



# Kids Club

Elementary Leader Guide

Dec.  
Week 5  
Dec. 29, 2024

## Leader Info

This is the last of our Christmas lessons. We will look at the shepherds who were the first to visit baby Jesus. Some of the key points we will examine are:

- They were not important people in society, but they were important to God.
- They told everyone about Jesus. We should tell everyone, too.
- They brought what they had to Jesus.
- Jesus is the Great Shepherd.

## Introduction:

**SUPPLIES:** *The Shepherds Story Cards*, Nativity Set (you will use this weekly and set up a little bit each week), notecards, 8-12 toy or stuffed sheep (or cotton balls)

***Before kids arrive, hide sheep around the room. Although most of the sheep can be relatively easy to find, make sure at least one is very hard.***

Ask the kids if they remember what we studied the previous weeks. Remind them we learned about the birth of Jesus. Ask them if they remember where he was born. Talk through the people in your Nativity set so far

Talk about what a shepherd does. Explain that their job was to care for sheep, and they would spend their time in fields to protect, watch, and care for their flocks.

Remind kids that all people are important to God. Point out that while we look on the outside, God looks on the heart. Everyone needs a Savior. Whether someone works in an office or a barn or outer space, they are all the same. The shepherds at this period in history were looked down on by all of society, but God still chose them to be the first to hear of Jesus' birth.

## ***Read Story Cards 1-4***

Write down on some note cards what the shepherds did. They were afraid. They listened. They went. They hurried. They saw. They spread the news. They glorified God. Mix up the notecards, and then ask your child to help you put them in the correct order. Point out that the shepherds started out afraid, but they ended by telling others the good news and glorifying God.

Ask kids what they would do if they heard some very good news. The most important news they had ever heard. Think about ways that you would tell others the good news. Point out that the shepherds told everyone, and we should tell everyone the good news of the Gospel, too. Remind the child that other people might have been more educated, more respected, smelled better, etc., but God chose the shepherds. They, in turn, offered everything to God. God can use anyone.

## **Read Psalm 23 together.**

Point out that Jesus is the Great Shepherd. Remind the child that He loves and cares for His people. Make a list of ways that you love and care for your child. Point out ways that Jesus is the same (He provides food, water, etc.) and different (He provided the way of salvation, eternal life, etc.)

Explain that a shepherd will always care for his sheep. When one is lost, he will find it. Call the child back and tell them that his "sheep" are lost. Create a safe "pen" with a towel or blocks. Tell kids that to keep their sheep safe, they need to put all of them in the pen. Help kids count as they collect the sheep and secure them. Use this as an opportunity to explain that Jesus will always look for all His lost sheep

## **Read Luke 15:3-7.**

Point out that the shepherd will celebrate when all his sheep are safe. When the child finds the last lost sheep (with or without hints), celebrate. You may tie a special ribbon around the sheep. Point out that God and all His angels rejoice when a lost person trusts in Jesus.

For the fourth week of the nativity setup, add the shepherds and sheep. Point out that they have come to worship the newborn Jesus.

**Pray for each other:** Take prayer requests and have kids spend time praying for each other in small groups. Close in prayer and thank God that He came into the world. Ask God to help you make your heart a home for Him. Thank Jesus that He came to find lost people. Ask Him to help you trust in Him and always tell others the good news.

## **Week 3: Activities**

### **GAME: SHEEP SHUFFLE**

**SUPPLIES:** Paper plates, different colored balloons

Form two groups, and hand each person a paper plate. Explain that one group will be Shepherds, herding the balloon "sheep" into different corners of the room, sorted by color. Shepherds can use their paper plates to create wind to guide the balloon sheep. The other group will stand around the perimeter of the room, holding their own paper plates. They'll wave the plates to make wind that will move the balloon "sheep" away from where the Shepherds are herding them.

### **CRAFT: SHEPHERD**

**SUPPLIES:** [Shepherd template \(1/kid\)](#), [Shepherd instruction page \(1/campus\)](#), coloring utensils, popsicle sticks, glue

Kids will begin by coloring the shepherd template. When they are finished, they will cut out each piece, tape the shepherd in a circle, and add additional pieces (see instruction page)

Play this video while kids are working on their crafts.



**The Story of Christmas (Jesus and the Shepherds)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEpSXxL4Nn4>

