

# WE sources:



## A Resource FOR ALL OF US

WRITTEN BY THE Discipleship Ministry Team OF THE Cumberland Presbyterian Church



# Children

## THE PROPHETS' CANDLE: HOPE

Lesson 1

### RESOURCES

(The first four items in the list will be needed for each lesson.)

- Bible in a version such as the Common English Version or The Message or, a Bible Story Book such as Growing in God's Love by Elizabeth Caldwell and Carol Wehrheim.

You may purchase Growing in God's Love in the CP online book store or here: <https://cpcmc.org/store-2/Growing-in-Gods-Love-A-Story-Bible-p97211076>

- Advent wreath with four candles for the wreath and a larger candle in the center as the Christ candle. The candles for the wreath can be purple and pink or blue-depending on your congregation's tradition
- *Word of the Day* poster printed. Hope is the word of lesson one.
- Nativity that is child friendly and has individual pieces that include a manger, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angel

- Copies of Advent wreath color sheet.
- Purple/pink or blue crayons
- Purple or blue cloth for the table-again, matching the color that your congregation uses in worship
- Kitchen timer
- Advent Word Reminder Ticket for each child

### GATHERING

Set up the "Advent Explore Area" by creating a visual learning space in your meeting area that has items related to the season of Advent. In the lessons, this area will be referred to as the "Advent Explore" area. If you are using a table, cover the table with the liturgical color of purple or blue-depending on what the tradition is in your church. You can also set up the Advent Explore area on the floor of the meeting space if that would be more comfortable and accessible to your group. Add to the Advent Explore area other Advent items such as Advent wreath with candles. For lesson one you will need the empty manger from the nativity set you will use in Advent Explore. Store the rest of the nativity characters away where the children cannot see them this week.

## INVITATION TO ADVENT EXPLORE

Invite the children to join you at the Advent Explore area. Tell them that this is where we will learn more about the season of Advent and hear Bible stories for the next couple weeks.

## QUESTIONS

Ask the children the questions below. The information in parenthesis is to give you some information about the topics being discussed. Encourage conversation and listen to all the answers the children give you about their knowledge of the season and traditions they may have in their family.

- **What do you know about the season of Advent?**

(This is what we call the weeks leading up to Christmas and when Jesus was born.)

- **Why do you think the cloth in the Advent Explore area is purple/blue?**

(This is the color we use for Advent. It is a color used for royalty or important people)

- **Why do you think there are four candles around the wreath?**

(That is how many weeks there are in the season of Advent.)

- **Do we light all the candles the first Sunday?**

(No, we light one candle a week until Christmas. This helps us countdown the weeks until Jesus birth.)

Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.

- **Why is there a candle in the center of the wreath?**

(This candle is called the Christ candle, and is in the center because Jesus Christ should be the center of all we do during the season.)

- **Ask them to look at the manger in Advent Explore. What do you normally see with a manger like this? Why do you think it is empty?**

(The manger is empty because we are still waiting for Jesus to be born.)

## WAITING EXPERIMENT

Ask kids to tell you all the things they must wait for. Things like waiting in line at school, waiting for a seed to grow, waiting to get tall enough to ride a roller coaster at the amusement park, etc. Let them think of as many of these as they can.

Ask:

- **Do you like to wait?**
- **What do you do while you wait?**
- **What helps to make a long wait go by faster?**

Tell them during the season of Advent, we all spend time waiting. We will be waiting for Jesus's birth. Ask them to help you do a waiting experiment. Set a timer for 2 minutes and ask the group that while the timer ticks for 2 minutes they are to sit still and be as quiet as possible until they hear the timer ring. Next, ask them if they would like to sing a song, walk around the room, or listen to a story? When they pick the activity, they would like to do as a group set the timer again for 2 minutes. While the timer is ticking this time, the group will do whatever activity they decided upon.

When the timer dings, ask:

Was it easier to wait during the 2 minutes when you were sitting quiet and still or when you were busy doing an activity? Remind them that even though we are waiting for four weeks for the birth of Jesus, we will be busy with many activities. Remind them that waiting is an important part of the season.

## WORD OF THE WEEK: HOPE

Each week during Advent, there is a special word that will help us focus on a certain idea that is important for us to remember during Advent. The word for this week is: Hope. Show them the word on the poster.

Ask:

- What do you think the word hope means?
- If you are acting hopeful, what might you be doing?
- Can you show me how it looks to be hopeful?

## **BIBLE STORY**

Before you read the Bible story to the children, ask them to listen as you read, for ways that people in the story are waiting or being hopeful.

Read Luke 1: 26-38 from the Bible or read "How Can This Happen?" from Growing in God's Love, page 186.

## **QUESTIONS FOLLOWING THE STORY**

- Who were the people in the story?
- How do you think the people in the story were feeling?
- Were they waiting for something? What?
- Did you hear anything in the story that sounds hopeful?

## **STORY REMINDER ACTIVITIES**

Each lesson will have several story reminder activities listed. You can pick and choose the ones that best suit your group and time frame. The point of this time is to pick activities that will be a reminder of the Bible story and ideas being taught in the lesson.

### **Advent Wreath Color Sheet**

Print copies of the Advent Wreath Color Sheet. Provide purple/pink or blue crayons for the children to use to color the candles. They could write the word hope on one of the candles.

### **Advent Word Reminder Ticket-Hope**

Make copies of the Advent Word Reminder Tickets for each child. Before class cut out the ticket that has the word "hope" on it. Give each

child a hope ticket and ask them to draw a picture or write a sentence or two in the empty box that will help them remember what the word "hope" means. They will take this ticket home to help them remember this week.

Copy/paste the link below for additional free coloring sheets appropriate for use during this lesson. It includes a nativity that the children can color, cut out, and take home.

<https://ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/24-Advent-Coloring-Pages.pdf>

## **CLOSING/SENDING**

Gather everyone around the Advent Explore area and discuss the following ideas with the children. Encourage them to think of ways to remember the Bible story in the week ahead:

- What activities will be going on with your family as we wait for the birth of Jesus?
- How will you look for hope? How will you be hopeful?
- What person in the Bible story will you think about this week?

Ask one of the children to say a closing prayer-or, you can use the following prayer to close the lesson.

