



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

December 27, 2020 –Joyous News (Luke 2:8-20)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Joy

Shepherds were quietly going about their nightly business, when suddenly an angel appeared to them. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you – wonderful, joyous news for all people” (Luke 2:10). The bible states that the shepherds were terrified. Instead of running away in terror, though, they listened to the angel’s message and calmly decided to go to Bethlehem and confirm what the angel said.

Shepherds were the first to hear of the birth. There is much speculation on why the angel announced the news to the shepherds. Some think it was because shepherds were low on the societal rung, and God wanted it known to all that Jesus was for everyone. Maybe it was because shepherds could share the news quickly.

We may never know why the humble shepherds were first to hear the news. We do know the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. They shared with Mary and Joseph what the angels had said. They then returned and spread the news of Jesus’ birth. Mary kept their words in their heart.

From the angels to the shepherds to the world, the good news of Jesus was for all people, not just the rich and powerful. Spreading the news brought joy to the shepherds and joy to all who hear it. Joy is a gift God wants us to share with all we meet.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Joyous News, from Luke 2:8-20 (Read from your Bible or see below for the Celebrate Wonder version)

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/dNCd8iiCmVU>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Joy – A feeling of gratitude and happiness.

WONDER Together:

1. What has God blessed you with?
2. Being a shepherd was considered lowly work during this time. How do you think the shepherds felt being chosen as the first to hear and share the news of Jesus' birth?
3. What brought you joy this Christmas?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 10 & 11). On pg. 11 you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.
The shepherds were totally surprised by the angels and the wonderful announcement that the Savior was born.

This week light the Christ Candle, the white candle in the center of your Advent wreath, and read Luke 2:8-20.

⁸ There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

¹⁴ "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

¹⁵ The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. ²⁰ The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Jesus' birth is celebrated on Christmas Day. Remember the joy of Christmas all year long.

Sing songs of joy throughout the coming year.

