



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.

•• **JUST FOR FUN**

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.
- 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>

•• **GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME**

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



What You Need: “Nine Bells” activity page, “Nine Bells Solution” activity page, pens

What You Do:

- Give each group member a “Nine Bells” activity page and a pen.
- Challenge them to connect all nine bells by using only four straight lines connected end-to-end.
- Tell them that if they make a mistake, they can start over in one of the other squares on the page.
- Refer to the “Nine Bells Solution” activity page for the answer!

What You Say: “Using only four lines to connect all nine bells took some strategy, patience, and determination. All those skills are helpful when it comes to helping others connect with the good news of Jesus. **[Transition]** “Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll learn/we learned how God got the good news out to others in a way that was impossible to ignore.”

[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.

•• **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Copy paper (2 per group), 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.
- Explain that while the items they just promoted are great, now they’re going to promote something much greater: Jesus!
- Tell kids to use their 2nd sheet of paper 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."

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [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:

- Have kids sit in a circle and 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*)

Extension Questions:

- What questions do you think the people of Bethlehem had when the shepherds told them what they had seen and heard?
- When you want to share the good news with someone who doesn't know Jesus, what are some good questions to ask them?
- Do you think everyone believed what the shepherds told them? Why?
- What are some different types of responses people may have had when the shepherd told them that the Savior was born?
- In what ways do people respond to the good news today?

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.**"

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [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: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask some of the following questions...
 - Why is it important for those who follow Jesus to tell others about him?
 - Think about a specific place you go, such as school or an activity. Who is someone that needs to hear about having a relationship with Jesus? What would it take for you to tell that person?
 - What makes it hard to tell others about Jesus? What do we worry will happen if we tell people about Jesus?

