



Sprinkles sparkles





CHRISTMAS RESOURCE PACK

YOUR ONE STOP PACK FILLED WITH RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR YOUR CHURCH TO USE AT CHRISTMAS

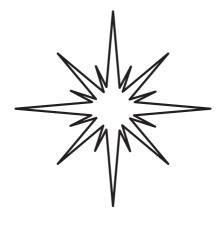


















A warm welcome to you this festive season.

This pack has been created for churches, to inspire and support you during Advent and Christmas. It has been designed so that there is something for everyone within these pages. There are ideas and suggestions which can be used in a multitude of settings, from a church service, to a Brownies group, to out in the community.

There are many ideas and suggestions, of which we could not fit them all within these pages, so we created a Padlet. A Padlet is a digital version of a pinboard/noticeboard where ideas, post it notes, etc, are posted to share. Access it by following this link - https://bit.ly/3BTke7C

You can also follow us on Facebook - @urcsynod1 and @childrensministryURCScotland

We hope that you have a blessed and joyful Christmas.







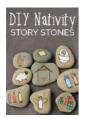
The Nativity Story, well known and well loved. Every year we are surrounded with scenes of the stable, images of the bright star, angels, donkeys and, most importantly, the baby Jesus. Children in churches (and some schools) put on Nativity plays.



We know the story so well, how do we keep it fresh and engaging for both children and adults alike? We've compiled some ideas for you below, using various forms of media, to help share the wonder and the miracle of Christmas.

Visual Aids

The use of visual aids whilst telling the Nativity story provides a focus for your audience. With some visual aids, it allows them to participate in telling the story, or to interact with the pieces.



Nativity Story Stones are not only a great craft to do with children and adults but are also a good visual aid when telling the story. You don't even need to be good at art for them to be effective! Find some stones, grab some pens or paint and away you go! If you're still not confident in your skills, here are two websites for you to visit, one of which produces free printables.



https://rainydaymum.co.uk/diy-nativity-story-stones/

<u>www.sunhatsandwellieboots.com/2021/11/diy-nativity-story-stones-with-free.html</u>

Images from Rainy Day Mum and Sun Hats and Wellie Boots.



Puppets

Using puppets to form a nativity story can enable the shyest of individuals to take part, because no one looks at the person manipulating the puppet they look at the puppet and you can work behind a screen should you wish.



Puppets could range from hand puppets, sock puppets, card puppets on sticks, or finger puppets which could be made as part of a craft session or group activity. They do not have to be used solely by children, puppets can be intergenerational and have as greater impact as part of a all-age service, worship in a care home or with a class or group of children, after all we have no idea how many wise men, shepherds or angels there were.



Angel



Mary, Joseph and Jesus



The Wise Men



Shepherds

These hand made puppets were created by URC CYDO, Hannah Middleton.
Instructions on how to make these puppets can be found in

the crafts section.



Retelling the Nativity

Nativity Story bags are an engaging way to share the story. Some bags have pieces that relate to the story and you pull them out, one at a time as you tell the story. Other bags have elements related to the story and activities. All forms of Nativity Story Bags are interactive and engaging. These bags are easy to make but you can also purchase them. Below are some links for making your own and buying them.



Image from Flame Creative Kids Ministry

Inspiration to make your own - http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/12/nativity-story-bag.html



Image from The Fairy and the Frog

Sensory box

http://thefairyandthefrog.blogspot.com/2012/11/sens ory-nativity-story-box.html

To buy

One Way UK - https://onewayuk.com/product/story-bags-9-varieties/

Early Learning - www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/re-festivals-c2/christianity-c134/nativity-story-bag-p53318







Retelling the Nativity

Christmas Candles

Mission Magic have created a short talk using candles called Seven Christmas Candles. Using different coloured candles, which represent different aspects of the story (silver - Christmas star; yellow - hay in the manger; purple - new born king; gold - the Wise Men's gifts; white - angels; green - eternal life and red - God's love), the story is told in a quick, fun, visually engaging manner.

To see the video and find out more, visit this link.

www.missionmagic.co.uk/new-sevenchristmas-candles-the-nativity-story-told-bycandlelight-8-bonus-object-lessons



Image from Mission Magic - Seven Candles



Image from Real Life on Purpose







A Candlelight Nativity - Real life on Purpose

Using candles, hymns and scripture readings, Jen Bosen (author) has created a thoughtful and reflective manner in which to tell the story of the Nativity. This method could easily be used in a service, especially a Watchnight service.

The script can be found at the back of this pack.

To visit Real Life on Purpose, follow this link

<u>jenbosen.com/2017/12/candlelight-nativity-printable-instructions.html</u>



Retelling the Nativity

Storytelling

When telling the story, think about what it is that excites you about the story. Is it the journey that Mary and Joseph have to take? Is it the angels appearing to the shepherds? Is it the birth of Jesus? Think about what you find exciting in the story and why you find it exciting. Bring this excitement and passion into your story.

Use the five senses to engage your listeners. Think about how the stable may have smelt; how would it have felt to take such a long journey; when the angels appeared to the shepherds, was the light blinding? Bring these elements into your story.

Use wondering questions, "I wonder how Mary felt when....."; "I wonder how the wise men felt on their journey home"; "I wonder where you would be in the story". This allows the audience to participate but also to think more deeply about the story.

