



Advent 4: Shepherds See the Promised One

Luke 2:1-20

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: The Love Sub scripts (Lessons 35-52) will be set onboard a kaleidoscopic submarine in the late 1960's. The set is designed to look like the interior of an old submarine that also serves as a time travel device. There is a sliding board (the Time Tube) used for the entrance of visitors from the past and a ramp (or steps) to invite children up to participate in object lessons. There are two working portholes; the stage left porthole squirts water and the stage right porthole contains the Bible. Everything is painted in vibrant colors and has 1960's decor. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Woodstock P. Havens is an inventor, explorer, and submarine pilot from the hippie era of the late 1960's. He is very "cool" and relaxed and he loves to study the prophets. Shiloh is Woodstock's nephew. He is very easygoing and easily amused. "Handsome" is a human hand (Actor's body is hidden except for his hand.) Handsome assists everyone by handing them props.

Plot: Shiloh feels home sick. Woodstock tells him how Mary and Joseph were away from home when Jesus was born. We learn how the angels and shepherds spread God's message that Jesus brought peace to earth just as God had promised.

Costumes: Woodstock wears a tie-dyed shirt, wig, furry vest, glasses, and brightly colored pants and shoes. Shiloh wears 1960's clothes, sandals, a blonde wig, and sunglasses.

Props: Bible, gingerbread cookie, remote control, calendar

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro music suggestion: 1960's Surfer music
2. Outro music suggestion: "For Unto Us" (Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song) or traditional Christmas hymn such as "Angels We Have Heard on High"
3. Porthole music suggestion: Song about God's power such as "Power in the Blood"
4. Promise fanfare
5. 3 dings: Microwave timer dings or bells
6. Submarine alarm sounds, bells

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring animated submarine is available at ResourceWell.org.
2. Virtual Christmas Card 1: Slide of Christmas tree and banner title: Merry Kongalooshmas!
3. Virtual Christmas Card 2: Slide of sleeping Dr. Sominex and banner: Peace on Earth
4. Virtual Christmas Card 3: Slide of kaleidoscopic banner: "God so loved the world..."
5. Stage right porthole holds the Bible. When it opens, a light shines out and music plays.
6. Promise lights (flashing lights)
7. Promise Slide: ***Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests. Luke 2:14***
8. Fallback Slide: **No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!**

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 located at ResourceWell.org

The Love Sub
Unit 10, Lesson 51
Advent 4: Shepherds See
the Promised One
Luke 2:1-20

Video Intro: (available at ResourceWell.org)
(VFX: Scientific images, SFX: Newsreel music) **Since the dawn of man, scientists have longed to travel through time! In the late 1960's a crack team of geniuses combined their talents to attempt to break the time barrier. In the Florida Keys, Dr. Woodstock P. Havens was given the task of building a special space shuttle— (SFX: Record scratch) Woodstock: Yeah, but I decided to make a submarine instead, man! (SFX: Intro music, VFX: Animated sub) So, come on and join me as we float through time. Climb aboard the Love Sub!**

Shiloh

Hey, Merry Christmas, dudes and dudettes! We've been getting ready for our first Christmas aboard "The Love Sub," and I know I should be happy, but it just seems like something's missing. (SFX: 3 dings, Handsome hands him a gingerbread cookie.) Thanks Handsome! That makes me feel a little better, but I just wish I had more Christmas spirit.

Woodstock

Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas, Shiloh. Guess what I've got?

Shiloh

The flu?

Woodstock

No, dude! Virtual Christmas cards! (SFX: 3 dings, Handsome pops up with remote control) Flash them up there, Handsome. (VFX: Slide of Christmas tree and banner title: Merry

Kongalooshmas!) This one's from Ambassador Nofutu! (VFX: Slide of sleeping Dr. Sominex and banner title: Peace on Earth) This one's from Dr. Sominex. (VFX: Kaleidoscopic banner title: "God so loved the world...") And this one is from your mom, my sister, Ophelia.

Shiloh (crying)

That is so sad...

Woodstock

I thought it would make you happy to hear from home.

Shiloh (cries louder)

It just makes me homesick!

