



# 3PK

December 8-9, 2012

DATE

Shepherds Watch

LESSON TITLE

Luke 2:8-20

WHERE TO FIND IT

Shepherds ran to worship Jesus

MAIN POINT

## schedule

### **SCHEDULE for all sites:**

First 10 minutes of the service hour:  
Relationship-building time (kids get to know each other and the volunteers)

Next 25 minutes: Large group teaching and worship

Last 30 minutes: Story review, snack and small groups, activities/crafts

If you finish early, have kids engage group games as parents arrive. Check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

## tips

Before going into large group, remind your class what HOPS the Kangaroo says:

- Have Fun
- Obey your leaders
- Put your listening ears on
- Share with others

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why they are wearing a bright, smiley face wristband.

## large group heads up

Today, large group lays the foundation of the story: The shepherds ran to worship Jesus. Expand upon that foundation in small group: They *RAN because they were EXCITED to worship Jesus*. Running and excitement are an action and emotion to which 3 and 4-year-olds can relate.



## instructions

**Goal:** To give kids tools to remember that the shepherds *ran* because they were *excited* to worship Jesus.

**Why?** By relating to the story, kids may want to try to act like the shepherds. Even if kids are too young to truly personalize it, they'll hopefully act it out and share the story at home.

**Tip:** Make today's lesson really *fun*! Emphasize the excitement the shepherds had in running to worship Jesus.

## QUESTIONS

Lead the kids to RETELL the story:

1. Who announced that Jesus had been born? (angels)
2. Who were the first people to know about Jesus? (the shepherds)
3. What did the angels say to the shepherds? (Glory to God!)
4. What did the shepherds do when they found out Jesus had been born? (they went running to worship him)
5. Why were they so excited? (Jesus was the RESCUER they had been waiting for!)
6. Who did the shepherds tell about Jesus? (Everybody they saw!)

Lead the kids to RELATE to the story:

\*Would you have run to find Jesus like the shepherds?

\*Do you think YOU can tell all your friends and family that Jesus is the rescuer?

## ACTIVITY

**SAY:** Today, we talked about how the shepherds RAN because they were excited to worship Jesus the Rescuer. Each of you will get a **smiley wristband** to help you run, so you can act this story out at home. *Show* your families how the shepherds ran (run in place) because they were so EXCITED (point to smiley and look excited) to worship Jesus!

(Hand each kid a wristband.) Now, everybody stand up. If we're going to run, we have to get ready. Let's do some stretches. (Lead the kids in touching their toes, reaching for the sky, twisting, etc.)

Now let's get our heart pumping. Ready? (Lead the kids in jumping jacks, leg lunges, marching in place, etc.)

Alright, who's ready to run? Let's practice telling this story: "The shepherds RAN (model) because they were so EXCITED (point to smiley) to worship Jesus!"

*\*Practice this a few times with the kids.*

## QUESTIONS

A large, empty white rectangular area intended for writing questions.

## ACTIVITY

*\*Extra time? Try out this game to keep kids engaged until their parents arrive:*

### **Crazy Parade** (OPTIONAL IF TIME PERMITS)

Walk around the room in a variety of ways:

- with your new wristband in the air
- on your heels
- on your toes
- forward
- backwards
- quickly
- slowly
- left
- right
- standing tall
- bent over
- arms in front
- arms behind
- hands on head
- hands on toes
- with a partner
- in a curved line
- etc!

You can lead or choose kids to be leaders. To mix things up, add music.



# LARGE group



## special notes

Wear a wristband on your arm for today's lesson. The kids will get one in small group, and hopefully they'll notice yours and get really excited when they get their own. It may be an added incentive to act the story out at home for their families.

## presenter tips

Make sure you use lots of eye contact and muster as much energy as possible as you present. Kids love it when you act silly and over-the-top, so go for it. They'll love it and it will help the lesson to stick.

## script

*\*As kids sit down, talk to them about Christmas tree coloring page. Remind them that Christmas is when we celebrate how Jesus the rescuer was born. It's a way to help them connect large group and small group, and keep kids engaged while waiting for everyone to sit down and get ready to listen.*

**Presenter:** Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend HOPS. She's going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make today Kids' Club.

**Video: HOPS 2 Obey Your Leaders** (approx. 1 minute--provided)

**Presenter:** (holding up the **Bible** for kids to see) This is God's story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. This is God's story—it's God's Rescue plan.

