Station Four – God's Message for the shepherds

Introduction

There were shepherds camping in the neighbourhood, watching over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for the whole world: A Saviour has just been born in Bethlehem, a Saviour who is God and King. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him." Luke 2: 8-14.
Very ordinary people were the first to hear the news that God had kept his promise and sent a saviour for the whole world. No surprise then that straight away the shepherds ran down into the city to find the baby Jesus.

Craft preparation

If you can't get hold of self adhesive googly eyes, then you can supply glue. Just make sure you have enough to rotate and clean between uses.

- Strips of cotton wool or cotton wool balls
- Googly eyes

Self adhesive googly eyes from Baker Ross

Craft Instructions

Make your own sheep by sticking the googly eyes on the front of a ball of cotton wool. Can you tell your sheep what the sheep on that hillside in Bethlehem saw that night?

Scene setting

Required
- Introduction sheet
- Craft instructions
- Story – printed/videoed or read in person

Optional
- Mock campfire
- Reflection questions

Reflection questions

- Why do you think God chose the shepherds to be the first people to hear the good news about Jesus?
- Imagine what it would be like to see a whole sky full of angels singing praises to God
- What do you think Mary thought when the shepherds turned up just a short while after Jesus' birth?

Soundtrack

Hallelujah from Handel's Messiah https://youtu.be/IUZEtVbJT5c

Story

Extra ideas   **Hide a number of sheep on the rest of the route and ask the children to see how many they can spot. You can offer a prize at the end for correct guesses**