**God, thank you for sending the angel to Mary to tell her the exciting news about the birth of Jesus.**

**Help us to remember to look for hope each day this week. Amen.**



**Advent Wreath**



Advent Word  
Reminder  
Tickets



Hope



Faith



Joy



Peace

# WE sources:



## A Resource FOR ALL OF US

WRITTEN BY THE Discipleship Ministry Team OF THE Cumberland Presbyterian Church

THE SEASON OF  
Advent

Children

### THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE: FAITH

Lesson 2

#### RESOURCES

(The first four items in the list will be needed for each lesson.)

- Bible in a version such as the Common English Version or The Message or, a Bible Story Book such as Growing in God's Love by Elizabeth Caldwell and Carol Wehrheim.

You may purchase Growing in God's Love in the CP online book store or here: <https://cpcmc.org/store-2/Growing-in-Gods-Love-A-Story-Bible-p97211076>

- Advent wreath with four candles for the wreath and a larger candle in the center as the Christ candle. The candles for the wreath can be purple and pink or blue—depending on your congregation's tradition
- *Word of the Day* poster printed. *Faith is the word of lesson two.*
- Nativity that is child friendly and has individual pieces that include a manger, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angel

- One each of the following items for the traveling game: blanket, water bottle, lunch box, basket, oversized item of clothing.
- Nazareth sign and Bethlehem sign
- Pencils and Crayons
- Printed copy of the map for each child
- Optional: Mary and Joseph traveling color sheet for each child
- Optional: Around the Manger drawing sheet for each child

#### GATHERING

Set up the Advent Explore area by using the Advent wreath and manger from lesson one. Keep Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the animals out of sight until you tell the story.

#### INVITATION TO ADVENT EXPLORE

Invite the children to join you at the Advent Explore area. Ask the children the questions below. The words in parenthesis are to give you information about the topics being discussed. Encourage conversation and listen to all the answers the children give. During this time, you

will light two candles on the Advent wreath.

- **What season of the church year did we begin last time we were together?**

(Advent)

- **What do you remember about the season of Advent?**

(The weeks leading up to Christmas and the birth of Jesus, we use blue or purple and pink for the season, etc.)

- **What things do you see in Advent Explore that helps you remember about Advent?**

(Advent wreath, empty manger)

- **How many candles did we light on the Advent wreath last week?**

(One) Light the candle from last week and one additional candle now.

- **How many more weeks until Christmas? (two)**

- **What do you remember about our manger from last week?**

(Empty; waiting on baby Jesus to be born.)

- **Who gave Mary the news that she would have a baby?**

(The angel)

## **TRAVELING GAME**

**Say:** Let's play a game that will also help us remember something important about the Bible story we will hear in a few minutes.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. Months after the angel told Mary she would have a baby, Mary and Joseph found out that they would have to travel to Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem to be counted. Everyone was ordered by the Roman ruler, Caesar Augustus, to go to their hometown to be counted with the rest of their family. This meant that a lot of people were traveling to their hometowns. The baby was to be born soon, making this a bad time for Mary to be traveling. But they didn't have a choice. They had to pack

things they would need on this trip.

- **What are some things you think they might have needed for this trip?**

(Food, water, clothes, blanket, food and water for the donkey, etc)

Show the following items to the children and ask them what purpose they might serve on a trip: a blanket, water bottle, lunch box, basket, and an oversized item of clothing (so that it will be easy to get on and off).

Before the session, write the word "Nazareth" on one sheet of paper and "Bethlehem" on another. Show the signs to the children and ask them to read the words and remind them about the towns.

Ask the children to stand around the meeting area where they are evenly dispersed. Give the Nazareth sign to one child to hold and give the Bethlehem sign to another child to hold. The child with the Nazareth sign needs to stand beside the traveling items. Ask another child to begin by going to the pile of traveling items and putting on the piece of clothing and collecting all the rest of the items so that they might travel to the next person. They will pass the items off to that person. Each person will take a turn traveling to the next person and transferring the items to them until everyone has had a turn traveling with the items. The last spot they should go is to the child with the Bethlehem sign. Ask all the children to gather there.

Ask:

- **How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about making this trip?**
- **What would have been difficult about this trip?**
- **Word of the Week: Faith**

Each week during Advent, there is a special word that will help us focus on a certain idea that is important to remember during Advent. Ask if they remember the word from last week, which was "hope." The word for this week is: Faith. Show them the word on the poster.



Ask:

- What do you think the word “faith” means?

(Possible answers: believing in someone or something)

- If you were to describe someone acting in faith, how would you describe them? Or, how might they be acting?
- Can you think of something that you have faith in?

(God, parents, teachers, etc)

## BIBLE STORY

Before you read the Bible story to the children, ask them to listen for ways that people in the story have faith.

Read Luke 2:1-7 from the Bible or read “A Baby is Born” from *Growing in God’s Love*, page 190. As you are reading or telling the story, ask the children to add the characters of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and animals to the manger.

Questions following the story:

- Who were the people in the story?
- What news did Mary and Joseph get in this story?
- What do you think the trip was like for Mary and Joseph?
- When they arrived in Bethlehem, what do you think they saw happening in the town?

## STORY REMINDER ACTIVITIES

### Map of Nazareth to Bethlehem

Have a printed copy of the map for each child. Tell them that this is a map of the area in which Jesus was born. Ask them to find Nazareth and draw a “X” on the spot. Remind them that this is where Mary and Joseph began their trip. Next, ask them to find Bethlehem on the map and draw a star on Bethlehem. Remind them that this is where Jesus was born. Ask them to trace the dotted line from Nazareth to Bethlehem showing the journey that Mary and Joseph made. For older children, use a ruler to measure the dotted

line from Nazareth to Bethlehem and use the key at the bottom of the page to figure out the distance they traveled.

## Advent Word Reminder Ticket-Faith

Make copies of the Advent Word Reminder Tickets for each child. Before class cut out the ticket that has the word “faith” on it. Give each child a faith ticket and ask them to draw a picture or write a sentence or two in the empty box that will help them remember what the word “faith” means. They will take this ticket home to help them remember this week.

## Mary and Joseph Traveling Color Sheet

Make copies of the color sheet for each child to color.

## Around the Manger Drawing Activity

Make a copy of the manger. Invite the children to draw pictures of animals and things that would have been around the manger.

