

# Shepherds' Story – Bible Story

5a

**Leader:** The birth of the Messiah was first announced to shepherds on a hillside outside of Bethlehem.

At the time when Jesus was born, shepherds were despised by most people. They were looked down on as untrustworthy. They slept with their flocks, so imagine how they must have smelled!

Yet God sent angels to tell the shepherds the news of Jesus' birth. Jesus came as a humble Savior for all of mankind.

**Speaker 1:** Jesus' birth brought **HOPE** for all the world.

**Speaker 2:** God showed **LOVE** to all of us by sending Jesus to earth.

**Speaker 3:** The shepherds responded immediately with **JOY** and hurried to find baby Jesus.

**Speaker 4:** Many years before, the prophet Isaiah said a child would be born, and he would be called the Prince of **PEACE**.

**Speaker 5:** The angels proclaimed, "**GLORY** to God in heaven and **PEACE** on earth."

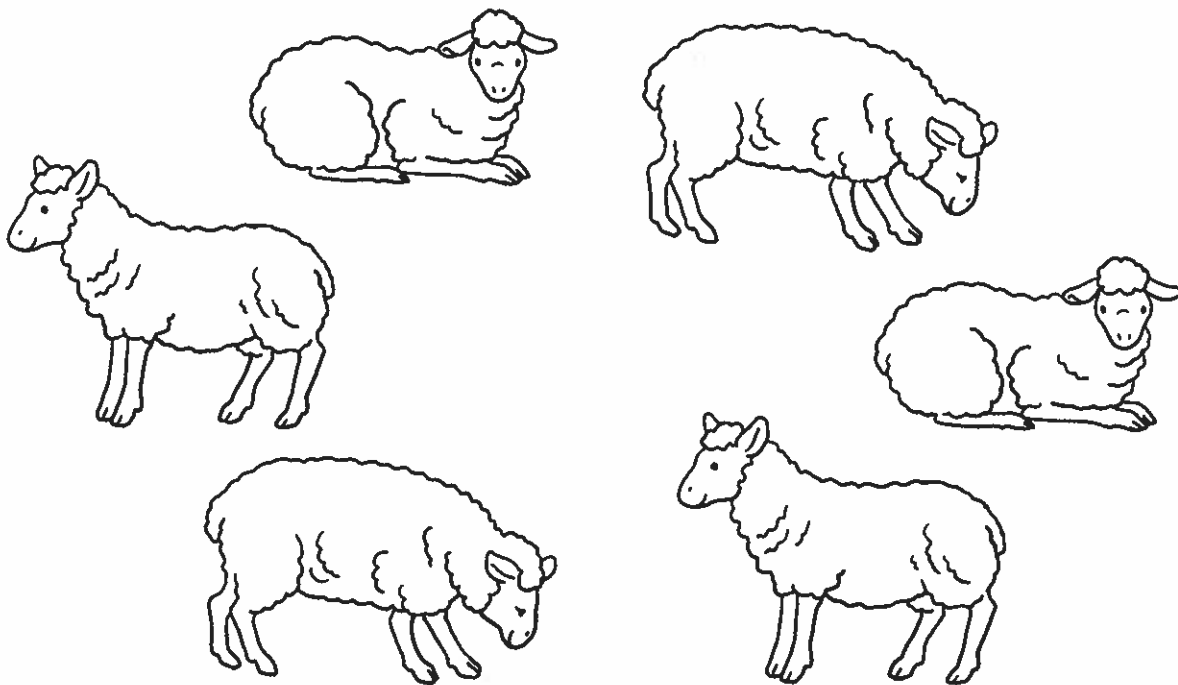
**Speaker 6:** After the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they told everyone about the angels and the newborn Messiah. All the way home, they showed **GLORY** and **PRAISE** to God for all they had seen and heard.

(Based on Luke 2)



