12 Years Old

Memory Verse: Luke 2:10-11

You are viewing the 1st week as a free sample lesson, follow this link or QR code to purchase the complete series.

<https://sundayschool.store/products/heroes-of-the-nativity-5-lesson-christmas-curriculum>



HEROES OF THE NATIVITY

5-WEEK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CURRICULUM

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. Luke 2:10-11 ESV



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And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 KJV



HEROES OF THE NATIVITY

5-WEEK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CURRICULUM

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 NIV



HEROES OF THE NATIVITY

5-WEEK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CURRICULUM

But the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! Luke 2:10–11 NLT





Week 1 – Shepherds:

Humble Witnesses to the Glory of God

Main Idea: God reveals His love to those who listen.

Overview: Just like the shepherds, God reveals His love to us when we take the time to listen. The shepherds were ordinary people doing their job when they heard the incredible news of Jesus' birth. This shows us that even in our ordinary lives, God can do extraordinary things. When we listen and trust in God, we can experience His love and joy, just like the shepherds did.

Scriptures: Luke 2:8-20

Introduction & Group Game: The Listening Shepherds

Welcome Script: Good morning, kids! I am so excited to see all of you here today, bright-eyed and ready to journey with us on a remarkable adventure. We're starting a brand-new series called "Heroes of the Nativity," where we'll learn about the incredible people in the Bible who were part of the first Christmas. We'll discover how God was with them in their journeys and how they found joy, love, and miracles in their faith.

Today, we will travel back in time and meet some humble people called shepherds. Can anyone tell me what a shepherd's job is? That's right! Shepherds take care of sheep. And they are very important characters in our story today. They were the first ones to hear about the birth of Jesus!

So, are you ready to dive into the story and find out why these shepherds were heroes of the Nativity? Fantastic! But before we get started, how about we play a little game?

Game: "The Listening Shepherds"

This game is all about listening, just like the shepherds had to listen to the angel's message. Here's how we play:

1. We will all sit in a circle. I'll start by whispering a message to the person on my right. It might be something like, "Jesus loves us," or "God is with us."

2. That person will then turn and whisper the message to the person next to them, and so on, until the message goes all the way around the circle.

3. The last person will then say the message out loud. We'll see if the message stayed the same or if it got a little mixed up along the way!

Remember, the shepherds had to listen carefully to the angel's message and then tell others. Let's see how well we can listen and pass along our message.

This game will help us understand the importance of listening, which is one of the main lessons we'll learn from the shepherds in our story today. So, let's start our game and then dive into the story of the Shepherds, the Humble Witnesses to the Glory of God!

Object Lesson: The Shepherd's Staff

Materials: A shepherd's staff or a long stick that can represent it.

Teacher Script: (Have the shepherd's staff or long stick in your hand) I have something special with me today. Can anyone guess what this might be? (Wait for responses) That's right! It's a shepherd's staff. The staff was a very important tool for a shepherd. Do you know why?

Well, a shepherd used it for a few reasons. They would use it to guide their sheep on the right path and protect them from any dangers. Sometimes a sheep might wander off, and the shepherd could use the staff to bring them back to the group's safety.

Now, let's think about our lesson today. Just like a shepherd uses a staff to guide his sheep, God guides us in our lives. Sometimes we might feel lost, scared, or wander off the path God has set for us. But just as a shepherd uses his staff to keep his sheep safe, God guides us back to Him when we listen to His voice.

The shepherds in our story today listened to God's voice. They heard the angels' announcement about Jesus and followed it. They didn't ignore it or get scared. Instead, they listened, leading them to witness one of the most important events in history - the birth of Jesus!

So remember, when we listen and trust in God, we can experience His love and joy, just like the shepherds did.

(Walk around the room, letting the children touch or hold the staff)

So, let's be like the shepherds. Let's be listeners and followers, trusting God to guide us through our life's journey.

That's our main idea today: God reveals His love to those who listen. And just like the shepherd's staff, God will always guide us if we choose to listen.

Now, let's dive into the shepherds' story and how they listened to God's message.

Bible Story:

Shepherds Witness God's Glory

Teacher Script: Alright, everyone! Gather around and get comfortable. We're about to embark on an amazing journey to the hills of Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

(Encourage the children to close their eyes and imagine as you describe it.)

