

A Special Gift

Everybody likes to receive gifts. There's something so exciting about a big box wrapped in bright paper with a big bow on top. But not all gifts come wrapped up like that. Did you know that you were a gift?

God gave you to someone special. Lots of children have a mother and father to love and care for them. Others may have a grandma or grandpa, an aunt or uncle, or someone else who loves and takes care of them.

How excited your special people must have been when they learned you would be living with them! They probably told everyone they knew that you were coming. What good news! All

of a sudden there were so many things they needed to think about.

They probably wondered if you would be a boy or a girl. Should they buy a dress or some overalls?

Names, names, names! What would be a good name for you?

Jill or Melissa are nice names for a girl. Kevin or Brian would be better for a boy. Your special people wanted you to have just the right one. After all, they needed to decide on a good name that would be just right for you.

What would you be like when you grew up? Would you like music? Would you like to draw? You might want to be a fireman, or a great cook,

or a nurse, or a farmer, or a house painter. Oh, there were so many things you could be! What would you choose? But everyone had to wait to find the answers to these questions. What an exciting and fun time!

Let me tell you about another Baby, a very special Baby. He was God's special Gift to everyone—Jesus!

God chose Joseph and Mary to be Jesus' parents while He lived here on earth. God was careful to choose just the right people to care for His Son.

He sent an angel to tell them the exciting, good news! The angel said they would have a Son, so they knew ahead of time that their Baby would be a boy. The angel even told them

that God had already chosen the name—Jesus. Joseph and Mary liked that name.

The most important thing the angel told them was that their Baby was God's Son. He would someday become the Savior of the world. That meant He would save people from their sins.

Mary was so excited that she took a long trip to tell her cousin, Elisabeth, all about her special Baby.

Today, we still share the good news of Jesus' birth. We celebrate His birthday every Christmas. It is a perfect time to tell others about God's Gift to the world.

Jesus was truly the very best Gift God could give.

Hidden Words

Find and circle the hidden words in the puzzle below.

SON
HOLY
MARY
ANGEL
DREAM
JESUS
JOSEPH
GABRIEL

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | A | Y | D | R | E | A | M |
| O | S | M | A | R | Y | M | B |
| S | C | P | X | J | Z | T | E |
| E | B | U | D | E | V | J | A |
| P | G | A | L | S | S | O | N |
| H | O | L | Y | U | N | Q | G |
| K | R | O | F | S | W | H | E |
| I | G | A | B | R | I | E | L |

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

The theme of this unit is the Christmas story, and throughout the month we will be studying the story in step-by-step detail. This lesson tells how the angel appeared to Mary and Joseph, and revealed the awe-inspiring news that the Child born to them would be the Son of God.

As an activity for this week, let your child make an angel picture on a paper plate. Around the edge of the plate, help him print the words, "God's Angel Brought a Message." Cut out the center of the plate. Glue tissue paper on the back of the plate over the hole. Lightly paste the shape of an angel, cut from the same kind of tissue paper, in the center.

Tie a bow on the top for a hanger, and let your child place his creation in a window so the sun can shine through the tissue paper.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 1:21

