



# *The Shining Star Christmas Project*



# *Why this project?*

## *What will we find in this project?*

MAYBE YOU EXPECTED SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THIS PROJECT, LIKE CHRISTMAS TREES, CHRISTMAS SWEETS, PRESENTS, DECORATIONS OR EVEN A SHOPPING LIST. SO, I MUST SAY TO YOU THAT YOU WILL NOT FIND THESE THINGS HERE. PERSONALLY, I THINK THAT WE SEE SO MANY OF THESE THINGS EVERYWHERE AROUND US. WHEN WE TURN ON THE TELEVISION, WE SEE SANTA, TREES, PRESENTS, AND ALL OF THESE THINGS BEING ADVERTISED AS "CHRISTMAS."

BUT I DON'T THINK THESE THINGS ARE QUITE WHAT CHRISTMAS REALLY IS.

FOR ME AND MY FAMILY, CHRISTMAS IS A TIME TO BE TOGETHER WITH FAMILY. IT IS A TIME FOR CONTEMPLATION, GIVING THANKS, AND... MORE THAN ANYTHING, BECAUSE WE ARE CHRIST FOLLOWERS, IT IS A TIME TO REMEMBER THE BIRTH OF JESUS. AND THAT IS WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS PROJECT.

IN THIS PROJECT, YOU WILL FIND THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BIBLE,  
THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

YOU WILL FIND ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER CHILDREN, YOUNGER ELEMENTARY AGED CHILDREN AND FOR PRESCHOOLERS. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: COLORING PAGES, FIND-THE-DIFFERENCES PAGES, A SCAVENGER HUNT, A SEQUENCING ACTIVITY, REFLECTION ACTIVITIES, AND A CUT-OUT CRAFT.

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

COLORING PENCILS, CRAYONS, OR MARKERS

LED CANDLE

PRINTED MATERIALS

# *The Christmas Story*

DO YOU REMEMBER THE STORY ABOUT DAVID? DAVID WAS THE SMALL BOY WHO DEFEATED THE GIANT GOLIATH. YES, IT IS THE SAME DAVID WHO BECAME A KING. AND THE SAME DAVID WHO SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE IN BATTLES AND WARS. THIS DAVID LOVED GOD WITH ALL HIS HEART.

MANY, MANY YEARS AFTER KING DAVID, THERE LIVED A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED MARY, WHO WAS ENGAGED TO MARRY JOSEPH. JOSEPH WAS THE GREAT GREAT, GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRANDSON OF KING DAVID. AND HERE IS WHERE WE BEGIN OUR CHRISTMAS STORY.

ONE MORNING, AN ANGEL APPEARED TO MARY. THE ANGEL'S NAME WAS GABRIEL. HE CAME TO TELL MARY THAT SHE WOULD HAVE A BABY. "MARY, YOU WILL HAVE A BABY. HIS NAME WILL BE JESUS. HE IS GOD'S SON. HE IS THE SAVIOR THAT WAS WRITTEN ABOUT IN THE SCRIPTURES. HE IS THE ONE WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR."

BUT...MARY WAS SUPPOSED TO MARRY JOSEPH. JOSEPH WAS QUITE EMBARRASSED ABOUT THE SITUATION. HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT HE DECIDED TO TRUST GOD'S PLAN, JUST LIKE DAVID TRUSTED GOD. JOSEPH TRUSTED GOD'S PLAN, AND HE LISTENED TO GOD.

NINE MONTHS LATER, MARY WAS READY TO GIVE BIRTH. BUT, IN THIS TIME, EVERYONE HAD TO GO TO THEIR HOMETOWN BECAUSE OF A CENSUS REQUIRED BY THE EMPEROR. EVERY CITIZEN MUST PAY A TAX IN HIS HOMETOWN. JOSEPH'S HOMETOWN WAS BETHLEHEM, THE TOWN OF KING DAVID. SO, JOSEPH AND MARY HAD TO GO ON THE LONG JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM.

WHEN JOSEPH AND MARY CAME TO BETHLEHEM, THEY FOUND OUT THAT THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR THEM TO STAY. ALL THE ROOMS WERE FULL. "GO AWAY!" THE INNKEEPERS SHOUTED AT THEM. "WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE FOR YOU. ALL OUR ROOMS ARE FULL."

BUT MARY NEEDED TO GIVE BIRTH SOON. THEY NEEDED A PLACE TO STAY. SO, MARY AND JOSEPH STAYED IN A BARN FOR ANIMALS. MARY GAVE BIRTH TO BABY JESUS, THERE IN THE BARN. SHE LAY HIM DOWN IN THE MANGER, WHERE THE ANIMALS USUALLY ATE. SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS.

