

SHEPHERDS & ANGELS

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

LET THERE BE ART! Creating Angels, Shepherds & Sheep

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20

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

Objectives:

1. To find and learn the story of the shepherds and the angels in the Bible.
2. To use imagination and creativity to recreate the pastoral scene with the shepherds, angels, and sheep.
3. To learn more about the life of a shepherd and what role the angels played in the story.

Materials:

1. Bibles
2. Pre-made papier maché or styrofoam cones (different heights: these form the body for an angel/shepherd (An alternative to cones might be plastic pop bottles of different sizes. When draped with fabric these would make good “bodies”.)
3. Styrofoam balls (for heads and for sheep bodies)
4. Fabric pieces: various sizes and colors, especially browns and greys for shepherds
5. Yarn
6. Glue
7. Sequins, buttons, empty spools, etc.
8. Strong wire
9. Green felt or other fabric to use as an underlay for finished scene at display time.

LESSON:

Welcome and Introduction:

As the children enter the Oasis, greet them, introduce yourself and take time to hear them share their week etc. Take attendance & offering and pray together.

Scripture:

Begin by looking up the story of the shepherds and the angels in Luke 2:8-20. Ask someone in the group to read the story. Take a few minutes to talk about shepherds. See what they can remember from the past summer in Faith Quest (Sheep Odyssey 2010)

Use the white board to make a list like this one:

- Shepherds:
- Were not wealthy

- Worked long hard hours
- Lived in the fields with the sheep (How did they know they had not lost a sheep?)
- Spent all their time outdoors, rain or shine
- Were sometimes old and sometimes young (Can you think of any shepherd in the Bible besides these?)
- Protected their sheep from wild animals (How did they do this?)
- Made sure their sheep had enough food and water (What did the sheep eat?)

Take a few minutes to talk about the angels in this story. See if the children know who the angels are (God's messengers), if they are human, what they look like etc. Again, use the white board.

Angels in this story:

- Appeared in the heavens (sky)
- Brought good news of Christ's birth
- Said, "do not be afraid"
- Said, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors."

Read the memory verse and practice it.

Art Project:

Divide the class into three groups. Explain to them that they will be recreating the pasture scene. The scene will require three main sets of characters. Shepherds, angels, and (of course) sheep! Each group will decorate pre-made paper maché or styrofoam cones (the Workshop Coordinator will need to have these made in advance in order to ensure they are dry for Sunday morning.)

Think about different shapes and sizes for the different characters to create the appropriate characters for the story (ask each group to choose one character to begin with, adding another if time allows). Encourage creativity.

Use Styrofoam balls for heads, sequins, buttons, & yarn for eyes, nose and mouth, fabric for robes and wings, wire or pipe cleaners for arms and (sheep) legs, and cotton balls and yarn for sheep hair.

(This pastoral scene can be displayed somewhere in the church or Faith Quest area for the remainder of Advent & Christmas.)

Wrap-up:

Allow time for clean up.

Reflection & Closing:

Return to the Oasis to reflect on what they learnt today. Talk about the significance of the glorious angel-messengers and the humble shepherds in the life of Jesus.

Go over the memory verse one more time (unless this is the prize day!) and close with prayer. Thank God for the shepherds who **listened** to God's message and **acted** on it. Thank Him for sending angels to bring that message so that we too know of Jesus.