MONDAY: Isaiah 7:14

TUESDAY: Luke 1:26-28

WEDNESDAY: Luke 1:30,31

THURSDAY: Matthew 1:20

FRIDAY: Matthew 1:23

SATURDAY: Luke 1:38



Bible Text

Matthew 1:18-25

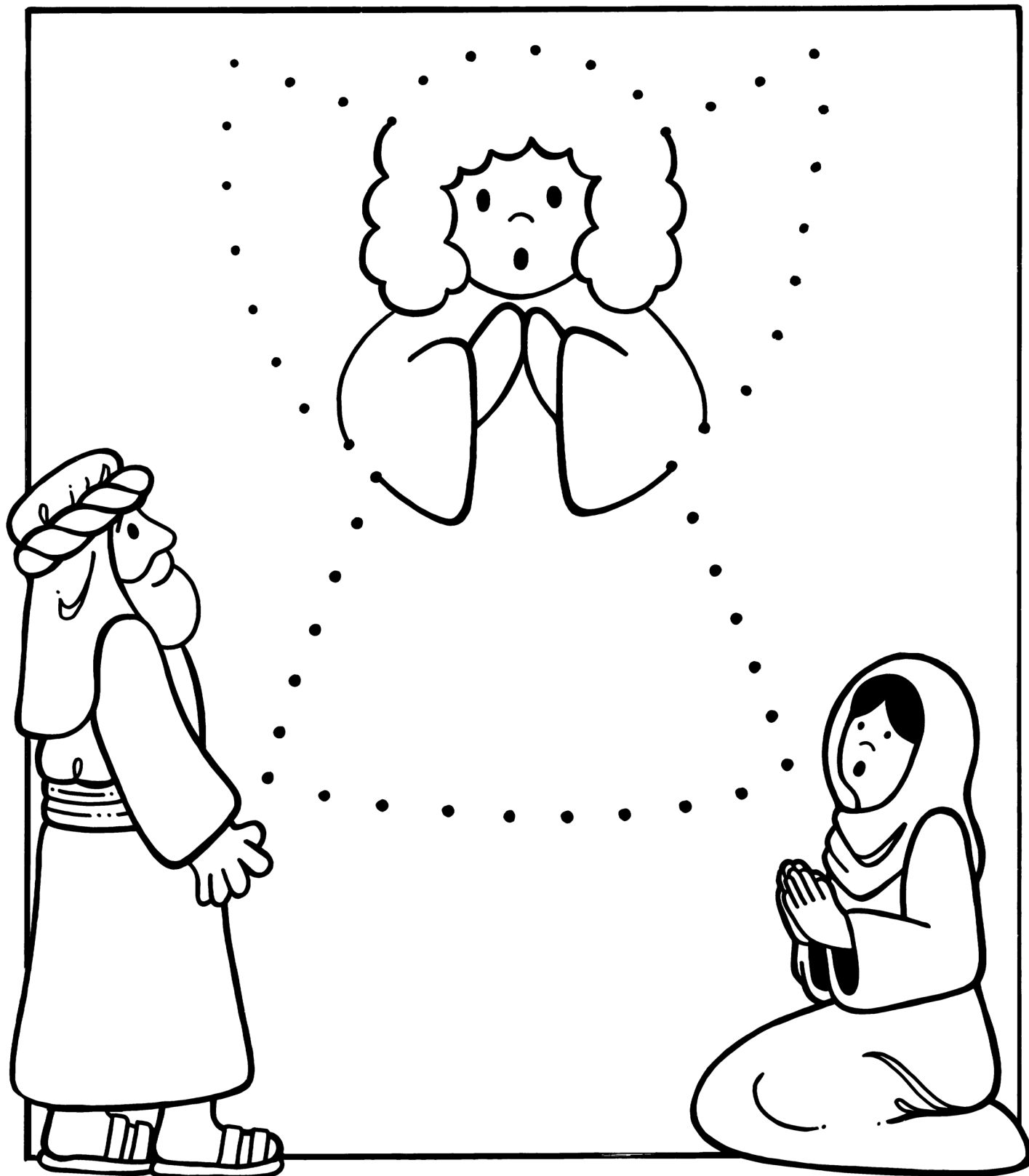
Luke 1:26-38

Memory Verse

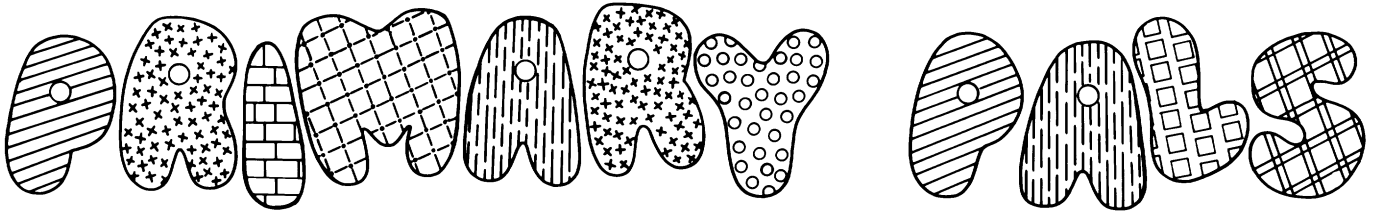
Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. — Matthew 1:21

A Special Messenger

Connect the dots and see who visited Joseph and Mary. Color the picture.



Name: _____



No Room

Michelle and Charlie's mom read in the newspaper about the Tyler City Christmas Festival. There would be a Christmas play, the Joyful Noise Carolers, a Christmas craft sale, and much more. The family planned to go on Friday afternoon and come home on Saturday. That would give them lots of time to see everything.

It took them almost two hours to drive to Tyler City. But they had fun looking at the winter scenery and the Christmas lights along the way.

The first thing they did when they arrived was to stop at a motel. Michelle, Charlie, and Mom waited in the car while Dad went inside. He

soon returned to the car and told them there were no more rooms available in that motel. In fact, the manager had told him there might not be any rooms available in the whole town!

"Wow, I guess the Christmas festival is more popular than we thought," said Michelle. "What will we do, Dad?"

"If we can't find a room in town, I guess we will have to go back home tonight," answered Dad. "We'll stay and see the Christmas play anyway."

They stopped at several places, but the motel manager had been right. There were no rooms available.

"I'm sorry, children. I know how much you wanted to spend the night

in Tyler City,” said Dad. “Next year we’ll make reservations. But right now let’s go see the Christmas play.”

As the play began, Michelle was still feeling very sad that they hadn’t found a room to stay in. It would have been so much fun.

They watched as Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Then Joseph knocked on the door of the inn. He asked for a room for Mary and himself. The innkeeper told them there was no room.

“Mom, Dad!” whispered Michelle excitedly. “That’s what happened to us! Oh, I know just how they must have felt. Such a long trip and then no room! How sad!”

