

Adventures with GOD!

ANGELS SPEAK TO THE SHEPHERDS (A.1.WINTER.3)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:8-14
Key Verse	Luke 2:11
Key Concept	I can love and obey God like Joseph, Jesus' adoptive father.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of when the shepherds heard about the birth of Jesus 2. Express with actions what the shepherds felt when they saw the angels and heard the message 3. Say by memory the Bible verse

Life Application

The shepherds were the first to hear about the birth of Jesus. The children will see that God did not choose powerful or wealthy people to be the first to hear this special message. Today many times it is the children who first hear about Jesus in their families. They, like the shepherds, have to decide what they will do once they hear the message. The shepherds decided to go and see for themselves what they had heard. The children can decide to accept the message and also come to know Jesus; one of the ways they can come to know Jesus is through the Bible.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Craft	Patterns, cotton, glue, paper	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible, faces, image of shepherds	10 minutes
Craft	paper, crayons, cotton	5 minutes
Song, prayer	music instruments	5 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustration	10 minutes
Gift	paper cones, tubes of toilet paper rolls, tissue paper of different colors, pipe cleaners, yellow poster board, crayons, glue	15 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Craft: You will find the instructions to make a sheep mobile in the following pages of this lesson. When the children enter the room, they can begin to work on the mobile. Use this time to talk to them about the shepherds and what their job was in the time that Jesus was born (take care of the sheep, protect them from wild animals, guide them to fresh grass, etc.)

Bible Story: (Luke 2:8-14) The story today is fascinating. Who knows what the shepherds were doing when suddenly the angels appeared. Maybe they were fighting amongst themselves or maybe they were cold and bored. Suddenly a bright light appeared as well as the figure of a person. They were so scared (you can put a scared face up on the wall). But the angel told them to not be afraid because he had come to bring good news. Tell the story with as much drama and emotion as you can. Use figure or illustrations you find in this lesson. There are also excellent books with great images that can capture the imagination of the children. End the story today with the shepherds going to Bethlehem to see what the angel had told them about.

Craft: In this time the children can finish their sheep craft or they can color the image of the shepherd, which is also found in the following pages. They can glue cotton onto the images of the sheep. Another craft is entitled "Singing angels". You will need aluminum foil to glue on the angels, cotton to glue on the sheep and pieces of colored tissue paper for the shepherds clothes.

Song and prayer: Again, give thanks to God for the people that were present for Jesus' arrival. The children can sing the Christmas carol/song that they are learning.

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Bible Verse: The visual clue for this verse can be a picture of a sheep or a shepherd.

Gift: You will make an angel out of a paper cone. See the instructions on the following pages.

