

28.07 Shepherds Worship Baby Jesus (Luke 2:8–20)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Strips of white cotton fabric for swaddling a baby doll
- A baby doll

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *swaddling cloths*: strips of fabric that “swaddled” (held snugly) a baby [Teacher, you might demonstrate with a baby doll.]
- *manger*: the box in which animals’ hay was placed
- *to ponder*: to think on repeatedly

Scripture: (ESV)

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Introduction/Review:

God used an emperor in faraway Rome [locate on a map] to get Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem [locate on a map], where, Scripture said, the promised Messiah was to be born. There in an area for animals Jesus, the Saviour, was born.

Story:

In the fields near Bethlehem, shepherds were taking care of their flocks of sheep at night. Bible commentators tell us that ✓“the flocks pastured constantly in the open fields, the shepherds lodging there all that time” from April to autumn* (Jamieson Faussett and Brown in Online Bible).

Announcement to shepherds

No doubt they were not prepared for what happened in those quiet fields, for an angel appeared to them accompanied by “the glory of the Lord” shining around them. What a scene! It was scary, and these men were “filled with great fear.” I can’t imagine what “the glory of the Lord” must have looked like. ✓Was there a soft buzzing sound? Certainly, there was bright light. Did it flash or flicker, or was it a steady glow? We

can only speculate and sympathize with the fear-filled shepherds.

In the presence of an angel, Mary had been fearful; Joseph, too, had been fearful. Now these shepherds were fearful in the presence of this angel. But, as in the other cases, the angel allayed their fears by saying, “Fear not.” In those other appearances a marvelous message followed the initial meeting and fear. This time the angel’s message was, “I bring you good news of *great joy* that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”

Let’s dissect this message.

First, “Unto you.” Unto whom? Shepherds. Not nobles but common folk. “For all the people.” ✓Unto those who believe in our day. Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given. That’s what Isaiah had prophesied hundreds of years before (Isaiah 9:6).

“A Saviour who is Christ the Lord.” What is a Saviour? It is someone who rescues others. A lifeguard is a saviour if he rescues someone from drowning. But no human can rescue a person from his or her sins. Only God can do that. The shepherds didn’t know it yet, but the Baby’s name was Jesus, and *Jesus* means saviour.

To further emphasize that Jesus is God Himself, listen to the rest of this Baby’s title: Christ the Lord. *Christ* in New Testament Greek means “anointed one,” the word used in the Old Testament (Psalm 45:7; Isaiah 61:1; Daniel 9:25, 26) for the *Messiah*** (Hebrew *mashiyach*). “The Lord.” Jesus is Lord—Ruler over all.

This was a high and holy day in human history. Jesus Christ, God the Son Himself, became a human in order to grow up and save those who would believe on Him. “The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour” (1 John 4:14).

If the shepherds wanted to see this Child, how would they know they had found Him? The angel gave the answer—a sign, an “ID.” He said, “This shall be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths.” That wasn’t so unusual, but the next sign was: “lying in a manger.”

At this point, suddenly there was more “glory of God”—a huge number of angels praising God by pronouncing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth let there be peace among those who please God.” Then the angels went back to heaven, and the shepherds were left in wonder and astonishment. ✓When they had gathered their wits, they said to each other, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has shown us.”

Going to Bethlehem

So they hurried to Bethlehem and searched for places where animals (and mangers) were kept.

✓“Here’s a stable! No baby there. Here’s another. No baby. You look on that side of the street, and we will look on this side. Hurry! . . . Oh! Here He is! The baby wrapped in swaddling cloths lying in a manger!”

Listen to what they might have said to Mary and Joseph as they entered the stable. ✓“Excuse us for barging in here, but please understand why we are here. An angel—a multitude of angels, really—appeared to us and said this Baby is the Saviour, Christ the Lord come to earth. The angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!?” The angel said we could find Him in a manger, and here He is! Our Saviour, Christ the Lord!”

At the appropriate time the shepherds left that stable, but they didn’t do it quietly. They went about telling others what had happened to them. They praised God for all they had heard and seen. All who heard them were filled with amazement and wondered, ✓“Is this the Messiah for whom we have waited for centuries? Surely, no other baby has come into the world to be announced by angels!”

What about Mary? How did she respond to all this commotion and excitement? The Bible states she “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

*“From this it seems plain that the period of the year usually assigned to our Lord’s birth is too late” (Jamieson Faussett and Brown in Online Bible).

**In the Old Testament a Deliverer is promised under the title of Messiah, or Anointed, (Psalm 2:2; Daniel 9:25, 26) and the nature of his anointing is described to be spiritual, with the Holy Ghost (Isaiah 61:1; see Luke 4:18). In the New Testament Jesus of Nazareth is shown to be the Messiah, or Christ or Anointed, of the Old Testament, (John 1:41; Acts 9:22; 17:2, 3; 18:4, 28) and the historical fact of his being anointed with the Holy Ghost is asserted and recorded. (John 1:32, 33; Acts 4:27; 10:38) Christ was anointed as prophet priest and king (<https://biblehub.com/topical/a/anointing.htm>).

