

YEAR A | QUARTER 4

11

Praise Explosion!

Worship

We praise God for His greatest gift.

POWER TEXT

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests'" (Luke 2:13, 14).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 2:8-20
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 4, pp. 43-49
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 35-42
- Student lesson on page 122 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 4, The Son
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that they can join the angels' worship of God through their songs, their prayers, and their lives.
- **Feel** joy in worshipping God.
- **Respond** by choosing to praise God every day.

POWERPOINT

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

At the birth of Jesus, angels from heaven come to notify the shepherds in the fields of the birth of the Savior. The shepherds go to worship Baby Jesus. The angels, with their songs, join with the human family in praising God for His gift of Jesus.

This is a lesson about worship.

Today we continue to worship God for the gift of Jesus. We worship through the songs we sing, through personal times of devotion and public worship services, and through the way we choose to live all through the week.

Teacher Enrichment

"Men know it not, but the tidings fill heaven with rejoicing. With a deeper and more tender interest the holy beings from the world of light are drawn to the earth. The whole world is brighter for His presence. Above the hills of Bethlehem are gathered an innumerable throng of angels. They wait the signal to declare the glad news to the world. . . .

". . . Then the joy and glory could no longer be hidden. The whole plain was lighted up with the bright shining of the hosts of God. Earth was hushed, and heaven stooped to listen to the song,—

" '*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men*'" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 47, 48; emphasis in original).

What is worship? When can I worship God? How can I worship God in all that I do?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Praise Building*	containers, cards with names for God
		B. Angel Praise Tree	styrofoam cones OR triangles, OR construction paper OR cardboard; pipe cleaner OR wire; toothpicks OR straight pins; glue, tape, or paste; slips of paper and writing utensils
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 117. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks; world map; pushpins; gift box with slit; materials for prayer chain: colored strips of paper, glue, tape OR staples, pens/pencils, OR markers
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	four copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 149)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Angels Among Us*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Here We Go Caroling*	Christmas music, Christian literature, art supplies (including old Christmas cards)
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ containers
- ☐ cards with names for God

Praise Building

Before class, write the following names for God on cards and place them in a container. Prepare one container for each group of 10.

Almighty, Alpha and Omega, Ancient of Days, Bread of Life, Bridegroom, Bright and Morning Star, Christ, Creator, Deity, Emmanuel, Father, Friend, Glory, God, High Priest, Holy One, I Am, Immanuel, Jehovah, Jesus, Judge, King, Lamb of God, Light of the world, Lily of the valley, Lion of Judah, Lord, Majesty, Master, Mighty One, Mighty Rock, Most High, Physician, Power, Prince of Peace, Rabbi, Redeemer, Rock, Rose of Sharon, Ruler, Savior, Teacher, Word, Yahweh.

Ask the students to sit in a circle of not more than 10 people, each with an adult facilitator. Give each group a container with cards containing names for God. Say: **Let's go around the circle and each tell all the names by which various people call you.** If they are willing, have them share nicknames that they were called when they were younger.

Say: **Now we are going to think of the many different names of God. Just saying His names can be an act of worship. Let's say them reverently.** Give the students these instructions. The first student will draw a card and say "God's name is . . ." (using the name they have just drawn from the container). This continues around the circle, with students adding a name for God until all the names have been used.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does using these names of God help us remember to worship Him?** Say: **When the angels appeared on the night of Jesus' birth, they may have praised God using several of these names. Let's say the power text together, Luke 2:13, 14:**

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests' " (Luke 2:13, 14).

We need to remember our power point:

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ styrofoam cones or triangles OR construction paper OR cardboard
- ☐ pipe cleaner OR wire
- ☐ toothpicks OR straight pins
- ☐ glue, tape, OR paste
- ☐ slips of paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Angel Praise Tree

Using the materials listed, make an angel praise tree. Each student should use the art supplies to build an angel (using a Styrofoam cone or triangle or a piece of white construction paper to make a cone). Decorate the cone, making wings out of pipe cleaner or other wire. Using the names from Readiness A, write them on slips of paper, attach them to pins (or toothpicks) and stick them into the cone.

Lead the students in a prayer of praise to God, using His many descriptive names.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are your favorite names for God? Why?**

Say: **When the angels praised God on the night of Jesus' birth, they may have used several of these names. Let's add our angels to the "stable" where we made room for Jesus last week.** (Lead students in placing the angels around the box "stable" from last week's lesson.) **Let's say the power text together, Luke 2:13, 14:**

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests' " (Luke 2:13, 14).

