

Dramatizing the Story of Lord's Birth

Introduction

Participants dramatize the story of the shepherds while an adult reads the story from the Word. It is an ideal activity for families and classrooms, and it does not need much preparation ahead of time. Note: Families may want to invite another family to join them for dinner or dessert followed with a short worship that includes opening the Word, the Lord's Prayer, and the dramatization.

Ideas for Dramatization

Though the narrator does most of the speaking, there are other parts that can be spoken or sung:

- The angel can read or recite his message.
- Have a host of angels (all of the adults who are present?) can give "glory to God in the highest."
- Let the shepherds should say, "Let us now go to Bethlehem..." and then hurry to see the baby Lord with Mary and Joseph.
- When the shepherds kneel beside the baby Lord, they can sing "Away in the Manger".
- When the shepherds have seen the baby Lord and go their way, they can pretend to tell everyone they can find about the wonders they have seen (but without really speaking).

The Story of the Lord's Birth in the Gospel of Luke

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds (Luke2:8-20).

Note on Props and Costuming:

- The shepherds can wear bathrobes and the angel(s) can be draped with a white sheet.
- Stuffed lambs or even white pillows can suggest the sheep.
- If you have a desk lamp or utility lamp that can have its light aimed in one direction, start the dramatization in relative darkness and then shine the light from behind the angel onto the shepherds.
- A shawl or small blanket can be worn over Mary's head and shoulders.
- A baby doll wrapped in strips of soft white cloth can be laid in a doll cradle or shallow box for a manger.
- If you are using a lamp, shine it on the baby Lord when the shepherds go to "Bethlehem."