

TELL

God Story:

The Shepherds Share the Message | Luke 2:8-2:20

Big Idea:

When we listen to God, we have a message to share.

Key Verse:

I will listen to what God the Lord says. He promises peace to his faithful people. | Psalm 85:8a (NIRV)

Leader Tips:

Take time this week to listen to God and prepare well for this lesson. Pray for your group before the kids arrive.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Talk about the best messages the kids have ever received and introduce the Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Play a crab-walking relay game in teams, then reveal the message the kids have been carrying.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Divide the kids into shepherds and angels, then act out part of today's God Story. Follow up by discussing who the kids would tell this good news to. Record their ideas on black paper for parents to see later.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **8 minutes**
Play a version of Stella Ella Ola in which the kids each say one word of the Key Verse as they clap hands.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- This is meant to be a casual conversation as the kids arrive. Move on quickly to the Intro Activity so you have adequate time for it before watching the teaching video.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
 - What's the best message someone has ever shared with you?
 - Who shared it with you?
 - How did they tell you?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **When we listen to God, we have a message to share.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Masking tape
- 3 envelopes with a message inside each that says, "God loves the whole world. That's why Jesus came to show us and tell us what God's love looks like."

Before the Activity:

- Tape a starting/finishing line on the floor at one end of your group's space.

Instructions:

- Divide the kids into three teams.
- Guide teammates to line up together behind the taped line on the floor.
- Give the first person in each line an envelope with the message enclosed.
- Instruct them to balance it on their belly and race by crab-walking to the opposite wall (or another destination that suits your group's space) and back.
- Once they cross over the taped line, prompt them to pass the envelope to the next player.
- When the last person has gone, the team should open their envelope, read aloud the message, and sit down. Help with reading as needed.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Instructions:

- a. Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (The Shepherds Share the Message | Luke 2:8-2:20)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Nick shares about Clara when she felt God gave her a message to do Halloween differently, and Solène explains how she lives out the message God gave her.)
- b. Discuss:
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**When we listen to God, we have a message to share**) connect?



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Stuffed sheep
- Flashlight
- Luke 2 sign
- Black paper
- Silver Sharpies
- Wall-safe tape

Instructions:

- a. Divide your small group into two groups.
- b. Guide them to stand at opposite sides of your group's space facing away from each other.
- c. Tell one group that they are shepherds and the other that they are angels.
- d. Give the sheep to the shepherds and ask them to

- e. Give one of the angels a flashlight.
- f. Direct that angel to turn around and shine the light on the shepherds.
- g. Lead the shepherds to pretend the light is very bright and that they are afraid!
- h. If the angel with the flashlight can read, give them the sign and ask them to read aloud the passage printed on it. If they cannot, whisper it to them line by line so the angel can proclaim the message.
- i. Prompt the rest of the angels to turn around, do some jumping jacks, and say, "Glory to God in the highest!" They could also pretend to sing.
- j. Instruct the angels to sit down.
- k. Ask the shepherds to consider what they'd do if that had just happened in real life. Who would they want to go and tell?
 - l. Gather everyone back together and sit in a circle.
 - m. Place the black paper and silver Sharpies in the middle.
 - n. Print "Who would you tell?" in the middle of the page.
 - o. Help each of the kids write their answers along with their names.
 - p. Discuss: What message do you think God wants us to tell other people today?
 - q. Pray for the kids in your group (by name if possible) and for what they shared and discussed.
 - r. Hang the black paper where parents will see it at pick-up time.

5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse sign

Leader Tip:

- This activity is a version of the game Stella Ella Ola.

Instructions:

- Remain sitting in a circle with your small group.
- Place the Key Verse sign in the middle.
- Direct everyone to place their right hand on top of the person to their right's hand. Their left hands will go under the person to their left's hand.
- Read the first word of Psalm 85:8, which is printed on the sign.
- Reach over with your right hand and clap the palm of the person to your left to tag them to say the next word of the Key Verse.
- Continue around the circle.
- When the last word is said, prompt the next person to say, "Psalm 85:8" and quickly clap the hand of the person on their left before they can pull it away.
- Repeat and see how fast the kids can do it!

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

Leader Tip:

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card as well as the monthly Key Verse card and colouring page.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.