

I Can Tell Others About Jesus

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Telling the Christmas story to others

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Memory Verse: Luke 2:10 - 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'

The Children's Sermon

Hey, kids! Today, we're going to talk about a very special story. It's about Jesus, and how even today, we are supposed to tell others about Him. You know, some kids and even some grown-ups don't know that Christmas is actually Jesus' birthday. That's a big reason why we celebrate!

Imagine if it was your birthday and some of your friends didn't know. You'd want them to know so they could celebrate with you, right? Well, it's the same with Jesus' birthday. We can tell others why Christmas is so special. Just asking them why we celebrate Christmas is a great start. If they don't know it's Jesus' birthday, you can tell them!

You can even share the Christmas story with them, so they can learn about Jesus, too. Now, let's dive a bit deeper into this story, especially about some very special people called the Christmas Shepherds Witness to Jesus.

A long, long time ago, on the very first Christmas night, there were shepherds in the fields watching over their sheep. It was a quiet, dark night, just like any other. But suddenly, something amazing happened. An angel appeared in the sky! The shepherds

were very scared at first, but the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you. Today in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord."

Can you imagine how surprised the shepherds must have felt? They were just going about their night, and then an angel tells them this incredible news! The angel even told them they would find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. And then, even more angels appeared, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

After the angels left, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So, they hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger, just like the angel said.

Now, here's where the Christmas Shepherds Witness to Jesus really comes into play. After seeing Jesus, the shepherds didn't just go back to their sheep and keep this news to themselves. No, they were so amazed by what they had seen that they went around telling everyone about it! They shared the good news about Jesus' birth with anyone who would listen. And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

The shepherds were some of the first people to witness about Jesus. They saw Him with their own eyes and couldn't keep it to themselves. They had to share the joy and the wonder of Jesus' birth with others. And that's something we can do, too!

You see, just like the shepherds, we can be witnesses for Jesus. When we celebrate Christmas, we're not just celebrating a holiday. We're celebrating Jesus' birthday and

the amazing love God showed us by sending His Son to be our Savior. And that's something worth sharing with everyone.

You can tell your friends, your family, and even people you meet why Christmas is so special. You can share the story of Jesus' birth, just like I'm sharing it with you. And you can tell them about the Christmas Shepherds Witness to Jesus, how they saw the baby Jesus and couldn't wait to tell everyone about Him.

Remember, you don't have to be a grown-up or someone special to tell others about Jesus. You can be a witness just like the shepherds. All it takes is a willing heart and a desire to share the good news.

So, this Christmas, let's be like the shepherds. Let's celebrate Jesus' birthday by telling others about Him. Let's share the joy and the love that comes from knowing Jesus. And let's remember that the best gift we can give anyone is the good news of Jesus Christ.

Bible Memory Verse

Luke 2:10 - 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'

You Will Need:

- Plain white T-shirts (one per child)
- Fabric markers or fabric paint
- Stencils of angels, stars, and other Christmas symbols

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials and set up a work area that can get a little messy.

-Create a sample T-shirt ahead of time to show as an example for inspiration.

Do This:

1. Start the activity by discussing the key verse. Ask the children why the angels said, 'Do not be afraid.' and what the 'good news' is. Encourage them to share what brings them joy during the Christmas season.
2. Give each child a plain white T-shirt and let them choose their fabric markers or paints along with stencils.
3. Encourage the children to create a T-shirt design that represents the 'good news' and joy of Christmas. They can use the stencils or draw freehand. Remind them to include the memory verse somewhere on their T-shirt.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A copy of Luke 2:8-20 for each child
- Costume materials (sheets, headbands, scarves) to create shepherd and angel costumes
- A large space to act out the story

Get Ready:

- Set up a "stage area" in your classroom or space where the story enactment will take place.
- Prepare costume and craft materials on a table for easy access.
- Mark sections of the room for different parts of the story (fields for the shepherds, a corner for Bethlehem, etc.).

