

The Shepherds

Jesus Is Born Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will describe the shepherds as eager to find Jesus and tell others about him.
- The children will explain that Jesus was a special baby sent by God.
- The children will describe ways that they can be eager this week.

Lesson Text

Luke 2:8-20

Scripture Memory Verse

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
 Matthew 3:17

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: The Birth

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: The Lamb's Story

Life Application: A Special Baby

Craft: A Shining Star

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



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The Shepherds

The Birth

The children will draw a picture of baby Jesus.

Materials

For each child:

- a piece of heavy cardstock
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the circle stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page A.
2. Trace and cut out one circle for each child from cardstock.
3. Make a model following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Give each child a circle and have them draw and color a picture of the birth of Jesus.
2. Have the children write their names on the back of their pictures.
3. Give the pictures to the craft teacher.

Conclusion

Talk with the children about Jesus being born a long time ago. Explain that Mary was his mother and Joseph was his father. Ask them what they think it was like for them.



The Shepherds

The Lamb's Story

The children will hear about the birth of Jesus, with a focus on the shepherd's eagerness to tell others about Jesus.

Lesson Text

Luke 2:8-20

Materials

For the teacher:

- a 4" Styrofoam ball
- sock
- 2 buttons for eyes
- wooly fabric
- felt or fabric scrap
- needle and thread
- Bible

Preparation

1. Make a lamb puppet as follows:
 - A. Push the Styrofoam ball into the sock as far as it will go.
 - B. Cut out ears from the wooly fabric and sew them on the sides of the sock.
 - C. Sew on the button eyes.
 - D. Cut out a small nose from the fabric scrap and sew it on the puppet.

Tell the World

Have the children sit in a circle and place the puppet on your hand and the Bible in your lap.

Hi, I'm Lisa Lamb and I'm going to tell you a story about Jesus and the shepherds. Your teacher asked me to tell you about the night the shepherds learned that Jesus, God's son, was born.

It was a cold, dark night in the fields. The shepherds were carefully watching us so we would be safe from any danger. The shepherds are really brave, they aren't even afraid of the wolves that sometimes come after us!

I was standing under my mommy to keep warm. Suddenly, there was the brightest light I've ever seen shining in the sky!

Then, a beautiful angel appeared! (Luke 2:8-9). I was so scared I hid. Even the shepherds were afraid! I could see them shaking and trembling. When I saw that the brave shepherds were afraid, I became even more afraid. But then, the angels began to talk to the shepherds. I may be a baby lamb, but I like to know everything that's going on in the fields. So, I gathered up all my courage and quietly walked closer to where the angel and shepherds were standing. The angel smiled at the shepherds and said, "Don't be afraid! I've got great news! Today, God's son, Jesus has been born! God wants you to go to Bethlehem to visit Jesus. Look in the sky. Do you see that bright star? Just follow it all the way to Bethlehem. You'll find the baby Jesus wrapped in blankets and asleep in some hay" (Luke 2:10-12).

After the angel finished speaking, something even more amazing happened! The whole sky above our field filled with angels and they all started praising God! It was amazing! All the angels were singing together saying, "God in heaven is great! God sends peace and love to all his children on earth!" (Luke 2:13-14).

When the angels went back to heaven, the shepherds were praising God and began making plans to leave for Bethlehem immediately. They said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this great thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about!" (Luke 2:15). The shepherds were so excited to go to see the baby Jesus, they began walking to Bethlehem right a way.

Pretty soon, we were in Bethlehem and the shepherds found Jesus, just like the angel told them. I saw Mary and Joseph and in between them, was this little, baby boy. It was Jesus! He was wrapped in cloths and lying in hay, just like the angels had said (Luke 2:16).

After a while, the shepherds left Jesus, his father Joseph and his mother Mary, and began walking back to the fields. The shepherds were so excited, they told everyone about God's gift to each one of us—his son Jesus (Luke 2:17-20).