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

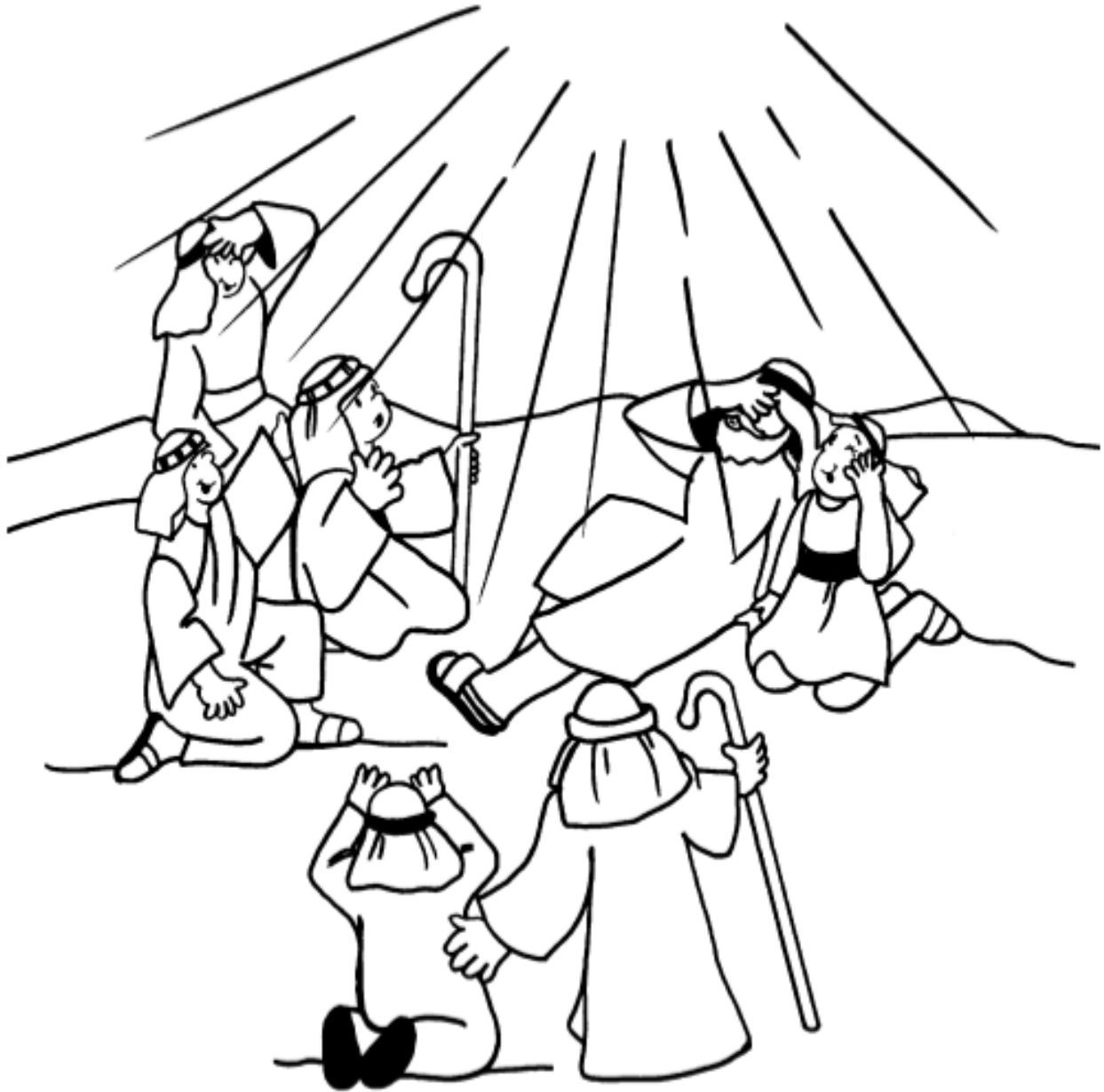
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ILLUSTRATION



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ILLUSTRATION



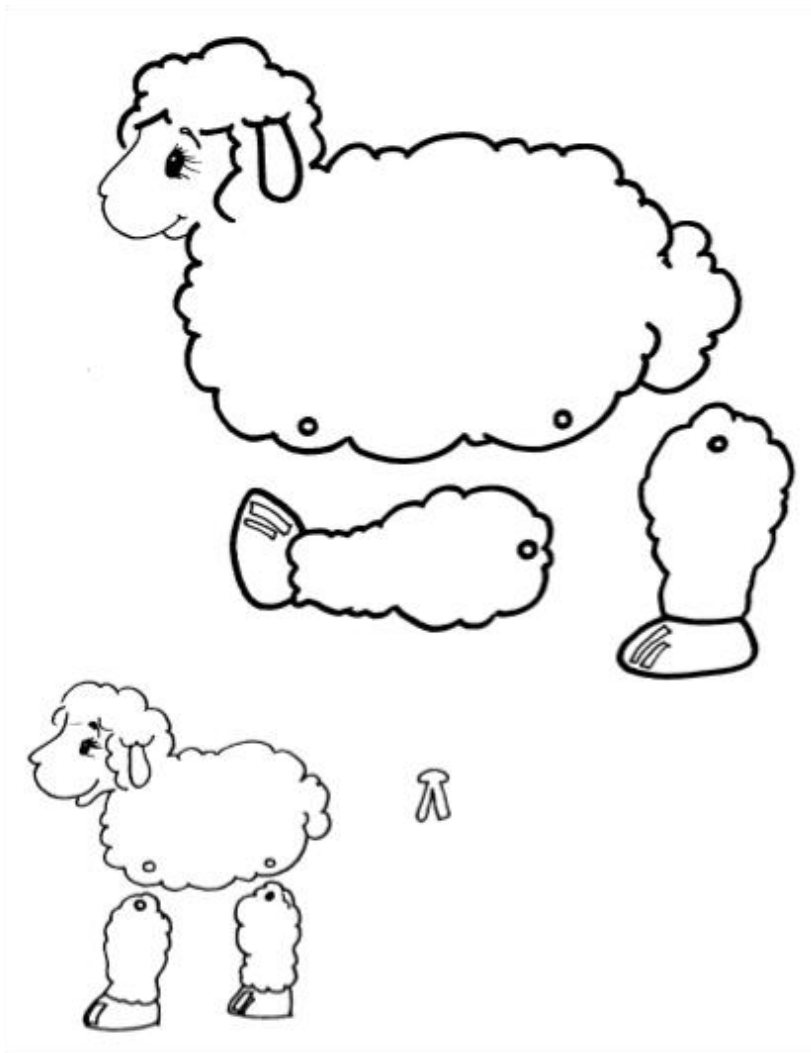
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CRAFT

