

Christmas Crafts



 Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

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Christmas Crafts

INTRODUCTION:

Christmas lends itself to craft making, baking and all those nostalgic and traditional activities. How many of us still have those macaroni spray painted angels made by our preschool children in our decoration box? They tell a story and hold memories of special times. Making crafts together also creates opportunity to chat about the Christmas story as we go and unpack the true meaning of Christmas and what it means to give and not just receive.

This resource is a compilation of crafts taken from the web. Many of them come from www.dltk.com/holidays/xmascrafts. I hope you enjoy them and this resource enables you to put more time into ministering and less time into surfing the web (as we know how time consuming that can be!)

And remember, if you have resources to help others minister to children, send them to Kids Friendly – jill@kidsfriendly.org.nz.

Other Kids Friendly resources for the Christmas season include:

A Kids Friendly Advent
Christmas Games and Quizzes
Christmas Kids Club – Connecting with Community Children

To order these email Kids Friendly.

CONTACT:



Jill Kayser
Kids Friendly Coach
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
Tel: 09-5850959, 027-2103784
Email: jill@kidsfriendly.org.nz
Mail: 100 St Heliers Bay Road, Auckland 1071
Website: www.kidsfriendly.org.nz



Angels



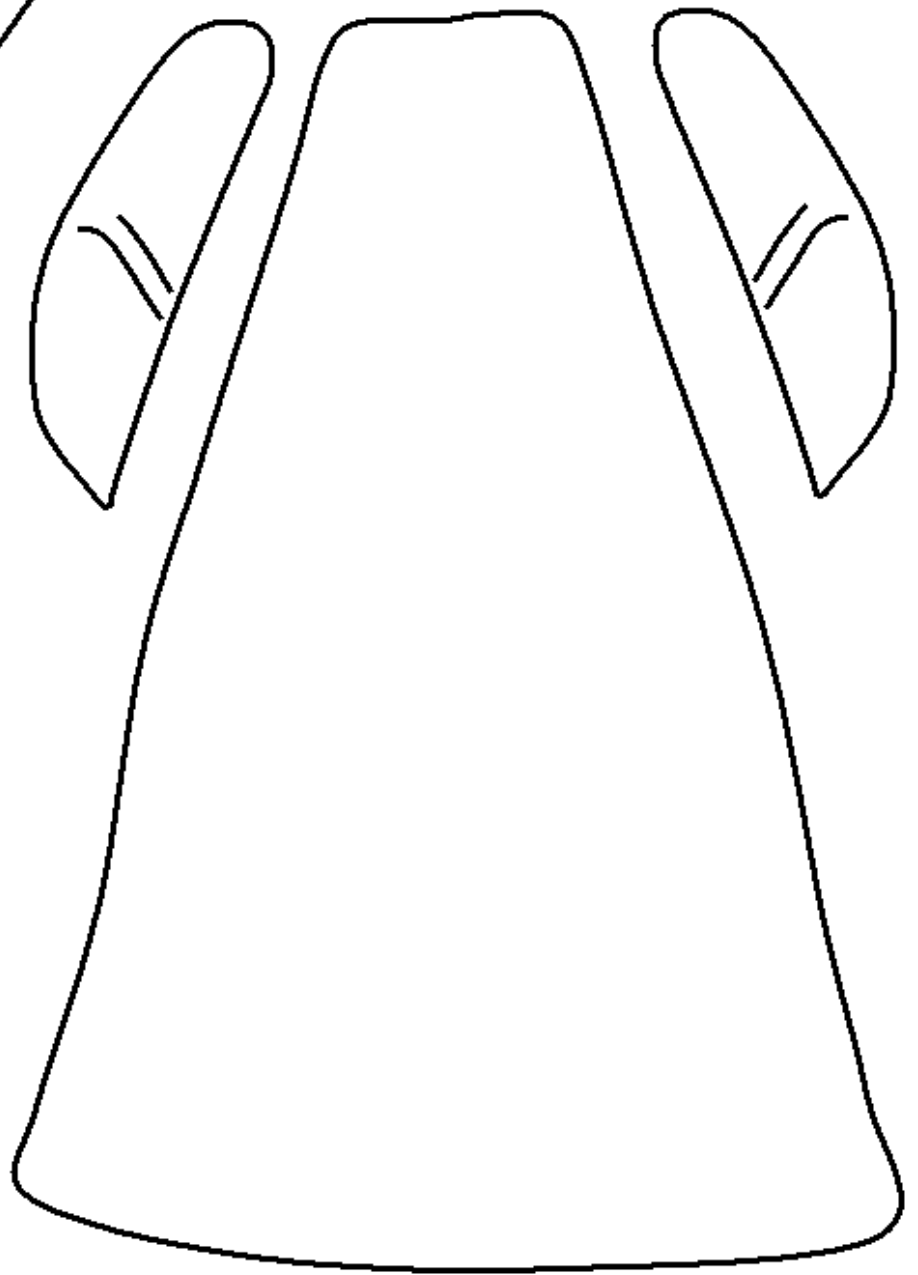
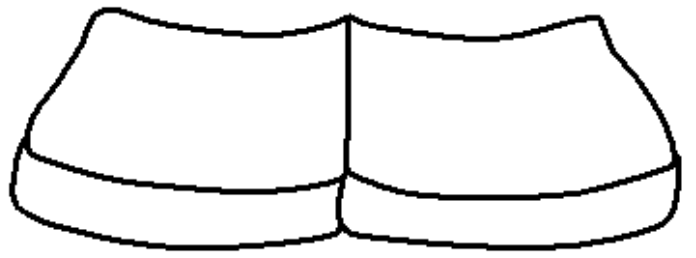
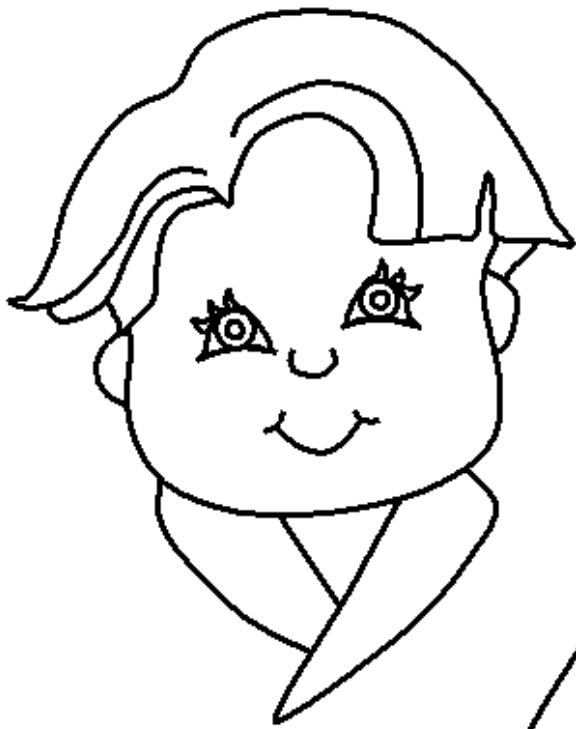
Boy Christmas Angel

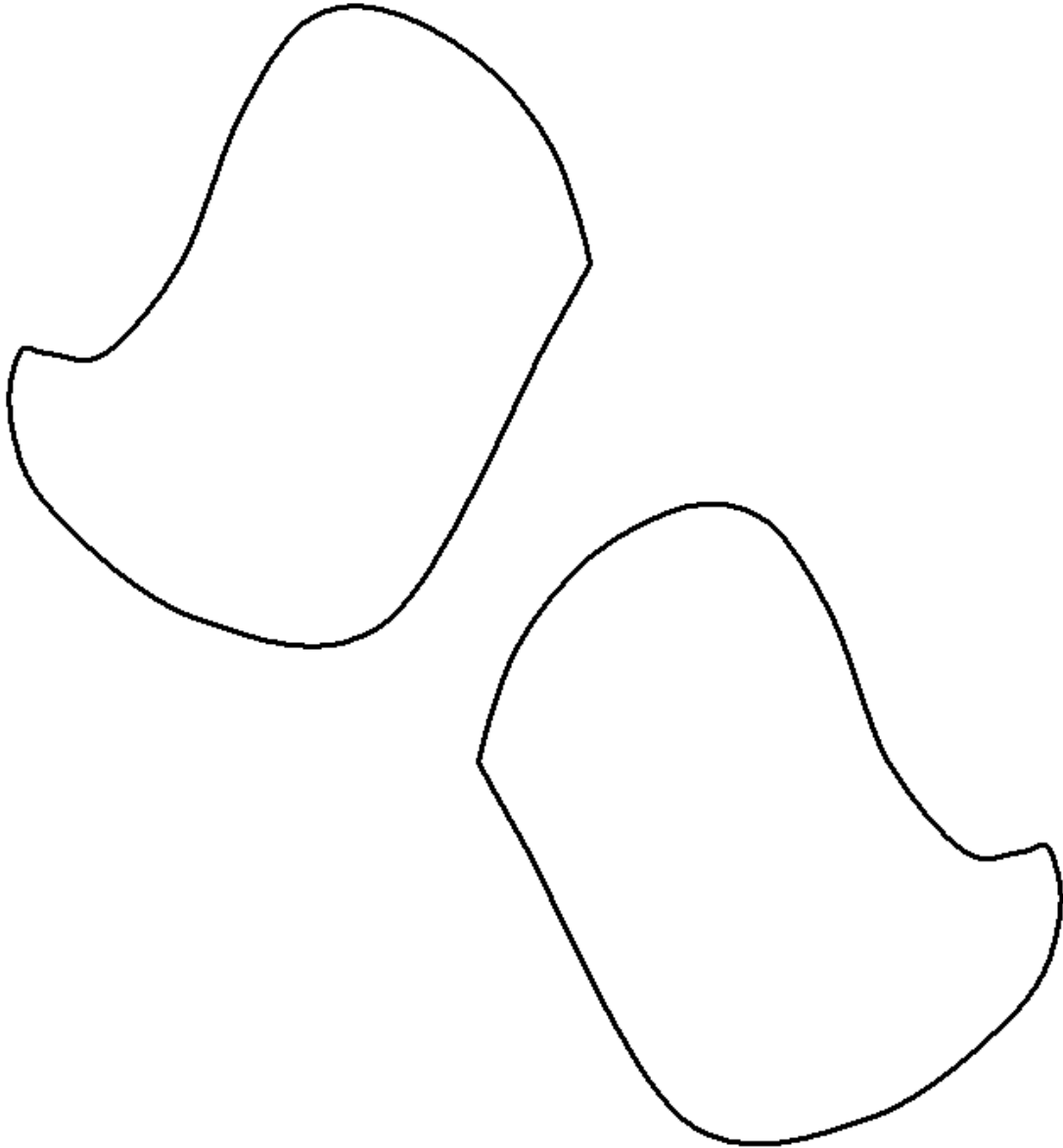
Materials:

