

Christmas Schools' Week Assemblies 2020

Day 4

Shepherds: The First Witnesses

Read

Luke chapter 2, verses 13-14	Micah chapter 5, verse 2
<p>¹³ Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:</p> <p>¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"</p>	<p>² The Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times."</p>

Watch

Day 4 - Shepherds - The first witnesses

https://youtu.be/9N6f_5fuSko

Understand

God chose a lowly stable (or a cave) in Bethlehem, one of the smallest and least important places in Judea, for His son Jesus to be born. He sent angels to the shepherds (some of the least important people in society) so they could be the first people to visit the baby Jesus. What do you think this tells us about God's son Jesus and who he was sent for? Was he just for the important and rich people?

Challenge

Can you think of any Bible stories about Jesus (once he was older) that would back this up?

Pray

Perhaps a child would like to share their own prayer, or feel free to use ours which is based on part of a prayer from the Anglican Service book:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on Earth. Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Amen

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Explore

Names of Jesus

- **Suitable for all**

Update your names of Jesus bauble or word cloud. How many different names of Jesus do you know now?

Colour the scene

- **Easier**

Neatly colour the scene. Can you tell a friend about this part of the story while you colour?

- **Trickier**

Can you create a scene showing the shepherds visiting the baby Jesus? You may like to draw or paint. Try adding thought bubbles to show what the shepherds might have been thinking. If you are feeling very brave, perhaps you could create a collage or even a model of the stable scene!

What was it like to be a shepherd?

- **Suitable for all**

Imagine that you were a shepherd, living out on the hillsides looking after sheep. Write 3 diary entries:

1. An ordinary night spent keeping the sheep safe from wild creatures. Shepherds had to be very brave.
2. An entry for the night you were visited by angels and met the baby Jesus.
3. What happened next. You had to go back to keeping the sheep safe, but did you keep quiet about your amazing experience? Did other people believe you? How did your outlook on life/your feelings change?

Find the words

- **Suitable for all**

Can you find all the words from the story which have been hidden in the wordsearch?