We need to remember our power point:

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Encourage students who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who could assist them.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Angels From the Realms of Glory" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 119)

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 122)

"Joy to the World" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 125)

Mission

YOU NEED:

- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story in comparison with where they live. They could use pushpins to mark the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:

- ☐ gift box

Say: **Our offerings are one way of sharing with people in other places. When we give our offerings, we give people the tools to be more effe ctive where they are.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:

- ☐ prayer-chain materials

Have students add to the prayer chain, using the following materials: paper; glue, tape, or a stapler and staples; and pens, pencils, or markers to write prayer requests or answered prayers. You can use one color paper for requests, another for answers, and still another for praise. Do a popcorn prayer, where students say one sentence at a time. The sentence can express a felt need, thanks, or petition. When the sentence prayers stop "popping," close by asking for strength to share your faith wherever you are. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- four copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 149)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

(Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.)

Make the appropriate number of copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 149 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity. Present the skit.

Say: **During the time of Jesus it was the custom for friends and local musicians to sing and rejoice when a child was born. The angels participated in their own divine way in that custom when they appeared to the shepherds. Let's sing a verse from a Christmas song together. (You may have students choose a Christmas song they like to sing or you may name one yourself.)**

YOU NEED:
- Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have students close their eyes and listen as you read Luke 2:8-20, one or two verses at a time. Ask the following questions after the following verses:

Verse 8: **What were the shepherds' living arrangements like? What could they see, hear, smell?**

Verse 9: **What has changed now about the scene you just imagined? Why were they terrified?**

Verses 10, 11, 12: **What do you think the shepherds may have been thinking while the angel spoke?**

Verses 13, 14: **What message of hope did the angels communicate to the shepherds? How might the shepherds have responded to the angels' praise song?**

Verse 15: **What did the shepherds think about and talk about when the angels left?**

Verse 16: **Why do you think they hurried to find Jesus?**

Verses 17, 18: **Where did the shepherds go? Whom and what did the shepherds tell?**

Verse 19: **How did this young girl feel about these strange men coming to the out-of-the-way stable where she had just given birth to her first baby?**

Verse 20: **What is different about the shepherds' journey back to their sheep?**

We need to remember our power point:

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **The Bible tells a lot about angels praising God.**

Ask: **What are some of the ways that you think the angels may praise, worship, and show God their love?**

Have the students, in small groups, look up the following texts regarding angels:

Genesis 19:1 (angels coming to Sodom to see Lot)
Genesis 28:12 (Jacob's ladder to heaven)
Matthew 24:31 (angels gathering God's people home)
Mark 1:13 (Jesus in the wilderness)

Debriefing

Say: **The angels in these instances were carrying messages to God and serving Him. Let's say the power text together, Luke 2:13, 14:**

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests' " (Luke 2:13, 14).

We need to remember our power point:

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.

Accommodations for students with special needs

You may wish to prepare in advance a handout listing the Bible references if you have learners with visual impairments or with any other special needs who may benefit from it.

Angels Among Us

Be ready to share an angel story with your students—your own, if possible. Ask: **Can any of you share times you believe that you or a member of your family have been protected by an angel?**

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you think the angels ever have a problem worshipping God? Why or why not?**

Say: **Let's remember our power point:**

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Christmas music
- ☐ Christian literature
- ☐ art supplies (including old Christmas cards)

Here We Go Caroling

Ask students to share if they had a chance to sing or listen to some of their favorite Christmas carols during the past week. Invite them to name some of them.

Choose one or more of the following activities for your students to practice sharing their praise this afternoon or evening.

1. Take the students caroling in the area around your church. Have literature to distribute to your listeners.
2. Plan an outing to a local nursing home or hospital to carol. Call ahead and make arrangements with the activities director.
3. Have students create greeting cards for the people they will be visiting. Suggest that they include a Bible promise or two in their card. Remind your students of the power point.

Say: **Let's say our power point together again:**

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that God will help your students praise and worship Him in their daily lives, in the classroom, on the subway, at a soccer game, etc.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus is dedicated. Living in harmony with God's will is our gift of worship to Jesus.**

Notes

Student lesson

Praise Explosion!

Have you ever wished to see an amazing miracle happen right before your eyes? Think of the shepherds in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. Aren't you glad Jesus revealed Himself to ordinary people like them?

Pulling their cloaks tighter around them, the shepherds inched closer to the fire. The night air was cool, and it was late. Yet the shepherds did not have trouble staying awake. The interest of these humble men was absorbed by a subject of great significance.

