

## A Bright Night

*Luke 2:8-20*

It is dark outside and quiet in the fields around Bethlehem. Do you remember these fields? The fields where David watched his sheep and sang his songs of praise? The fields where Ruth gleaned grain long ago? Many years have passed, but these fields are still used.

Out in the dark fields tonight, we can just see some white shapes on the hillside. They are sheep which have settled down to sleep. The shepherds have gathered them for the night. They must keep watch so no wild animals can come and steal a sheep. But the night is still, and everyone is growing sleepy.

Until—suddenly—the angel of the Lord appears in the sky, and the glory of the Lord shines around them! The shepherds tremble with fear. They are wide awake now! What is this bright light?!

“Don’t be afraid,” the angel says, “for I bring you good news, news of great joy for all people. A Saviour has been born for you today in Bethlehem, a Saviour who is Christ, the Lord!”

What a joyful message! It has happened at last! The Child that many people have been waiting for is born—the Saviour! God has sent his Son down from heaven to be born as a little baby. And this baby—the Son of God—has been named Jesus.

But how will the shepherds find the baby in Bethlehem?

The angel tells them. “You will find the baby wrapped up in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Now the shepherds know where to look for the baby Jesus. He must be staying in an animal stable, because his little bed is an animal feeding trough.

Suddenly, many, many more angels appear from heaven. They fill the sky with light and fill the air with praises to God.



“Glory to God in the highest,” they say, “and peace on earth...”

At last the angels return to heaven and the shepherds look at each other. “Let’s go to Bethlehem right now,” they say, “and see this thing that the Lord has told us about.”

The shepherds leave their flocks of sheep on the hillside. Their robes flap behind them as their feet slap against the dusty road. See them hurry through the dark streets of Bethlehem toward the stable. There they pause, slow themselves, and enter the stable where animals are kept.

The shepherds see Mary and Joseph, but their eyes move on... Look! Over there, in the feeding trough, what is that bundle of white? Quietly the shepherds gather around. They look down on the newborn baby, wrapped snugly up and sleeping in a manger. They see and believe that this baby is the Son of God.

The shepherds tell Mary and Joseph about the angel and his message. They tell Mary and Joseph about the sky filled with angels singing God’s praise. Mary listens in wonder. She looks at the dirty stable...what a humble place God chose for his Son to be born. But she also looks at the shepherds’ shining eyes...what a wonderful way God used to tell of his Son’s birth—with a sky filled with angels’ voices!

At last the shepherds must leave. See them return to their sheep glorifying and praising God! They are so happy, that they tell everyone about the baby and the angel’s message.

1. Why were the shepherds in the field at night? They were watching over their \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What did the shepherds suddenly see in the sky?

3. The angel said a baby had been born. Who was this baby? Where did He come from? [John 16:28](#)

4. The shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a \_\_\_\_\_. They were happy because a Saviour had been born to wash away their sins.[\[reference\]](#) Do you also have sins that need to be washed away? Can Jesus still wash people’s sins away?

5. The angels said, “Glory to God in the highest.” We must also bring glory to God all our life long ([scripture reference](#)). How can we? (Example: when a little child is happy, she runs to her dad to show him what has made her happy. When she is scared, she runs to hide in his arms. And, always, she tries to obey him. This shows us how much she loves her daddy. This shows that he is kind and good. We can also run to God in prayer when we are scared. We can tell God about the things that make us happy, and, always, we must try to obey Him. This shows that He is kind and good. It is one way that we can bring glory to God.)