

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week Three – Day 15

The First Noel

"History hasn't preserved the record of how the music for 'The First Noel' came to be written, but some historians think that the traditional melody originated in France as early as the 1200s. By the 1800s, the melody had become popular in England, and people had added some simple words to sing the song outside when celebrating Christmas together in their villages. Englishmen William B. Sandys and Davies Gilbert collaborated to **write additional words** and set them to music in the 1800s, and Sandys published the resulting song as 'The First Noel' in his book *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern*, which he published in 1823." (liveabout.com)

Craft Idea – <https://www.theartkitblog.com/super-simple-christmas-star-craft-kids/>

Video by The First Noel with Lyrics | Christmas Song & Carol | Children Love to Sing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5uud2fjtoo>

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay; in fields where
they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was
so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them
far; and to the earth it gave great
light, and so it continued both day
and night. [Refrain]

Then entered in those Wise Men
three, full reverently upon the
knee, and offered there, in his
presence, their gold and myrrh
and frankincense. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord,
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth
of naught, and with His blood,
mankind hath bought. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country
far; to seek for a king was their
intent, and to follow the star
wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the
northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its
rest; and there it did both stop and
stay, right over the place where
Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- The word, *Noel*, in different countries, has meant news, shouts of joy, and even birth, but it doesn't refer to just any birth. It's about the birth of Jesus. Why do you think this song makes such a big deal about announcing Jesus' birth?
- Why do you think God chose a star to let wise men know where Jesus was born?
- Read Luke 2:14, 20, which speak of the angels and the shepherds rejoicing over the birth of Jesus Christ. How does Jesus' birth make you feel?

Digging Deeper

1. In the Dark Ages, when this song was written there was very little Biblical literacy, which is why the 2nd stanza is about the shepherds following the star. But really the heart of the matter is found in the last stanza, "Then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord." What's more important, that you step out to share the love of Christ or that you wait until you have all the "right" words to say?
2. What does the information about the wise men tell you about the Lord's open arms? (Read Luke 15:20; John 6:37; Deuteronomy 4:29; 2 Chronicles 30:18-20)
3. How do the words, "with His blood, mankind hath bought," impact you personally?