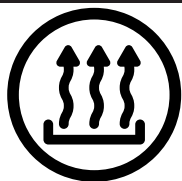




Born is the King:

Angels We Have Heard on High



WARM-UP

What is the best gift that YOU'VE given someone? Or one that you think was a good gift?

Read out loud as a group

HISTORY

"Angels We Have Heard on High" was adapted and written by a Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle named James Chadwich in 1862. His inspiration was a French Christmas carol called "Les Anges dans nos Compagnes," which translates to "The Angels in our Countryside." The English version is translated from the French but many lyrics were changed to fit the structure of the song so it is widely considered to be its own work. Both are inspired by Luke 2:6-20.

Listen to the song together. This for KING & COUNTRY version is great! - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V7sLV2uqls>

Read out loud as a group

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavn'ly song?
[Refrain]

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
[Refrain]

4. See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise.
[Refrain]



What do you like about this hymn?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



This song talks about angels, shepherds, and creation itself praising God. What are everyday things and extraordinary things that bring you to praise the Lord?

Possible Answers: may vary. Example or ordinary: when you catch the moment the street lights turn on.

Extraordinary: miraculous healings and provisions from the Lord, seeing cool places or having cool animal encounters (safely).



“Gloria in Excelsis Deo” means “Gloria to God in the highest” and yet it's contrasted by the mention of the High King being born in a lowly manger/barn. What does this show about God's Character?

Possible Answers: It shows God's profound humility. Shows his emphasis on faith and not on earthly glory or earthly things. Shows his otherness. The priorities of God are not the same as the priorities of men. etc.

Read out loud as a group

LUKE 2:6-20 NIV

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



What stands out to you about this passage?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



Even HERE we see this theme of spreading the good news. What are ways in which we can share the good news of Jesus Christ this Christmas?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Example: we as Christians could create little traditions and habits of reminding our families and friends that as we exchange gifts this christmas it is just a little picture of the greater gift Christ has given us. While these earthly things will bring joy or comfort for a short time, God grants us eternal joy and comfort in Him.



What are things that make praise and worship hard?

Possible Answers: Good times when we feel like we don't need to rely on God. Bad times when we feel like God isn't showing up how we want Him to. etc



Mary and Joseph had just experienced an immaculate conception and still they were amazed at what the shepherds had said. What are ways that we can continue to be in awe of God?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Maintaining practices of thankfulness. Stopping to remember how wild and wondrous this history we have is! etc.

Read out loud as a group

PSALM 103 NIV

1 Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
2 Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
3 who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and
compassion,
5 who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the
eagle's.
6 The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.

7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the
earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions
from us.

Read out loud as a group

PSALM 103 CONTINUED

13 As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
14 for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
15 The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
16 the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
17 But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—

18 with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
20 Praise the Lord, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
21 Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
22 Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the Lord, my soul.



List out all the things commanded to Praise God. Also list out all the reasons to praise God

Possible Answers:

Command to praise: us, our souls, our inmost beings, his angels, heavenly hosts, you servants who do his will, all of His works in His dominion. Ie, the whole world.

Reasons to praise: all of his benefits, forgives sins, heals diseases, redeems life from death, crowns you, satisfies us with good things, renews us, works righteousness and justice for all, makes himself known, He is compassionate, He is gentle, He is abounding in love, He is slow to anger, He wont stay angry, He doesn't give us what we deserve (mercy), He has great love for those to recognize Him as God, He calls us children, His throne is established forever.



In the Psalm, which reason to praise the Lord is sticking out to you the most? Why?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- The Angels, sent by God, interrupted the darkness around the Shepherds watching their flock at night. How has God interrupted darkness in your life?
- What are some things in your life which you have “treasured up” from God like Mary in Luke 2:19?