Videos

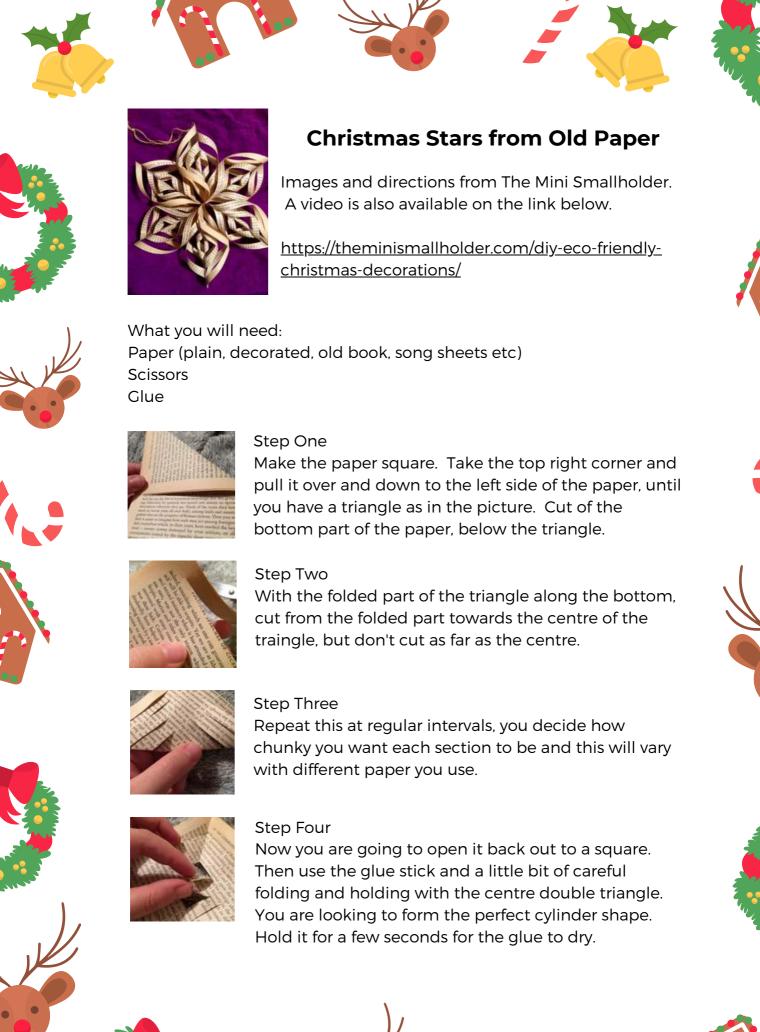
Watching short videos has become part of our culture. A short video can engage, inspire, produce emotions and more. Below are some links to short videos for the Nativity Story. Always remember to check your copyright licence before showing these videos to an audience.

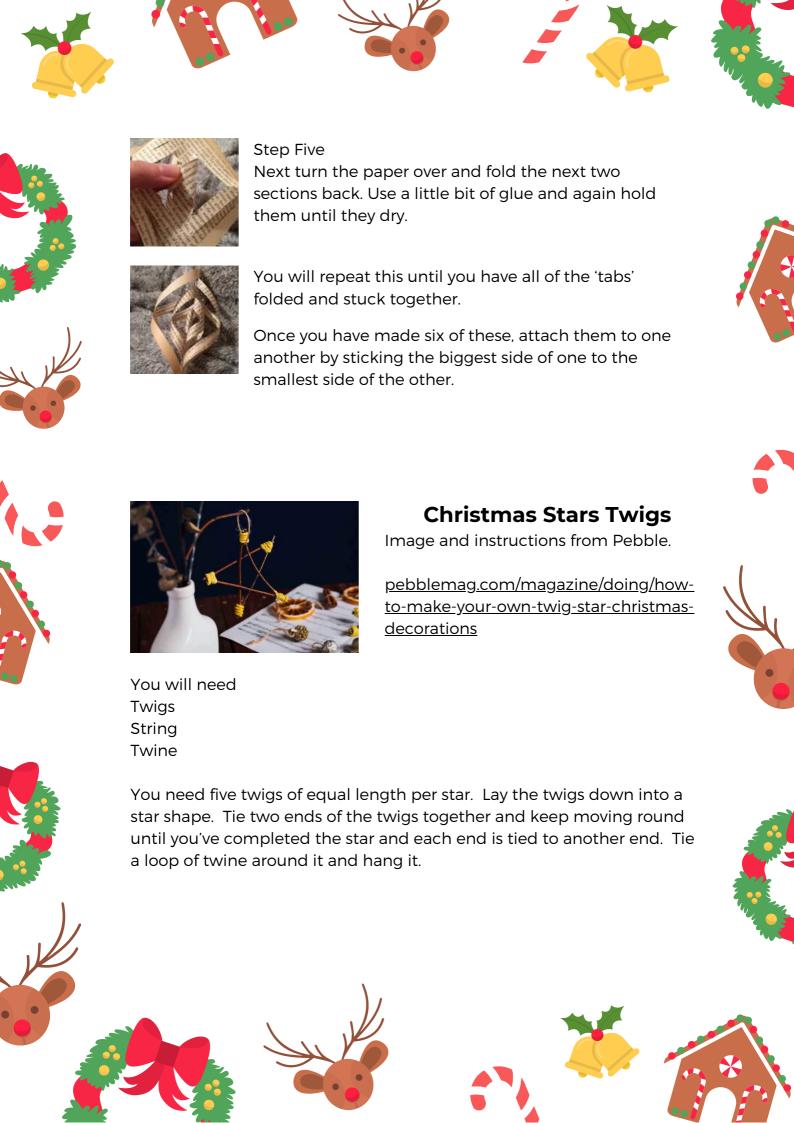
Retooning the Nativity www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-4y5mK_o9E&t=2s

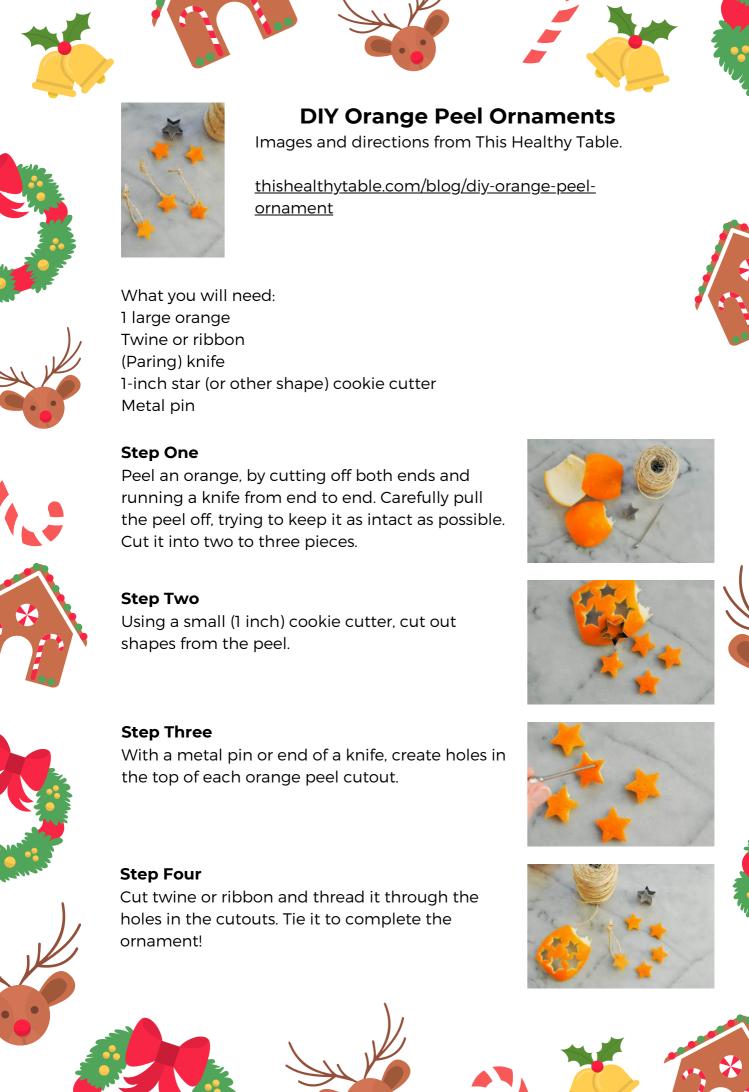
The Christmas Story, told by the children in Auckland, New Zealand www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWq60oyrHVQ

