



MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

Shepherds and Angels

LUKE 2:8-20

BIBLE WORDS

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives you joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft element that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

STORY TIME:

- Draw It

CRAFT TIME:

- Great Joy
-



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STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible, butcher paper, and markers in a variety of colors.

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) begins when some shepherds were taking care of their sheep in a field one night (*draw a simple picture on the butcher paper of the shepherds and sheep in a field*) when something amazing happened!"

"An angel came and told the shepherds good news of great joy! (*Draw a picture of a simple angel.*) Jesus, God's Son, had been born! (*Draw a picture of Baby Jesus in the manger down the paper a bit.*) Then the whole sky was filled with angels celebrating! (*Draw lots of angels in the sky above the shepherds and sheep.*) The shepherds were filled with joy and ran to see Baby Jesus. When they saw Him, they wanted to share the joy with everyone! (*Draw the shepherds around the picture of Baby Jesus.*) Jesus gave the shepherds joy. And Jesus can give you joy too. Because Jesus came to give the whole world joy. **Jesus gives you joy.**"



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CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Great Joy" Activity Page, cardstock, washable ink pads, heart stamps, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Great Joy" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to stamp hearts all over their paper. Clean hands as needed.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at your paper! It's a picture of when the angel told the shepherds the good news that Jesus had been born! Jesus came to give the whole world joy! Stamp your paper with lots and lots of hearts. (Pause.) Super-duper! **Jesus gives you joy.**"