

# Good News!

## Lesson Objectives

- The children will listen to the story of the angel's visit to Mary and Joseph.
- The children will state that Jesus is God's son.
- The children will thank God for the good news of Jesus' birth.

## Bible Story Text

Matthew 1:18-25;  
Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7

## Bible Truth

Jesus was born.  
(Luke 2:6-7)

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Christmas Present and Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: The Angel's News

Life Application: Good News for David and Lesli

Craft: Paper Plate Angel

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



# Good News!

## Christmas Present

The children will make a Christmas present during this special month-long activity.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- 4 craft sticks
- 10 pieces of spiral macaroni
- white glue

*For the teacher:*

- ruler
- white glue
- permanent marker
- 2 paper plates
- box to store and transport the craft

### Preparation

1. Glue four craft sticks together to form a 3½" x 4" rectangle.
2. Prepare a note to send home with each child requesting a 3½" x 4" photo of their child. Explain in the note that the parent will not receive the photograph back.
3. Before the children arrive in class, place some white glue on each of the paper plates.

### Instructions

1. Call two children to this center at a time. Explain to the children that they will be making a Christmas present over the next month.
2. Give the children their craft stick frames and spiral macaroni.
3. Have them dip the macaroni into the glue and then place it onto the front of the frames.
4. Write the children's names on the backs of their frames.
5. Place the children's finished frames in the box to store them until next week.

### Teacher Tips

- IMPORTANT: Be sure that the macaroni will pass the "safety cylinder" test as detailed in the Materials section of Preclass Centers.
- Make a few extra frames for any children that may be absent.

## Preclass Centers

In the preclass centers children will use language, motor, and cognitive skills, learn to interact with peers and cooperate in small groups.

Select four centers to use this unit. Assign a teacher to set up and supervise each center with no more than six children.

### Materials

IMPORTANT: Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a "safety cylinder" from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.

- Housekeeping Center—2 washable dolls (of diverse ethnicity, e.g., black and white), play food, dishes and 2 small blankets
- Story Center—simple books with limited text (cardboard are the most sturdy and durable) and large pillows
- Block Center—set of large blocks, people, animal figures (plastic or wooden) and toy cars
- Puzzle Center—1 puzzle for each child (for twos each puzzle piece itself should be a complete familiar object, for threes most can complete a 20-piece puzzle). NOTE: A puzzle should have all the pieces. If a puzzle piece is lost, the entire puzzle should be thrown out.

### Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme. Refer to the following example for help in directing play and asking relevant questions.

In the Housekeeping Center, ask the children: *Do you have a baby in your family? Let's pretend that this is baby Jesus. He's hungry. What should we do? Yes, we should feed him.*

### Teacher Tips

- You may want to try other centers such as transportation, large motor or manipulative.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.

# Good News!

## The Angel's News

The children will learn about the angel that brought Mary and Joseph the good news of Jesus' birth.

### Bible Story Text

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 2 socks
- black or brown yarn for hair
- 4 buttons for eyes
- aluminum foil
- 1 craft stick
- tape
- silver pipe cleaner (optional)

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Make a Mary puppet using the sock, yarn and buttons as follows:
  - A. Cut the yarn into long pieces to make hair.
  - B. Sew the yarn onto the toe of the sock.
  - C. Sew the buttons onto the toe to make eyes.
2. Make a Joseph puppet using the sock, yarn and buttons as follows:
  - A. Cut the yarn into short pieces to make hair.
  - B. Sew the yarn onto the toe of the sock.
  - C. Sew the buttons onto the toe to make eyes.
3. Make an angel stick puppet as follows:
  - A. Cut out the angel figure from the copy of the Reproducible Page A.
  - B. Make a small halo from aluminum foil and tape it on top of the angel's head.
  - C. Tape a craft stick onto the lower back of the angel.

