

The Shepherds See God's Promised Son

Lesson Aim: To praise God as the shepherds did when they saw baby Jesus.

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 2

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Peace

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:8-20

What He has done: God sent the angels to tell the shepherds about Jesus, the promised Savior.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Praise the Lord."

Unit 10 Memory Verse: Psalm 118:1a
"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

TEACHER ENRICHMENT For your own encouragement this week, read Ephesians 2:14-18.

Teacher Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for the peace You brought us through Jesus. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might truly celebrate and praise You just as the heavenly host and shepherds did." Amen.

TEACHER'S PREP

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with Luke 2:8-20.
- ☐ Read Teacher's Guide and At-A-Glance.

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, THE WAY and Circle of Prayer. If time allows, choose a GOT TIME? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim or the Bible Memory Verse.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Treasure Chest: Stamp or sticker of an angel

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Advent Wreath: Evergreen wreath with four candles on inner rim and one candle in center
- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks To The Lord" and related music
- ☐ Puppet Script or Storybook Lesson 51

THE WORD

- ☐ Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:16
- ☐ Watch the Word visual: Heavenly Host and Shepherds craft sample from Craft Connection

THE WAY

- ☐ Craft Supplies: Small paper cups, wood ice cream spoons or popsicle sticks, tan, gray, white, gold and or yellow sturdy paper, black pipe cleaners, gold/yellow felt, white cotton balls, gold or silver glitter glue, glue or tape, pen or marker, sticker or label
- ☐ Game Supplies: None
- ☐ Snack: Marshmallows or shredded coconut topped snack and drink
- ☐ Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 51

GOT TIME?

- ☐ Game Supplies: Wrapped box (removable lid), Baby Jesus, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song
- ☐ Color This Story: "The Angels See God's Promised Son"
- ☐ Story Time: The story of Jesus' birth or people celebrating His birth.



1. THE WELCOME

(Pre-service until class begins)

"Praise the Lord."

SAY> (As each child enters classroom) **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** (Child unlocks Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of an angel.) **Let this sticker of an angel help you remember that the angel and shepherds praised the Lord because Jesus had been born. Today's Whisper Verse is, "Praise the Lord."** (Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below.) **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Praise the Lord."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Praise" The right index finger gently taps the lips and then both hands clap. This combines the signs for "truth" and "applaud" to create the sign for "praise."

"(the) Lord." Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape diagonal across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.

SAY> (After all have arrived) **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** (Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.)

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

(Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.)

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Praise the Lord" from Psalm 147:1. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



2. THE WORSHIP: Praise Time!

(15 minutes)

Worship The God of Peace

***Teacher Tip:** Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to the place for praise songs, offering and puppet sketch. These activities help children identify time set aside for worship. Below are song suggestions to direct focus during Praise Time.

SAY> It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God of Peace. God gave us peace when He gave us His Son, Jesus. After the angel told the shepherds baby Jesus was born, the sky filled with the heavenly host, the army of heaven. They were praising the Lord and saying, "Glory to God in the highest!" and "Peace on earth." Let's sing about that good news! (Sing: "I Bring You Good News.")

SAY> The angel, the heavenly host and the shepherds all praised the Lord. We can praise Him, too. That's why our Whisper Verse says, "Praise the Lord." Let's say it together now. (Review Whisper Verse together: "Praise the Lord." Include sign language. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath." Include Whisper Verse sign language in song when singing the lyrics, "praise the Lord.")

SAY> We praise the Lord because of who He is. We thank Him because of what He has done for us. Let's thank Him now by giving Him our offering. (Sing: "Give Thanks To The Lord" while collecting the offering.)

(Advent Wreath) **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES: The Shepherds' Candle**

SAY> We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Today we light the Shepherds' Candle to remember the shepherds praised the Lord for sending baby Jesus as He had promised. (Choose a child to assist in lighting the four purple candles on the Advent Wreath.)

SAY> Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know what the shepherds did when they heard the good news about baby Jesus. (Read Chapter 51, Volume 10 from The Adventures of Delbert and Lello or interact with puppets according to Lesson 51, Unit 10 Delbert & Lello puppet script.)

SAY> When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they praised the Lord. Let's praise Him now with our favorite Christmas hymn. (Sing: "Away In A Manger" or a favorite traditional Christmas hymn.)

Unit 10 Praise Time song suggestions

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"Give Thanks To The Lord"

"It's Praise Time!"

"I Bring You Good News"

"His One And Only Son"

"Let Everything That Has Breath"

"The Lord Is Faithful"

"I Am With You"

Traditional Hymn

"Away In A Manger"



3. THE WORD

(10 minutes)

The shepherds praised the Lord.

SAY> Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **CLASSROOM PROMISE**.

CLASSROOM PROMISE

SAY TOGETHER> With my eyes on my teacher; (Point to eyes.)
My mouth quiet as can be, (Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.)
I will listen to hear, (Cup hand around ear.)
How God loves you and me. (Hug self, point to others and then self.)

SAY> Last time we learned baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Today we'll hear how God sent the angel to tell the shepherds the good news that baby Jesus had been born. (Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:16.)

