

**The Christmas
Story:
Compassion-God
of the
Unexpected.**

The Shepherds

Angels announcing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds: Luke 2:8-20



The Shepherds



On a Hillside

.....A shepherd, herds sheep!

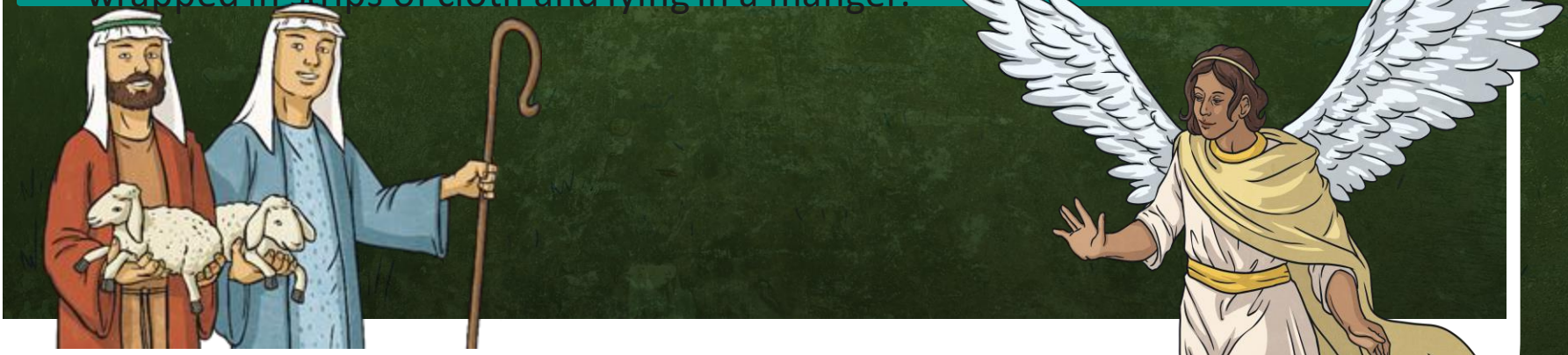
- In Biblical times, shepherds were not valued. They had a low status in society.
- The sheep they bred were used generally for sacrifices in the temple in nearby Jerusalem.
- The night Jesus was born, these shepherds were quietly working on a hillside. Suddenly, a bright light appeared in the sky and the shepherds felt very afraid.



If you had some good news, who would you tell?

Good News

There were some shepherds who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born — Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”



Suddenly, a group of angels appeared together. This is only the second time in the Bible that a group of angels appeared to the people, rather than just one angel. This shows the importance of

Shepherds' Visit

The shepherds wanted to go and see the baby. When they arrived at the stable and saw Jesus lying in the manger, they were filled with joy. They knelt down beside Jesus and worshipped him. The shepherds then told Mary and Joseph all about the angels that had appeared in the sky to them. They explained that Jesus was to be the Saviour of the World. Everyone listened and was amazed!



The Shepherds had been trusted to take this special message to Mary and Joseph. God showed that he loved everyone equally and included the very poorest people.

God sent His son into the world to offer love and COMPASSION to ordinary, everyday people in ordinary, everyday places.

