

## THE SHEPHERDS' JOY

December 16, 2023

### Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Luke 2:8-20

### Memory Verse

<sup>18</sup> Everyone listened and was surprised.

Luke 2:18



## CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron VandenBurg  
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Have you ever had the opportunity to be picked first for something? Maybe a sports team or a school job, or a musical tryout. How did it make you feel? Did you feel like you wanted to tell someone about it?

At the beginning of Luke 2, the shepherds were kind of like the last ones to be picked. They got the long and boring night shift job that nobody wanted to do: watch the stinky sheep. But God picked them for a special task the night Jesus was born.

Imagine what that night must have felt like for the shepherds! Angels appeared suddenly! A whole sky full of them! Then, the angels told them the good news of great joy, and the shepherds became the first people on the whole earth to hear about Jesus! Once the shock had worn off, they ran to Bethlehem.

I wonder what it was like to be the first. Did they crowd around the entrance of the stable, excited to get the best look? Did it feel strange at first? Maybe Mary and Joseph smiled and invited them in. Which shepherd joyfully told Mary and Joseph about their visit with the angels? After they left, who did they tell next?

How do you feel when you think about how God sent Jesus to be your Savior? Does it make you smile and feel special inside that God was thinking about you and picked you? That's the best part of the Christmas story: God included *us* in his story. Let's celebrate and experience the joy God gives us at Christmas!

## Prayer

Thank you, God, that you chose the shepherds to be the first ones to go see Jesus. They were so excited to tell others. Thank you for the joy they felt and for the joy we feel when we are reminded of God's love. Help us share the story with our family and friends so that they too may feel that same joy. Amen.

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*written by Beth Fellingner*

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/the-shepherds-joy>  
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