AND THERE IN THE BARN, AMONG THE HENS, DONKEYS, AND COWS, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE QUIET NIGHT, GOD GAVE THE WORLD HIS WONDERFUL, GLORIOUS GIFT. A CHILD WHO WOULD ONE DAY CHANGE THE WORLD.

ON THIS NIGHT, AMONG ALL THE STARS, SUDDENLY, A BRIGHT NEW STAR APPEARED. GOD PUT THE STAR IN THE SKY WHEN HIS SON WAS BORN, TO SHOW PEOPLE THE WAY TO JESUS.

THE ANGELS TOLD THE SHEPHERDS THAT THE SAVIOR WAS BORN. THE ANGELS TOLD THEM THEY COULD FIND THE BABY WRAPPED IN CLOTH AND LYING IN A MANGER, IN THE HAY. SO, THE SHEPHERDS RAN TO SEE THE BABY, AND THEY TOLD THE NEWS TO THE OTHERS.

LATER, THREE KINGS CAME TO SEE THIS SAVIOR, JESUS. THEY BROUGHT HIM PRECIOUS GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

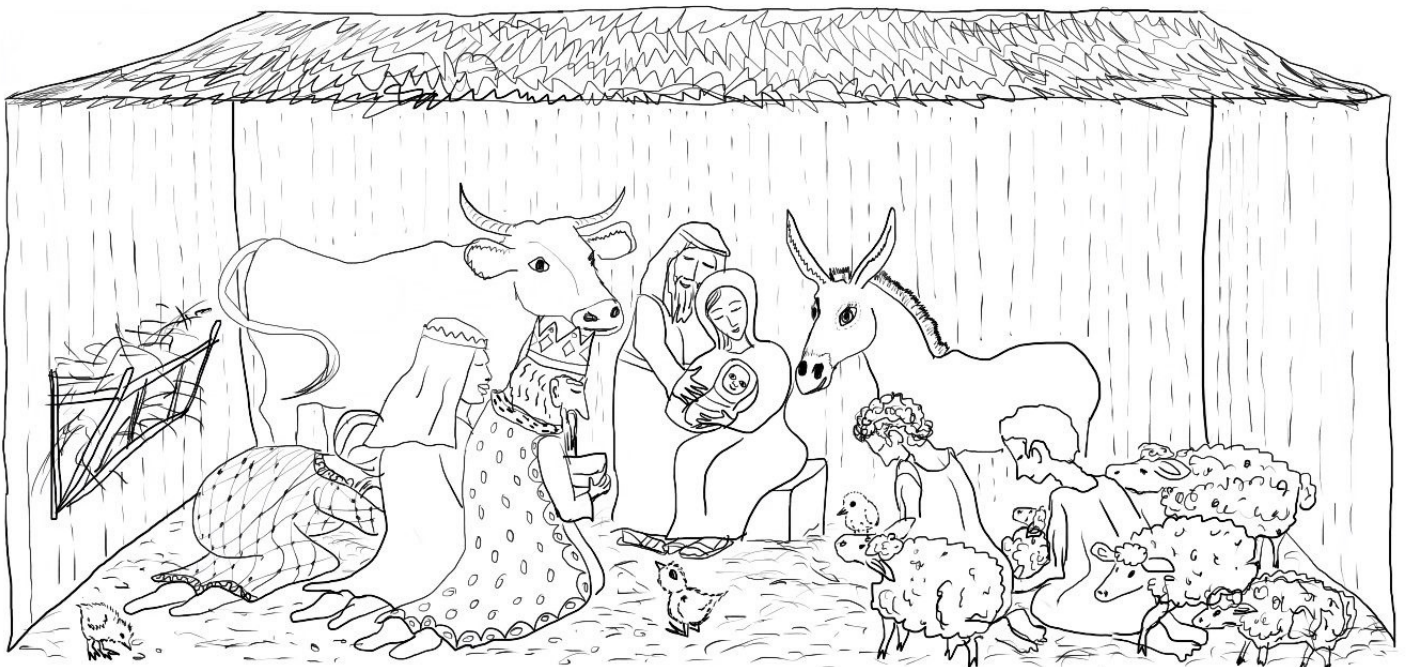
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AND THIS BABY GREW, JUST LIKE YOU AND ME. HE BECAME A MAN. HE IS JESUS.

AND, JUST LIKE MARY RODE THE DONKEY TO BETHLEHEM, JESUS WOULD ONE DAY RIDE A DONKEY TO JERUSALEM, SO THAT HE COULD BE THE GIFT THAT SHINES IN EACH OF OUR HEARTS.