### A Special Delivery

Have the Bible open and in your lap. Put the Mary puppet on your hand and say to the children: *This is Mary. Say hello to Mary. One day a long time ago an angel appeared to Mary. Hold up the angel stick puppet. The angel said, "Hello, Mary! You are special. God is with you" (Luke 1:28). Then he said, "I have some good news to tell you. You are going to have a baby! God is going to send you a baby. His name will be Jesus. He will be a very special baby" (Luke 1:30-33).*

*Mary told Joseph the good news that God was going to send a baby to them. Joseph was a good man and very kind. Soon, an angel came to see Joseph, too. Put the Joseph puppet on one of your hands and hold up the angel stick puppet in the other hand. The angel said to Joseph, "The baby you and Mary have will be named Jesus. He will be a very special baby" (Matthew 1:21).*

*The Bible says that Mary and Joseph had their wedding, and then waited for God to send the special baby to them.*

Save the angel stick puppet to use during Unit 4 Lesson 2, Bible Story.

### Conclusion

*What was the good news? (Mary and Joseph would be Jesus' parents)  
Who brought the good news to Mary and Joseph? (the angel)  
Who is Jesus? (God's son)*

### Teacher Tips

Give each child a turn to act out the Bible Story scenes in a very simple way. Have the angel say: "You will have a baby." Then have all the children say: "Good news!" Have Mary reply: "Yes, I will do it." Repeat this dialogue substituting Joseph's part with Mary's part. You can also make a halo from a silver pipe cleaner to use as a prop for the child playing the part of the angel.

# Good News!



# Good News!

## Good News for David and Lesli

The children will learn that a child's birth is good news. They will also be reminded of the good news of Jesus' birth.

### Bible Truth

Jesus was born.  
(Luke 2:6-7)

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- felt board with a black background
- black felt
- two-sided tape
- scissors
- watercolor markers or crayons
- glue stick
- laminate or clear contact paper
- tape
- picture of a ball (optional)
- 2 pieces of fabric, 2" square for children's covers (optional)

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. If you do not have a felt board, one can be easily made with a piece of foam board, purchased at a craft, office or art supply store. Cut the board to approximately 11" x 17". Cover the board with a piece of black felt, overlapping the material with two-sided tape on the back.
2. Cut out the figures from the copies of the Reproducible Pages B and C.
3. Color the figures.
4. Cover each figure with clear contact paper or laminate.
5. Roll a piece of tape and place it on the back of each figure so it will adhere to the felt board.
6. Practice telling the story in this activity using the felt board figures.

### Instructions

Show the children each figure and explain who they are in their family: the daddy; the mommy; the brother, David; and the sister, Lesli. Sing "My Own Loving Family" from the Unit 4 Song Sheet, as you hold up each of the felt board figures.

Tell the following story, moving the figures on the felt board to act out the actions. *David and Lesli were outside kicking a ball. David kicked the ball to Lesli, and Lesli kicked the ball back to her brother. They played for a little while, and then David remembered the new baby next door. "Let's go look at the baby," he said to Lesli. "Mommy, Mommy!" they both called. "Can we go see the new baby?" "Yes," said Mommy, "we will all go together and see the baby when Daddy gets home."*

*Daddy and Mommy are helping their neighbors to learn about God. After Daddy came home, they all went over to visit the neighbors. Mommy brought them a present for their new baby.*

*After their visit to the neighbors, they all came home and it was bedtime. Daddy and Mommy tucked David and Lesli into their beds, and read to them from the Bible. He read about the little baby that Mary would have named Jesus. The angel in the Bible said this was good news! After reading the Bible story, Daddy said, "We have some good news to tell you. How would you like it if we had a new baby at OUR house?" David and Lesli were very excited. "Really, Daddy?" said David. "Yes," said Daddy. "We are going to have a new baby." Daddy and Mommy looked very happy. "Is it a boy or a girl?" asked Lesli. "We don't know yet," said Mommy.*

*"Now, it is time to pray," said Daddy. "Lesli, would you like to say our prayer?" "Yes," said Lesli. "Thank you, God, for Daddy, Mommy, David and me. Thank you for our good news. Thank you for our new baby brother or sister."*

*Daddy and Mommy kissed and hugged David and Lesli, and then they turned out the light. David and Lesli lay in their beds happily thinking about their new baby. It would be fun to have a little brother to play baseball with, David thought. It would be fun to have a sister to play dolls with, Lesli thought. They both agreed that having a new baby was very good news!*

Save the felt board figures and other props for use in Unit 4 Lesson 2, Life Application.