### REVIEW

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? It was perfect and beautiful. And God wanted us to live there as his family forever. But then something bad happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sadness and death came into the world. Show me your sad face (pause for kids to make their sad faces). Things kept getting worse and worse.

But God planned a GREAT RESCUE so that we could all be a part of his family. He sent his son Jesus to be born to Mary so he could rescue us. Then, Mary and Joseph had to travel a *long* way to Bethlehem. Once they got there, Jesus was born! (Show **picture of Jesus in manger**.) And remember, Jesus was born outside with loud, stinky animals. He had to sleep in an itchy food bowl (motion to **manger with hay**).

### INTRO: JESUS IS THE RESCUER

Now, even though this rescuer didn't get a fancy birth, he was still the special baby sent from God. And God wanted us to know for *sure* that Jesus was the rescuer. So lots of crazy things happened around Jesus' birth. One crazy thing that happened is that ANGELS announced the Jesus was born. As you watch, try to figure out WHO the angels told about Jesus.





## script continued

**Video: God's Story\_Christmas** (approx. 4 minutes)

### **SHEPHERDS HEAR THE NEWS**

Wow, Jesus really IS the rescuer, isn't he?! And who did the angels tell about Jesus right after he was born? (Show **picture of the shepherds laying in the field** and let kids respond) Yes, shepherds! These shepherds were living in a field because their job was to babysit sheep (hold the **stuffed sheep**).

So they were just sitting in a field...when ALL OF A SUDDEN (show **picture of the angel appearing**), a whole huge glowing cloud of angels appeared! They sang (say the next part loudly into your microphone): "GLORY TO GOD!" They were thanking God for sending the rescuer.

### **THE SHEPHERDS RAN TO SEE JESUS**

Well, when the angels appeared and said, "Glory to God!" the shepherds *knew* the rescuer was here. And guess what they did? The Bible says they RAN to worship Jesus.

So everybody stand up. Let's pretend we're the shepherds. When I say "Glory to God!" like the angels, let's all run in place...as FAST we can. Ready? "GLORY TO GOD!" (model; let kids respond) Great job!

Let's do it again. But this time, as you run, say, "The shepherds RAN to worship Jesus!" Ready? "GLORY TO GOD!" (Model; let the kids respond.) "The shepherds RAN to worship Jesus!" You guys are good runners. Let's do it one more time, and see if we can go even *faster*. Ready? "GLORY TO GOD!" (Model; let the kids respond.) "The shepherds RAN to worship Jesus!" Great job!

### **THE SHEPHERDS WORSHIPPED JESUS**

(Show **picture of shepherds with Mary and Joseph**) Wow, these shepherds were SO excited to see Jesus. And when they got to baby Jesus, they saw him (motion to the **manger with the baby in it** and kneel down next to it) and worshiped him. Let's pretend we're the shepherds and sit down in front of the manger too. (Let kids sit.)

How do you think the shepherds felt getting to be the FIRST ones to see Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they were SO excited, guess what they did? They told EVERYBODY the rescuer was here!

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus! (Pray, breaking your prayer into smaller, repeatable parts.)

Pray: Hi God! Thanks for sending the rescuer! Thanks that the shepherds went running to Jesus! We love you. Aaaaaaaa-men!

We celebrate that Jesus was born too—every year at Christmas. So let's sing Jesus Happy Birthday!