We Three Kings - Claymation Christmas HQ www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnIFTtW1pko&t=1s













Paper roll Snowflakes

Images and instructions from My Golden Thimble.

www.mygoldenthimble.com/toilet-paper-roll-snowflakes/



Toilet Paper Rolls Silicone Gun or Glue Scissors White Paint



Step One - Cut the rolls.

So, cut your rolls thin. The width of them really does not matter and in this way, you will be able to make more pieces.

So take each one of your toilet paper rolls. Press them flat and cut them into strips. Cut as many as you can.

Then cut some of those strips to manipulate into different shapes.

I rolled some into spirals. Made circles with others and so on. You will use these to add them to the bigger ovals. This will give depth and style to your snowflakes.

Step Two - Gluing the pieces.

Make a basic snowflake shape by gluing between 4 and 6 ovals.

Then glue the smaller shapes you made before in a mirrored way.

Step Three - Make the Toilet Paper Roll Designs and Ideas.

You can absolutely feel free to experiment with the shape you want your snowflakes to be.

But in case you need some inspiration, here are the ones that I have made.







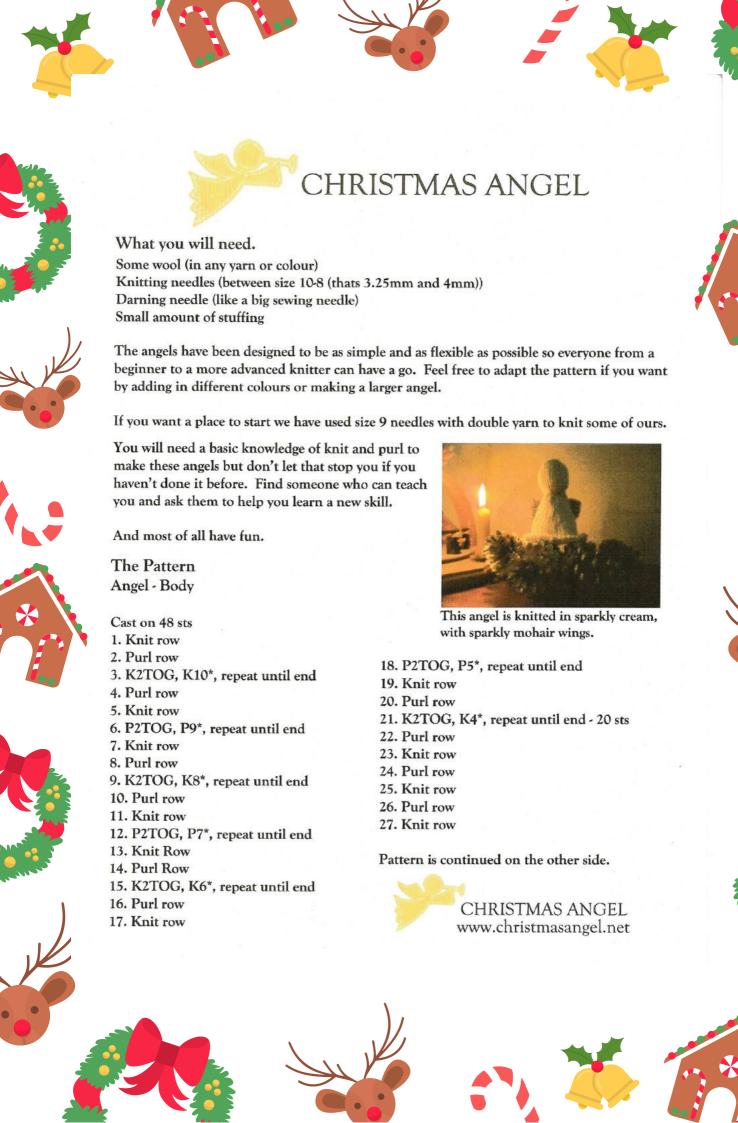


















Making Church Links with your Communities

Christmas is often a really good time to share the good news within your communities, there are lots of opportunities to do this here are a few suggestions to get you started.

Carol singing- outside a local places, you may wish to engage a local brass bands or music groups, the school choir, or local choirs to come and add to your numbers.

Pop Up Nativities: These could be performed indoor or out-door. Advertise the details take some simple costumes using scarfs that will fit all sizes, props sheep, crooks, a baby Jesus wrapped in a blanket, some tinsel haloes for angels and three gifts your ready to go, any age can take part. As this is an all age activity all children should be supervised by their parent or guardians.

Christingle: These can occur in schools, in church as part of the Sunday service or as part of a school visit to church. Information regarding these is available from the Children's society.

<u>www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/fundraise-and-events/christingle</u>





Image from Be the Light, Chris Duffet.

Tell people they are loved.

At the heart of the Christmas story is the message of love. A love for every person on the face of this planet, overwhelmingly loved and loved and loved some more. The most outrageously generous over-the-top gift that has ever been given is this: Jesus. For you and me. So whatever you give with the message of being loved: Mince pies, gifts, gold coins, the story of Jesus in booklets, whatever it is, give something away that echo's the gift of Jesus for the world! A free gift is a symbol of grace. (Taken from Be the Light - chrisduffett.com/top10christmasideas)

Hampers and Gift Bags: There are many families who struggle financially, especially at Christmas. You could help make their Christmas brighter. Connect with a local charity and donate small food hampers, gift bags of age appropriate toys, clothes and more for them to pass on to those in need.



Prayer ideas for Christmas

Christmas can be a time to stop and reflect and with that can come a need for prayer. Here are some ideas you may wish to use.

