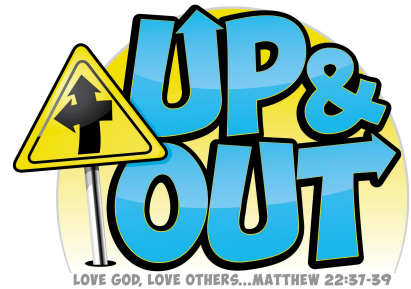


The Christmas Story

Huddle 2- *The Shepherds and the Angels*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

- Did you have a good weekend?
- Are you doing anything fun this week?
- How did you love others and God last week?

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let’s all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Who remembers what story we started learning about last week? That’s right, the Christmas story with Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus! Last week we learned that God chose Mary and Joseph to be the parents of His son Jesus. They traveled to the city of Bethlehem and Jesus was born in a stable and slept in a manger. In response to God giving them His son, Mary and Joseph loved Jesus with all of their hearts.

This week we are going to learn about the Shepherds and the Angels. Who knows what a shepherd is? *(let kids tell you what they think)* A shepherd lives in the outdoors and takes care of flocks of sheep. They feed them and protect them from big animals. Do you think this is a clean job or a dirty job? Yeah, this is a very dirty job! Shepherds lived on the outside of town and were very dirty, smelly, and poor. Everyone else in the town viewed them as outsiders and outcasts.

Who knows what an angel is? *(let kids respond)* Yes, angels are great and mighty beings that live in heaven with God. They are so great and mighty that they had to tell the shepherds not to be afraid of them when they came to talk to them. The angels were complete opposite from the lowly shepherds; yet, God sent his angels to tell the shepherds about the birth of baby Jesus. Can you

believe that? Of all of the people in the world God could have chosen to tell about the birth of our savior, he chose to tell the people no one else wanted to be around. And you know what? He has done the same thing for us. We are just like the shepherds compared to God. Our sin makes us dirty like the shepherds, yet God chose to send His son Jesus to save us and guide us back to Him. Just like the shepherds guide their sheep and protect them, Jesus does the same thing for us.

After the angels told the shepherds about the baby Jesus, a bright star showed up in the sky. The Shepherds used this star to find the place where Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were. It says in the book of Luke that the shepherds “went with haste” to see them. They did not waste any time going to see their savior. The shepherds left everything and immediately went to worship Jesus. Luke 2: 15-16 says “When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.”

Do you know what I think is one of the coolest parts of this story? Although the shepherds and the angels were so different from one another they still had the same response to the good news of God sending his Son, Jesus, to save the world. Do you know what they did? They both worshipped Him. Just like Mary and Joseph gave God their love in return for the greatest gift being given to them, the Shepherds and the Angels gave God their worship. The Bible says that after the angels told the Shepherds about Jesus they praised God together in the sky by saying “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” These great and mighty beings that live with God in heaven still chose to worship Him. The shepherds also worshipped God. They went at once to find Jesus and praise him as their Savior. Luke 2:20 says, “And the shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

If both the angels and the shepherds worshipped God, what do you think we should do? Right, we should worship God too! What are some ways that we can worship God? *(let kids respond)* Those are great ideas! We can sing to Him, thank Him for all he has done for us, tell others about Him, and many more.

Let’s pray to God thanking Him for sending us his son Jesus, and ask Him to show us ways we can worship Him this week.

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

ACTIVITY: Minute-to-Win-it Games

Stacking Snowmen

Materials:

- Mini Marshmallows (Snowballs)
- Timer

Pass out marshmallow to all of the children. They each need a pretty large handful. Start the timer. They each have one minute to stack the marshmallows into a Snowman. If they use all of their marshmallows and there is still time left, be prepared to give them more marshmallows. Whoever has the most marshmallows stacked wins!

Snowball Toss

Materials:

- Snowballs (Mini-marshmallows)
- Red or Green Plastic Cups
- Timer

Have the kids break up into pairs. If there is an odd number have one of the student leaders play. Pass out one plastic cup to each pair and also give each pair 10 marshmallows. Have the students stand 5 feet apart from each other. The first four pairs to toss all 10 marshmallows into their team member's cup wins. After this round, have each of the top four pairs take 3 large steps back. Time them for 1 minute. The team that either finishes the task first, or has the most marshmallows in their cup wins



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