

Angels: God's Messengers Cooking Workshop:

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Bible Text: Luke 2:1-20

Memory Verse: Luke 2:10-11 NRSV

¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Goals and Objectives:

At the end of the rotation, students will be able to:

- Describe an angel as a messenger of God.
- Identify who are the messengers today of God's good news.
- Know that the story of Jesus birth is found in the New Testament, and be able to find it in the Gospel of Luke.
- Know that Gospel means "Good News."
- Consider ways in which they, too, may be messengers of God's good news.
- Be able to say the Memory Verse.

Workshop Overview:

Cooking: Students will make sugar cookie cut outs of the nativity as they explore the interactions between angels, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds.

Supplies:

- Nativity Cookie Cutters
- Bibles
- Sugar Cookie Dough
- Baking Supplies

Leader Preparation:

- Read the scripture for this lesson.
- Write the memory Bible verse on the whiteboard or index cards.
- Mix sugar cookie dough ahead of time.

Opening:

Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to the cooking workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults.

[Note: The Shepherd will quietly take attendance, etc. while you are starting your lesson.]

Say: Let's begin with prayer. Ask for any prayer requests. Ask if anyone would like to lead the group in prayer. Be prepared to say a prayer yourself, working in prayer requests. A suggestion: "Dear Lord, thank you for making sure that we all know the good news of your son Jesus. Thank you for the angels' message to all people who would listen. As we learn more about Jesus, help us to have open minds, hearts, and ears. May we never be afraid to share the good news with others. Amen."

Dig In:

Put the nativity cookies cutters in the center of the table, or if there are enough, let each child have one cutter. Ask them what the shape they have reminds them of? Can they tell the Christmas story using the cutters?

Explain that you will be rolling out and baking the cookies and then talking more as they bake.

Roll out and bake the cookies.

While baking:

Say: Let's turn to our Bible.

Ask: Where would we find a story about the birth of Jesus? (in the NT)
In which Gospel? (Matthew and Luke tell about the story of Jesus' birth)

Say: This Rotation we are focusing on the story of Jesus' birth from the point of view of the shepherds and the angels. The shepherds and angels story is only found in the Gospel of Luke.

Distribute Adventure Bibles.

Ask: By the way, what does the word Gospel mean? (good news)
What good news does the Gospel tell us? (about the birth of Jesus – that he was sent to us to be the Messiah, or Savior, of all people)

Find Luke, chapter 2, verse 1. [Remind them of the quick way to find the New Testament: Opening the bible in middle lands you usually in psalms. Taking just the back half and finding the middle of that, gets you to the beginning of NT.]

Read or have the children take turns reading the story.

Where do students see themselves in this story?

Could we have the story of the nativity if part of it were missing? What part and how would it be different?

What part of the story do they think is the most important?

What's their favorite part?

Say: One of the features of these Bibles, are the notes that appear in them. There's a note about the stable; let's take a look at it.

Have a student read the "Life in Bible Times" about the stable.

Continue Discussion:

Ask: When the angel appeared to the shepherds, what did the angel say about Jesus?
[If necessary refer to Luke 2:11 – a Savior, Christ the Lord.]

Ask: What do you suppose it was like to be a shepherd?
Has anyone ever been camping?
Is it easy to stay clean when you are camping? (no)

Say: In Bible times shepherds were people who were looked down on. Since they lived like they were camping, they weren't always clean; they probably smelled like sheep.

Ask: Why did God choose shepherds as the first to hear about the good news of Jesus' birth?
Why do you suppose God told shepherds and not the "important" people in town?

Say: I wonder if God choose shepherds to be the first to hear the good news because they were considered lowly people. God chose to tell the shepherds first, as a sign that God's gift of his son Jesus was for everyone – those who are young and old, rich and poor, educated and not.

Have everyone find Luke, chapter 2, verse 10.

Ask a student to read verses 10 and 11. Point out that this is the memory verse for this lesson. [Refer to the white board or index cards.]

Have everyone repeat the Bible verse together.

Ask: What happened after the one angel told the shepherds about the "good news of great joy that will be for all the people?" (a multitude of angels appeared)

Say: Imagine the shepherds amazement when all of a sudden, the skies lit up and there was a great company of the heavenly hosts – a fancy way of saying a large bunch of angels – singing and praising God.

Ask: How do you think the shepherds felt? (scared and awestruck at the same time)
How would you have felt if you had been there?
What did the shepherds do next? (went to find Jesus)
[If necessary refer to Luke 2:15-16.]

Say: Good news of great joy for all the people... Back in the days of Jesus they didn't have TV's or computers or radios or even newspapers.

Ask: How do you suppose other people found out about Jesus' birth? (by people telling other people)

Say: It is certain that the shepherds shared their experience with others over the years. It is doubtful that the story would have made it into the Bible if it had never been repeated.

Ask: Where else in the story do the angels appear? (To Mary, and to Joseph.) In all of these interactions what were the angels doing? - bringing God's message to people. Angels are God's messengers.

Who are the messengers today of God's good news?

[Possible answers: friends or relatives or teachers, books, sermons, videos, etc.]

Do you suppose that you can be a messenger of God's good news?

How do you suppose this could happen?

[Possible answers: by talking to people about Jesus, by acting as Jesus taught us – loving our neighbor. If possible, share an experience from your life of a time when you were a messenger.]

Closing:

Say: This week, be watchful as the shepherds were, who viewed in amazement as the angels sang around them. Be on the look out for opportunities you have to act as a messenger of God's good news.

If you have extra time:

Using the memory verse written on the white board or index cards, have everyone read the verse. Then ask a student to erase or remove one word. Then have everyone read the verse filling in the missing word. Have students take turns erasing/removing words, each time reading the verse aloud as a group. You may consider that each time you read the verse you say it in a different way – whispering, while standing on one foot, slowly, quickly, etc.

Resources:

Faith Quest Lesson Sets at Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church. "Shepherds and Angels (Revised): Bread of Life Café. 2005. <http://www.kirkofkildaire.org/quest/FQlessons/ShepAngRe...dBreadofLifeCafe.htm> (prayer)

If you use this material, even in a modified form, please include the following reference:
Hulbert, Carol. "Shepherds And Angels: Messengers of the Covenant – Video Workshop." Dec. 2007.
Place URL where lesson found inside angle brackets<www.rotation.org>.