

# Angels and Shepherds

Mary and Joseph  
 Lesson 3

## Lesson Objectives

- The children will say "Jesus" when asked; "Who did God send?"
- The children will sing a song thanking God for baby Jesus.
- The children will learn that the angels and shepherds were happy and thanked God for sending baby Jesus.

## Bible Story Text

Luke 2:8-20

## Bible Truth

God sent baby Jesus.  
 (Luke 2:11)

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

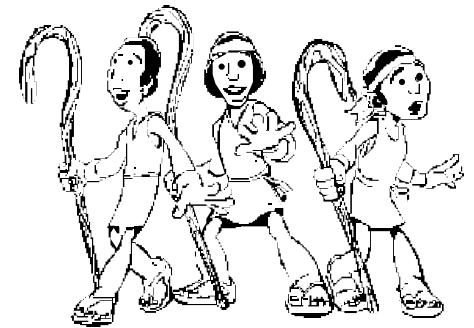
Centers:

Bible Story: Visiting Friends

Life Application: Good News

Craft: Star Ornament

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



# Angels and Shepherds

## Preclass Centers

As the children arrive, guide them to a preclass center. Have no more than six children at each center.

### Materials

Use the materials previously selected for this unit's preclass centers.

### Preparation

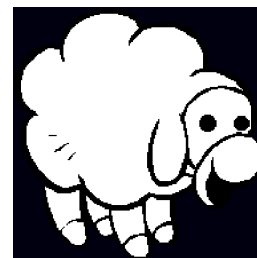
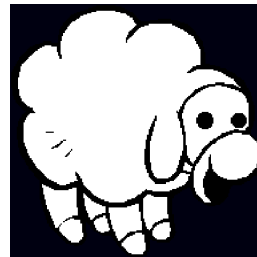
1. Be sure to check the condition of the materials selected for this unit's preclass centers prior to set up. Replace any broken toys, or puzzles with missing pieces as necessary.
2. Set up the centers before the children come into the classroom.
3. Assign a teacher to each center and have the teachers stay in those centers until the singing begins.

### Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme.

### Teacher Tips

- **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.
- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.



# Angels and Shepherds

## Visiting Friends

The children will learn that God sent Jesus and that the shepherds and angels were happy and thanked God.

### Bible Story Text

Luke 2:8-20

### Materials

For the teacher:

- Bible
- nativity scene from the Unit 16 Lesson 1, Bible Story
- felt board
- colored markers
- scissors
- a large piece of yellow felt
- a piece of black felt for the felt board
- glue
- tape
- cotton balls
- star stickers

Reproducible Pages:

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

### Preparation

1. If you do not have a felt board, one can easily be 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 flannel or felt.
2. Cut out and color the pictures from the copies of Reproducible Pages A and B.
3. Glue cotton balls to the sheep.
4. Place the star stickers on the felt board to make it appear to be night time. Save some stars for the children to add.
5. Put rolled up pieces of tape on the backs of the felt board figures.

### Friends

Place the shepherds on the felt board.

Open the Bible and show the nativity scene. Who can tell me who the special baby was that God sent? That's right! God sent baby Jesus. And who were the mommy and daddy that God chose

for baby Jesus? Joseph and Mary.

Point to the shepherds. Does anyone know who these men are? They are shepherds! What do shepherds do? Point to the sheep. Shepherds take care of the sheep. What do sheep say? Baa! Baa! Have the children help you put the sheep on the felt board.

The Bible says that all of a sudden, the sky lit up with a big light. The shepherds looked up into the sky. Do you know what was making the light? Place a piece of yellow felt on the felt board and the angel on top of it. It was an angel! Have you ever seen an angel? The Bible says that the shepherds were afraid when they saw the angel (Luke 2:8-9). Do you know where angels come from? They come from God. God sent the angel. Do you think God wanted the shepherds to be afraid? No! The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news! Jesus has been born!" (Luke 2:10-11). The angel told them that they would find Jesus wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger (Luke 2:12). The shepherds were happy! Baby Jesus was born!

Add all of the angels to the flannel board. The angels and the shepherds were happy and said thank you to God for sending baby Jesus.

