

## Christmas Participation Story

Group one:	Shepherds	“Yo, Sheep!”
Group two:	Sheep	“Baa!”
Group three:	Night	Silent night, holy night (sung w/piano accompany)
Group four:	Angel	Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (sung w/organ accompany)
All	Good news	“Yes!” (with fist pump)
All	Great Joy	Shouts
All	Baby	“Ahhh”

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### The Story:

Long ago in a country far away from this one, there were **shepherds...**

watching over their **sheep...**

by **night.**

Being good **shepherds...**

they protected their **sheep,**

made sure they had food to eat and water to drink, and gathered them together at **night...**

for protection. The **shepherds...**

were listening to the soft sounds of the **sheep...**

as they quieted down to go to sleep. The dark sky was full of shimmering stars that **night.**

And then..all sound stopped and an **angel...**

appeared to them. They were bathed in light, almost as if they glowed from within. The **shepherds...**

were frightened and so were the **sheep.**

The **angel...**

spoke to them. “Don’t be afraid. I have some **good news...**

to share. My **good news...**

will bring **great joy...**

to all people. The **good news...**

is this: this very day in David’s town, a **baby...**

was born. And this **baby...**

is your savior—Christ the Lord.” The **shepherds...**

were amazed and so were the **sheep.**

What they thought was going to be like every other evening had turned into a holy **night.**

The **angel...**

told them to go into Bethlehem where they would find the **baby.**

Then the sky was filled with **angels...**

singing praises to God, proclaiming the **good news...**

with **great joy...**

then they were gone. The **shepherds...**

looked at each other and at the **sheep.**

“We should go to Bethlehem and see the **baby...**,”

they said. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the **baby...**

lying in a manger. When the **shepherds...**

saw him, they told Mary and Joseph what the **angel...**

had told them about the **baby.**

And that they had come to see the **good news...**

for themselves so that they could share the **great joy.**

Everyone who heard what the *shepherds...*

said was amazed. Mary listened to all that was said and treasured it in her heart. The *shepherds...*

went back into the hills to their *sheep...*

singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen. It had been just as the *angel...*

had told them. They had knelt before the *baby...*

received the *good news...*

felt the *great joy...*

and when they were finally settled down, turned to each other and proclaimed, "What a *night!*"