

“SURPRISE VISITORS” ADVENT (WEEK 4)

YOUTH – 6TH - 12TH GRADES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 2:8-20

BEGINNING PRAYER ACTIVITY

Connecting with the story:

There were two groups of surprise visitors in this story. Who do you think the surprise visitors are? Maybe the angels? The shepherds? Both? Who surprised who first with what message? As you walk through the lesson take a moment and think about the answers to these questions, and how you connect with this part of the birth story. Are you a



shepherd, a sheep, or an angel? What are the roles each played in the story? Where can the good news of the gospel be found in the world? Look for a good news story and see how it relates to the good news of Jesus’ birth. How does your congregation live the good news of the gospel in your community? What about in other parts of the world? Let’s begin this lesson by saying a prayer.

Say this prayer:

God of surprises, open our minds that we may think in new ways and not be afraid. Tell us of the great things you have in store for us, fill us with surprise and wonder that we may praise you and tell others of your greatness. Amen!

BIBLE READING

You will need a Bible – whatever one you have floating around your house is fine. Or, you can use Biblegateway.com (use the NRSV or CEB translations) or a Bible app (search NRSV Bible in your app store).

Read (LUKE 2:8-20) or watch the video link!

<https://youtu.be/MNzhjVRIVOc>

THINK ABOUT IT

After reading or watching the video of Luke 2:1–20, pause and imagine the sights, sounds, and smells in the story. Take your time to immerse yourself in the scene and setting. Think back over the last week or so. When did you see or hear about something that felt like God at work in the world? Continue your Advent meditations by mulling over what conversations the shepherds might have had when they returned to their flocks. It often takes special attention on our part to recognize the presence of God in our lives. For the next month or as a New Year’s resolution, end each day with the spiritual practice of examining. Review your day, recalling the times when you felt apart from God or God’s love. Pray for forgiveness of those times and the persons involved. If you wish, jot down your recollections each day and review them at the end of the month. When the angels depart, the shepherds hurry to find the baby and to continue the praise that the angels began. The shepherds turned up at the manger and continued to praise the birth of Jesus. That praise is echoed in churches throughout the world on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Think About It.. Why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first visitors to see Jesus? What do you think God was telling the shepherds as they traveled to see the baby? What do you think they felt? While shepherds are often thought to be unclean and low in social status, they also played an important role in the culture and religious rituals of Jesus’ time as they were shepherding the sheep, which provided the staples of daily life: food, wool, and religious sacrifices. How do you think the shepherds felt as they left baby Jesus? How would you feel if you were chosen to be the first visitor? How do you feel when you are given a good message? People love hearing good news. How could you tell the good news of this story to others? What message would you have to give? As we grow closer to Christmas, think about what this season really means to you. Make a commitment to yourself that you will never lose sight of its true meaning.

CONCLUDING SONG

<https://youtu.be/VAMzAIH12yc?list=RDVAMzAIH12yc>

CHALLENGE WEEK 4! Finish this week’s challenge to have your name entered into a monthly prize drawing!

Complete the word search below and/or color the drawing, then take a picture to send to Pastor Chrissy or Joseph! Email or text us your picture of your activity and/or tell us what you learned from the story this week! Email: chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org or joseph.burrel@kalamazoofirstpres.org



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

THE SHEPHERDS' VISIT

F F H R P H U U B I S A N F W V L N S R
W M B S L E O S V W X Y A R P Y T X O A
O W A U Z L A V C Y E S H U A Y L S N P
B U U N Y G D C Y F R L L W F V K H O P
G E R G G A G R E B T Q L Q Z E O E F O
B M A A O E L C R U R P O C P R S E G I
F Z E P T Z R P D D I A N G E L Q P O N
U N P S Y A H W E H B A F S D G Y P D T
S R J Y S O D S N V E O X H R Y N X I E
B U W L M E X N S X O S H B S S E N Q D
F W R N J P N V M Q F V E E G N E I F T
U I X M D Y H G Q D J Q B T S F P Z H I
Y D E N Q Q X I E S U V R H J M P Q B M
T B I L D B L N V R D P E L V C O R O E
V N Q X D H B X L A A A W E J Z W C E I
I I S R A E L I T E H Z A H T J X O Q P
B I R T H S H E P H E R D E V Z E X O A
Q U T M X B V Y R A T R U M P E T S V Z
N U P M A R Y L S D E H K I G B Z S P L
N T F W V X A C A L A R K C D H O F W D

BIRTH

SHEPHERD

APPOINTED TIME

FIELD

SON OF GOD

TRIBE OF JUDAH

SHEEP

HEBREW

MESSENGER

BETHLEHEM

ISRAELITE

YAHWEH

MANGER

MARY

PEACE

TRUMPETS

ANGEL

YESHUA



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worksheets, quizzes and more visit our website at:
www.biblepathwayadventures.com

