Christmas

Scripture
Luke 2:8-20

Activity
Shepherds' Staff Breadsticks

Using refrigerated breadstick dough or pizza dough, have children shape the dough into a shape resembling a shepherd's staff. Place the dough on a baking sheet. If desired, brush the breadsticks with melted butter and add your favorite seasonings. Bake the breadsticks according to the package directions. Enjoy your breadsticks as a special snack or have them alongside a Christmas meal. Share the breadsticks with one another to remind you that the good news of Jesus is meant to be shared!

Share

Read "Shepherds' Story" together, taking turns reading the story or assigning parts. You may also choose to have children act out the Christmas story. Why do you think the shepherds were the first ones to hear about the baby Jesus? What would you have done if you had been the first person to hear about Jesus?

Advent Wreath

If you are using an Advent wreath, light all four candles plus the Christ candle, or color the center Christ candle.

Liturgy/Prayer

For this session's prayer and worship time, let's use our imaginations and our senses to experience the different parts of this story of grace in our minds. Close your eyes and try to imagine each scene as I read these prompts. Consider what you see, what you hear, what you smell, what you feel, and maybe even what you taste. Notice how God's grace shows up in these scenes.

- The shepherds guarding their sheep in the fields.

- The Lord's angel telling the shepherds, "Don't be afraid!"

- The great assembly praising God.

- The shepherds finding Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

- The shepherds telling everyone about Jesus and the people being amazed

- Mary thinking about and remembering everything that was happening.

- The shepherds returning home, praising God.

God of grace and God of glory, thank you for this amazing story of hope, love, joy, and peace. As we move beyond the time of Advent, give us the grace to be people who do the things that bring peace and build each other up. Amen.