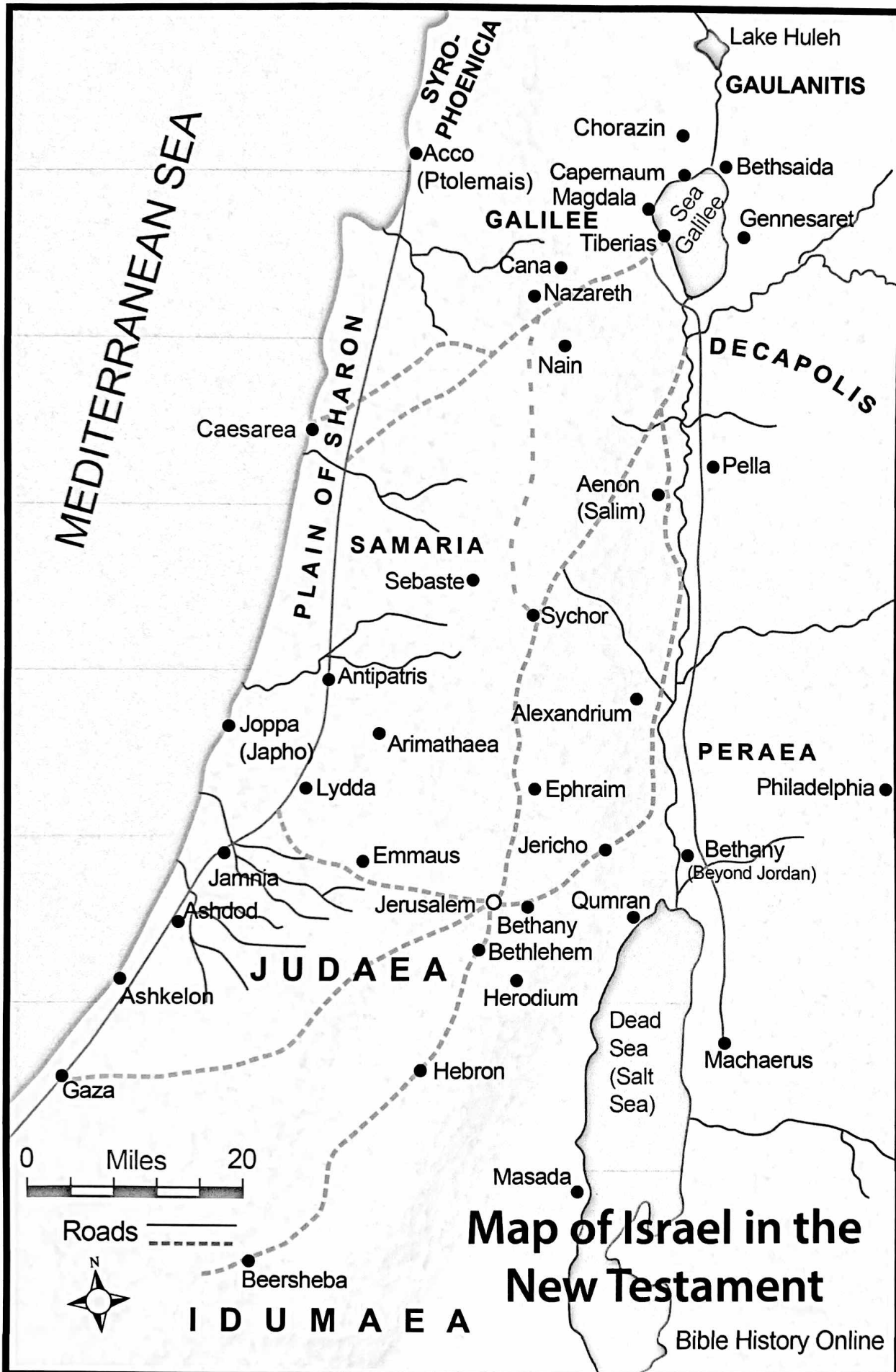
## CLOSING/SENDING

Gather everyone around the Advent Explore area and discuss the following ideas with the children before they leave. Encourage them to think of ways to remember the Bible story in the week ahead:

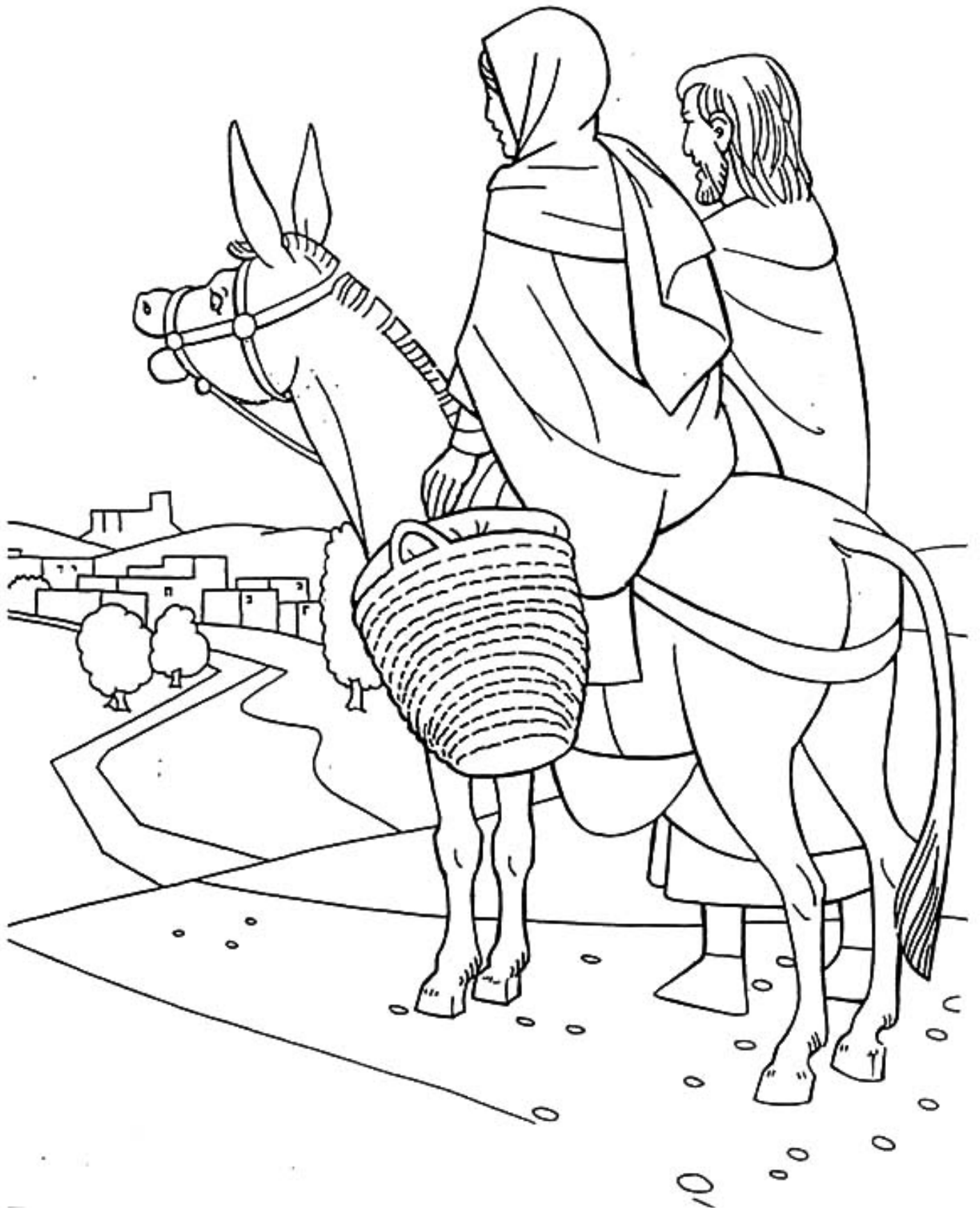
- What activities will be going on with your family as we continue to wait for the birth of Jesus?
- How will you try to have faith this week?
- What person in the Bible story will you think about this week?

