



WHO WILL BE NOTIFIED FIRST?

Slide 1

Do you remember our last story? The birth **Slide 2** of Jesus, the king of kings, in a stable.

Slide 3 A royal event that no one **Slide 4** knows, neither in Bethlehem nor in Jerusalem, nor in Rome... anywhere in the world.

But God wants men to learn of the happy event: **Slide 5** He fulfilled what He promised.

Slide 6 So it is He who will share this good news. **Slide 7** Who will He tell it to first? **Slide 8** How is He going to do it? This is what we will see now. You will be able **Slide 9** to read it again at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke.

Ah, let's see... The question of the day: **Slide 10** Why does God send messengers from heaven?

Slide 11 WHO WILL GOD CHOOSE?

Slide 12 In the small town of Bethlehem everyone sleeps soundly, except in a stable where an extraordinary event has just happened, **Slide 13** the birth of Jesus. The baby is there, **Slide 14** lying in the manger, **Slide 15** under the tender and amazed gaze of Mary, his mother and Joseph.

Slide 16 On earth no one has been warned of this royal birth but in heaven it is not the same, **Slide 17** the angels rejoice, they sing and glorify God.

Slide 18 In the hills around Bethlehem there are a few men who do not sleep. **Slide 19** They are sitting around a fire. They are watching over their flocks of sheep. It is dark, everything is calm.

Suddenly, **Slide 20** a very great light like that of the sun illuminates the sky and **Slide 21** an angel appears to them. The shepherds are scared, **Slide 22** what's going on?

Slide 23 - Do not be afraid! said the angel to them, be reassured because God is sending me to tell you good news and this good news will be great joy for you and for all of God's people! **Slide 24** Today in the city of Bethlehem, the Savior, whom God has long promised, was born! Here's how you'll recognize him: **Slide 25** you'll find a little baby swaddled up and lying in a manger.

Slide 26 Other angels are coming down from heaven. Thousands of them are singing and praising God, it is a heavenly concert:

Slide 27 - Glory, glory to God in the highest heavens, and peace on earth to all men whom God loves!

Shepherds are amazed by what they see and hear, heavenly messengers, heavenly songs.

Slide 28 Heaven is celebrating because Jesus was born.

Slide 29 When the angels leave them, it is silence and dark night again.

The shepherds say to each other:

Slide 30 - Let's go! **Slide 31** Let's go to Bethlehem quickly to see what happened and to witness what God has just revealed to us.

Slide 32 They leave their herds and quickly set out.

When they see the stable, **Slide 33** they enter slowly and there **Slide 34** they find Mary and Joseph with the newborn baby lying in the manger.

They are upset and amazed. This baby that they see, is like all babies, but they know they are in the presence **Slide 35** of the son of God, the king of kings.

They tell Mary and Joseph what they have just experienced, **Slide 36** how they've seen the glory of God, how they've **Slide 37** heard the songs of the angels. They report everything

Slide 38 the angel told them. Mary and Joseph listen to them attentively, they want to keep all these words in their memory, in their heart.

Slide 39 The shepherds return to their flocks while singing the glory and praises of God, for what they saw and heard is exactly what the angel told them. **Slide 40** They saw the glory of God and the promised Savior, they are just simple men, often despised by others, yet they were the first that God informed of the birth of Jesus.

In our next few stories, we'll see how God will share this good news **Slide 41** with so many more.

Slide 42 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

*We can immediately answer the question of the day: **Slide 43** Why does God send messengers from heaven? Now, He sends His angels **Slide 44** because He wants the shepherds to know that Jesus was born.*

*But **Slide 45** these shepherds, who are they? A few men lost there, in the hills in the middle of the night. Who knew them? ... Who knew they were there with their flocks?*

Slide 46... God knew it.

These men saw **Slide 47** thousands of angels, the sky lit up with the glory of God. They heard the music from heaven; they were the first to know that Jesus was born, the first to see and worship him!

Can you imagine all of this? Me, no! This is beyond me! God could have warned the king, the ministers, rich people, but no! He chose **Slide 48** people like you, like me, like these shepherds.

Do you know what God wants today? **Slide 49** He wants everyone to know that Jesus has come.

There are still a lot of people who don't know it.

You can say it around you; it is good news because **Slide 50** Jesus is coming to do us good.

Slide 51 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

What do our children hear about Jesus? of his birth?

What do they see around Christmas time? **Slide 52**

What is the message conveyed to them?

What remains of this heartbreaking true story?

The good news announced to the shepherds is still relevant today. **Slide 53** Jesus came to earth to replace the sadness, sin, and evil in our hearts with joy, peace, and freedom. How do we share this good news with our children? We hope that our "1, 2, 3 STORY TIME" programs help you bring this beautiful message of the gospel to them.

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