Imagine, if you will, a dark night sky filled with countless twinkling stars. You are in the fields surrounding Bethlehem, surrounded by the quiet sounds of sheep. You are a shepherd, watching your flock with fellow shepherds. It's a typical night, calm and peaceful.

But then, something extraordinary happens!

READ: Luke 2:8-10

Suddenly, a bright light appears in the sky, and an angel of the Lord appears before you. (Pause) How would you feel if you were one of those shepherds? What emotions would you have? (Allow responses.)

I bet you would be terrified just like the shepherds were. After all, it's not every day that an angel appears in the sky!

But the angel quickly comforts them. Do you remember our memory verse? It comes right from this part of the story.

READ: Luke 2:10-11

The angel brings good news of great joy. A Savior has been born in Bethlehem! This is the message that the shepherds hear. What do you think the shepherds might do after hearing this news? (Allow responses.) Let's find out!

READ: Luke 2:12-15

The shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem and see what happened. They are curious and excited. So they leave their sheep and set off for the town. What an adventure! When they arrive, they find everything just as the angel had said.

READ: Luke 2:16-18

And when they had seen Jesus, they couldn't keep it to themselves. They went out and spread the good news, telling everyone about what they had heard and seen.

How do you think people reacted to the shepherds' story? (Allow responses.)

READ: Luke 2:19-20

And that's the story of the shepherds, humble witnesses to the glory of God. They were ordinary people who were given an extraordinary message. And they listened to that message, believed it, and shared it with others.

That's our challenge too. We should be ready to listen to God, believe His good news, and share it with others.

Now, let's talk about how we can apply what we learned from the shepherds in our everyday lives.

Memory Verse Activity: Verse Unscramble

Memory Verse: Luke 2:10-11

Activity Instructions: Before the class, write each word of the memory verse on individual index cards. Make sure to include the reference (Luke 2:10-11) as well. You may want to create several sets of verses for a larger group.

1. Divide the class into small groups and give each group a set of scrambled verse cards.
2. Explain the activity to the children: "Our challenge today is to put the memory verse in the correct order. You'll need to work together as a team to figure out how to arrange these cards."
3. Once each group has their cards, allow them to work together to unscramble the verse.
4. After all groups have finished, have one representative from each group come up and read the verse out loud.
5. Repeat the verse together a few times to help them memorize it.

Teacher Script: Today, we're going to play a game to help us remember our memory verse, which is from the book of Luke, chapter 2, verses 10 and 11. This verse is very special because it's the angel's message to the shepherds.

But there's a twist! I've mixed up the words, and it's your job to put them.

Teaching Skit: The Night of Surprises

Characters: NARRATOR, SHEPHERD 1, SHEPHERD 2, ANGEL, TOWNSPERSON 1,
TOWNSPERSON 2

(NARRATOR stands to the side and reads their lines. SHEPHERD 1 and SHEPHERD 2 are sitting together, ANGEL stands off to the side until their cue, TOWNSPERSON 1 and TOWNSPERSON 2 stand apart until their cues.)

NARRATOR: Once upon a time, two shepherds watched over their flock of sheep on a quiet night in the fields of Bethlehem.

SHEPHERD 1: (Yawning) Another quiet night, isn't it?

SHEPHERD 2: Yes, just the sheep and the stars.

(Suddenly, ANGEL enters, acting very excited and joyful.)

ANGEL: Shepherds, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy!

SHEPHERD 1: (Pretends to be scared) What's happening?

SHEPHERD 2: (Also pretends to be scared) Who are you?

ANGEL: I am an angel of the Lord. A Savior has been born in Bethlehem. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

NARRATOR: The angel disappeared with that, leaving the shepherds in awe.

SHEPHERD 2: (Excited) We must go to Bethlehem and see this baby!

SHEPHERD 1: (Also excited) Yes, let's go!

(The SHEPHERDS pretend to walk a distance, then TOWNSPERSON 1 and TOWNSPERSON 2 enter.)

TOWNSPERSON 1: (Pretends to be surprised) Why are you shepherds in town at this hour?

SHEPHERD 1: We have heard the good news about a special baby born here in Bethlehem.

