

# Family Devotion

## Week 1 – Angels We Have Heard on High

### Read Luke 2:8-20

What do you think singing angels might sound like? Take a minute to be quiet, close your eyes and try to picture and hear in your mind the singing of angels.

Are you thinking deep voices or high-pitched beautiful voices? I'm picturing and hearing some beautiful high-pitched voices. Voices like I've never heard before. Think about someone you know who can sing really well. Or perhaps your favorite choir. When you think of someone who sings really well, multiply that by a million.....that's how the angels who visited the shepherds might have sounded.

*Angels We Have Heard on High* is a beautiful Christmas song that tells the story of the shepherds and angels found in Luke 2. This hymn was translated into English by James Chadwick in 1862. The original song was in French and Chadwick's version uses some of the lyrics but he wrote others because he was inspired by the French song.

I think my favorite lines of this song are the first verse:

*"Angels we have heard on high. Sweetly singing o'er the plains. And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains."*

I can just picture the shepherds out in their field...tending to their flock of sheep and keeping them safe. They are doing their own thing without any idea of what was about to happen. Then all of a sudden a bright line shone around them, an angel appeared to them and told them about the birth of Jesus, and then a multitude of angels began singing praises to God.

I think this first verse captures beautifully the sound of the angels singing. It's sweet music...music like you've never heard before. The sound of the angels is heard all around and the mountains are echoing this joyful praise. What a beautiful sound that was!

*Father God, thank You for the angels who delivered the joyous news of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Help me to praise You at all times and to remember Your love for me. Amen.*

## Karaoke Time!

On a separate piece of paper write out the lyrics to this Christmas song. Then search the internet for your favorite version of this song.

**For a fun, upbeat version of *Angels We Have Heard on High* check out YouTube to find the version by Family Force 5.**

Play the song and sing together as a family! Or if your family doesn't want to sing, just listen and enjoy the music.

## Prayers & Pics

As you close out your family devotion time, do these two things. First, write down on a piece of paper any prayer requests or praises for today. Then pray together as a family for these specific requests. Second, have kids draw pictures of the Christmas song for the day. Have them draw out what happens in the song.

## Family Game

### Week 1 – Angel Balloon Pop

*Supplies Needed: angel Bible verse template, balloons, markers or crayons*

This game is designed to help kids memorize the Bible verse of the message the angels gave to the shepherds the night of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:14).

First, have kids color each angel and then cut out.

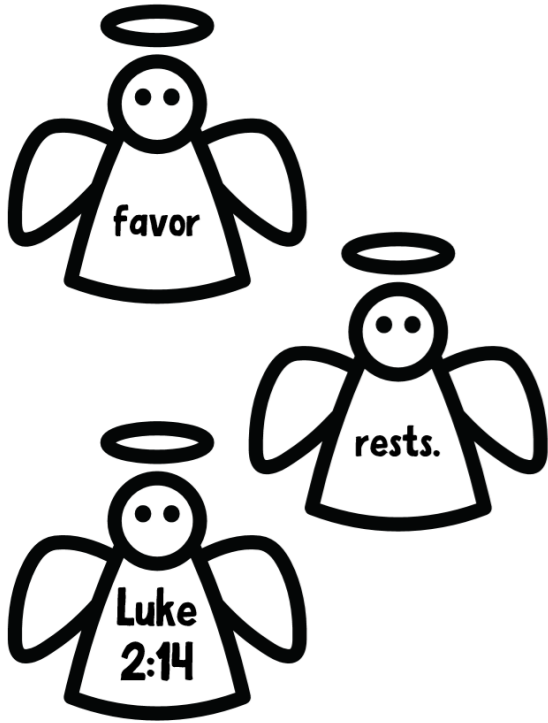
Next, parents will fold each angel and place inside a balloon. Then blow the balloon up and tie off.

Scatter balloons outside or on one side of a room. Kids will take turns racing to the other end and popping a balloon. They will grab the angel and race back. After all balloons are popped, kids will work together to put the Bible verse from Luke 2:14 in the right order.

*\*\*If you have preschoolers, use only part A of the verse "Glory to God in the highest heaven." Have them color the angels and then help them cut them out. You can still put them inside the balloons and have the kids pop them. Then help them put the verse in the correct order and have them repeat it after you and say it till they can say it on their own.*







## Family Craft

### Week 1 – Handprint Angel

***Supplies Needed:** light blue construction paper, white construction paper, pipe cleaner (yellow, gold, or silver), scissors, markers or crayons, gluestick*

This handprint angel is a cute craft to help kids remember the angels that came to visit the shepherds. (See example on the following page).

The light blue construction paper will be what you glue the angel to.

Fold a piece of white construction paper in half. Place your child's hand to where the wrist will be at the fold. Then trace their hand and cut out (hands will be connected at the fold).

Next, cut a small circle out of white construction paper (this will be the head). Then cut out a long triangle that will fill a majority of the light blue construction paper when you glue it down (this will be the body).

Decorate the body of the angel using markers or crayons.

Twist the pipe cleaner to look like a halo. Then cut off the end so it's short.

Next, lay out the halo, body, wings, and head of the angel onto the light blue construction paper. First, take a small piece of tape and tape down the pipe cleaner at the top of the construction paper. Next, glue down the wings, then the body, then the head (make sure the head is directly below the halo).

At the bottom of the page, write the Bible verse from Luke 2:14.

Hang in your home and be reminded of the night the angels sang and praised God for the birth of Jesus!



## Christmas Cookie

### Week 1 – Thin Mint Cookies

Chocolate almond bark

Peppermint extract

Ritz crackers

Wax paper

Melt the chocolate in the microwave (melt for 30 seconds at a time and take out and stir). After it has melted completely, add peppermint extract (add a little at a time until you get the desired flavor you want). Dip the Ritz crackers into the chocolate mix and then lay them on wax paper. Let them harden and then enjoy!