Remove the felt board and bring out the nativity scene. The shepherds found the baby, just like the angel had said. He was wrapped in a blanket, in the stable, lying in a manger. The shepherds couldn't wait to tell everyone that Jesus was born! (Luke 2:13-20).

NOTE: Save the nativity scene, felt board and the felt board figures for the Unit 16 Lesson 4, Bible Story.

### Conclusion

Sing "Baby Jesus Was Born" from the Unit 16 Song Sheet. Ask the following questions to review the story:

- Who was watching the sheep? (shepherds)
- What made the sky light up? (an angel)
- What did the angel say? (Good news! Jesus is born.)
- Who sent baby Jesus? (God)
- Who was happy? (angels, shepherds, everyone, even us!)



# Angels and Shepherds



# Angels and Shepherds

## Good News

The children will play the parts of the angels and shepherds celebrating Jesus' birth.

### Bible Story Text

Luke 2:8-20

### Bible Truth

God sent baby Jesus.  
(Luke 2:11)

### Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 small piece of poster board or cardboard
- scissors
- aluminum foil
- table or large cardboard box, large enough to fit at least one child
- large sheet or tablecloth, large enough to hang over three sides of the table
- small baby doll
- baby blanket
- shoe box or other box to hold baby doll
- tape
- silver garland
- toy, stuffed or homemade sheep
- green towel or construction paper as "grass"
- hand towels and scarves for shepherds

### Preparation

1. Cut a star out of poster board and cover it with aluminum foil.
2. Wrap the baby doll in the blanket and place it in the shoe box as a manger.
3. Cut the garland into strips and tape each one into a circle as a halo for each child in the small group.
4. Before the children arrive:
  - A. Drape the sheet over three of the sides of the table to form a "stable."
  - B. Place the manger inside the stable.
  - C. Tape the star to the top edge of the table.

### Instructions

Put on a silver garland halo. Who can tell me who it was who told Mary the good news? An angel! Where do angels come from? Angels come from God. What did the angel tell Mary? "You will have a baby. His name will be Jesus." Was Mary happy? Yes, she was! And did she have a baby? Yes, she did! Show the baby in the manger. What was the baby's name? Jesus! Where was Jesus born? In a stable with the animals. What did God put in the sky when Jesus was born? Point to the star. A very special star.

Put a silver garland halo on each child's head. Let's all pretend to be angels. After Jesus was born, God sent a lot of angels to tell everyone to sing about him. Sing "Baby Jesus Was Born" from the Unit 16 Song Sheet.

The angels sang and told some shepherds that Jesus was born. Who knows what a shepherd is? A shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep. We have angels; now we need some shepherds. Dress some children as shepherds by placing a hand towel on the child's head and tying it in place with a scarf. Put the sheep and the "grass" on the floor. Let's pretend it is nighttime. The sheep are sleeping.

Now the angels come and light up the sky, and they are singing and praising God. They say to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid! Be happy! Jesus has been born!" Angels, let's all say that together. "Do not be afraid! Be happy! Jesus has been born!" Shepherds, look happy! Clap your hands! Do you want to go and see Jesus? Show the shepherds baby Jesus in the manger. Have the shepherds take turns picking up, holding and gently giving baby Jesus a hug.

Sing "Baby Jesus Was Born" From the Unit 16 Song Sheet.

NOTE: Save the star and garland halos for the Unit 16 Lesson 4, Life Application.

### Bible Truth Activity

Hold the baby doll in your arms. What was the baby's name that God sent? His name was Jesus. God sent baby Jesus. Let's all say it together: "God sent baby Jesus." Jesus was a special baby. He was God's son!

### Conclusion

Pray with the children and ask them who they can invite to learn about Jesus.



# God sent baby Jesus.



# Angels and Shepherds

## Star Ornament

The children will make a star ornament to remind them of the special star that God put in the sky when Jesus was born.