# Good News!

## Bible Truth Activity

What was David and Lesli's good news? That's right. They were going to have a new baby in their family. Does anyone remember the good news the angel told to Joseph? The angel said, "Mary will have a baby, and the baby will be Jesus" (Matthew 1:21). The Bible says, Jesus was born. Let's all say this together: Jesus was born.

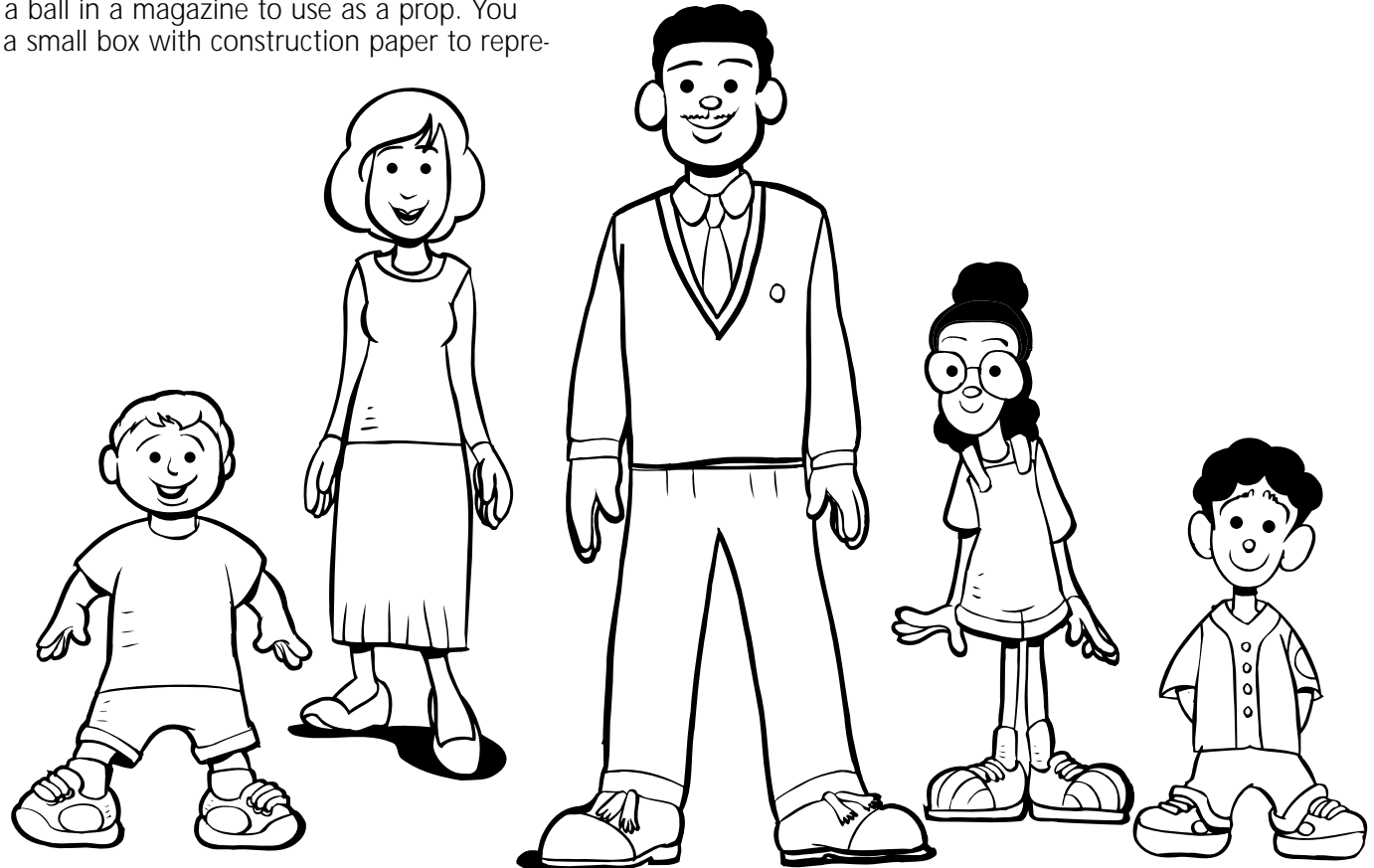
## Conclusion

Let's thank God for the good news. Thank you, God, for the good news of Jesus' birth.

Who are you going to tell about Bible class today? Other people need to know the good news that Jesus was born.

## Teacher Tips

- Cut out a picture of a ball in a magazine to use as a prop. You might also decorate a small box with construction paper to represent a house.



# Good News!

## Paper Plate Angel

The children will create an angel from a paper plate, as a reminder of the angel that visited Mary.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- 1 white paper plate
- tape
- glue stick
- cotton
- silver or gold pipe cleaners
- crayons
- stickers or other decorations (optional)

*For the teacher:*

- scissors
- thin marker

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut out the angel stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page D.
2. Trace the stencil onto a plate for each child.
3. Cut out the angels from the plates.
4. Draw a face on each angel using the thin marker.
5. Twist the pipe cleaners into halos. Cut off any excess material leaving a 1" stem. See Figure A.
6. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

### Instructions

1. Give each of the children a paper plate angel to color.
2. Have the children glue the cotton onto the angels' wings.
3. Help each child tape the stem of the halo to the back of the angel's head. See Figure B.
4. Have the children decorate their angels with stickers.
5. Have each child join the angel's skirt together in the back, and then tape it, as shown in Figure C.

### Conclusion

While you are working, sing "Baby Jesus Was Born" from the Unit 4 Song Sheet.

### Teacher Tips

- Aluminum foil may be used to make halos instead of pipe cleaners.



