
DAY 10

Shepherds

TUNED IN TO GOD

“Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him”

(PSALM 72:9, NKJV).

It may seem as if the visitation of angels to the shepherds was an afterthought, but it wasn't! It was prophesied in Psalm 72:9 and intentionally and supernaturally fulfilled by God's miracle timing and the lack of any other place for Mary and Joseph to go at that time. They had to go to a manger in one particular place.

The angels did not have to tell the shepherds precisely where to go in Bethlehem to find the manger holding Jesus. That's because there was only one manger where sacrificial lambs were birthed—the cave under the watchtower of Migdal Eder. Located in the northern part of Bethlehem, this watchtower was built to protect the Temple flocks—the sacrificial lambs to be sacrificed at the Temple (Micah 4:8). The shepherds were on watch at the top of the tower. Underneath it, in a cave (not a barn), there was a birthing trough where the ewes could bear lambs under the care of the shepherds. This process was very delicate, and great care was taken because these were to be the best lambs—perfect and without blemish—to be offered as sacrifices. To do this, they were carefully birthed into a manger, lined with soft, clean straw; and wrapped in swaddling clothes to prevent any injury or blemish.

What an amazing picture of symbolism this was, as the greatest Sacrifice of all time was born into the humblest of places. The redemptive plan of God was continuing, planned for and prepared before creation itself (1 Peter 1:20)!

Study

Tune In to God's Voice

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about'" (Luke 2:15, *NIV*).

LIVE THE WORD

Do you know the still, small voice in you? Do you quickly obey the Holy Spirit when He guides you? Are you tuned in to God's voice? Purpose today that you will listen for God's voice, you will hear His words to you, and you will obey them quickly (John 10:5, 27; Psalm 119:32).

SPEAK THE WORD

I am a friend of God. He speaks clearly to me, exactly what I need and always when I need it. I am not afraid to take any issue or circumstance to Him. I trust that He hears me. He cares about me. And He loves me, today and every day!

SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Jeremiah 33:3, *NASB*; John 15:15; Hebrews 4:16

Apply

When you were born again, God sent His Holy Spirit to live in you and be your Teacher and Trainer to help you live a life that is pleasing to God. That's why, as Christians, we don't have to depend on our own limited reasoning. We can live guided by the Spirit who knows all things. In fact, if we listen to Him every day, He'll steer us clear of hidden dangers and maneuver us safely through even the most complicated situations. How do you let Him steer you?

WALKING IT OUT TO VICTORY

- Don't resist the promptings of the Spirit.
- Trust Him, His Word and His will for you. .
- When you sense Him directing you to do something, decide to obey quickly.
- Decide that you will stand firm in God's will and plan no matter what (Ephesians 6:13)!

OPTION 1: PRINTED CIRCLE ORNAMENT (PG 4-6)

Today's Ornament



Materials



Instructions

STEP 1

Print artwork for Option 1 and cut out both circles.

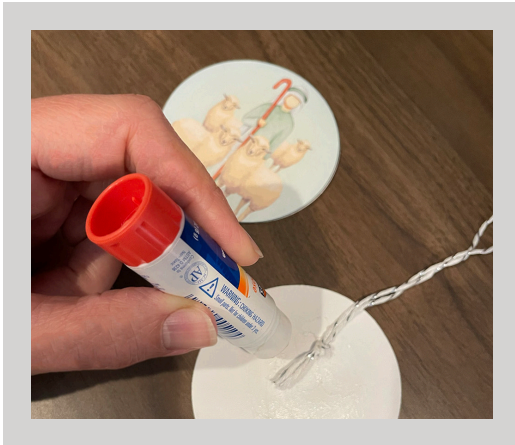
STEP 2

There are options for creating this easy ornament, depending on your supplies and desires...

PAPER & TAPE OPTION

Place tape on the back of one printed circle (fold tape over to create double-sided stick). You may want to make three circles of tape to help it stay together. Cut a piece of string and tie it into a loop for hanging. Place the string on the back of the taped circle over the tape, leaving enough loop coming out the top to hang the ornament. Line up the tops of the printed circle artwork and press the back of the 2nd circle into the tape over the string on the 1st circle.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE OPTIONS →



PAPER & GLUE OPTION

Place glue on the back of one printed circle. You should cover the whole back to the edges, but do not over-soak if using liquid glue instead of a glue stick. Cut a piece of string and tie into a loop for hanging. Place the string on the back of the glued circle into the glue, leaving enough loop coming out the top to hang the ornament. Line up the tops of the circle artwork and press the back of the 2nd circle into the glue and over the string on the back of the 1st circle. Press evenly to secure to edges.

PAPER & PLASTIC BACKING OPTION

Place tape on the back of one printed circle (fold tape over to create double-sided stick). You may want to make three circles of tape to help it stay together. Cut a piece of string and tie it into a loop for hanging. Place the string on the back of the taped circle over the tape, leaving enough loop coming out the top to hang the ornament. Line up the tops of the printed circle artwork and press the back of the 2nd circle into the tape over the string on the 1st circle.

PAPER & WOODEN BACKING OPTION

Using a foam brush, paint the wooden backing with Mod Podge. Press the printed circle artwork onto the wet Mod Podge (be sure to line up the top with the hole for hanging at the top) and let it sit to dry. Using a toothpick or skewer, poke the hole on the wooden backing through the paper. Then paint over the top of the printed circle with the Mod Podge to seal the paper to the wooden backing. Repeat for the 2nd circle on the other side of the wooden backing. Cut a piece of string and pass it through the hole at the top of the wooden backing (you may need the toothpick or skewer to help push the string through the hole), and tie into a loop for hanging. [Find these on Amazon here.]

STEP 3

This will create a double-sided ornament ready for hanging.

