

English for Life

---

# Luke 1–5

Ten Bible-based English lessons

---

## Intermediate

Written by Danielle McGregor  
Illustrations by Jemima Nichols

---

# Lesson 4

## **PART 1** (APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR):

### **A modern shepherd**

## **PART 2** (APPROXIMATELY 1/2 HOUR):

### **Shepherds hear good news Luke 2:8–20**

#### **BIG IDEA:**

The shepherds heard through God's messengers that the saviour and king had been born. After they saw Jesus, they praised God and told everyone.

 **Prepare lesson**

## Part 1. A modern shepherd

### Print resources

- RESOURCE 4.1 – Picture sheet**  
Print one sheet per small group.
- RESOURCE 4.2 – News report**  
Print and cut enough of each text segment for one-third of the class.
- RESOURCE 4.3 – Word search**  
Print one copy per student.

## Part 2. Shepherds hear good news Luke 2:8–20

### Read scripture

- Luke 2:8–20 in your Bible
- Luke 2:8–20 paraphrase on page 5

### Print resources

- Story sketches 1–3** (on pages 6–8 in Introduction)  
Print one copy of each sketch to display.
- Summary statements 1–3** (on pages 17–19 in Introduction)  
Print one copy of each statement to display.
- RESOURCE 4.4 – Story sketch 4**  
Print one A4 or A3 copy to display.
- RESOURCE 4.5 – Gap-fill activity**  
Print one copy per student.
- RESOURCE 4.6 – Bible text**  
Print one Bible text per student.

### HEART LANGUAGE

Optional: Print the passage in the students' heart languages for them to read or take home.

Visit [bible.com](http://bible.com) or [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) to find a number of international translations.

## Part 1. A modern shepherd

### Activate knowledge

**Divide** the class into small groups.

**Distribute** **RESOURCE 4.1 – Picture sheet** to small groups.

**Invite** students to talk about what they see in the pictures.

**Write** vocabulary on the board as groups take turns to describe the pictures.

**Write** on the board: *Chinese shepherd is praised as a saviour.*

**Say** 'This is a news report headline. What do you think it will be about?'

**RESOURCE 4.1 –  
Picture sheet**

Print one sheet per  
small group.

### Focus on language

**Divide** the class into 3 groups.

**Distribute** different text segments from **RESOURCE 4.2 – News report** to small groups so that all members of one group have the same text (a, b or c) and each group has a different text (i.e. one group has a, one has b, one has c).

**Invite** students to read the text silently and then aloud in their groups.

**Invite** groups to summarise the text in their own words.

**Invite** each group to share the summary of their segment of the text with the class (in order).

**Distribute** **RESOURCE 4.3 – Word search** to each student.

**Read** the text aloud, inviting students to read along:

Chinese *shepherd* is *praised* as a *saviour*  
Wednesday 26 May 2021

A *shepherd* in China was taking care of his *sheep*.  
He could see that the weather was turning bad.

**RESOURCE 4.2 –  
News report**

Print and cut enough of  
each text segment for  
one-third of the class.

**RESOURCE 4.3 –  
Word search**

Print one copy per  
student.

The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He **hurried** to a **nearby** cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

The **shepherd told** reporters that he **heard** people outside, and **saw** some runners looking cold and **terrified**. He brought them into the cave from the **field** and **took care** of them.

One of the runners was unconscious. The **shepherd** carried him to the cave and **wrapped** him in blankets, saving his life.

Many other marathon runners died that day, but the **shepherd** was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the **shepherd** for saving their lives. The **shepherd** said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in **glory**.

**Invite** students to find and circle the words from the box in the news report.

**Define** the circled words.

**Invite** students to use some of the circled words in new sentences.

## Undertake speaking tasks

Choose one or more tasks to suit your context.

### Speaking task 1: Sharing stories

**Divide** students into pairs.

**Invite** students to share about a time they were:

- a. surprised by something
- b. saved from something.

## Speaking task 2: Class discussion

**Review** the **Phrases for discussion** on page 27 in Introduction, allowing students time to practise.

**Write** on the board: *Sometimes what you're looking for comes when you're not looking at all.*

**Invite** students to discuss and give their opinions.

## Lead into Bible

**Say** 'Our Bible time is about some shepherds who also saw and heard something surprising.'

## Part 2. Shepherds hear good news

### Luke 2:8–20 (paraphrase)

This Bible paraphrase will be referred to later in this lesson.

There were shepherds in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep.