- printer
- paper
- scissors
- glue
- something to colour with (if using B&W template)

Directions:

- Print template of choice.
- Colour the template pieces if you are doing the B&W version
- Cut out the template pieces (this may require adult assistance -- I usually roughly cut the paper into pieces with one template on each. Then I give my 4 year old the big ones to work on and I cut out the smaller ones.)
- The large piece (robe) is the main piece. To it, glue (in order):
 1. the arms so the shoulders are at the top of the robe and the hands 'hold' the candle.
 2. the feet at the bottom
 3. the head
 4. the wings (on the back)
 5. the star on the front of the robe
- look at the image of the finished craft if you get stuck (there's a small image of the finished project on the top of this page and also a small one on each of the wings templates). -- if doing the craft with a large group of children, I recommend pre-making an example for them to look at.





Paper Cone Angel Craft

This cute angel can sit as a central dinner table decoration, as a seating arranger (just write the name of each person on an angel and set them on the plates) or you can put her on top of a small Christmas tree!



MATERIALS:

- printer
- paper
- glue or tape
- scissors
- OPTIONAL: 1/2 large paper doily or 1/2 circle of white paper
- OPTIONAL: glitter glue, sparkles, sequins, lace or markers

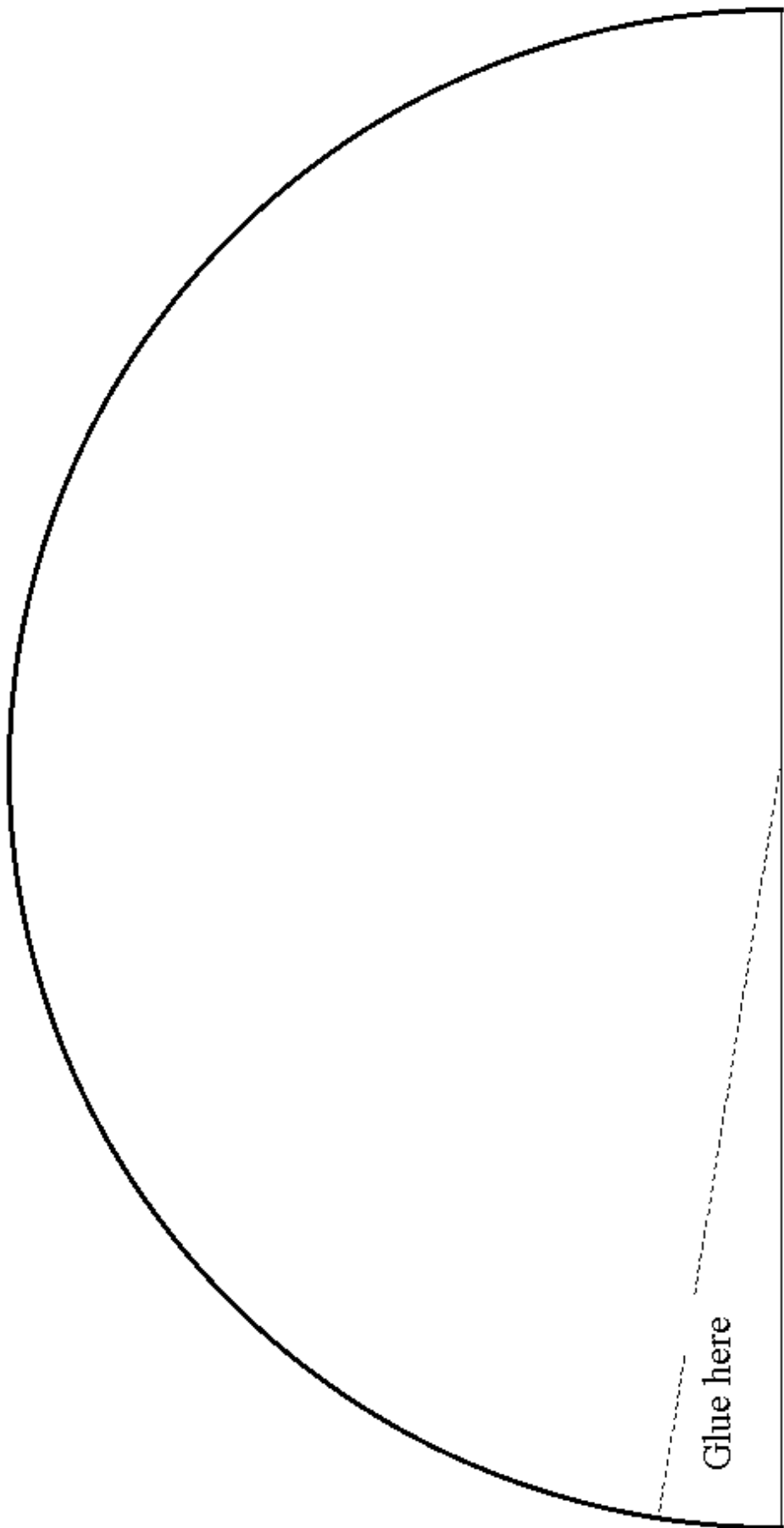
INSTRUCTIONS:

- Print out the template of choice.
- Colour as necessary and cut out the template pieces.
- Cut the doily in half (so you have a half circle)
OR
- Cut a piece of white paper into a circle and then cut it in half. If you use paper, you can glue cotton balls on it to decorate it a bit.
- OPTIONAL: add glitter glue, sparkles or sequins to decorate the wings.

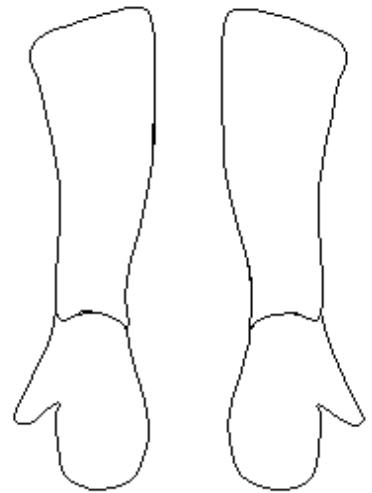
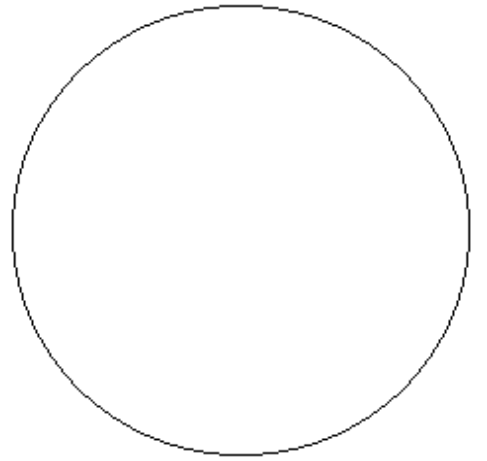
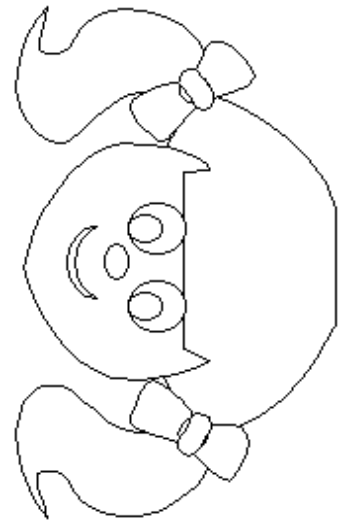


- Cut out the half circle from the template.
- pull the one edge over to the one that says GLUE HERE to make a cone shape.
- tape or glue so it holds (in the photo, I held it and Kaitlyn, Age 3, taped it)

- Glue the doily onto the back of the cone
- Glue the head onto the top of the cone and the arms onto the side (see photo at the top of this page for how it looks when complete).
- Decorate the cone as desired with sparkles, glitter glue, sequins or lace.



Glue here



Angel Paper Craft

Multi cultural templates available. This is done for Canada but just remove the leaf for other countries.



Alternative: Rather than making a paper craft, print the B&W template, cut out the pieces and trace them onto craft foam. Assemble like the paper craft. Use black marker to draw on facial features. The small template makes a nice craft foam tree ornament.