Ask one of the children to say a closing prayer or, you can use the following prayer to close the lesson.

**God, we thank you that Mary and Joseph had faith in you to help them during the trip to Bethlehem and when they were looking for a place in Bethlehem for Baby Jesus to be born. Help us to have faith this week in all that we do. Amen.**



# Map of Israel in the New Testament



# WE sources:



## A Resource FOR ALL OF US

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# Children

### THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE: JOY

Lesson 3

#### RESOURCES

(The first four items in the list will be needed for each lesson.)

- Bible in a version such as the Common English Version or The Message or, a Bible Story Book such as Growing in God's Love by Elizabeth Caldwell and Carol Wehrheim.

You may purchase Growing in God's Love in the CP online book store or here: <https://cpcmc.org/store-2/Growing-in-Gods-Love-A-Story-Bible-p97211076>

- Advent wreath with four candles for the wreath and a larger candle in the center as the Christ candle. The candles for the wreath can be purple and pink or blue—depending on your congregation's tradition
- *Word of the Day* poster printed. *Joy is the word of lesson three.*
- Nativity that is child friendly and has individual pieces that include a manger, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angel

- A copy of the shepherds drawing activity page for each child
- Crayons or markers
- Supplies for the Shepherd Game: white balloons, marker, yardstick or walking stick
- Copies of the sheep for each child
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Optional: Appropriate equipment to watch a 3-minute YouTube video

#### GATHERING

The Advent Explore area should have the Advent wreath and manger from lesson one and two.

Invitation to Advent Explore: Invite the children to join you at the Advent Explore area. Ask the children the questions below. The words in parenthesis are to give you information about the topics being discussed. Encourage conversation and listen to all the answers the children give. During this time, you will light three candles in the Advent wreath.

- How many candles did we light in the Advent wreath last week?

(Two)

Light three candles on the Advent wreath.

- How many more weeks until Christmas?

(one)

- What do you remember about our manager from last week?

(We added Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the animals to the manger last week.)

This week we will add the shepherds and some sheep to the manger.

- What might be things shepherds are in charge of or what are their responsibilities?
- How does a shepherd get the sheep to move from one place to the other?
- When the shepherds are taking care of the sheep out in the field, do you think they see many people? Or, have many visitors?

## SHEPHERD GAME

Supplies for the game: 5-10 white balloons, marker to draw a sheep face on the white balloons, yardstick or walking stick.

Let's play a game that will also help us remember something important about the Bible story we will hear in a few minutes.

Show them the flock of balloon sheep. Demonstrate to them how they can gently use the stick to move the sheep from one part of the meeting space to another. Let them take turns being the shepherd for the balloon sheep. If time permits, set up a relay where you start at one end of the meeting space and the children take turns guiding a sheep to the other end of the room until all the sheep are to the other side of the meeting space.

## WORD OF THE WEEK: JOY

Each week during Advent, there is a special word that will help us focus on a certain idea that is important for us to remember during Advent. The word for this week is: Joy. Show them the word on the poster.

- What do you think the word joy means?
- If you are acting joyful what might you be doing?
- Can you show me how it looks to be joyful?

## BIBLE STORY

Before you read the Bible story to the children, ask them to listen for ways that people in the story are being joyful.

Read Luke 2:15-20 from the Bible or read "Surprise Visitors" from Growing in God's Love, page 192.

- Who were the people in the story?
- What news did the shepherds receive in the story?
- Where did they go when they heard the news?
- How did they act about the news and the visit with Baby Jesus?
- When the shepherds were walking back to the fields, what do you think they were talking about?

## STORY REMINDER ACTIVITIES

### Make a sheep

There is a pattern for a sheep with this lesson. Make a copy of the sheep for each child. Prior to the lesson, cut out one sheep per child. If you have older children, they could cut out their own sheep. Invite the children to glue cotton balls on to the body of the sheep. As they are gluing the cotton balls talk with them about all the things that a shepherd would have to do to take care of the sheep.

### Advent Word Reminder Ticket: Joy

Make copies of the Advent Word Reminder Tickets for each child. Before class cut out the ticket that has the word "joy" on it. Give each child a joy ticket and ask them to draw a picture or write a sentence or two in the empty box that will help them remember what the word "joy" means. They will take this ticket home to help

them remember the word throughout the week.

### **Watch Video**

Before the lesson starts have the video clip ready to play. Copy/paste the link to watch the Bible Story on YouTube or by going to youtube.com and searching for "The Christmas Story - Luke 2:8-20 - Crosspoint Bible Church Omaha".

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBSR\\_8wiOow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBSR_8wiOow)

### **Shepherds Drawing Activity**

Make a copy of the field of sheep for each child. Invite the children to add to the picture the other things they hear about in the Bible story that would have been with the sheep.

