

Christmas - A Surprise Visitor

Passage: Luke 2.8-20

Theme: Christian believe that Jesus came for everyone

Resources : Memory stick with song words and music; CD with music on; Laptop (check cable); Projector (check 2 cables); Extension lead; Schools team t-shirts (3 spare); Spare scripts.

Tinsel halo; 2 Shepherds costumes; 2 sheep; Campfire; Rug.

Person 1 - Introduction, Shepherd 2, Questions

Person 2 - Shepherd 1, Prayer

Person 3 - Angel, Talk

Introduction:

Hello everyone, we are so pleased to be back with you again! Hello everyone, we are so pleased to be back with you again! We are _____ (*insert church/organisation name*), I am _____, and this is _____ (*introduce rest of the team*).

I wonder who would be the person you would tell if you had some REALLY exciting, special news? Imagine if your favourite football player turned up at your front door and asked you if you wanted to join them for a kickabout, or if you had been bought a dog for your birthday, or maybe your parents have just told you that you are going on a big holiday to Disney Land. I wonder who you would tell first? Turn to the person next to you and ask them who they would tell. (*Wait a few moments*). Great, why

don't you put your hand up and tell me who you would tell? *(Ask a few children to share)*).

If I had some GREAT exciting news to tell I think I would tell my best friend and then my mum and dad. Well, in our story from the Bible today God has some really exciting news to tell. We meet two shepherds who are out on the hillside outside Bethlehem, watching over their sheep...

Story/Drama:

(Shepherd's are huddled round fire trying to keep warm)

Shepherd 1: Have we got all of them?

Shepherd 2: Ummmmm 1...2....miss a few... ninety-nine....one hundred! Yep they're all there

Shepherd 1: Great, *(Sits down by fire)* Brrrrrrr, it's cold tonight

Shepherd 2: Ohhh it is.

Shepherd 1: Here, what do you call a sheep with no legs?

Shepherd 2: Ummmmmm....

Shepherd 1: A cloud!!! Hahahaha

Shepherd 2: *(Looks confused.)*

Shepherd 1: Do you get it, do you get it?

Shepherd 2: Yes but it's not funny.....and don't tell another one, I can't stand another whole evening of your jokes!

Shepherd 1: *(Looks begrudged)* Fine, what are we going to do to pass the evening then? Nothing exciting ever happens to us...

(Big spot light comes on, Angel jumps on, with battery powered fairy lights flashing)

Shepherds: AHHHHHHHHH, *(Jump up and try to hide)*

Angel: Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy!

Shepherd 2: Whhhaaat?

Angel: Today in Bethlehem, a baby has been born. He is Jesus, God's promised rescuer. You will find a baby lying in a manger. Glory to God!

(Angel exits)

Shepherd 1: Wooooooh what was that? Some peculiar weather we're having tonight!

Shepherd 2: It wasn't odd weather you silly thing! Did you not listen? That was an ANGEL! A messenger from God!!!

Shepherd 1: Yes, but why did he tell us? Nobody tells us anything, maybe he got the wrong hillside?

Shepherd 2: Who cares we've been told now, this is the promised rescuer the world has been waiting for.....*(picking up sheep)* come on, what you waiting for? Let's go and find him.

Shepherd 1: Oh, what do you call a sheep covered with chocolate?

Shepherd 2: We're going...

[Shepherd 1 runs off to the left, shepherd 2 runs off to the right. Shepherd 1 then reappears on stage and runs off to the right.]

CHRIST CHURCH
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Schools
team

Talk:

In our story from the Bible today we meet two shepherds who are watching their sheep on a hillside outside Bethlehem. You might think that shepherds would not be very important, they slept out in the field, might have been a bit smelly. But in the story we've just heard, the shepherds hear some very important news.

Now the moment that the world has been waiting centuries for, is finally here. God has been waiting for years and years and FINALLY his son Jesus is to be born - part of God's plan to rescue the world. God wants to send a big choir of angels to tell the news. -But who will God send his big choir of angels to? Maybe the White House, Buckingham Palace, or the Prime Minister Boris Johnson. But No!

God sends his big choir of angels... in the middle of the night...to [Pause] a dark hillside...to some shepherds.... who you might think are not very important! And the shepherds are terrified; they don't know what to do. I think I would be pretty scared if a choir of angels suddenly turned up in the sky. The angels tell the shepherds the good news that Jesus has been born. The shepherds are very confused, but they know that they have to find this baby and see him for themselves. So they stamp out their fire, race down the hill, through the gates of Bethlehem, down the narrow streets, down some steps, past an inn, round a corner UNTIL at last they reach a stable. And there, inside, they find the baby Jesus.

Christians believe that Jesus came for everyone, and that includes the shepherds who were out on the dark hillside. God chose the shepherds to be the first to know, they didn't know why they were chosen, but they went to see Jesus with their own eyes.

Christians believe that Jesus came for everyone. Maybe you think you're not important. Maybe other people tell you that "you're not cool". Well, Christians

believe that Jesus came for everyone, including you. [Pause] But, maybe you think you're pretty important... we can remember that Christians believe that Jesus came for everyone.

So maybe this Christmas when you are opening your presents, or tucking into your Christmas dinner, maybe you can remember this story from the Bible and remember that Christians believe that Jesus came for everyone.



Song: Now that Christmas is Here!

[Introduce actions and get children stood up ready to join in]

Questions:

I'm going to ask you all some questions so you can show me how well you've been listening.

1. What came to tell the shepherds the good news? (*Angel*)
2. What was the good news the angel shared? (*Jesus had been born in Bethlehem*)
3. What have we learnt about what Christians believe? (*Christians believe that Jesus came for everyone*)

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Prayer:

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. So, if you would like to close your eyes so you aren't distracted and if you agree with what I say, you can join in with "Amen" at the end.

Dear God, thank you so much for _____ (*insert school name*). Thank you that we have learnt from this story, that Christians believe that Jesus came for everyone. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

Close:

Thank you for having us today. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and we'll see you again in the New Year.