

WATCH this week's Bible Story Video on our website:
www.goodshepherdholmen.org/childrens-ministry

READ this week's story: [The Story Bible page 283](#)

In our lesson this week we'll see how the shepherds showed their joy at Jesus' birth. Let's also think about how we show joy and celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, keeping in mind that Jesus is the BEST Christmas present ever!!

The angel Gabriel had told Mary and Joseph that she was going to be the mother of a very special baby. This baby was the Son of God and was to be named Jesus. While Mary was pregnant, she and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted as part of a census ordered by Caesar Augustus. While in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph found shelter in a stable where she gave birth to Jesus. Although this baby Jesus had a lowly birth in a stable, being wrapped in strips of cloth and laid in a manger where the animals feed, this was no ordinary baby! Jesus was the Savior that God had promised to Adam and Eve, and to all people. His birth was so special that angels announced his birth to shepherds. At first the shepherds were frightened, but then the angel said they were bringing "good news", this news of the birth of our Savior is the best news ever and it filled the shepherds with joy and they could not wait to go see this baby born as their Savior. They found Jesus and they worshipped him. But they did not stop feeling joy, in fact they shared their joy by telling others about Jesus our Savior, so others could also share in that joy!!

The shepherds showed their joy by looking for their Savior, praising God for this amazing gift and telling others about Jesus. As we are preparing to celebrate Christmas, let's remember where our joy comes from... the birth of our Savior Jesus is the reason for our Christmas joy too! We can show our joy by studying what God's word says about Jesus, by telling others about Jesus and by praising God for saving us through Jesus!

Activity: On a piece of paper write the following verse: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". If there is room on your paper, also draw a picture of the stable with Mary and Joseph and Jesus OR a picture of baby Jesus in a manger. Then using some Christmas gift wrap, wrap your picture as a gift. If you have a gift tag, put your name in the "To" section so that the gift is for you. In the "From" section on the tag, write God - as this gift of Jesus is from God! When you are opening your Christmas gifts, take a moment to open this special gift you created as a reminder that Jesus is truly the best gift ever - because through him we have forgiveness of sins and a home in heaven!

Worksheet: Complete the "Give God the Glory" worksheet.

Answers: **Part 1:** 1. King David, 2. Bethlehem, 3. stable, 4. manger, 5. strips of cloth, 6. shepherds, 7. angels, 8. everyone **Your Christmas Message is:** Glory to God in the highest!

Part 2: Where can you go to find your Savior? --- the Bible, **How can you praise God?** --- sing joyful songs to God, **Whom can you tell about Jesus?** --- everyone you know

I pray that you have a very Merry Christmas and that you feel the same joy the shepherds experienced knowing that Jesus was born to save us from our sins and give us eternal life in heaven!

Want to share your artwork with us?

Email a picture of your Sunday School craft to office@gsholmen.org

*We will be showing pictures sent to us on the Church Screens during announcements