

Unit 5

Lesson 54 - The Christmas Story
for two lessons

Aim

To learn the main parts and characters of the Christmas story
To understand that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus

Materials

- * A children's picture book about the birth of Jesus
- * Cardboard cut-outs to tell the story
- * Materials to make a Christmas card of the story (a picture, card, glue, stickers of stars/hearts, etc...)
- * A nativity picture to colour
- * Card Game - Nativity Match,
- * Bethlehem maze
- * Video - Jesus' Birth (Hanna-Barbera's The Greatest Adventure Stories From The Bible)

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Story & Discussion
3. Activities - Christmas cards, colour a picture, Nativity Match, Bethlehem maze, video
4. Prayer

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1) Introduction

- * Ask the children what we do at Christmas. (give and receive presents) It is not only a time for giving gifts, but also to remember the birth of a very special person a long time ago
Who was born at Christmastime? Jesus. Who knows the story?
- * Today's story is about the time when Jesus was born

2) Story & Discussion

- * Read the story of Jesus' birth
- * Ask the children to retell the story. Can they identify the characters and objects?
- * Explain that Jesus was very special because he was very close to God. He was God's son and his heart was full of love just like God. He taught people what is right and wrong, how to be good and loving and happy. The whole world remembers the birth of Jesus. That's why we celebrate each year.

3) Activities

- * Make Christmas cards
Every year people make Christmas cards to send to each other. Christmas is a time of giving. Today you can make Christmas cards to give to someone. Give children materials to make cards for family members
- * Watch a video of Jesus' birth
The video lasts 30 minutes

* Colour a picture of Jesus' birth

* Bethlehem maze - Find the way to Bethlehem

* Play Nativity Match.

Ask the children to identify the people and objects involved In Jesus' birth as they play the game.

Directions: Place the cards face down In a pile on the table or floor. Each player draws a card and rolls the cube. The high number begins. If both numbers are the same, roll again. The first player rolls again and takes the number of cards shown on the cube. He lays any matching pairs face up In front of him. The next player rolls the cube and draws the number of cards shown. Play continues. When all cards are drawn the player with the most pairs wins.

4) Prayer

Thank you Heavenly Father for the gift of Jesus and that we can remember him at Christmas time.
Let us show our love and make Jesus happy by giving gifts to each other.

Nativity Match

The children will identify the people and objects Involved In Jesus' birth as they play this Christmas game.