Woodstock

Oh, relax, Shiloh! I know what will cheer you up, the best Christmas card of all time, the Power Source. Here, let me get it out! (Opens stage right porthole and removes Bible, SFX: Porthole music, VFX: Beam of light shines from porthole)

Shiloh

I don't know if anything can cheer my lonely heart.

Woodstock

God's Word will! You know you're not the first person who was away from home on Christmas. Joseph and Mary had to go all the way to Bethlehem.

Shiloh

Why?

Woodstock

The governor said everyone had to go back to their hometown so they could count all the people. Joseph's family was from a little town called Bethlehem.

Shiloh

But, I thought Mary was going to have a baby.

Woodstock

She was! And the time came for the baby to be born.

Shiloh

I remember this story. There was no room at the inn, and so she had to give baby Jesus a manger for a bed.

Woodstock

That's right, dude! Mary and Joseph were far away from home but that didn't stop God from keeping His promise.

Shiloh

You mean the promise that He would send a Savior.

Woodstock

That's right.

Shiloh

I'll bet everyone was happy about that.

Woodstock

I know the shepherds were happy when they heard the "Good News!"

Shiloh

What shepherds?

Woodstock

There were shepherds living in the fields and an angel showed up and told them where to find Jesus.

Shiloh

Whoa, they met an angel?

Woodstock

They sure did. And not only that, the Bible says a whole company of heavenly host appeared. They are the army of heaven. They were praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." (SFX: Promise signal, VFX: Promise lights and slide)

Shiloh

Yeah dudes, glory to God, man!

Woodstock

And, peace to men on whom His favor rests.

Shiloh

Yeah, God wants us all to give Him glory!

Woodstock

And He gives peace to men on whom His favor rests.

Shiloh

Totally. But who are the men on whom God's favor rests?

Woodstock

People who God is pleased with. Not just men, but every man, woman and child who believes in Jesus. Dude, that's us! God is pleased with all who believe, and He loves us so much that He sends—

Shiloh

Peace! I get it! That's what Isaiah meant when he called Jesus the "Prince of Peace!"

Woodstock

Right on, dude! Before Jesus was born, people were separated from God by their sin. They had no peace with God, because they were fighting against doing things God's way. That's called sin!

Shiloh

But Jesus brought peace between believers and God.

Woodstock

That's what all of the prophets were pointing us to, "Peace on Earth."

Shiloh

And that peace can only be found in knowing Jesus, our Savior.

Woodstock

Amen. Jesus came to bring peace between God and us, just as God had promised.

Shiloh

Yeah, and when we have peace with God,
we have peace with each other, too.

Woodstock

That's right! Even enemies can get along if
they both decide to follow Jesus.

Shiloh

Whoa, that's the power of love...the love
of Jesus!

Woodstock

That's what really brings glory to
God!

Shiloh

So, what did the shepherds do when they
heard Jesus came to bring peace?

Woodstock

They hurried and found Mary and Joseph
and the baby and then they spread the
word about what the angel said.

Shiloh

Man, I wish I was a shepherd.

Woodstock

We are kind of like the shepherds. We
spread God's word to all of His sheep. And
there's one more thing we're going to do.
Read the last part.

Shiloh

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all the things they had
heard and seen...*

Uncle Woody, does this mean what I think
it does? Are we going home?

Woodstock

You got it, Dude! (SFX: 3 dings, Handsome
hands him the calendar.) **We're going home
for Christmas! We're taking the Love Sub
back to 1973!**

Shiloh

Out of sight! I have so many groovy
stories to tell my friends about all of the
far out prophets we met and how they all
point us to the Prince of Peace.

Woodstock

You know what? You dudes and dudettes
can tell your friends and family those
same stories this Christmas. I bet you it
brings them peace.

Shiloh

Speaking of peace, we've gotta peace out
and get back to our time. It's been great
knowing you, little dudes.

Woodstock

Yeah, we love you guys! Always
remember, "No matter where you are in
Time," say it with us, "God is Good all the
Time!" Merry Christmas! (SFX: Outro music,
VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)