# Good News!

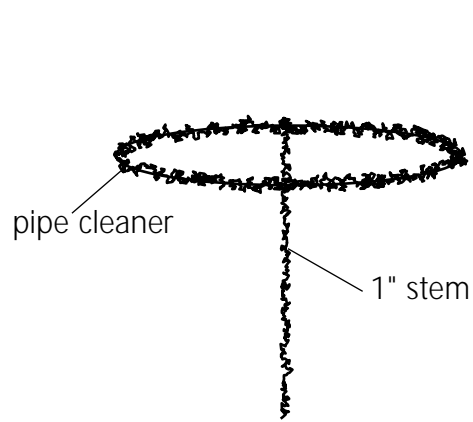


Figure A

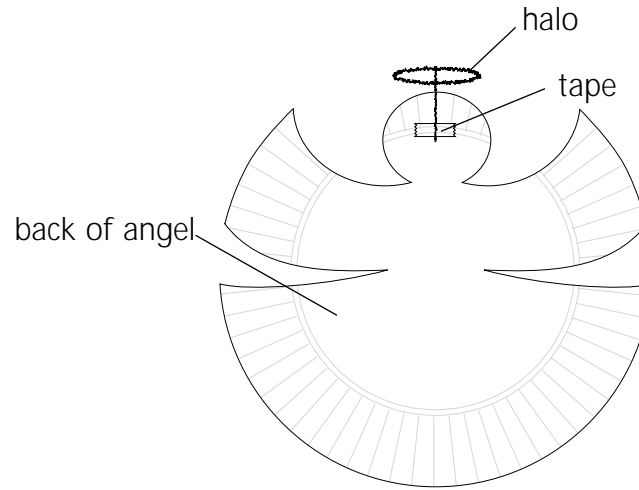


Figure B

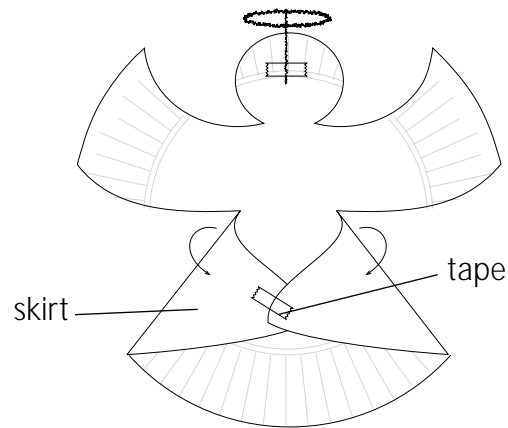
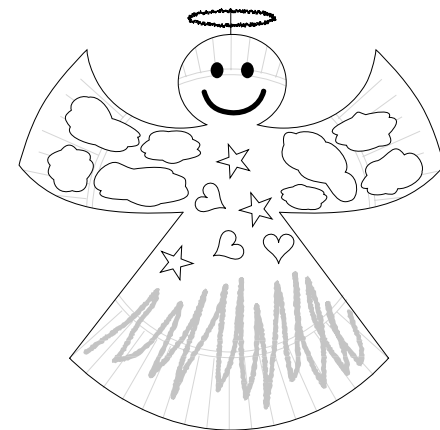


Figure C



Finished Craft





## Lesson Objectives

- The children will listen to the story of the angel's visit to Mary and Joseph.
- The children will state that Jesus is God's son.
- The children will thank God for the good news of Jesus' birth.

## Bible Story Text

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7

## Bible Truth

Jesus was born.  
(Luke 2:6-7)

## Preclass Centers

In the preclass centers children will use language, motor, and cognitive skills, learn to interact with peers and cooperate in small groups.

Select four centers to use this unit. Assign a teacher to set up and supervise each center with no more than six children.

### Materials

**IMPORTANT:** Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a "safety cylinder" from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.

- Housekeeping Center—2 washable dolls (of diverse ethnicity, i.e., black and white), play food, dishes and 2 small blankets
- Story Center—simple books with limited text (cardboard are the most sturdy and durable) and large pillows

- Block Center—set of large blocks, people, animal figures (plastic or wooden) and toy cars
- Puzzle Center—1 puzzle for each child (for twos each puzzle piece itself should be a complete familiar object, for threes most can complete a 20-piece puzzle).  
NOTE: A puzzle should have all the pieces. If a puzzle piece is lost, the entire puzzle should be thrown out.

### Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme. Refer to the following example for help in directing play and asking relevant questions.

In the Housekeeping Center, ask the children: *Do you have a baby in your family? Let's pretend that this is baby Jesus. He's hungry. What should we do? Yes, we should feed him.*

# Good News!

## Jesus

Lesson 1

### Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Good News, Bad News

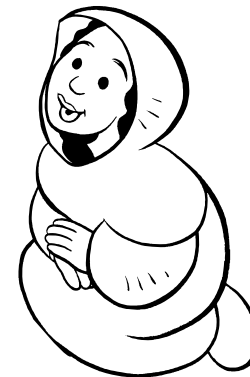
Bible Story: The Angel's News

Craft: Handprint Angel

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.

### Teacher Tips

- You may want to try other centers such as transportation, large motor or manipulative.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.



## Good News, Bad News

The child will respond to routine situations that happen in their lives by saying “good news” or “bad news” and holding up the corresponding paper plate face. This activity will reinforce the lesson that Jesus’ birth was good news!

### Bible Truth

Jesus was born.  
(Luke 2:6-7)

### Materials

*For each child:*

- 1 white paper plate
- 1 large craft stick

*For the teacher:*

- masking tape
- marker

### Preparation

1. On each paper plate draw a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other side.
2. Tape a large craft stick on each plate, so half of it hangs down to make a handle to hold the plate.
3. Make a model of the plate for yourself to use as a prop during the activity.
4. Familiarize yourself with the activity.

