

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Luke 2:1-14; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-48

Have you ever been camping and slept out under the stars? Would you like to do that all the time, in all kinds of weather? Some people in our Bible story stayed outside most of the time. What were they doing there? Let's find out.

Once again, God's promises were true. Baby Jesus was born just as God's Word had said. "Out of Bethlehem," the prophet Micah had written 700 years before (Micah 5:2). And that was where Mary and Joseph were when Jesus was born.

Because many others had also traveled to Bethlehem, all the inns and hotels were full. And so it was that Jesus was born in a stable. Mary wrapped Him in cloths and gently laid Him in a manger on a bed of

hay. A strange birthplace for the King of the universe!

Angels watched over the little family. And at God's direction one went in the darkness of night to spread the good news.

On a nearby hillside some shepherds watched their sheep. One of the hardest things about being a shepherd was staying out in the fields all night. Wolves or bears might come and all the sheep would scatter. So the shepherds had to stay awake. They had to be ready to scare away the wild animals. It was a huge responsibility.

As they watched their sheep, the shepherds talked about the prophecies of old. *When will these things happen?* they wondered. *Surely it is time.*

All at once, they saw a glowing being. An angel appeared to them, a being so bright they couldn't look at it! The place where they sat was filled with a glowing circle called the "glory of the Lord." The dazzling white light lay on the grass, on the sheep, on everything around them. They were terrified. This was even more frightening than fighting off bears!