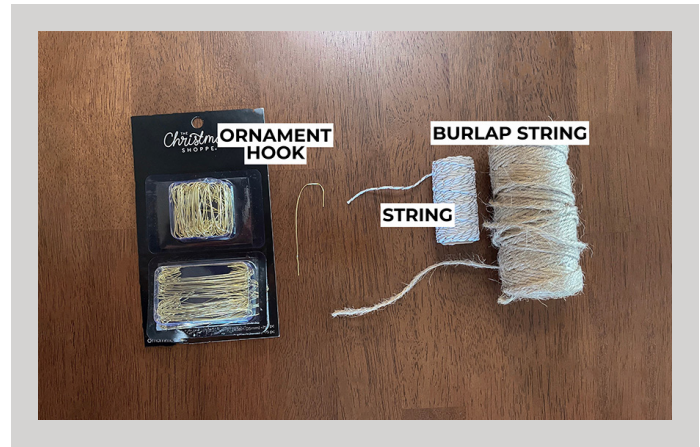


OPTION 2: CRAFT ORNAMENT (PG 7-8)

Today's Ornament



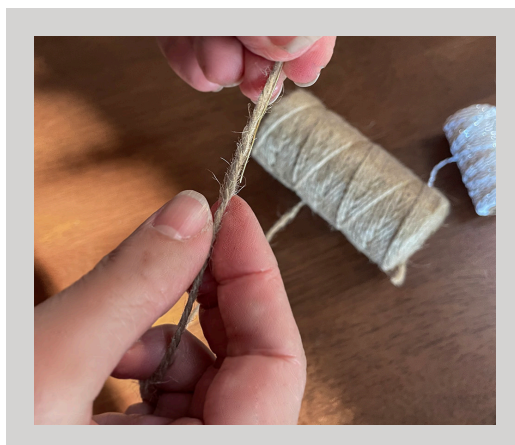
Materials



Instructions

STEP 1

Carefully bend the metal ornament hook into a shepherd's hook shape.



STEP 2

Wrap the twine around the hook. At the start, pull the end of twine up the straight end of the hook so you are wrapping additional twine around the hook and end of the twine. This will help hold it in place.

STEP 3

When you reach the end, secure with a dot of hot glue, or continue to wrap and tie into a knot to secure. Using the end of the twine, before cutting it off, create a loop for hanging and tie into a knot.



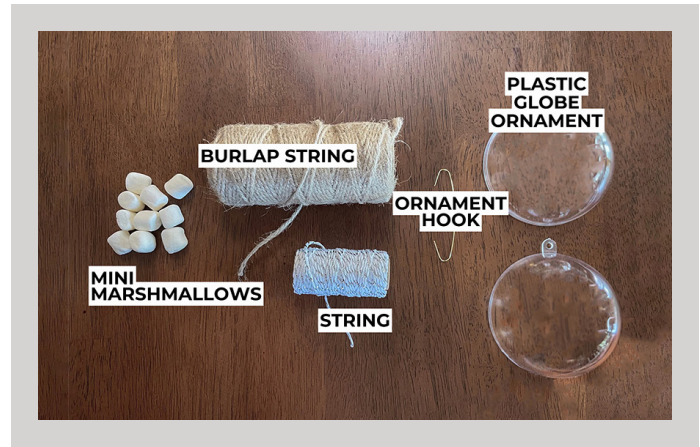
STEP 4

This will create a metal hook ornament ready for hanging.

Today's Ornament

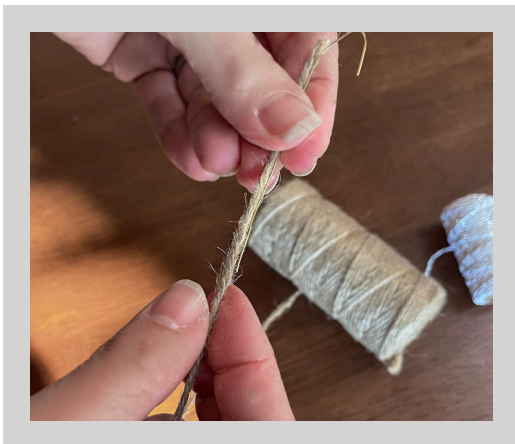


Materials



Instructions

STEP 1



To create the shepherd's hook:

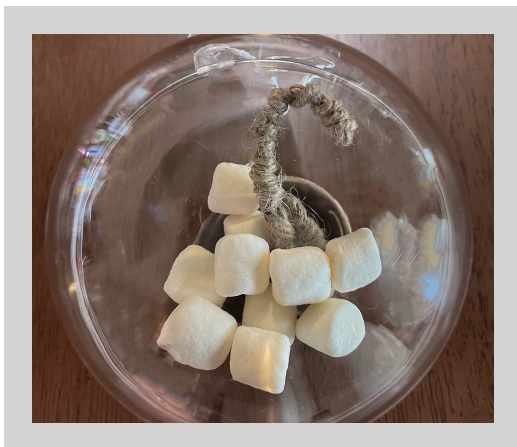
- Carefully bend the metal ornament hook into a shepherd's hook shape.
- Wrap the twine around the hook. At the start, pull the end of twine up the straight end of the hook so you are wrapping additional twine around the hook and end of the twine. This will help hold it in place.
- When you reach the end, secure with a dot of hot glue, or continue to wrap and tie into a knot to secure.

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STEP 2

In one half the plastic globe, add the shepherd's hook and mini marshmallows.

OPTIONAL: With an edible black marker, draw sheep faces on the marshmallows.



STEP 3

Attach the other half of the globe, lining up the holes for hanging at the top, and press to secure.

STEP 4

Cut a piece of string and put one end through the hanging holes on the globe ornament. Tie into a loop for hanging.