Prayer trees: Have a Christmas tree in church that has simple white card stars available with small pencils, encourage people to write a situation or named person onto a star and hang it on the tree, offer the prayers during your Sunday worship, or you may choose to ask members of the church to pray for a week for one person's star on the tree. It is a good idea to have smaller trees in the entrance or alterative accessible points where people use the church during the week, to encourage prayers to be included for them, why not take stars to those who are house bound, leaving a star with them from church but also asking if they would like to complete a star that you could hang in church for them too.

Knitted Angels - make and leave knitted angels with a message from your church attached. You could hang them from trees, railings, leave them on benches, anywhere for people to find them.

These knitted angels could be your churches prayer to the community this year.

for patterns and all the advice you need visit www.christmasangel.net



Paper chain prayers: from December 1st to Christmas day using strips of paper linked together write a thank you, I am glad for, I helped today by... statement on your chain, add to them as you travel through December. By Christmas day you will be able to look back at all you have to say thank you, I am glad, I have helped. That's amazing!

Christmas Card- Make a Christmas card and write a special prayer inside and send it to them, you might like to do this for someone who is lonely, unwell, or new to this country and missing their family.

Church Christmas Tree: Make a huge Christmas tree picture and attach it a wall or cupboard or you could use an artificial tree. Make card baubles and encourage church members to write a message on a bauble and stick or hang on the church tree. The money saved by not writing cards to those folks you see regularly can be donated to a collective charity in church and gifts to help others purchased.

CHRISTMAS, ON PURPOSE

Candlelight Nativity

FREE printable script + instructions



CHRISTMAS, ON PURPOSE Candlelight Mativity

Here is a quiet, simple way to bring the Christmas story to life.

All the song lyrics are included in the pages that follow. Most of the script is from the King James Bible, with only a few additions. You can have a single narrator or take turns reading. Feel free to print as many copies as you need so everyone can participate.

Begin with all the candles in place but unlit. As you tell about the Christ child's birth through scripture and song, you will light each candle to represent different characters and events.

I hope this candlelight nativity brings the light of Christ into your home as it has to mine.

♥ Jen

Supplies:

2 blue candles, one slightly taller (Mary + Joseph)
1 white votive (Baby Jesus)
2-3 green candles (shepherds)
3 silver tapers (angels)
3 burgundy candles (Wise Men)
Matches or lighter

NOTE: The colors are merely suggestions to make each character easily identifiable. I prefer to use all white candes of different sizes. You can adapt your candlelight nativity set however you like so it's unique to you and your family.

Hymns

Joy to the World
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Away In a Manger
The First Noel
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Far, Far Away On Judea's Plains
With Wondering Awe
Silent Night

Scriptures

Luke 2: 1-20 Matthew 2: 1-11 John 1:4-5 John 8:12



Candlelight Nativity Lyrics

Joy to the World

Joy to the World! The Lord is come. Let Earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing And heaven and nature sing And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Gway in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head

The stars in the sky look down where He lay The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky

And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

The First Noel

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
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.
Noel, noel, noel noel!
Born is the King of Israel!



Candlelight Nativity Lyrics

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

With Wondering Awe

With wond'ring awe the Wise Men saw The star in heaven springing And with delight, in peaceful night, They heard the angels singing: Hosanna! Hosanna to His name!

By light of star they traveled far
To seek the lowly manger
A humble bed wherein was laid
The wondrous little Stranger.
Hosanna! Hosanna to His name!

Far Far Gway On Judea's Mains

Far, far away on Judea's plains,
Shepherds of old heard the joyous strains:
Glory to God,
Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men;

Sweet are these strains of redeeming love, Message of mercy from heav'n above:

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men;

Peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Lord, with the angels we too would rejoice; Help us to sing with the heart and voice:

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest;

Peace on earth, goodwill to men;

Peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly host sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.



Candlelight Nativity Script

Sing "Joy to the World"

Light blue Mary + Joseph candles.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every on into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Light white votive for baby Jesus

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Sing "Away In a Manger"

Light green shepherd candles

And there were in that same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Light one silver angel candle

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Sing "The First Noel"

Light the other two angel candles



Candlelight Nativity Script

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

Sing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it they made known abroad the saying which was told to them concerning this child.

Sing "Far Far Away On Judea's Plains"

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came Wise Men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Light burgundy Wise Men candles

And, lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went efore them till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Sing "With Wondering Awe"

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Snuff out Wise Men candles



Candlelight Nativity Script

And the shepherds returned to their fields, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Snuff out shepherd candles

And the angels returned to heaven.

Snuff out angel candles

And Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And many years later, she and Joseph, being mortal, came to the end of their earthly lives.

Snuff out Mary and Joseph candles

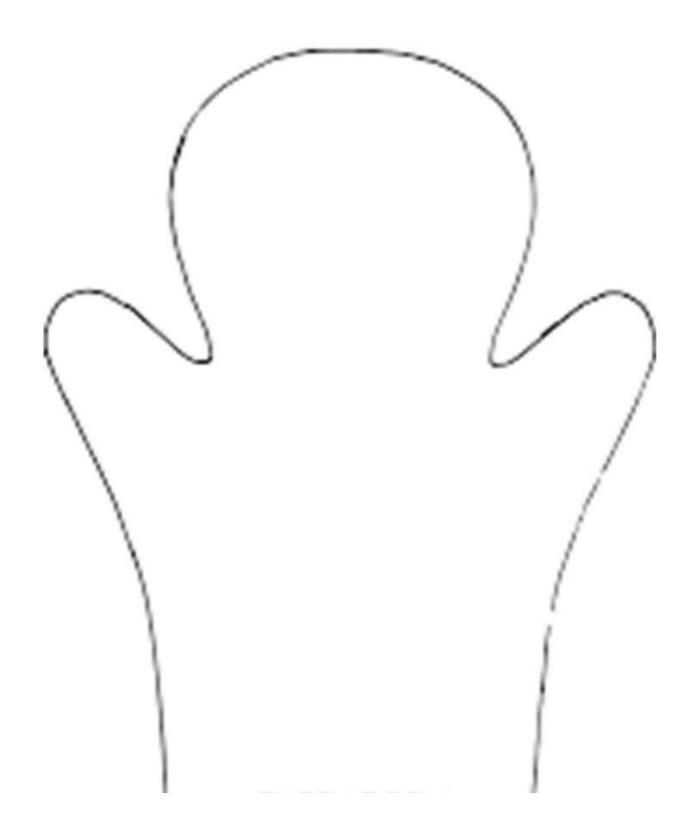
But the babe born in Bethlehem was the life and the light of men. His Light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not. He taught, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darknes, but shall have the light of life."

