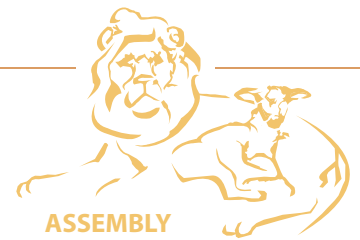


THE BIRTH OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 2:4-20



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

THE ANGELS SCARE THE SHEPHERDS

Have the children memorize Luke 2:14.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. (Luke 2:14)

Divide the class in half. One half of the class can be the shepherds and the other half can be the angels. A teacher should play the angel of the Lord who speaks to the shepherds. Turn out the classroom lights and have another helper be ready to turn them on again when the angels arrive. Group the angels in a corner prior to entering.

The shepherds should pretend to be shocked by the glorious light of the angels. The children who play angels should recite Luke 2:14 all together. After the angels finish, the shepherds can pretend to go to Bethlehem. Have the shepherds wave goodbye.

After you are through, trade roles and do the entire skit again.

SILENT NIGHT

Supplies

simple costumes for Mary and Joseph and a baby doll to be baby Jesus

Explain to the children that we can celebrate Christmas all year long. This is possible because we are celebrating the birth of Christ.

Gather the children together have one child play Mary and another one act as Joseph. Use a baby doll for infant Jesus. Sing the song Silent Night. Then explain to the children that though we celebrate Christmas in December, we can celebrate Jesus' birth any day of the year.

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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Though Jesus was a king, He did not come in His power but He came in humility that He might become a servant for all, dying on the cross for our sins. He gave up His glory to come to earth because He loved us. Later He would die for our sins so that we could be free from the penalty of sin. Isn't it amazing that God Himself came as a baby?