### Instructions

*Who likes to be happy? Michael, do you like to be happy? Elizabeth, do you like to be happy? What do we do when we are happy? We smile! We sing!*

Sing “If You’re Happy and You Know It” from the Unit 4 Song Sheet.

Show the children a Paper Plate Face. *When we hear good news, does it make us happy or sad? Happy!* Show the children the “happy face” side of the plate. *When we hear some bad news, does it make us happy or sad? Sad.* Show the “sad face” side of the plate.

Give one plate to each child and keep one for yourself. *Can you show me your good news face? Can you show me your bad news face?*

# Good News!

## Jesus Lesson 1

*Let’s pretend. I will tell you some news, and you can tell me if it is good news or bad news.*

Let the children respond to the following questions with their paper plate faces. Prompt them, if necessary, by showing them the correct face with your paper plate face.

- Mommy says, “I love you!”
- Daddy says, “Sorry, but we can’t go to the park today.”
- Grandma says, “Let’s go get some ice cream!”
- Your friend says, “You are not my friend.”
- Your friend says, “I am sorry. You ARE my friend.”
- Your friend says, “I will go to church with you.”
- Your friend is sick.
- Daddy says, “Let’s play!”
- Your mommy’s friend gets baptized!
- Mommy says, “You can have a cookie.”
- The Bible says, “God loves you very much.”
- The angel said to Mary, “You will have a baby. His name will be Jesus. He will be God’s son!”

### Bible Truth Activity

*When the angel told Mary about the baby Jesus do you think that was good news or bad news? It was good news! Do you think that Mary really had the baby? Yes, she did! The Bible, says, Jesus was born. Let’s all say that together: Jesus was born.*

### Conclusion

*God loves us very much! Who can you tell that God loves them? Many people don’t know that God really loves them. Let’s thank God for loving us. Thank you, God, for loving us and taking care of us. Amen.*

If time allows sing verse four of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” from the Unit 4 Song Sheet. Have the children hold up the happy face sides of their paper plates while they sing.

As the children sing, tell them to pretend that they are Mary or Joseph, and that they are happy because baby Jesus is going to be born.

Save the Paper Plate Faces to be used during Unit 4 Lesson 2, Life Application.

## The Angel's News

The children will learn about the angel that brought Mary and Joseph the good news of Jesus' birth.

### Bible Story Text

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 2 socks
- black or brown yarn for hair
- 4 buttons for eyes
- aluminum foil
- 1 craft stick
- tape
- silver pipe cleaner (optional)

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Make a Mary puppet using the sock, yarn and buttons as follows:
  - A. Cut the yarn into long pieces to make hair.
  - B. Sew the yarn onto the toe of the sock.
  - C. Sew the buttons onto the toe to make eyes.
2. Make a Joseph puppet using the sock, yarn and buttons as follows:
  - A. Cut the yarn into short pieces to make hair.
  - B. Sew the yarn onto the toe of the sock.
  - C. Sew the buttons onto the toe to make eyes.
3. Make an angel stick puppet as follows:
  - A. Cut out the angel figure from the copy of the Reproducible Page A.
  - B. Make a small halo from aluminum foil and tape it on top of the angel's head.
  - C. Tape a craft stick onto the lower back of the angel.

# Good News!

## Jesus Lesson 1

### A Special Delivery

Have the Bible open and in your lap. Put the Mary puppet on your hand and say to the children: *This is Mary. Say hello to Mary. One day a long time ago an angel appeared to Mary. Hold up the angel stick puppet. The angel said, "Hello, Mary! You are special. God is with you" (Luke 1:28). Then he said, "I have some good news to tell you. You are going to have a baby! God is going to send you a baby. His name will be Jesus. He will be a very special baby" (Luke 1:30-33).*

*Mary told Joseph the good news that God was going to send a baby to them. Joseph was a good man and very kind. Soon, an angel came to see Joseph, too. Put the Joseph puppet on one of your hands and hold up the angel stick puppet in the other hand. The angel said to Joseph, "The baby you and Mary have will be named Jesus. He will be a very special baby" (Matthew 1:21).*

*The Bible says that Mary and Joseph had their wedding, and then waited for God to send the special baby to them.*

Save the angel stick puppet to use during Unit 4 Lesson 2, Bible Story.