AND EVERY CHRISTMAS, AND EVERY DAY, WE ARE LIKE THE INNKEEPERS THAT CAN CHOOSE TO OPEN THE DOOR OF OUR HEARTS TO JESUS AND INVITE HIM IN. OR WE CAN SHUT HIM OUT AND SAY, "THERE IS NO ROOM HERE!".

SO, WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU HAVE A PLACE IN YOUR HEART FOR JESUS?



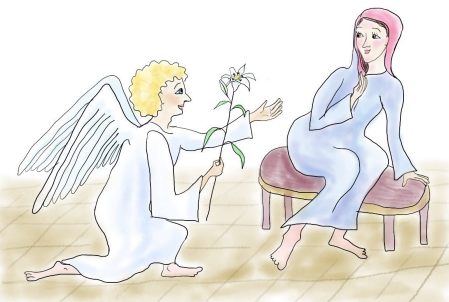


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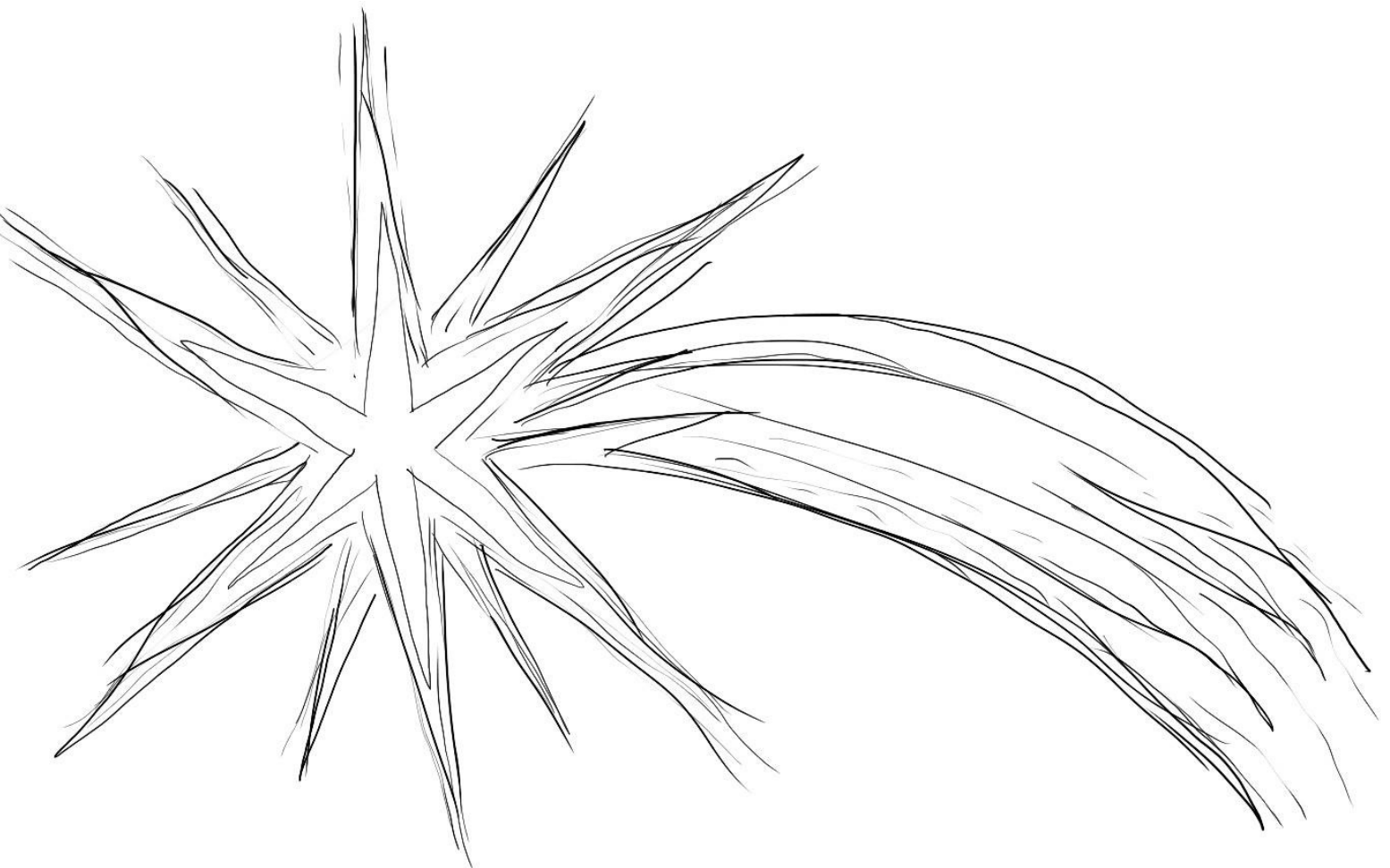
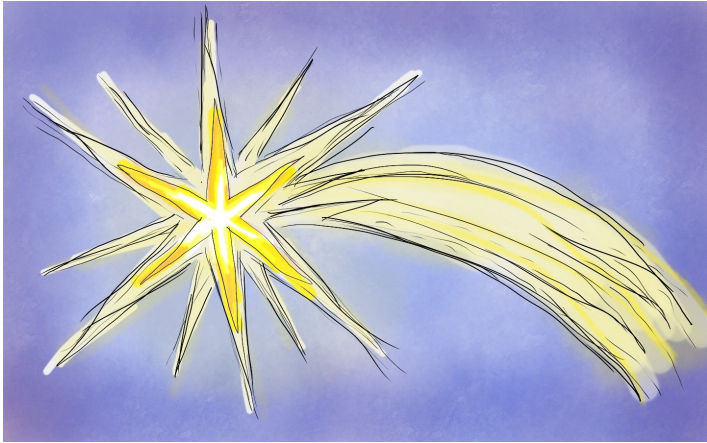
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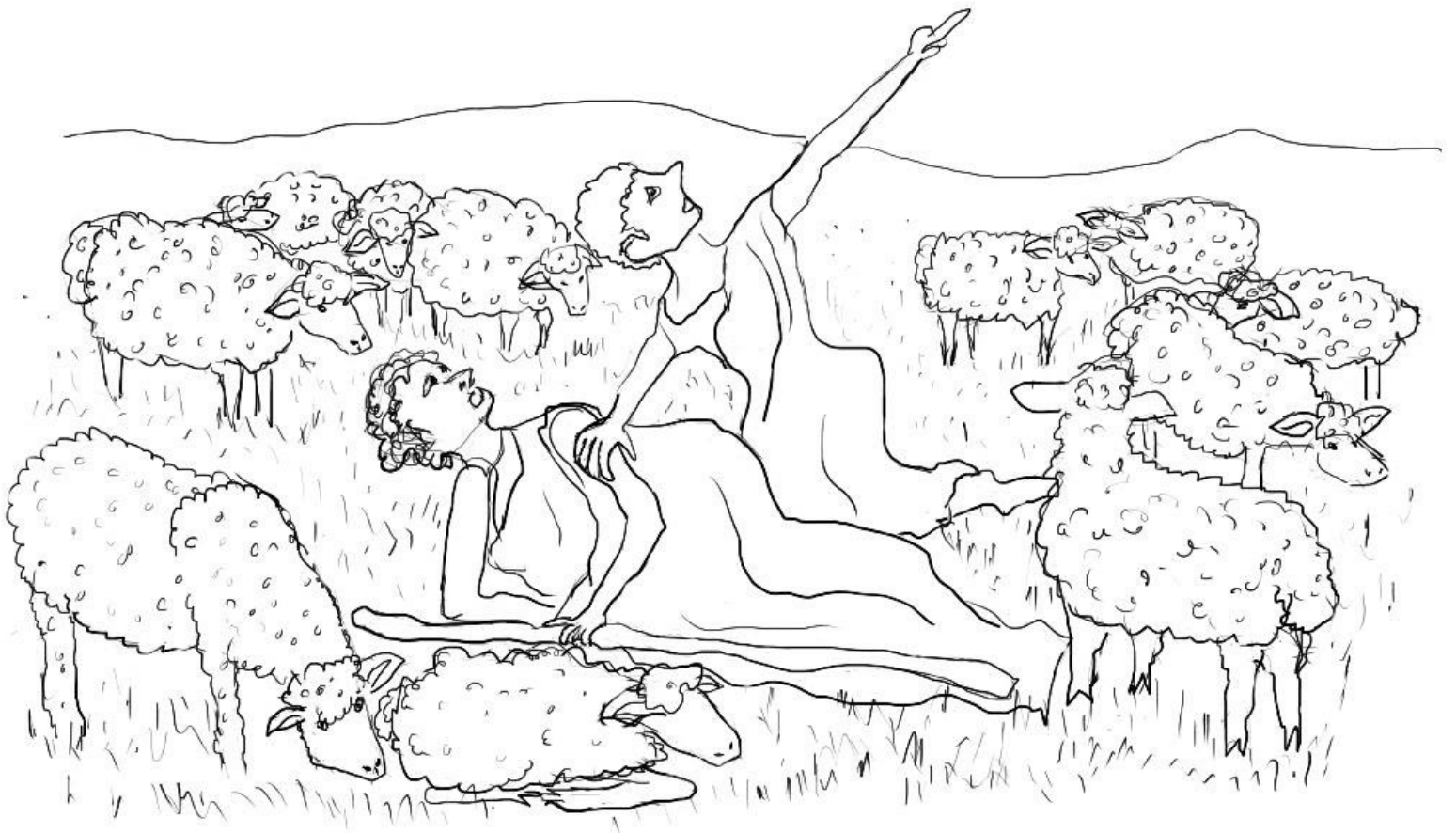
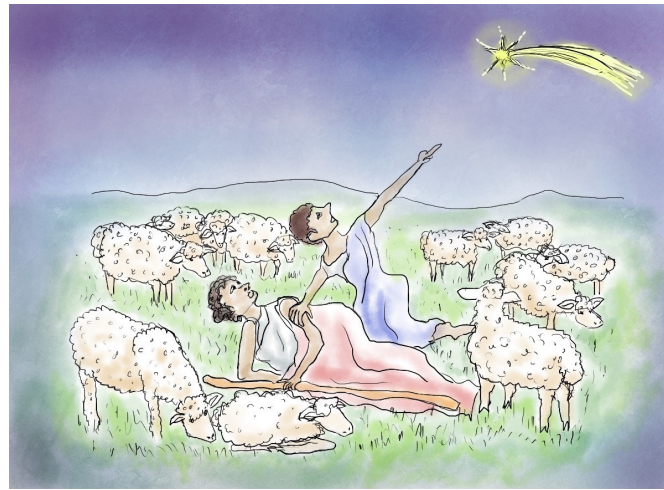
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# *Imagine how it was for Mary and Joseph*