### Materials

For each child:

- 2 pieces of construction paper
- crayons or markers
- glue stick
- paper clip

For the teacher:

- scissors
- confetti
- foil stars
- hole punch
- ribbon
- ruler
- tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut out the star stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page C.
2. Trace and cut out two stars for each child from construction paper.
3. Fold each star in half.
4. On one half of one star, write "Good News of Joy!"
5. Stack two stars for each child and punch a hole through the top point. Paperclip the pairs together.
6. Cut a 6" piece of ribbon for each child.
7. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

### Instructions

1. Show the children the model of the craft. Look! Here is a star like the special one God put in the sky when Jesus was born.
2. Give each child a pair of construction paper stars. Have them color and decorate both sides of each star.
3. Matching the punched holes on the tops of the stars, fold the stars at the creases and tape them together, back to back. See Figure A. Tape the opposite side of the star as well.
4. Help the children thread a piece of ribbon through the holes and tie the ends together.
5. Have the children decorate their ornaments with confetti and foil stars.
6. Help the children write their names on their ornaments.

### Conclusion

Have the children hold up their stars. What did the special star tell people? (Jesus was born.) When you show people the star you made today, you can tell them about Jesus. Who will you tell?

### Teacher Tip

- Choose a decorative paper to make the stars.



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# Angels and Shepherds

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Lesson 3

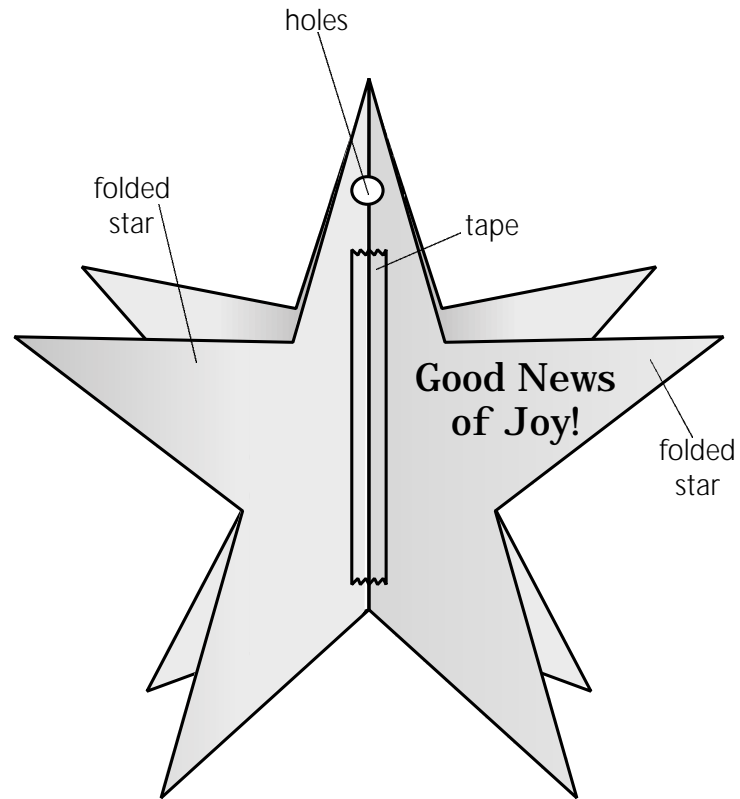


Figure A







# Angels and Shepherds

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## Preclass Centers

As the children arrive, guide them to a pre-class center. Have no more than six children at each center.

### Materials

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## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Matching Jesus

Bible Story: Visiting Friends

Craft: Angel Magnet

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

### Preparation

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- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.

Life

Application



## Matching Jesus

The children will be reminded of the story of Jesus' birth.

### Bible Truth

God sent baby Jesus.  
(Luke 2:11)

### Materials

For the teacher:

- 16 unlined index cards, 3" x 5"
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- laminate or clear contact paper

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 2 copies for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut out and color the pictures from the copies of Reproducible Page D. NOTE: Color identical pictures to look the same.
2. Glue each picture onto a 3" x 5" card.