The angel began to speak. "Do not be



The Message

*I worship God when I listen to
the good news about Jesus.*

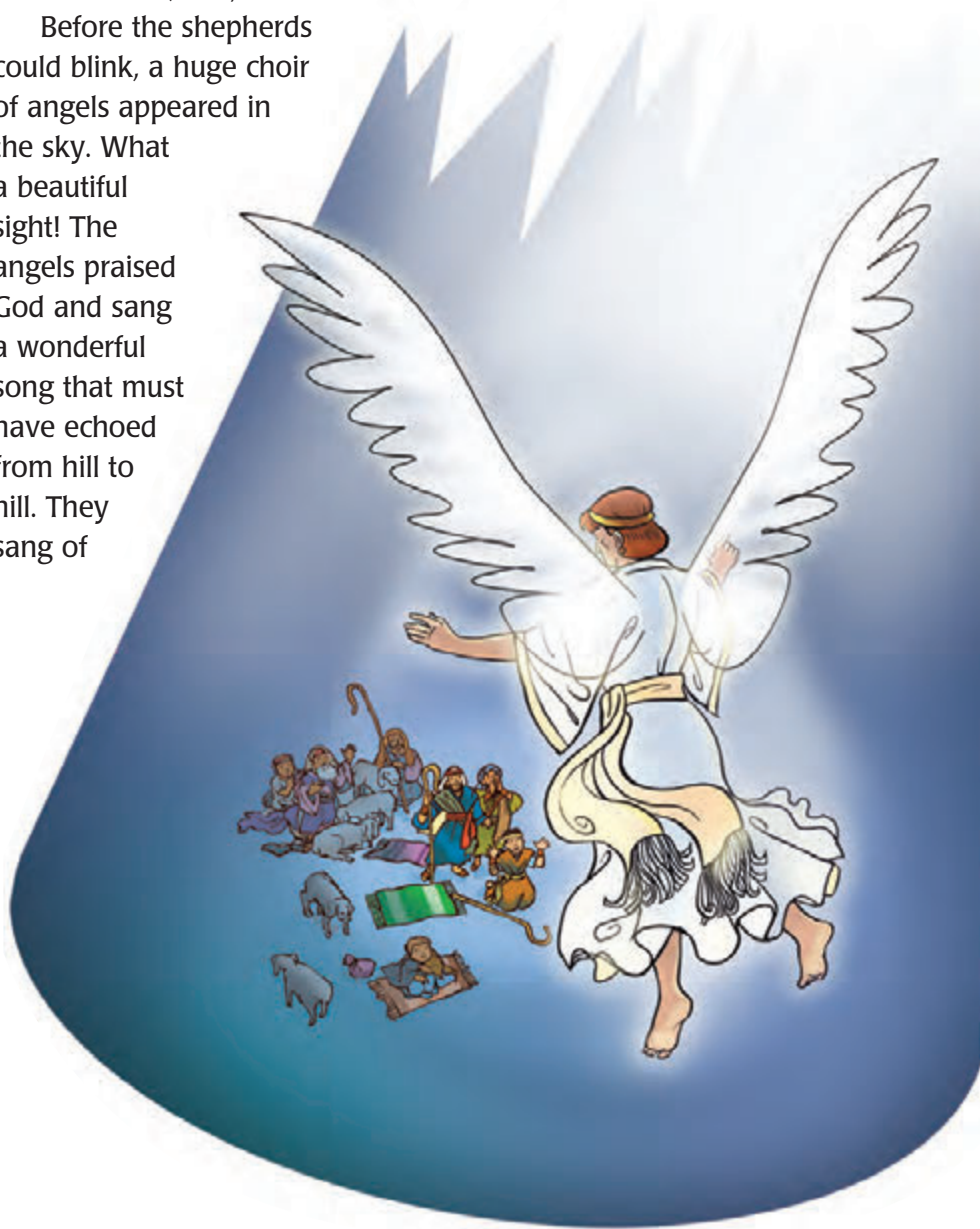
Memory Verse

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

(Luke 2:14, NIV).

afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David [Bethlehem] 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 2:10-12, NIV).

Before the shepherds could blink, a huge choir of angels appeared in the sky. What a beautiful sight! The angels praised God and sang a wonderful song that must have echoed from hill to hill. They sang of



another promise—a promise of peace to all those who honored God.

“ ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men’ ” (Luke 2:14, NIV).

And then, suddenly, the light was gone. The angels were gone. The shepherds' ears must have rung in the silence. They looked at each other. All thoughts of staying with the sheep were gone. This was wonderful news! The angel had told them where to find the baby. They had to go now!

S A B B A T H

DO If it is a sunny day, walk in the sunshine with your family. Find a place to sit and read your Bible story. Look toward the sun and quickly look away. (Do NOT stare at the sun!) How is the bright sun like the light the shepherds saw the night the angels came?

READ Read Luke 2:14 together; then shout it.

SING Sing together "Joy to the World" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 81). Thank God for sending Jesus to save us.

Many people looked down on shepherds who often lived right with their sheep.



S U N D A Y

READ During family worship read and discuss Luke 2:1-5.

DO Make a "TV newscast" covering Jesus' birth to be "aired" during worship this Friday and next. Have your family help you cut two slits on the front of a box the size of a TV. The distance between the slits should be the length of the paper and a little longer than each picture in your newscast. Cut out the back of the box. Draw and color a picture of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem. Write "Mary and Joseph are going to Bethlehem." on it. Set aside your picture and "TV" for tomorrow.

SING Use your memory verse for a song of praise.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family read and discuss Luke 2:6, 7.

MAKE Today, make a picture of Mary with Joseph standing near Baby Jesus in the manger. Write "Jesus is born!" on your picture. Glue or tape yesterday's picture to this one to make a picture strip. Save it for tomorrow.

DO Ask your parents where you were born. Do they have a picture of the place?

SING Sing your memory verse before prayer.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Luke 2:8-12 with your family.

DO Draw and color two more pictures for your "TV newscast": (1) the shepherds in the field with their sheep at night; and (2) the angel telling the shepherds about Jesus' birth. Glue or tape your pictures in order to yesterday's pictures. Write "The shepherds are in the field." on the first and "An angel is bringing good news." on the second.

DO Look in a book and learn three new things about sheep.

SING Sing your memory verse; then thank God for angels who shared the good news.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Read and discuss Luke 2:13, 14 with your family.

DO For your "TV newscast," draw the angel choir singing to the shepherds. Write your memory verse. Glue or tape it to the end of yesterday's pictures.

DO Take a large sheet of aluminum foil (about 2 feet long [.6 meters]). Crumple and mold the foil into a shiny angel. Thank Jesus for angels.

T H U R S D A Y

DO Listen while a member of your family reads John 3:16. What does it mean to you?

DO Think of a relative or friend with whom to share the good news about Jesus' birth. Make and mail a card for that person. On it, write your memory verse and a joyful message from your family. Everyone in your family should sign it.

SING Sing your memory verse. Then sing "Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 78). Thank God for the good news of Jesus' birth.

F R I D A Y

DO For worship, show your "TV newscast" about this week's Bible story. Operate your "TV" as follows: Feed your picture strip through the left slit (from the back of the box). Pull it over the "TV screen" and feed it into the right slit. Tell the story as you pull the picture strip through. End your newscast by singing your memory verse.

SING Sing Christmas carols after your "newscast." Then thank Jesus for coming to save you.

**Do You Hear
What I Hear?**

PUZZLE

Directions: Study the stars in the night sky. Color those with a dot in them to find out why the angels sang.

