

The logo for Grace Airways features a cartoon penguin wearing a red pilot's cap and goggles, flying a red biplane. Below the plane is a banner with the text "GRACE AIRWAYS" in a stylized, bold font.

Angels & Shepherds' Praise

LUTHERAN

December 20th, 2023

Story Point: The shepherds praised God after the angels' brought them the joyful news of Jesus' birth. *Matthew 2:1-13*

POWERTY STORY

As the shepherds traveled from their fields to the fields near Bethlehem, they sang the *Lullaby* composed by the Angel to the newborn Jesus. The shepherds were so excited that they decided to go and see for themselves. The journey was tiring, but they were happy to see the newborn Jesus. They were so happy that they decided to go and see for themselves. The journey was tiring, but they were happy to see the newborn Jesus. They were so happy that they decided to go and see for themselves. The journey was tiring, but they were happy to see the newborn Jesus.



Family Discussion Starters

1. What were the first people to know about Jesus' birth? *Matthew 2:1-13*
2. What did the shepherds do after they were told about Jesus' birth? *Matthew 2:13-18*
3. After the shepherds told people about Jesus, how did those people respond? *Matthew 2:19-20*
4. What did the shepherds do after spreading the good news? *Matthew 2:21-23*

*This is the message of the *Infant Jesus* and the *Shepherds* and all children. For every thing that we do, we should be like the shepherds and all children. *Matthew 2:1-13*

leader bible study

It has been hundreds of years since the prophets spoke for God to the people of Israel. That is a long time of waiting and silence. The people are not even free or ruling themselves! They are under the rule of the Roman Empire, waiting to be rescued as God promised so long ago.

That night, shepherds (a lowly “rank” among the people who were not admired or respected by the general public) were visited by an angel! The angel told them not to be afraid because they had good news.

After all of the silence and waiting, it was finally time. All of the prophecies, all of the promises, all of the displacement and loss the people of Israel had endured all culminated to this: a Savior had finally come! A little baby was born among the livestock and would save the people.

An entire multitude of angels joined them and praised God. What a terrifyingly magnificent sight! After the angels went back up into heaven, the shepherds wanted to see what the angels had told them about. They left their sheep and went to Bethlehem where they found Mary, Joseph, & little baby Jesus just like they were told. God had fulfilled His promise, He sent His son, a Messiah.

The Shepherds were filled with joy just as the angels had been and wanted to share the amazing news that the time of silence was over, that the Lord had come, and the people were saved. They told everyone they could and whoever heard the news was amazed! The shepherds returned to their flocks praising God and glorifying Him for His goodness. God is SO good and worthy of our praise!

Vision for Grace Airways

**We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!**

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____

December Focus: Advent



Nov 30th: Isaiah's Plea *Isaiah 64:3-4, 8*

Story point: The prophets shared the hope that God had a plan to save His people.



Dec 7th: Mary's Praise *Luke 1:26-38; 46-47*

Story Point: Mary answered God with praise and a peaceful heart.



Dec 14th: Angels' and Shepherds' Praise *Luke 2:8-20;*

Story Point: The shepherds praised God after the angels Brought them the joyful news of Jesus.



Dec 21st: Our Praise - Jesus' Birth *Luke 2:1-7, Col 1:15-23*

Story Point: Jesus loves us so much that He came to Earth to save us.



Dec 28th: The Wisemen *Matt 2: 1-21*

Story Point: The Wisemen came to worship Jesus.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

The good news of Jesus' birth was first announced to shepherds by an angel, who were watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. As kids arrive, ask them if they have ever had exciting news they couldn't wait to tell their friends or family about.

Big Picture Question

When you listen to our Bible story today, I want you to keep an important question in mind: **How is Jesus the perfect Messiah?** Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

Key passage

Our key passage comes from the Bible and tells us about Jesus. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible..." Colossians 1:15-16a

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Rejoice! Jesus is born! From heaven came an angel who appeared not to royalty to announce this kingly birth, but to a few lowly shepherds tending their sheep. A glorious light appeared, and the shepherds were terrified. The angel told them not to fear and announced the good news that the long-awaited Messiah had come, born for you, in the city of David.

Show the Bible Story Video or briefly summarize today's story. Each class will go more in depth during their Bible Story Time.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

After the visit from the angels, the shepherds changed their plans for the evening and went to see about this special baby! They found things just as God said they would be—what a remarkable thing, a King born in a stable. After seeing Jesus, they went and spread the news about everything they had been told about Jesus. Those the Shepherds told were amazed! Then the shepherds went back to their sheep - praising and glorifying God for sending His son, the Messiah, as Isaiah said He would! "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was **more** than an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to Earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King. We have peace with God, because of Jesus. And knowing Jesus gives us true joy in our heart, because He loves us!

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: THE SHEPHERDS PRAISED GOD AFTER THE ANGELS BROUGHT THEM THE JOYFUL NEWS OF JESUS.

Joseph was a descendant of King David, and he and Mary left their home in Nazareth and traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David, for the census.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place for Mary to have her baby, but every place was full because of all the people who were in town to be counted.

So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. She wrapped Baby Jesus snugly in cloth, and she laid Him in a feeding trough.



Some shepherds were staying out in the fields and watching their sheep to protect them from thieves and predators. All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! I have very good news for you: Today a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”

“You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.” A king in a feeding trough? That was no place for a king! All of a sudden, many angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

So the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. The shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel said.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids use the table of contents and large numbers in the text to find **Luke 2:8-20**. Lead the kids to discuss:

1. **Who were the first people to know about Jesus' birth?** (*the shepherds—Luke 2: 8-10*)
3. **What did the shepherds do when they were told about Jesus?** (*They went to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.— Luke 2:16*)
4. **After the shepherds told people about Jesus, what did those people do when they heard the good news?** (*All who heard it were amazed! - Luke 2:18*)
5. **What did the shepherds do after spreading the good news?** (*"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." - Luke 2:20*)

God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Promise Keeper

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Angels' and Shepherds Praise Luminary Bags

After receiving the news of Jesus' birth, and the angels left them, the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to see the new Messiah! They found Jesus lying in a manger, exactly as the angels said He would! Quickly they started spreading the news throughout the town of all they had seen and heard. The shepherds returned - praising and glorifying God for sending His son, the Messiah, as Isaiah said He would! "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" Just as the shepherds spread the joy of Jesus' birth and glorified God for being a promise-keeper, we can "light" our lanterns and share it's glow to represent the good news of Jesus with others.

1. Each child will receive a hole punch, a paper bag, and a tea light.
2. Use the hole punch to create a design on the paper bag. You can make a pattern or randomly punch holes in the bag. Leave enough space between each hole to avoid tearing the paper.
3. If you want to add designs to your luminaries, you can decorate them with markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
4. Once your luminaries are decorated, it's time to add light. Place the lights inside the bag and turn them on!





5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