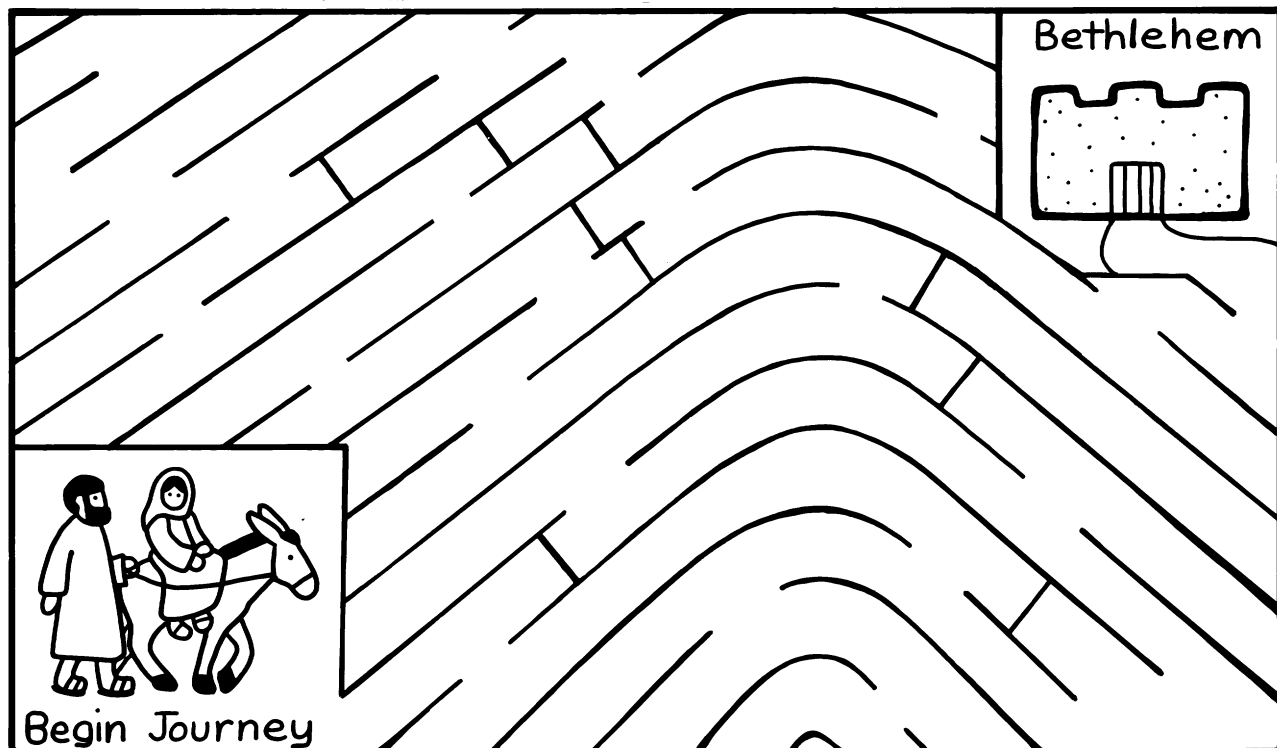
“Yeah, and they couldn’t just turn around and go back home!” said Charlie. “They had come a long way.”

Going home that night, Michelle said, “In that play the man said that God sent Jesus to earth because He loved us. Why couldn’t that innkeeper find a good room for Him. If I had been the innkeeper I would have made room for Joseph and Mary. Then Jesus would have been born in a nice place.”

“Yes, God really did love the world, Michelle,” said Dad. “And He showed it by sending Jesus, His very best Gift. The innkeeper couldn’t find a nice room for Jesus, but you and Charlie can still give Him a room. You can give Him a room in your heart.”

Journey to Bethlehem

Help Joseph and Mary find their way through the maze to Bethlehem.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This lesson focuses on the Christmas story—the birth of the Christ Child. Help your child make a Baby Jesus ornament as a way to center his attention on this important event.

Dip two cotton balls in a mixture of flour and water (about pancake batter consistency) which has been lightly colored with a bit of red food coloring. On a greased cookie sheet arrange the cotton balls touching each other, one as a round ball to form the head and the other slightly elongated to make the body. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 10 minutes or until the “baby” seems hard to the touch. Let cool.

Use a pen to draw on features, and if desired make a halo from a yellow pipe cleaner. Use a small piece of flannel as a blanket to wrap around Baby Jesus’ body, and glue in place. If you wish, make a manger from a tiny cereal box painted brown and filled with straw.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: I John 4:10

