

# Christmas Pageant Lesson

**Scripture:** Luke 1-2

**Memory Verse:** Luke 2:20 *“Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen...”*

**Lesson Focus:** This is our last special “**Christmas** in **January**” lesson as we will act out the full Luke birth narrative together across all classrooms. The first two weekends the kids learned with their ears, the third weekend they learned with their eyes, and this last weekend they will be learning with their hands and feet! To wrap it all up, we will challenge the kids to be just like the shepherds who told everyone the good news about the Savior Jesus Christ, glorifying and praising God!

**Teachers:** See each section of Scripture below assigned by grade. You and the kids in your class will be responsible for silently acting out that chunk of Scripture from the Bible. You will have 10 minutes to prepare and then each class will be given 5 minutes to act out their section. We will have one narrator slowly reading through the Scripture while you and your class silently perform it. You can use your reserved area of the Summit Room as well as the middle of the room. We encourage you to come up with your own motions/designs as a class (ask the kids for their input!), but we have provided ideas for each verse of Scripture below. Some general examples: if you were to make a house, have two kids stand facing each other and touch hands over their heads to make a pointy roof. Any extra kids can become other objects that make a scene: a table can be a kid on all fours, trees can be a couple of kids standing still in a group, etc. Have the kids also react to the expressive words in the Scripture. For example, for the word “joy”, pause and consider having all the kids at the same time make huge smiles! We think this activity will encourage the kids to use their imaginations and truly enter the story.

**AND we will award the class with the most original and enjoyable skit with prizes!**

**Schedule:**

- 1) Please bring kids into the main sanctuary 5-10 minutes after service starts which is 5 minutes EARLIER than usual (we will start countdown earlier).
- 2) After some shortened worship, we will provide instructions and then dismiss you back to your classes to prepare your skit.
- 3) You will have 10 minutes to prepare in your classroom. Then all classes will come back out and be given 5 minutes to perform as the narrator reads the Scripture.
- 4) We will wrap it up with a quick teaching and dismiss you back to the classrooms.

**Room Time Afterwards:** We will have a coloring page and a crossword puzzle available for the lesson. Also consider using the memory verse and have some discussion about ways the kids can be like the shepherds and tell others about Jesus. Leverage the “Bring It Home” handout.

## **Luke 1:13-20 (1<sup>st</sup> grade)**

*(we'll start reading a few verses before to set the stage)*

1:13- Have one kiddo be the angel, and another be a very fearful and shaky Zacharias. The angel can pretend to speak the words to Zacharias as we read them. Other kids could be light rays shining off of the angel. You could also have someone be Elizabeth holding a baby. Kids could also be tables and chairs, or windows- anything they think would add to the scene.

1:14- Have everyone make the biggest grin as “joy and gladness” is read. Have them pretend to “celebrate” as the word “rejoice” is read.

1:15- Have everyone show off some muscles at the word ‘great’.

1:16- Have all of the kids do a 180 at the same time to represent “turning” to God.

1:17- Have them make hearts with their hands.

1:18- Have everyone shrug their shoulders and hold their hands out like they’re asking a question.

1:19-20- Everyone stare in awe. When he says mute, have everyone place their hands over their mouths like they can’t speak.

## **Luke 1:30-38 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)**

*(we'll start reading a few verses before to set the stage)*

1:30- Have one kid be Gabriel, and the other a fearful Mary. The angel can pretend to speak the words to Mary as we read them. Extra kids can be light shining off of the angel, or tables and chairs, really anything they think might also be in this scene.

1:31- Have everyone gasp after 'Son' or pretend to be holding a baby. Or consider having the kids line up and spell the letters of JESUS with their arms.

1:32- Have a few of the extra kids work together to make a throne for 'throne of David'.

1:33- Everyone could do the sign language for 'forever'.

1:34- Have Mary or the whole class shrug their shoulders as this question is asked.

1:35- Angel reads line, could be a new angel if more than one kid wanted to be Gabriel. Other kids could put a hand on Mary's shoulder to represent the Holy Spirit 'will come upon you'.

1:36- Everyone gasp in shock at the news!

1:37- Everyone show off some muscles or throw some punches in the air to show that with God nothing is impossible.

