

SHEPHERDS & ANGELS

Faith Quest - St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

BIBLE BYTES

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20

Memory verse: Luke 2: 15 “When the angels had left them...the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Preparation:

1. Review the Background notes.
2. Read the Scripture from Luke 2: 8-20, and reflect on the key themes. Consider the message that you would hope that the children would take away with them.
3. Consider ways to adapt the workshop depending on the age group of the participants.
4. If possible, try to review software in advance to assist the “explorers” in working through the story and exploration. (“The Amazing Expedition Bible” and “Bibleland.Com”, as well as “The Play and Learn Children’s Bible CD” are recommended.)

LESSON:

Welcome & Introduction:

1. Welcome the “explorers” to the Oasis and introduce yourself. Do attendance, collect the offering and pray together.

Scripture:

1. Read the scripture lesson from Luke 2: 8-20. (You may like to have some of the older children take turns reading the verses, as some seem to enjoy this.)
2. Review the verses Luke 2: 10-11 and have the children repeat them with you. Ask them what these verses mean to them. If they have trouble, you can share your own thoughts.
3. Tell the children that they will now hear the story again, but presented in a little different way through a computer program.
4. Move to Bible Bytes area and encourage the children to share the keyboard and mouse with fellow “explorers” at their computer station. With growing class sizes, this is very important.

For older students: “The Amazing Expedition Bible” and “Bibleland.Com” CDs

1. Insert CD, and hit Run.
2. Tell the “explorers” that this software will allow us to “explore” the story in a little different way.
3. Have them click on “Stories” on the main menu.

4. Click on the red arrow (timeline) and find the title “Wise Men Worship Jesus” (this is actually a label error and is the story of the shepherds”).
5. Tell them that all the stories and dates prior to this story, are about the people and events leading up to the birth of Jesus.
6. Again, this story can be “told” by the computer, or read by the children. You can ask them which they would prefer to do. If they want the computer to tell the story, click on the “Read” button. Otherwise, you just advance the story with the forward arrow.
7. Tell them that we hear this story every year. The text says “It was a night to be remembered and celebrated from that time on.” Ask them why this baby was so special? What does the birth of Jesus mean to them?
8. You can let them “explore” the different parts of this software associated with the Shepherds Story. Have them click on the various buttons on the left side of the screen. Ask them to see what they can find out about things like a shepherd’s life, job, etc. Also, the ‘Question Mark’, shares an important point. Ask them to find out how many times the phrase “Do not fear” is in the Bible. The Question Mark text says that this appears in the Bible 365 times. We need to remember every day, that we should not be afraid. God will take care of us.
9. If time permits, they can also go into “Bibleland.Com”. Go into the Bibleland Video section. Move arrow down to “Mary, the mother of Jesus” link. Click on the shepherd’s and Bethlehem links. Ask them to see what else they can find out about the shepherds and who they were. The back arrow will get you back to the home page.
10. Tell them that the shepherds told us of the birth of the greatest Shepherd of all. In that time, shepherds were not seen as the most important people in society, but that night, their role was an important one. They shared the news of Jesus’ birth to the world.
11. Again, if time permits, they can continue to explore what they can on the new software.

For younger students (recommend the Play and Learn Children’s Bible CD; also “Fluffy & God’s Amazing Christmas Adventure)

1. Insert Play & Learn CD and click on “Play and Learn” icon on desktop display.
2. “Chariot Media” dialogue box will come up, and click “Run”
3. Select “Bible Stories” and then “God’s Son”
4. Then select the “Shepherds Visit Jesus” story.
5. The story will be told. After each frame the children must click on the forward arrow to advance the story. (Recommendation – when asked if you would like the computer to read the story say “No” on 2 computers. This allows for only one voice to tell the story vs. 3 not quite all in sync).
6. There are various questions during the story that you may wish to discuss as you go along. You can tell the children that Jesus is like a shepherd to us. He will always take care of us, and gives us everything we need. Ask them how they think the shepherds felt as they went to Bethlehem to witness such a special birth?
7. When the story is complete, click on the return arrow.
8. Then you can go in the “Baby Jesus” story. Again, you can discuss the questions that are asked in the story.

9. The children may then enjoy going into “The Games Room”
10. Under the ‘Puzzle Place’ section, children can click on the nativity scene(3rd row, 2nd picture on left).
11. Select Level 1, 2 or 3 (depending on age group) and select Mix. This mixes the squares for children to rearrange to form correct picture.
12. Have the children take turns and make sure they share the mouse.
13. They may also enjoy some of the other games if time permits.

Reflection:

1. Reflect on the fact that Jesus is the Good Shepherd – our guide and protector. We are all his sheep, and each one of us is special to Him.
2. Tell the children that the shepherds had a special role that Christmas. They shared the news of our Saviour’s birth. Tell them that we all need to share this news to the world. God loves each one of us, and He sent His Son to be the Saviour for all the world.
3. We should thank God every day for the wonderful gift of His son who has provided for the forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life.
4. Practice the memory verse: Luke 2:15.

Closing:

As you prepare to leave, share the following prayer:

“O God, like the shepherds, help us to see the miracle this Christmas and everyday. Help us to share the news of God’s great love for each one of us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”