

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

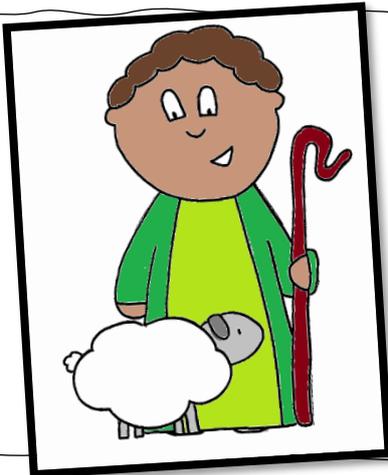


Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of the visit of the Shepherds.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Luke 2 v 1–21

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Shepherds who were the first to hear about your birth. Thank you that you came to be a Saviour to everybody in the world.

Thank you that we are not alone but are part of a flock, we pray today for all those in our church family. Help us to on our mission to share the good news about Jesus with those we meet so that they can come to know you as their loving shepherd.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think God chose to invite shepherds to meet the baby Jesus?

David in his Psalms in the Old Testament described God as being like a shepherd, Jesus said “I am the good shepherd”. The Bible is full of pictures and imagery to do with sheep.

It might have been expected that the arrival of God’s son would be announced to people of high status in society such as kings or religious leaders, but Jesus had been sent to the earth to be a saviour for everybody. God’s choice of the shepherds reflected His love and care for everybody in the world.

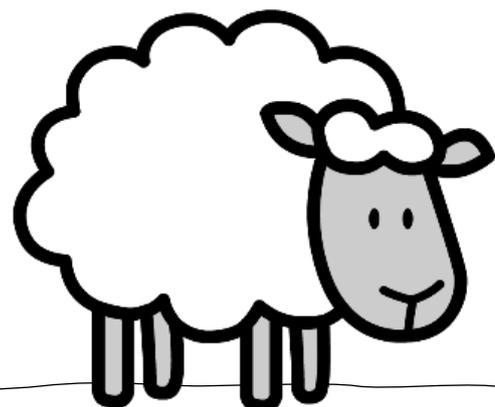
A question for children to ask adults

How did you share the news about my birth?

Family Activity 1

You will need: A toy sheep or sheep picture (you can always draw your own!)

Take it in turns to hide the sheep around the house or in a room, everybody must search for the sheep. The person who has hidden the sheep could give clues such as ‘warmer’ when somebody is getting nearer to the sheep and ‘colder’ if they are moving further away.





A verse to remember

John 10 v 14

I am the good shepherd.

I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.

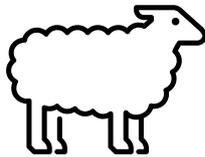
Read this verse and the surrounding verses in John 10 (v11-18) you might like to talk about what makes a good shepherd and what Jesus meant by his words in this passage. Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Active Advent

God is our shepherd, and we are His sheep. Why not take on these sheep and shepherd themed challenges during the third week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once.

Dec 13th

Draw a picture of a sheep, remember that God says He is our shepherd.



Dec 14th

Add some grass, shelter and a river or stream for your sheep. Pray and thank God for all the ways He provides for you.



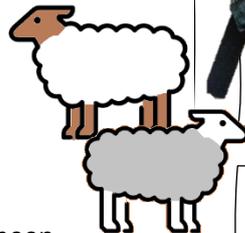
Dec 15th

Draw a heart on your picture, pray and thank God that He loves us as a shepherd loves his sheep.



Dec 16th

Add some more sheep to the picture, pray for others in your church flock that they would draw near to God this advent.



Dec 17th

Turn over your paper and draw some lost sheep on the back, spend some time praying for your friends or family members that don't yet know God as their shepherd.



Dec 18th

The shepherd protects their sheep from harm. Write or draw anything you are worried about at the moment and give those worries to God.

Dec 19th

A sheep knows and recognises the voice of their shepherd, spend some time listening to God today.



Family Activity 2

Sheep Craft

Use the template on the next page or draw your own and decorate some sheep together. Here are some different ideas of how to make your sheep extra fluffy!

- Stick on some cotton wool balls
- Cut up and stick on some string or wool
- Use bubble wrap to paint on or print with.
- Use strips of paper shredded or curled up to decorate your sheep!