### Instructions

For younger children, play the game as follows:

1. Show the children one card of each pair and let them tell you what it is. This will help them to recognize the cards during the game.
2. Give each child a card and put the matches to their cards on the floor, face up.
3. Ask each child, Can you find the match to your card? If they need help you might say, I see you have a picture of an angel. Where is the other picture of an angel? When they find the match, let them hold the pair.
4. Talk to the children about the cards that were just chosen. Who remembers what the angels said to the shepherds? "Good news. Jesus has been born!"
5. The game is over when all of the cards are picked up. If there is time, play again.

For older children, play the game as follows:

1. Show the children one card of each pair and let them tell you what it is. This will help them to recognize the cards during the game.
2. Mix up the cards and place them face down in four rows of four.
3. Let each child take a turn flipping over two cards. If the child finds a match let him hold the pair.
4. If no match is found, have the child turn the cards over and let another child try to match a pair.
5. Talk to the children about the cards that were just chosen. I see you picked up a star. Why did God put a special star in the sky? Because baby Jesus was born! Encourage the older children to repeat the answer with you.
6. The game is over when all of the cards are picked up. If there is time, play again.

NOTE: Save the cards for the Unit 16 Lesson 4, Life Application.

### Bible Truth Activity

Ask the children, Who did God send? God sent baby Jesus. Let's all say that together. God sent baby Jesus.

### Conclusion

Sing the song "Baby Jesus Was Born." Hold up the corresponding cards as you sing the different parts of the song.

Let's thank God for sending baby Jesus. Choose a child to pray.

Who are you going to tell about Bible class today? What are you going to tell them? Right! God sent baby Jesus!

### Teacher Tips

- If you don't have index cards, cut poster board into 3" x 5" pieces.
- Laminate or cover the cards with clear contact paper.

## Visiting Friends

The children will learn that God sent Jesus and that the shepherds and angels were happy and thanked God.

### Bible Story Text

Luke 2:8-20

### Materials

For the teacher:

- Bible
- nativity scene from the Unit 16 Lesson 1, Bible Story
- felt board
- colored markers
- scissors
- a large piece of yellow felt
- a piece of black felt for the felt board
- glue
- tape
- cotton balls
- star stickers

Reproducible Pages:

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

### Preparation

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3. Glue cotton balls to the sheep.
4. Place the star stickers on the felt board to make it appear to be night time. Save some stars for the children to add.
5. Put rolled up pieces of tape on the backs of the felt board figures.

### Friends

Place the shepherds on the felt board.

Open the Bible and show the nativity scene. Who can tell me who the special baby was that God sent? That's right! God sent baby Jesus. And who were the mommy and daddy that God chose

for baby Jesus? Joseph and Mary.

Point to the shepherds. Does anyone know who these men are? They are shepherds! What do shepherds do? Point to the sheep. Shepherds take care of the sheep. What do sheep say? Baa! Baa! Have the children help you put the sheep on the felt board.

The Bible says that all of a sudden, the sky lit up with a big light. The shepherds looked up into the sky. Do you know what was making the light? Place a piece of yellow felt on the felt board and the angel on top of it. It was an angel! Have you ever seen an angel? The Bible says that the shepherds were afraid when they saw the angel (Luke 2:8-9). Do you know where angels come from? They come from God. God sent the angel. Do you think God wanted the shepherds to be afraid? No! The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news! Jesus has been born!" (Luke 2:10-11). The angel told them that they would find Jesus wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger (Luke 2:12). The shepherds were happy! Baby Jesus was born!

Add all of the angels to the flannel board. The angels and the shepherds were happy and said thank you to God for sending baby Jesus.

Remove the felt board and bring out the nativity scene. The shepherds found the baby, just like the angel had said. He was wrapped in a blanket, in the stable, lying in a manger. The shepherds couldn't wait to tell everyone that Jesus was born! (Luke 2:13-20).

NOTE: Save the nativity scene, felt board and the felt board figures for the Unit 16 Lesson 4, Bible Story.