## 5b Matching Sheep – Puzzle (Preschool)

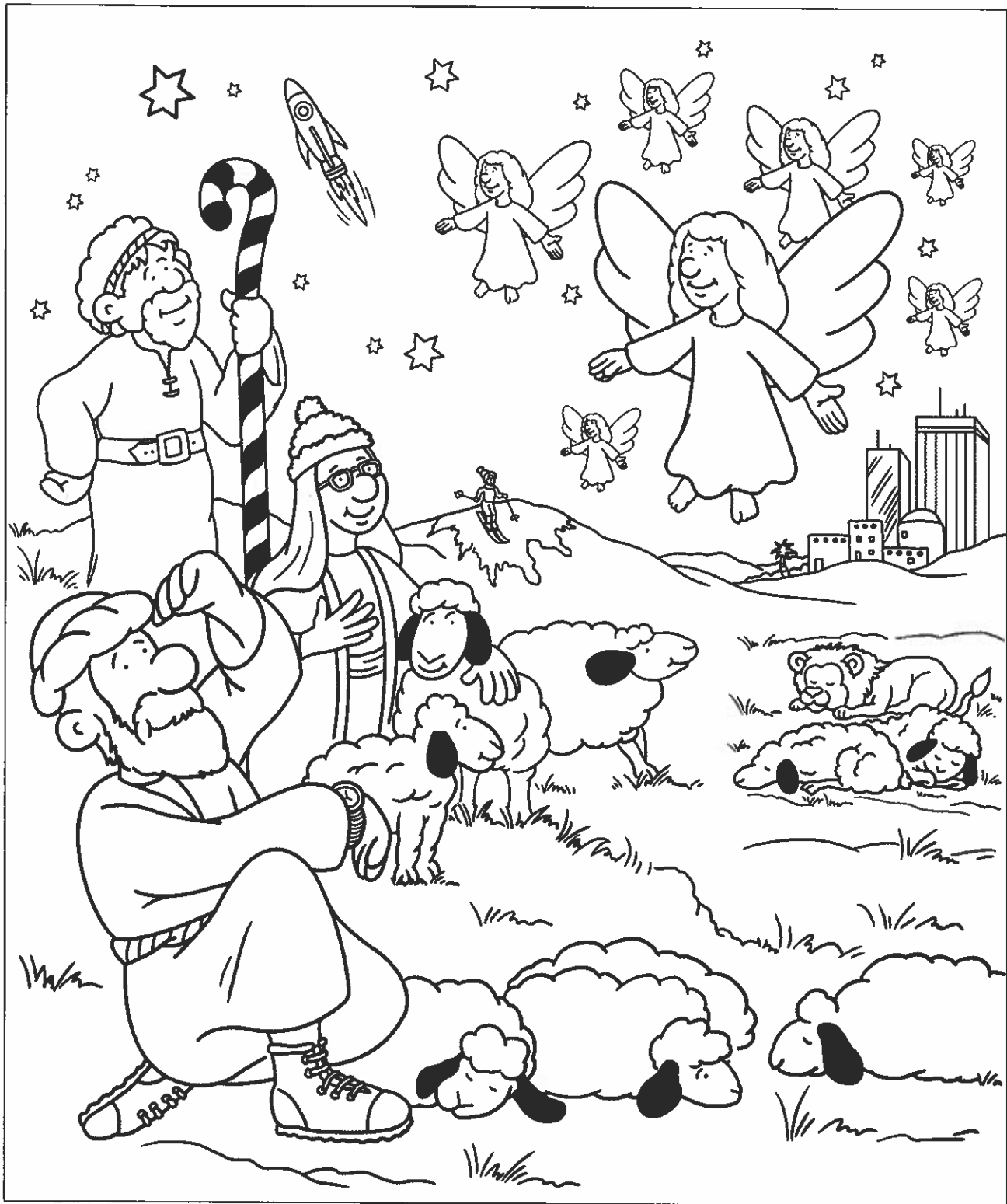
The shepherds were taking care of their sheep when an angel appeared to give them a message. Look and find 3 sets of matching sheep and draw a line between them.



## What Doesn't Belong? – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

5c

Look carefully at the picture of the angels and the shepherds on the hillside. Find 10 things in the picture that don't belong and circle them.



