

## Bible background

Luke 2:8-20

## Aim of lesson

To show that it is important for everyone to know about God's son.

## Preparation required

Make your own activity sheet picture by taping one sheet over the other. The doors on the top sheet should be pre-cut to reveal the answers underneath.

You will need colouring materials, sellotape, scissors.

You may like to cut the 'doors' in the activity sheets for young infants.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children if they have ever been out in the dark. Do they like it? Would they like the job of looking after the sheep? Ask them to imagine they are sitting in a field in the dark when suddenly there is a brilliant light and an angel speaks to them. How would they feel? Describe what happened when the angels appeared to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born.
2. Teach the rhyme, two lines at a time as you go through the story, showing your activity sheet and allowing the children to open the 'doors'.
3. Help the children make their own picture. It is a good idea to stick a bead or folded piece of paper as a handle to each door.

## Alternative activities

1. Make a collage picture on black paper. Cut out some hills and some simple figures. Cotton wool makes good sheep. Use gold and silver foil for the angels and light in the sky. Add a fire to keep the shepherds warm.
2. This lesson also lends itself to role play if you have the room. Some of the children could dress up as shepherds and some as angels. Get the shepherds to mime building a fire, counting and looking after the sheep, sharing food etc. The angels can come and tell the shepherds the good news of the birth of Jesus.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children why God sent angels to tell the shepherds about Jesus. Bring out that God wants people to know about his Son, Jesus. Remind the children of what the shepherds did afterwards (Luke 2:17-18). Ask the children if they would like to tell someone about Jesus, using their 'doors' picture.

## Prayer

Ask who would like to tell God that we would like to tell people about his Son - like the angels did.

## Verse

'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.' Luke 2:10.

## Rhyme

What did the shepherds see in the night?  
Hundreds of angels shining bright.  
Where did the shepherds go to then?  
They ran all the way to Bethlehem.  
What did they see when they opened the door?  
A new born baby asleep in the straw.  
Who is this baby who brought such joy?  
He's God's own son, his baby boy.