

UNIT TITLE: THE EMOTIONS OF CHRISTMAS

With its splendor and wonder, busyness and chaos, Christmas can be an emotional season for most of us. In this series, kids will explore the emotions that come up this time of the year, and that were experienced during the very first Christmas.

LESSON #3: A MESSAGE OF PEACE TO THE SHEPHERDS

SCRIPTURES: LUKE 2:8-20

MAIN EMPHASIS: *If I put my faith in Jesus, I can have peace that passes understanding.*

MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6 NLV (*only the underlined for younger kids)

For to us a Child will be born. To us a Son will be given. And the rule of the nations will be on His shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful, Teacher, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.

CLEARING OF DIFFICULTIES:

1. SHEPHERD: a person who herds, tends, and guards sheep.
2. ANGEL: a spiritual being believed to act as an attendant, agent, or messenger of God
3. JOSEPH: the earthly father of Jesus; came from the tribe of Judah.
4. MARY: the earthly mother of Jesus; also came from the tribe of Judah.
5. BETHLEHEM: the birthplace of Jesus; also prophesied by Micah in the Old Testament; (additional info: the place means House of Bread).
6. MANGER: refers to a trough or open box where horses and donkeys and cattle ate.
7. MESSIAH: the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Bible.
8. PEACE: relaxed, content, stable, calm; Hebrew word is “shalom” which the Jews commonly use to greet.

INTRODUCTION

Whenever we hear “good news”, sometimes it can’t be helped that we smile and asked, “What is it?” Now that Christmas is getting closer, we find happiness in thinking of what we will buy, what we wanted to have, and what or how much we might get, but these thoughts can also bring fear and disappointment if not achieved/met. But one of the real good news mentioned in the Bible is what the angels told the shepherds.

LESSON PROPER:

This is the time where Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem and there Mary gave birth to Jesus and placed Him in a manger.

Ang mga Pastol at ang mga Anghel

Doon ay may mga pastol na nasa parang at nagbabantay ng kanilang mga tupa nang gabing iyon. At tumayo sa harapan nila ang isang anghel ng Panginoon at nagliwanag sa kapaligiran nila ang kaluwalhatian ng Panginoon. Ganoon na lamang ang kanilang pagkatakot. Ngunit sinabi sa kanila ng anghel, “Huwag kayong matakot! Ako’y may dalang magandang balita para sa inyo na magdudulot ng malaking kagalakan sa lahat ng tao. Isinilang sa inyo ngayon sa bayan ni David ang Tagapagligtas, ang Cristong Panginoon. Ito ang inyong palatandaan: matatagpuan ninyo ang isang sanggol na nababalot ng lampin at nakahiga sa isang sabsaban.”

Biglang lumitaw kasama ng anghel ang isang malaking hukbo ng mga anghel sa kalangitan. Sila’y nagpupuri sa Diyos at umaawit,

“Papuri sa Diyos sa kaitaasan,
at sa lupa ay **kapayapaan** sa mga taong kinalulugdan niya!”

Nang makaalis na ang mga anghel pabalik sa langit, ang mga pastol ay nag-usap-usap, “Tayo na sa Bethlehem! Tingnan natin ang pangyayaring ito na ibinalita sa atin ng Panginoon.” Nagmamadali silang pumunta roon at natagpuan nila sina Maria at Jose, at naroon ang sanggol na nakahiga sa sabsaban. Nang makita ng mga pastol ang sanggol, isinalaysay nila ang sinabi ng anghel tungkol dito. Namangha ang lahat ng nakarinig sa sinabi ng mga pastol. Tinandaan ni Maria ang mga bagay na ito, at ito’y kanyang pinagbulay-bulayan.

Umalis ang mga pastol na nagpupuri sa Diyos at nagpapahayag ng kanyang kadakilaan dahil sa lahat ng narinig nila at nakita, ayon sa sinabi sa kanila ng anghel.

The shepherds in the Christmas story had first felt afraid when an angel appeared to them. The first thing that angel said was not to be afraid for that angel brought good news. Who doesn’t like good news? From being afraid, they felt peace in their hearts because of the announcement of the birth of the Messiah they’ve all been waiting for.

The announcement did not end there. From one angel came an army of angels who appeared and sang giving praise to God and speaking of peace on earth. I believe the shepherds were not afraid anymore when the army of angels came for all of them brought good news.

LIFE APPLICATION:

We all felt to be afraid, but that is where God comes to bring peace to us and drive fear out. The good news of a Messiah/Savior is not only for the Jews but for everyone. Jesus was born to deliver those who will put their faith in Him from sin, hell, and even fear, worry, etc.

Whether you are expecting something to get, receive, or happen this Christmas, the most important matter is that the good news of Jesus’ birth can give us peace in our hearts.

EVALUATION

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY