



## STORY

### INTRO

Can you believe there was actually a time when people communicated without emojis? If you go back just 20 years, people weren't sending smiley faces and sad faces and laughing faces to each other. They could send messages by email or instant messenger and even text, but emojis just didn't exist.

Emojis have certainly brightened up everyone's conversation. Flip through the average iPhone or Android device, and you'll find HUNDREDS of emojis. And not just smiley faces either. You can send flags, sports balls, food, animals, just about anything you can imagine.

Today, I want to introduce you my friend ... the Angel Emoji!

[The teacher/assistant can use a cut-out of the emoji and hold it in front of the face]

[Below is a simple skit for teacher+assistant, so please practice through.

Alternatively, the teacher can just tell the story with the angel emoji as a prop.

Hint: You can put part of the script behind the angel prop.]



**TEACHER:** We know this is the angel emoji because it has a pretty blue halo on the top of its head. The angel emoji is a funny one because people use it in different ways. Some people use it to tell a friend that they are someone special and sweet, like an angel. Others use it sarcastically or to feign ignorance. Like if mum texted, "Who ate the last chocolate chip cookie?" And you text back an angel emoji.

Hi Angel! Maybe you can tell us a bit more about yourself, ie who you really are!

**ANGEL:** Hi Teacher. Yes, everybody thinks we angels are just cute-looking. But angels are actually very important. One of their roles is to be messengers of God. In fact, more than 2,000 years ago, a very important angel delivered two very important messages to two very special people.

**TEACHER:** Wow! Can you tell us more about this?

**ANGEL:** Well, the very important angel's name is ... Gabriel. One day, he appeared to a young woman named Mary. He told her God promised to send a Savior, a Messiah, to save his people. God always keeps His promises. And God has chosen Mary to be this Savior's mother on Earth! You can read about it in Luke 1:30-33.



# AN EMOJI CHRISTMAS: ANGEL EMOJI

Adapted from <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/emoji-christmas-4-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum>

TEACHER: Let's read it together, children.

*"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

TEACHER: That must be pretty shocking news to Mary.

ANGEL: Indeed, it was. When angels appear to people, they can be quite shocking. Because they are tall, and white and dazzling and powerful. Definitely not with a cute blue halo.

There was a problem though. Mary was engaged to be married to a man called Joseph. How do you think Joseph would feel if his fiancée was suddenly pregnant, and he was not the father?

TEACHER: Oh no!

ANGEL: But God thought about that. So, He sent Gabriel to appear to Joseph, Mary's fiancé, in a dream.

TEACHER: Let's read together what Gabriel said to Joseph in Matthew 1:20-23.

*"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

ANGEL: That's right. Joseph believed the angel, just as Mary did, that their son would be someone important. He married Mary, and when the baby was born, the both of them became Mom and Dad to a man we call Jesus.

TEACHER: That's pretty amazing. You angels really kicked off that first Christmas with a big announcement. Not just to Mary and Joseph but to a group of shepherds keeping watch at night. You told them about the birth of the baby Jesus. And you lit up the whole sky and sang.

ANGEL: [very loudly] "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."



## LESSON

So, children, that first Christmas, the angels played an important role to tell people that Jesus is coming! Ever since the book of Genesis, God's people had waited for Jesus to come. They didn't know him by name, but God's messengers, the prophets, had told them many things. The prophets said he would be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace. They said he would die for the sins of the world. They said he would be born to a woman like Mary. They even said that he would be born in the city of Bethlehem!

The prophets shared their messages with God's people to give them hope. They reminded the people that God still loved them and would save them from sin.

And He finally did!

Today, you and I have a bigger news to tell the whole world!

Jesus has come!

He came as a little baby. He lived a perfect life. He died on the cross to pay for your sin and my sin and the sin of the whole world. And three days later, He rose again and later ascended to heaven. Now, He lives in our hearts.

Let us be like the angels and share the great news to all our friends that Jesus has come!

It's tempting to think to ourselves, "We don't need to share the Christmas story. It's Christmas time! Everybody knows what Christmas is all about!" The truth is, many people don't know what Christmas is about. They don't go to church. They don't read the Bible. All they see at Christmas is Santa and Christmas trees and the Grinch.

We can change that. We can make a difference in the lives of our friends, our fellow students, our family, and our neighbors. We can be the angels and share the good news of Jesus, especially this Christmas time.



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to pray for who they want to share Jesus with this Christmas to and pray for them.

### MEMORY VERSE

*"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").* **Matthew 1:23**

[You can play a game with the memory verse. E.g. variations of Chinese whispers or Duck, Duck, Goose]

### GAME: HALO TREE

Props: a small Christmas tree; a set of six hoops

Pick two players for this game. Have the players stand about 10 to 15 feet from the tree. Each player will have a chance to try and ring the tree with the six hoops. The player who gets the most hoops around the tree wins.

The hoops remind us of the angels (with their halos) who brought the news that Jesus was come.

### GAME: PIN THE WINGS ON THE ANGEL

Put up a large picture of an angel and make angel wings for the kids to stick on the angel while blindfolded.

### SONG

Angels We have heard on high

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VU0ghx\\_Oy0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VU0ghx_Oy0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCF6nh1PcpY>



## STORY (Luke 2:8-20)

### INTRO

[Below is a simple skit for teacher+assistant, so please practice through. Alternatively, the teacher can just tell the story with the emoji as a prop. Hint: You can put part of the script behind the emoji prop.]

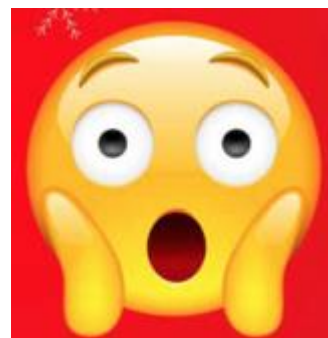
Last week, we met a special friend with a round yellow face. Does anyone remember who it was?  
*Angel Emoji*

That's right. Do you remember who the angels appeared to in the very first Christmas?  
*Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds.*

Great! Let's continue our story.

[Surprised emoji rushes in and interrupts teacher]

[The teacher/assistant can use a cut-out of the emoji and hold it in front of the face]



TEACHER: [Put hands on cheeks and look surprised]  
Whoa! What's the matter? Who are you? Are you ok? You look a bit ...

EMOJI: SURPRISED! I'm Surprise Emoji. But frankly, I think I'm just shocked.

TEACHER: Oh ... well you surprised us alright when you SUDDENLY rushed in here. Do you need to sit down? How about a cup of water? Tell us what happened!

EMOJI: Well ... you mentioned about the angels appearing to the shepherd on the first Christmas?

TEACHER: Yea ...

EMOJI: Well I was there. I was a shepherd there in the fields.

TEACHER: Wow!



# AN EMOJI CHRISTMAS: SURPRISED EMOJI

Adapted from <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/emoji-christmas-4-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum>

EMOJI: So there we were, minding our own business, looking after our sheep. It was dark ... cause it was night and all that. You get paid overtime for the night shift, you know.

And SUDDENLY! Out of the blue, with no warning, an angel suddenly appeared in the sky! And there was this bright light. We were all terrified!

TEACHER: That would be really scary! Wouldn't it children? Can you show me your most surprised face?

And then what happened?

EMOJI: Well the angel could see we were trembling. So he said ... oh, let us all just read what he said. It's found in Luke 2:10.

[show on screen]

*"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."*

TEACHER: That's amazing news. A Saviour has been born!

EMOJI: Yes, but that's not all. SUDDENLY, the sky was filled with not just one, but a whole company of angels, praising God, and saying: *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

TEACHER: That's amazing. What happened next?

EMOJI: Well, we decided that we should go see this Saviour, this baby in a manger. And it was exactly as the angel said. After we saw this Saviour baby, we went back and told everyone else that we saw along the way about Him!

But as you can see ... I'm still rather SURPRISED from that night's happenings.

TEACHER: Well, thank you for joining us today and sharing your story.





## LESSON

What would it have been like to see an angel? Would you be as SURPRISED as the shepherds?

Well children, isn't it interesting that the lowliest of careers — the shepherds — heard the news of Jesus' birth directly from angels! God doesn't care about your earthly position — the smallest and lowest of us are important to Him because His good news is for everyone!

After the angels left and went into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.

After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

These shepherds were the first human evangelists. The first people to tell about Jesus.