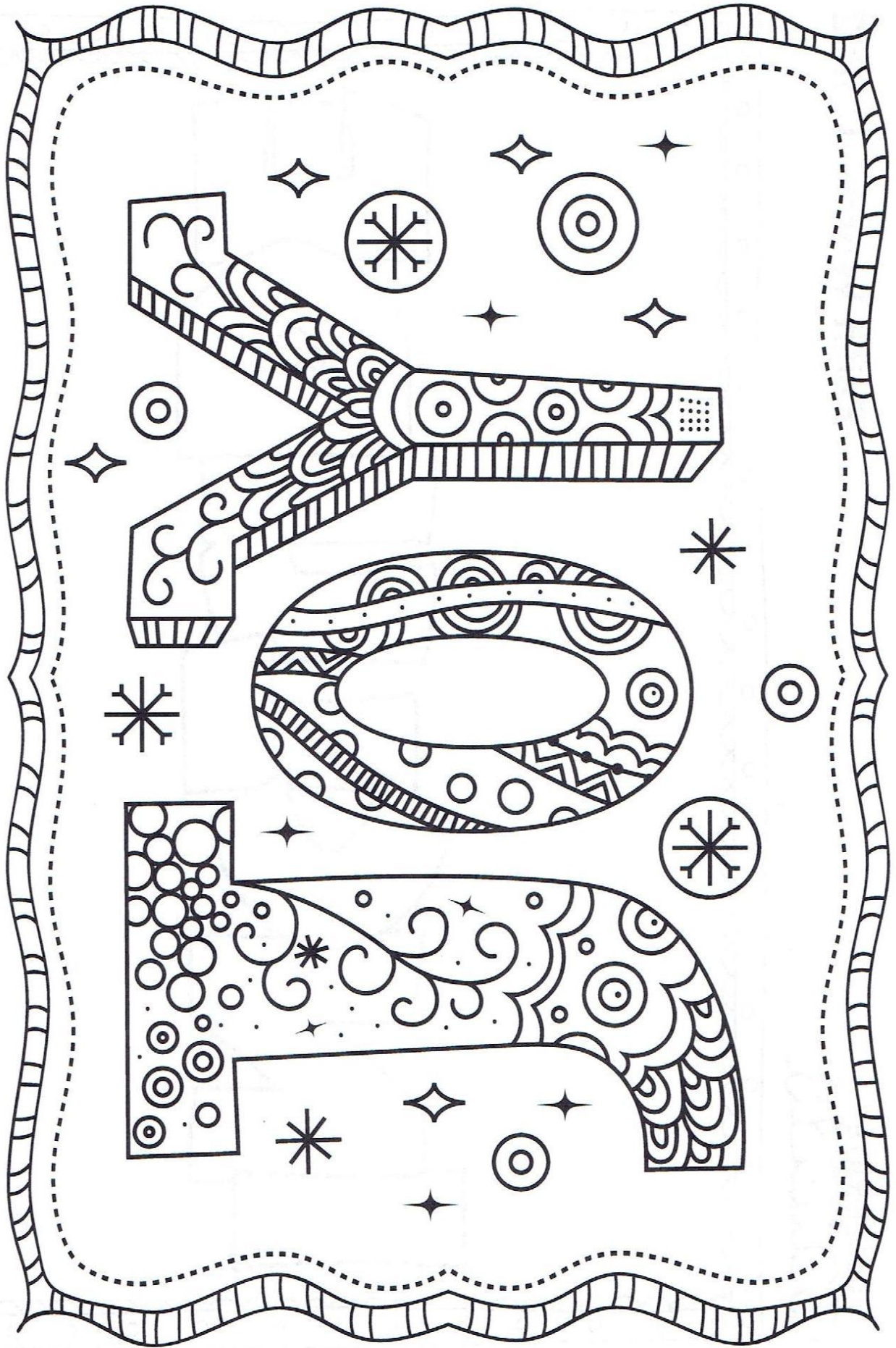
Go in Peace

Blessing: Bless your child by touching them and saying “**Joy to the world! Let joy fill your heart!**”

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for making each of my days full of joy. Amen.

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)



Preschool Activity

Who Will You Tell?!?! (Art)

Supplies: crayons and a print of the angel and shepherds color sheet below

Say: **When the shepherds heard the angels, they hurried off to Bethlehem to see what had happened for themselves! Once the shepherds saw baby Jesus they were filled with joy and wanted to share this wonderful news with everyone! Who will you share the good news with of Baby Jesus being born, a precious gift, for everyone?**

WONDER: I wonder what the shepherds had to do to care for the sheep.

Continuation of the fun Finger Play activities:

Don't Be Afraid:

"Don't be afraid," the angel said

(Extend arms out)

"Go visit the baby in Bethlehem."

(Cross arms over chest and rock baby in your arms)

The shepherds said, "Let's go see."

(Shield your eyes with a hand)

Baby Jesus, God's love for you and me."

(Rock baby, point to others, and then point to self)

Our Best Gift:

Here's a tree with lots of branches

(Arms down, 45-degree angle)