### **CLOSING/SENDING**

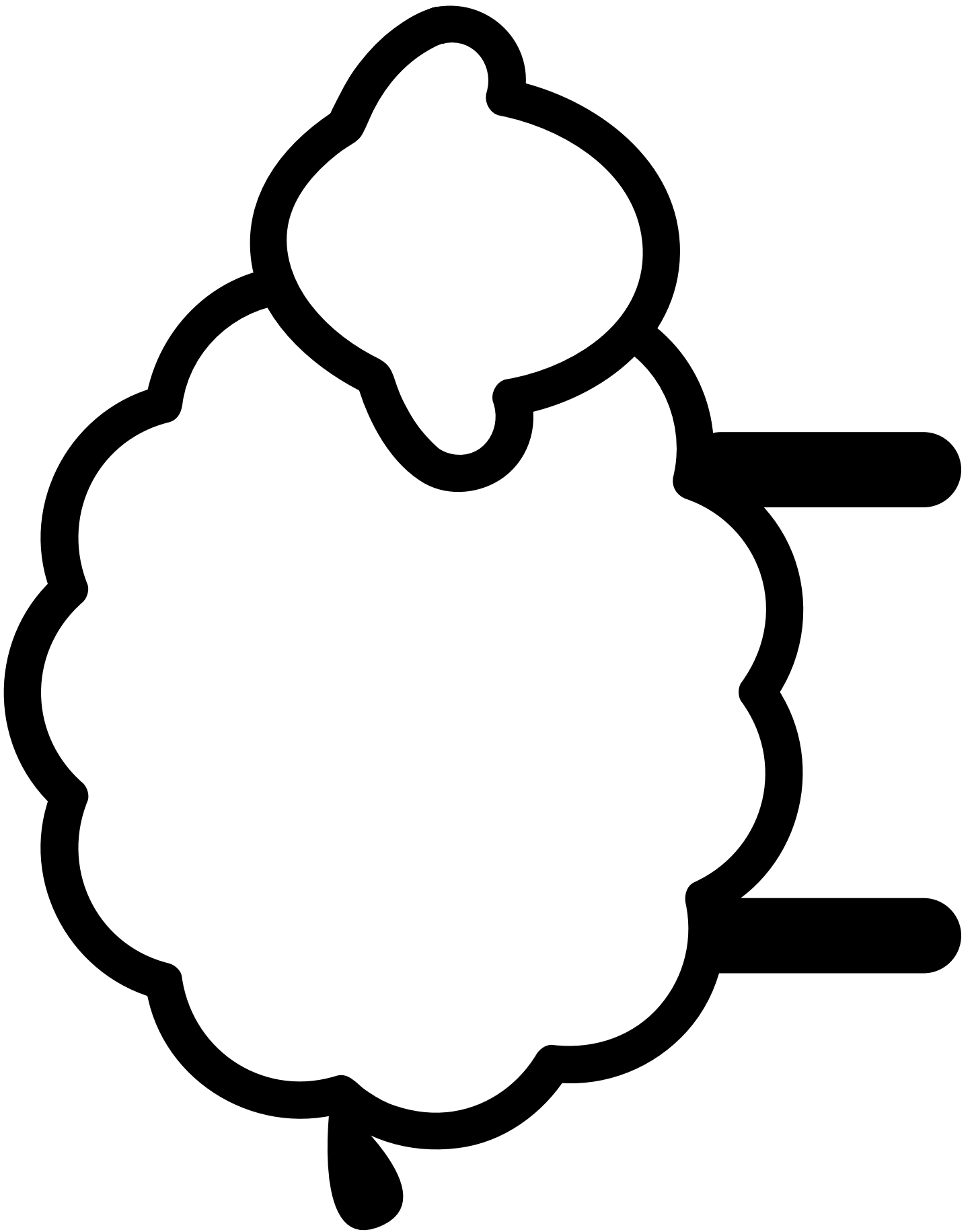
Gather everyone around the Advent Explore area and discuss the following ideas with the children before they leave. Encourage them to think of

ways to remember the Bible story in the week ahead:

- **What activities will be going on with your family as we continue to wait for the birth of Jesus?**
- **How will you be joyful and share joy with others this week?**
- **What person in the Bible story will you think about this week?**

Ask one of the children to say a closing prayer or, you can use the following prayer to close the lesson.

**God, we thank you that the shepherds heard the good news from the angels and went to see Mary and Joseph and the new baby Jesus. Thank you for the joy that Jesus brings to this season and to each day of our lives. Help us to share joy this week in all that we do. Amen.**







# WE sources:



## A Resource FOR ALL OF US

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# Children

- Paint or crayons
- A sheet of Good News cards for each child

## THE ANGELS' CANDLE: PEACE

Lesson 4

### RESOURCES

(The first four items in the list will be needed for each lesson.)

- Bible in a version such as the Common English Version or The Message or, a Bible Story Book such as Growing in God's Love by Elizabeth Caldwell and Carol Wehrheim.  
You may purchase Growing in God's Love in the CP online book store or here: <https://cpcmc.org/store-2/Growing-in-Gods-Love-A-Story-Bible-p97211076>
- Advent wreath with four candles for the wreath and a larger candle in the center as the Christ candle. The candles for the wreath can be purple and pink or blue—depending on your congregation's tradition
- *Word of the Day* poster printed. Peace is the word for lesson four.
- Nativity that is child friendly and has individual pieces that include a manger, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angel
- Heavy paper or cardstock

### GATHERING

The Advent Explore area should have the Advent wreath and manger from the first three lessons.

Invite the children to join you at the Advent Explore area. Ask the children the questions below. The words in parentheses are to give you information about the topics being discussed. Encourage conversation and listen to all the answers the children give. During this time, you will light all four candles in the Advent wreath.

- How many candles did we light in the Advent wreath last week?

(Three)

Light all four candles on the Advent wreath.

- How many more weeks until Christmas?  
(0 weeks; only a few more days until Christmas.)
- Why do we have a candle in the center?

(This is called the Christ candle we light this on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will light it next week during our lesson time.)

- What do you remember about our manger from last week?

(We added a shepherd and some sheep to the manger last week.)

This week we will add an angel to the manger.

## SONG

Teach the children to sing the following song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." They might want to add a line for Joseph or for other people or animals in the stories you have studied the last few weeks.

If you're an angel and you know it, blow your horn.  
If you're an angel and you know it, blow your horn.  
If you're an angel and you know it, light the sky and really blow it.  
Good news has surely come to everyone!

If you're a shepherd and you know it, lead your flock.  
If you're a shepherd and you know it, lead your flock.  
If you're a shepherd and you know it, share good news and really show it.  
Good news has surely come to everyone!

If you are Mary and you know it, rock the babe.  
If you are Mary and you know it, rock the babe.  
If you are Mary and you know it, in your heart your memories flow it.  
Good news has surely come to everyone!

## WORD OF THE WEEK: PEACE

Each week during Advent, there is a special word that will help us focus on a certain idea that is important for us to remember during Advent. The word for this week is: Peace. Show the group the word on the poster.