And they returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### MEMORY VERSE

#### Luke 2:8-9

Have the children do the following hand motions along with repeating the words after you, to help them learn the Bible Verse:

There were shepherds:	Act like you are holding up a shepherd's staff
Living out in the fields nearby:	Sweep arms in front of you, showing the ground
An angel of the Lord:	Hold arms up as in surprise
Appeared to the:	Close eyes and then open eyes
They were terrified:	Put hands on cheek and give a surprised/scared look on your face
Luke 2: hold up 2 fingers	
8 & 9: hold up 8 fingers and then 9 fingers	

Do this a few times with the children. Make it fun for them to do the motions and say the words. Active learning is essential for memorisation.



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to pray for who they want to share Jesus with this Christmas to and pray for them.

### CANDY CANE (time permitting)

[Hold up a candy cane and show the parts as you talk about them]

Today we learnt about the shepherds who heard the news about Jesus' birth.

Shepherds have a crook [hold the candy cane right side up].

The shepherd uses the crook to guide the sheep and to hook them up in case they fall into a ravine.

Who is our Good Shepherd? *Jesus!* [turn the candy cane the other way to show a "J"]

The candy cane is white with red stripes.

The white is for how pure we are with Jesus in our life,  
and the red stands for Jesus' blood that He shed for us on the cross.

When we see or eat candy canes this Christmas, let us remember about the shepherds from the first Christmas ... how the angels surprised them, and how they saw the Saviour baby and told everyone else about Him.

### SONG

Angels We have heard on high

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VU0ghx\\_Oy0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VU0ghx_Oy0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCF6nh1PcpY>

While Shepherds Watched the Flocks by Night

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnk03nuYl4o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSyUvOUZwxQ> (traditional tune; a bit slower)

### VIDEO

Jesus and the Shepherds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo>





## STORY (Matthew 2:1-12)

### INTRO

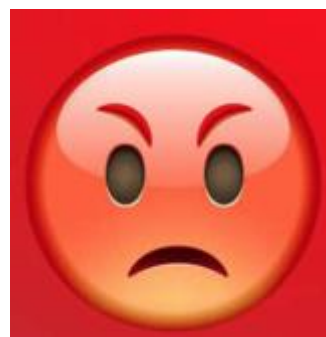
[prepare a printout with an angry face on one side and a happy face on the other; you can also choose to get the kids to act out as wise men bearing gifts for Jesus]

We've been having several little round-faced friends here lately. Anyone remembers who they were?  
*Angel Emoji and Surprised Emoji*

That's right. They told us about how angels announced the birth of a very special King, and how shepherds were the first people to tell others about Jesus.

I love using emojis. They are bright and yellow and make me happy.

Oh ... well ... most of them anyway. This guy definitely doesn't look yellow or happy. This is Angry Emoji. [show the angry face]



### STORY

Do you know children ... not everyone was happy when Jesus was born. In fact, some people were very, very angry.

You see, Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea.

After Jesus' birth, some Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "*Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him.*"

Guess who wasn't very happy when he heard that?

That's right! When King Herod heard about it, he was very, very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them: "Where is this Messiah going to be born?"

The teachers of the law replied: "*In Bethlehem in Judea. This is what the prophet has written.*"





TNCC  
CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH

# AN EMOJI CHRISTMAS: ANGRY EMOJI

Adapted from <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/emoji-christmas-4-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum>

## LESSON

Poor King Herod. He was so jealous and insecure that instead of being happy when he heard of the birth of the Saviour, he was soooo angry that he missed out on the best news of his life.

But this is an important part of the story. Herod isn't just an angry king who thinks someone wants to steal his throne. He represents sin and darkness. The world was ruled by sin for thousands of years.

Then Jesus came and set us free. He came as that little baby, more than two thousand years ago, so that He could live a perfect life, and then die on the cross, to set us free from sin and death. Jesus came to turn the ANGRY FACE into a HAPPY FACE! [show happy emoji]

Jesus came to bring Joy to the World!

Now we all, like King Herod, have a choice to make. Do we want to reject Jesus and stay angry? Or will we let Him into our heart, and allow Him to transform us into someone who overflows with His love and joy?

If you want Jesus to be in your heart, and to take all the anger and sin away, let's pray together now.