TALK ABOUT THIS WITH YOUR PARENTS: WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS LIKE FOR JOSEPH AND MARY? WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY ATE? THEY PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE NICE FOOD LIKE WE USUALLY HAVE AT CHRISTMAS TIME. MAYBE MARY HAD TO EAT PORRIDGE AFTER THAT DIFFICULT NIGHT. MAYBE JOSEPH HAD TO RUN TO THE INN FOR A BOWL OF SOUP. MAYBE THEY MILKED THE COWS THAT WERE IN THE BARN. BUT CERTAINLY THEY DIDN'T HAVE SUCH WONDERFUL FOOD LIKE WE HAVE AT THE CHRISTMAS TABLE.

EVERY TIME I THINK OF THIS STORY, IT LEADS ME TO BE THANKFUL. I AM IMMENSELY THANKFUL THAT I HAVE FOOD TO EAT. AND NOT JUST THAT WE HAVE FOOD, BUT WE HAVE DELICIOUS FOOD TO EAT, AND THAT WE HAVE PLENTY. I AM THANKFUL THAT I HAVE A SOFT BED TO SLEEP IN, AND THAT THE HAY DOESN'T POKE ME OR THE CHICKENS PECK MY HEAD WHILE I'M SLEEPING.

LET'S THINK ABOUT WHAT WE ARE THANKFUL FOR!

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE, YOU WILL FIND A PREPARED PAPER CHAIN. CUT THE STRIPS OUT ALONG THE LINES. FINISH THE SENTENCES WITH WHAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR, OR DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR. EVERYONE IN YOUR HOME CAN PARTICIPATE, THEN YOU CAN CONNECT THE PAPER STRIPS TOGETHER AND HANG THEM ON YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE.

AND BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS DAY, STOP AND READ THE PAPER CHAIN, AND REMEMBER WHAT WE ARE THANKFUL FOR.

I am thankful for

I am thankful for

I am thankful for

I am thankful for

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# *Be the Light!*

WHEN JESUS WAS BORN, A STAR SHONE BRIGHTLY TO SHOW THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS.

JESUS GREW JUST LIKE YOU AND ME. AND HE IS THE LIGHT.

MAYBE YOU'VE NOTICED THAT SOME PEOPLE AROUND YOU HAVE A GOOD EFFECT AND SOME PEOPLE HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT. BUT WE ARE INVITED TO BE A LIGHT THAT SHINES FOR OTHERS. THIS IS NOT AN ELECTRIC LIGHT, OR A FORCE OF ENERGY, OR POSITIVE THINKING, BUT RATHER IT IS THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE THAT COMES FROM JESUS. BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE WE CAN HAVE THE LIGHT OF JESUS TO SHINE TO OTHERS.