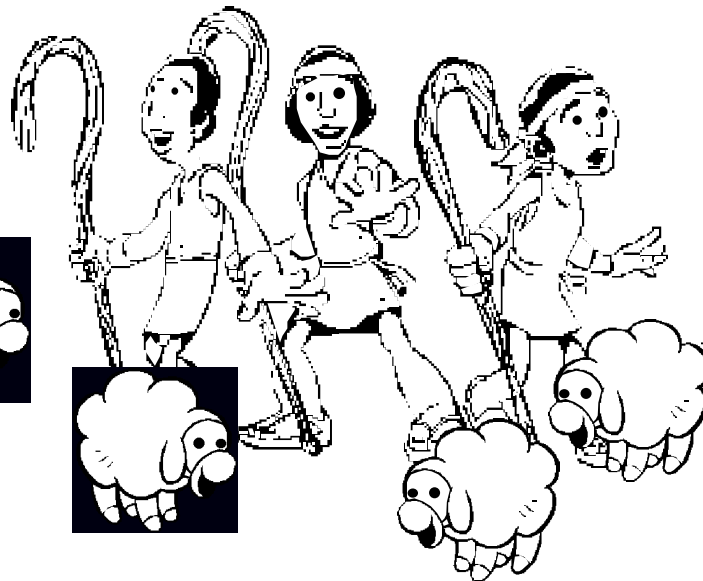
### Conclusion

Sing "Baby Jesus Was Born" from the Unit 16 Song Sheet. Ask the following questions to review the story:

- Who was watching the sheep? (shepherds)
- What made the sky light up? (an angel)
- What did the angel say? (Good news! Jesus is born.)
- Who sent baby Jesus? (God)
- Who was happy? (angels, shepherds, everyone, even us!)

# Angels and Shepherds

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## Angel Magnet

The children will make an angel magnet to remind them that the angel brought the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds.

## Materials

For each child:

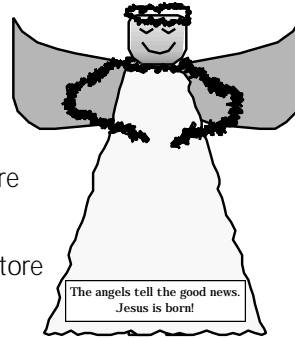
- 1 old fashioned clothespin (no spring)
- 1 gold or silver pipe cleaner
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- tacky glue
- extra gold or silver pipe cleaners
- 1/2" batting, can be found in a craft store
- 2" wide gold or silver mesh ribbon
- black marker
- magnet strip, can be found in a craft store
- small paper plates
- cotton swabs

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for every 20 children



## Preparation

1. Form a set of wings and arms for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut a 4" piece of ribbon for each child as wings.
  - B. Cut each pipe cleaner in half for arms.
  - C. Pinch the ribbon in the middle and twist the pipe cleaner around the center leaving two even pieces of the pipe cleaner as arms. See Figure A.
2. Using a black marker; draw two eyes, a smile and some hair on the rounded part of each clothespin.
3. Form a halo for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut a 2" piece of pipe cleaner.
  - B. Bend the piece of pipe cleaner into a circle forming a halo.
4. Cut a 3" batting triangle as an angel's robe for each child.
5. Cut a 1" piece of magnet for each child.
6. Cut out the text boxes from the copies of Reproducible Page E.
7. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.
8. Pour a small amount of glue on a paper plate.

## Instructions

1. Show the children the model of the craft. What is this? That's right! It is an angel! What did the angel tell the shepherds? Yes, the angel said "Good News, Jesus has been born."
2. Give each child a clothespin and a set of wings. Help the children twist the arms around the neck of the clothespin to secure it. See Figure B.
3. Give each child a cotton swab. Have the children dip the cotton swab in the glue and rub the glue onto the clothespin below the face.
4. Give each child a piece of batting to attach as a robe below the face.
5. Give each child a text box to glue onto the bottom of the robe.
6. Give each child a magnet to glue onto the back of the angel.
7. Give each child a halo to dip into the glue and press onto the angels' head.
8. Write the children's names on their craft.
9. Set the angels aside to dry.

## Conclusion

What were some of the things that the angel said to the shepherds? "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news." What was the good news? Baby Jesus was born!