### Conclusion

*What was the good news? (Mary and Joseph would be Jesus' parents)  
Who brought the good news to Mary and Joseph? (the angel)  
Who is Jesus? (God's son)*

### Teacher Tips

Give each child a turn to act out the Bible Story scenes in a very simple way. Have the angel say: "You will have a baby." Then have all the children say: "Good news!" Have Mary reply: "Yes, I will do it." Repeat this dialogue substituting Joseph's part with Mary's part. You can also make a halo from a silver pipe cleaner to use as a prop for the child playing the part of the angel.



## Handprint Angel

The children will make a craft that reminds them that angels are from God. This activity involves distinct tactile experiences: touching wet, slippery paint and soft tissue paper.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- 1 sheet green construction paper
- glue stick

*For the teacher:*

- red tissue paper
- pink or brown construction paper
- yellow construction paper
- stapler
- tape
- non-breakable plate, 9"
- yellow, non-toxic finger-paint or tempera paint
- paintbrush
- newspapers
- paper towels
- scissors

### Preparation

1. Cut the red tissue paper into 7" triangles.
2. Cut out a 2" circle for each child from the pink construction paper.
3. Draw a face on each circle.
4. Cut the yellow construction paper into 4" x 1/2" strips. Tape the ends together to make a halo for each child.
5. Write "Jesus Is Born" on the bottom of each piece of green construction paper, as shown in Figure A.
6. Prior to class, moisten the paper towels so the children can use these for clean-up after the painting portion of the craft.

### Instructions

1. Have the children make handprints as follows:
  - A. Align the green construction paper so that the words "Jesus Is Born" are upside down.
  - B. Cover the entire plate with yellow paint.
  - C. Place each child's hands onto the plate, and then immediately place the child's hands onto the green construction paper. See Figure B. These handprints will be the angel's wings. Be sure not to place their hands too close to the edges of the paper.
  - D. Wipe each child's hands with a wet paper towel to clean off the paint.
  - E. Write the children's names on their papers.
  - F. Place their papers on newspapers so the paint can dry. See Teacher Tips.
2. After the paint has dried, have the children glue their red tissue paper triangles between their handprints, as shown in Figure C.
3. Give each child a pink circle to glue on their papers, as shown in Figure D.
4. Give the children each a yellow paper loop and help them glue it above the angels' head.

### Conclusion

As you make angels, emphasize that God sent an angel to tell Mary and Joseph that baby Jesus would be born. While you work, sing "Baby Jesus Was Born" from the Unit 4 Song Sheet.

### Teacher Tips

- Speak to the lead teacher about having a "handprint center" during the Preclass Activities so that the paint will be dry when the craft begins. Be sure to write the children's names on their papers when you do this.
- You may want to staple the halo above the angel's head to secure it in place. Be sure to staple it on the inside of the loop so it retains its circular shape.