- What do you think the word peace means?
- If you are acting peacefully, what might you be doing?
- Can you show me how it looks to be peaceful?

- What do you think peace feels like?

## BIBLE STORY

Before you read the Bible story to the children, ask them to listen for when they hear the word "peace" in the Bible story.

Read Luke 2: 8-14.

- Who were the people in the story?
- What did the angels do in today's lesson?
- Do you remember another Bible story when an angel appeared?
- Who used the word "peace" in the Bible story?
- What do you think was meant by the word "peace" in the story?
- What do you think Mary was thinking about when the shepherds came to visit?

## STORY REMINDER ACTIVITIES

### Make a Handprint Picture



Look at the pictures above for an example. Decide which of the two handprint projects you would like to do with your group the angel or the peace dove. You will need heavy paper or card stock, and paint or crayons. Apply the paint on the children's hands for them to put their handprint on the paper. If you don't want to use paint, trace around each child's hands on a piece of paper and let them color in the hand and add the rest of the decorations to make the angel or the dove.

If you do the dove, share with them that the dove is the symbol for peace. Ask them if they

remember what the angel said about “peace” in the Bible verse.

If you do the angel, remind them that the angel was sharing the good news of Jesus’ birth. Ask them if they remember what the angel said about Jesus’ birth.

## SHARING GOOD NEWS

The angels shared the good news that Jesus was born with the shepherds. The shepherds shared the good news of Jesus’ birth with everyone after their visit to the manger. How can we share the good news about Jesus? Give each child a sheet of four of the Good News cards. Invite them to color them, cut them out, and think about who they would like to share the good news about the birth of Jesus. After they decorate the cards, you could walk around the church and hand out the Good News cards to church members.

## Advent Word Reminder Ticket: Peace

Make copies of the Advent Word Reminder Tickets for each child. Before class cut out the ticket that has the word “peace” on it. Give each child a peace ticket and ask them to draw a picture or write a sentence or two in the empty box that will help them remember what the word “peace” means. They will take this ticket home to help them remember the word throughout the week.

Here are two videos that share the story of Jesus’ birth and include the angels:

Video 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGak3d7HOck>

Video 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keU45nkquiM>

## Angel Drawing Activity

Make a copy of the angels for each child. Invite the children to add to the picture the other things they heard about in the Bible story that would have been with the angels.

## CLOSING/SENDING

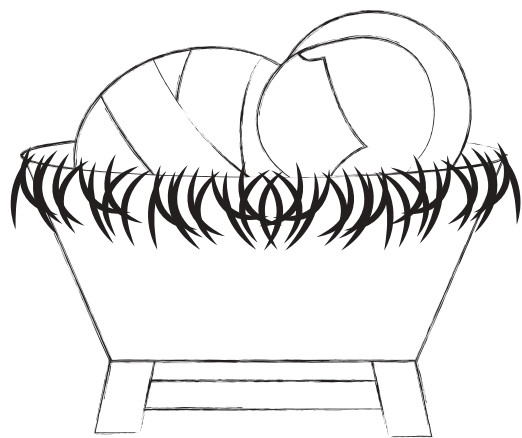
Gather everyone around the Advent Explore area and discuss the following ideas with the children before they leave. Encourage them to think of ways to remember the Bible story in the week ahead:

- What activities will be going on in your family as you wait the last few days before Jesus’ birth?
- How will you share the good news of peace with others this week?
- What person in the Bible story will you think about this week?

Ask one of the children to say a closing prayer or, you can use the following prayer to close the lesson.

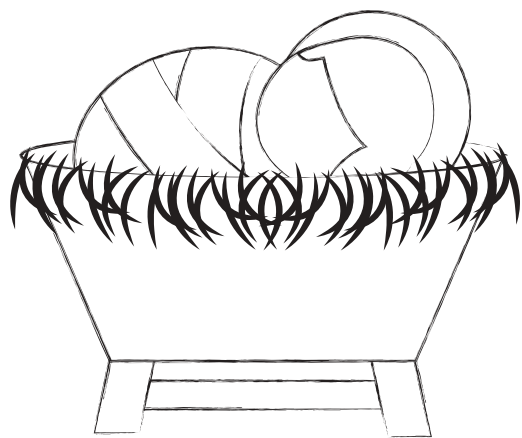
**God, we thank you that the angels shared the good news of Jesus’ birth. Help us to share this good news with others. Thank you for the birth of your son. Amen.**