## Teacher Tips

- With younger children, glue on the halos and/or the magnets for them.
- Make sure the magnet will hold up the clothespin angel. If not, cut larger pieces.
- You can use 4" x 4" mylar paper for the angel's wings.
- This would make a good Christmas gift for parents if you want to wrap it and send it home with a gift tag from the child.

# Angels and Shepherds

# Craft

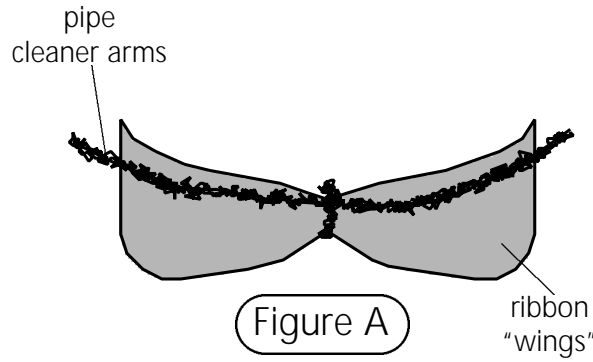


Figure A

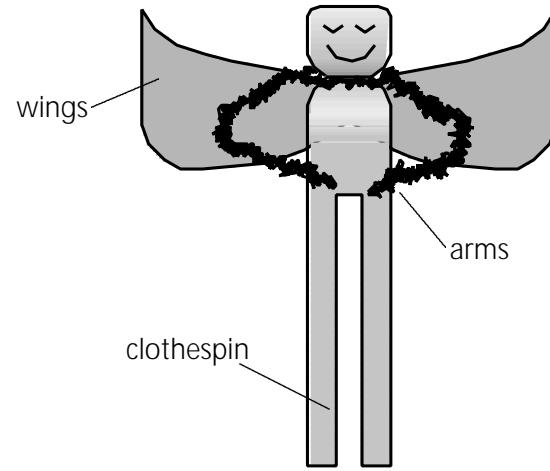
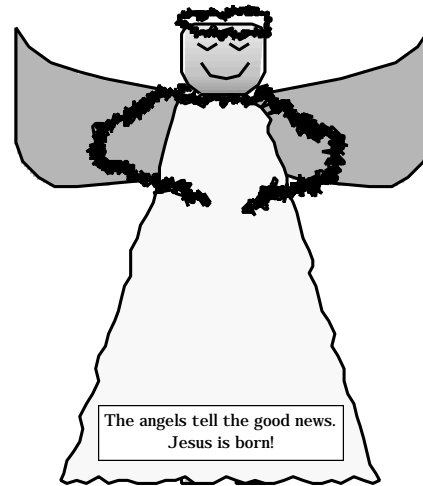


