



# Advent 4: An Angel Visits the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-16

**Running time:** Approximately 6 minutes

**Set:** The set for God of Wonders Units 7-10 is designed as a seventeenth century pirate ship viewed from the port (left) side. The Caribbean Queen's bow is stage right. On stage left, there is a raised wheelhouse with a door to the Captain's quarters. Characters and puppets may pop up from several trap doors in the deck and from the crow's nest near the top of the center stage mast. There is a pulley system to raise the treasure chest from below deck where the Bible is kept. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

**Characters:** Cody is one of Captain Billy Ocean's "skater" nephews. He is fairly simple, speaks in surfer terms, and is excited by most things, especially God's Word. Matey (Nigel) is a simple, sweet-natured midshipman with a true servant's heart.

**Plot:** Cody teaches Matey about how the angels appeared to the shepherds. We learn Jesus came to save all people and we can look forward to His coming.

**Costumes:** Cody: Skater caps, skater shorts, knee socks, sandals; Matey: Striped shirt, stocking cap, short trousers (Capri pants), slippers

**Props:** Bibles, treasure chest

**Sound effects (SFX):**

1. Intro/Outro music suggestion: "Pirate Theme" from productiontrax.com tracks #19253 or #40794
2. Treasure chest suggestion: Music with voiceover as chests opens to reveal Bible: **"His Words for you are treasures true!"**

**Visual effects (VFX):**

1. Video Intro is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Treasure chest contains the Bible. Whenever it is opened, light shines out and music with voiceover plays.
3. Scripture slide: ***Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11***
4. Star lighting
5. Angel gobo
6. Closing Slide: **"May the God of Wonders fill your sails and guide your path!"**

**Adaptations:**

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

**High Seas Adventures**

**Unit 10, Lesson 51**

**Advent 4: An Angel Visits the Shepherds  
Luke 2:8-16**

**Voice over** (VFX: Video bump)

**Ahoy lads and lassies! There be a legend centuries old of a lost treasure, more valuable than gold! Though the Pirates searched both land and sea, they could not find where it might be! Until Captain Billy sailed the ocean blue and brought that treasure home to you. So grab yer treasure map, climb aboard the Caribbean Queen and join us as Captain Billy Ocean and his crew unveil the greatest wonders God has ever shown!**

**Matey** (pops up w/clipboard)

**Ahoy kids! It is I, Matey! I have been appointed "Safety Officer of the Day!" I get to wear this nifty badge and check the ship to make sure that everything is safe and sound! Secure riggings, check! Secure wheel, check! Secure lifesaver...wait a tick; this isn't a proper life preserver. This will never hold me afloat. We'll just toss this overboard...**

**Cody** (pops up)

**Wait! Dude! What are you doing?**

**Matey**

**I'm the "Safety Officer of the Day!" And I'm getting rid of this unsafe lifesaver.**

**Cody**

**Dude! That's not a lifesaver. That's the Advent wreath!**

**Matey**

**The what?**

**Cody**

**The Advent wreath, dude, we use it to celebrate Advent. You know...Advent? That special time of year. You do know what Advent means, don't you?**

**Matey**

**Oh yes! No, never heard of it.**

**Cody**

**Advent is an awesome time of the year. It's the season when we look forward to the coming of Jesus and we get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas.**

**Matey**

**Oh I do love Christmas! With all the decorations and the presents and the delicious flounder flavored cookies.**

**Cody**

**Flounder flavored cookies?**

**Matey**

**Oh yes, my Mommy makes the best flounder flavored cookies you've ever tasted.**

**Cody**

**Dude! You just ruined Christmas.**

**Matey**

**Don't knock it 'till you tried it!**

**Cody**

**Sounds gross, but you are right about the decorations, they all have special meanings. Like, Uncle Captain Billy told me that we use the evergreen at Christmas because it's the only tree that stays green all year round. It reminds us that Jesus came to give us eternal life and He is with us all year 'round.**

**Matey**

**Oh, I do like that! And the presents remind us that Jesus was God's gift to the world!**

**Cody**

**Cool! And the Advent wreath is round; it has no end, just like God's love for us has no end.**

**Matey**

**What does this big white candle mean?**

**Cody**

**Uncle Captain Billy says it's the Christ Candle. We're gonna light that on Christmas Eve to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.**

**Matey**

**Can we light one today?**

**Cody**

**Why not, man? But first we gotta read today's Bible story. I'll get out Uncle Captain Billy's traysure map right now! (SFX: "Joy to the World," VFX: Light shines in treasure chest)**

**Matey**

**That is so joyful!**

**Cody**

**Here it is, Dude. *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.***

**Matey**

**Why were the shepherds terrified?**

**Cody**

**Angels kind of had that effect on people in the Bible.**

**Matey**

**I guess I'd be surprised if I met an angel.**

**Cody**

**Yeah, and this night there was a whole host of angels and they were all saying "Glory to God in the highest!"**

**Matey**

**I wonder what they sounded like!**

**Cody**

**Let's use our imaginations. We'll pretend that we're all shepherds and we're on a hill and it's late at night...listen. (VFX: Dim lights, bring up star effects and angel gobo) **and we look up and there are angels****

**everywhere. All of a sudden we hear this... (SFX: Gloria song, angelic choir)**

**Matey**

**Wow! Now, I can understand why the shepherds were shocked! Cody?**

**Cody**

**Yes, Nigel?**

**Matey**

**Can we light the candle now?!**

**Cody**

**Sure. We can light three! Pick someone to help you.**

**Matey** (Choose volunteer.)

**All righty, who wants to help us? Come on up. Go ahead and light these three. (Volunteer lights 3 candles.) Good job. Thanks so much. You may be seated.**

**Cody**

**As you watch the candles flicker, listen to these words from the book of Matthew: *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.***

**Matey**

**What was the good news?**

**Cody** (VFX: Scripture slide)

***Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11***

**Matey**

**That's more than good news, Sir, that's a miracle!!**

**Cody**

**You're right, Dude! And it was a miracle that all of those angels showed up. But you know what's my favorite Christmas miracle? That God loved us so much that He sent a Savior for the world.**

**Matey**

**Aye, the angels did say it was for ALL people, young, old, rich or poor, friends and enemies.**

**Cody** (SFX: Outro music)

**Jesus came to save ALL who believe. His coming is something we ALL can look forward to. So long, kids! May the God of Wonders fill your sails and guide your paths!**

**Matey** (VFX: Closing slide)

**Merry Christmas!** (they exit)