What to do

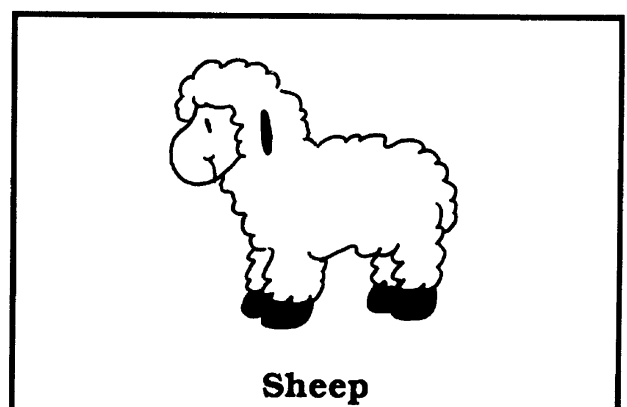
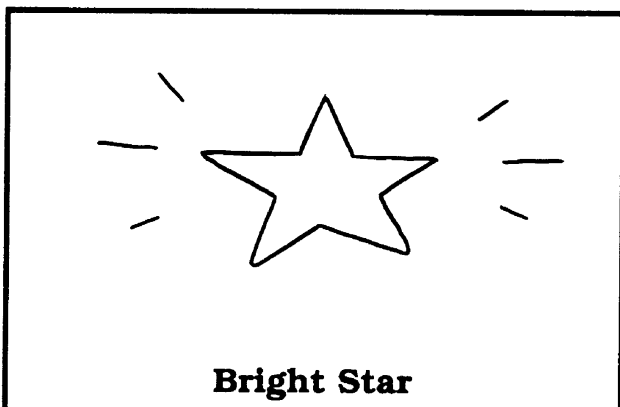
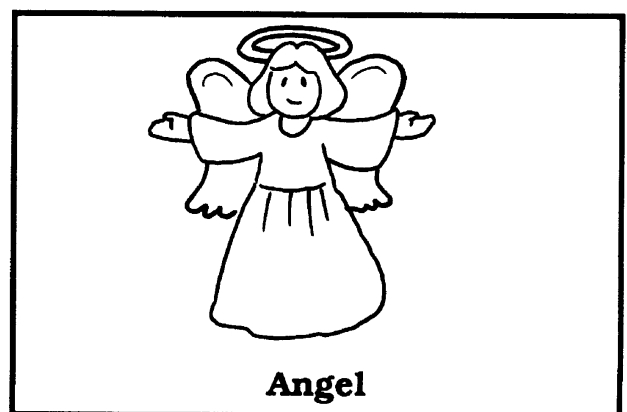
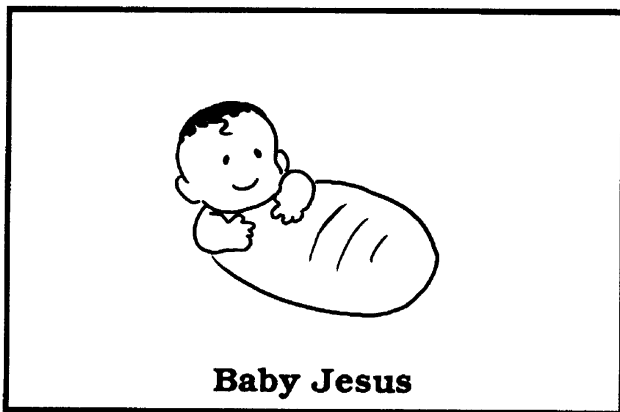
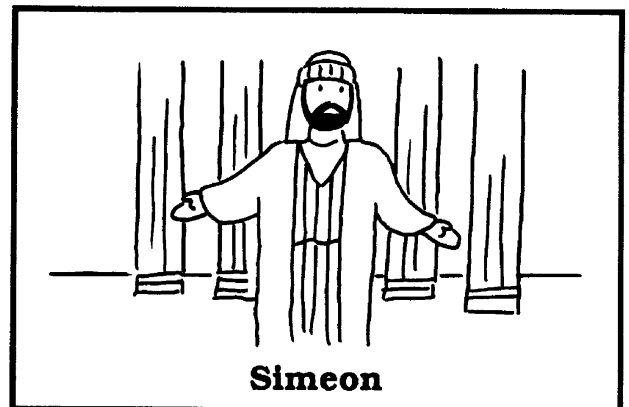
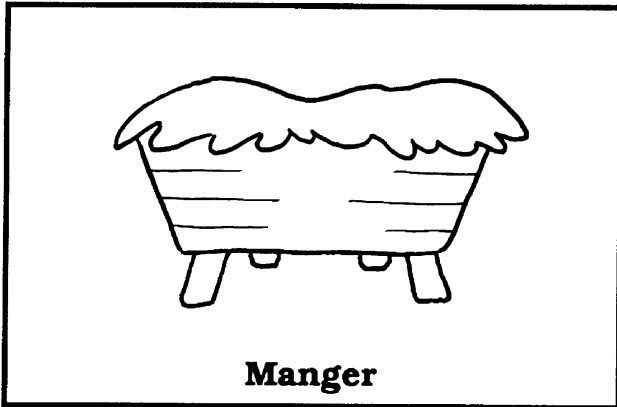
1. Give each child the pattern pages and crayons or markers. Let the children color the patterns so that the matching pairs are colored similarly.
 2. Help the children cut out the card and directions patterns and glue them onto poster board or index cards.
 3. Show the children how to fold one of the numbered strips on the dotted lines, and tape it to form a cube. Fold the other strip around the first one and tape it to complete the cube. It makes no difference which strip is completed first, or which numbers are covered by the top strip.
 4. Give each child a letter-size envelope with his name on it in which to place his cards and cube.
 5. Show the children how to play the game, according to the directions below.
 6. Let the children play the game in pairs. using one set of cards. They may each roll their own cube.
- * As the children work talk about Jesus' birth (Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 2:1-40). Help them describe the different people. animals. and objects In the story.

Nativity Match Directions

Place the cards face down In a pile on the table or floor. Each player draws a card and rolls the cube. The high number begins. If both numbers are the same, roll again. The first player rolls again and takes the number of cards shown on the cube. He lays any matching pairs face up In front of him. The next player rolls the cube and draws the number of cards shown. Play continues. When all cards are drawn the player with the most pairs wins.

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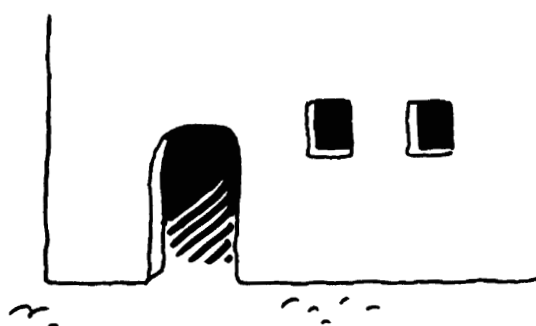
Mary