The Shepherds

Jesus Is Born

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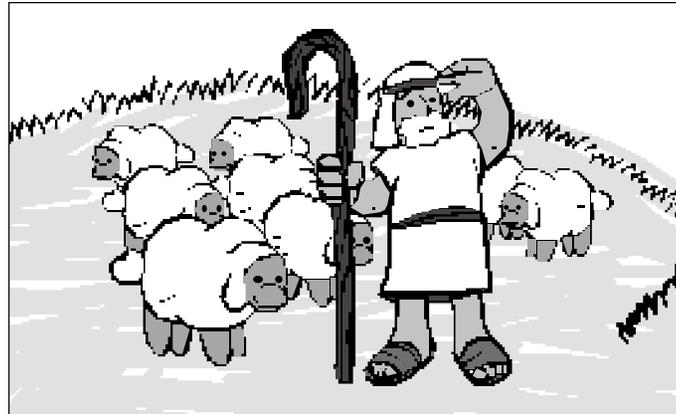
Conclusion

Using the puppet, ask questions about the Bible Story as a review:

- What news did the angels bring to the shepherds? (Jesus is born.)
- How did the shepherds feel when the first angel appeared to them? (scared)
- How did the shepherds feel after all the angels left? (excited)
- When did the shepherds go looking for the baby? (right away)
- Who was this baby? (Jesus)
- How did God show the shepherds that Jesus was special? (by the angels singing)
- How can you be eager like the shepherds this week? (do things right away)

Teacher Tips

- Substitute another old sock or fabric balled up for the Styrofoam ball.
- Draw the eyes on the puppets with markers.
- Make sure to practice using the puppet to make the story come alive and be interesting and fun for the children. Practice enough that you don't have to read the story to the children.



The Shepherds

A Special Baby

The teacher will read the story and ask discussion questions to help the children understand how special Jesus was.

Scripture Memory Verse

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- crayons
- felt board
- tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out and color the felt board figures from the copy of Reproducible Page B.
2. Place a piece of rolled tape on the back of each figure and place it on the felt board.
3. Familiarize yourself with the story.

Instructions

There was excitement in the air. Steve and Melissa were going to have a baby. Place the woman and the man on the felt board. The baby was going to arrive very soon and the new mommy and daddy were very excited. Friends had given them a party and they received a lot of nice clothes, blankets and toys for their new baby.

Steve and Melissa had waited a long time for this baby. They had wanted to have a baby for two years but every time they went to the doctor they would find out that Melissa was not yet pregnant. This had made them very sad because they loved children very much and wanted to have their very own. They knew that God was in control, and had prayed that he would give them a baby.

Finally the day had arrived. Melissa had got ten pregnant and...she had just given birth to a baby boy! Place the baby on the felt board. He was so small, teeny-tiny hands and feet with a cute little mouth and beautiful eyes! He was so special.

Steve and Melissa loved their baby so much. They loved to hold him and watch him sleep. They wanted him near them all the time. They were so excited that it was even hard to go to sleep. They just wanted to be with their baby! He was a special miracle from God.

Ask the children the following questions for discussion:

- Did Steve and Melissa have to wait a long time for their baby? (yes)
- Who did they ask to give them a baby? (God)
- Did they have a baby? (yes)
- Was it a boy or a girl? (boy)
- Were they happy? (yes)
- Who gave them the baby? (God)
- Was it a special baby? (yes)

All babies are very special and all babies come from God. This baby's parents loved him so much that they didn't want to stop looking at him and holding him. That is how God felt about Jesus and he loved him so much that he wanted the very best for him.



The Shepherds

Scripture Memory Activity

Have the children sit in a circle. Whisper the Scripture Memory Verse into the ear of the child next to you. Have that child whisper the verse into the ear of the child next to her. Continue until each child has had a turn to whisper the verse.

Conclusion

Ask a child to pray and thank God for sending Jesus.

Explain to the children that they are all very special to their families and to God. Their friends are special to God too but some of them don't know that. Ask the children to share with their friends how special they are.

Teacher Tips

- If time permits, let the children share about special babies: cousins, brothers, sisters, etc.



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The Shepherds

A Shinning Star

The children will make a frame for the picture that they created in the Preclass Activity.