Active Waiting

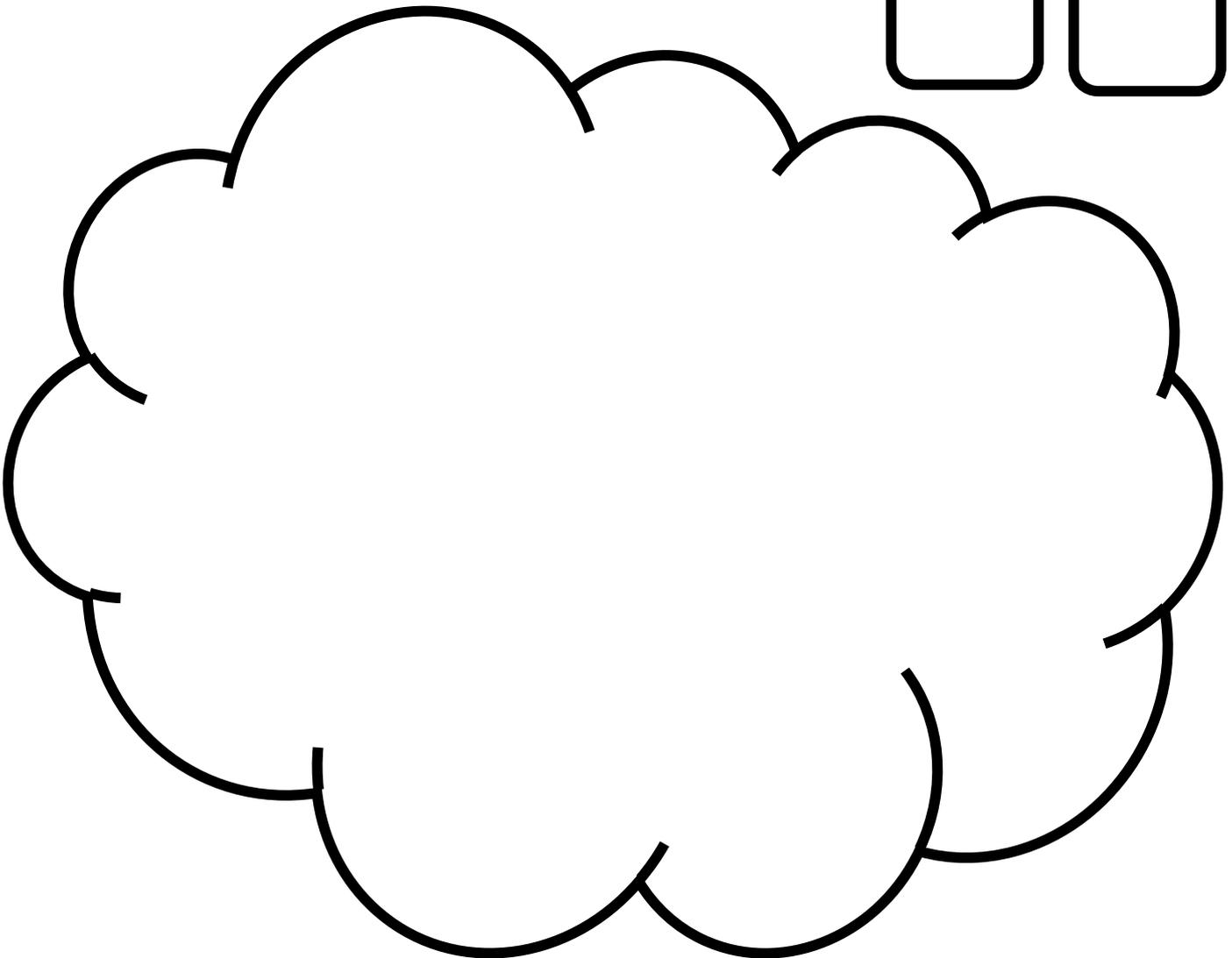
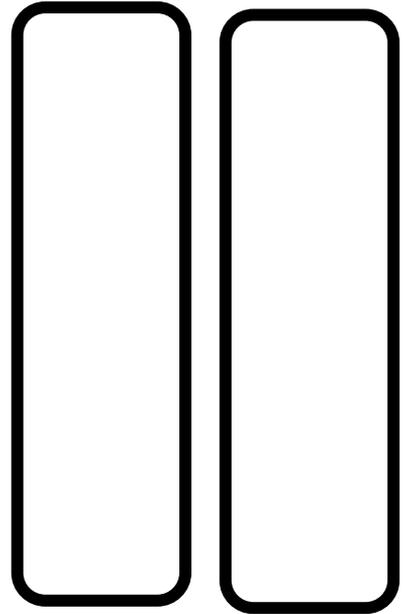
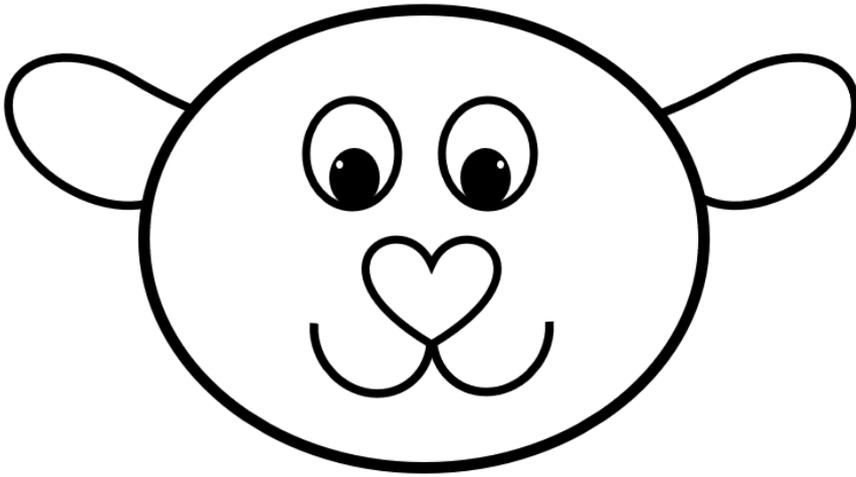
Spend some time waiting on God together as a family and listening. Jesus said His sheep recognise his voice, it is good to practice listening to Him.

