

Day 13 Sheep/cotton

Read: Luke 2:8-11 & Isaiah 40:11

Did you know that sheep along with their Shepherds were the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth? God could have announced the birth of his son to a King in a palace, but he chose Shepherds out in a field keeping watch over their flock. Sheep are mentioned all throughout the Bible. They are important in teaching us about our need for a Good Shepherd and our helplessness without God.

Have you ever been to a farm? Have you ever held a lamb or a baby animal? Just as a shepherd cares for a baby lamb, Jesus cares for you! Isaiah 40:11 says Jesus will carry us in his arms close to his heart and gently lead us. As a family play a round of Follow the Leader with your parent as the leader. Listen for their voice, follow their lead, and remember to do the same with Jesus. He loves to carry you.



Day 14 Manger Hay

Read: Luke 2:12

Hay is cut, dry grass that is typically used to feed large grazing animals like cows, donkeys, horses, or goats. It is also useful as a material for nesting or bedding. The manger that Mary laid baby Jesus in was used as a feeding trough for animals. The farmer would fill the trough full of hay and the animals would feed. This very spot is the setting of our Savior's first bed.

Have you ever played in hay before? Do you remember what it smelled like? Was it soft or itchy? Would you want to sleep on a bed of hay? As a family listen to the song Away In a Manger and sing along. Close your eyes and try to imagine the smell of the hay, the smell of animals around you, the feeling of the cool night air, and imagine the stars above. I wonder if every time Mary smelled hay she was reminded of that special night when Jesus was born.



Day 15 Angel Halo's

Read: Luke 2:13-14 & Psalm 150:6

Did you know that Angels are often drawn to have a Halo over their head. Even pictures of Jesus sometimes have a halo. But the word Halo is not found in the Bible. "Halo" comes from the Greek word for a threshing floor. It was on these floors that oxen moved round and round in a continuous circle on the ground, making a circular path in the shape we now associate with halos. Halos often represent in artwork someone radiating light from heaven.

What does the Bible tell us about the role of Angels? We know that the Angel Gabriel had the job of delivering important messages for God and Michael the Archangel is referred to as the chief Angel. The Bible tells us that Angels worship and praise the Lord along with obeying whatever God wills for them. Let's learn from the angels who demonstrate obedience to God and glorifying His name. Listen and sing along to Hark the Herald Angels Sing as a family tonight & praise God together.



Day 16 Ring the Bells

Read: Luke 2:15-18 & Psalm 98:4

After the shepherds saw baby Jesus the bible says, "And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them" The Shepherds were so full of JOY that they had to share the news of Jesus. When we encounter the living God it tends to spur us on to praise! Our world is full of noise- but a JOYFUL noise is a noise created while worshipping and praising our King! God delights when we joyfully worship Him.

Does your school ring a bell to let you know its time to go to the next class? The shepherds were much like bell ringers- they announced to the world the birth of Christ. If you have a bell in your home or musical instrument pick it up and as a family make a JOYFUL noise together. Play the song "Come on Ring Those Bells" and jingle, clap, or drum to the beat. Jesus' birth is something to CELEBRATE. As a family have fun making a joyful noise!



Day 17 Rock

Read: Psalm 95:1, Psalm 62:6-7, Isaiah 28:16

Did you know that in Bible times the people often hid from enemies in caves and mountain rocks? These caves and protective mountains surrounding them providing a place of refuge from their enemies. The bible often refers to Jesus as the rock of our salvation because the people of the bible so quickly related rocks to a place of security and safety.

1 Peter 2:5 says, "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood. Just as one stone after another is laid to build a house, through the cornerstone JESUS, we become living stones--a living active part of the body of Christ by believing in Him. Solomon's temple in all its glory can never compare to the new living temple called the body of Christ. As a family pray together that you will keep God first & as the body of Christ that we will reflect his character in all we do.



Day 18 Heart

Read: Luke 2:19-20, 33-35

Did you know the Bible mentions the heart over 1,000 times! It is not talking about the heart as a organ, but as the spiritual part of us where emotions and desires are formed. The heart is by nature evil, but Psalm 51:10 reminds us that only God can give us a new heart. Proverbs 4:23 reminds us to guard our hearts. Even Mary who gave birth to Jesus had to make the decision to believe in Jesus to receive a new heart.

The scripture above shows us how Mary treasured and pondered all of these events in her heart. Ask your parents to share a special memory of you that they have treasured in their heart. Next, draw a heart on paper and write down ways to guard your heart. This might include memorizing scripture, reading your bible, going to church, making prayer a priority. Share with each other what you wrote down.