**Song:** *Happy Birthday (sung to Jesus)*

**Song:** *King of the Jungle*

**Music Video:** *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop--like Hops--to their groups.)



**script continued**

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

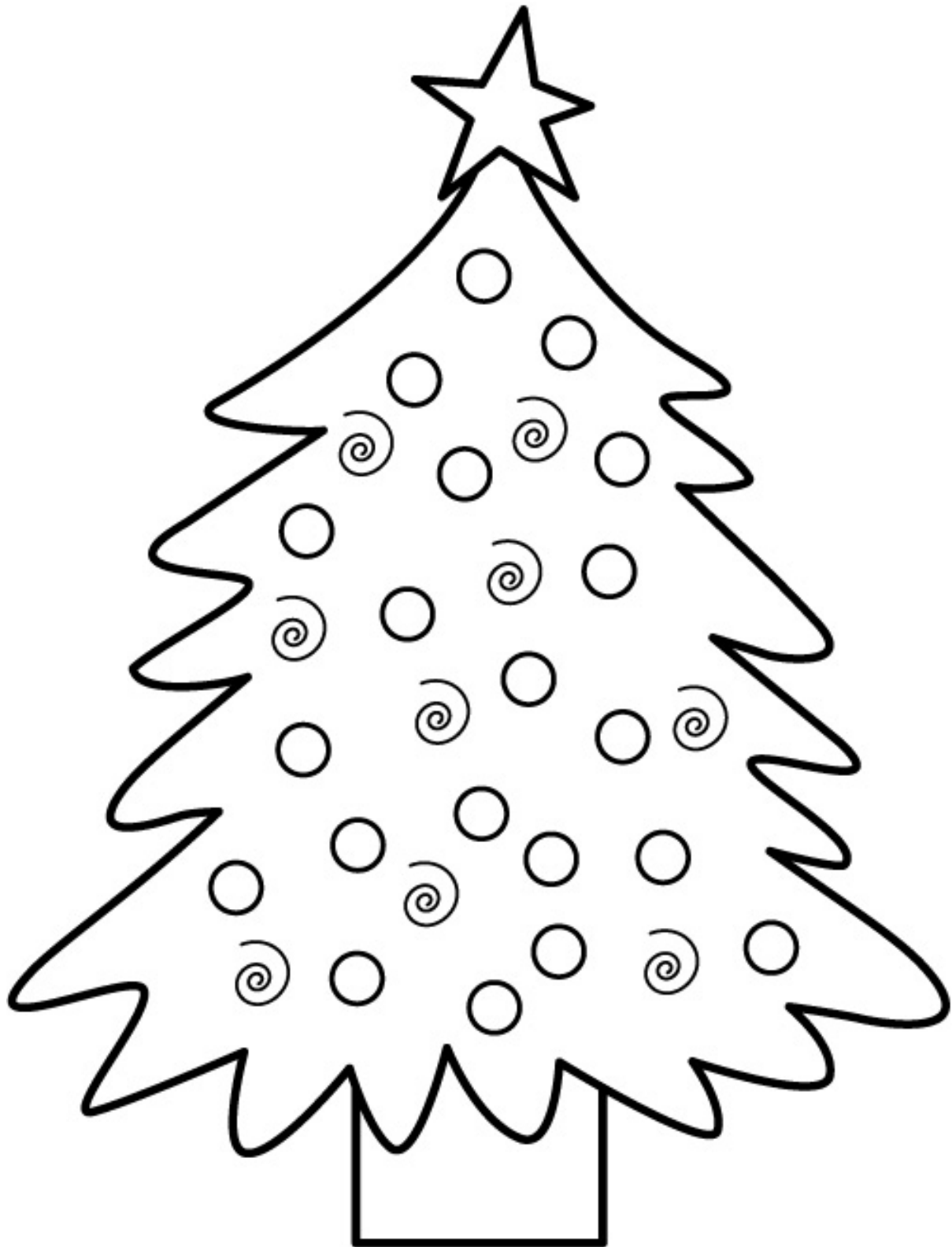


**script continued**

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



name



# PREP needs



---

## small group supplies

- Coloring pages: Christmas Tree
- 1 smiley face wristband per kid: (OT: IN-24/1382)

---

## large group supplies

- Baby doll wrapped in a white blanket (ideally, with darker skin)
- Rectangular basket (or something similar) filled with hay (represents the manger)
- 1 or 2 stuffed sheep

---

## a/v needs

1. Video: HOPS 2 – Obey Your Leaders
2. Image from the Jesus Storybook Bible—pg. 183 (Jesus in a manger)
3. Video: God's Story: Christmas
4. The following images from the Jesus Storybook Bible
  - a. Pg. 187 (shepherds laying in a field)
  - b. Pg. 189 (Angels appearing)
  - c. Pg. 191 (Shepherds with Jesus)
5. Song: Happy Birthday
6. Song: King of the Jungle
7. Music Video: We Wish You a Merry Christmas (<http://www.jellytelly.com/video/we-wish-you-a-merry-christmas-sing-along/?utm=search>)

---

## special room set-up

---

## connect questions

Tell me about the shepherds who visited Jesus.  
Why did the shepherds RUN to worship Jesus?

---

## parent page

Today's story is about how the angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds. The shepherds were so *excited* to see the rescuer that they RAN to worship him. Your child took home a wristband to help him or her act the story out at home. Ask them about it. You can also read it together in Luke 2:8-20 in the Bible.