Figure B



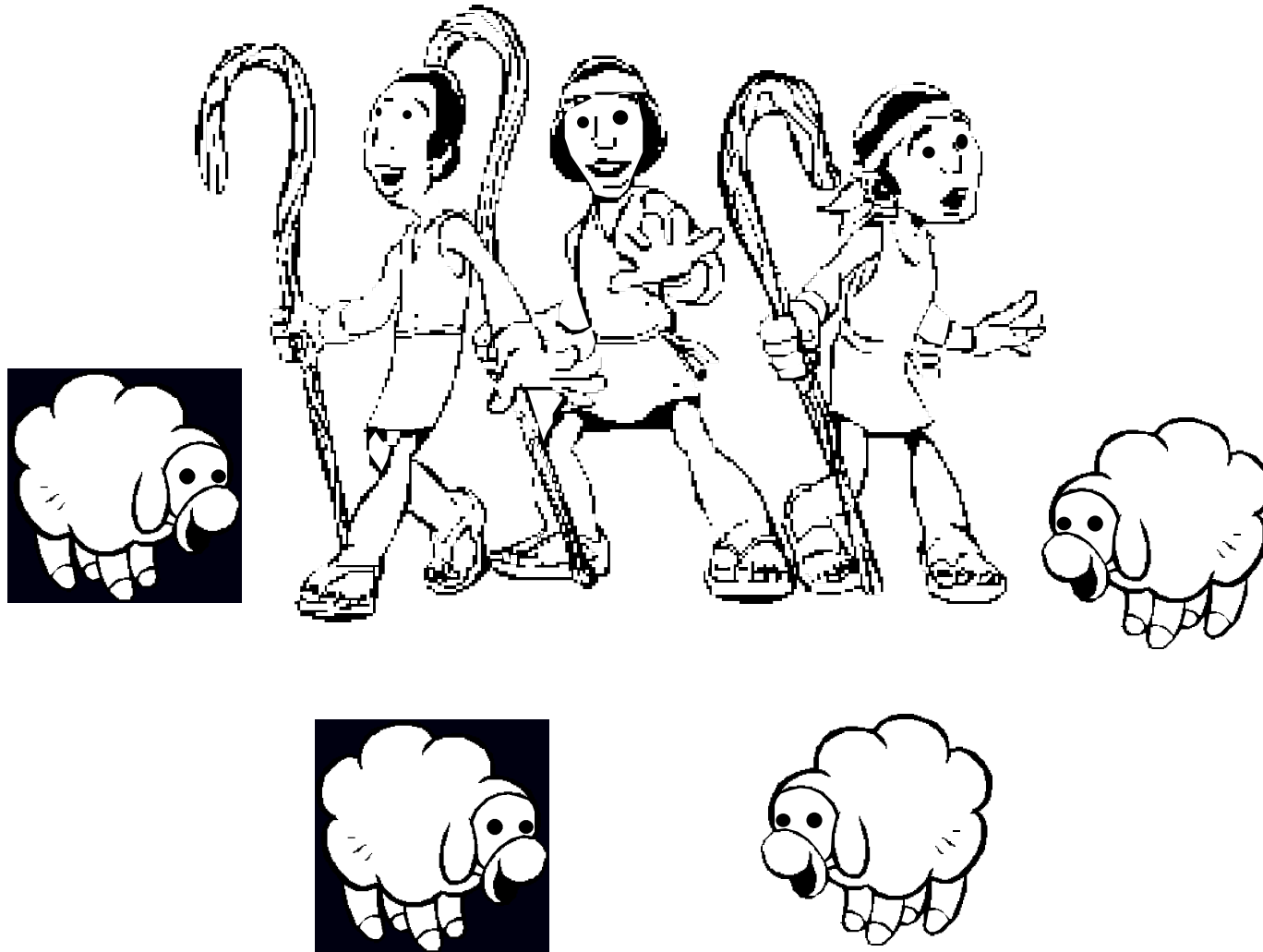
The angels tell the good news.  
Jesus is born!