Materials

For each child:

- picture from the Preclass Activity
- 1 piece of colored poster board, 8½" x 11"
- crayons

For the teacher:

- scissors
- decorative materials
- yarn
- tape
- hole punch
- white glue

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Prepare a star for each child as follows:
 - A. Cut out the star stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page C.
 - B. Cut out the center circle from the star stencil.
 - C. Trace and cut out a star from poster board for each child.
NOTE: Be sure to trace the center circle.
 - D. Cut out the center circle from each star.
2. Cut a 12" piece of yarn for each child.
3. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

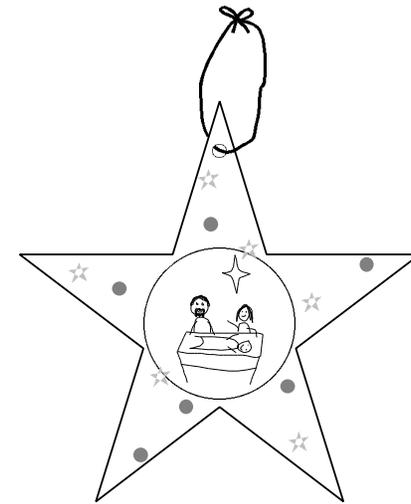
1. Show the children the model of the craft. Explain that Jesus is so special to God and to us. Their craft will help them to remember how special he is.
2. Give each child a star and their picture from the Preclass Activity. Help each child to tape their picture to the back of the star so that it shows through the circle.
3. Have each child decorate the star with the different materials.
4. Help each child to punch a hole in the top of their star.
5. Give each child a piece of yarn and help them to thread it through the hole and tie the ends together.

Conclusion

Ask the children to tell you the story of Jesus' birth.

Teacher Tips

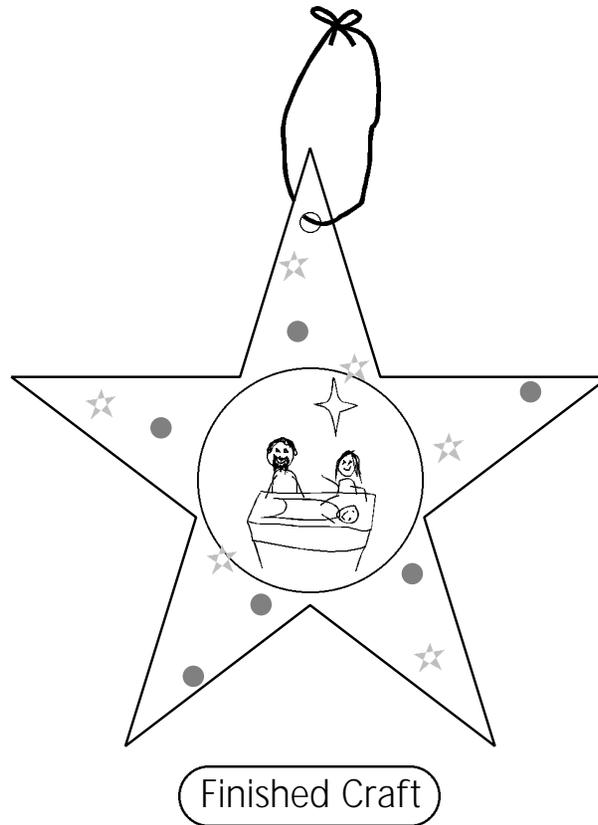
- Die pieces of pasta using food coloring. These can be used as decorative materials.
- Put the white glue into small paper cups and have the children use cotton swabs to apply it.



CRAFT

The Shepherds

Jesus Is Born
Lesson 3



The Shepherds

Jesus Is Born Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

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- The children will explain that Jesus was a special baby sent by God.
- The children will describe ways that they can be eager this week.

Lesson Text

Luke 2:8-20

Scripture Memory Verse

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

The Stones

The children will make the stones for the Game center.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of white poster board, 8½" x 11"
- crayons and markers

For the teacher:

- scissors

Preparation

Cut each piece of poster board into the shape of a large stone. See Figure A.

Instructions

Give each child a stone-shaped piece of poster board and have them color it to look like a stone.

Conclusion

Have the children tell you the story of Jesus' birth. Explain to them that the stones will be used in the Game Center.