MONDAY: Isaiah 9:6

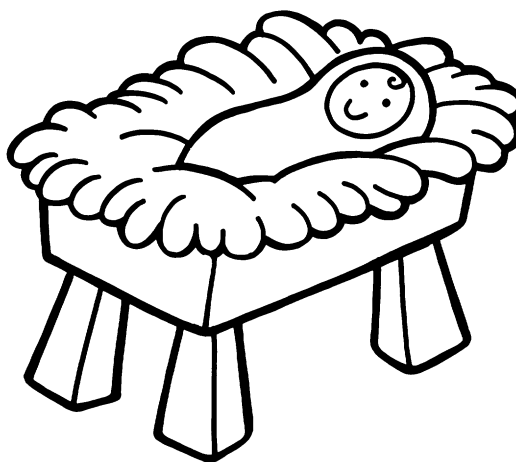
TUESDAY: Micah 5:2

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 1:22,23

THURSDAY: Luke 2:1

FRIDAY: Luke 2:11

SATURDAY: Galatians 4:4,5



Bible Text

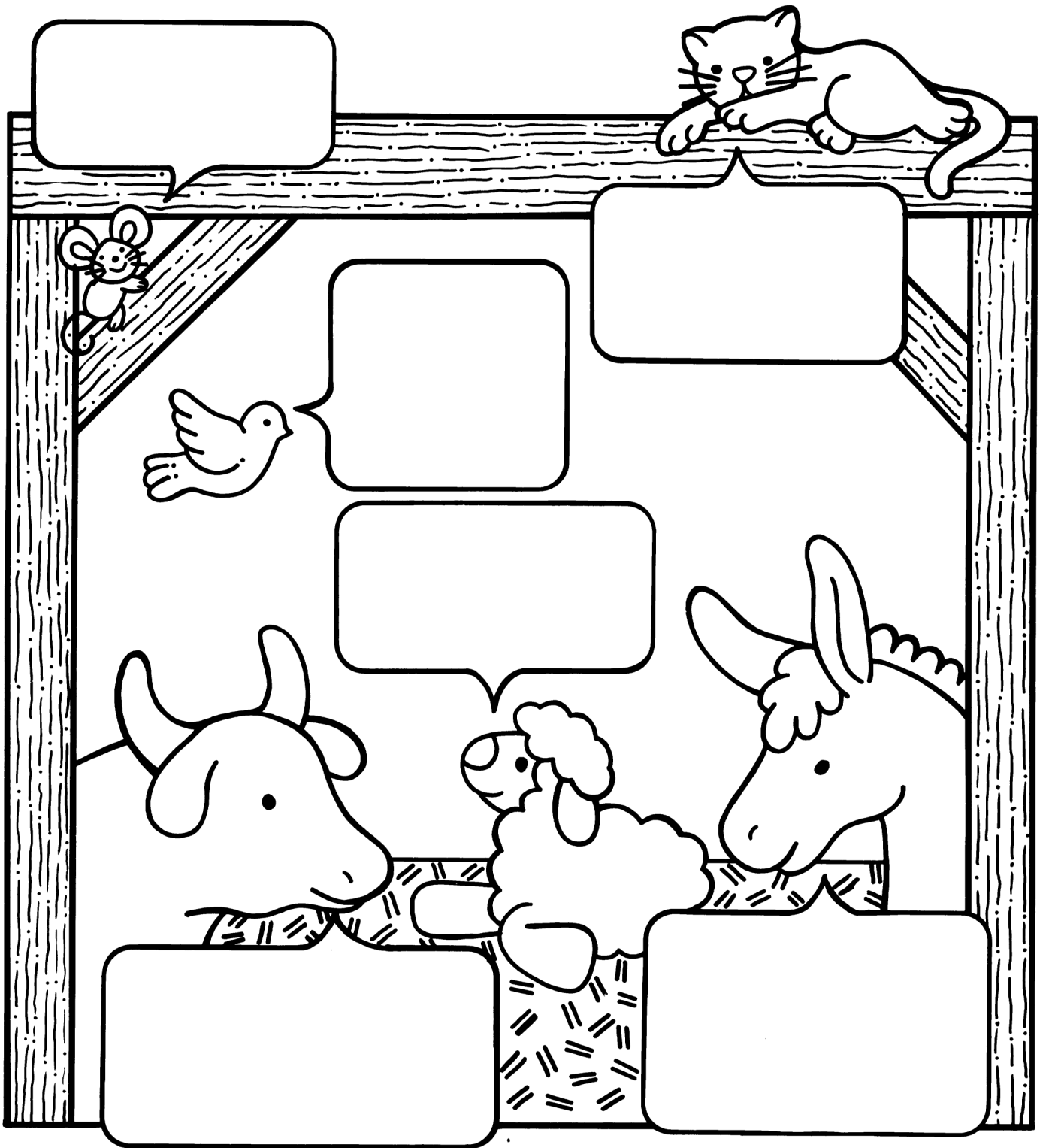
Luke 2:1-7; John 3:16

Memory Verse

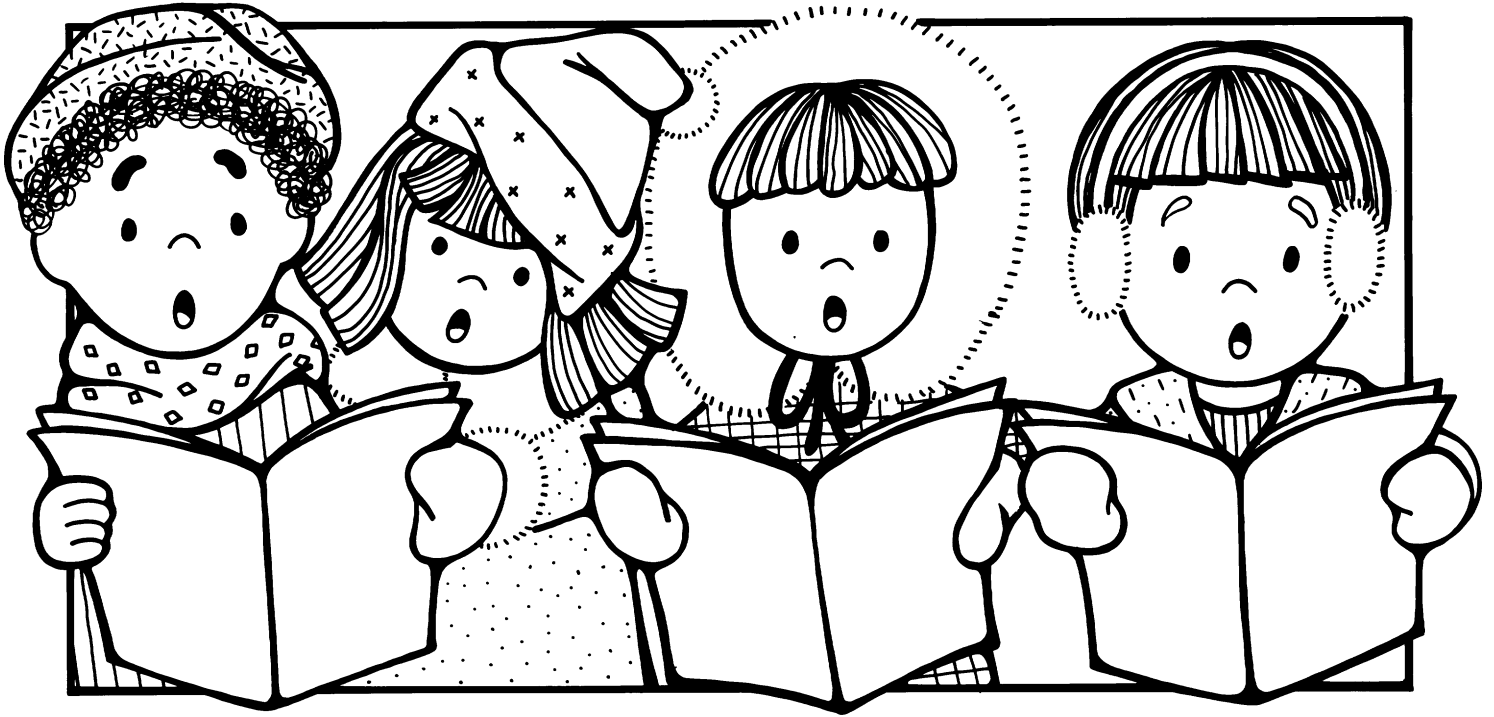
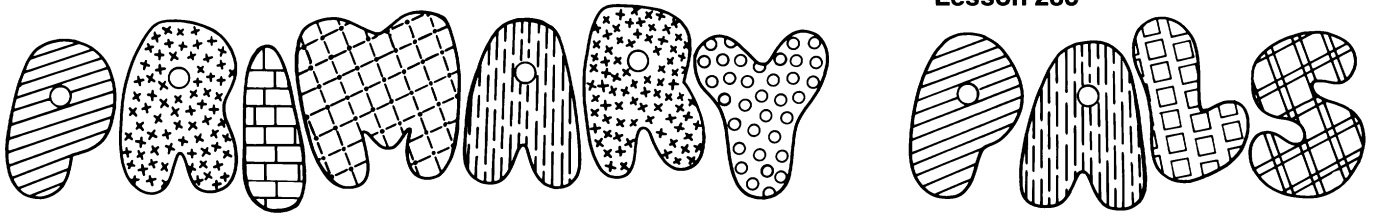
Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us,
and sent his Son. — I John 4:10

