

## Alley SG—December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Over the Hills and Everywhere (Shepherds and Angels) • *Luke 2:8-20*

**Today's Key Question:** What are ways you can share the good news?

**Today's Bottom Line:** The good news is for everyone

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:11 (NIRV)

### 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** "Verses to Share" Page (1 per kid), Bibles, pens

#### What You Do:

- Put kids in pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible. (Kids can also use their phones or devices in order to look up verses.)
- Give each kid a "Verses to Share" Page and pens..
- Then they will work together to look up verses that have to do with those key words. (If time is short, let pairs choose a word or two to focus on.)
- Show them how to use their Bible concordance and/or how to search for key words in their Bible app.
- They should find several verses and then decide on one to share with the group.
- Give kids a chance to share the verses they found with the group. They can use the activity page to write the references to the verses they found. They may want to write down the references to verses other kids found as well.
- Ask for a volunteer to read Luke 2:11. Encourage kids to take this sheet home and use it as a reference when they need reminders and encouragement to share the good news of Jesus with people around them.

### 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Wooden cross-shaped ornaments with a hole at the top for hanging (1 per student), Bottom Line Tag (1 per student), yarn or twine (1 piece per student), hole punch, scissors, markers in assorted colors

#### What You Do:

- Recruit volunteers to re-read today's passage for the group (Luke 2:8-20).
- Assign different portions to be read by each kid or instruct kids to read one or two sentences and then pass the Bible to someone else.
- Give each kid a wooden cross ornament, a piece of twine, and a Bottom Line Tag.
- Lay out the markers where everyone in the group can share them.
- Let kids spend time decorating their wooden crosses however they would like. Encourage them to be creative and unique.
- Encourage them to consider today's story, and let that inspire how they choose to decorate their cross.

- Kids can take turns using the hole punch for their tag, and make a hole at the correct place noted on the tags.
- When they are finished decorating, they can string their rope or twine through the hole in the cross and the tag, creating a loop with a knot at the end.
- Explain that when Jesus came to Earth, it was the best news ever because it meant that we could have a relationship with Him and have an opportunity to spend forever with Him when we die one day. He fixed what was broken when He laid down His life for us on the cross and defeated death by rising again. He made a way for everyone to be with Him and with God. That's why this good news is for everyone!
- Encourage kids to make sure their ornaments get safely packed away when Christmas is over so they can be brought out again each year and hung on the tree. They can always be a reminder to consider the entire story of Christmas.

### 3. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Candy canes (12 per group), ornament (2 per group), floor tape

**Note:** for smaller groups you can have students sit in a circle and do a "hot potato" type game by passing the ornament only using the candy cane around the group.

#### What You Do:

- Divide the group into two equal teams and give each student a candy cane.
- Use floor tape to create a "Start" Line for each team on one end of the room or group space and a "Finish" Line for each team on the opposite end of the room or group space.
- Have half of each team line up behind their start line and the other half behind their finish line.
- Give the first player at each "Start" line an ornament. First Player should hook ornament to their candy cane.
- When you say, "Go!" the teammate with the ornament will walk to their teammate behind the finish line.
- When they reach their teammate, they should transfer the ornament directly to the teammate's candy cane, without using their hands. They will then go to the back of that line.
- The teammate who just received the ornament will repeat the process, walking the ornament to the next teammate at the "Start" line.
- Repeat until everyone has gotten the ornament. The last player on each team must walk the ornament back to the **first player** who had it. The first team to have their **first player** receive the ornament, wins.
- If time allows, play again with different variations (ie: skip, walk backwards, walk on knees, etc.).
- Tell the kids the meaning of the candy cane:
  - The "J" shape of the candy cane stands for the "J" in Jesus. It also happens to be the same shape of a shepherd's staff. The angel first told the shepherds the good news of Jesus being born.
  - The red stripe of the candy cane represents the blood Jesus shed on the cross.
  - The white stripe of the candy cane represents how Jesus washed our sins away, and made us white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)
  - The stripes represent the wounds that Jesus bore on the cross. By His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

- Explain to kids how we can share Jesus with those around us, just like we passed the heart ornament to our teammates in the game. We can invite friends to join us at church, we can talk to friends about Jesus, and we can act like Jesus in order to share Him with those around us.

#### **4. Discussion Questions**

- How do you think the shepherds felt when the angels told them about Jesus?
- Do you think anything might have held them back from going to tell others?
- Why does it matter whether or not we share the good news?
- Does anything hold you back from telling people about Jesus? If so, why?

#### **5. Make it Personal with Prayer**

##### **What You Say:**

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to us. There is no greater gift that we will ever receive! Help us to be brave and bold enough to tell others about You. Thank You for the super fun celebration that Christmas is. Keep our hearts focused on You throughout the day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

\*\*\*remind students that there are no Alley services for the next two weeks and you will see them for Winterpalooza on January 8, 2023