Joseph



Shepherds



The Inn



Wise Men



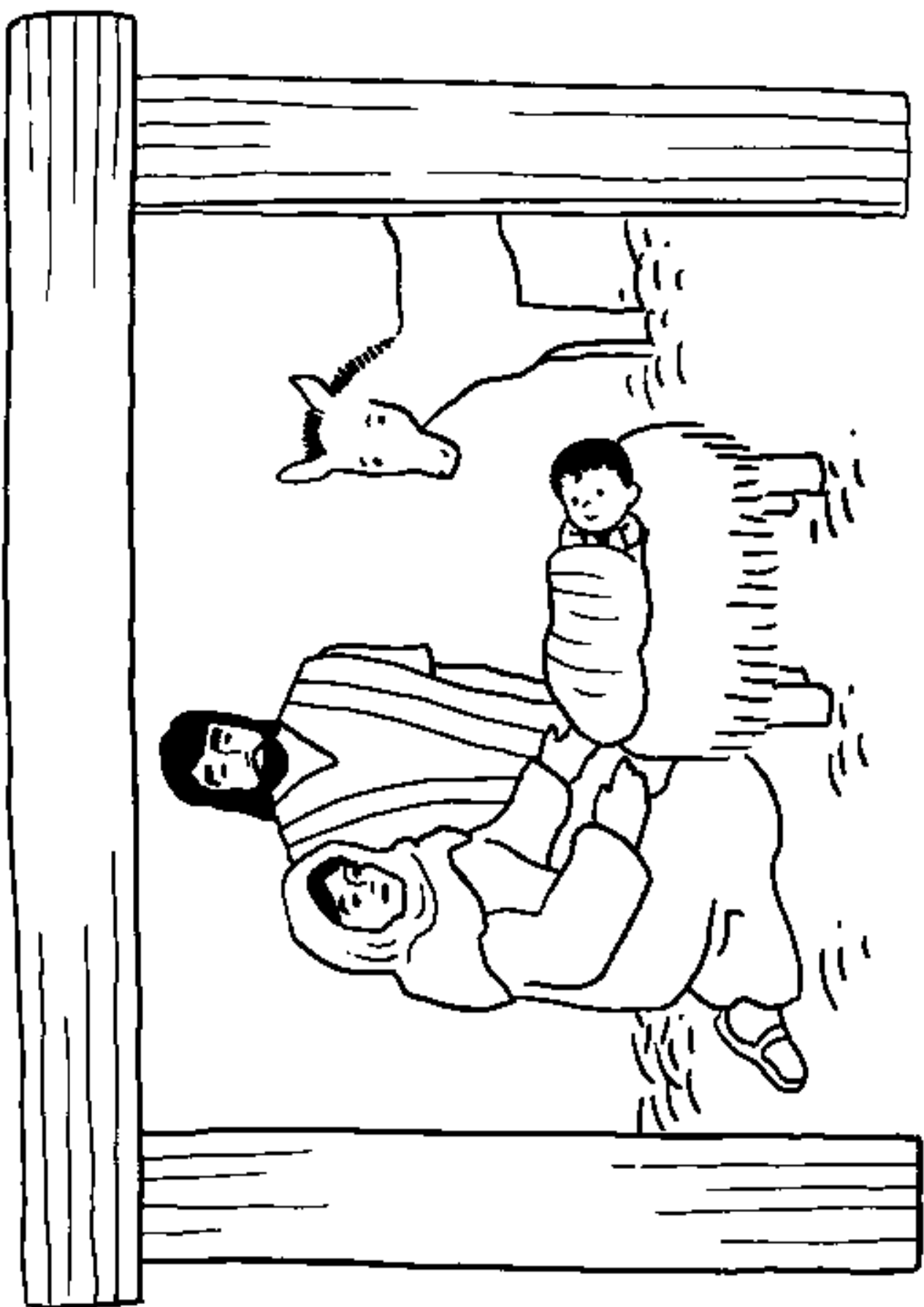
Frankincense, Gold, & Myrrh

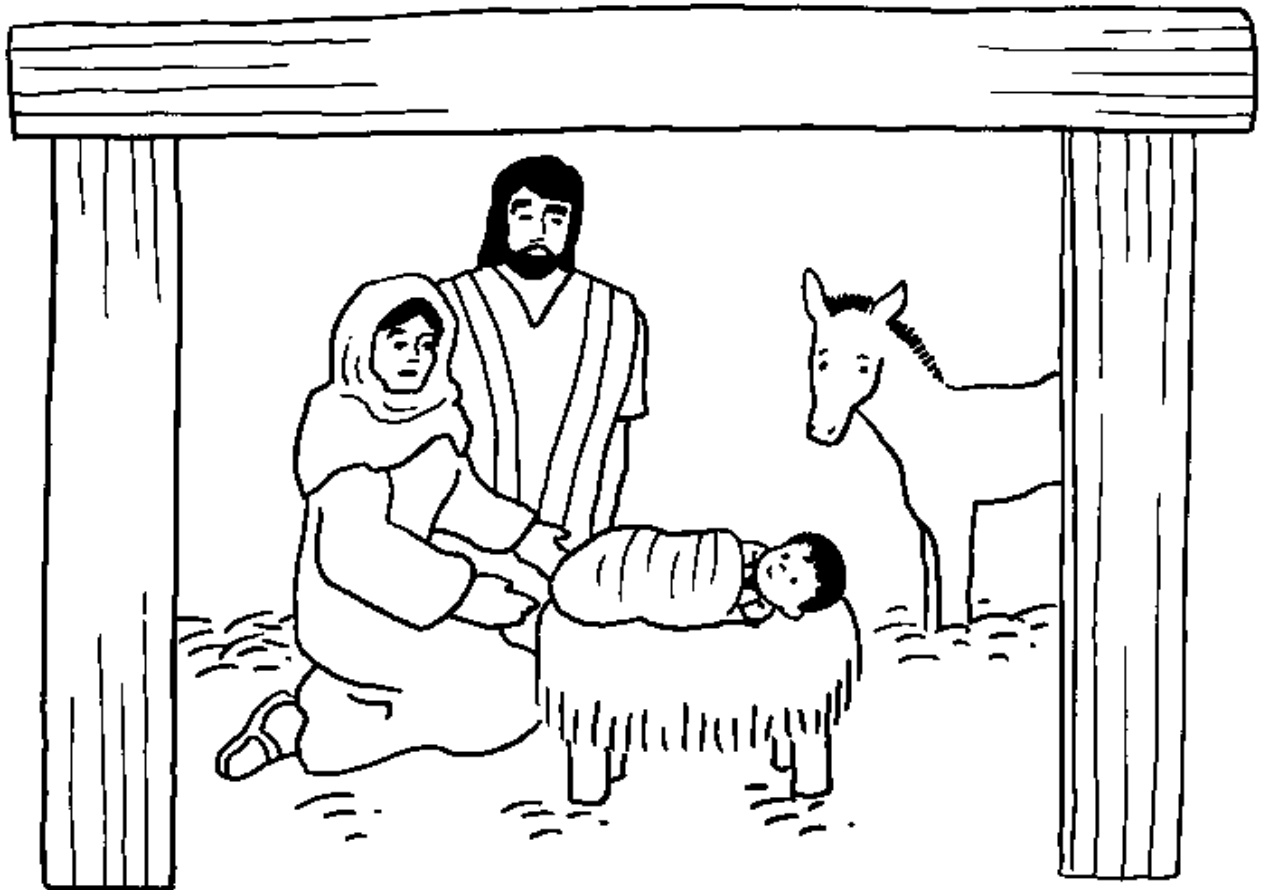


Elizabeth



