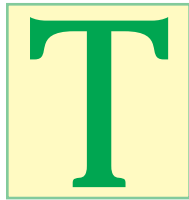




REFERENCES: LUKE 2:15-20; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 47, 48.

The Shepherds Find Baby Jesus

Have you ever hoped for something special, such as a certain birthday present? Did you get it? Were you excited? Did you want to tell your friends about the gift you received?



he night had begun as any other night. Shepherds watched their flocks of sheep on the hill-sides near the little town of Bethlehem. They talked together about the special promise that God had made years before, the promise that a new King would come to earth.



Memory Verse

“The Lord has done great things for us.”

PSALM 126:3, NIV.

The Message

We worship Jesus when we tell others about Him.

How frightened the shepherds had been when the angel came! But how thrilled they became when they heard the angel’s message. “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; . . . You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12, NIV).

Then hundreds and hundreds of angels had joined the one until the sky glowed. The air rang with their song:

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

Then their light had faded away back into the heavens. Farther and farther, smaller and smaller, grew the shining choir until they looked like just another star in the dark sky. Once again it was a quiet night. The shepherds turned to one another.

“I think it is true,” said one.

“I think we should see for ourselves,” said another.

“I agree,” said a third. “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.”

So they hurried off to Bethlehem. “In a manger,” the angel had said. Every shepherd knew a manger would be found in a place where animals were kept.

And there in the night they found Mary and Joseph, with Baby Jesus lying in a manger, just as the angel had said. They thought of the angel’s words, “A Savior has been born.” The shepherds knew this baby had come from God. Quietly they knelt and worshipped the child.

Soon the shepherds left to go back to their sheep, praising God for all they had heard and seen. On the way, they told everyone they met about seeing Jesus, the Savior of the world.

The shepherds talked about that night for a long time, telling all who would listen about the Baby Jesus they found in a manger.

Mary and Joseph were amazed! Mary knew she would always remember the shepherds’ visit. And as Jesus grew up, she would tell Him about that night.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story and use the following to review the memory verse:

“The Lord Point upward.
has done. Hold arms up high.
great things
for us.” Point to self, then to others.
Psalm 126:3 Palms together; then open
as if opening a book.

SUNDAY

Help your child give the shepherd colored in Sabbath School to someone and tell them about the shepherds and the angels. Help make a happy face on the back of the shepherd to tell that your child is happy to share the good news.

MONDAY

Let your child “read” the pictures in the lesson book and tell you the story. Help your child identify each person and animal, then count them.

TUESDAY

The shepherds heard the angels sing. Sing some of your child’s favorite Christmas songs together. Remind your child that we worship Jesus when we sing about Him.

WEDNESDAY

Place some hay, straw, or grass in a box large

enough for your child to lie in. Let your child lie in the box and pretend to be Baby Jesus while you sing “Away in a Manger.” Then have your child lie on his or her bed. Talk about the difference in the two beds. Which would your child prefer? Help your child thank Jesus for a comfortable bed in which to sleep.



THURSDAY

With your child set aside some clothes, toys, blankets, etc., to take to Sabbath School as part of the community service project started in Sabbath School. Sing a sharing song and thank Jesus that you have something to share.



FRIDAY

Read the Christmas story from Luke 2:8-20 during family worship tonight. Let your child show the pictures in the lesson story as you read about the shepherds and the angels. Sing songs about Jesus’ birth; then thank Him for coming to earth.