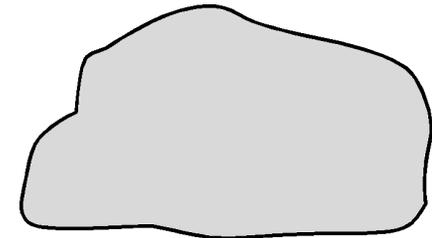


Figure A

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: The Stones

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: Stepping Stones

Craft: Teach Me More

Life Application: The Shepherds' Song

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

The Shepherds

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Stepping Stones

The children will play the game to help them remember the memory verse and points in their lesson.

Materials

For the teacher:

- poster board "stones" from the Preclass Activity



Preparation

1. Familiarize yourself with the game.
2. Before the children arrive, arrange the stones so that they make a path in your area.



Instructions

Explain to each child that they will play a game to help remind them of Jesus' birth. Explain that the stones are the game board and they are the giant game pieces.

1. Have each child start at the beginning.
2. Ask the first child a question. If the answer is correct, the child can move onto the next stone. If the answer is wrong then the child stays where they are.



Questions:

- Who is God's son? (Jesus)
- Who told Mary and Joseph that they were going to have a baby? (an angel)
- Where do we read about the birth of Jesus? (in the Bible)
- Who wrote the Bible? (God)
- Who came looking for Jesus? (shepherds)
- How did the shepherds find Jesus? (the angel told them, they followed the star)
- What do shepherds do? (take care of sheep)

- What was Jesus born in? (a stable)
- What did Jesus sleep in? (a manger)
- In what city was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
- What is the Scripture Memory Verse? ("This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17)
- Why was Jesus special? (He came to teach us about God, he was God's son)
- What did the shepherds do after they left Jesus? (told others about him)
- Who was Jesus' father? (Joseph)
- Who was Jesus' mother? (Mary)

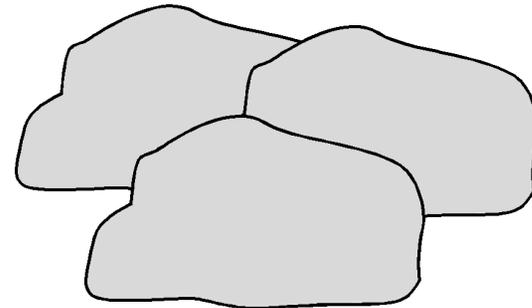
Conclusion

This is just the beginning of a great story of Jesus being born. Jesus grew up and became the greatest man who ever lived.

Encourage the children to be at every class so that they can learn all about Jesus' life.

Teacher Tips

- Help each child to feel successful.



CRAFT



Teach Me More

The children will make a book to take home to encourage their families to teach them more about Jesus.

Materials

For each child:

- 3 pieces of light-colored construction paper
- crayons and markers
- 2 pieces of yarn, 5"
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- hole punch
- markers
- glue stick

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Make a book for each child as follows:
 - A. Stack three pieces of construction paper together.
 - B. Fold the papers in half and crease the fold.
 - C. Punch two holes in the creased side of the papers.
 - D. Lace a piece of yarn through each hole and tie it.
2. Cut out the labels from the copies of Reproducible Page D.
3. Place the labels on the pages as follows, see Figure A:
 - A. "Mary" on page 1
 - B. "Joseph" on page 2
 - C. "angels" on page 3
 - D. "shepherds" on page 4
 - E. "Jesus" on page 5
4. Save the label that says "Teach Me More About" for the children to glue on the cover.
5. Make a model of the book following the instructions.

The Shepherds

Jesus Is Born

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Instructions

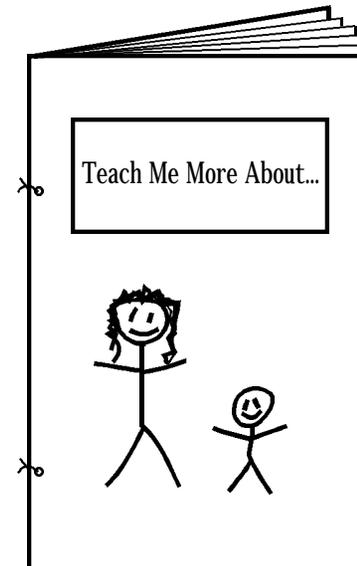
1. Give each child a book and the "Teach Me More About" label. Have them glue it to the cover.
2. Have the children open their books to page 1. Read them the label and ask them to draw a picture of Mary.
3. Repeat Step 2 for each page of the book.

