

Bible Lesson

2. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Luke 2



The angels said, "For there is born to you today, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Joseph and Mary could hardly wait for their son to be born. Mary's belly grew big as baby Jesus grew big inside her.

The rulers of Nazareth made a law. Everyone must be counted. People went back to the towns where they were born.

Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Mary rode on top of a wobbly donkey. Joseph walked beside the donkey on that long, hard trip. Bethlehem was crowded. "Can we stay at your inn?" Joseph asked.

"No. There is no room here." So, Mary and Joseph slept in a cold, dark, smelly barn. In the night, Mary felt pain. It was time.

She gave birth to her first son. Jesus, the king of the world, was born! Life changed at that moment in time. God came to us as a human.

Mary wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth. She laid him where the donkeys ate. A dazzling, bright star shone down on them.

First one, and then many angels burst out singing, "We bring you good news of great joy. A Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord."

It was the first Christmas.

Questions

1. Who is Jesus?
2. What was the first Christmas like?
3. How does your family celebrate Jesus' birthday?
4. How can you celebrate the birth of Jesus, instead of only thinking about toys and Santa?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Happy Birthday! Thank you for leaving heaven to come to earth. Thank you for living among us as a human. You bring us joy. I want to bring you joy, too. Merry Christmas! Amen



Write above the angels their good news song.

Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

2. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

1. Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) When and where was Jesus born?
- b) Who were his parents?
- c) What is so special about Christmas?

After you read:

On Christmas Day

This is a simple family tradition. A few days before Christmas, quietly slip baby Jesus out of your family's nativity scene and hide him in the room. On Christmas morning – before gifts are opened – let the kids search for him, like the wise men did. When they find him, place Jesus in his manger. He is God's gift to us. Make a cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. Dye icing green and decorate with candy canes.

Good News Bells

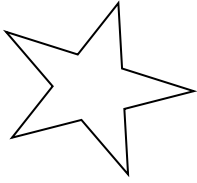
Give each child a gold pipe cleaner, bells that can be threaded and plastic beads in these colors: blue, red, white, green, yellow. All of these can be found in craft departments. They thread the beads and bells onto the pipe cleaner and turn it into a bracelet that can be hung on the Christmas tree. Sing to the tune of "Jingle Bells."

Refrain: Good news bells, good news bells. Ring them loud and clear. Tell to everyone you know that Christmas day is here.

Blue for sin; red as in the blood that Jesus gave. Jesus is the only name we call on to be saved. White for snow; green to grow. Yellow for the sun, shining in our heaven home, and now our story's done!

Nativity Activity

Print the figures on pages 6-8 onto card stock. Color, cut, and stand them up using bent pipe cleaners and tape on the backs. Read the poem while you build the nativity scene. To fashion a manger, cut 2 inches off a paper-towel tube. Cut that in half length-wise on each side. Lay one side down and the other side up on top of it. You can even rock baby Jesus back to sleep if you lay the cut tube piece on the table. Kids can gather dried grass for hay.



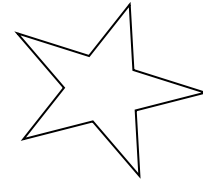
Christmas Day

Come on, come on, and let us play.



Jesus was born on Christmas day.

Mary, kiss him, kneel to pray.



Joseph give him fresh, soft hay.

Shepherds, sheep, leave your field.

Come to the manger; come and kneel.

Angels, sing sweet in the night.

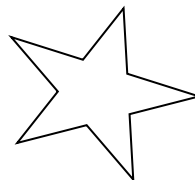
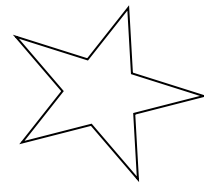
Star of David, shine so bright.