TOWNSPERSON 2: (Curious) Good news? What news?

SHEPHERD 2: An angel told us that a Savior has been born. We are here to find Him and worship Him.

NARRATOR: The shepherds shared the good news they heard with everyone they met. Remember, just like the shepherds, God reveals His love to us when we take the time to listen.

After the skit, the teacher can facilitate a discussion about the main ideas of the skit and how they relate to the lesson: God reveals His love to those who listen, and we should share the good news of Jesus just like the shepherds did.

Discussion Questions & Prayer

Leader Script: Hello, everyone! I'm so proud of you all for paying such good attention during our Bible lesson today. I could see the curiosity and understanding on your faces. You guys are fantastic! Now, let's talk a bit more about our story today. Here are some questions I want us to discuss:

1. Why do you think the angel appeared to the shepherds first to announce Jesus' birth? What does that tell us about God?
2. What would you do if you were one of the shepherds that night? Would you go to see baby Jesus like they did?
3. How did the shepherds show their faith and trust in God during this event?
4. Our main idea today is: "God reveals His love to those who listen." What are some ways that we can better listen to God in our daily lives?

Let's spend some time discussing these questions together. Remember, there are no wrong answers! (Allow time for discussion.)

Alright, thank you for sharing your thoughts! Now, does anyone have any prayer requests? We can pray for anything - whether it's something you're thankful for, something you're struggling with, or a prayer for someone else. (Allow time for prayer requests.) **Let's pray together:**

"Dear God, thank you for today's lesson and for each child here. Help us to be like the shepherds, always ready to listen to Your voice and follow Your guidance. We lift up to You all the prayer requests shared today. Please, be with us in our joys and in our struggles, just as you were with the shepherds. We ask all this in Jesus' name, Amen."

Craft Activity: Shepherds Staff

Supplies:

- Pipe cleaners (assorted colors)
- Candy cane (optional)

Procedure:

1. Allow students to select at least three pipe cleaners in their choice of colors.
2. Help children twist and braid pipe cleaners together, crossing over in an alternating left/right pattern as a braid.
3. Wrap around a candy cane, if desired.
4. Hook the pipe cleaners into the shape of a shepherd staff.
5. Attach a verse via hole punch, if desired.