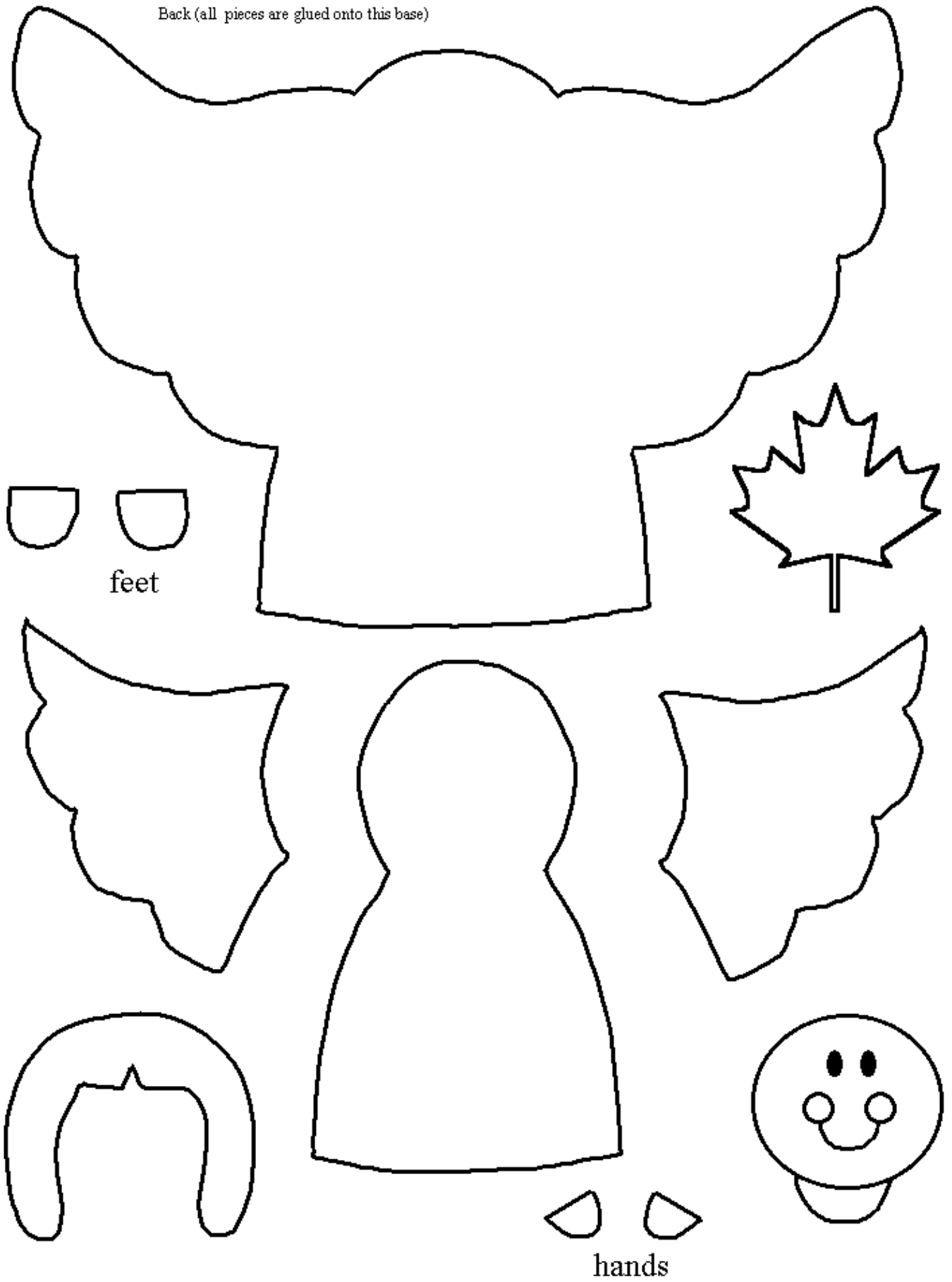
Materials:

- printer
- paper
- scissors
- glue
- something to colour with (if using B&W template)

Directions:

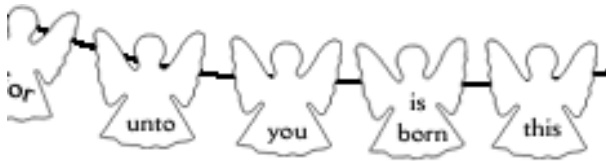
- Print template of choice. The large templates are easier for young children to do as the pieces are bigger.
- Colour the template pieces if you are doing the B&W version (red, white and blue!)
- Cut out the template pieces (this may require adult assistance -- I usually roughly cut the paper into pieces with one template on each. Then I give my 3 year old the big ones to work on and I cut out the smaller ones.)
- The large (red) piece is the bottom. To it, glue (in order):
 1. the dress (white)
 2. the head/neck
 3. the hair (onto the head)
 4. the wings
 5. the maple leaf (at the waist of the angel)
 6. the hands (so they overlap the leaf a little)
 7. the feet (underneath the large piece)
- look at the image of the finished craft on this page if you get stuck. If you're making this with a large group of children, consider pre-making one for them to look at.

Back (all pieces are glued onto this base)



Angel paper chain to tell the Christmas Story

The Shepherds and the Angels



Make an angel paper chain.

What you will need: Construction paper, markers, yarn or string, scissors, stapler or tape.

What to do:

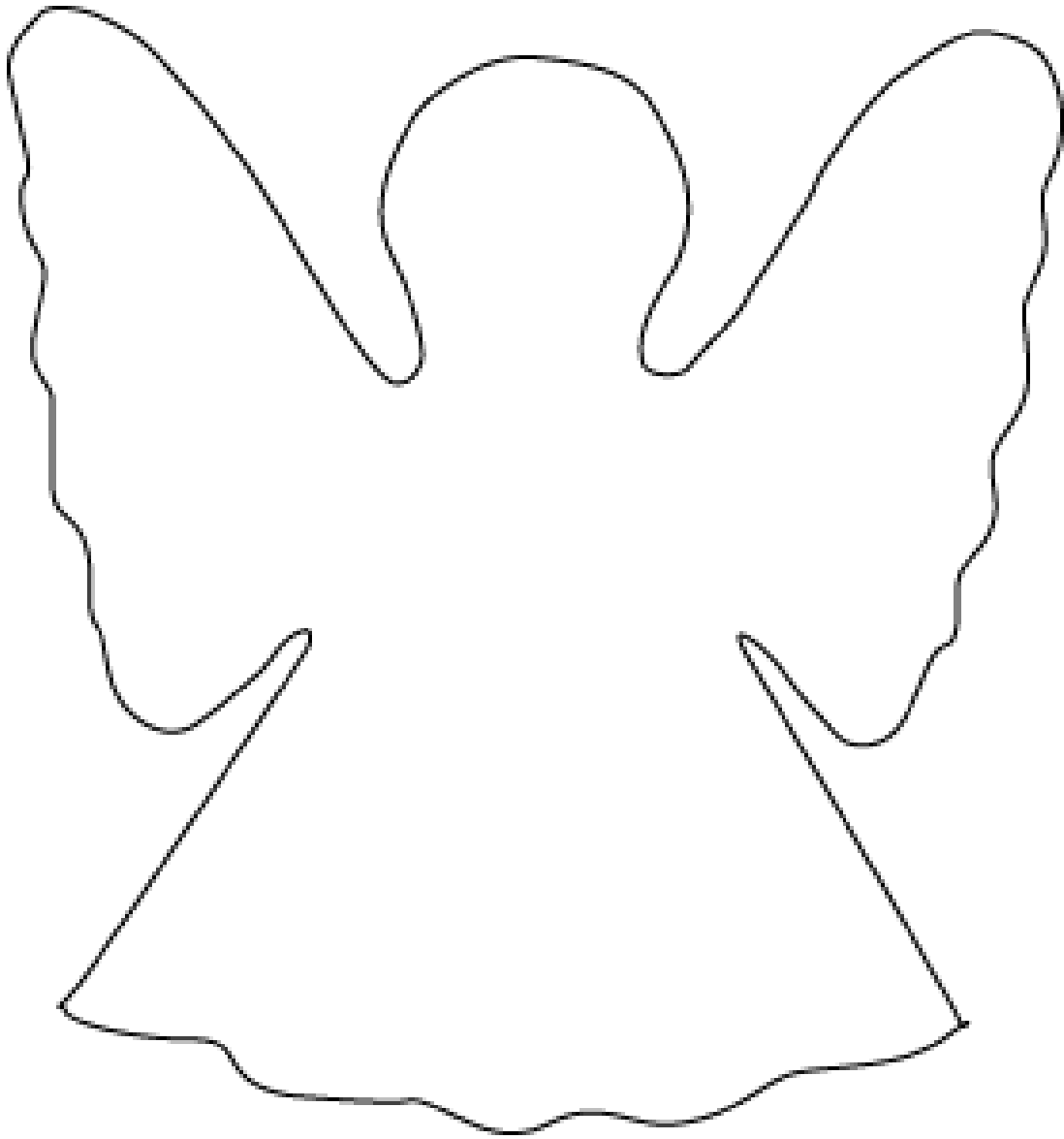
1. Print out the [pattern](#) and use it to cut out angels from construction paper. Make enough angels so that one word from the scripture Luke 2:11 can fit on each angel and a couple of extra for goofs.
2. Hand out the angels and assign a word of the scripture to each child. Have the children write their words on the angel's skirt and then colour the angel and add a face or anything they would like.
3. When the children are finished with the front of their angels tell them to think of a word that describes Jesus. You can do this as a class for the younger children and write them on the board. Then have each child pick a word from the list to write on the back of their angels. Some examples are: Saviour, Promised One, Messiah, Lord, Most High Christ the Lord, Bread of Life, Friend, True Vine, Judge, The Way, Good Shepherd, Light of the World, King of Kings, etc.
4. When everyone is done, staple or tape the angels on to a piece of yarn or string in the correct order to make a paper chain.

Comments: I cut out 6 angels per child and glued them on different colours of construction paper. Then on one angel I wrote **For**, on another angel I wrote **Unto**, on another **You**, on another **A Child**, on another **Is**, on another **Born**. The children then coloured their angels, punched holes through the construction paper and strung them along with rigatoni noodles on metallic elasticized cording. I tied one end of the cording to a noodle so the other pieces would not fall out. On the other end of the cording I wrapped a piece of tape so the children would have an easier time stringing. When the children were done making their garlands, I tied the end of the string to another noodle and they were excited to be able to use it as a garland for their trees at home. We used this craft in conjunction with our lesson in which we talked about who visited Baby Jesus and how they found out about His birth. Marleen Sooy

Angel Advent Wreath

www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/FileDownload/2880/Christmas_Narrative_Ritual.pdf





Advent Wreath Paper Craft

This Advent Candle craft is very easy for young children to make. They love the little faces on the candles.

The craft is made with a printer, paper, something to colour with, scissors, and glue.

