

Lesson Name: The Shepherds

Opening Prayer:

While lighting the service candle.

The Light and Peace of Jesus Christ is with us. *Thanks be to God.*

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 2:8-11-- In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Story:

Spread out the felt underlayment and place the card on it.

This Sunday is the time of the Shepherds. On the third Sunday in Advent we remember the shepherds who were standing in the fields around Bethlehem keeping their sheep.

Place figures on the card.

The Shepherds were trying to stay awake so the wolves could not come and get the sheep. Suddenly there was so much light in the sky that it hurt their eyes. They were afraid. Their hearts were beating so loudly. When they could hear something besides their own hearts, they thought they heard singing in the sky! That also scared them until they heard the words of the song. The angels were singing "Don't be afraid". Angels often say that because it is scary to have a messenger of God come to you.

The angels singing sounded something like this: 'Don't be afraid. We bring you tidings of great joy. Peace on earth and good will to everyone. A child is born. Go! Hurry! Run to Bethlehem to see the Child who will change everything!'

Look – there is something different about this candle. It is the color of roses. This is to remind us of the great joy the angels sang of. It also helps us to remember that even if it is very serious to get ready to come close to the Mystery of Christmas, you can't be serious all of the time as you get ready. This is the Sunday when it is time for a little celebration!

There is one more thing about the color of roses. It is also one of the colors for Mother Mary. We remember her again, for without Mother Mary, there would be no baby.

Light the other candles as appropriate for this week.

Advent I – This is the candle of the prophets.

Advent II – This is the candle of the Holy Family.

Advent III – This is the candle of the Shepherds. (rose candle)

Advent IV – This is the candle of the Wise Men.

After lighting the candles take a moment to enjoy them

Let's enjoy the light.

Now watch. I am going to change the light.

Blow out the candles.

Do you see how the light is not gone? It is changed. It is not in one place. Now it is spreading out, getting thinner and thinner, to fill up the whole room. The room is filling up with the light of the prophets and with the light of the mother Mary and the father Joseph. Anywhere you go in this room you can come close to them today.

Hymn: #94 "While Shepherds watched their flocks"

Lord's Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for the jobs you give us to do every day. Help us to do them faithfully. We thank you for the times you surprise us with something amazing! Fill us with joy as we hear, and see, and follow you. Amen.