**Good News for You!**



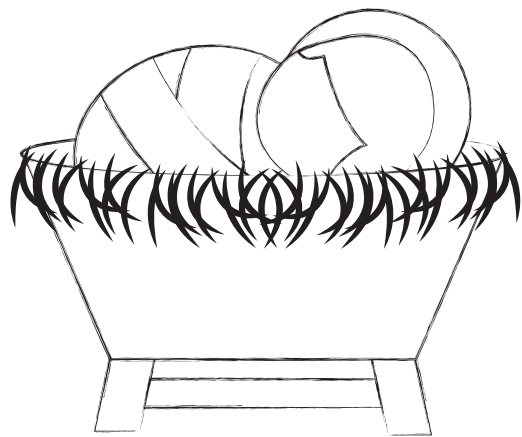
**Jesus Christ is Born!**

**Good News for You!**



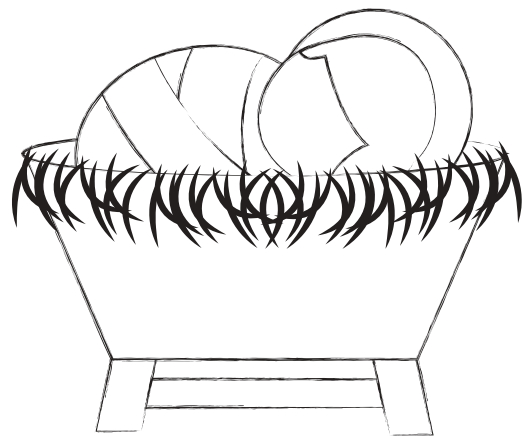
**Jesus Christ is Born!**

**Good News for You!**

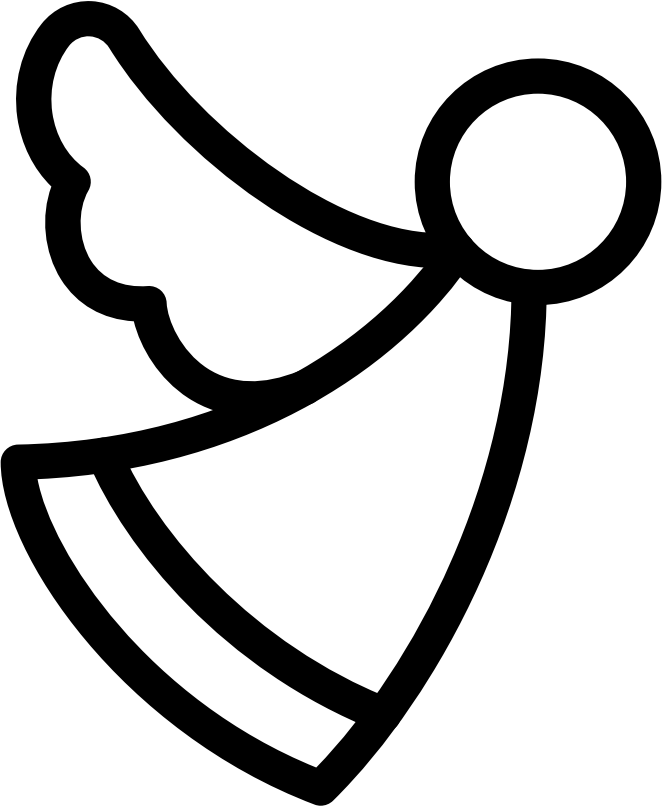
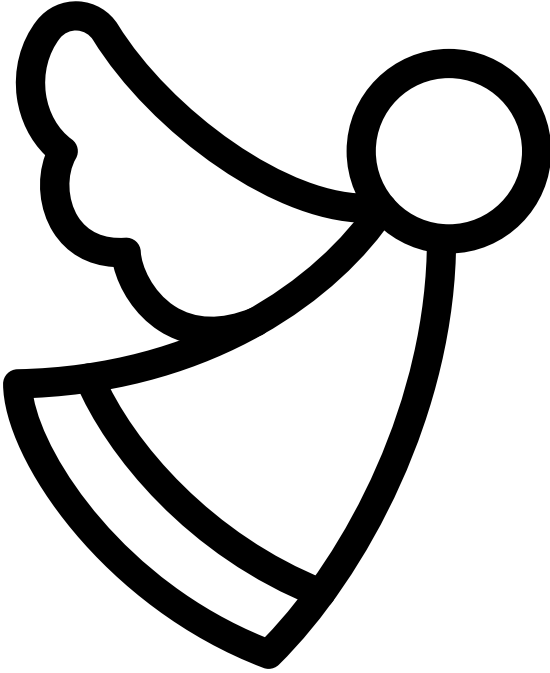
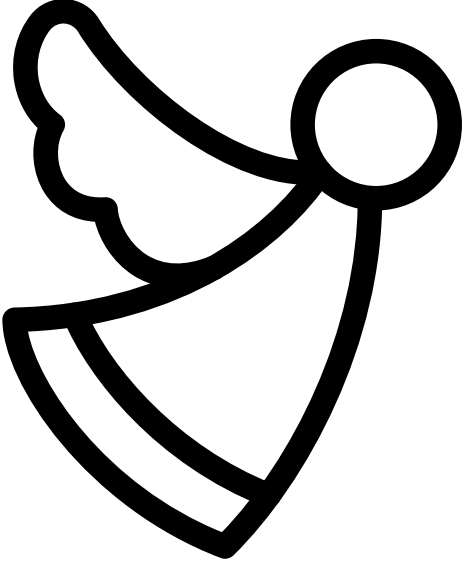
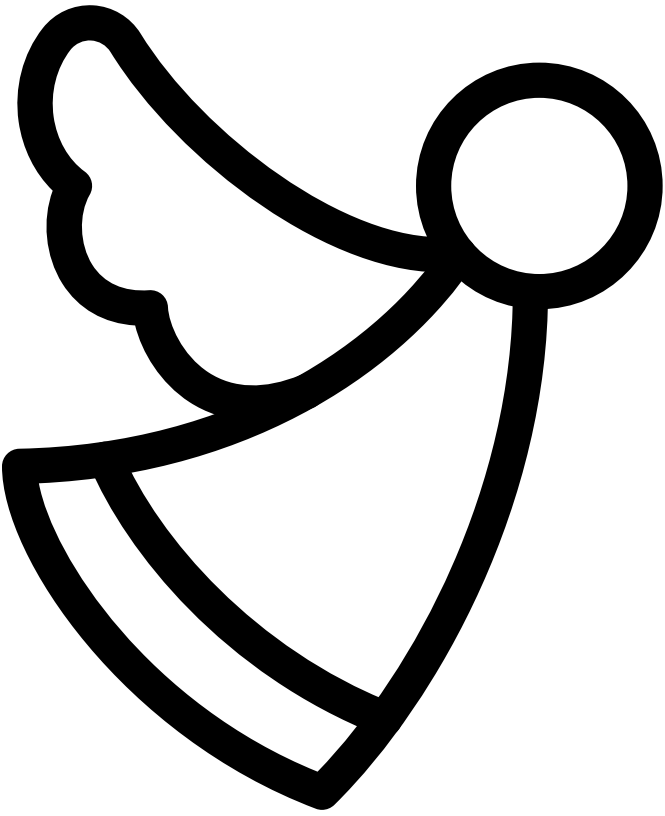


**Jesus Christ is Born!**

**Good News for You!**



**Jesus Christ is Born!**



# WE sources:



## A Resource FOR ALL OF US

WRITTEN BY THE Discipleship Ministry Team OF THE Cumberland Presbyterian Church



# Children

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lesson 5

#### RESOURCES

(The first four items in the list will be needed for each lesson.)

- Bible in a version such as the Common English Version or The Message or, a Bible Story Book such as Growing in God's Love by Elizabeth Caldwell and Carol Wehrheim.  
You may purchase Growing in God's Love in the CP online book store or here: <https://cpcmc.org/store-2/Growing-in-Gods-Love-A-Story-Bible-p97211076>
- Advent wreath with four candles for the wreath and a larger candle in the center as the Christ candle. The candles for the wreath can be purple and pink or blue-depending on your congregation's tradition.
- Nativity that is child friendly and has individual pieces that include a manger, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angel.

- Copy of temple and story characters for each child
- Scissors
- Crayons

#### GATHERING

This lesson will take place after Christmas Day. Please leave the Advent Explore area set up with the Advent wreath and manger from the first four lessons.

