

## The Town of Bethlehem and the Shepherds- Luke 2:1-18

### THE POINT

Focus:

Jesus is God's Son  
Jesus brings salvation

Application:

We worship Jesus.  
We trust Jesus for our salvation.

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

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### HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS (optional):

- ornament outlines
- string of lights, small tree, or tree outline to hang ornaments on

### Content:

For the month of Advent, spend the first 5 minutes of your time together hearing about how families in your congregation are anticipating advent on their own. You can also talk about ways that you've seen signs of Advent in local stores or at school (Christmas decorations, school parties, etc). This encourages children to look for signs of Advent and celebrations of Christ throughout the week.

Here are a few questions to get started:

- **Have you heard or read any stories this week to prepare for Christmas?**
- **Do you have a manger/nativity scene/crèche set up at home?**
- **Have you listened to any Christmas songs that tell about Jesus this week?**
- **Did you see anything in stores or your school this week that celebrated Christmas?**

If you'd like to keep a record of these, you can write a word or phrase on a cut- out like an ornament or a Christmas light and hang on a tree, glue to a poster board, or display in the classroom. You might also send cutouts home for children to fill out with their families and bring back for your classroom display!

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## STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- Creche or manger scene with separate pieces for Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Shepherds, and Angels and any other pieces you would like.

### Instructions:

Utilizing figures this week is self-explanatory! Move them through the story as you share the passage from Luke. To help keep focus, remember to keep your eyes and attention on the FIGURES, not on the CHILDREN. You will also benefit from making sure the children are seated in a circle instead of in rows.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

*To the teacher: Use the fact that this is a familiar story to your advantage! You may want to ask "I wonder" questions while you tell the story and move the figures to help keep the children engaged instead of interrupting with their excitement of knowing "what happens next".*

#### Luke 2:1-18

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. 2 It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

4 So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. 5 He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. 6 While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. 7 She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

8 There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

14 "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!  
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

15 The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. 17 After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. 18 All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. 20 The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

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## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it felt like to travel on that long journey to Bethlehem.

I wonder how the shepherds felt sitting in the field that night hearing angels.

I wonder what Mary and Joseph thought about when they saw all the shepherds coming to worship Jesus

What do you wonder?

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## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**