When Jesus Was Born

Animals can't really talk, but if they could what do you think they might have said the night Jesus was born? Write your answers in the speech balloons.



Name: _____



A Special Tree

Scott and his mother had come downtown to shop for Daddy's Christmas gift. They were looking at some nice ties in a store window when his mother said, "Listen to the carolers, Scott. They are singing Silent Night."

It was always fun to hear carolers. Scott looked at the group of singers standing in front of a large Christmas tree. The tree had been put up next to the department store. The decorations were bright and colorful.

"Mom, I know two of those boys!" exclaimed Scott. "They go to my school. Hi, Brennan. Hi, Jason," he called to them.

His friends smiled but kept on singing.

"They really sound nice, Mom," said Scott. "Do you think that is how the angels sounded when they visited the shepherds after Jesus was born?"

"Even though they do sound nice," replied his mother, "I think that the angels probably sounded different. Remember, they filled the whole sky! But their message is the same. These carolers are singing songs about the first Christmas. The angels told the good news and praised God."

When the carolers had finished, Scott rushed over to his friends. "You sure sounded good," he told them.

“Did you choose a name from the tree?” asked Brennan.

“What do you mean?” Scott looked puzzled. “What name?”

“See all those cards hanging from the tree branches,” said Jason. “Each one has the name of a kid or a grown-up on it. Whoever chooses a card gets to give a gift to the person whose name is on the card, something to help that person have a nicer Christmas. It could be a new doll for a girl or a new ball for a boy.”

“Or maybe the person needs food for his family’s Christmas dinner,” Brennan added.

“Our pastor said this is one way we can help celebrate Jesus’ birthday,” Jason continued. “When you give your gift, there is a little story card that you

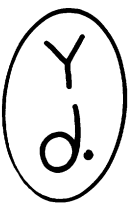
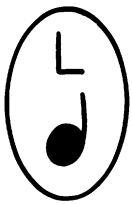
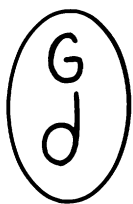
put on the package. It tells all about God’s greatest Gift—Jesus. At the bottom of the card it says, Good Will Toward Men. That is what the angels said when they told the shepherds about Jesus.”

Scott turned to his mother and asked, “May I please choose a card, Mom? I want to help someone this Christmas. It might be someone who would end up with nothing. Please, Mom?”

“Yes, Scott,” his mother replied. “And, I think I will choose a card also. Helping other people and telling them about Jesus makes God happy. It is one of the ways we can thank God for His special Gift to us. Thank you, boys, for telling us about this special tree.”

The Angels’ Message

Shepherds heard the angels praising God. Match the music notes and write the letters on the correct lines to find one of the things the angels said.



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| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | |
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Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Our Bible story tells about an important message which was delivered in a very special way. Your child will learn how the angels brought word to the shepherds that the Christ Child had been born.

As you talk about that wonderful night, help your child create a special "angelic" message to send a friend or relative this week. On a piece of white paper, draw a simple angel shape, without any features or clothing details filled in. Let your child cut out the shape and use this as a piece of stationery on which to write his message or special holiday greeting.