With their spiritual eyesight they looked way beyond the familiar surroundings of Bethlehem, where David once tended his flocks of sheep. Now that everything was silent and calm around them they could talk about the most treasured ideal of the people of Israel—the coming of the Messiah. All of their hopes concentrated on the promised Redeemer. Meanwhile the religious leaders of the time were going through the motions of religious rituals and ceremonies. They had become indifferent about the solemnity of the times in which the prophecies about the Messiah were about to be fulfilled. Although the majority of the nation's leaders had lost sight of the great events that were about to happen, the shepherds were among the few faithful believers who longed and prayed for the promised Savior.

The night grew quieter as a strange hush seemed to fill the air. Seeing that the sky over Bethlehem was growing brighter and sensing that something was about to happen, the shepherds looked on in amazement. Suddenly an angel of God descended from heaven bringing good news. The shepherds were filled with fear at this glorious sight. But the angel spoke to them words of comfort:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:10-12).

The words of the angel brought comfort to the shepherds. They found great joy in the news that their fondest hopes and most cherished desire had found fulfillment: the Messiah had finally come! What awesome news that must have been for the shepherds! While their eyes became used to the bright glory surrounding them, a great multitude of angels appeared over the fields of Bethlehem. They could no longer contain the joy that had filled the courts of heaven. The Messiah had come to earth to deliver humanity from the curse of sin. An explosion of heavenly voices filled the air as the angels praised God, saying: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (verse 14).

"As the angels disappeared, the light faded away, and the shadows of night once more fell on the hills of Bethlehem. But the brightest picture ever beheld by human eyes remained in the memory of the shepherds" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 48).

Inspired by the heavenly message and filled with great joy, they said to each other: "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about" (verse 15).

The shepherds left the hillside. They were surprised to find the town sleeping, as if nothing unusual had occurred. They were eager to see for themselves the sign that the angel had given them. "So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told" (Luke 2:16-20).

Their lives were changed forever because they had seen the Messiah, just as the angels had announced to them on the hills of Bethlehem.

"It was no more possible for the shepherds to hide the light that had been shed abroad in their hearts than for the sun to cease to shine. The good news was too good to be kept to themselves. Eventually, the report of the angels' visit to the shepherds reached the ears of the priests, elders, and rabbis in Jerusalem—but they treated it as unworthy of notice. . . . All who find Christ born anew in their hearts today will, like the shepherds of Bethlehem, make the good news known to others" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 700).

"Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song. Angels from the courts above will accompany those in the common occupations of life who respond to God's leading" (Ellen G. White, *Humble Hero*, p. 17).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 2:8-20
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 4, pp. 43-49
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 35-42
- Our Beliefs, nos. 11, 4, 9

POWER TEXT

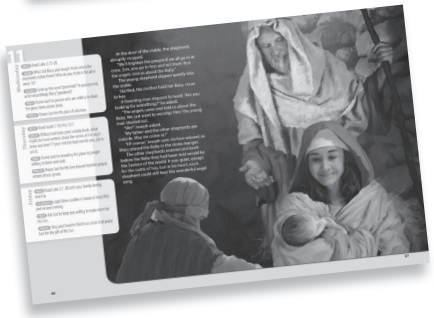
"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests'" (Luke 2:13, 14).

POWER POINT

Every day we can praise and worship God as the angels did.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.

Sunday

READ Read Luke 2:8-10 and this week's lesson, "Praise Explosion!"

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

LEARN Write out your power text on both sides of a paper angel that you make out of a circle, two small triangles, and one larger triangle.

PRAY Praise God for Jesus, the gift of heaven.

Monday

READ Read Luke 2:11, 12.

THINK Why do you think the angels appeared to the shepherds and not to someone like the innkeeper?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God that He does not show favoritism but that He is just and merciful to everyone.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 2:13.

CREATE Write a carol or poem of praise as if the angels were appearing today in your town.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for being our Creator and Sustainer.

Wednesday

READ Read Luke 2:15-20.

THINK Why were "all who heard" the shepherds' message "amazed" (see verse 18)?

SEARCH Look up the word "pondered." In your journal, write what things Mary "pondered."

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for people who are willing to share the good news about Jesus. Praise Him for the plan of salvation.

Thursday

READ Read Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6.

WRITE If Mary had been given a baby book, what might she have written about the events of the night Jesus was born? Ask your mom about your birth.

REVIEW Review the power text.

SHARE Tell someone about Jesus' great love for us.

PRAY Thank God for revealing His plans to people willing to listen and wait. Praise God for His love toward humble people whom others ignore.

Friday

READ Read Luke 2:8-20 with your family during worship.

TALK With your family members, discuss the similarities and differences between Jesus' first and second coming.

SING Sing your favorite Christmas carols.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you be willing to make room for Jesus in your heart.