An angel appeared to them. They were terrified but the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born. He is God's king. You will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven appeared. They said, 'Glory to God and peace to those he is pleased with on earth!'

The angels left and the shepherds hurried off and found the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they praised God and told everyone. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

## Review previous lessons

Display **Story sketches 1–3** (pages 6–8 in Introduction).

**Point** to the **Story sketches** one at a time, inviting students to summarise the Bible story from each of the previous lessons.

Display **Summary statements 1–3** (pages 17–19 in Introduction).

**Re-read** the **Summary statements** from each lesson, pointing to the corresponding sketches.

## Predict content

Display **RESOURCE 4.4 – Story sketch 4**.

**Ask** ‘What do you think this Bible text is about?’

**Discuss** the meaning of these words: *shepherd*, *angel*, *glory*, *saviour*.

## Read and comprehend

### Activity 1: Gap-fill

Distribute **RESOURCE 4.5 – Gap-fill activity**.

**Invite** students to fill in the gaps as you read the following Bible paraphrase aloud slowly, pausing on bold words for students to write.

#### Luke 2:8–20 (paraphrase)

There were **shepherds** in the fields **nearby**. It was night, and they were taking care of their **sheep**.

An angel appeared to them. They were terrified but the angel said to them, ‘Do not be **afraid**. I bring you good **news** for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been **born**. He is God’s king. You will find a **baby** wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.’

**RESOURCE 4.4 –  
Story sketch 4**  
Print one A4 or A3  
copy to display.

**RESOURCE 4.5 –  
Gap-fill activity**  
Print one copy per  
student.

**RESOURCE 4.6 –  
Bible text**

Print one Bible text per student.

**HEART LANGUAGE**

Optional: Invite students to read the passage in their heart language.

Visit [bible.com](http://bible.com) or [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) to find a number of international translations.

**Suddenly** a large group of angels from heaven appeared. They said, ‘Glory to God and peace to those he is pleased with on earth!’

The angels left and the shepherds hurried off and **found** the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they praised God and told **everyone**. Everything they had **seen** and **heard** was just as they had been told.

**Activity 2: Define new words**

Divide students into pairs.

Distribute **RESOURCE 4.6 – Bible text** to each student.

Invite students to read the text together and check their answers in the gap-fill activity.

Invite students to circle any words that are new to them.

Define any new words (see the Glossary on page 28 in Introduction).

**Activity 3: Retell**

Invite students to retell the story in their own words, in pairs or to the class.

 **Invite curiosity**

Ask ‘Do you have any questions or comments about the story?’

 **An important question**

Ask ‘Why do you think the shepherds say the birth of Jesus is good news for all people?’

## Summary statement

**Say** 'The angels told the shepherds that the saviour and king had been born. After they saw Jesus, they praised God and told everyone.'

## 4.1 RESOURCE – Picture sheet

Lesson 4: Part 1. A modern shepherd  
Print one sheet per small group.



## 4.2 RESOURCE – News report

1/3

Lesson 4: Part 1. A modern shepherd  
Print and cut enough of each text segment for one-third of the class.



Luke.In.4

**a.** A shepherd in China was taking care of his sheep. He could see that the weather was changing. The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He hurried to a nearby cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

Luke.In.4

**a.** A shepherd in China was taking care of his sheep. He could see that the weather was changing. The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He hurried to a nearby cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

Luke.In.4

**a.** A shepherd in China was taking care of his sheep. He could see that the weather was changing. The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He hurried to a nearby cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

Luke.In.4

**a.** A shepherd in China was taking care of his sheep. He could see that the weather was changing. The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He hurried to a nearby cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

Luke.In.4

**a.** A shepherd in China was taking care of his sheep. He could see that the weather was changing. The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He hurried to a nearby cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

Luke.In.4

**a.** A shepherd in China was taking care of his sheep. He could see that the weather was changing. The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He hurried to a nearby cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

## 4.2 RESOURCE – News report

2/3

Lesson 4: Part 1. A modern shepherd  
Print and cut enough of each text segment for one-third of the class.



Luke.In.4

**b.** The shepherd told reporters that he heard people outside, and saw some runners looking cold and terrified. He brought them into the cave from the field and took care of them. One of the runners was unconscious. The shepherd carried him to the cave and wrapped him in blankets, saving his life.

Luke.In.4

**b.** The shepherd told reporters that he heard people outside, and saw some runners looking cold and terrified. He brought them into the cave from the field and took care of them. One of the runners was unconscious. The shepherd carried him to the cave and wrapped him in blankets, saving his life.

