



CAMP BIBLE

The Journey

JOURNEY WITH THE SHEPHERDS

Supplies Needed: Bibles, closing prayer, a timer, items from scavenger hunt, downloadable activity pages for each child*

For the Leader...

- In today's lesson, children will learn about the wonder of Christ's arrival from the perspective of the shepherds. The Shepherds were working...in the middle of the night...with animals. Then, an angel in all of God's glory shows up and tells them very first that the Messiah is here, in the form of a baby, lying in a manger. It means something that God told these shepherds first. It shows that the Good News of Jesus Christ is to be shared with all, regardless of social or political status. The same is true for us today. Christ came for the salvation of all, to the end that we might know more about how much our Creator God loves us.*

OPENING/CENTERING PRAYER

led by Teacher | Supplies: none | Suggested Time - 5 min

Teacher: Hi friends! We are going to do a breath prayer today! During breath prayers, we focus our hearts and minds on God, and simply breathe. But as we breathe, we think of certain words. We'll think of certain words as we breathe in. And we'll think of other words as we breathe out.

As we breathe in, we will say "Speak to me."

As we breathe out, we'll say "Spirit of God."

We will do this 5 times.

Get in a position that is comfortable for you. Let us prepare our hearts in minds for God, through prayer...

Prayer:

(In) Speak to me.

(Out) Spirit of God.

(x5)

Amen.

JOURNEY WITH THE SHEPHERDS

ACTIVITY FOR INTRODUCTIONS & RE-INTRODUCTIONS

not required | Supplies: Bibles | Suggested Time - 12 min

Teacher: Before we read our Bible story tonight, I will need your help telling the story. I am going to read off a list of characters from our story. You choose which character you want to be, and you will have 2 minutes to find items in your house so you can play the part! (If you would prefer not to act out the story, that is perfectly alright.)

Here are the list of characters... (You might read the list aloud a couple of times.)

- Shepherd
- Angel
- Joseph
- Sheep
- Mary
- Child

Teacher: (set timer for 2 minutes) Ok, do you have your character picked out? Ok, you have 2 minutes to grab your supplies. Ready! Set! Go!

SCRIPTURE LESSON & DISCUSSION

Supplies: Bibles and their scavenger hunt items | Suggested Time - 25 min

Teacher: (once all students have returned) Great! Ok, I believe we are ready to hear our story today! Let's get our Bibles and turn to the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, starting with verse 8. As I read, you follow along with me. When your character comes up in the story, act out what's being said. Ok, ready? (As you read, pause every now and then to let them have some time to wiggle and move. Certain characters are italicized and underlined below to signify pauses as you read.)

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV)

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,[a] 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,[b] praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"[c]

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. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Let's all pretend to be a shepherd for a moment. What does it look like? What does it feel like? What does it...smell like?
2. In verse 9, it says, "the glory of the Lord shone all around them." What is "the glory of the Lord?" (See Exodus 24:17)
3. How would you react if a bright light of God's presence and power appeared from heaven while you were working?
4. Has someone ever told you something so unbelievable or magnificent that you just had to see it for yourself? If you have time, have a child share.
5. What "heavenly host" mean? (Use clues from Deuteronomy 4:19 and Nehemiah 6:9) What do you think that sounded like?
6. (Digging Deep) Can you imagine what it must have been like, to have been a poor shepherd, working in the middle of the night and then getting to see baby Jesus – God's Son? How would you react? (Show what face you would make!)
7. (Digging Deep) At the end of our story, the shepherds went back home "glorifying and praising God." Have you ever been in such a state of thanks and praise? If you have time, share.

(Answers: 2. The blazing light of God's presence and power. 5. The armies of angels from heaven. This word is also used to describe the stars and wonders in the night sky. 6. God came for the salvation and love of ALL, not just temple leaders, not just a certain people...but for all!)

Teacher: What do you think it means that God chose to share the news with the shepherds before anybody else? Why didn't God tell the religious leaders of their day or the people already in Bethlehem first? Does God still share the news of Christ with us? How? Could it be that God chooses us all for the journey? No matter who we are, what our parents do for a living, what language we speak, what color our skin is, what our family is like, or who our favorite super hero is...Could it be that God shares the good news of Christ with us all?

HANDS ON ACTIVITY/GAME

Supplies: The link/QR code below. | Suggested Time - 15 min

Journey of the Shepherds Snowman Game:

<https://www.flippity.net/hm.php?k=1U-pQ5x0UredctEEZwkpIfvib4EfoEusceau4-JjtFvw>

For teachers: Let children go one at a time. Type in the letter as they say it.



