

The Shepherds Worship Jesus

Luke 2:15-20; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 47, 48



When you receive a gift, do you thank the person who gave it to you? I hope you do! Thanking people for their gifts is very important.

Still amazed at what they had seen in the middle of the night, the wide-awake shepherds chattered among themselves. The angel choir that had come to them in the night was gone now.

What a message the angel had delivered! “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:11, 12, NIV).

Could it be true? Would they find the Messiah, their Saviour, in the nearby city? Bethlehem was known as the City of David. And it was a short distance from the hillside where the shepherds watched their sheep. But why would the Messiah be lying in a manger? That’s what the angel had said. A manger! How could that be? Could the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, have come to them as a baby?

They knew that newborn babies were wrapped in soft pieces of cloth to keep them

warm and dry. But babies were kept at home—in a house, not in a barn with animals. It seemed so strange.

“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves,” said one of the shepherds.

“The Lord has sent this message to us,” said another.

“These were angels! I’m sure of it,” called out another. “I believe we should go too.”

So it was that deep in the night, the shepherds rushed off to Bethlehem. There in a stable near an inn where people slept the night away, they found what they were looking for—a baby wrapped in soft cloths, lying in a manger.

How did they find the stable where the baby had been born? Surely God guided them to that place. And once there, they told the baby’s parents of the angel’s visit and the beautiful angel choir who sang those words of praise:

“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to men.”

Together, in silence and awe, the shepherds knelt around the manger. There, they worshiped their Saviour as the baby’s parents looked on.

All too soon, as daylight approached, the shepherds had to return to their sheep. Filled



The Message

We worship the God who guides us.

Memory Verse

“ ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men’ ”

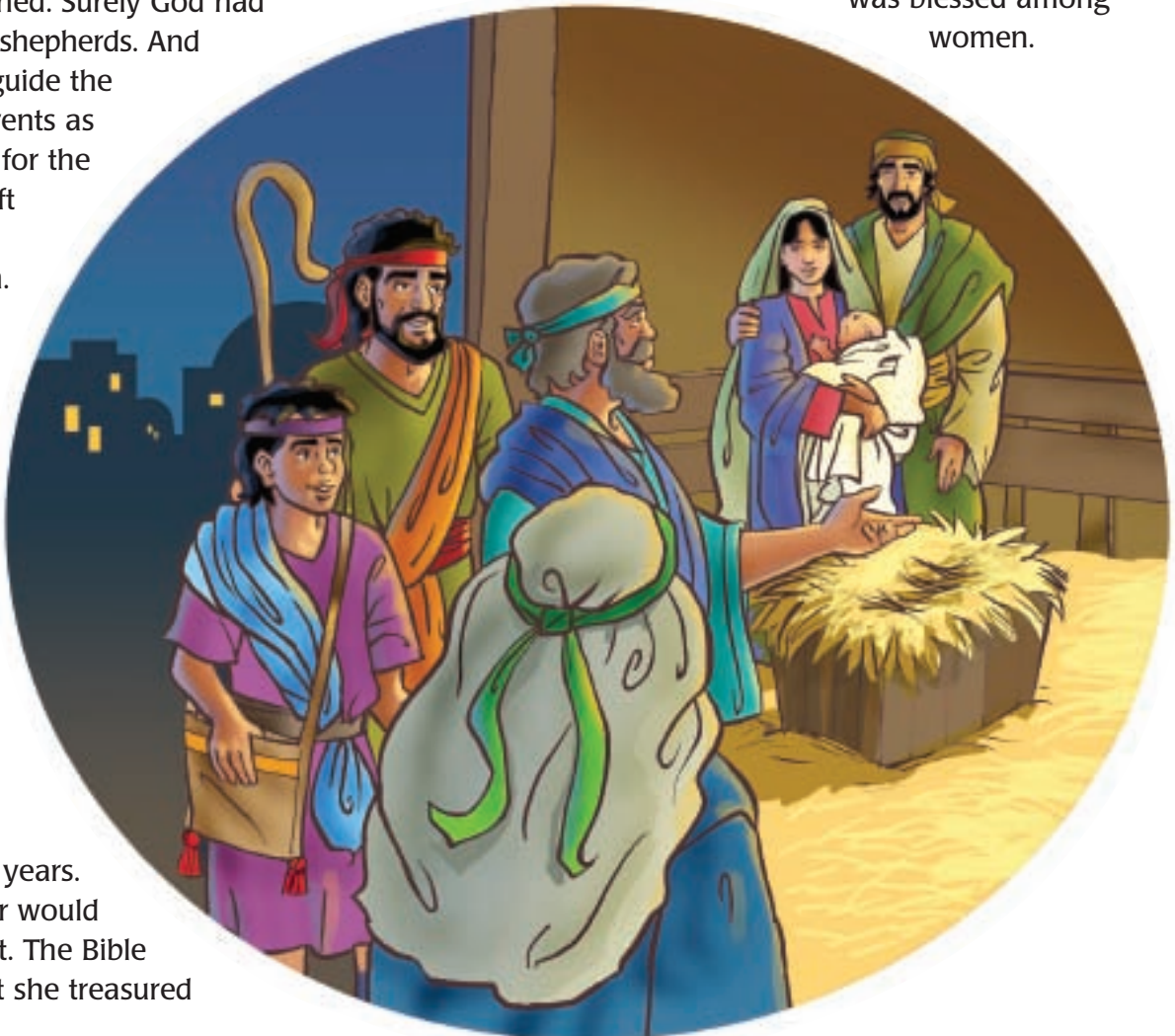
(Luke 2:14, NIV).