Conclusion

Let each child talk about who they are going to ask to teach them more about Jesus' birth; their parents, grandparents, older siblings, etc. Have them draw a picture of this person on the cover.

Teacher Tips

- Before they begin, explain to the children that you are going to spend a few minutes working on each page. If they need to finish a picture they can go back to it later.



supplement

CRAFT

The Shepherds

Jesus Is Born

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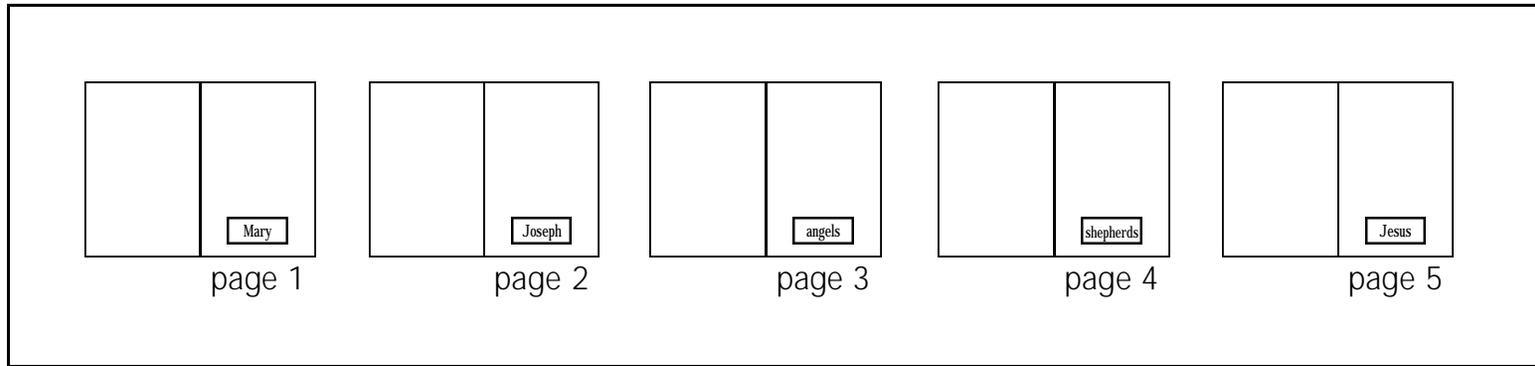
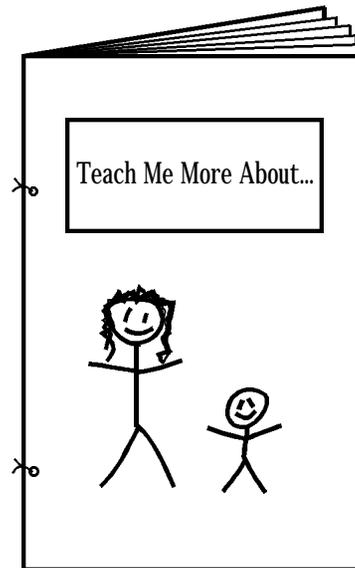


Figure A



Finished Craft



The Shepherds' Song

The children will learn about the shepherds' eagerness to find Jesus by learning a simple rhyming song.

Scripture Memory Verse

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

Materials

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the song and the movements.

Instructions

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. In the Bible Story this week you learned about the shepherds who went to visit Jesus. The shepherds were very eager to see Jesus. Do you know what eager means? Yes, it means they were excited and they went right a way to see Jesus. Who came to see the shepherds? (angels) How did the shepherds feel? (afraid) What did the angels tell the shepherds? (that Jesus was born and where to find him) Were they afraid to go? (No, they were excited, happy) Jesus was very special, wasn't he? The shepherds found out about him from an angel. What are some ways we learn about Jesus? (Bible, Bible class, teachers, church service, parents, etc.)

Ask each child to think of one way that they can be eager to learn about Jesus this week. (listening, raising your hand to ask a question, not interrupting, asking parents to read Bible stories, being obedient, etc.)

Tell the children that you are going to teach them a song about how special Jesus is. Have all of the children stand up.