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God: Angels announced His birth and identified Him as *Saviour*, *Christ*, and *Lord*.
- Praise God and tell others, as the angels and shepherds did, that “God sent His Son to be the Saviour.”

Activities:

- Play dough: manger, sheep, angels, baby
- For younger students, show picture found below of animals in the stable. Have students make sounds of the animals.
- Play “Find Baby Jesus.” Hide a picture or small creche figure of Jesus and have students find it.
- Play the “board” game, “Race to Bethlehem” found below. You will need a coin and buttons for markers (copied from a Christmas booklet).
- Have students swaddle a baby doll with strips of white cotton cloth.
- Read “One Night Long, Long Ago” (Accent Publications, K2A, Lesson 3).
- Have students put into proper sequence the events as pictured below: travel to Bethlehem, Jesus’ birth, angels’ appearing to shepherds, shepherds at the manger.
- Play “Memory.” Print two copies of the above sequence pictures. Lay them, picture-down, on a table. Students take turns, revealing two pictures at a time in the attempt to find a pair. (I don’t usually give an extra turn for finding a pair.)
- Print and prepare take-home booklets for this story. The online source for ordering or downloading for \$12.99 is <https://www.carsondellosa.com/products/0499--New-Testament-Take-Home-Bible-Stories-Resource-Book-0499#/?book%20media%20type=f389e45b92884d48844baaf09d49e3c5>. The book is less expensive at other sites, but those sites do not offer the ebook.
- Review questions: (Game: Use the above sequence pictures. If a student answers a question correctly, [s]he may place a picture in a pocket chart. Or, a student may place a flannelgraph figure on the flannel board to complete the manger scene.)
 1. In what town was Jesus born? [Bethlehem.]
 2. Who were watching their animals near Bethlehem? [Shepherds.]
 3. How did the shepherds respond when the angel appeared to them? [They were afraid.]
 4. Tell three things the angel said. [“Fear not; I bring good news; a baby is born to you; in the city of David; a Saviour; Christ the Lord; wrapped in swaddling cloths; lying in a manger.”]
 5. What happened after the angel gave his message? [A multitude of angels appeared.]
 6. What did the multitude of angels say? [“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men with whom God is pleased.”]
 7. What did the shepherds do then? [Hurried to find Jesus.]
 8. What did they do after finding Jesus? [Told what happened to them to others.]
 9. How did Mary respond to the story of the shepherds? [Treasured and pondered these things in her

heart.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- 1 John 4:14—"The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour."
- John 1:1-14:
 - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
 - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
 - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
 - 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
 - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
 - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
 - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Handwork:

- Print and cut apart the sequence pictures below. Students may color and then assemble the pictures to form a small book. Staple.