JOURNEY WITH THE SHEPHERDS

ALTERNATE HANDS ON ACTIVITY/GAME

Supplies: Downloadable sheets | Suggested Time - 10 min

Journey of the Shepherds Activity Sheets:

See attached sheets.

GOD CHOOSES US TO JOIN THE JOURNEY!

CLOSING PRAYER/BENEDICTION

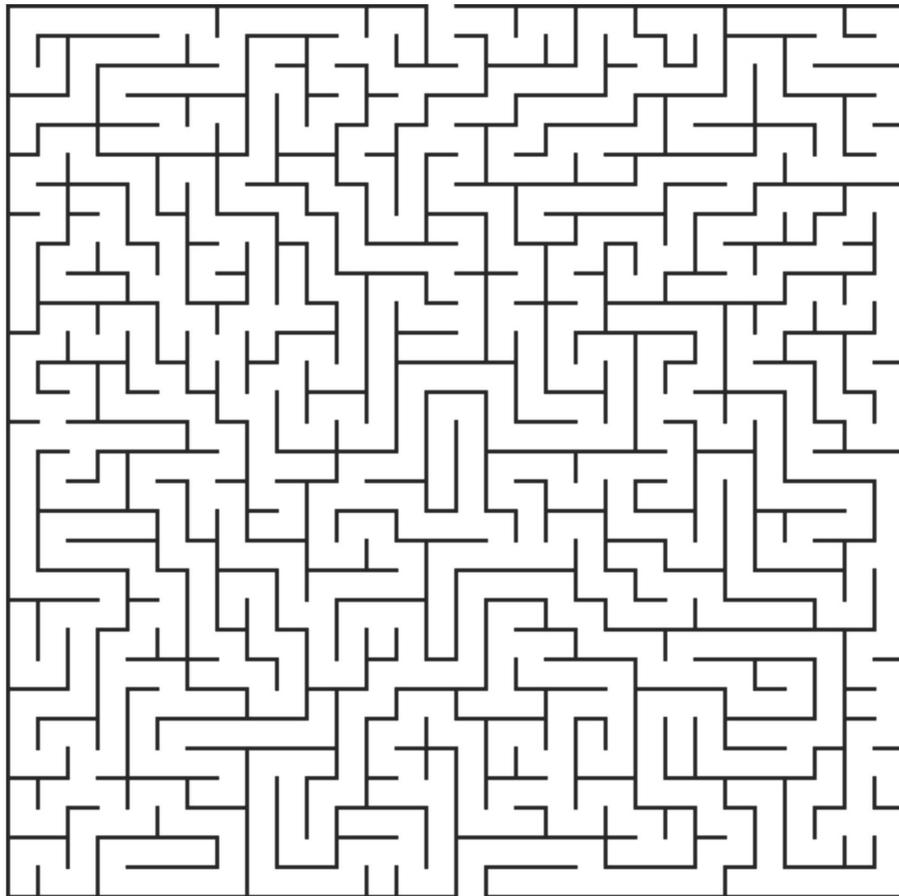
read by all, together | Suggested Time - 1 min

Give instructions for prayer/benediction/sending forth or written prayer for adult to lead.

Creator God,
You have brought us Good News of great joy for all the people!
Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ!
Thank you for the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit!
Thank you for the wonder of Christmas!
In Your holy name we pray...
Amen.

Journey with the Shepherds MAZE

Help the shepherds find their way to baby Jesus in Bethlehem!



JOURNEY WITH THE SHEPHERDS SCRAMBLE

Name: _____

Journey with the Shepherds!

Please unscramble the words below.

Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Scramble Maker

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|---------------|-------|--|
| 1. RITIEDREF | _____ | This was how the shepherds felt when the angel arrived. |
| 2. KCLOF | _____ | What we call a group of sheep. |
| 3. OGDO ENWS | _____ | What we hear when something exciting is happening! |
| 4. NGERMA | _____ | What Mary and Joseph placed Jesus in when he was born. |
| 5. ZMEADA | _____ | How the shepherds felt when they saw baby Jesus. |
| 6. PEDRHSEHS | _____ | The people who were taking care of their sheep. |
| 7. VIRSOA | _____ | Another name for Jesus. |
| 8. ENAGL | _____ | A heavenly being who gave the message of Jesus's birth to the shepherds. |
| 9. SHASIEM | _____ | Another name for Jesus, from Hebrew. |
| 10. EEHLMETHB | _____ | The city in which Jesus was born. |