Sing the song for the children with the movements and gestures. Sing the song a second time and instruct the children to imitate your motions while you sing.

Repeat the song and gestures several times until most of the children are able to perform it well.

The Shepherds

Jesus Is Born

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Scripture Memory Activity

Sing the Scripture Memory Verse together to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

Conclusion

Tell the children that they will get to take the song home to teach to their family and friends. Explain that this is a good way to teach other people about Jesus.

Have each child mention a way that they can be eager this week as the shepherds were eager.

Choose a child to pray and thank God for sending Jesus.

Teacher Tips

- As the parents pick up their children, give them a copy of Reproducible Page E and encourage them to spend time with their child learning the song.



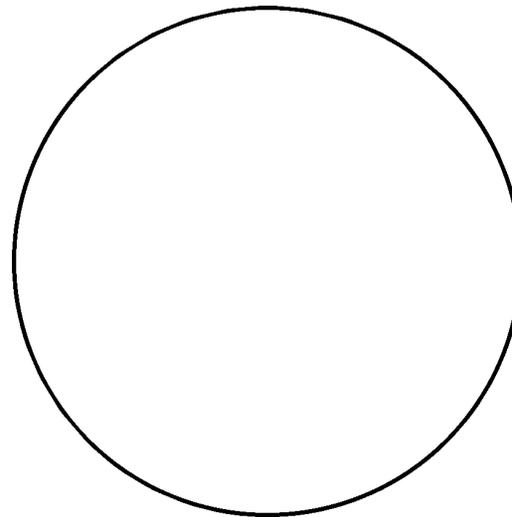
“This is my Son, whom I love;
with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17