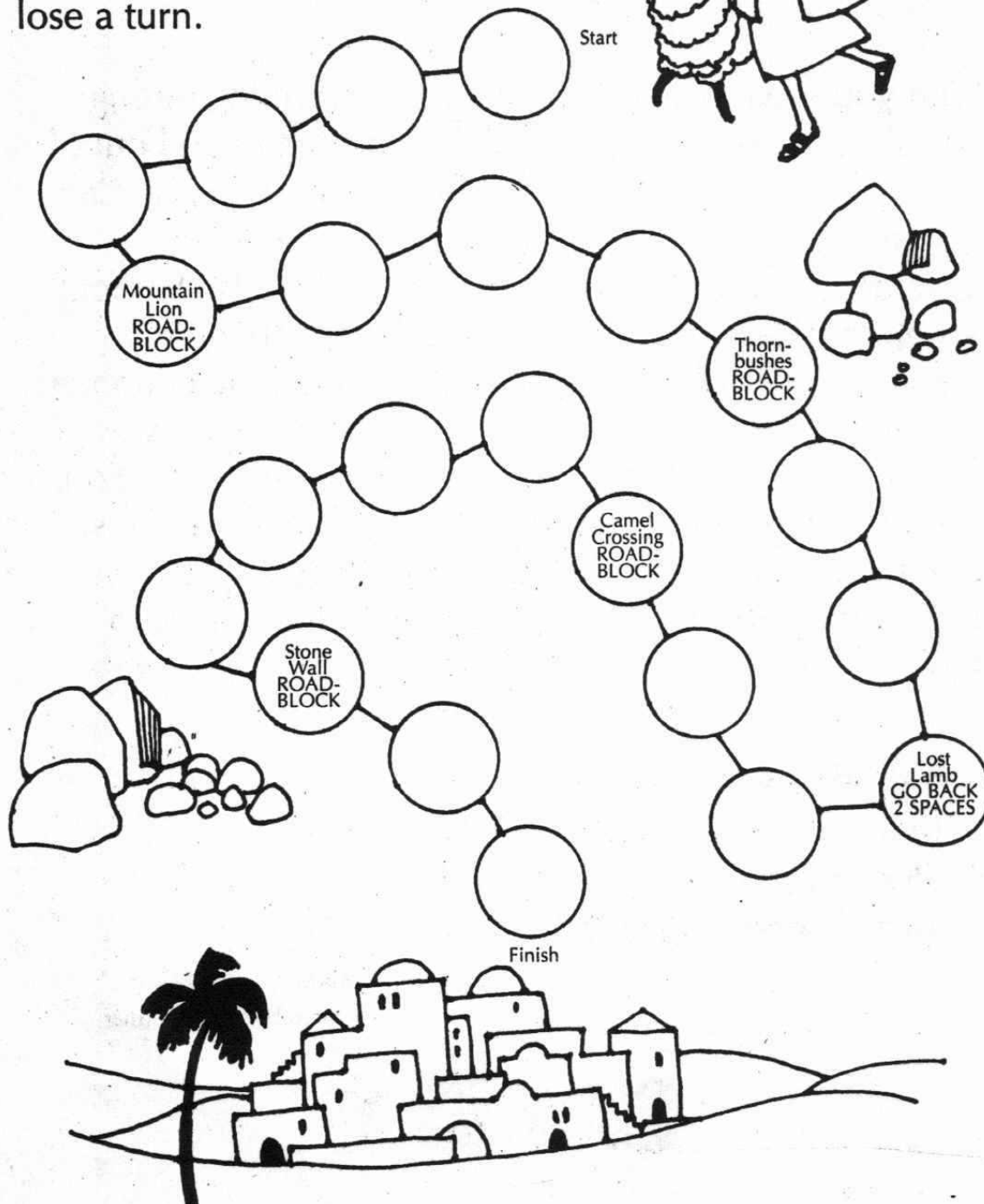
swaddling cloths

manger

to ponder:

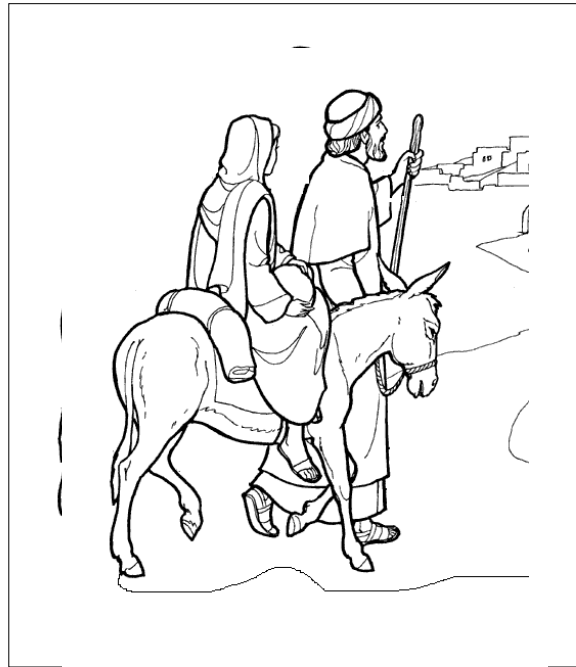
Race to Bethlehem

Use buttons as markers and flip a nickel to race to the Bethlehem manger. Heads you move one space, tails, two spaces. If you land on a roadblock, you lose a turn.





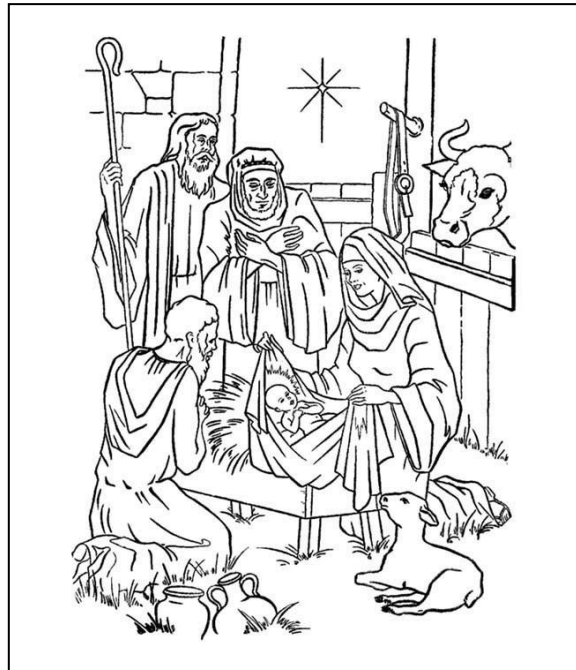
<https://www.flipotv.info/mary-and-jesus-clipart.html>



<http://www.getcoloringpages.com/coloring/23693>



<https://ficardo-weddings.com/coloring/christmas-shepherds-coloring-pages.html>



<https://clipartxtras.com/categories/view/3c8a33bfedddccc33aff3409bf37bcbal679d43ae/bethlehem-iesus-drawing.html>

Sequence pictures for game, review questions, and handwork