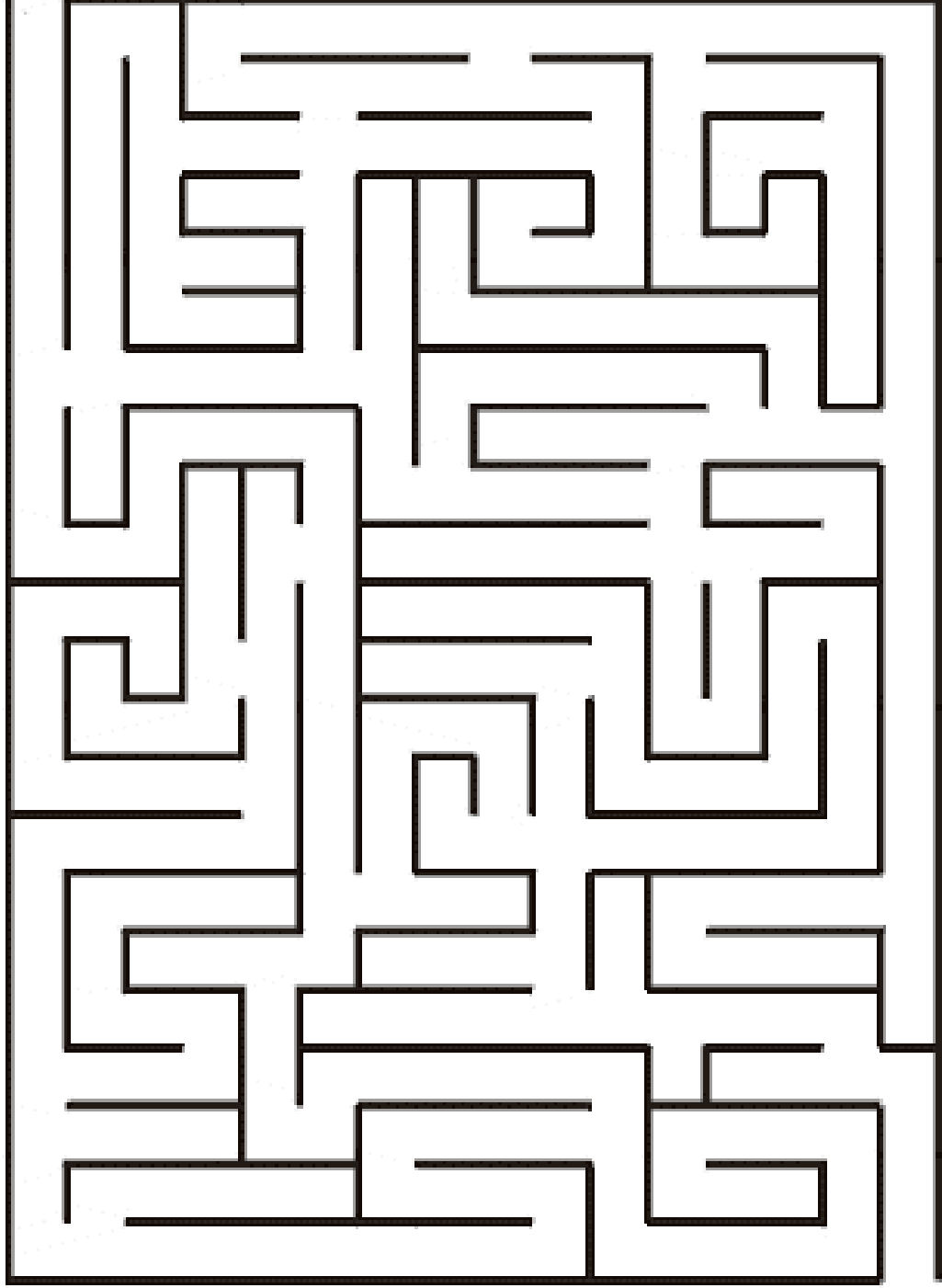
King Herod





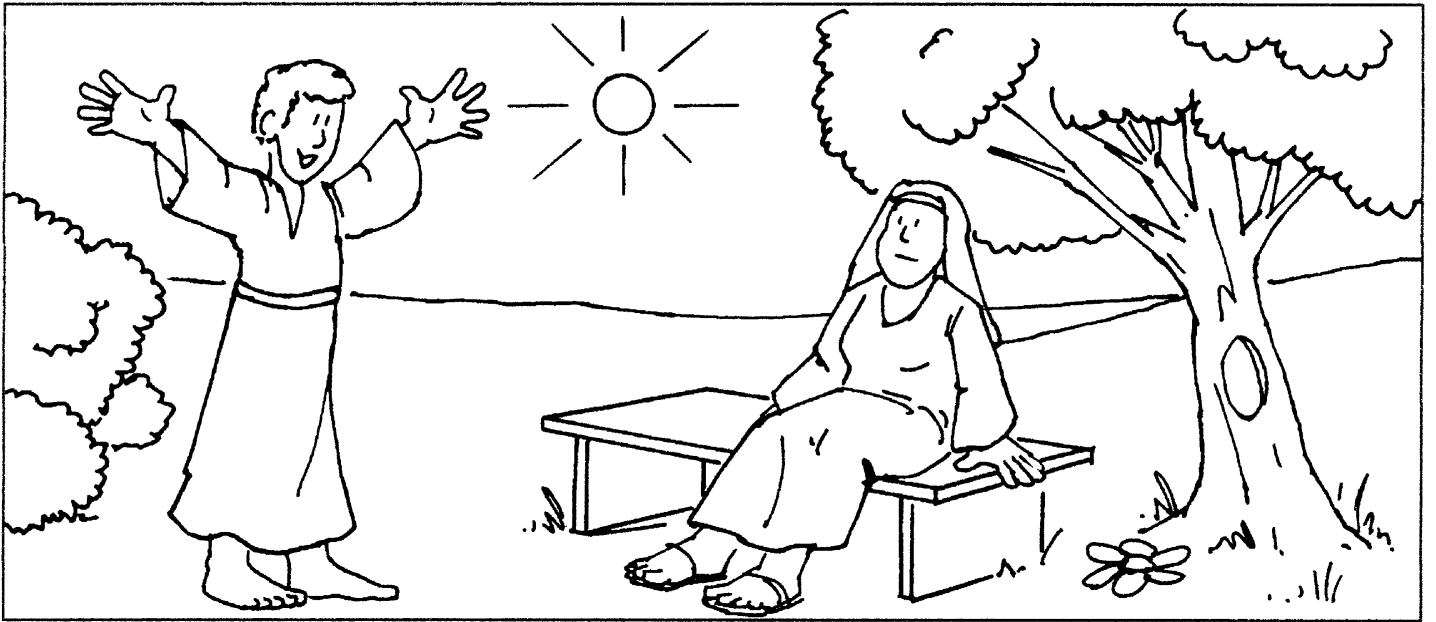
Merry Christmas

Bethlehem

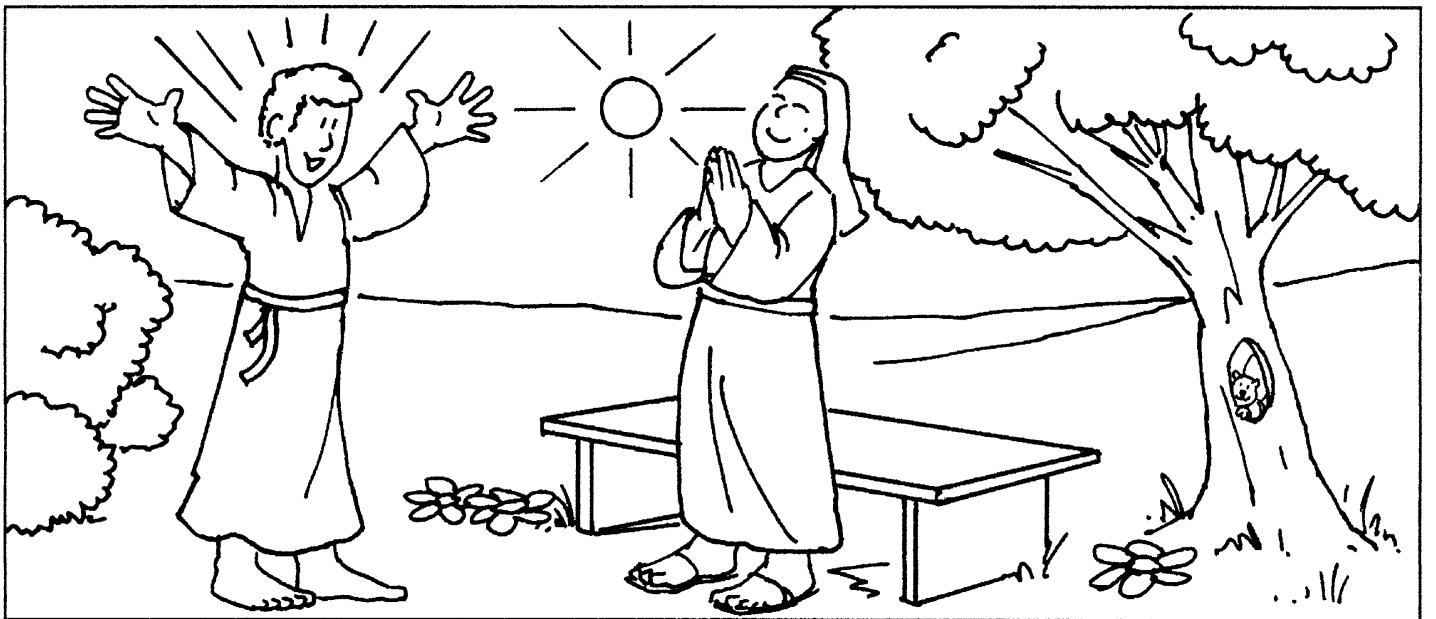


