



The Shepherds

Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-20 Lions

Children's Bible

On the hills above the town, shepherds kept watch, looking after their flocks. The night was dark and everything was quiet, just a little bleat now and then from one of the sheep.

Then suddenly there was a blaze of light so bright, the men had to shield their eyes. And out of the darkness came the voice of God's messenger angel.



“Don’t be afraid. I’ve come with good news for you and all the world. The Saviour has come, God’s promised King, born today in Bethlehem. You will find the baby in a manger.”

Then she shepherds saw great crowds of angels, all singing praises to God.

“Glory to God in heaven,” they sang, “and peace to all who love him of earth.”



When the angels had gone and the sky was dark again the shepherds began to talk among themselves.

“We must go to Bethlehem,” they said, “and see what has happened.”

They made sure their sheep were safe. Then they hurried into the town. There they found Mary and Joseph and the new born baby lying in the manger.



- Then they knew what the angels had told them was true. They told Mary and Joseph all that had happened. Then they went back to their sheep, telling everyone they met on the way about the baby and the angel's message. They sang as they walked along, thanking God for all they had seen. It was a night they would never forget.



Task – Diary of a shepherd

Imagine you were one of the shepherds. Write about your experience. Remember to include lots of thoughts and feelings.

Structure

- Opening - Dear diary,
- Box 1 – On the hills looking after sheep, normal night
- Box 2 – Bright light / angles appear and give message
- Box 3 – Bethlehem to see the new baby. Told everyone about the new born king.
- Ending – Sign off

Example Diary

Dear Diary,

It was just an ordinary night looking after our sheep. Everything was clam and peaceful and the sheep were bleating happily.

All of a sudden, we were dazzled by a blinding light. We had to shield our eyes it was so bright. When we looked up we saw beautiful angles, they looked so majestic. A few of us rubbed our eyes in disbelief. Was this really happening or was it a dream? One of the angles told us that a new King had been born in Bethlehem and told us we'd find him in a manger. Seconds later, the light and the angels disappeared. We scratched our heads puzzled and confused with what we had just seen and heard. We were so curious we decided to leave the sheep safely on the hills and go and investigate.

After walking down from the hills, we wandered into Bethlehem. Sure enough, in an old stable, lying in a manger, we found a new born baby boy with his parents Mary and Joseph. We explained about the strange message from the angle and how we had been curious to discover the truth. They smiled at us happily. We felt so proud that the angles choose us, we were just poor shepherds. As we left we rejoiced and told everyone the good news about the new born King. It certainly was a life changing night.

Matthew