

# Christmas Season Devotionals

## Week Three – Day 12

### **Go Tell It On The Mountain**

Many scholars believe John Wesley Work (1872?-1925), in collaboration with his brother, Frederick Jerome Work, wrote "Go Tell It On The Mountain." Work was an African-American composer and scholar who collected and arranged spirituals, including this one in 1907. Even though he earned his Master's in Latin and went on to teach ancient Latin and Greek, his first love continued to be music, and he went on to become the first African-American collector of these spirituals. This actually was a difficult task for Work as they were passed down verbally. Very few were ever written down. But Work proved up to the challenge, publishing his first book, *New Jubilee Songs as Sung by the Fisk Jubilee Singers*. *Go Tell It On The Mountain* was published in his second book. (Discipleship Ministries, [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org))

Craft Idea – <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Megaphone>. Use white construction paper so kids can color it and/or write on it what they want others to know about Jesus.

Video by kidschurchcentral.com: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eNQr6SL90M>

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and  
trembled when lo! above the  
earth rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.  
[Refrain]

While shepherds kept their  
watching o'er silent flocks by  
night, behold, throughout the  
heavens there shone a holy light.  
[Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.  
[Refrain]

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- Shepherding was a lowly messy job and shepherd weren't thought of too highly, and yet God chose them to come to Jesus followed by empowering them to tell others about Him. This is an example that God gives anyone who follows Him the courage to share the Good News of Jesus. Do you think it's possible that He can help you have the courage to share His Good News?
- What do you think you are supposed to tell? What is the Good News? (Read John 3:16)
- To whom can you tell it? (Practice with your family or friends, then pray that you'll have a chance to talk to a friend or family member who doesn't know Jesus yet.)
- Where can you go to tell? (Read Matthew 28:18-20)

Digging Deeper

1. Keep in mind that this song was written on the heels of slavery and the aftermath of the Civil War. It was a dark time in the history of our nation, and yet people, like Fredrick Jerome Work could write and sing about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Describe the Good News of Jesus (His goodness) in and through your life, perhaps in spite of struggles you have had?
2. Write down people in your circles of influence who need to have the same hope that you have in Christ and begin praying for them? Also, pray for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them.
3. If you only have a moment with someone, consider using Romans 6:23, "**For the wages** (something you earn) **of sin** (anything that falls short of God's perfect and holy standard) **is death** (separation from God forever, which the Bible calls hell), **BUT** (something is coming) **the free gift** (we cannot buy or earn it) of God (only comes from Him) **is eternal life** (this is the gift, the Good News) **in Christ Jesus our lord** (this gift comes from God through the shed blood of His Son, Jesus Christ on the cross). There you have it, the gospel/good news in one verse. Practice it...draw it out on a napkin, etc.