Finished Craft





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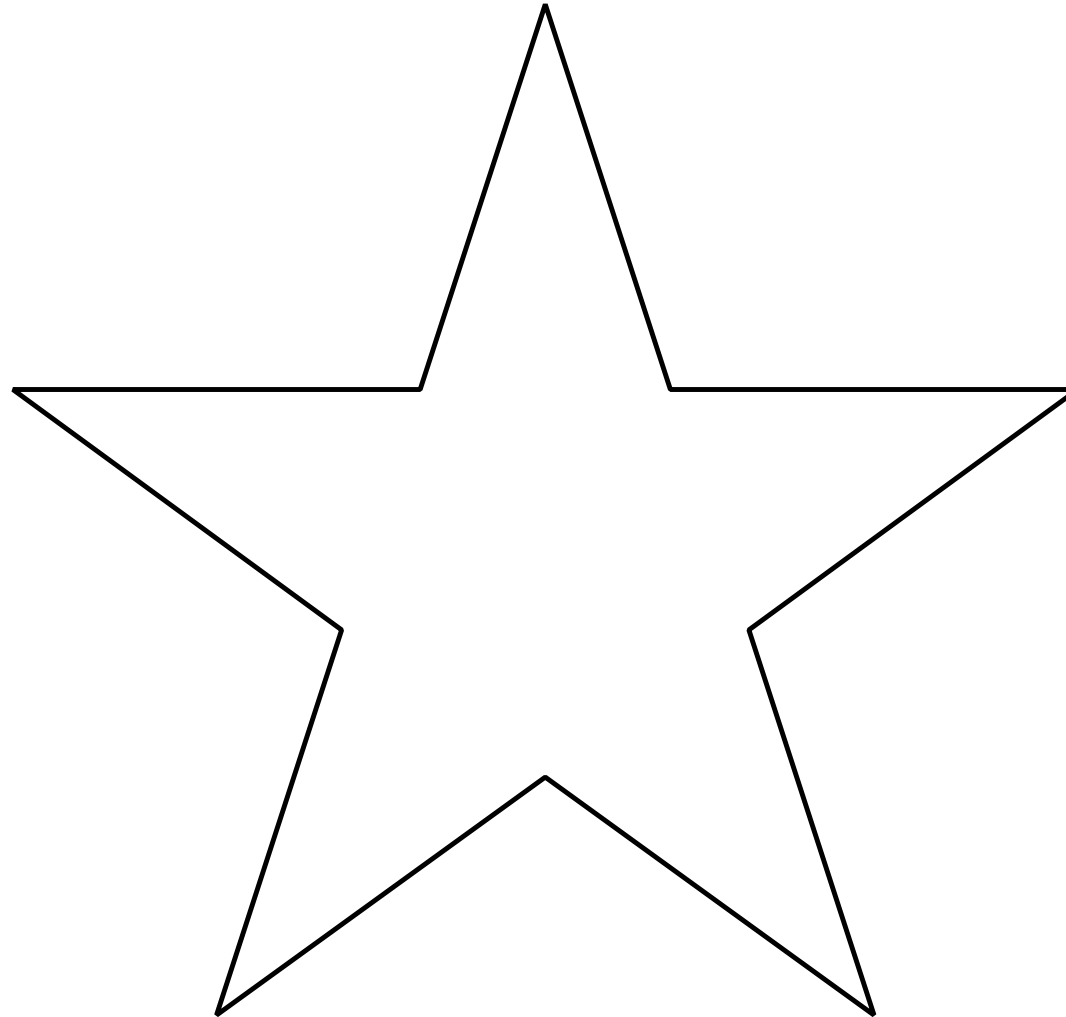
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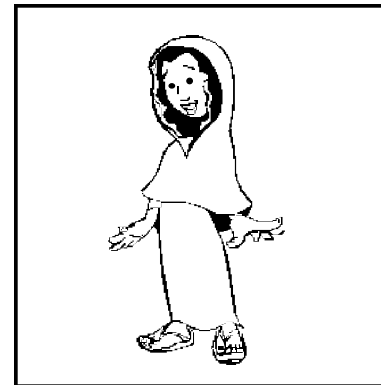
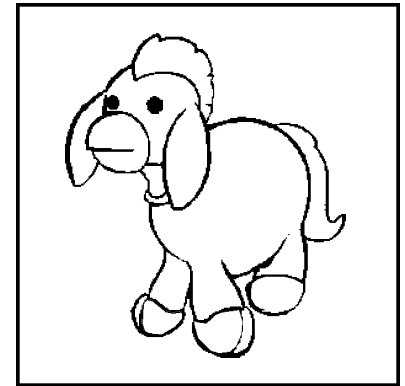
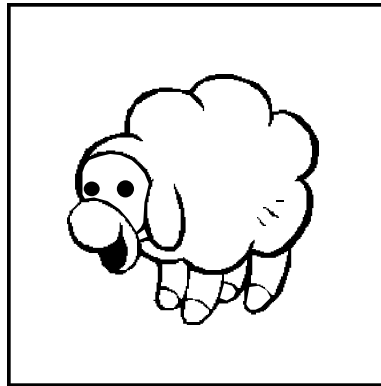
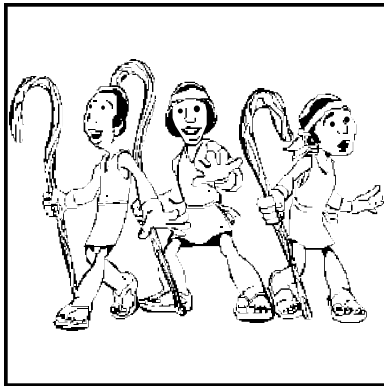


star stencil





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