

# Short Talk

(SHT130)

## Good News Today!

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## SHORT TALK: “Good News Today!”

**Aim of Short talk:** To share the good news of Christmas; that Jesus, the Saviour of the world has come and to encourage people to take a look for themselves at Jesus, the baby in the Crib.

**Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.

**Main themes:** Christmas, Jesus, good news, Gospel

**Biblical references:** Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Lectionary:** Year C – Christmas Day

**Props:** Each child in the congregation will receive a wrapped gift during this talk. The gift needs to be something that every child, whatever their age can receive and which has a bit of a “wow” factor.

My suggestion for the gift would be something that “glows” eg. a “rainbow wand” (a flashing glow stick) which will cost you around £1.60 each if you buy 12, or “Glow glasses” which will cost you around £1 each if you buy 12. (You can buy these and other glow items online at [www.glowsticks.co.uk](http://www.glowsticks.co.uk))

Alternatively you could purchase bars of chocolate / bags of sweets as the gift you give to each child – remembering that some children have allergies and you will need a range of edible gifts. If you go for this option make sure that you label each gift with what it contains so that parents can help children choose the appropriate edible gift.

Wrap the gifts up individually, ensuring that you have plenty of extras in case you have an influx of children on Christmas day and leave them in a basket or some other container on a table in your vestry (or side room) – ready to be found by the children.

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Children / young people, I have some good news for you!

- Today in the vestry of this church there is a gift for you.
- This will be a sign to you: You will find a basket on top of the vestry table full of gifts.

So what are you going to do?

- Is anyone going to go and have a look?
- Is anyone going to go and take the gift that is waiting for them in that basket?
- When you have found a gift come back here and join me.

*(Wait as the children go and retrieve their gifts and bring them back to you)*

What have you got there? (*Child/ren unwrap their gifts and show them to the congregation*)

- Wow you have all been given a N (*Name of the gift given*)
- Aren't you glad that you went and had a look after I told you the good news?
- You can tell your friends who aren't here today that you were given this gift in church.

Now 2000 years ago some shepherds were out on the hillside looking after their sheep just outside of Bethlehem when an angel of the Lord appeared to them.

- The angel told them that he had good news for them.
- He said: *"Today in the town of David a Saviour 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 2:11-12)

The gift that the angel told the shepherds about was not the gift of N (*Name of the gift given to the children,*), but the gift of a Saviour.

So what did the shepherds do?

- Did they stay on the hillside looking after their sheep? No they didn't.
- They said: *"Let's go to Bethlehem and have a look,"* in the same way that you decided to go and have a look in the vestry when I told you there was a gift for you in there.

When the shepherds got to Bethlehem they found the gift of the Saviour, lying in a manger just as the angel had told them.

- They then went and told everyone about the gift that they had found.

Today it is Christmas Day.

- If you watch television you might think that the only good news about Christmas is the good news of presents, amazing food, special TV programmes and seeing friends and family.

However, the real good news that we have all been given is the same good news that the shepherds were given over 2000 years ago.

- It is the good news that a Saviour, Jesus was born for us, and that He is alive today!

The Bible tells us that anyone who turns their hearts to Jesus, believing that He is the Son of God will be forgiven their sins and given a place in God's family, both now and for all eternity....the gift of eternal life. (John 3:16, John 1:12)

So what are you going to do about that good news? Eternal life is on offer for everyone,

- like there was a gift on offer for all the children earlier on.

Will you, like the children and the shepherds, go and take a look for yourselves?

- If you have never taken a look before at Jesus.....why not open a Bible at the book of Luke and read it through, asking God to speak to you as you read it.
- Jesus is the good news of Christmas.....so let's celebrate!