And that Light began to shine on a silent, holy night, all those years ago.

Sing "Silent Night"

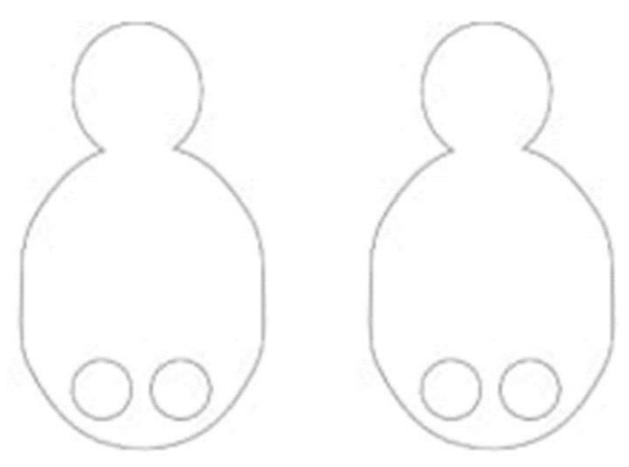


Hand Puppet Template

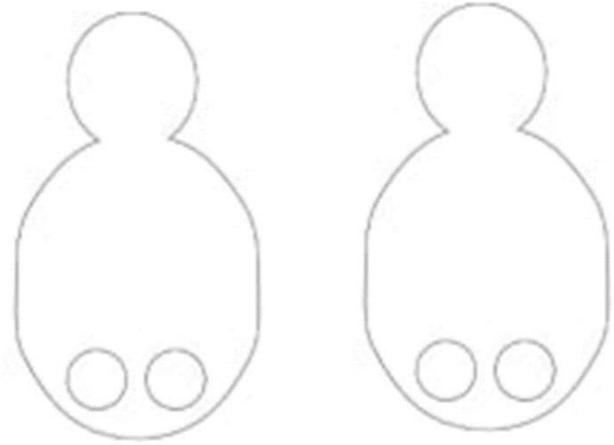


Leave bottom open

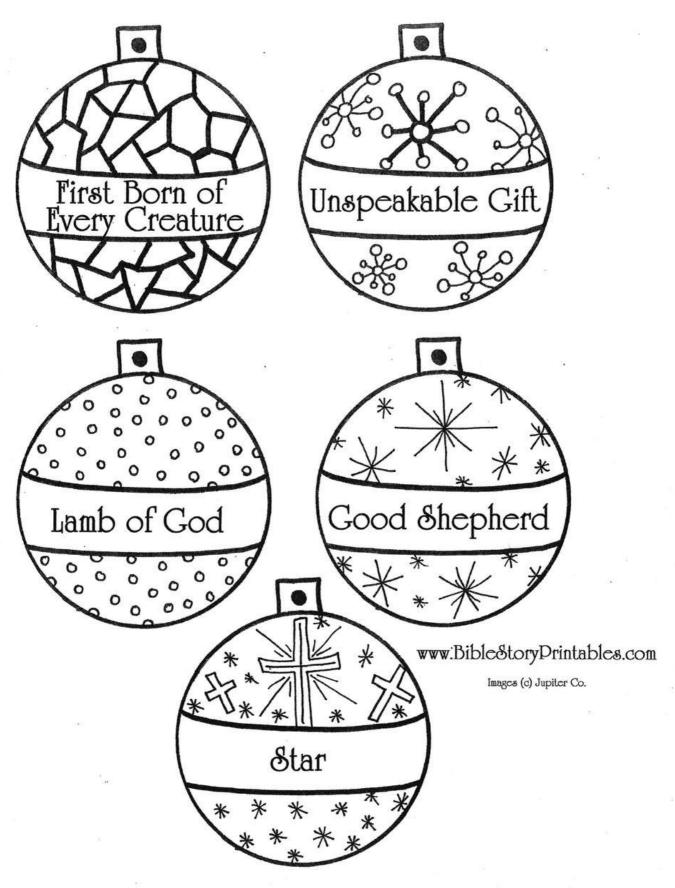
You can glue or sew around the edges



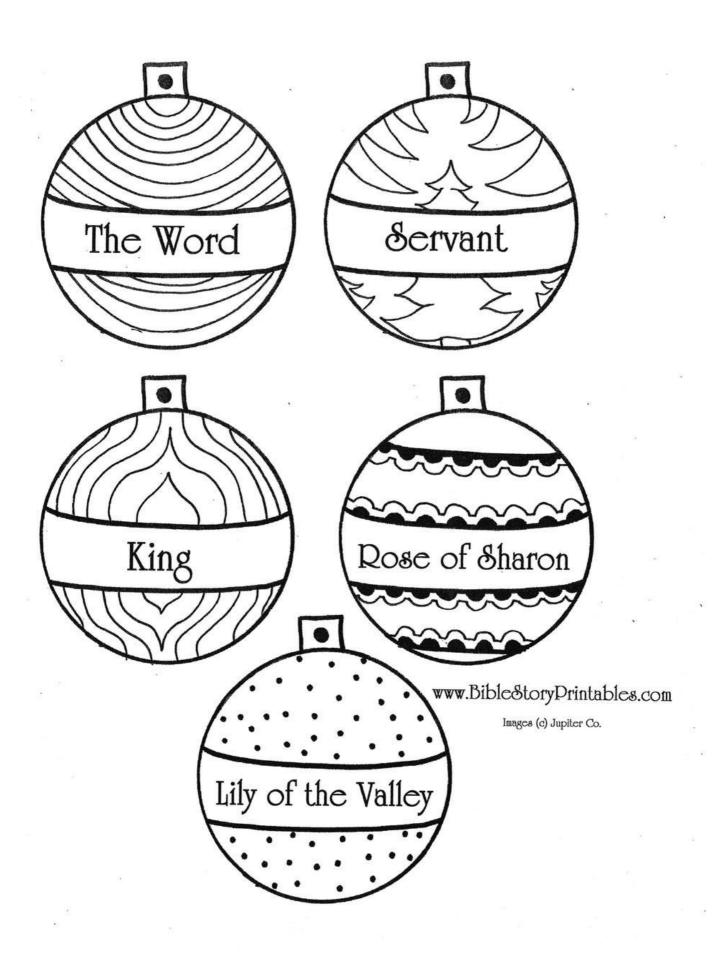
Finger Puppet Templates



Names of Jesus



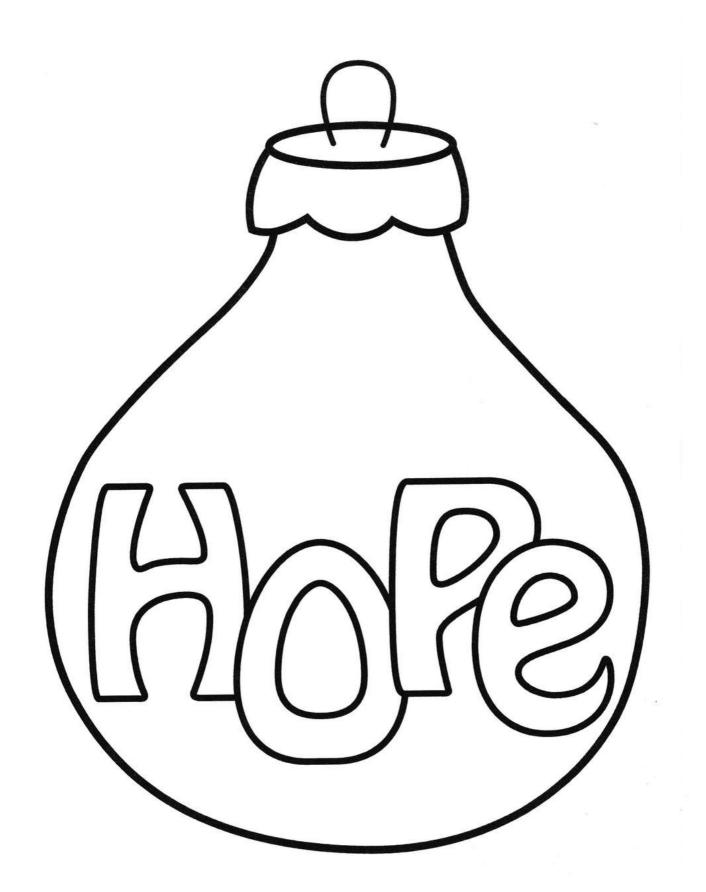