with joy, they just had to tell others. As they left the city, they could not keep the good news to themselves. And they spread the word to all they met. Glorifying and praising God, they spoke in awe of the angels' visit. They told of the babe in the manger, and of the God who sent the message to them.

Joseph and Mary were pleased that the shepherds had come. They had gladly invited them into the stable and listened to their story. They, too, were amazed at all that had happened. Surely God had guided the shepherds. And He would guide the infant's parents as they cared for the precious gift God had given them.

The shepherds would never forget that night. They had seen the fulfillment of the prophecies they had studied for years. And neither would Mary forget. The Bible tells us that she treasured

all these things and pondered them in her heart. She had become the mother of the Messiah—the Saviour of the world. Whatever happened in the future, truly, she was blessed among women.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go with your family and sit on a hillside. Or sit in front of a campfire or fireplace. Imagine that it is night and sheep are all around you. What sounds do you hear?

READ Read your lesson story together. Then teach the memory verse to your family. Make up a tune and sing the memory verse together. Sing some other songs too.

King
David grew up in Bethlehem so it was called The City of David. Jerusalem was called that too!



S U N D A Y

SHARE Share the gift bag or “J is for Jesus” shepherd’s staff you made in Sabbath School with someone today. (Or cut out a large J shape and write J “is for Jesus” on it. Turn it upside down. Does it look like a shepherd’s staff?) Tell the person about the shepherds and Baby Jesus.

DO During worship today, ask your family to tell about the best gift they ever received. Ask: How does that compare to God’s gift of Jesus? Sing some carols; then thank Jesus for coming to be your Saviour.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Luke 2:15-20. What do you think Mary and Joseph thought when the shepherds came in the night? Who do you think the shepherds told about seeing Jesus? Who can you tell?

DO Practice some Christmas carols with your family. Make a plan to sing carols in your neighborhood sometime soon. Thank God for music that tells about Jesus and His love.

T U E S D A Y

READ During worship today, read Luke 2:8-16. Talk about the sights, sounds, and smells Mary and Joseph lived with in the stable. What sights and sounds and smells remind you most of Christmas? Thank God for them.

DO Ask your family to tell you about a nativity scene. Go someplace to see one, or look at pictures. Could you make a nativity scene for your family? Ask permission. If it is all right, collect some things you will need. Invite your family to help.

W E D N E S D A Y

MAKE With your family, work on your nativity scene. Add a baby doll and some straw to the manger. When you finish, sing “Away in a Manger” together.

DO Sit in a circle together. Whisper “Jesus is born” to the person next to you. Then they are to whisper it to the one next to them. Go around the circle. Have the last person tell what they heard. Is this the way you want to tell others the good news about Jesus? How did the shepherds spread the good news? Ask God to help you to tell others.



THURSDAY

READ For worship, read Genesis 22:1-12 together. What does Abraham's experience make you think of? Think about a time you gave someone something very special to you. Why did you do it? Was it easy or hard? Was it easy or hard for God to give His only Son to save us?

DO Ask your family to help you finish your nativity scene. Sing some carols as you work together.



FRIDAY

SHARE Invite your neighbors and friends to see your nativity scene this evening. Read Luke 2:1-20 with them, then sing some carols.

ASK Ask them to tell about the time they first knew Jesus is their Saviour. What did they do? Thank God for sending Jesus to save us all.

DO Is this the night you will sing carols in your neighborhood? If so, invite your guests to go with you. Thank God for the gift of music.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Find the following hidden words: God, baby, angels, Messiah, peace, glory