Presents hiding down below

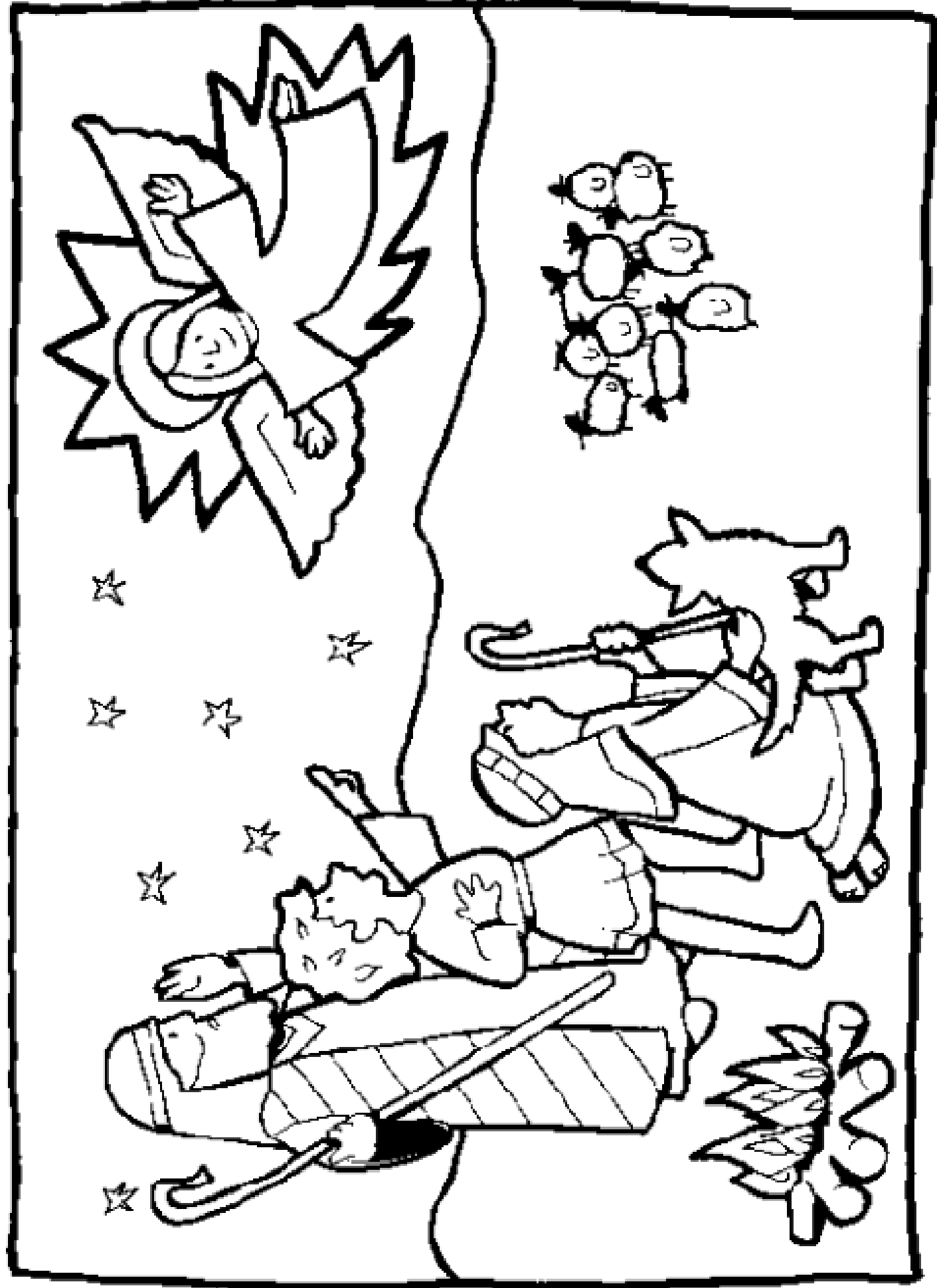
(Point down)

But our best gift is Baby Jesus

(Pretend to rock baby)

Sent from heaven long ago.

(Point to heaven)