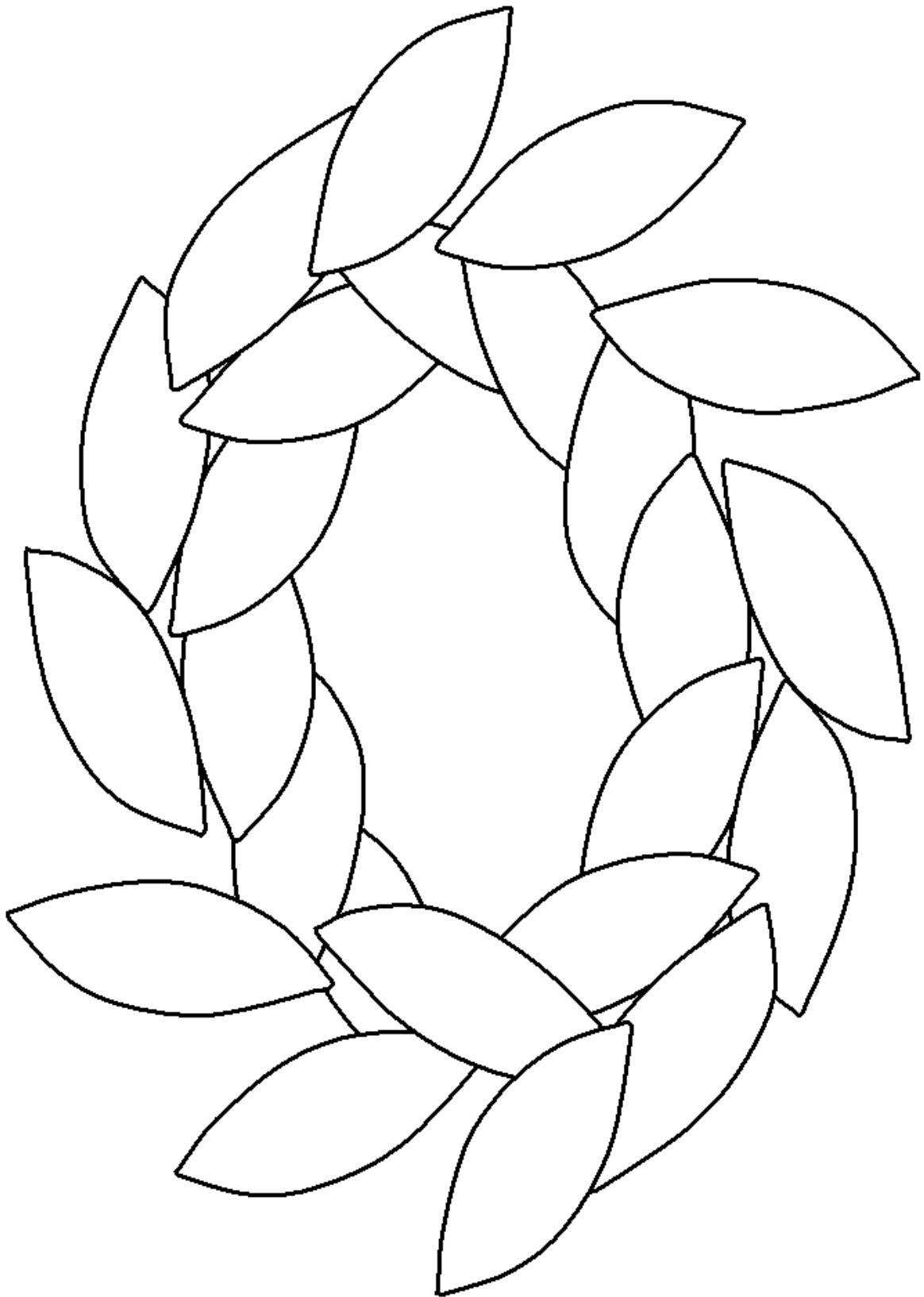


A bit about the Advent Wreath: Advent is a Christian holiday that is basically part of Christmas. It begins on the Sunday nearest November 30 -- the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. It lasts four Sundays. The Advent wreath comes from the folk traditions of northern Europe, where people lit candles on circle-shaped wreaths of evergreen. The three purple candles in the Advent wreath symbolize hope, peace, and love. These candles are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The pink candle symbolizes joy and is typically lit on the third Sunday. Sometimes there is also a fifth white candle that is lit on Christmas day and symbolizes the birth of Jesus (I didn't include this one on the craft -- instead I have a white bow)

- Print out the template of choice (colour or B&W)
- Colour or paint the template pieces.
- Cut out the template pieces (may require adult assistance).
- Glue the candles onto the base. (You can glue one on each Sunday of Advent -- the pink one goes on the third Sunday)
- Finish it off with the white bow
- You can add the child's name and the year onto the back.
- You can glue this craft onto large butcher paper or plain wrapping paper to make personalized gift wrap or onto the front of a large piece of construction paper to make a card.

Wreaths: **Advent Paper Wreath**

(enlarge wreath to size you require)





purple



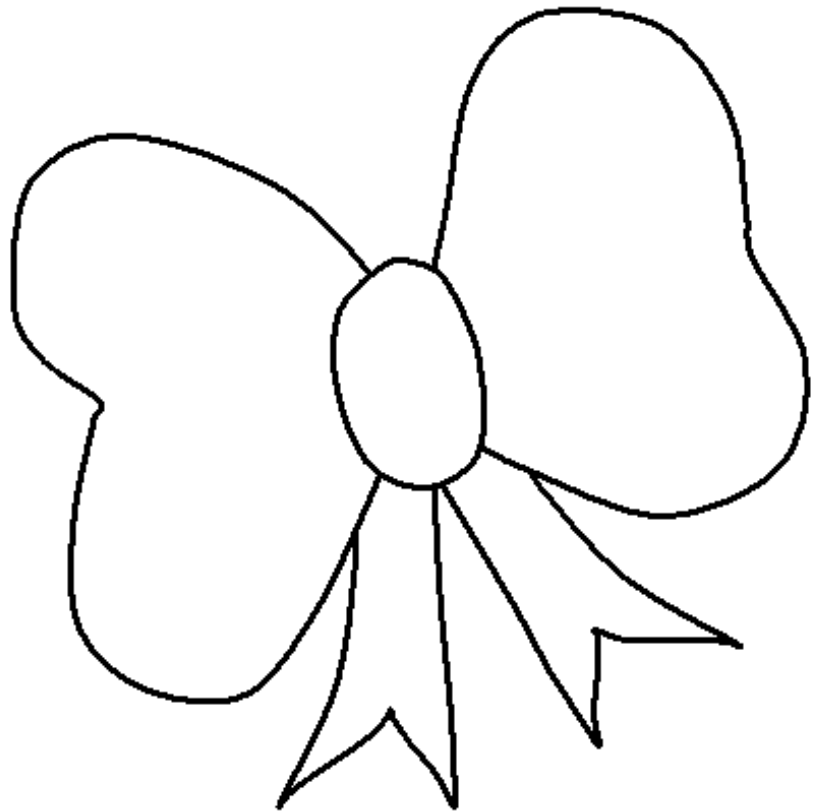
purple



pink



purple

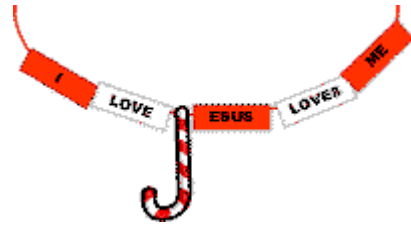


Candy Cane Crafts

Jesus Christmas Necklace

It goes great with the [Candy Cane Poem!](#)

See poem on next page.



Materials:

- Yarn (red or white) - enough to slip over head
- Penne pasta noodles
- Paint (red & white)
- Candy cane (J-shaped & wrapped)
- Scotch tape
- Hole puncher
- Black permanent marker

Instructions:

- Paint some noodles white and some red and let dry completely.
- Loosely wrap tape around bottom of candy cane wrapper to reinforce the package and punch hole to slip onto necklace.
- With marker write on 1 pasta "I", write on another pasta of alternate colour "LOVE", continue with alternating colours to write "ESUS", "LOVES" and "ME"
- String pasta with alternating red and white placing the written ones in order prepared. However, between "LOVE" AND "ESUS" place the candy cane upside down as a J.

I don't know if you know the story of the candy cane or not. If you do stop reading now. If not, I will briefly tell you.


- The J shape represents Jesus
- The white represents Jesus' pure, sinless life
- The red represents the blood Jesus shed for our sins
- I am not sure why it is peppermint flavour, perhaps to signify the refreshed life we have anew in Christ, or Karen wrote in and said, "I have heard it is to mimic the spices/fragrances that the wise men gave."

The Candy Cane Poem


Thanks to Victoria for sharing this poem! (www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas)

Look at a CANDY CANE, what do you see?
Stripes that are RED like the BLOOD shed for me!
WHITE for my Savior, Who's sinless and pure!
"J" is for JESUS, My Lord that's for sure!
Turn it around And a staff you will see ---
Jesus, my SHEPHERD, Is coming for me!

The Candy Cane



It looks like a J for Jesus who was born on Christmas day.
The WHITE stripes remind us that Jesus was the Son of God who never sinned.
The RED stripes remind us that Jesus bled and died for us.



This way it looks like a shepherd's staff. Jesus is sometimes called the good shepherd because He always watches over us.

Attach this card to a candy cane as a giveaway

Candy Cane Craft

Turn your candy canes upside down to use as a cradle for the Baby Jesus ornament.

Supplies needed: Candy canes, yellow, white and brown craft foam squares, ribbons for decoration , mini-garland, star pattern, baby Jesus pattern, cradle pattern, glue, straw pieces



Stars

3D Star Paper Craft

This is a simple paper craft that results in a 3D ornament you can hang around the room.