Core/Preclass
1 copy for the teacher

Jesus Is Born
Lesson 3

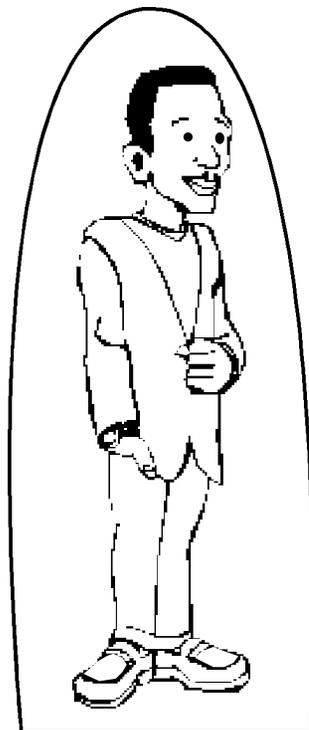


circle stencil



Core/Life Application
1 copy for the teacher

REPRODUCTION
Page
B



man



woman

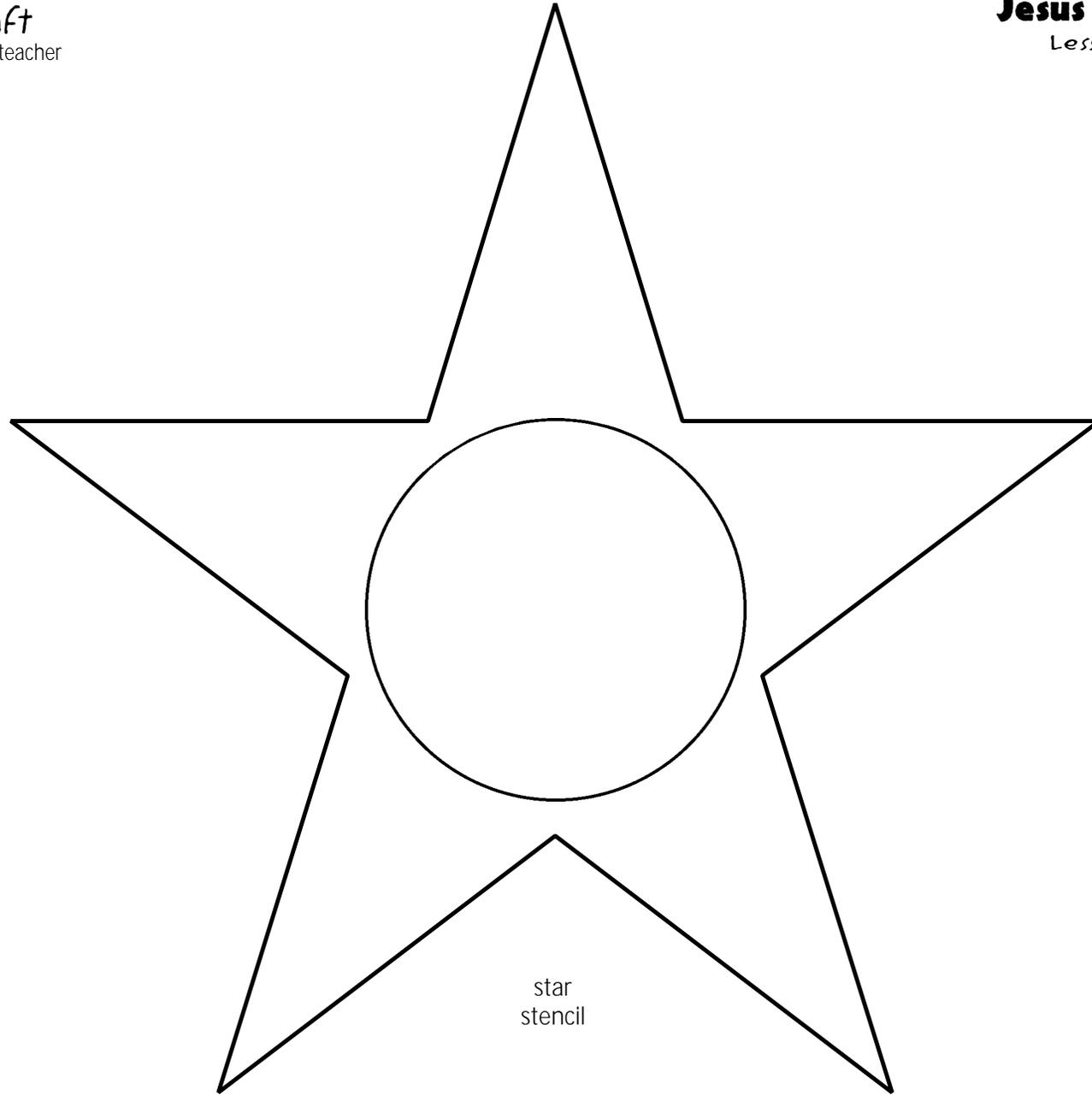


baby



Core/Craft
1 copy for the teacher

Jesus Is Born
Lesson 3



star
stencil



Supplement/Craft
1 copy for each child

Teach Me More About...

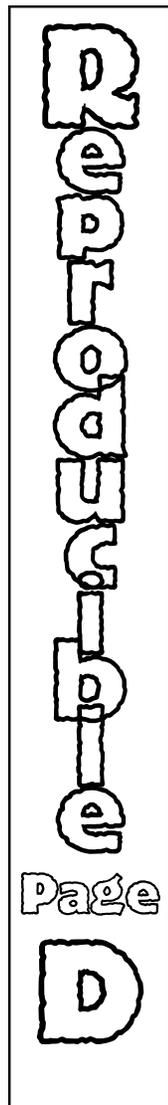
Mary

Jesus

Joseph

shepherds

angels



Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for each child

Song for the Shepherds

(Tune: "Are You Sleeping?" or "Frere Jacques")

There's a bright light

There's a bright light

In the sky

In the sky

(Wave hands above your head from side to side)

See the shepherds hiding

See the shepherds hiding

Covering their eyes

Covering their eyes

(Crouch down and cover eyes)

2. Here's an angel

Here's an angel

News to call

News to call

(Stand up and flap arms)

Baby in a manger

Baby in a manger

King of all

King of all

(Fold arms as if rocking a baby back and forth.)

3. Happy shepherds

Happy shepherds

Full of joy

Full of joy

(Children hold hands and skip in a circle)

They will go and find him

They will go and find him

Special boy

Special boy

(Repeat a baby rocking motion)

4. In a stable

In a stable

Far away

Far away

(Arms in a triangle overhead, fingers touching)

Precious baby Jesus

Precious baby Jesus

Asleep he lay

Asleep he lay

(Rest head on hands with palms pressed together and leaning to one side.)