1:38- As Mary pretends to speak those words, have the angel do some funny disappearing act behind other kids.

## **Luke 2:1-7 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)**

2:1-2- Have one kid be Caesar Augustus sitting on a throne and writing, and the rest use their arms to make a huge rectangle that will be the ‘decree’ that he is writing out.

2:3- Kids could line up and one-by-one have someone “register” them.

2:4- One kid could be Joseph, and the rest of the kids can make a ‘city scape’ around him. Houses, buildings, trees, rocks, fun animals that might be roaming around.

2:5- Have a girl be Mary, pretending to be pregnant, and stand next to Joseph. Or all the kids could pretend to hold and rock a baby after the line ‘with child’.

2:6-7- Create the stable scene. One kid could be the manger, have sheep and donkeys and cows, a pile of hay, and of course, Mary and Joseph. Note that this Mary and Joseph could be different kids. All the kids could cheer after ‘brought forth her first born son’.

## **Luke 2:8-14 (4<sup>th</sup> grade)**

2:8- Have some kids be shepherds, others sheep. Some kids could be grass, hills, or whatever else they think would help set the scene.

2:9- Have another kid be an angel. Other kids can be other scared shepherds and sheep, or pretend to be the light that shone all around.

2:10- The angel can pretend to say the words to the shepherds while we read them. All the kids could put on their craziest grins when we read “great joy”.

2:11- You could have the kids listen intently since this is all important news, and then cheer at the end.

2:12- One kid could stand and the others could wrap them in a hug to represent being wrapped in swaddling cloth.

2:13-14- All the kids could become angels or maybe have a few kids hiding in the room and then come out suddenly and have all of them pretend to praise God as these words are read.

## **Luke 2:15-20 (5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

2:15- Some kids could be angels who suddenly disappear. The rest could be shepherds all pretending to talk and decide together. Consider having them all pretend to speak to one another as the words are read. Some kids could also be sheep following the shepherds.

2:16- Create a stable scene with Mary and Joseph and the manger and have the shepherds pretend to run there with excitement. Some kids can be sheep or donkeys, a pile of hay, or whatever you think would make a good manger scene.

2:17-18- Have the kids one-by-one tell each other the good news, each responding with surprise and joy.

2:19- One kid can be Mary, pretending to hold something close to her heart while other kids look at her so the focus is on Mary.

2:20- Have the shepherds walk around the room pretending to praise God and tell every group about what just happened.

# Bring It Home

*(Devotional for the Family)*

**Lesson Theme: “Christmas Pageant”      Scripture: Luke 1-2**

**Memory Verse:** Luke 2:20 *“Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen...”*

**Teachers/Parents:** This was our last “**Christmas** in **January**” lesson. During class your kid was part of a Christmas Pageant acting out the birth narrative of Luke 1-2. We thought this would be fun way of having your kids enter into the AMAZING story of Christmas. Ask your kid what role they played and talk about a time when you were in a play or acted out a scene.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read John 1:1-3 and then John 1:14.** Reread these verses again, but then replace all instances of “the Word” with Jesus. Stop and consider what this really means. Jesus is God and yet became man. The Creator became a creature. The infinite became finite. This is what happened at the very first Christmas. What is AMAZING about this?
- 2) **Read Matthew 1:21** which tells us what Jesus Christ came to do when he entered the world at Christmas. What was that? What is so AMAZING about that?
- 3) **Read Luke 2:1-7.** Remember WHO Jesus is. These are the lowliest of circumstances and yet this is how the great Son of God entered the world. Why do you think the Jesus came this way instead of with ceremony and splendor, which He would have deserved? What is so AMAZING about this?
- 4) God entering the world as the person of Jesus Christ is truly AMAZING. BUT Why? Why would He do this? Why would He go to so much trouble? **Read John 3:16** and discuss the answer. Who are the people that will not perish but have everlasting life?
- 5) **Read Luke 2:20.** Why do you think the Shepherds responded to what they saw and heard this way?
- 6) In **Matthew 10:8**, Jesus tells His disciples, *“Freely you have received, so freely give.”* If you have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, He would have you share it with others. Who can you share it with th