



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

**STORY**

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! My name is [your name]. And I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible!

*Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.*

"Today's true story begins on a starry night in a field a long time ago. There were shepherds in the field taking care of sheep.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)*

"What sound does a sheep make? *(Pause.)* Yes, sheep say, 'Baa!'

"While the shepherds were taking care of their sheep, something amazing happened.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)*

"All of a sudden, an angel appeared in the sky! The shepherds were so surprised!

"Can you show me your surprised face?

*Make a surprised face.*

"Wow! You really look surprised!

"The angel spoke to the shepherds and said: 'I bring you good news that will give great joy to all people!' Good news? Great joy? All people? Wow! Let's celebrate! Do the sign for 'celebrate' with me.

*Do the ASL sign for "celebrate": hold hands in fists with index finger bent as a hook and twirl hands as if twirling cheerleading pom-poms.*

"Then the angel said: 'Jesus, God's Son, has been born! And Jesus has come to be EVERYONE'S friend forever!'

"Wow! That is good news! Because that means Jesus wants to be MY friend forever and YOUR friend forever! That IS good news worth celebrating!

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)*

"Then the whole sky filled with angels celebrating! They praised God and said: 'Glory to God in the highest!' *(Luke 2:14 ESV)*. Say that with me!"

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "'Glory to God in the highest!' 'Glory to God in the highest!'" *(Luke 2:14 ESV)*.

**LEADER:** "After the angels shared the good news, the shepherds had so much joy, they ran to see Jesus!"



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*(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)*

"Stand up and run in place like the shepherds.

*Run in place.*

"Run, run, run! Run, run, run! Run, run, run!

*Stop running.*

"Whew! You can sit back down now.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 05)*

"When the shepherds saw baby Jesus lying in the manger, the shepherds knew they needed to share the joy that Jesus gave them with EVERYONE because Jesus came to give everyone joy!

"Jesus gave the shepherds joy, and Jesus can give you joy, too, because Jesus came to give the whole world joy! THAT is the good news we are celebrating! Let's celebrate! Do the sign for 'celebrate' with me.

*Do the ASL sign for "celebrate": hold hands in fists with index finger bent as a hook and twirl hands as if twirling cheerleading pom-poms.*

"Yay! **Jesus gives me joy! Who gives you joy?"**

**CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus gives me joy!"**

**LEADER: "Who gives you joy?"**

**CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus gives me joy!"**

**LEADER: "Yay! Jesus gives me joy!" [Transition]** Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

### **PRAYER**

**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to give the world joy. Help us tell everyone the good news about Jesus, like the shepherds did, so they can have joy too. In Jesus' name. Amen."

**[Transition]** "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

*Lead small group to the first activity.*