Luke.In.4

**b.** The shepherd told reporters that he heard people outside, and saw some runners looking cold and terrified. He brought them into the cave from the field and took care of them. One of the runners was unconscious. The shepherd carried him to the cave and wrapped him in blankets, saving his life.

Luke.In.4

**b.** The shepherd told reporters that he heard people outside, and saw some runners looking cold and terrified. He brought them into the cave from the field and took care of them. One of the runners was unconscious. The shepherd carried him to the cave and wrapped him in blankets, saving his life.

Luke.In.4

**b.** The shepherd told reporters that he heard people outside, and saw some runners looking cold and terrified. He brought them into the cave from the field and took care of them. One of the runners was unconscious. The shepherd carried him to the cave and wrapped him in blankets, saving his life.

Luke.In.4

**b.** The shepherd told reporters that he heard people outside, and saw some runners looking cold and terrified. He brought them into the cave from the field and took care of them. One of the runners was unconscious. The shepherd carried him to the cave and wrapped him in blankets, saving his life.

## 4.2 RESOURCE – News report

3/3

Lesson 4: Part 1. A modern shepherd  
Print and cut enough of each text segment for one-third of the class.



Luke.In.4

**C.** Many other marathon runners died that day, but the shepherd was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the shepherd for saving their lives. The shepherd said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in glory.

Luke.In.4

**C.** Many other marathon runners died that day, but the shepherd was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the shepherd for saving their lives. The shepherd said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in glory.

Luke.In.4

**C.** Many other marathon runners died that day, but the shepherd was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the shepherd for saving their lives. The shepherd said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in glory.

Luke.In.4

**C.** Many other marathon runners died that day, but the shepherd was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the shepherd for saving their lives. The shepherd said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in glory.

Luke.In.4

**C.** Many other marathon runners died that day, but the shepherd was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the shepherd for saving their lives. The shepherd said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in glory.

Luke.In.4

**C.** Many other marathon runners died that day, but the shepherd was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the shepherd for saving their lives. The shepherd said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in glory.

### 4.3 RESOURCE – Word search

Circle these words in the text below.

|          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| shepherd | saw       | praised   |
| field    | heard     | told      |
| sheep    | hurried   | took care |
| saviour  | wrapped   | nearby    |
| glory    | terrified |           |

---

**Chinese shepherd is praised as a saviour**

Wednesday 26 May 2021

A shepherd in China was taking care of his sheep. He could see that the weather was turning bad. The temperature dropped, the rain came, and the wind blew. He hurried to a nearby cave and sheltered there. He had everything he needed in the cave.

