

The Angels Visit Shepherds

December

Luke 2:8-20

Near Bethlehem, shepherds are carefully watching their flocks by night in the fields. An angel visits them and tells them that a Savior, the Messiah, has been born. A multitude of the heavenly host join the angel and praise God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" The shepherds find the child with Mary and Joseph and tell others about the birth of the Savior.

The Gospel Story Through Gameplay

Children begin this game looking for the shepherds who are sleeping out in the fields with their sheep. Children see the shepherds shaking in fear upon being awakened by an angel and see a cinema of Luke 2:8-14. The kids observe the shepherds listening intently as the angel tells them about the birth of a Savior. Children then hear the heavenly host say to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom his favor rests!"

Children then find a bible and hear one of the shepherds tell the other, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." (Luke 2:15) Kids must then follow the shepherds to the stable, where they watch the final cinema from Luke 2:16-20. Children see Mary and Joseph watching over the child, and listen as the shepherds explain about what the angel has said. All are amazed!

Children are then instructed to find five people and tell them about the birth of Jesus. The children find people in the inn, in a home in Bethlehem, and near a cave outside the city. Each time Zack and Mary Martha find a person to share this good news with, they say, "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Children then hear each person shout in praise: "Glory to God!" or "Praise be to God!" After telling all five people about Jesus' birth, children are told to find the Faith Focus before entering into the Bonus Round.

Children are also encouraged to help several people in Bethlehem. Kids can find items for people at the inn: a lamp, a blanket, and a jar of water.

THE GAME IN 30 SECONDS

Find shepherds sleeping with their sheep in the field and watch a cinema of Luke 2:8-14.

Follow shepherds to Jesus and watch a cinema of Luke 2:16-20.

Find 5 people and tell them about the birth of Jesus.

Find the Faith Focus.

Collect bonus tokens; then find the cross to end the game.

LIGHT THE FIRE

This month, children will be asked to find shepherds sleeping with their sheep in the field. They watch a cinema of the shepherds as they awaken and hear the angel speaking to them. When the narration says that the shepherds were terrified, the kids will see the shepherds shaking in fear with their knees knocking together.

Ask the kids: How do you think the shepherds will react when they are visited by angels? Will they be excited? Frightened?

(Each month, "Light The Fire" will contain some fun gameplay activities related to the Gospel story. Use it to start a discussion with your children about this month's Bible story game.)

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

In this month's Gospel Champions game, children watch as the angel visits the shepherds and tells them the good news of Jesus' birth. Children are challenged to spread this good news to

five people in Bethlehem. (How many people can you share the good news with, right here in your own town?)

(The "Pastor's Comment" can be used after the Gospel reading to get the kids excited about the lesson and the related game.)

Saint of the Month

Saint Juan Diego

Kids teleport to find this special saint token near a church building that is under construction. Children help finish building this church on a hillside.

Children learn that Saint Juan had a vision of Mary. He told the bishop of Mexico that Mary had told him to build a church on a hill. The church was built and named the Church of Our Lady Guadalupe.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The angel told the shepherds about the great joy of the birth of Jesus. How will you share the joy of Jesus' birth with others?



Spiritual Works of Mercy

Be Patient With Others

Children find a woman who says that vandals have broken her wall and taken the bricks. Kids search Bethlehem to find the bricks, and then repair the wall.