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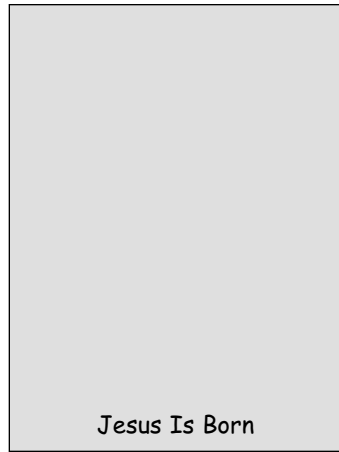
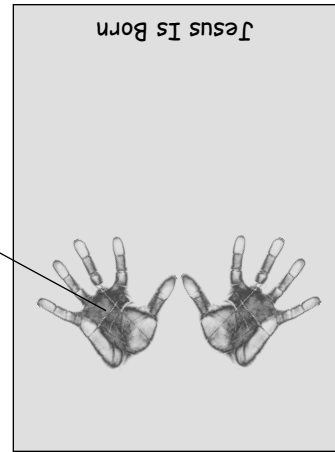
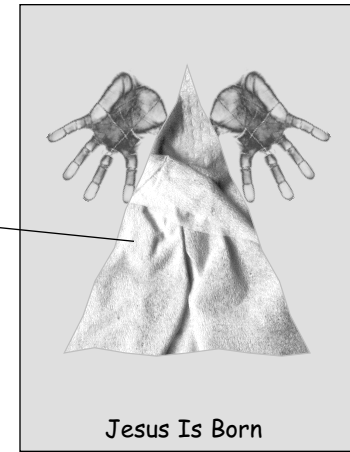


Figure A



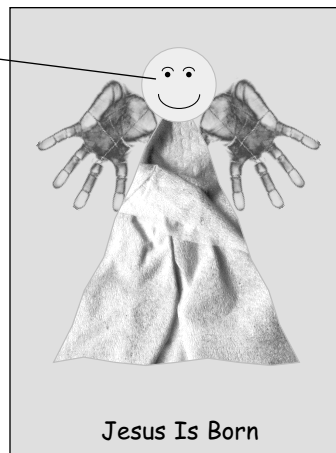
handprints

Figure B



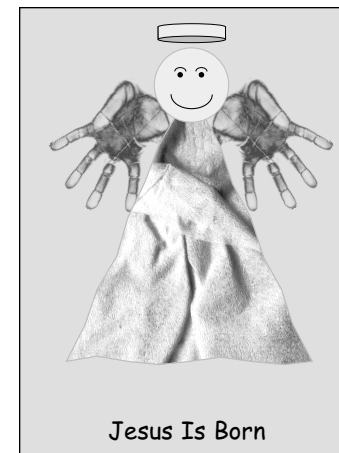
red tissue  
paper  
triangle

Figure C



pink circle

Figure D



Finished Craft





e-b-c-u-o-r-p-e



angel figure

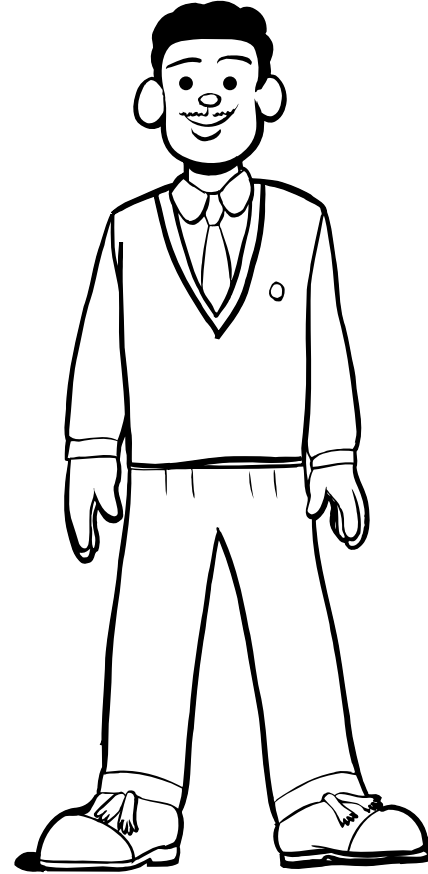




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Mother



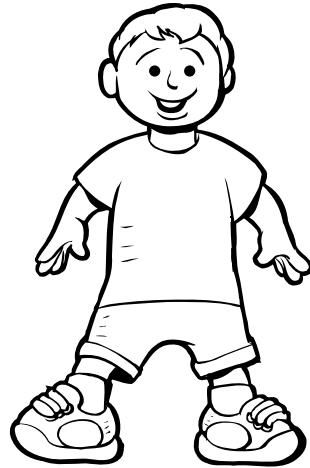
Father







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David



Lesli





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angel stencil