Sheep

Trace the pattern of the sheep on heavier poster board. Make sure each child gets one sheep. If possible have the sheep already cut out, or help the older children cut them out. Put small holes in the body of the sheep and in the tops of the legs, so that they can be fastened together. Have the children glue cotton balls on the body of the sheep. Then fasten the legs to the body of the sheep.

Materials - Sheep figures cut out of poster board, glue, paper fastener, cotton.

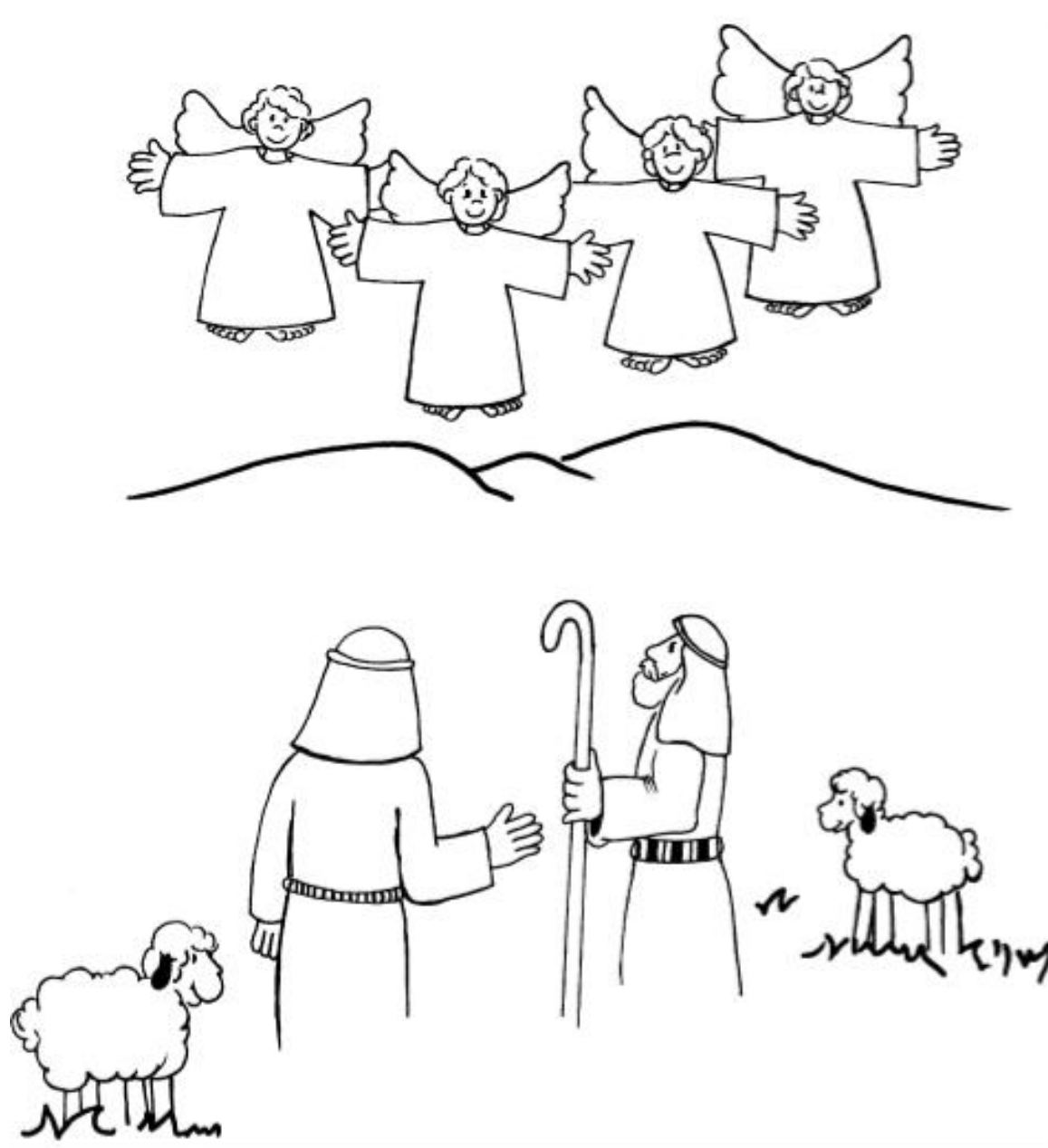


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CRAFT

Singing Angles

Luke 2:11



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CRAFT

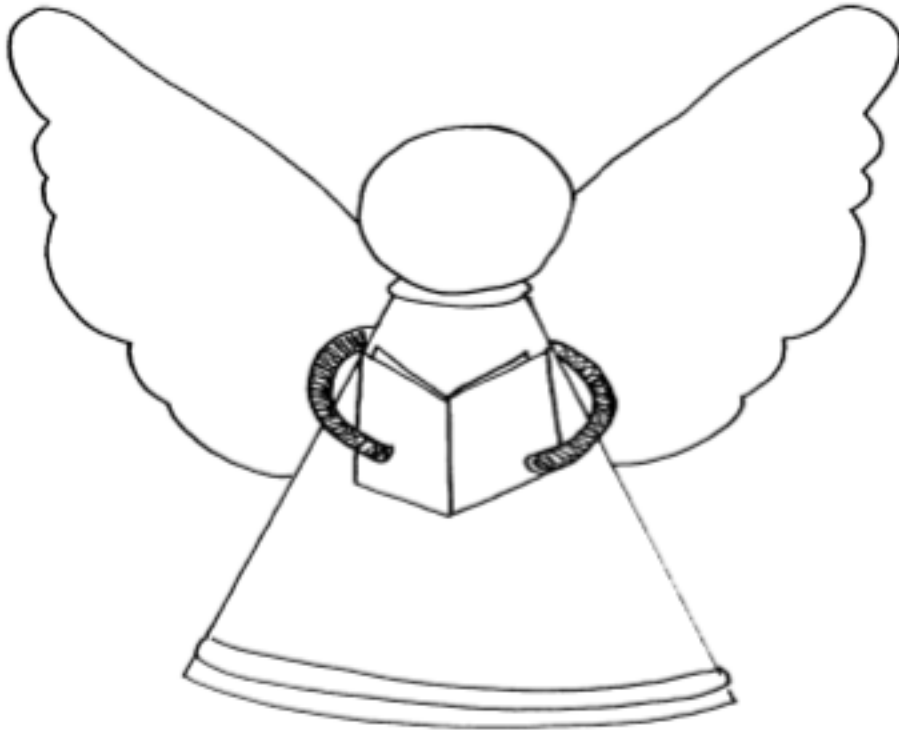
Shepherds receive a special message



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GIFT

Angel



The angels sang the night that Jesus was born. They announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds.
We can also sing with joy about Jesus' birth

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Materials - paper cone or tube from a toilet paper roll, colored tissue paper, pipe cleaners, yellow poster board, crayons, glue, thick needle

Instructions -

1. Make a hole in the top of the paper cone (2 1/2 cm). Have the children color the cone.
2. Fold the yellow poster board in half and draw the angles wings, using the fold in the paper as the middle of the wings. Cut out the wing (don't cut the fold) and glue it to the back part of the cone.
3. Use the thick needle or something that can poke through the paper easily to make the holes for the pipe cleaners to go through - these will be the arms. Put the pipe cleaner through the two holes and fold them to make arms.
4. Fold a small piece of white paper to make the song book and glue it to the hands of the angel.
5. Make a ball out of tissue paper and glue it to the hole on the top of the cone to make a head for the angel.