***Teacher Tip:** Celebrate the birth of Jesus with a class party during this lesson. Before class, decorate with balloons and steamers or other inexpensive decorations. For snack time, serve a favorite Christmas treat.



WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 2:8-20

Read poem below or retell passage in your own words using points of poem as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display the Heavenly Host and Shepherds craft sample from Craft Connection. Other visual options include Color This Story, picture or story cards.

- An angel announced to the shepherds,
- "Fear not, I bring good news.
- The baby you'll find in Bethlehem,
- Is the Savior born for you!"

- The shepherds saw the heavenly host;
- Heaven's army in the sky.
- The heavenly host said, "Peace on earth"
- And "Glory to God on high!"

- The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.
- To see the baby born to save us.
- All the way home they praised the Lord,
- Who kept the promise He gave us.

ASK> Where did the shepherds find baby Jesus? (Lying in the manger.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** (Read Luke 2:16 from teacher's Bible.)

ASK> Who did the heavenly host and the shepherds praise? (The Lord God.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Praise the Lord."** (Include sign language or hand motions.)



4. THE WAY

(20 minutes)

We can praise the Lord for the gift of His Son.

Invite the children to circle area or centers for THE WAY: Bible Story application. Craft and games can be presented at the same time in centers, or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.



CRAFT: HEAVENLY HOST AND SHEPHERDS

The Shepherds See God's Promised Son. Luke 2:8-20

Purpose: To create the fourth set of figures in a five-week series of Nativity set characters to remind the children God sent the angel to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.

☑ Supplies needed per child:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two small paper cups (uncoated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Three white cotton balls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two wood ice cream spoons or Popsicle sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold or silver glitter (glitter glue or sequins) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tan, gray, white, gold or yellow sturdy paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue or tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ black pipe cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> Pen or marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold felt | <input type="checkbox"/> Sticker or label |

☑ Prep Steps: (Prepared before class)

- ☐ To make the heavenly host:
 - Cut: Three 2-inch diameter gold paper circle as heads, three 4-inch x 4-inch x 4-inch white triangles as robes.
 - Draw faces and hair on the heads and glue each head to the top of a white robe.
 - Overlap the three robes and glue so the three figures area attached, standing side-by-side.
- ☐ To make the shepherd:
 - Cut: One 2-inch diameter tan paper circle as head, 4-inch x 4-inch x 4-inch gray triangle as robes and one 3-inch x ½-inch felt strip for belt.
 - Draw a face and hair on the head and glue to the top of the gray triangle robe.
- ☐ Glue the shepherd onto a wooden stick. Glue the heavenly host onto a stick.
- ☐ Turn over both cups. Punch a hole in the bottom of each cup to make the puppets stands.
- ☐ On the sticker, pre-print or write:

**The Shepherds See God's Promised Son
Luke 2:8-20**

- ☐ Place the sticker on one of the cups.

Directions for children:

1. Spread glue on the heavenly hosts' robes and sprinkle with a little glitter.
2. Glue the cotton balls to the bottom of the hosts' robes.
3. Glue the felt belt onto the shepherd's robe.
4. Bend the pipe cleaner into a shepherd's staff with a hook on the end.
5. Take the shepherd's wood stick and shepherd's staff and put them through the hole in the cup to make him stand up holding his staff.
6. Put the heavenly host's stick through the hole in the cup to make them stand up.

Craft Discussion:

- **The heavenly host is the army of heaven. When they appeared to the shepherds, who did they praise?** (God.)
- **What did the shepherds do when they saw baby Jesus?** (They praised God.)
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** (Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.)

THE WAY continued...



GAME: GOOD NEWS ANGELS

"Praise the Lord."

Purpose: Children will pretend to be the angel who delivered the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds.

☒ **Supplies:** None

SAY> Let's pretend we are the angel and heavenly host telling the shepherds that Jesus has been born. The heavenly host is the army of heaven.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a ½ circle as the heavenly host.
2. Choose one child to be angel. The angel stands in the center of the ½ circle.
3. Choose three children to be the shepherds. The shepherds stand facing the angel.
4. The angel announces **"I bring you good news."**
5. Heavenly Host jump up and shout: **"Glory to God in the highest."**
6. The shepherds say and sign the Whisper Verse: **"Praise the Lord."**
7. Play again choosing different children to be the angel and shepherds.



GAME: PRAISE THE LORD!

"Praise the Lord."

Purpose: Children will praise the Lord for each part of the Christmas story.

☒ **Supplies:** None

SAY> The angel praised the Lord. The heavenly host (the army of heaven) praised the Lord. The shepherds praised the Lord. They each praised the Lord because Jesus was born! We can praise the Lord for Jesus' birth, too!

Directions:

1. Divide the children into two groups: the heavenly host and the shepherds. Seat each group on opposite sides of the play area.
2. Read each of the phrases below. After each phrase, point to one of the groups. (Alternate groups after each phrase.) The group stands up and says the Whisper Verse, "Praise the Lord." Include motions.
 - **The angel brought good news!**
 - **Jesus was born in a manger!**
 - **Jesus is God's one and only Son!**
 - **Jesus came to save us!**
 - **Jesus loves us very much!**
 - **This Christmas, we can praise the Lord!**

THE WAY continued...