ON THE NEXT PAGE YOU WILL FIND A SHINING LAMP TO MAKE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL KNOW THE LIGHT OF JESUS, AND BE A LIGHT FOR OTHERS TO SEE.

# Christmas light

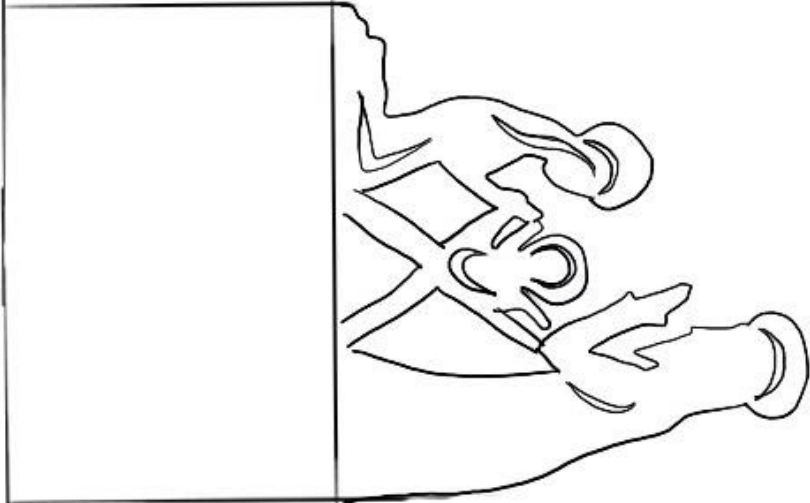
WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- PRINTED TEMPLATE
- LED TEA CANDLE

CUT OUT THE OUTLINE OF THE STAR BACKGROUND AND OF THE NATIVITY SILHOUETTE.

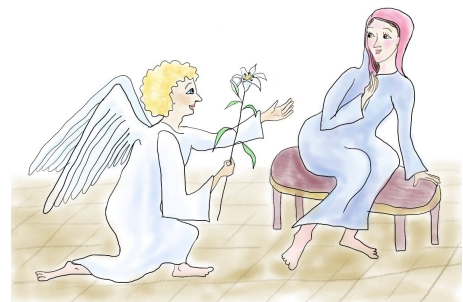
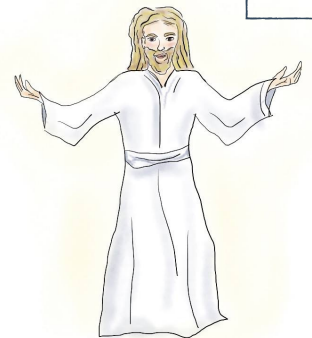
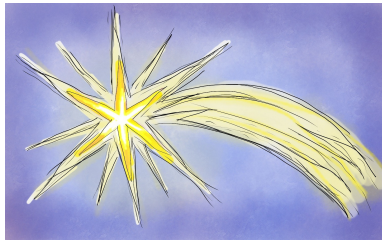
WITH A HOLE PUNCH, PUNCH OUT THE STARS.

FOLD THE RECTANGLE IN TWO PLACES-AT THE STARS AND AT THE NATIVITY. FINALLY, PUT A LED CANDLE IN THE PAPER LANTERN.