You can download a 'Listening to God' resource at :

www.TatH.co.uk/other-resources



Sheep Craft Template



A colouring page you could print and colour together

John 10 v 14

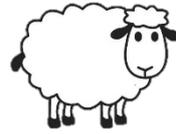


I am the good
shepherd.

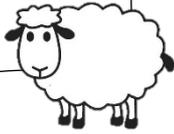
I know my sheep, and
my sheep know me.

Help the Shepherd find his way through the maze of streets to the stable!

PUZZLE SHEET



How many sheep can you find on the page?



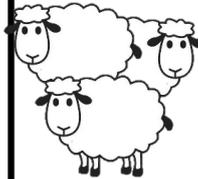
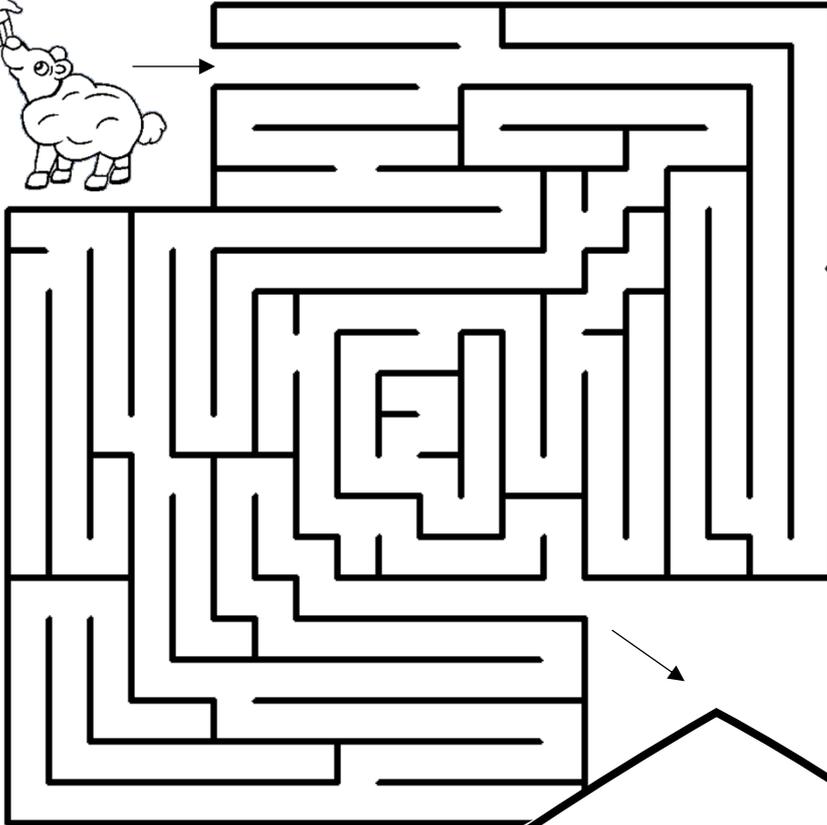
SHEET



Can you work out the missing words?

They are all made from the letters of the word

shepherd.



Complete the picture to show what the shepherds saw in the stable.

