



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 under-
stand 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 Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines
and working as a group**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a few rounds of “telephone.”
 - Start off by whispering a phrase or sentence into the ear of the kid next to you.
 - Instruct that kid to then whisper the same phrase into the ear of the next kid.
 - Continue until you get to the end.
 - The last kid should say the phrase out loud and see if it matches your original phrase.
- Add fun (*and giggles!*) by incorporating alliteration:
 - Giant giraffes juggle ginormous jellybeans.
 - The cool kangaroo crunched the Christmas cookie.
- End with a couple of shepherd related tongue twisters.
 - Some shepherds store their sheep in a shed.



—Shepherds shear their shaggy sheep while the sleepy sheep slumber.

•• DOT-TIONARY

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: “Dot-tionary” activity pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Guide kids to get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a “Dot-tionary” activity page and a crayon.

Note: If you have a very small group, be sure to give one group the “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” puzzle.

- At your signal, guide each group to work together to complete their dot-to-dot.
- When they complete the picture, have them brainstorm what Christmas song their puzzle shows.
- If a group is stuck, give them a hint by humming the tune.
- Answers:
 - “Away in a Manger”
 - “We Three Kings”
 - “Jingle Bells”
 - “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
- When every group is ready, invite them to share their pictures and their guesses.
- Have the “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” group go last.

What You Say: [Transition] **“Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about some people who heard and saw something so wonderful that they couldn’t help telling about it. They went and told everyone they could!”**

[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.

•• PARTY INVITATION [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Spark Story Bible, “Shepherds” coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out “Shepherds” coloring pages and crayons.
- As kids color, read “Jesus Is Born” (p. 212-217) in the Spark Story Bible.
- Review the story by asking the following questions:
 - How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw the angel?
 - Found baby Jesus?
 - Returned to their sheep?

What You Say: “That was quite a birthday party invitation that the shepherds received from the angels! Do you think they sang to



Jesus? Maybe we should sing now! Hmm...what would be a good song to sing? What do you sing at a birthday party? Oh! That's right! Happy Birthday! Let's sing! (*Lead your group in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus!*) The shepherds were SO excited to hear about the message of Jesus! They couldn't wait to tell everyone what they had heard and seen. They wanted to invite everybody they saw to Jesus' birthday party! Who do you know who needs to hear the good news about Jesus? What is something good God has done that you can tell them? (*Pause.*) So, this week, remember to **[Bottom Line] share the good news about Jesus.**"

●● **JESUS IS BORN!** [Live for God | 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: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a game of "reverse" freeze tag.
- Guide kids to scatter around your environment, stand with their legs apart, and freeze.
- To begin, tap a child on the shoulder, and say, "Good news! Jesus is born!"
- That child is then unfrozen and can crawl between the legs of another child and say, "Good news! Jesus is born!"
- Both kids then crawl between the legs of two other children and say, "Good news! Jesus is born!"
- When everybody has been unfrozen with the good news, start the game again by tapping the shoulder of a different child and saying, "Good news! Jesus is born!"
- Add variety by calling out different ways for the kids to move: tiptoe, baby step, hop on one foot, slow motion, etc.

What You Say: "The shepherds were SO excited to hear the good news that Jesus was born! They couldn't wait to tell everyone what they had heard and seen. Who do you know who needs to hear the good news about Jesus? What is something good God has done that you can tell them? (*Pause.*) So, this week, remember to **[Bottom Line] share the good news about Jesus.**"

●● **GO, TELEPHONE IT!** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- If you didn't do the "Early Arriver" activity earlier, do it now to show your group how the game "telephone" works.
- Once you have the hang of the game, play a few rounds using the phases of the memory verse (*John 3:16*) as the secret message.
—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
- As kids become more familiar with the verse, make each round longer, until you are whispering the whole memory verse at one time.

What You Say: "Can you imagine what it would have been like to see and hear the angels? How do you think YOU would have felt? (*Pause.*) How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw baby Jesus lying in the manger? (*Pause.*) What do you imagine they saw and heard? (*Pause.*) Do you think Mary and Joseph let them hold baby Jesus? How would you feel if YOU got to hold baby Jesus? (*Pause.*)

"After the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they were SO happy that they went and told the good news all over Bethlehem. If something like that happened to me, I would want to tell everyone what I saw and heard, too. I would say: 'There was an angel in the sky! He said a Savior has been born for everyone! And then there were hundreds of angels, all praising God! It was (*make a mind-blowing gesture!*)"