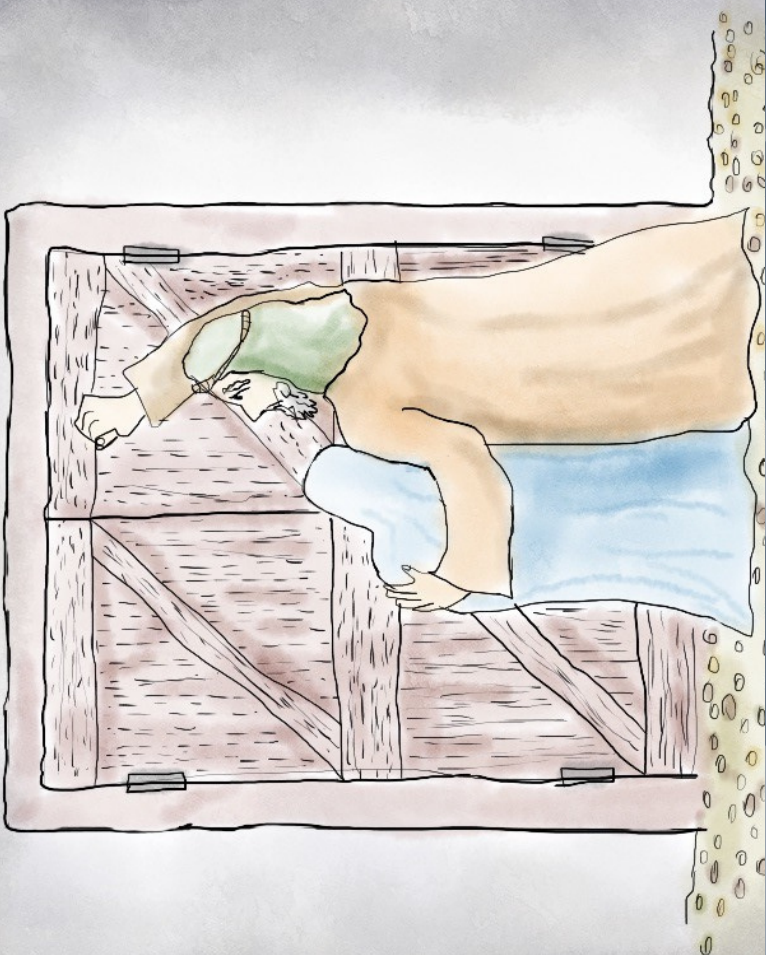




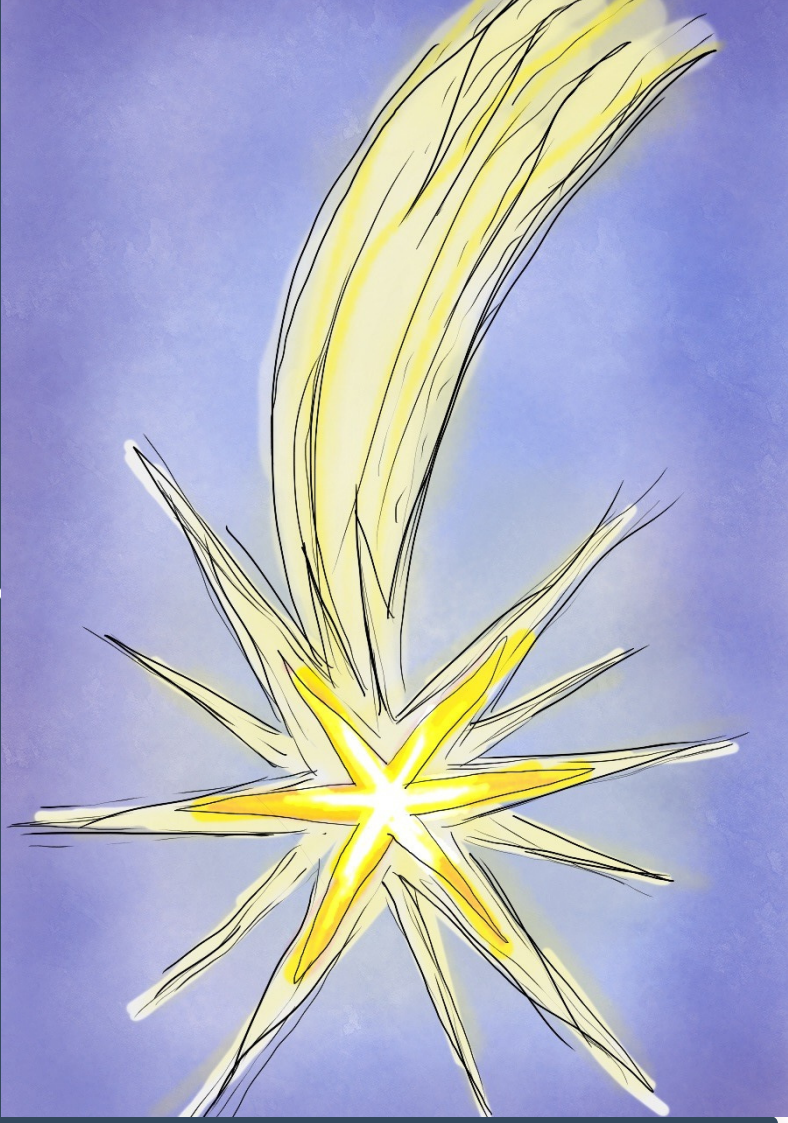
# Christmas scavenger hunt













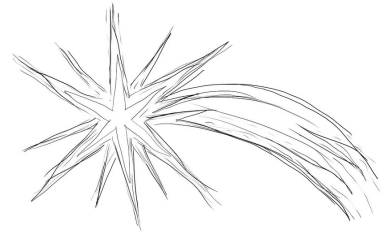
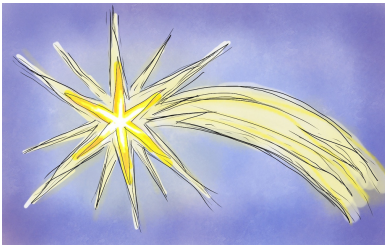




