



DECEMBER THEME

**UNDERCOVER
CHRISTMAS**
Make Others Your Mission

BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:8-20

Start Spreading the News | Shepherds Visit

Spark Story Bible, pg. 214-217

Jesus is Born (part 2)

BOTTOM LINE

Share the good news about Jesus

MEMORY VERSE

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”

John 3:16, NIV

LIFE APP

Compassion | Caring enough to do something about someone else’s need

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated...and with God’s help I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **COMPASSION** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

THIS WEEK—Key Question: Who needs to hear the good news? This week we help families get specific with the people in their life who might need to hear more about Jesus. We hope to encourage families to invest in their friendships and point them to Jesus.

We head to **Luke 2:8-20** and find shepherds minding their own business and watching sheep in a field. Of course, we know what happened. Angels surprised them and announced that the Savior of the world was born. The shepherds were so excited they ran to meet Jesus and spent the rest of the night spreading the good news that Jesus was born.

Bottom Line: Share the good news about Jesus. This week we want families to start thinking about how they can share the good news about Jesus. From the words they say to the life they live, they can point people to Jesus and show God’s love to others.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Ask God to help kids understand why it’s important to share about what God has done for us. Pray that kids would have opportunities to share with others, especially in the coming new year. Pray that kids would take advantage of those opportunities, as daunting as it may seem.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Phone/tablet (optional)

What You Do:

- Talk about Christmas songs and how some are about Jesus and the true Christmas story and others are not.
- Encourage kids to think of Christmas songs that are about Jesus, and sing them together.
- Optional: Use a smart phone or tablet to show lyric videos for some Christmas songs so kids can easily sing along.
 - “Away in a Manger” <http://bit.ly/2Nrdq5w>
 - “Silent Night” <http://bit.ly/2PeEmpM>
 - “O Little Town of Bethlehem” <http://bit.ly/2oel5lq>

•• **JINGLE, ANYONE?**



Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Copy paper, markers, pens

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of three or four.
- Assign a gift to each group.
- These should be gifts that the kids in your group would like to receive this Christmas. It might be a new game console, a new action figure from their favorite recent movie, or anything else you/they can think of.
- Explain that each group will get five minutes (*or more or less, depending on your time constraints*) to come up with a jingle, a TV commercial, or a poster ad for that item in order to try to convince someone they should buy it.

Note: Try to guide groups to choose different options, so they're not all doing the same type of promotion.

- When they're finished, allow time for them to share their creations with the rest of the group.

What You Say: "Wow! Now I want to buy all of those things! You did such a great job promoting those items and sharing the news about how amazing they are. **[Transition]** "Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we'll hear/we heard about something even more amazing that we can share with others."

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Copy paper, markers, pens

What You Do:

- If your group did not do the "Jingle, Anyone?" activity earlier, do it now. Then, continue with this activity below.
- Explain that while the items they promoted earlier were great, now they're going to promote something much greater: Jesus!
- Tell kids to come up with a jingle, a TV commercial, or a poster ad to **[Bottom Line] share the good news about Jesus**.
- Encourage them to work together to decide what each group will focus on.
 - Maybe they'll divide up the Christmas story.
 - Perhaps they'll each focus on one thing about Jesus.
 - It's up to them to work it out, but remind them that the goal is to effectively share the good news about Jesus with someone who might see/hear their promotion.

What You Say: "There is no better news we can tell than the news about Jesus. We can tell them about...*(point out some of the things kids emphasized in their promotion)*. We can tell them how God loved us so much that God chose to send Jesus to us to meet our greatest need. This is a message not just for Christmas but also for the whole year long. It's great to tell others about Jesus at Christmas, and I hope you do. But I also hope you will **[Bottom Line] share the good news about Jesus** the rest of the year too. **[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about the last person with whom you shared the good news about Jesus. What did you say? How did they respond? If they didn't respond all that positively, that's okay to share, because it is a very realistic outcome.)* It's not always easy to tell people about



Jesus, and they don't always respond the way we would want them to. But it's still important to share the good news whenever we have an opportunity."

●● **HOT SHEEP** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Cotton ball

What You Do:

- Direct kids to sit in a circle.
- Hand the cotton ball to one kid.
- Explain that you will play "Hot Potato" with the "sheep." When you say "Go, tell it on the Mountain" kids should start randomly tossing the "sheep" to one another. When you say "Stop!" the kid holding the "sheep" gets to answer a review question.
- If the kid gets it wrong or doesn't know, he can toss the "sheep" at any other person, who should now try to answer.

Review Questions:

- Where were the shepherds? (*in the field*)
- Who appeared to them? (*an angel of the Lord*)
- How did the shepherds react to the angel? (*they were terrified*)
- What did the angel tell them had happened? (*a Savior had been born*)
- Where had the Savior been born? (*in Bethlehem*)
- What clues were they given to recognize Jesus? (*he would be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger*)
- Who joined the angel of the Lord? (*a large group of angels*)
- When the angels left, what did the shepherds say to each other? (*let's go see this baby*)
- Who did they find? (*Mary, Joseph, and Jesus*)
- What did the shepherds do next? (*they went and told everyone about Jesus and what the angel had said*)
- Then what did the shepherds do? (*they praised God*)

What You Say: "The shepherds were so excited to hear about the message of Jesus, they couldn't wait to tell everyone what they had experienced. Take a minute to think about who you know that needs to hear about Jesus. (*Pause.*) Somebody tell me what you would say to that person. (*Pause. Give guidance as needed.*) Yes! Every single one of us can **[Bottom Line] share the good news about Jesus.**"

●● **GOOD NEWS BOOKMARKS** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: "Bookmarks" activity page, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Bookmark" activity page and set out the markers for everybody to share.
- Tell kids they should choose someone to give the bookmark to in order to **[Bottom Line] share the good news about Jesus**, and they should decorate it with that person in mind. (**Note:** *Encourage them to think of someone who doesn't know Jesus.*)

What You Say: "Compassion is not about you. It is always about the other person. And the greatest act of compassion we can ever show to someone else is to tell them about God's greatest gift of Jesus. When you give this bookmark to someone, I want you to really tell them about Jesus—don't just hand them the bookmark. You don't have to talk forever, but just tell them why Jesus is important to you. **[Bottom Line] Share the good news about Jesus**, and share **WHY** it's good news."