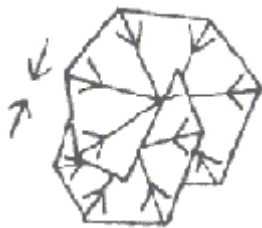
Materials:

- printer
- paper in Christmas colours (light card as it's a bit sturdier)
- Scissors
- OPTIONAL: crayons (or paint, markers, etc)
- string, thread, ribbon or wool



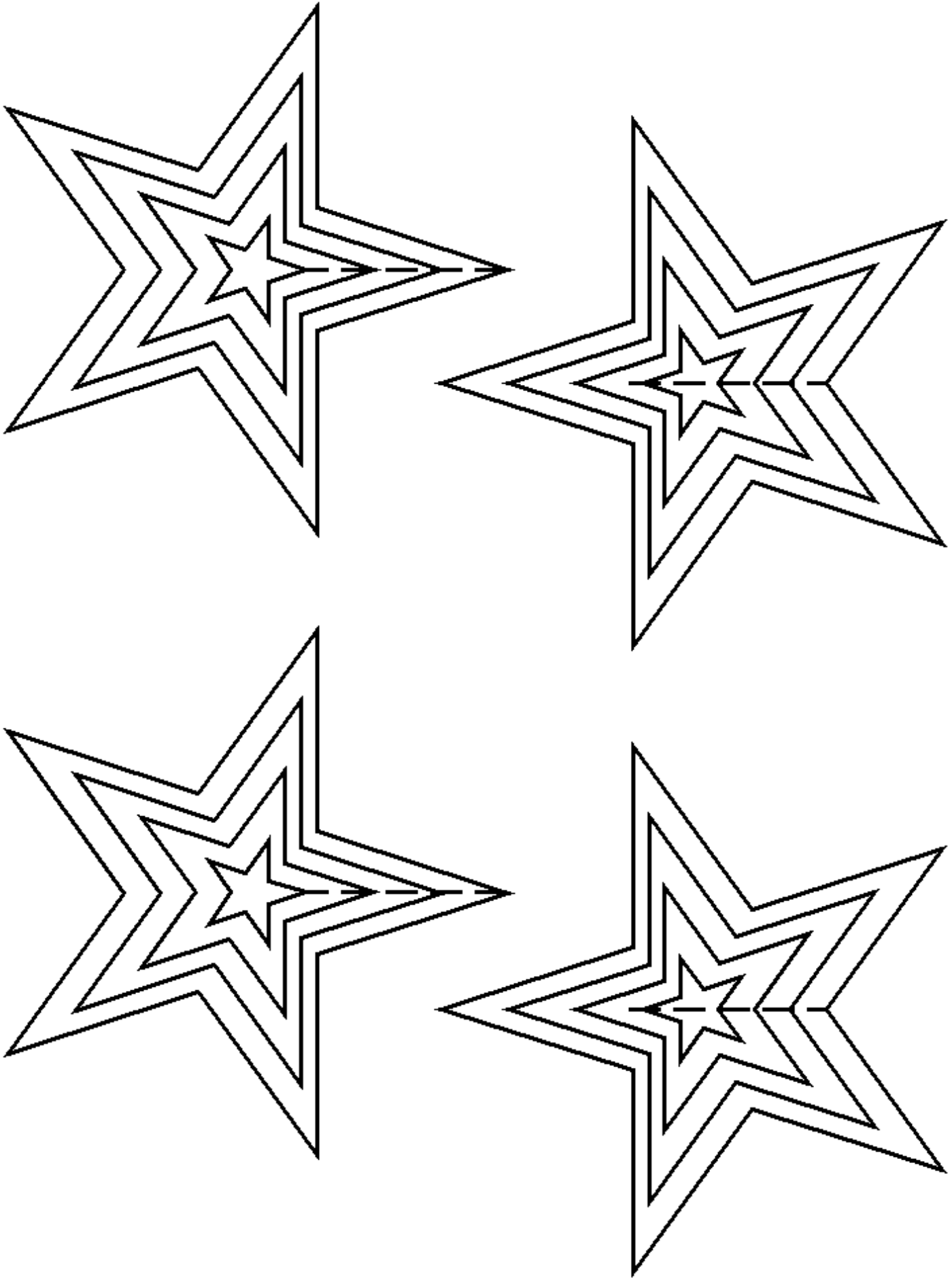
Instructions:

- Print template and colour as desired
- Cut out the template pieces (may require adult assistance and can be done before hand).
- Cut on one of the dotted line right up to the centre.
- Pick out the two matching stars (this is good practice for young children!)
- Slide the stars together, top to bottom



all I have is the snowflake image to show you how it's done

- Glue a ribbon or thread onto the top (or hole punch a small hole and tie a ribbon through (I used a thread and it worked really well)



Wiseman and Camel

Camel Silhouettes

Portraits and scenes cut from paper date back to ancient Greece. The word silhouette comes from the Frenchman Etienne de Silhouette who lived in the early 1700's. He was famous for his free cut portraits. In England, in the days of Queen Victoria, these same types of pictures were called shades or shadow portraits.



MATERIALS:

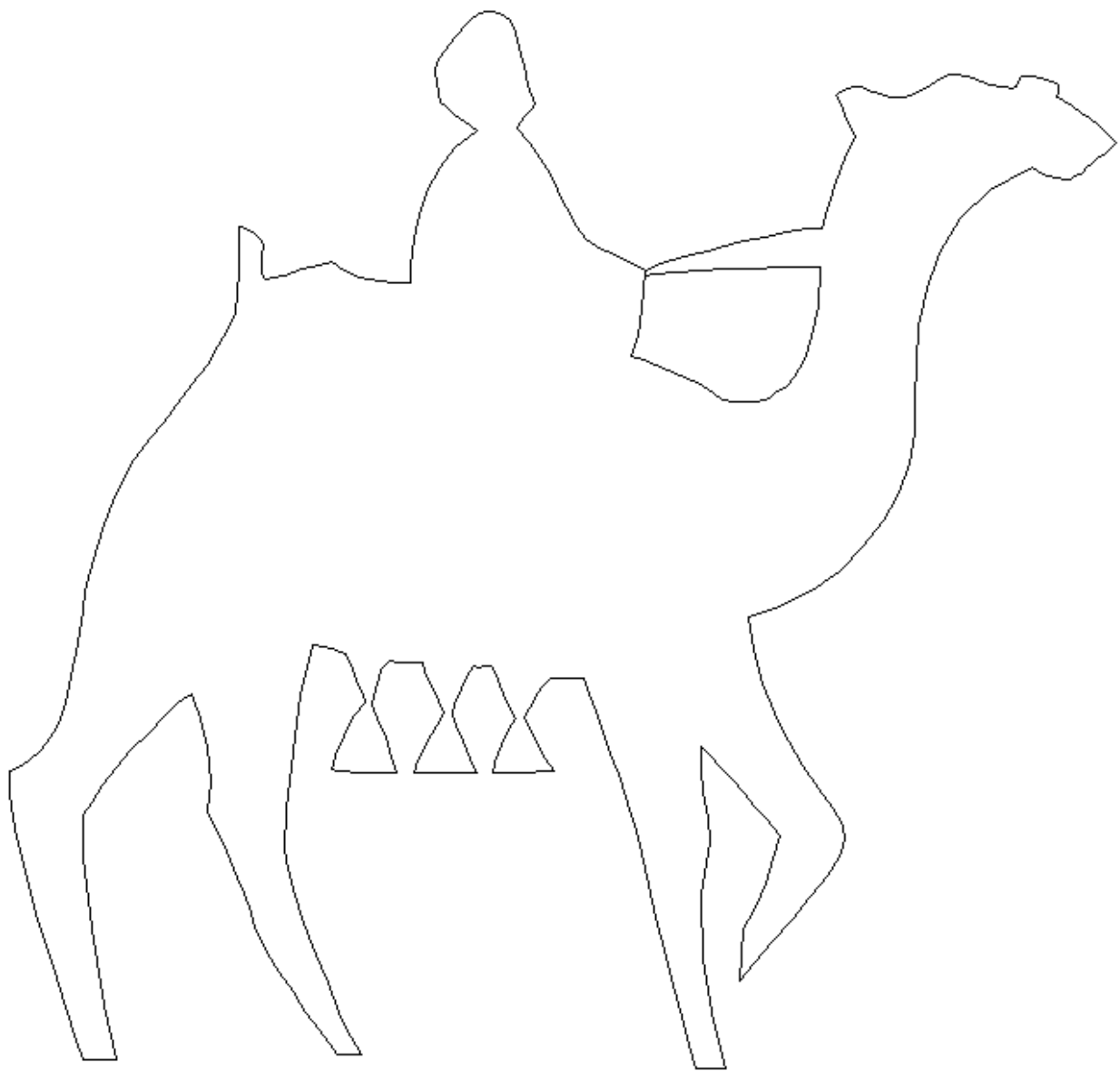
- printer
- printer paper
- scissors
- glue
- black construction paper or black paint depending on which method you choose

INSTRUCTIONS: METHOD 1 (Black construction paper - older children)

- print the template
- cut out the centre of the camel without cutting the edge of the paper (basically you have to start with a hole in the middle of the paper and then trim out the image). The camel is going to be discarded.
- You will be left with a piece of white paper that has a camel hole in the centre.
- Trim the white paper to the size of square you want.
- Put it on the piece of black construction paper, so it looks like you have a black camel with a black border (see image above).

INSTRUCTIONS: METHOD 2 (Black paint - younger children)

- print the template
- cut out the camel (this time we're going to keep the camel). This step may require adult assistance and can be done prior to craft time.
- Make a roll of masking tape (or a couple of them) and put them on the back of the camel
- Tape the camel to a second piece of scrap paper.
- Have the children paint their camel with black paint (or you could colour with black crayons or markers).
- Remove from the scrap paper.
- Glue or tape the camel to a fresh piece of white paper.
- Add a black construction paper frame if desired.



Christmas Nativity Scene

Felt Board Fun

When cutting out the images, you can cut out right around the character (older children and adults) or around the oval shape (younger children or if you're in a hurry). You can use the templates in a number of ways:



Use the sheets as... FELT BOARD CHARACTERS

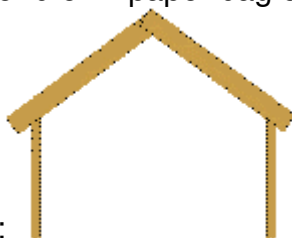
- Either complete the black and white sheets as colouring pages (see above)
OR
- print the black and white sheets on appropriate collared construction paper
OR
- print the colour pages
- You can cover with clear contact paper or laminate if you want them to last longer.
- Cut out each page.
- Cut out a small piece of coarse sandpaper and tape or glue it on the back of each animal (if you laminated, it will need to be a larger piece of sandpaper). The sandpaper will allow the characters to stick on your felt board.
- If working with a group, give each child a character. As you read the story, have the children bring up the appropriate character and put them on the board.

