



At Home for Christmas?

Children's Activity // Shepherds

Introduction

The first people to hear of Jesus' birth were the shepherds in the fields surrounding Bethlehem. These shepherds did not have homes. They lived in the fields, sleeping under the stars, with their flocks. In fact, people didn't like the shepherds very much. They were not trusted as they constantly moved from place to place. But God loved them and he trusted them enough to be the bearers of the good news to everyone else.

How do you think the shepherds would have felt about being told the news about Jesus' birth first?

The shepherds would have been really surprised to hear the news of Jesus' birth first. Being on a hillside and having firstly a single and then a whole choir of angels appear would have been shocking enough, but to know they heard the news first as unimportant shepherds would have been astonishing. It may not have been something that they had time to think about until they were on their way back to the fields having seen the baby Jesus. They still had no homes to go to but they had a new importance and understanding of God's love for them.

Bible story

Read from the Bible Luke 2:8-16

Reading or video option Jesus Storybook Bible "Light of the whole world".

Or from Max7 "The Shepherds" <https://www.max7.org/en/resource/Luke2Shepherd>

Song suggestion

"How could it be a silent night?" by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPdtwpaz9IY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR26_WUncZfVbsIHsFNVS6IzUxkxCUbNaPfU-Stuj-HFmQHsLxb2FI68Bj4

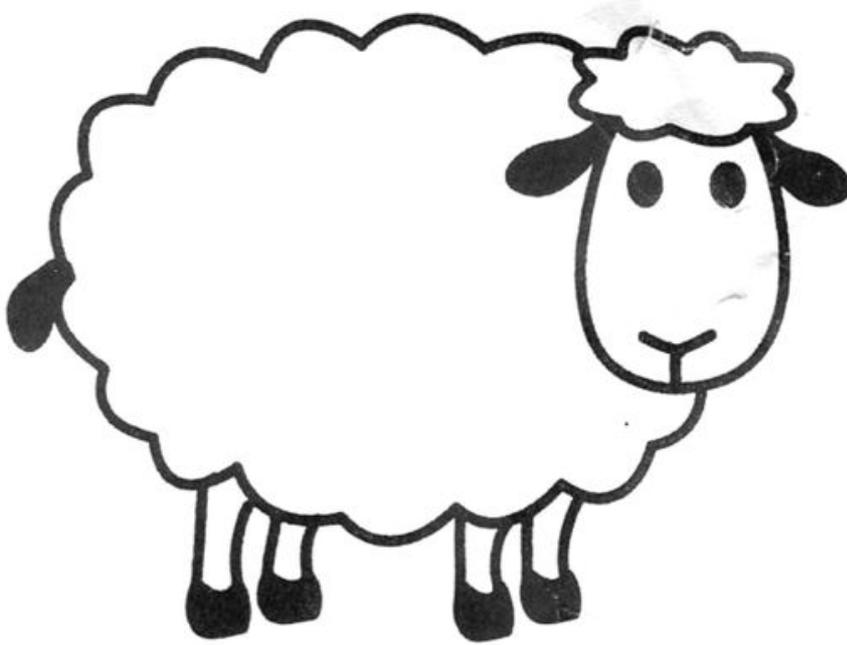
Activities

Map

– add to the map from last week to show the journey the shepherds made from the hills down to the town of Bethlehem.

Advent wreath

This week's item to add to the wreath is a sheep. Below is a picture that can be cut out, coloured and stuck on the wreath template from the previous session.



Memory verse

"There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. They were terrified." Luke 2:8-9 (NIRV)