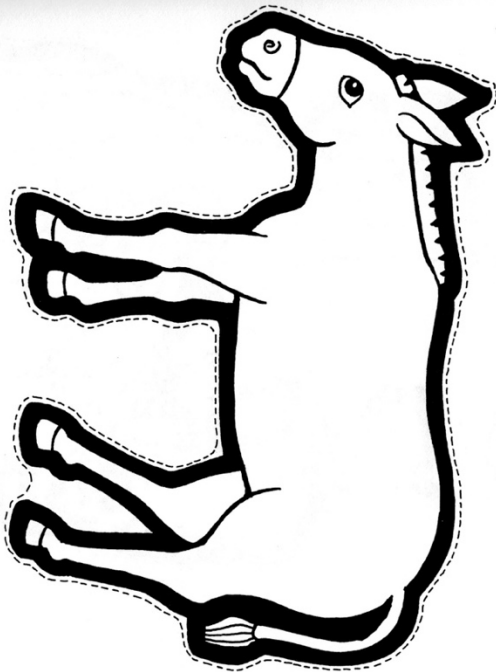
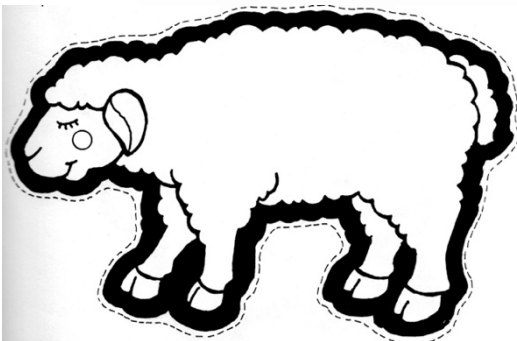
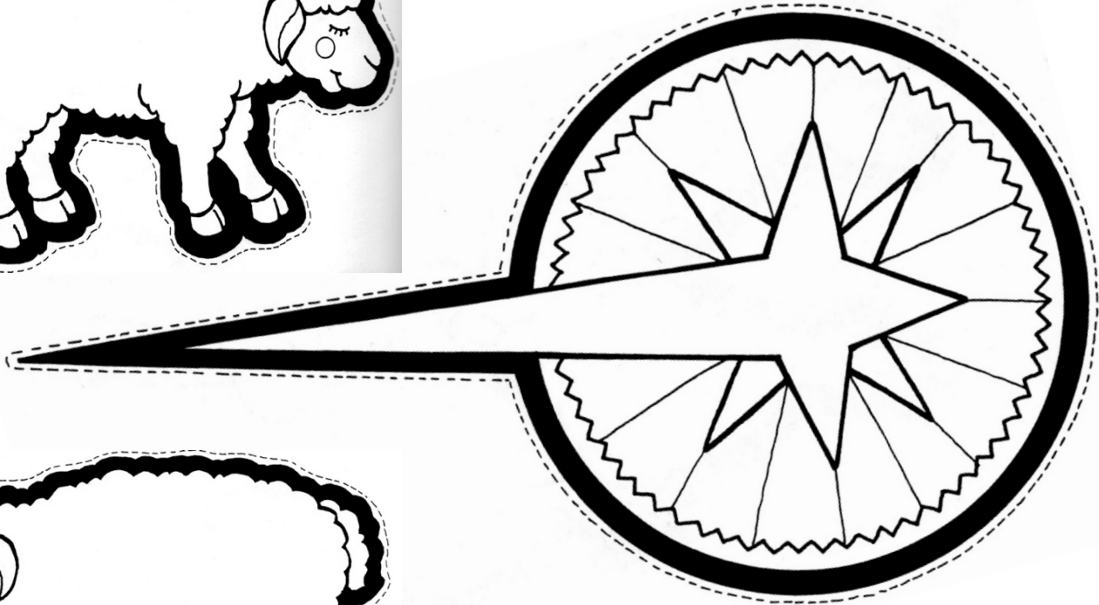
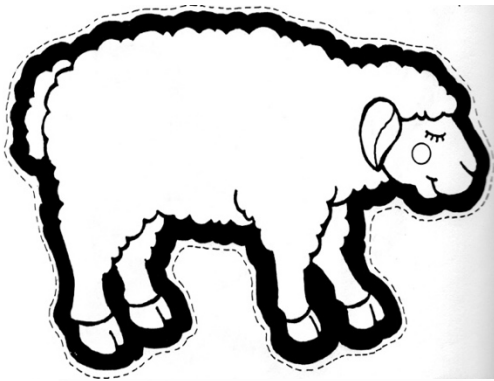
Wise kings bring as you were told

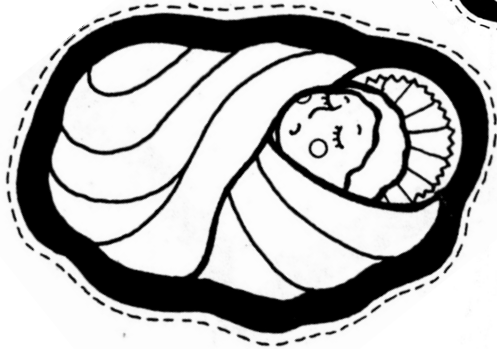
Gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold.

Lambs and donkey, baaa and neigh.

For Jesus was born on Christmas Day.



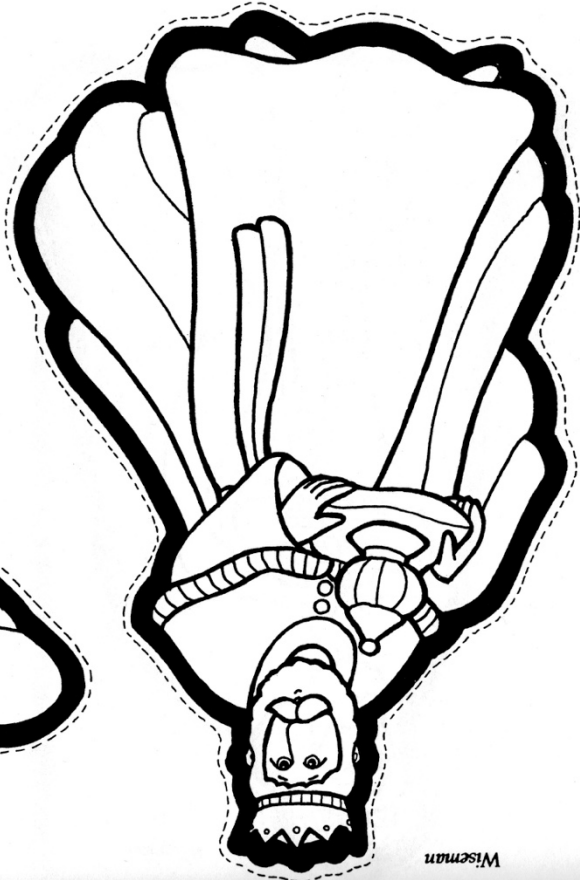






Group of Shepherds

Wiseman



Wiseman