Invite the children to join you at the Advent Explore area. Ask the children the questions below. The words in parentheses are to give you information about the topics being discussed. Encourage conversation and listen to all the answers the children give. During this time, you will light all four candles and the Christ candle in the center of the Advent wreath.

- How many candles did we light in the Advent wreath last week?

(Four)

Light all four candles on the Advent wreath.

- What is the candle in the center?

(This is the Christ candle we light on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will light it today because this is the first time, we are all

together after Christmas.)

Light the Christ candle.

## WORD OF THE WEEK

Ask the children to read the words on the Word of the Week posters from the past four lessons. Ask them to share what they remember about each word and if they remember what candle each story was matched up with.

Hope/Prophets' Candle

Faith/Bethlehem Candle

Joy/Shepherds' Candle

Peace/Angels' Candle

## Christmas Conversations

It has been a busy week. The children will possibly have a lot of stories to share. Take some time to let everyone tell some of their favorite things they did during the past week. Ask them about their favorite moments, favorite foods, favorite gift received, favorite gift they gave.

## BIBLE STORY

Before you read the Bible story to the children, ask them to listen for the different people that are in the story today.

Read Luke 2: 22-38 from the Bible or "Anna and Simeon" from Growing in God's Love, page 194.

- Who are the people in the story?
- What did you learn about Simeon?
- What did you learn about Anna?
- How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about their time with Simeon and Anna?

## STORY REMINDER ACTIVITIES

Copy/paste the link to watch the Bible Story on YouTube or by going to youtube.com and searching for "God's Story: Anna and Simeon"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrkjbo>

## Invite Older Member to Visit Your Class

Anna and Simeon were older adults who had been waiting on Jesus for a long time. Invite one or two older members of your church to visit your class today. Ask your guests to talk with the children about things that they like to do, things they did as a child, things that they did over the holiday season. This gives both generations the opportunity to have conversations and build relationships.

## Temple and Story Characters

Make a copy of the temple and story characters for each child. Have supplies available for the children to cut out the characters and color them. Invite them to use the story characters to retell the story to you and to each other.

## CLOSING/SENDING

Gather everyone around the Advent Explore area and discuss the following ideas with the children before they leave. Encourage them to think of ways to remember the Bible story in the week ahead:

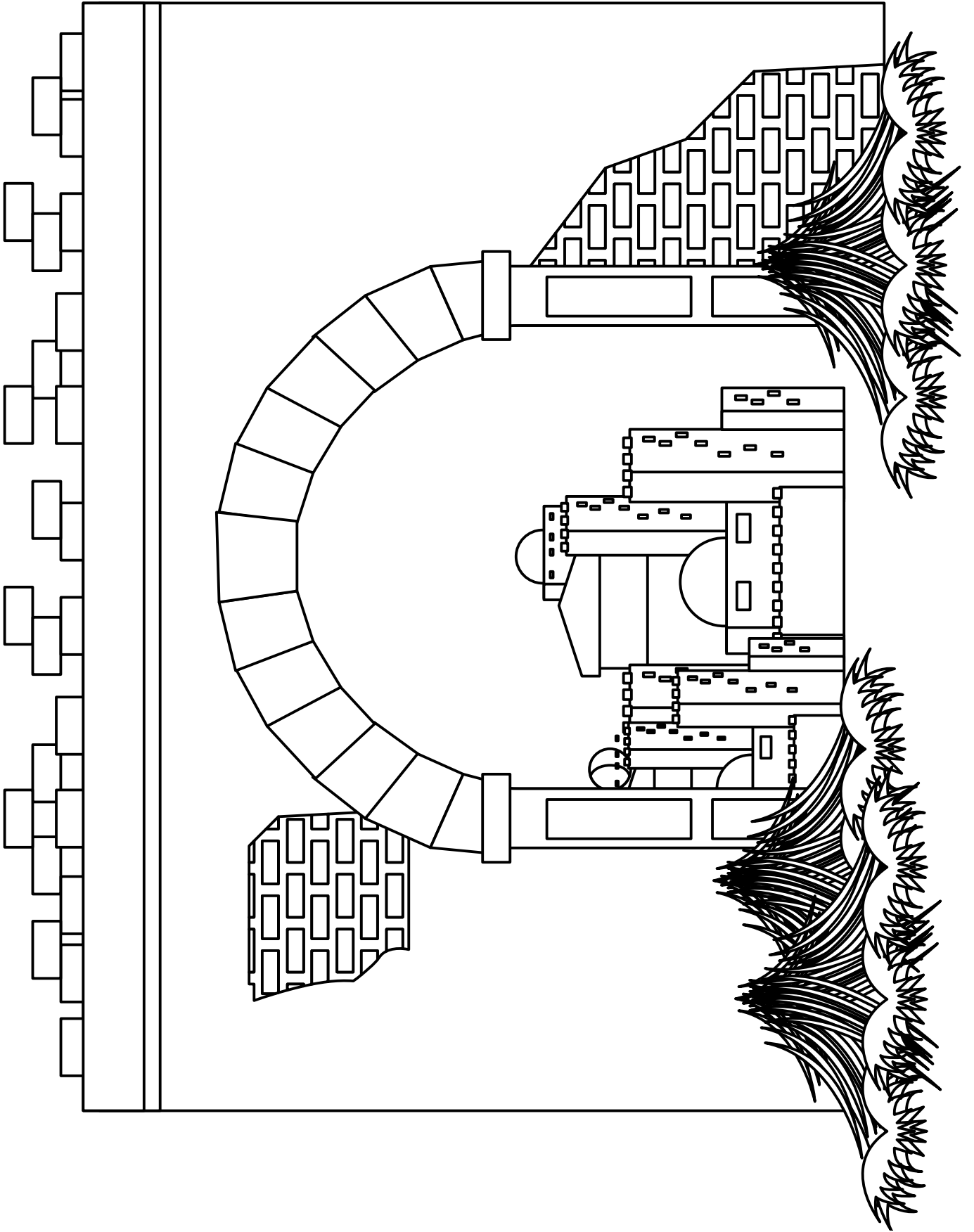
Remember how happy Simeon and Anna were when they discovered that Jesus had been born.

- What can you do in the week ahead to continue to remember about the birth of Jesus?
- What person in the Bible story will you think about this week?

Ask one of the children to say a closing prayer or, you can use the following prayer to close the lesson.

Dear God,

We thank you for your son, Jesus. Help us to remember all the joy that we have experienced this season. Amen.







Норе





Peace





Joy





# Faith