You may wish to arrange the angel cut-out over a sheet of lined paper to help your child write neatly. Suggest he also include his memory verse for this week as part of the message.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 2:14
MONDAY: Luke 2:8
TUESDAY: Luke 2:10
WEDNESDAY: Luke 2:11
THURSDAY: Luke 2:15
FRIDAY: Luke 2:20
SATURDAY: Luke 2:38



Bible Text

Luke 2:8-20

Memory Verse

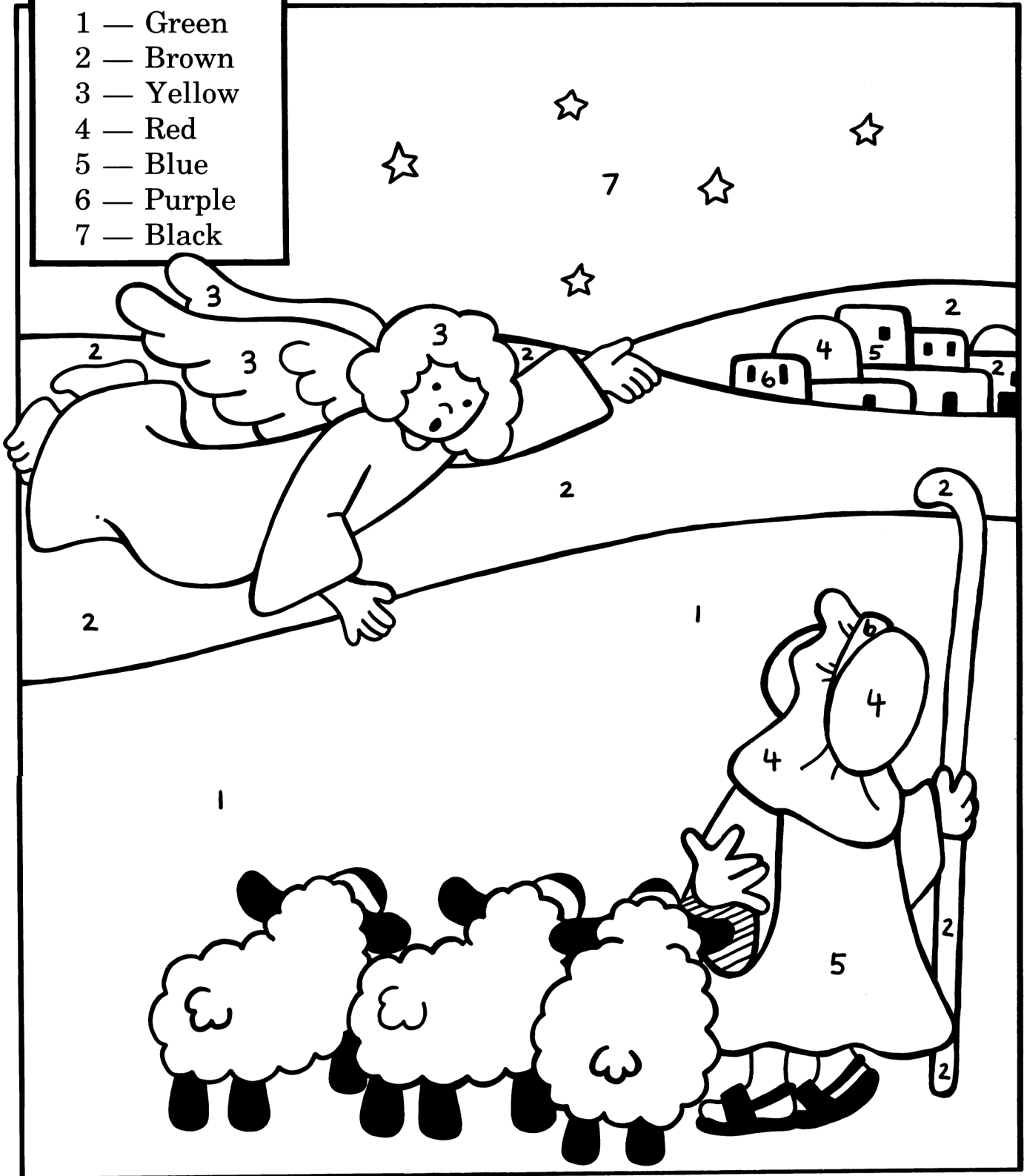
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men. — Luke 2:14