Idea! Print out multiple copies of the baubles and ask people to choose the one that speaks to them. Ask them to carry it with them throughout December and to meditate on it.





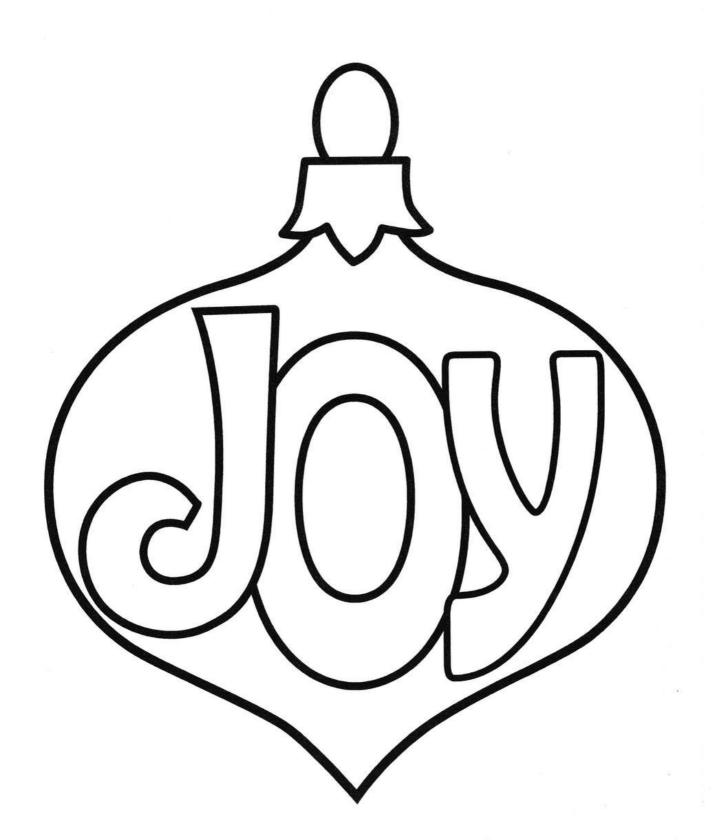








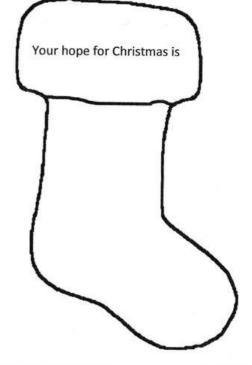












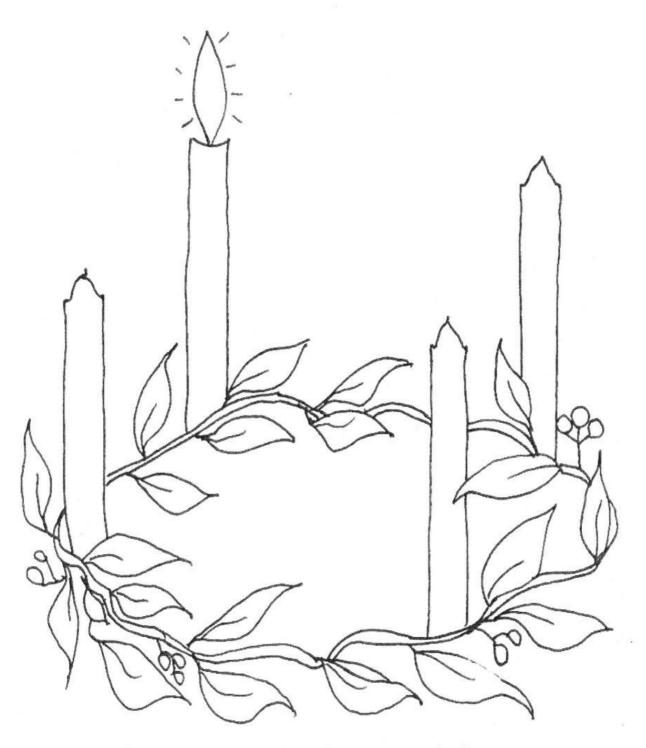
c. Black Dog - The Site for Kids!

www.blackdog.net

c. Black Dog - The Site for Kids!

www.blackdog.net

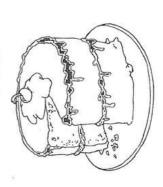
Young Church Mag: colouring sheet 03 December 2017: First Sunday of Advent: Mark 13: 24 to end