# Find 10 Differences



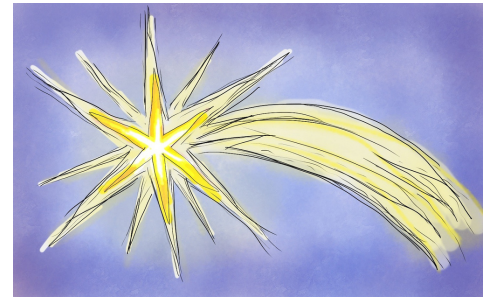
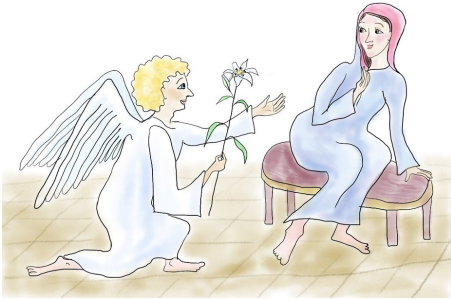
# Connect the pictures





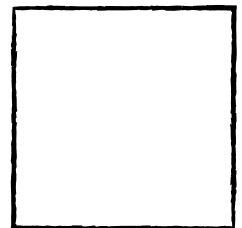
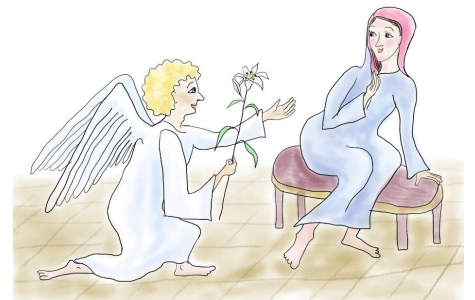
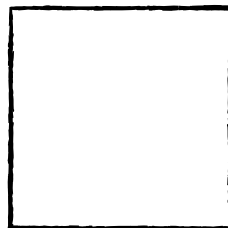
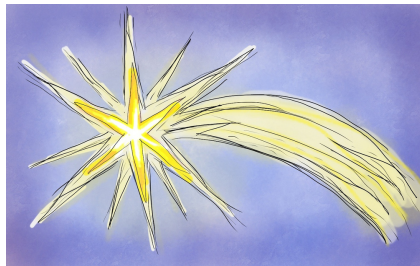
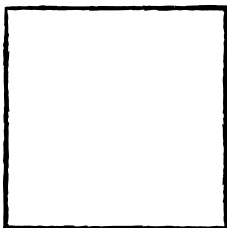
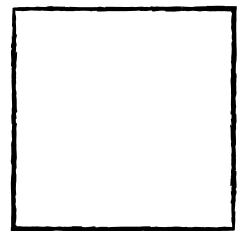
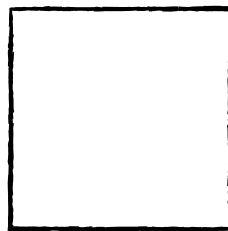
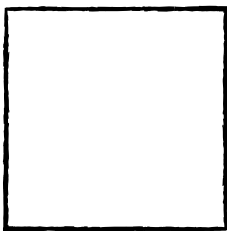
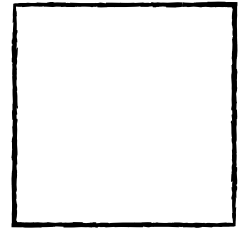
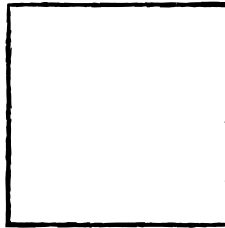
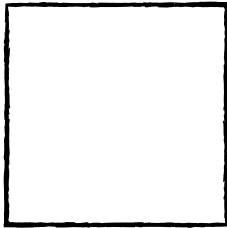
# Sequencing Activity

CUT OUT THE PICTURES AND PUT IN ORDER



# Sequencing Activity

NUMBER THE PICTURES IN THE CORRECT ORDER





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE PICTURES WERE ILLUSTRATED BY THE AMAZING BARBORA SORRENTINO.

HISTORICAL CONTENT WAS DRAWN FROM THE BIBLE

[WWW.SLUNICKOTLUCNA.CZ](http://WWW.SLUNICKOTLUCNA.CZ)

