

There is an ancient Christian practice of imagining yourself in a story from the Bible so that the story can speak to your life. Using our imaginations we picture ourselves in the story, seeing, tasting, smelling, and feeling what it would be like if we were there.

Tonight I invite you to join with me in imagining what it would be like to have been in the story that we had just heard. To help us with this we are going to make the sound effects for the story.

People on my left, you are going to be shepherds.

People on right, you are going to be sheep.

So, let's practice the sound effects we are going to be making.

Left Side: Let's hear the sheep baaing (baa, baa, baa. . .)
Now sheep snoring. (snoring noises)

Right Side: Let's hear the shepherds talking. (yap, yap, yap...)
Now whispering. (yap, yap, yap)
Now snoring. (snoring noises)

Now let's hear what a surprised shepherd would sound like. (ahhh)
and a surprised sheep, what would that sound like?(baahhh)

Now we need a noise for scared sheep and shepherds. When people get really scared they sometimes shake. So how about we make a shaking noise by rubbing our hands together or tapping our fingers together.

Excellent! Now one more sound. Let's hear what shepherds and sheep sound like running. To do this, just tap your hands on your lap. (tap, tap, tap. . .)

Let's begin the story:

A long, long time ago, there were shepherds taking care of some sheep out in a field. Now, Sheep as we all know, can be noisy animals, always making some sort of sheep noise -(Baaa, baaa, baaa. . .) - Always baaing away.

All day long the shepherds would walk with the sheep taking them to wherever there was good grass to eat. The shepherds talked a lot to each other. (yap, yap, yap. . .). While the sheep continued to baaa (baaaa, baa, baa...)

Night came and the sheep went into their enclosure. Safe from predators, the sheep soon fell asleep. Did you know that some sheep snore? So the sheep, now asleep, began their sheepish snoring. (snoring noises)

The shepherds whispered to each other as they sat around the fire. (yap, yap, yap...). While the sheep continued to snore. (snoring noises)

Eventually most of the shepherds fell asleep. They were sleeping around the fire, and sleeping across the entrance of the sheep pen – so the sheep stay in, and the wild animals stay out.

Some of the shepherds joined in the snoring (snoring noises). Sheep were snoring and shepherds were snoring (snoring noises). All was calm.

Then everything things got really bright---the sky lit up, and the shepherds woke up and were scared (ahhh!)---they began to shake (hands rubbing/fingers tapping).

And the sheep woke up and were scared (baahhh!)---they began to shake (hands rubbing/fingers tapping). Shepherds and sheep staring in to the sky and shaking.

The sky was bright and an angel said:

“Do not be afraid; I come with good news - great joyful news! Great Joyful news for everyone! Born today in the city of David, Bethlehem, is a saviour, the messiah, the Lord. This is how you will know ---you will find a child wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

The shepherds stopped shaking, and the sheep stopped shaking, and they all smiled because they knew that they were hearing good news.

Then a whole bunch of angels appeared in the sky. They began to praise God saying:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those whom God favours!”

Then the angels disappeared.

The Shepherds were excited and started talking to one another. (yapp, yapp, yapp...). The sheep were excited and started baaing to one another. (baa, baa, baa...). Talking shepherds and baaing sheep.

Finally the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s run over to Bethlehem and see what God is up to.”

So the shepherds ran towards the town (tap, tap, tap. . .)
And the sheep ran behind the shepherds. (tap, tap, tap. . .)
Shepherds and sheep running to Bethlehem.

And as they ran the shepherds talked (tap, tap, tap, yap, yap, yap. . .)
And the sheep well, they baaed away (tap, tap, tap, baa, baa, baa. . .)

The shepherds found the stable, found Mary and Joseph and told them what they had seen. (Yap, yap, yap. . .).

The sheep, well, they tried to tell their story too, but sheep don’t speak human, so they just baaed away. (baa, baa, baa. . .)

Everyone who heard what the shepherds said were amazed.
And Mary smiled, treasuring what the shepherds told her.
Eventually the shepherds stopped yapping.
and ran back to the field (tap, tap, tap. . .)
followed by the sheep. (tap, tap, tap. . .)

Ever since then the shepherds have been yapping away (yap, yap, yap...) praising God for all that they had heard and all that they had seen.

The sheep, well they kept on baaing, telling other sheep the story. (baa, baa, baa...)

The end.