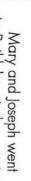
Today is Advent Sunday so we light one candle on the Advent Ring



Birthday Happy Jesus



will be great," the angel said. God sent an angel. The angel told Mary she would have a son. "Name him Jesus, he "Praise God!" Mary said.



to Bethlehem to be counted long, hard journey. Mary rode on a donkey, and in the census. It was a Joseph walked

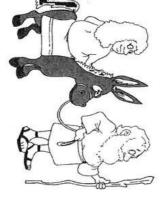
it was very dark. There was no

When they got to Bethlehem

place to sleep. A kind man

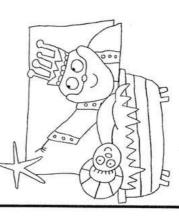
in his barn with the animals

let Mary and Joseph sleep



Christian Preschool Printables Free Bible Activities from

www.ChristianPreschoolPrintables.com



saw the star and knew what it was for. They brought gifts God put a special star in the sky. The wise kings to baby Jesus.

God sent more angels to tell

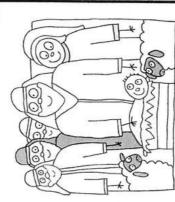
the shepherds about Jesus.

"A savior has been born"

the angels said.

He is Christ the Lord!

see the savior in the manger. The shepherds went to go

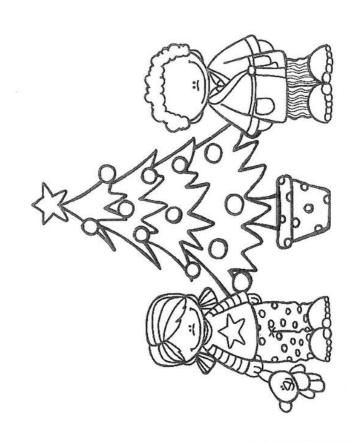


in the stable with the animals. It was cold outside, so she Mary gave birth to Jesus - womenn E

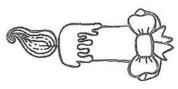
a blanket and put him in wrapped him up snug in the soft hay.