One Starry Night

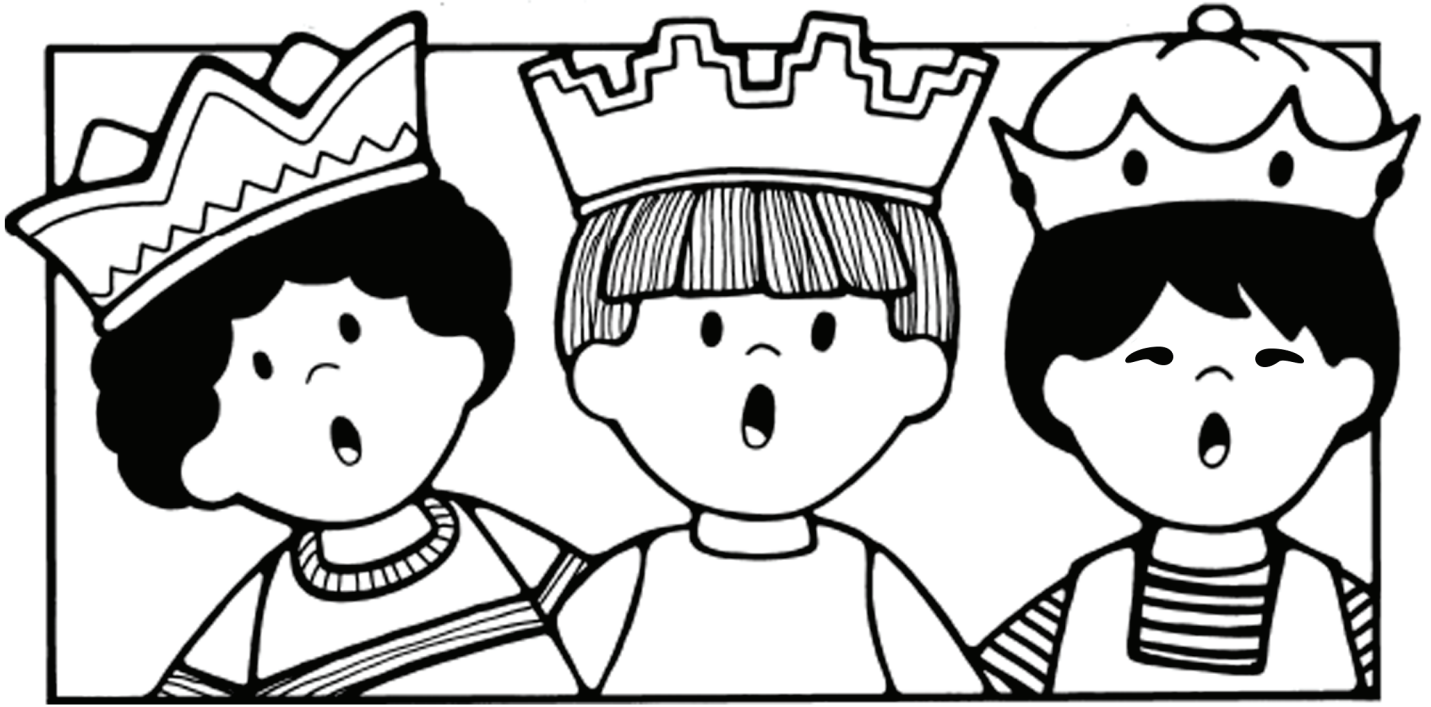
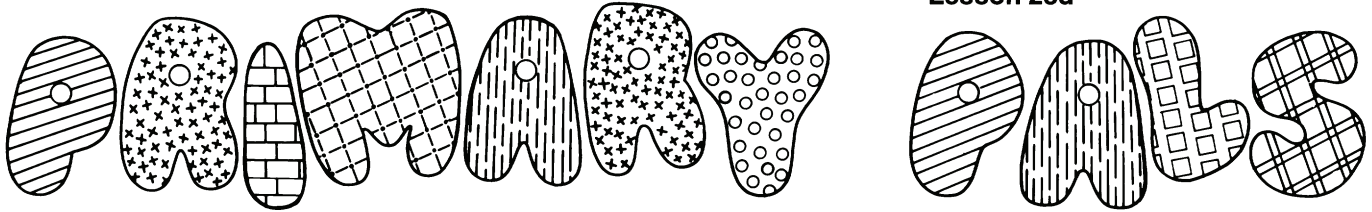
Use the color guide and color the picture below.

COLOR GUIDE

- 1 — Green
- 2 — Brown
- 3 — Yellow
- 4 — Red
- 5 — Blue
- 6 — Purple
- 7 — Black



Name: _____



A Light for the Wise Men

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
Leading Wise Men from afar,
To the place where Jesus lay,
On that first glad Christmas day,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
Leading Wise Men from afar.”

When Jerry, Neal, and Robby finished singing their song, Teacher Edna clapped her hands. “That was really good, boys,” she said. “I think you are ready for the program tomorrow night.” The boys laughed excitedly as they left the platform.

The rehearsal was soon over and Jerry hurried home. His Uncle Adam and Aunt Bonnie had promised to come to the Sunday school program

tomorrow night. They lived in another city and had to travel a long way.

Jerry ran into his house and called to his mother. “Are they here, Mommy? I didn’t see their car.”

His mother told him his aunt and uncle wouldn’t arrive until the next evening. They now planned to drive straight to the church and meet the family there.

“But, Mommy, they have never been to the church,” said Jerry. “What if they get lost?”

“Don’t worry, Son,” replied his mother. “I gave them directions, so they should be able to find the church easily.”

The next evening, as the boys sang their song, Jerry looked for his uncle and aunt. He saw them sitting with his mother and father in the third row. He smiled, and sang even louder.

As soon as the program was over Jerry ran to greet them. "Uncle Adam, Aunt Bonnie, did you like the program? Did you see me?"

"Yes, we saw you. You sang so well," answered his uncle. "I'm glad you were one of the Wise Men. We found out tonight how they must have felt. From you, and from our trip too."

"What do you mean? Did you see a bright star?" Jerry asked.