Word Search

MANGER - LOVE - GLORY - JOY - SHEPHERDS - TRUST

STAR - BIRTH - BETHLEHEM - NEWS - FAITH - JESUS - ANGEL

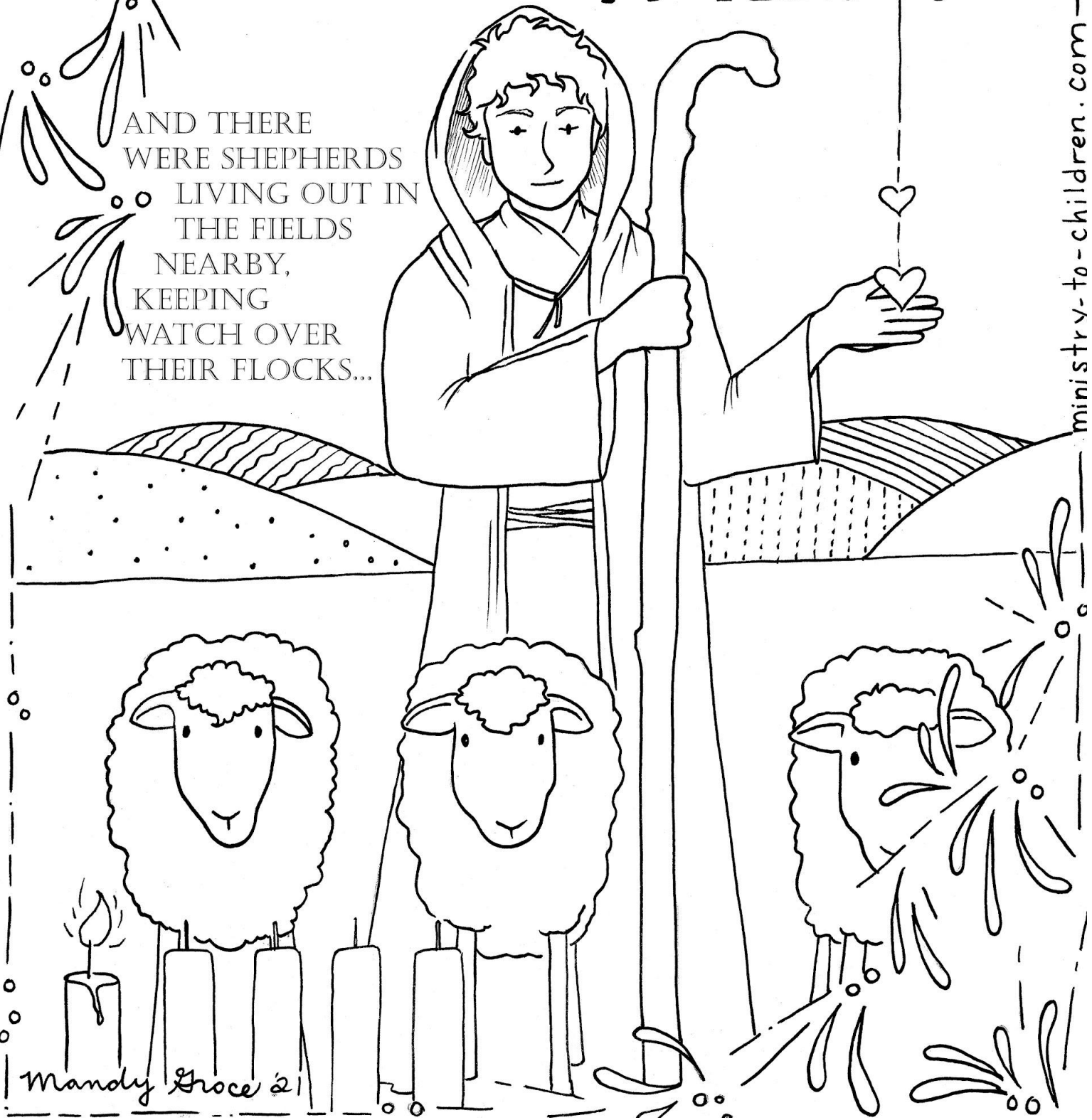
M	A	N	G	E	R	G	C	S	M	A
T	A	X	S	Q	G	J	X	O	J	U
B	I	R	T	H	G	L	O	V	E	V
X	E	S	D	R	E	F	O	P	J	M
F	I	T	Z	V	U	P	F	R	O	H
X	Y	A	H	O	T	S	H	H	Y	H
X	I	R	A	L	U	S	T	E	S	E
I	T	X	E	S	E	I	X	O	R	W
C	D	G	E	X	A	H	O	C	C	D
V	N	J	L	F	C	N	E	W	S	I
A	Z	B	T	S	Q	U	L	M	D	Z

Word Search Answers

M A N G E R G C S M A
T A X S Q G J X O J U
B I R T H G L O V E V
X E S D R E F O P J M
F I T Z V U P F R O H
X Y A H O T S H H Y H
X I R A L U S T E S E
I T X E S E I X O R W
C D G E X A H O C C D
V N J L F C N E W S I
A Z B T S Q U L M D Z

SHEPHERDS

AND THERE
WERE SHEPHERDS
LIVING OUT IN
THE FIELDS
NEARBY,
KEEPING
WATCH OVER
THEIR FLOCKS...



Note for Parents: Shepherds Witness God's Glory

Today's lesson focused on the Shepherds, who were humble witnesses to the glory of God. Our young learners discovered how God reveals His love to those who listen, drawing parallels from the shepherds' experience during the birth of Jesus. Just as the shepherds were ordinary people doing their ordinary job, we learned that God can do extraordinary things in our ordinary lives.

The memory verse was from Luke 2:10-11, where the angel announced the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. We used a fun unscramble game to help the children remember this key scripture.

We encourage you to continue this learning at home by taking a few moments each day to discuss what it means to "listen" to God, just as the shepherds did. You can also engage them by asking how they can apply this lesson in their daily lives, such as being attentive and open to God's love and guidance. Consider setting aside quiet times at home, encouraging your child to listen to God and experience His love, just as the shepherds did.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of your child's spiritual journey.