My Christmas Notebook



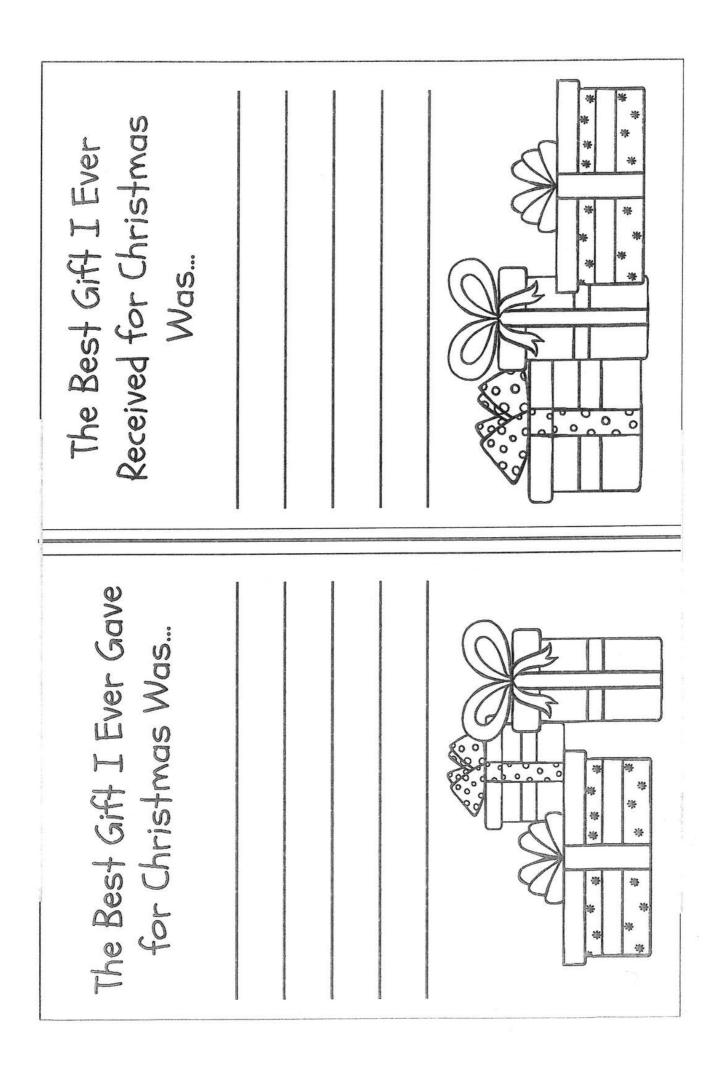


Graphics by Educlips



PATH Through

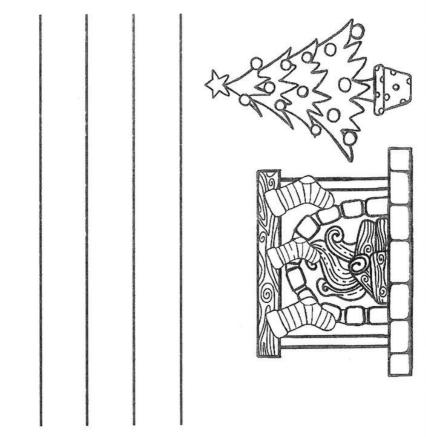
CATE ©2015

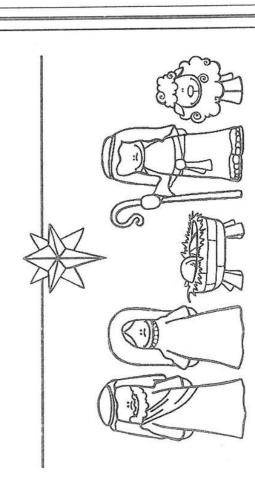


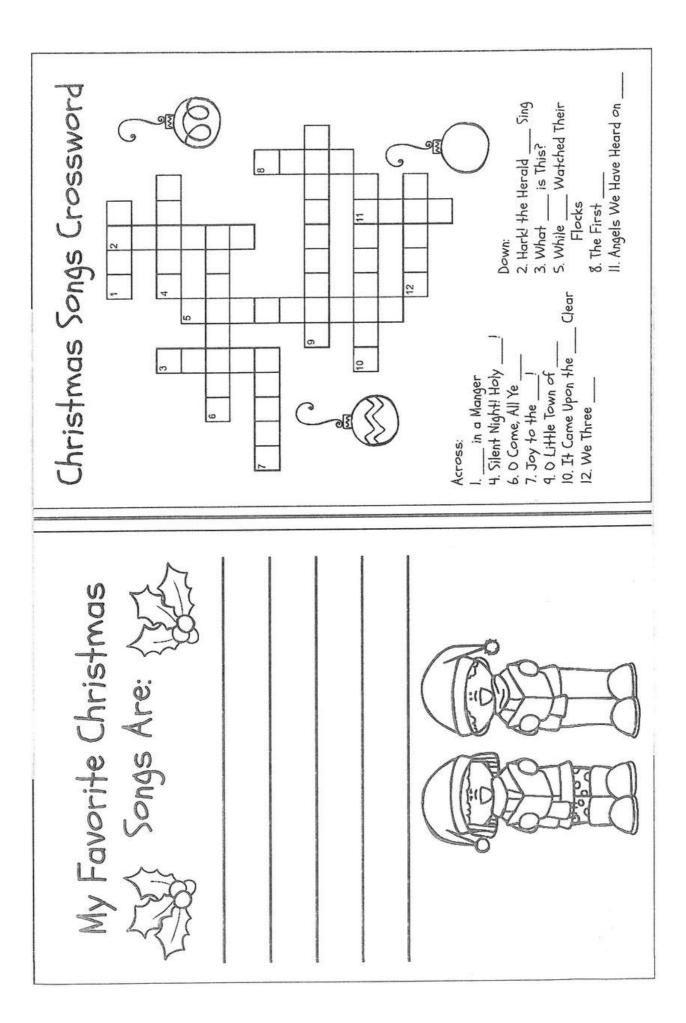
The Christmas Story

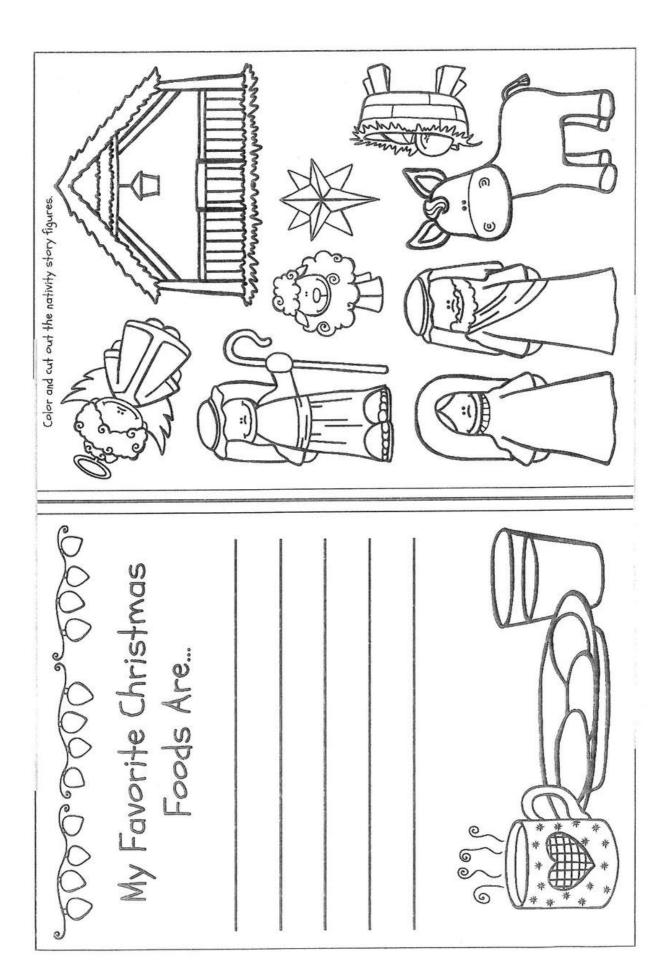
Write the Christmas Story below in your own words.

My Favorite Part of Christmas is...







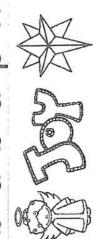


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hem, and the them, and the them, and the to them, "Do that will has been baby and saying, and on earth or rests." The into the the the the them into the them. "Let's the them the the them the the them the the them the them the the them the them the them the		
And there were	go to and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."	

Find the words from the fill-in-the-blank lines from the previous page.

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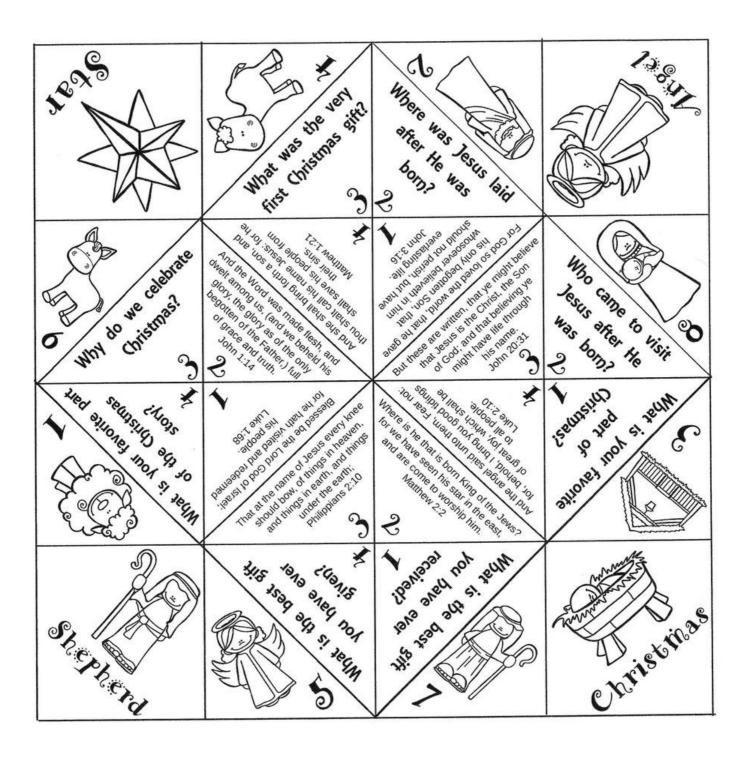


who was lying in the

and the Luke 2:8-16 (NIV)

manger.

Chatterbox



Also known as an origami fortune teller. Instructions on how to make/fold these can found at DLTK-Kids - www.dltk-kids.com/world/japan/mfortune-teller.htm