Egypt

Gabriel appeared to Mary. He told her she would become the mother of Jesus.



Circle five things different in the bottom picture.



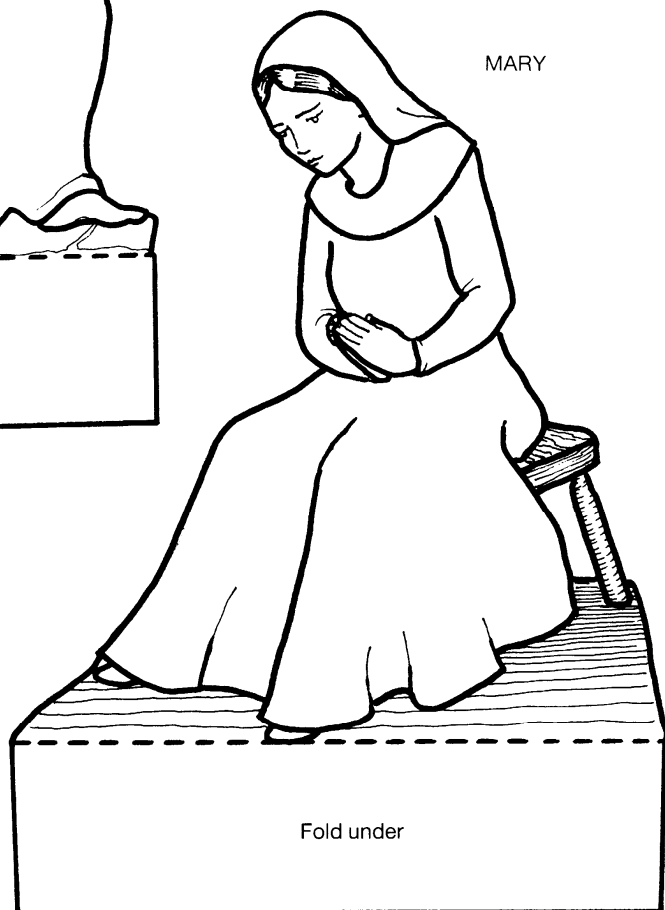
THE BIRTH OF JESUS – 1

Glue on to card, colour and cut out. Position the figures so that the Angel Gabriel is telling Mary she will have a son.