Use the sheets as... PUPPETS

- Either complete the black and white sheets as colouring pages (see above)
OR
- print the black and white sheets on appropriate collared construction paper
OR
- print the colour pages
- Cut out each image and tape it to a popsicle stick or an unsharpened pencil.
- If working with a group of children, each one can be a certain character.
 - When their part of the story comes up, they can wiggle around the puppet and even chant their section of the story.

Use the sheets as... COLORING PAGES / HOME DECORATIONS

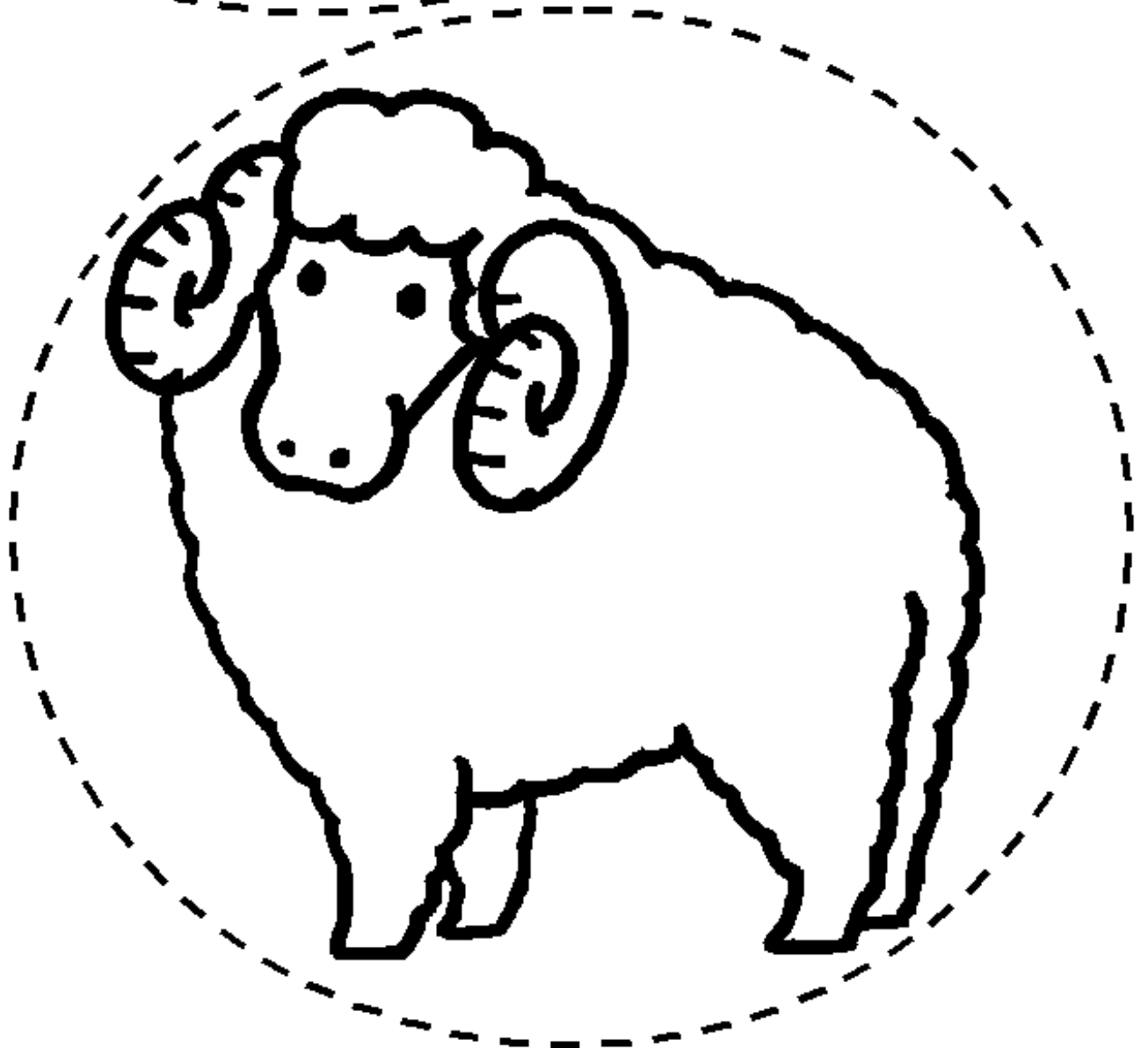
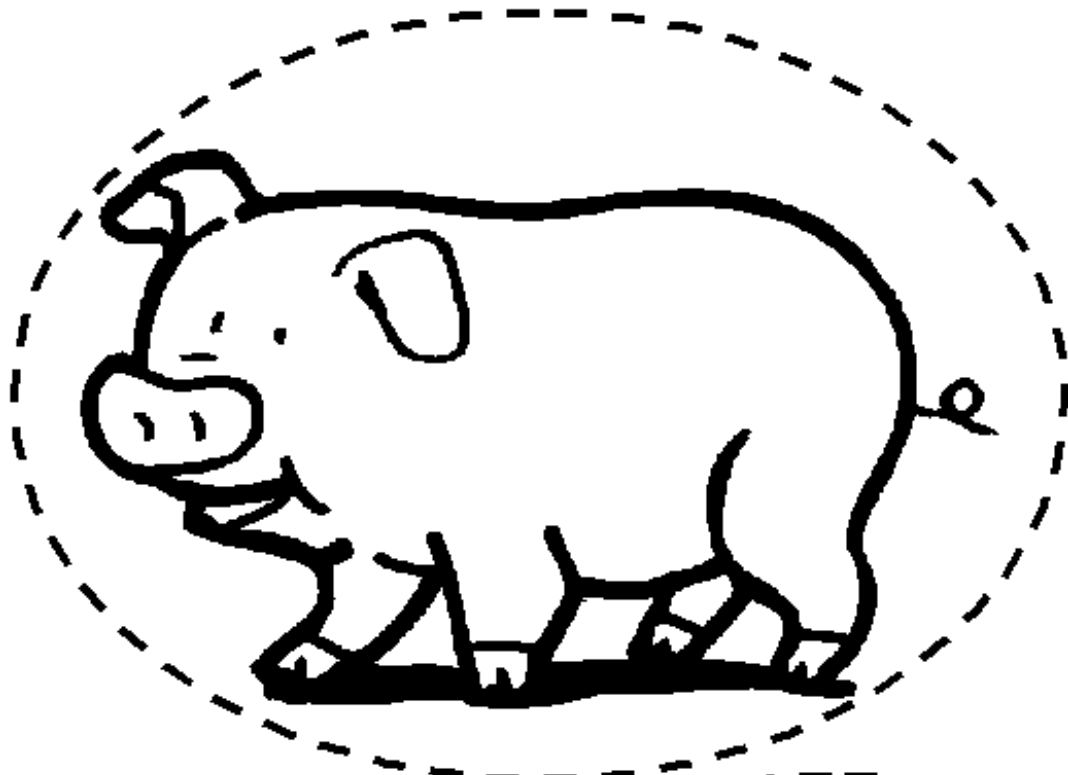
- print the templates and colour as appropriate
- For the barn, cut strips of brown paper bag or use real wood and arrange it on the wall

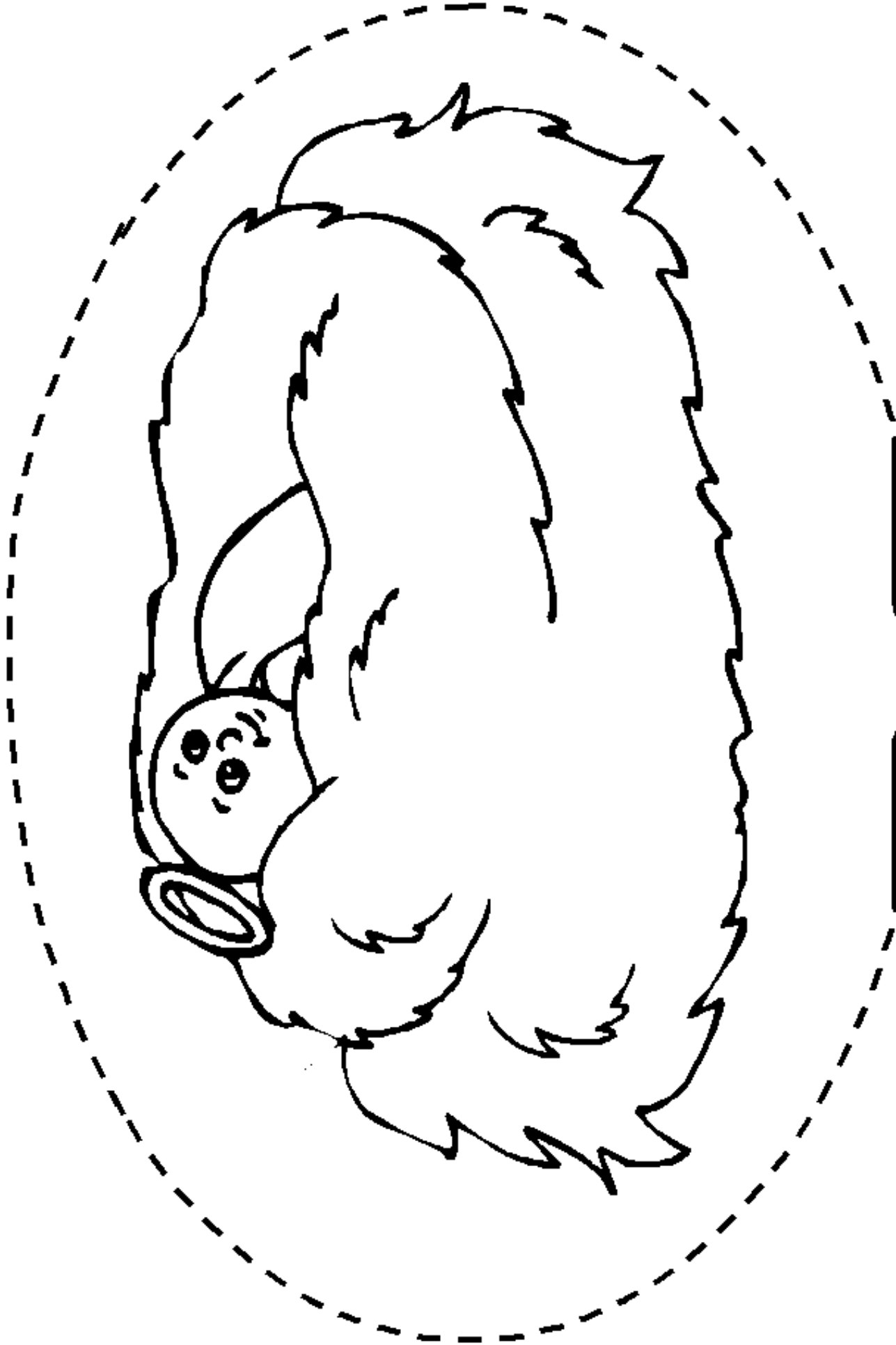


or bulletin board like so:

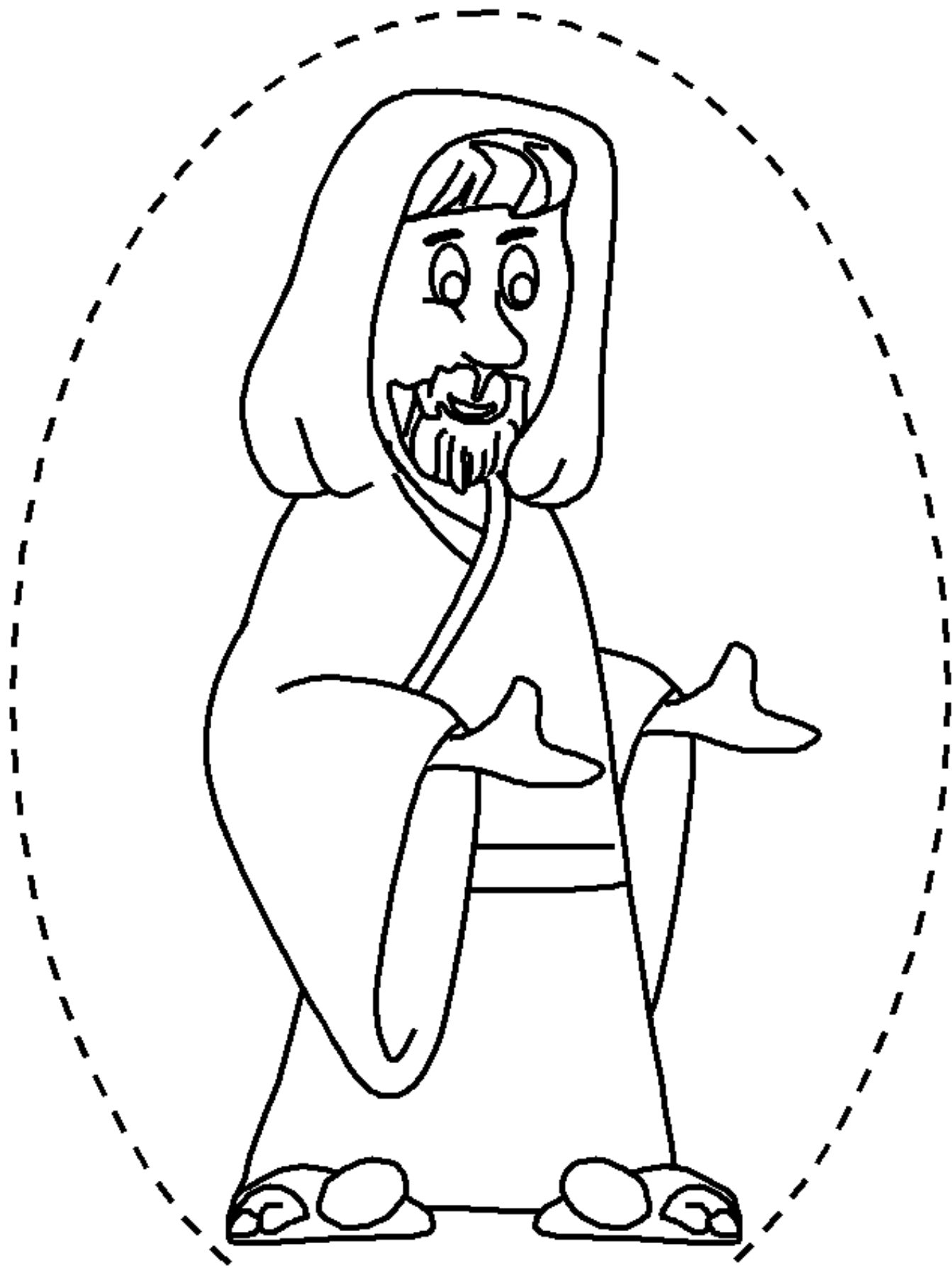
- Cut out each image and tape to the wall or bulletin board to form a nativity scene.