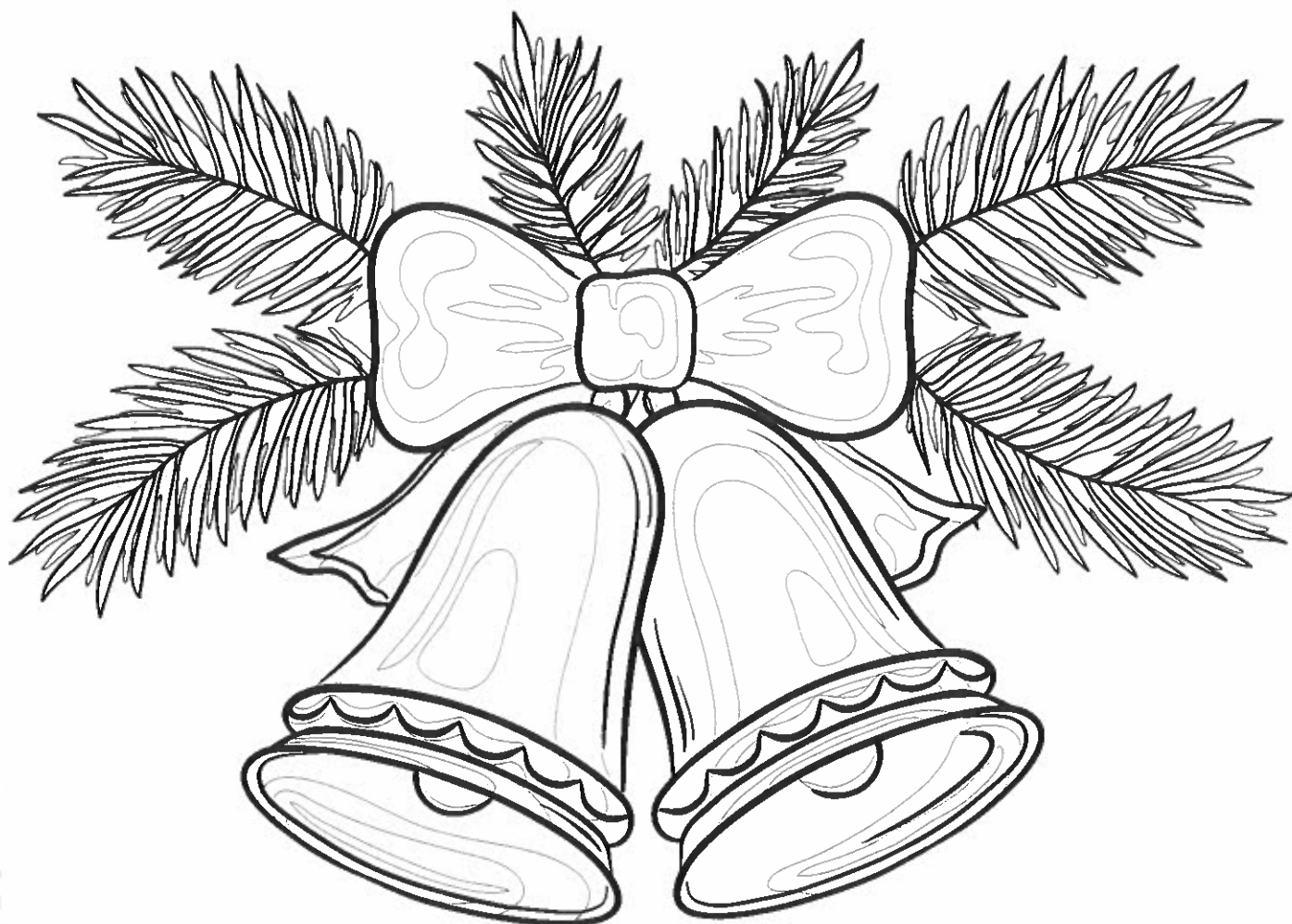
## 5d Word Search – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

Find the underlined words from the angel's message in the word search. Then highlight the remaining words to find the message the group of angels gave the shepherds.

**"Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—  
wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born  
today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for  
you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying  
in a manger."**

B	E	H	W	B	O	R	N	C	W	M	A
G	A	E	O	F	O	R	A	I	H	A	F
L	L	A	N	Y	O	U	M	T	O	N	R
O	L	V	D	I	E	F	O	Y	M	G	A
R	G	E	E	S	A	I	N	T	G	E	I
Y	O	N	R	O	R	N	G	H	O	R	D
L	D	C	F	N	T	D	S	O	O	H	F
O	I	H	U	T	H	P	A	S	D	E	A
R	S	R	L	O	B	E	V	E	N	S	V
D	I	I	A	D	A	A	I	Y	E	I	O
T	N	S	N	A	B	C	O	O	W	G	R
O	I	T	D	Y	Y	E	R	U	S	N	S

# JOY IS FOUND IN SHARING



## Hope, Love, Joy, Peace, Glory, Praise



### Hope

Hold both hands with your palms open, facing the sides of your head. Your left hand should be at eye level and your right hand lower. Moving both hands at the same time, bend your hands to make a right angle with your fingers and then unbend them twice.



### Love

Cross your fists at the wrists and press them to your heart.



### Joy

Open both hands, with palms facing the chest. Pat the chest several times while moving the hands upward in a circular motion.



### Peace

Place the right palm on top of the left palm. Turn your hands so that the left palm is on top of the right palm. Move both palms down and to the sides.



### Glory

Clap your right hand on the open palm of your left. Then, with fingers spread, move your right hand up in an arc to the front of your right shoulder. Wiggle your fingers on your right hand as you move it.



### Praise

Bring both hands up and clap your hands several times.

## Shepherds' Story

**Luke 2:8-20**

Jesus was born in a very humble setting, but his birth was announced in a grand way. There were shepherds taking care of their sheep on the hills outside of Bethlehem. Suddenly an angel appeared before them. A bright light was shining all around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I bring good news to you. Your savior is born in Bethlehem. He is Christ the Lord." Then the sky was full of angels praising God, saying, "Glory to God." The shepherds immediately rushed to Bethlehem and worshipped the baby. Then they returned home praising and glorifying God for what they had seen and heard.

## Verse of the Month

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." Luke 2:10

## What Do You Think?

How can you praise and glorify God for the things you have seen and heard about the birth of Jesus?

Who was the first person your parents told about your birth?

## Family Activity

Plan a celebration party for Jesus' birth. Invite friends, neighbors, and people from your community of faith. Ask everyone to share a praise or glorify God with the group.

## Prayer

Dear God, we praise and glorify you and your Son Jesus. Help us celebrate with joy and show peace to the world around us; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.