ANGEL GABRIEL

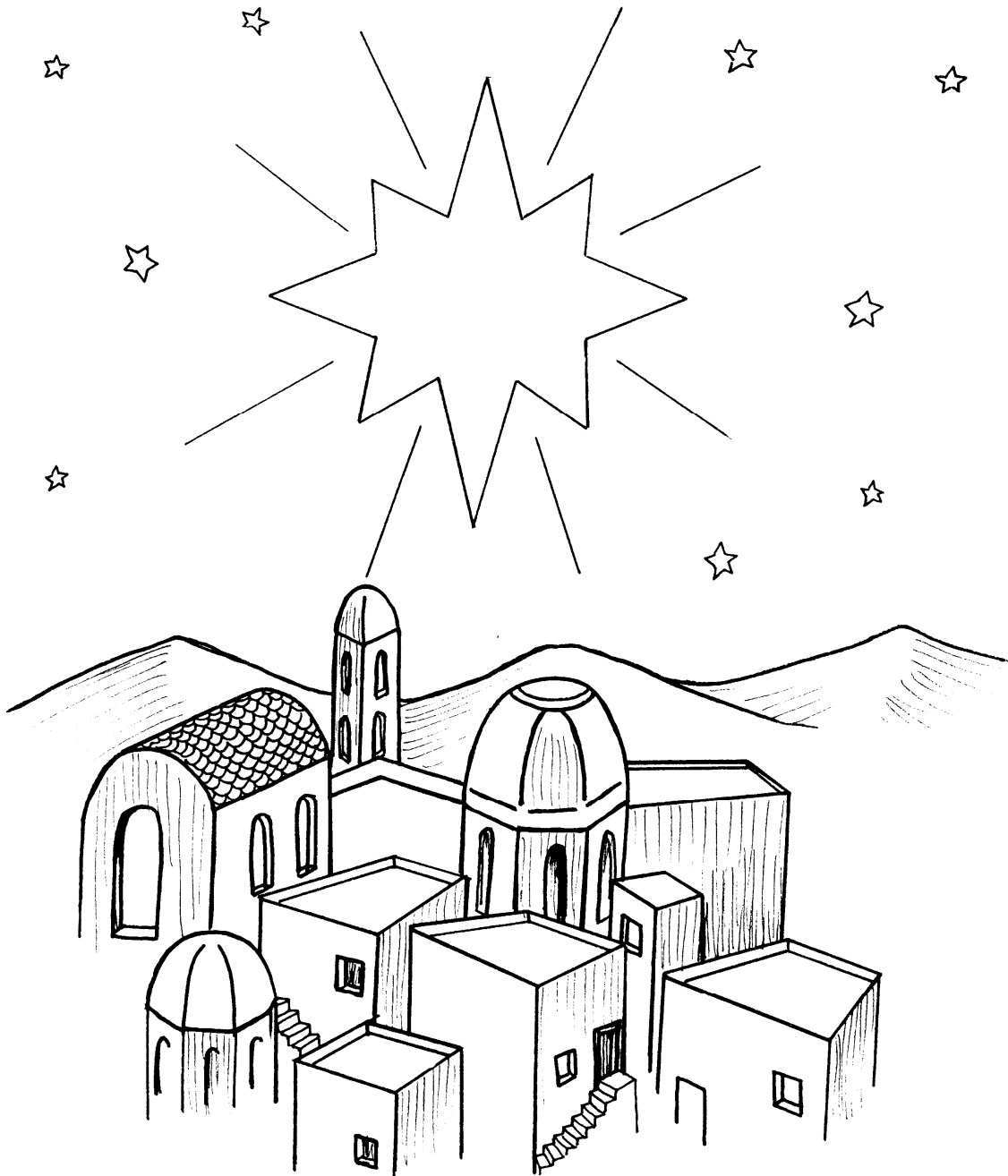


MARY



THE BIRTH OF JESUS – 2

Colour this page showing the star over Bethlehem and pin up behind your stable and nativity scene.



THE BIRTH OF JESUS – 3

Glue page on to thin card. Cut out and colour.
Arrange into a scene. Make and decorate with straw a
small cardboard box to be a stable.