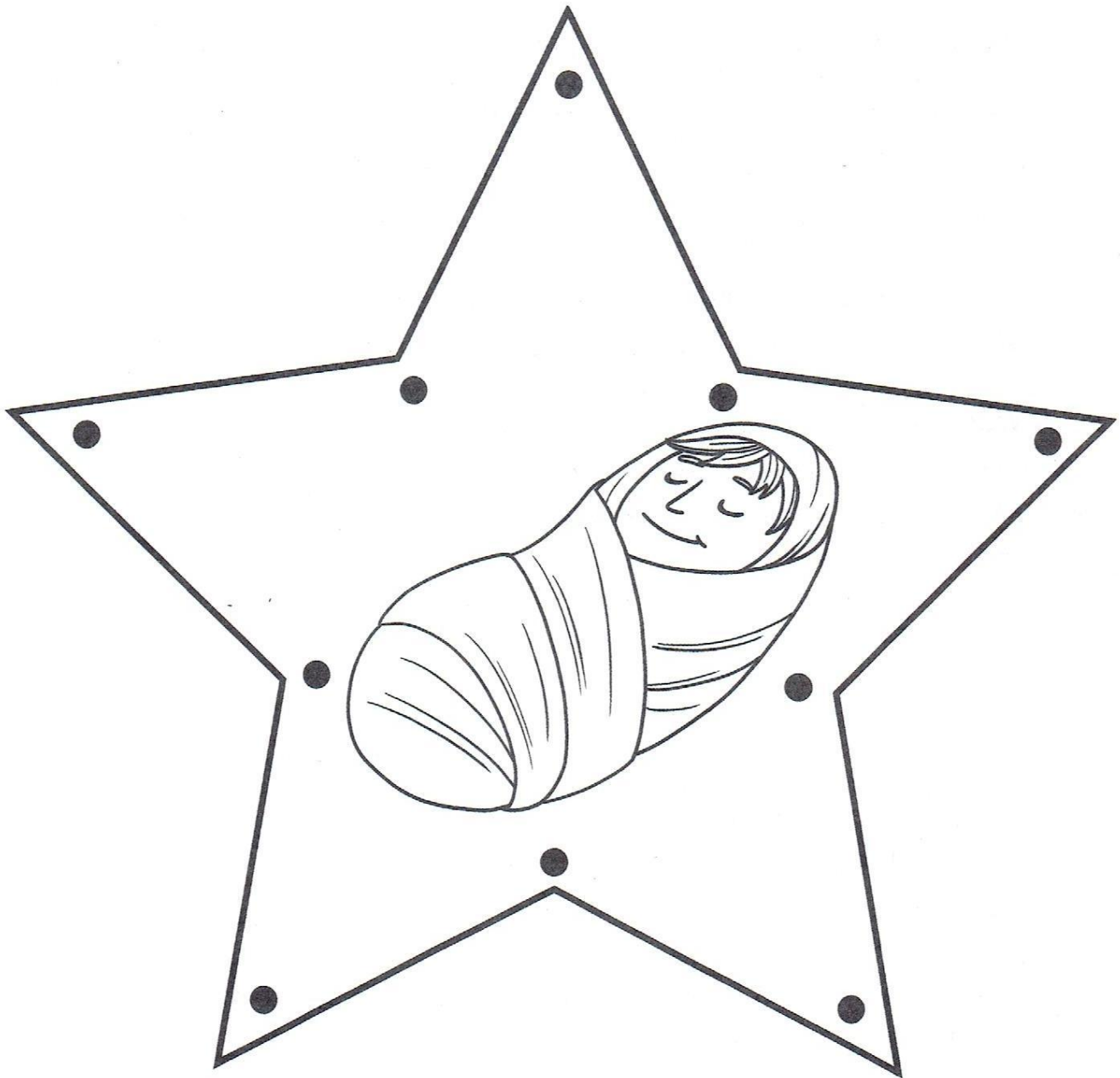


Early Elementary Activity

Star Pillow (Craft)

Supplies: 2 copies of the Star Pillow (below), markers, colored pencils, crayons, scissors, cotton stuffing or other soft material, string or yarn, ruler, hole punches

SAY: Color and cut out the Star pillow shapes. Place the tow stars on top of each other, align, the holes and use the hole punch on the marked spots. String the yarn through the holes. When the stars are fully stitched together, tie off the yarn and cut off any excess.



Older Elementary Activity

Good News Chalk Drawings (Art)

Supplies: Black paper, chalk

Say: Our Bible story describes the birth of Jesus, the Savior, as good news that the shepherds shared with everyone they met. What good news do you have to share? Using the black paper and the chalk, draw a picture that represents something good that's happened in your life or simply something good about your life such as family, pets, friends, etc. Or you can draw a scene from Jesus' birth story

Nativity Word Search

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



angels
Christmas
donkey
innkeeper
Jesus
Joseph
king
manger
Mary
nativity
salvation
sheep
shepherds
star
wisemen