

# Children's Resources - Teach your littlest church members about the hope we find in God

Don't worry... we haven't forgotten about the children in your church family this Christmas! Pass this children's resource on to your children's ministry team to help them teach your littlest church members about the hope that arrived with the birth of Jesus.

**Passage:** Luke 1: 8-18

**Memory verse:** I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. (Romans 15:13)

## Introduction:

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Whiteboard or large writing pad
- White board markers or markers

*Before class, write on the whiteboard/large writing pad the word 'God' and draw a circle around it.*

**Say:** We always learn something new about God in our Sunday School lessons. **Can you tell me some words that describe what God is like?** *(Accept answers from children. Either write the words as you call upon the children or ask them to write it on the board/writing pad themselves.)*

These are all really great words to describe God! God is... *(Insert some of the words here.)*

One word that wasn't/was mentioned is 'hope'. God is hope! **Can anyone explain what hope is?** *(Accept answers.)*

Today, we're going to learn about one of the most important moments in the Bible; the moment that hope came into the world as a little baby boy.

**Say: What's some good news you've heard recently?** *(Accept answers.)*

Today, we're going to read a story from the Bible that tells us about some shepherds who heard some really, really, really good news.

## Unpacking the text:

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A plain box (it must be big enough to fit all the below items inside)
- Handful of cotton balls
- DIY scroll (paper & 2 sticks)
- Earth cut-out
- Soft cloth

News that would bring hope into the world. *(Ask the children to sit in a circle around the room).*

**Are you ready to hear this good news?** *(Read script on page 3.)*

**Why do you think Jesus being born was such good news?** *(Accept answers.)*

The reason we believe Jesus being born is good news, is because He brought hope into the world. But hope for what? The Israelites, God's chosen people, had hope that God would save them from slavery.

*(Explain slavery if needed).*

Even though we're not Israelites, we also have hope. We have hope that God saved us from sin!



## Conclusion:

*If possible, print the memory verse and display for all the children to see.*

**Say:** Today's memory verse tells us that God is our source of hope. That means hope comes from God. When we hear people say things like, "I hope I do well on my test," or, "We hope you have a wonderful day," they are expecting something good to happen.

If we trust that God is our source of hope, we know that something good has happened... and that something good was Jesus! Jesus grew up to teach and heal people, die on the cross for our sins and come back to life, giving us hope that lasts forever!

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your children**

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# Children's Resource - Script

"I have a special box here with me. **Do you know what makes this box so special?** (Accept answers.) Actually, this box is very special because our story is in here. (If the group is small enough, ask) **Does anyone want to hold the box?** (Pass the box around, allowing children to shake and feel the box. However, remind them that they're not to open or peek at what's inside the box). Let's see where our story starts.

Thousands of years ago, there were shepherds taking care of their sheep in a field at night. (Pull out cotton balls.) These soft cotton balls remind us of the sheep that the shepherds were taking care of that night. (If possible, allow children to feel how soft the cotton balls are. Once they've done this place the cotton balls in front of you.)

While the shepherds were busy putting the sheep to sleep, an extremely bright light shone upon them. An angel had appeared! Well, the shepherds were terrified! I'd be pretty terrified too if an angel appeared to me. But the angel, knowing they were afraid, told them that it had good news for them. News that would bring great joy for all people. (Take out DIY scroll and uncurl it.) The angel said that a little baby boy had been born in Bethlehem. But this wasn't just any normal baby... this baby was and is God! The angel told the shepherds how they could go and find this baby; wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. (Place scroll next to cotton balls in front of you.)

Just as the shepherds were about to go find this baby Jesus, lots and lots of angels appeared. They were singing and praising God, saying this: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights, peace to all people on earth who please him." (Take out the Earth cut-out and place it next to DIY scroll.)

When the angels had finishing singing and praising God, the shepherds looked at one another. They said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that God has told us about."

So off they went, the shepherds hurried off to Bethlehem looking for this little baby laying in a manger.

And eventually they found baby Jesus just as the angels had described. (Pull out soft cloth and if possible, pass around to the children.) He was wrapped up in soft cloth, lying in a manger in the care of His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph. (Place soft cloth next to folded up map.)

Well, after they had spent time with baby Jesus, the shepherds went and spread the news to anyone who would hear. They couldn't contain their excitement! And everyone who heard this story was amazed. (Point to the items laying in front of you.)

Can you believe all these items represent such an amazing story?

## Questions:

- **I wonder what your favourite part of the story is...**
- **I wonder what is the most important part of the story...**
- **I wonder where you are in the story or what part of the story is about you...**
- **I wonder if we could leave out any part of this story but still have all the story we need...**