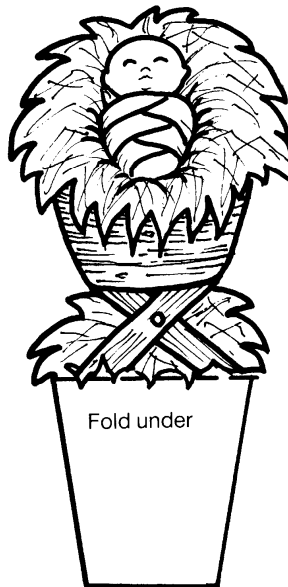


JOSEPH

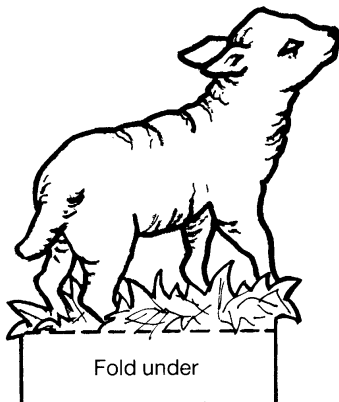
MARY



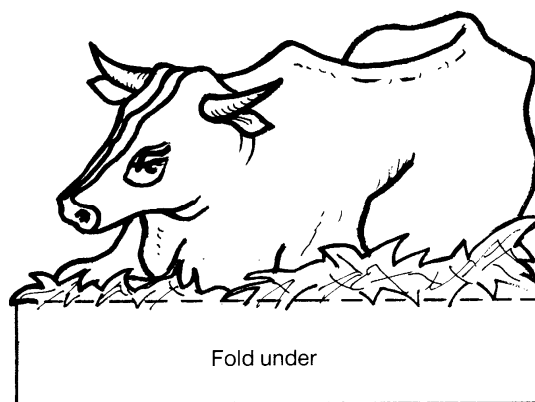
BABY JESUS



LAMB



OX

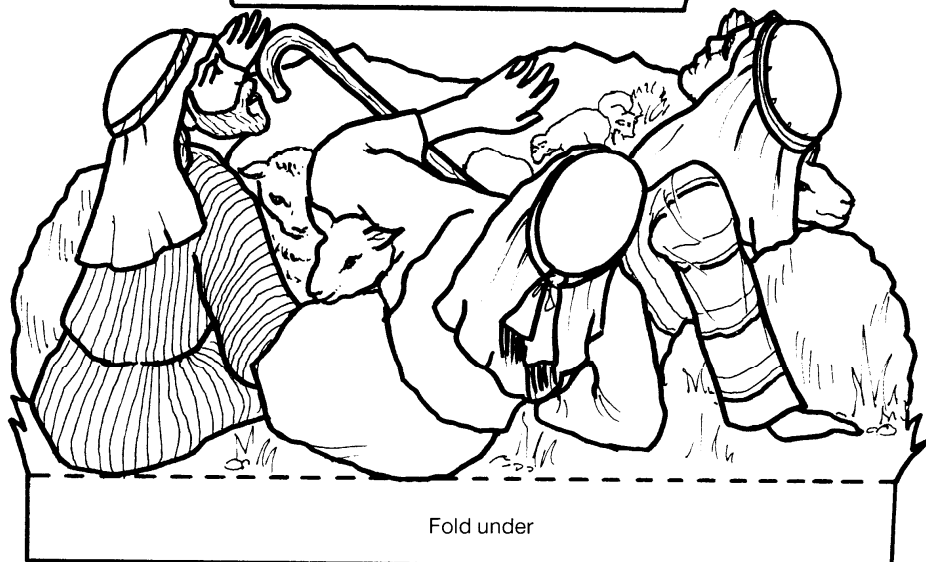
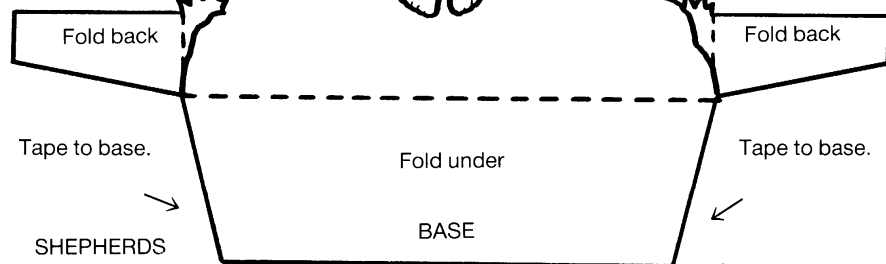


THE BIRTH OF JESUS – 4

Glue page on to thin card.
Cut out and colour.



ANGEL



THE BIRTH OF JESUS – 5

Glue this page on to card.
Cut out and colour.
Place the Wise Men and the donkey
with the other
figures around
the nativity
scene.

