

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to each another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told to us through these angels."

So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph; and the Baby was lying in the manger – just like the angels had said he would be.

When they had seen this, the shepherds explained to the people how the angels had told them about this Child -- and where to find him.

And all who heard it were amazed at the things the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

The shepherds went back to the hillside, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen; everything was just like the angels had told them.



BIBLE STUDY – Luke 2:15-20 - Leader Sheet

SAY: In the song "I Heard It from the Shepherds," we learn about how the angels made a special appearance to the shepherds; listen while I read from the Bible about what happened next!

READ (or have one of the children read): Luke 2: 15-20 [from their activity page]

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN – LET THEM COLOR THE SHEPHERD

TEACHING OPTION ONE

Before the rehearsal, put a basket [filled with candy bars or suckers or stickers... or whatever your children really like!] in another part of the building... e.g. in the corner of a room down the hall; don't hide it, but put it out in the open.

Read the story, discuss how the shepherds were told about a baby who had been born and were told where to find him.

Say: "Let me tell you about something I'd like for you to know about and where you can find it." Then describe the basket filled with goodies and tell them they can find it down the hall in "the third-grade Sunday School class room." Unless you have a huge group, this will work fine as a wild-and-crazy run-down-the-hall treasure-hunt! Go with them and be sure every child gets one of whatever is in the basket. [This might be a good way to END the rehearsal and send them on their way.]

TEACHING OPTION TWO

DISCUSS THE PASSAGE: Re-read the passage in blocks (see below) and ask one of the questions that follow; adjust these questions to the age group – asking only the very basic questions with the younger children.

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to each another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told to us through these angels."

1. After the angels finished telling the shepherds about the birth of Jesus, where did they go?
2. Who do you think told the angels what to say to the shepherds?
3. What did the shepherds say to each other?
4. Did the shepherds believe what the angels had said? [They must have because they went into town to see what had happened.]

So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph; and the Baby was lying in the manger – just like the angels had said he would be.

1. Did the shepherds take their time going into Bethlehem? [Point out that in most Bible stories, when people heard something from God, they didn't waste any time checking it out... and doing what God told them to do.]
2. Do you think the shepherds had to search for the stable? [probably so]
3. Who did they find when they got there?
4. Where was the Baby Jesus?
5. Is that exactly where the angels told them the Baby Jesus would be?

When they had seen this, the shepherds explained to the people how the angels had told them about this Child -- and where to find him. And all who heard it were amazed at the things the shepherds told them.

1. Why do you think the people were surprised to hear about angels showing up on the hillside... and telling these "common people" about the birth of his Son?
2. If the shepherds hadn't completely believed the angels earlier, they probably believed now, don't you think?

But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

1. What do you think that means?
2. Explain what it means to treasure something... and to ponder.
3. Are there some things that have happened to you or your family that you "treasure" – that you love to remember and talk about?

The shepherds went back to the hillside, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen; everything was just like the angels had told them.

1. This is the verse the musical is based on --- that the shepherds heard about the birth of Jesus from the angels, then they told other people; they passed along what they had heard. And that's what we will be doing when we present the musical.
2. The shepherds glorified and praised God for what they had seen and heard. How do we do that?

TEACHING OPTION THREE

After you have read the story, have the children to tell it back to you... or to give you the "upshot" of what happened. Ask them to be as convincing as possible in their telling of the story.

Explain that when the shepherds told this story, they had to really convince people that what they were saying was true.

Ask them if they've ever been in a situation when they have found something that was really good and had to convince somebody of what they had found. Maybe they've found an animal in trouble (cat-up-a-tree) and had to get somebody to come help them.