Do this:

1. ****Read and Understand****: Start by reading Luke 2:8-20 together. Discuss the key elements of the story: the angels appearing to the shepherds, the message of Jesus' birth, and the shepherds' visit to see baby Jesus. Highlight the joy and excitement of sharing the good news.
2. ****Dress Up and Act****: Divide the children into groups (shepherds, angels, and narrators). Let them choose costumes and props to represent their characters. Guide them to act out the story as you read it aloud again, encouraging improvisation and expression.

Snack Activity: Shepherds' Starry Night Snack

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Cream cheese
- Blue food coloring
- Mini marshmallows
- Pretzel sticks
- Star-shaped cookie cutter
- Plastic knives
- Small bowls

Get Ready: Mix a few drops of blue food coloring into the cream cheese until you get a nice sky-blue color. Spread the blue cream cheese into small bowls for each child.

Do this:

1. Each child takes a graham cracker and uses the plastic knife to spread the sky-blue cream cheese on top to create the night sky.

2. Use the star-shaped cookie cutter to cut out star shapes from another graham cracker, then place the star(s) on the night sky to represent the Star of Bethlehem.
3. Add mini marshmallows around the star to represent the angels that appeared to the shepherds, telling them about Jesus' birth. Use pretzel sticks to make a small figure or shapes to represent the shepherds watching their flocks.

While creating their snack, discuss how the shepherds were the first to hear the good news and how they spread the word about Jesus' birth, relating it back to Luke 2:8-20 and the importance of sharing the good news with others.

Game Activity: Shepherd's Quest

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Printed pictures or figurines representing shepherds, angels, sheep, and baby Jesus in a manger
- Baskets or bags for collecting items

Get Ready: Hide the pictures or figurines around the play area before the children arrive, making sure some are more challenging to find than others.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams of shepherds. Explain that they are on a quest to find the newborn King, just like the shepherds in Luke 2:8-20.
2. On 'Go', teams race to find the hidden items. Each team must find at least one shepherd, one angel, a group of sheep, and the baby Jesus to complete their quest.

3. Once a team has collected all items, they gather back at the starting point to share what they found. Each team then takes turns retelling the Christmas story from Luke 2:8-20, using the items as props to help illustrate the story.

Craft Activity: Shepherds' Story Lanterns

You'll Need:

- Clear mason jars
- Tissue paper (blue, yellow, white)
- Mod Podge or white glue
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea lights
- Printed silhouettes of shepherds, sheep, and angels
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut out the printed silhouettes of shepherds, sheep, and angels. Cut or tear the tissue paper into small pieces.

Do this:

1. Use the paintbrush to apply a thin layer of Mod Podge or white glue around the outside of the mason jar. Stick the tissue paper pieces onto the jar, overlapping them slightly to create a stained glass effect. Use blue and white for the sky and yellow around the top for the star. Allow it to dry.
2. Once the first layer is dry, apply the silhouettes of shepherds, sheep, and angels onto the jar. Carefully brush another layer of Mod Podge or glue over the silhouettes to secure them in place. Allow it to dry completely.
3. Place a battery-operated tea light inside the jar to illuminate your Shepherds' Story Lantern. Share the story of Luke 2:8-20 with your family as you show them the lantern,

focusing on the joy and wonder of the shepherds as they heard the good news and went to see Jesus.

Prayer Activity: Sharing the Joy of Jesus' Birth

You'll Need:

- A Bible or a printed copy of Luke 2:8-20
- Blank greeting cards or paper
- Art supplies (markers, crayons, stickers, glitter, etc.)

Get Ready: Read Luke 2:8-20 together as a class to refresh the story of Jesus' birth in everyone's mind. Discuss the importance of sharing good news and how the shepherds spread the word of Jesus' birth.

Do this:

1. Ask each student to think of someone they would like to share the joyous news of Jesus' birth with. It could be a family member, friend, or even a neighbor.

2. Provide each student with a blank greeting card or paper and art supplies.

Encourage them to creatively decorate their card while thinking about the joy and hope Jesus' birth brings to the world.

3. Inside the card, guide them to write a short message inspired by Luke 2:8-20. They can write about the shepherds' experience, the angels' message of joy, or their own feelings about Jesus' birth. Encourage them to share why this story is important to them and why they want to share it with the recipient.

4. Close the activity with a prayer, asking God to bless the recipients of the cards and to spread the joy of Jesus' birth through these messages.