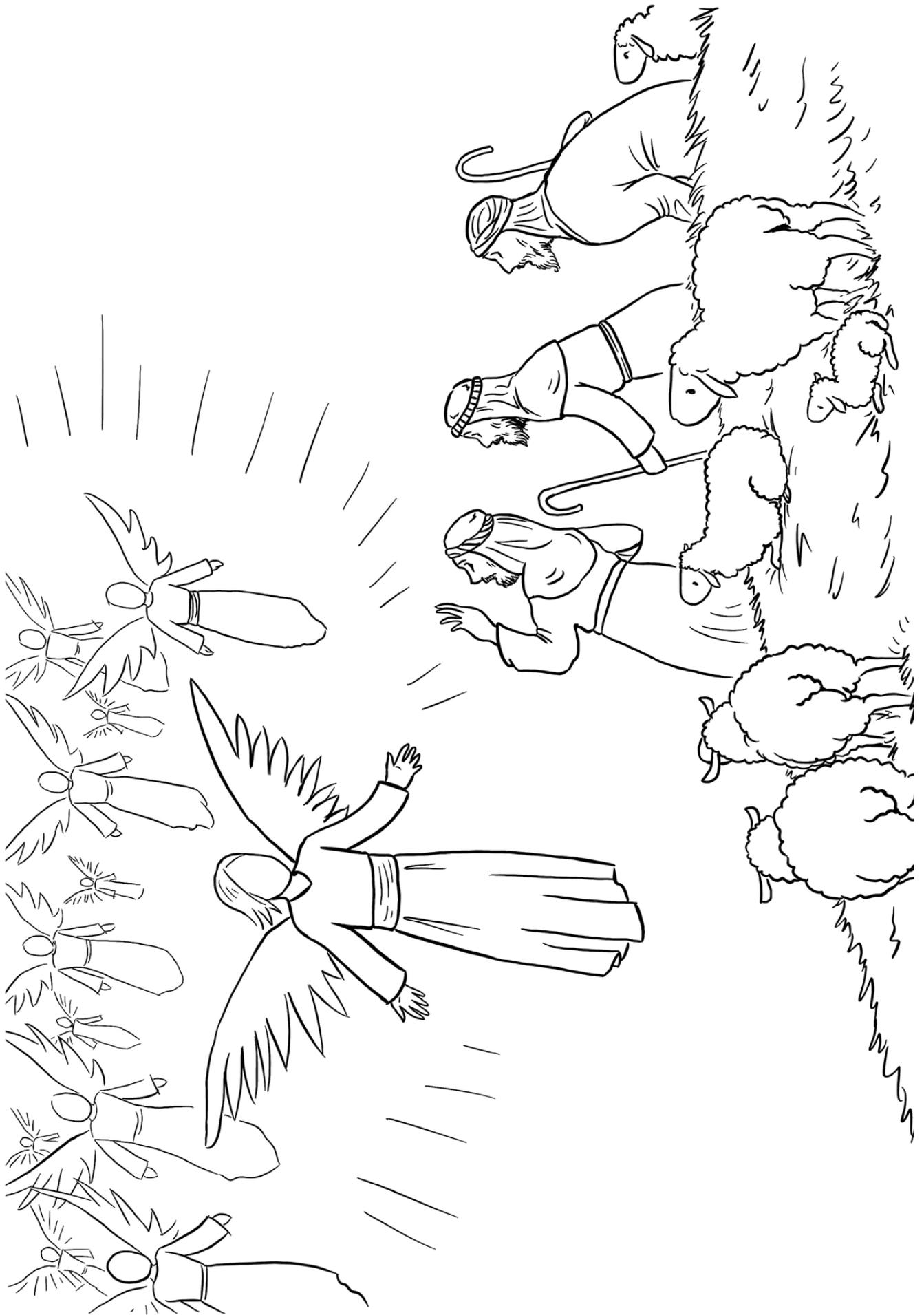
The shepherd told reporters that he heard people outside, and saw some runners looking cold and terrified. He brought them into the cave from the field and took care of them.

One of the runners was unconscious. The shepherd carried him to the cave and wrapped him in blankets, saving his life.

Many other marathon runners died that day, but the shepherd was able to save six. Later the runners thanked the shepherd for saving their lives. The shepherd said he was just an ordinary person who did an ordinary thing. He said he was no angel and wasn't interested in glory.

4.4 RESOURCE – Story sketch 4

Lesson 4: Part 2. Shepherds hear good news – Luke 2:8-20  
Print one A4 or A3 copy to display.



## 4.5 RESOURCE – Gap-fill activity

Lesson 4: Part 2. Shepherds hear good news – Luke 2:8–20  
Print one copy per student.

Choose the correct word from the box to fill the gaps in the text.

|                      |          |          |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| born                 | baby     | afraid   |
| found                | seen     | sheep    |
| heard                | nearby   | news     |
| <del>shepherds</del> | Suddenly | everyone |

---

### Luke 2:8–20

There were shepherds in the fields \_\_\_\_\_. It was night, and they were taking care of their \_\_\_\_\_.

An angel appeared to them. They were terrified but the angel said to them, 'Do not be \_\_\_\_\_. I bring you good \_\_\_\_\_ for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been \_\_\_\_\_. He is God's king. You will find a \_\_\_\_\_ wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.'

\_\_\_\_\_ a large group of angels from heaven appeared. They said, 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to those he is pleased with on earth!'

The angels left, and the shepherds hurried off and \_\_\_\_\_ the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they praised God and told \_\_\_\_\_. Everything they had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ was just as they had been told.

**Luke 2:8–20**

There were shepherds in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep.

An angel appeared to them. They were terrified but the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born. He is God's king. You will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven appeared. They said, 'Glory to God and peace to those he is pleased with on earth!'

The angels left and the shepherds hurried off and found the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they praised God and told everyone. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Luke.In.4

**Luke 2:8–20**

There were shepherds in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep.

An angel appeared to them. They were terrified but the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born. He is God's king. You will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven appeared. They said, 'Glory to God and peace to those he is pleased with on earth!'

The angels left and the shepherds hurried off and found the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they praised God and told everyone. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Luke.In.4

**Luke 2:8–20**

There were shepherds in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep.

An angel appeared to them. They were terrified but the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born. He is God's king. You will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven appeared. They said, 'Glory to God and peace to those he is pleased with on earth!'

The angels left and the shepherds hurried off and found the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they praised God and told everyone. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Luke.In.4