

## Angels, shepherds and good news

CHARACTERS: A, B, C (C is somewhat goofy until the end)

PROPS: A Bible and something for C to use as a “staff” and bonk the others over the head

SETTING: Anywhere

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Luke 2, Ezekiel 34, Genesis 31:38-39, John 10:11-14

A: Something about Christmas is just strange. Listen to this from Luke 2. *(reading)* There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. *(looking up)* Totally strange.

B: You mean having an angel appear and the glory of the Lord shining all around in the middle of the night?

C: That would blow my mind.

A: I’m not talking about that or the fact the shepherds were terrified.

C: Maybe they thought aliens were invading earth.

B: *(thinking C is whacked out)* No one thought angels were aliens. Especially after the angel says, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

A: Doesn’t it seem strange angels announced this to shepherds? Why not the king or the High Priest or somebody important?

B: I can understand not telling King Herod. When he found out from the wise men, he had all those babies murdered.

A: Then why not the priests and scholars?

C: I would have just hired a PR firm to make the announcement. Hit the air waves, some Facebook pages, maybe some billboards.

B: We’re talking Bethlehem 2000 years ago. No TV, radio, Facebook or billboards.

C: Ok. How about some sandwich boards on camels and a guy with a trumpet?

A: *(trying to get the conversation back on track)* Get real. God could have sent his angel to the temple in broad daylight when hundreds of people would have gotten the message.

B: Maybe he picked shepherds because so many of the big guys in the Bible had been shepherds?

C: David was a shepherd. I love that part when he says to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, *(starts acting this out as if B and A are the bear and the lion)* I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth.”

A: *(trying to avoid being bonked on the head)* Hey! Knock it off.

C: *(grabbing A)* When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. *(Bonks A)*

B: True. Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his sons were all shepherds.

A: But by Jesus day people considered shepherds to be lower class.

C: Why? They were some of the bravest guys around, facing bears, lions and wolves with just their staff and club. *(bonks A once again)*

B: Because they worked 24/7, outdoors. They missed Sabbaths and feasts. They couldn’t do all that fancy washing up so they were considered unclean.

A: These guys were probably keeping the temple flocks, the ones used in daily and weekly sacrifices.

C: So maybe God wanted them to know they'd be out of a job soon.

A: *(disgusted)* That is the craziest thing you have said so far.

B: Not really. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice so the blood of bulls and goats would no longer be needed.

A: That's right.

B: Plus Jesus called himself the good shepherd.

C: He did?

B: Read John 10, verses 11 and 12.

A: *(reading)* I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, *(C gets ready to act out the scene, rises his "staff" to bonk A)* he abandons the sheep and runs away. *(Deflated, C puts the "staff" away without bonking A)* Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

B: So I think shepherds were a good choice: Jesus is the good shepherd.

C: Other shepherds were important, like David.

A: Plus Jesus humbled himself to be a servant so it makes sense an angels might choose servants for the big announcement.

B: And these guys were men of action.

C: They were?

B: Sure. "They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. After they saw Jesus, they spread the word about him.

A: Very true. And good shepherds were known for telling the truth.

C: I thought that was George Washington who couldn't tell a lie?

B: Shepherds were responsible for reporting any lost sheep.

A: They had to pay for them out of their wages.

B: Unless they could prove an animal had killed the lamb or sheep.

C: How could they do that without taking a picture?

B: They had to carry in the dead body.

C: *(grossed out)* Gross. It was probably all bloody and torn up and stuff.

A: *(getting serious)* Yes. Kind of reminds me of Jesus being bloody and torn for my sins.

B: It is much easier for me to think about baby Jesus being born at Christmas than when he died for me.

C: *(serious for once)* Me too. But I'm glad he took away my sins.

A: I think we should do some shepherding.

C: Buy some sheep and stay outside all night? No way.

B: I think you mean we should spread the good news.

A: Yup. I'm going to think of at least three people to tell.

B: I'll see your three and raise you to four.

C: I'll beat both of you. I'm going talk to five people AND post Luke 2, verses 1-20 on my Facebook page.

A: I'll like it.

B: I'll repost it.

C: And we'll all give the glory to God

ALL: (*Reading together in unison*) Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

### Online Christmas games

#### John 1-3 challenge board

<http://www.quia.com/cb/806496.html>

#### Luke 1:26-38 cloze

<http://www.quia.com/cz/283994.html>

#### Luke 3 - Jesus' ancestors

<http://www.quia.com/cm/362544.html>

#### Luke 3: Who is who? hangman

<http://www.quia.com/hm/777402.html>

#### Mary and Elizabeth rags to riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/504005.html>

#### Matthew 1 match up

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1699581.html>

#### Matthew 1 word unscramble

<http://www.quia.com/jw/350877.html>

#### Christmas (easier) rags to riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/756186.html>

#### Christmas jumbled words from Luke

<http://www.quia.com/jw/273716.html>

#### Jesus is born battleship

<http://www.quia.com/ba/216877.html>

#### Jesus is Born Rags to Riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/388092.html>