

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week One – Day 4

Angels We Have Heard On High

Originally written and published in French, then translated and published in English in 1862 by James Chadwick. "French legend indicates that in medieval times on Christmas Eve, the shepherds would sing and call to one another from one hillside to another. "They would call '*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*' which means "glory to God in the highest" in Latin. It was how they would spread their holiday message and cheer from points far away to one another." (Diana Leigh Matthews at dianaleaghmatthews.com)

Craft Ideas --- More on Angels: <https://craftsbyamanda.com/25-angel-crafts-kids/>

Video by King & Country: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV9XHpNs7_w

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains	Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?	Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing, Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo Gloria, in excelsis Deo	Gloria, in excelsis Deo Gloria, in excelsis Deo	Gloria, in excelsis Deo Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- How would you feel if a whole bunch of angels just appeared out of nowhere?
- Either in the song or from Luke 2:8-14, what do you hear or read the angels singing about?
- What is it about the birth of Jesus that makes us want to sing about it?

Digging Deeper

1. When and how did God "burst" into your life?
2. Have you ever felt like a "shepherd," experiencing a tough time in life, and God broke through to bless you and lift you up?
3. What do the words, "Gloria, in Excelsis Deo," (Glory to God in the highest) mean to you personally? (Luke 2:14)
4. This song speaks of the "mountains in reply." In what way(s) does this phrase have to do with your response to the coming of Jesus?