

Christmas– The shepherds hear the good news

AT21



Luke 2:8-20

FOR YOU

Being a shepherd two thousand years ago was not a particularly glamorous job. Most of the time you were simply sitting around watching goats and sheep, and making sure there was enough for them to eat. Bears and lions trying to attack your flock was about as exciting as it got; being on night duty was the worst of all; boring, nothing happening at all.

Suddenly there is a bright light and a voice is telling you that God has kept his promise of a saviour and to go and see the baby that has been born in an animal shelter. As you stare in disbelief the sky fills with angels praising God. What a sight! What incredible news! And even though you are not rich or important, God thought you should be one of the first to know about it.

STORY



Ready-steady

Ask everyone to imagine you are all sitting out on a hillside looking after sheep right now. What might you be doing and how would you be feeling? Pretend to be settling down to sleep. What quiet noises can you hear as the hillside, and all those on it, settle down for the night?



Read-tell

Use an old blanket to wrap around yourself and if you have them sit at a pretend fire and surround yourself with toy sheep. Then read 'A message for the shepherds' (p126)



Wonder together

I wonder why God thought the shepherds should be the first to hear the good news about Jesus' birth?



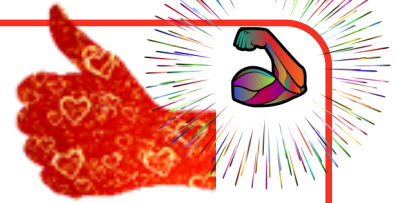
Additional ideas

Read 'A Saviour has been born!' (p55)

MAKE & PLAY



- Stick cotton wool on to some sheep templates to make sheep for your mural
- Why not make a host of angels as decorations? You can use a [template](#) cut out of folded paper to [make chains of them](#)
- Play an 'ooh, Ahh' game saying sentences like 'the shepherds were frightened they went 'Aggh!' 'the angels were happy they went 'la la la', 'the shepherds saw the baby they went 'ahhh'. Encouraging everyone to join in with the sound effect
- Add shepherds, angels and sheep to your mural



PRAY

Thank you God that you told the angels to tell the shepherds that Jesus - the savior of the world - had been born.

Thank you that the angels were so happy they filled the sky with praises to you. Help us to sing your praised too.

Thank you that the shepherds listened and believed and went to find the baby Jesus. Help us to listen and believe too.

Thank you that the shepherds were so excited by what they saw they told everyone they met the good news. Help us to share the good news of Jesus with others too.

Amen

SONGS

- Big Thumbs
- Bananaman

@HOME

Encourage everyone to share some good news with others this week