SNACK: SHEPHERDS' SHEEP

"Praise the Lord."

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing the angel, heavenly host, and shepherd's reaction of praise to Jesus' birth.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows or shredded coconut topped snack and drink

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **SAY> Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** (Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.)

God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.

Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.

3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Our snack makes me think of fluffy sheep. The shepherds were watching their sheep when the angel came.**
 - **Who did the angel say had been born?** (Jesus.)
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** (Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Praise the Lord.")
 - **The heavenly host is the army of heaven. Who did the heavenly host praise?** (The Lord God.) **Everyone in heaven was happy that baby Jesus had been born.**
 - **The shepherds praised the Lord after they saw baby Jesus. Can you praise the Lord?** (Yes!)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

SAY> God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

PRAY> Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for _____, _____, _____, (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

COMPLETED CRAFT

Take home your "Heavenly Host and Shepherd" craft. Tell someone the same news the angel told the shepherds: Jesus had been born!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

(Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available.) **Show this card to your family. Talk about how the heavenly host and shepherds praised the Lord because Jesus had been born.**

SING

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks To The Lord" or other Praise Time! songs.

PLAY

Visit, play and review lesson until it is time to dismiss.

5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from these activities which connect to the lesson.

GAME: SAY & DO LUKE 2:8-20

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

☒ **Supplies:** None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **An angel announced to the shepherds,** (Cup hands around mouth.)
- **"Fear not, I bring good news.** (Point to self.)
- **The baby you'll find in Bethlehem,** (Point to opposite corner.)
- **Is the Savior born for you!"** (Point to each other.)

- **The shepherds saw the heavenly host;** (Use hands as binoculars.)
- **Heaven's army in the sky.** (Point across the sky.)
- **The heavenly host said, "Peace on earth"** (Fold hands in prayer.)
- **And "Glory to God on high!"** (Point to heaven.)

- **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.** (Run in place.)
- **To see the baby born to save us.** (Pretend to rock baby in arms.)
- **All the way home they praised the Lord,** (Whisper Verse motions.)
- **Who kept the promise He gave us!** (Point to heaven.)



GAME: PASS THE GIFT

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

☒ **Supplies:**

- ☐ Wrapped gift box (with removable lid)
- ☐ Baby Jesus (doll or Baby Jesus craft from Lesson 48 Craft Connection)
- ☐ Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song (Play recording or sing without accompaniment.)

☒ **Prep Step:** Place baby Jesus inside the box and close the box lid.

ASK> God gives you lots of things. He gives you food. He gives you people who love you very much. When someone gives something to you, what should you do? (Thank them.) Our Bible Memory Verse tells us we should thank God. It says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." What can you thank God for?

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle. Give the gift box to the first child.
2. **ASK> What is one thing you thankful for?** (Child responds.)
3. All children say together, **"Thank you, God!"**
4. Children pass the gift around the circle. While each child holds the gift, repeat steps 3 and 4.
5. After each child has had a turn to hold the box and thank God for something specific, **SAY> Let's see the biggest gift God has given to us.**
6. Choose one child to open the box and discover baby Jesus inside.
7. Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song together as a celebration of thanks to God.

Got Time? continued...



GAME: SHOUT IT OUT

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

☑ Supplies:

☐ Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song (Play recording or sing without accompaniment.)

SAY> Our Bible Memory Verse tells us that God is good. He is good to you and me!

Directions:

1. Divide the children into two groups. Groups sit on opposite sides of the play area.
2. Help one group learn the first part of the verse: "Give thanks to the Lord..." Help the other group learn: "...for He is good."
3. Announce one way that God has been good to you. Point to each group in order. As you point to each group, they should jump up and shout out their part of the verse.
4. **ASK> Who wants to say one way that God has been good to you?**
5. Pick a volunteer to stand in between the two groups and answer the question.
6. Volunteer points to each group, who, in turn, stand and say their part of the verse.
7. Repeat steps 6-8 with each new volunteer who would like to take a turn.
8. Sing the Bible Memory Verse song. Challenge children to sing it as loud as they can.



FAMILIAR FAVORITES

COLOR THIS STORY

Coloring sheet: "The Shepherds See God's Promised Son"

Discuss Bible Story and play Bible Memory Verse Song as children color.

STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about Jesus' birth or people celebrating His birth.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Review take-home Bible Study card.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 51: The Shepherds See God's Promised Son

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus, create a family Advent Wreath using a circle of greenery and four candles. Light the fourth candle as the Shepherds' Candle and read Luke 2:8-20. Talk about the message the angel brought the shepherds. When the heavenly host (heaven's army) appeared in the sky, what did they do? What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, we praise You for sending Your Son at Christmas. Help us remember that His birth is the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen."

PLAY! Birthday Party! Christmas is Jesus' birthday, so plan a party with your family. Put up balloons and streamers. Enjoy cake or a birthday snack. Sing a birthday song to Jesus. Then, as your gift to Jesus, gather food, blankets or clothes to give them to people in need. Tell them Jesus loves them.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 118:1a

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."