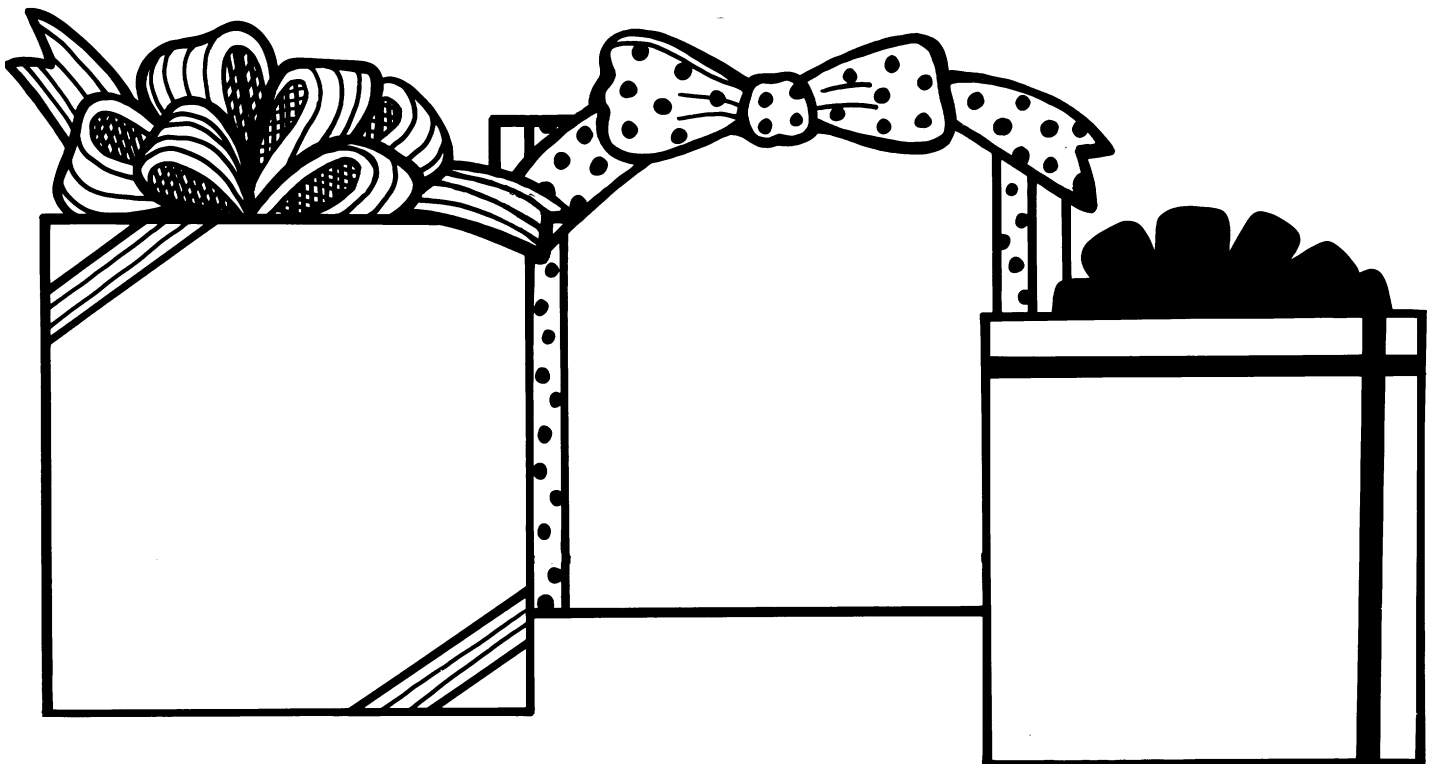
"No, we didn't see a bright star,"

laughed Uncle Adam. "We tried to follow your mother's directions but at one time we couldn't remember which way to turn. It was when we saw the light shining in the church steeple that we knew we were going the right way. It was very nice to see a light we could follow."

"It really was like the Wise Men," said Aunt Bonnie. "They followed the Star to find the Baby King, Jesus. They wanted to see Him and give Him gifts. And tonight, we were happy to see the lighted steeple. We didn't want to miss hearing you and the other children tell the story of God's Greatest Gift—Jesus."

Gifts to Give

The Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus. What gifts can you give to Him? Draw pictures of them in the boxes below.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

"Wise Men Visit Jesus" is the theme for this Bible lesson. Your child will learn about how a special star led the Wise Men on their long journey to the place where the Christ Child was.

Emphasize to your child that these Wise Men were very brave to have journeyed such a long distance in search of the infant King. Very likely they had some exciting adventures! Start a group story with your family about an adventure they might have had during their travels. Use a bell or timer to signal the next person's turn to take up the story where the last person left off.

If you have several children in your family, it might also be fun to pantomime the actions of the Wise Men. Encourage them to act out following the star, talking to King Herod, finding the Christ Child, presenting their gifts, and receiving their dream of warning.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 2:10

MONDAY: Matthew 2:1,2

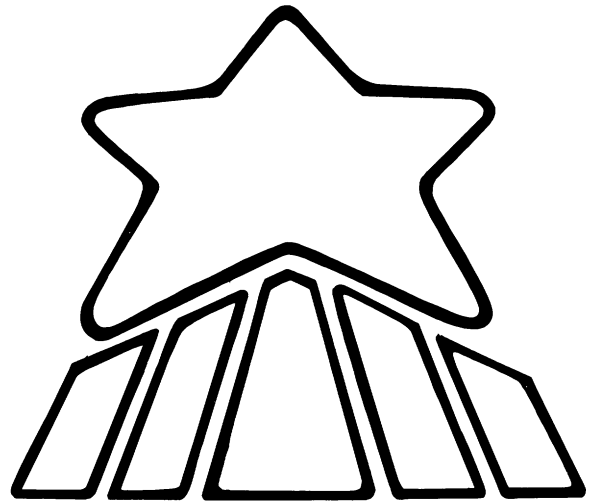
TUESDAY: Matthew 2:6

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 2:9

THURSDAY: Matthew 2:11

FRIDAY: Jeremiah 29:13

SATURDAY: Isaiah 55:6



Bible Text

Matthew 2:1-12

Memory Verse

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. — Matthew 2:10

Star Light, Star Bright

Write the correct letters in the boxes below and see what the Wise Men had to do to find Baby Jesus.

Write the third letter of the word GIFT. →

Write the second letter of the word JOSEPH. →

Write the fifth letter of the word ANGEL. →

Write the second letter of the word GLORY. →

Write the third letter of the word GOOD. →

Write the first letter of the word WILL. →

Write the second letter of the word MARY. →

Write the fifth letter of the word JESUS. →

Write the third letter of the word BETHLEHEM. →

Write the second letter of the word EARTH. →

Write the third letter of the word CHRISTMAS. →

Name: _____