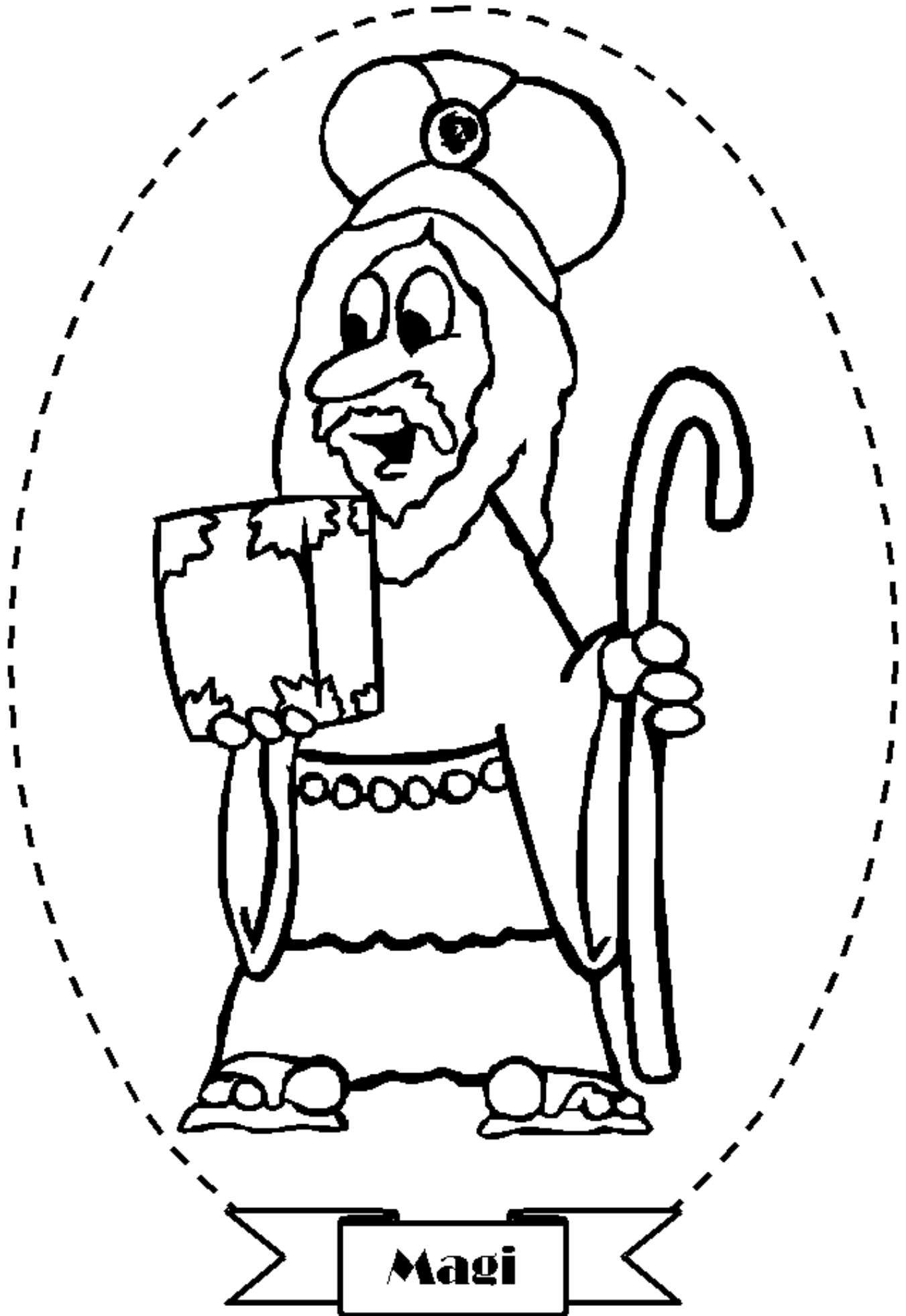




Jesus

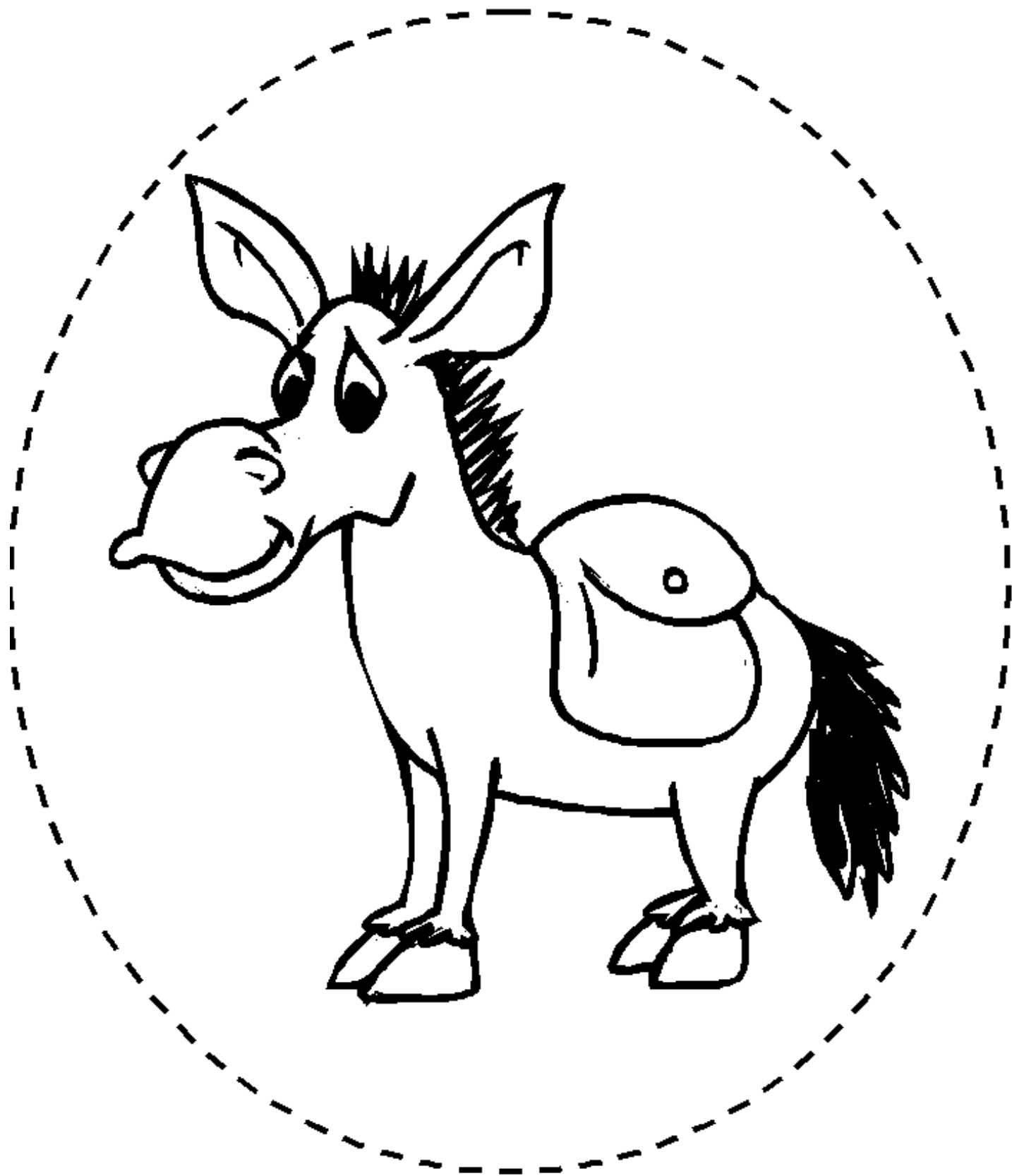


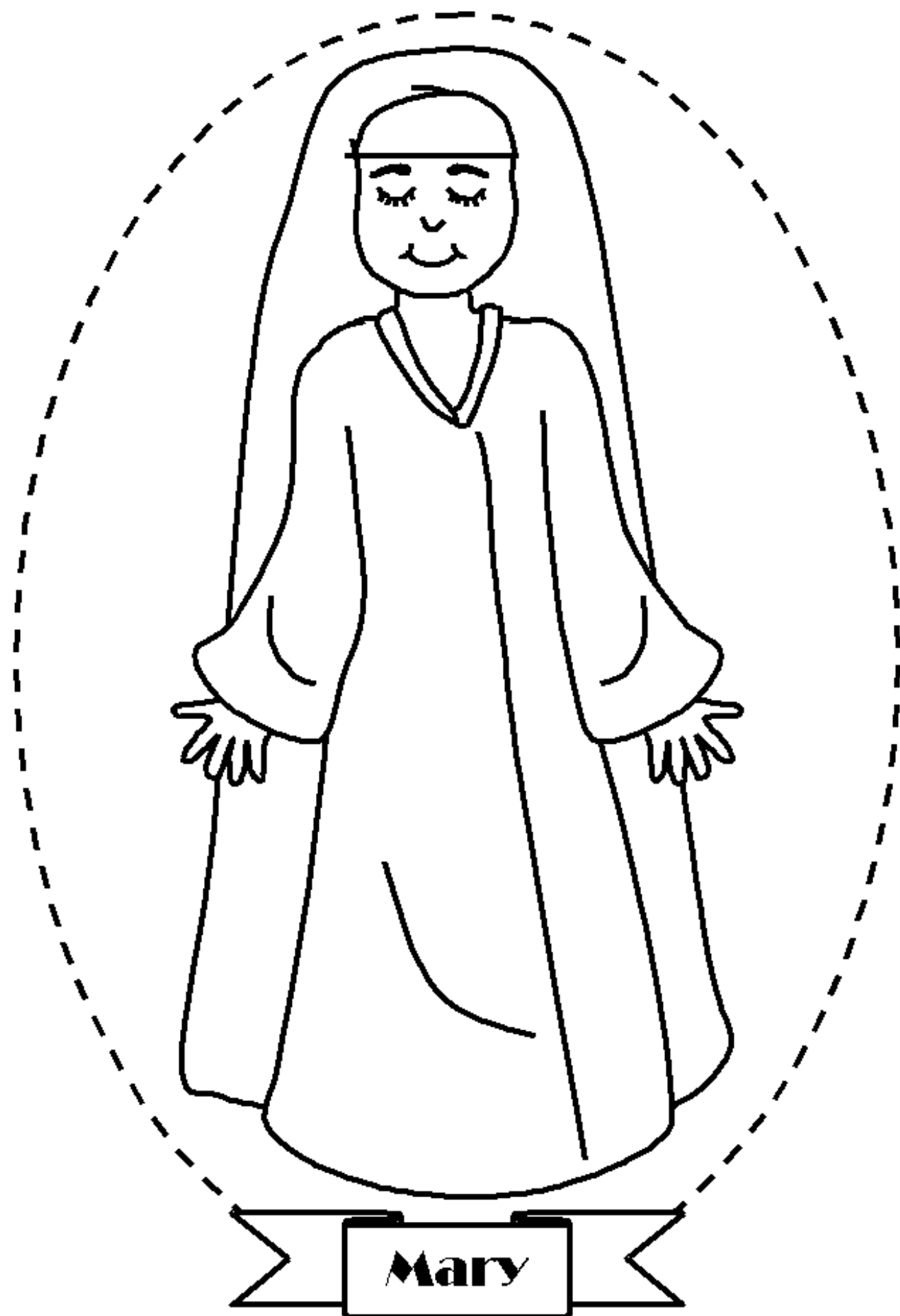
Joseph



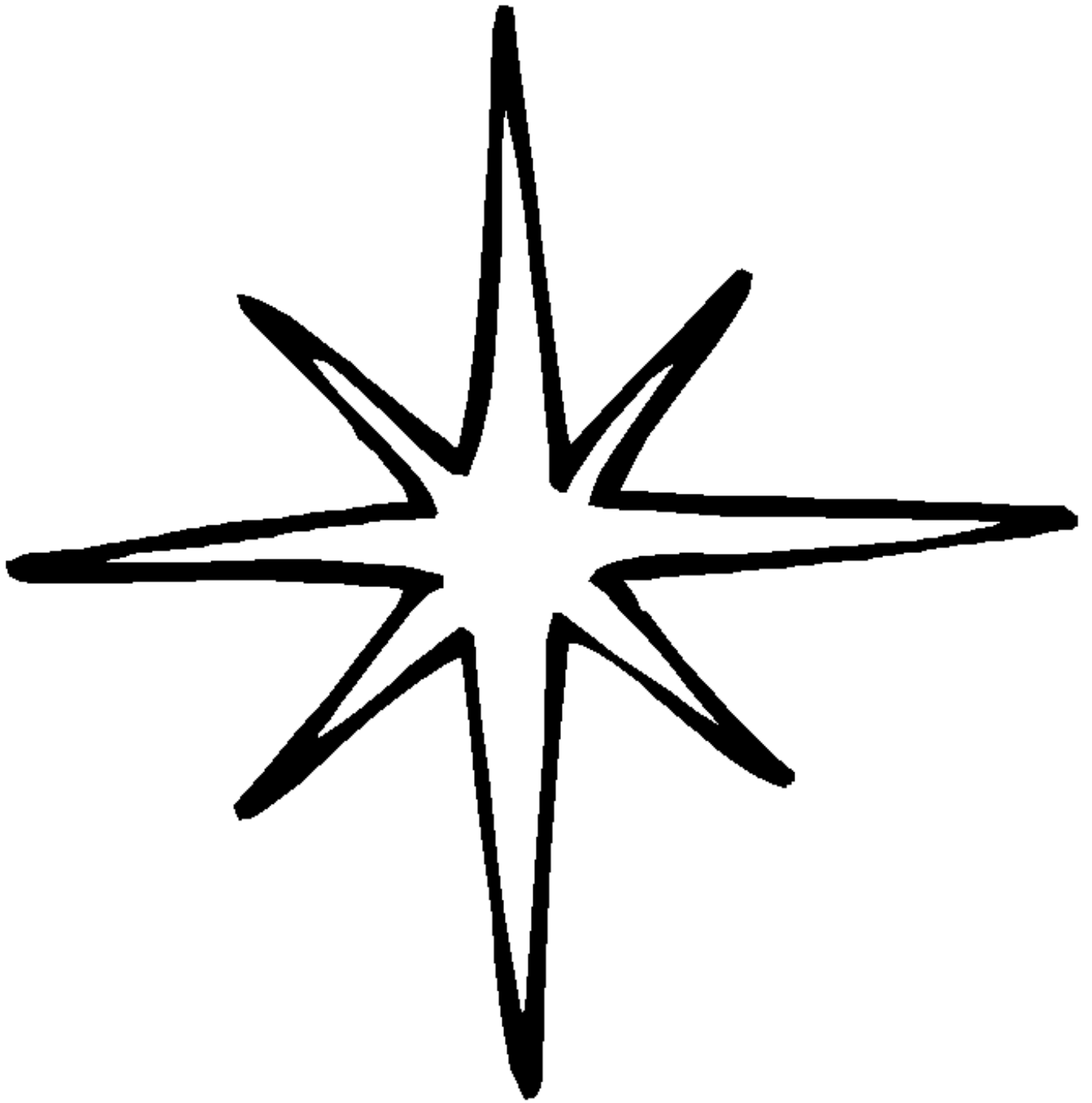


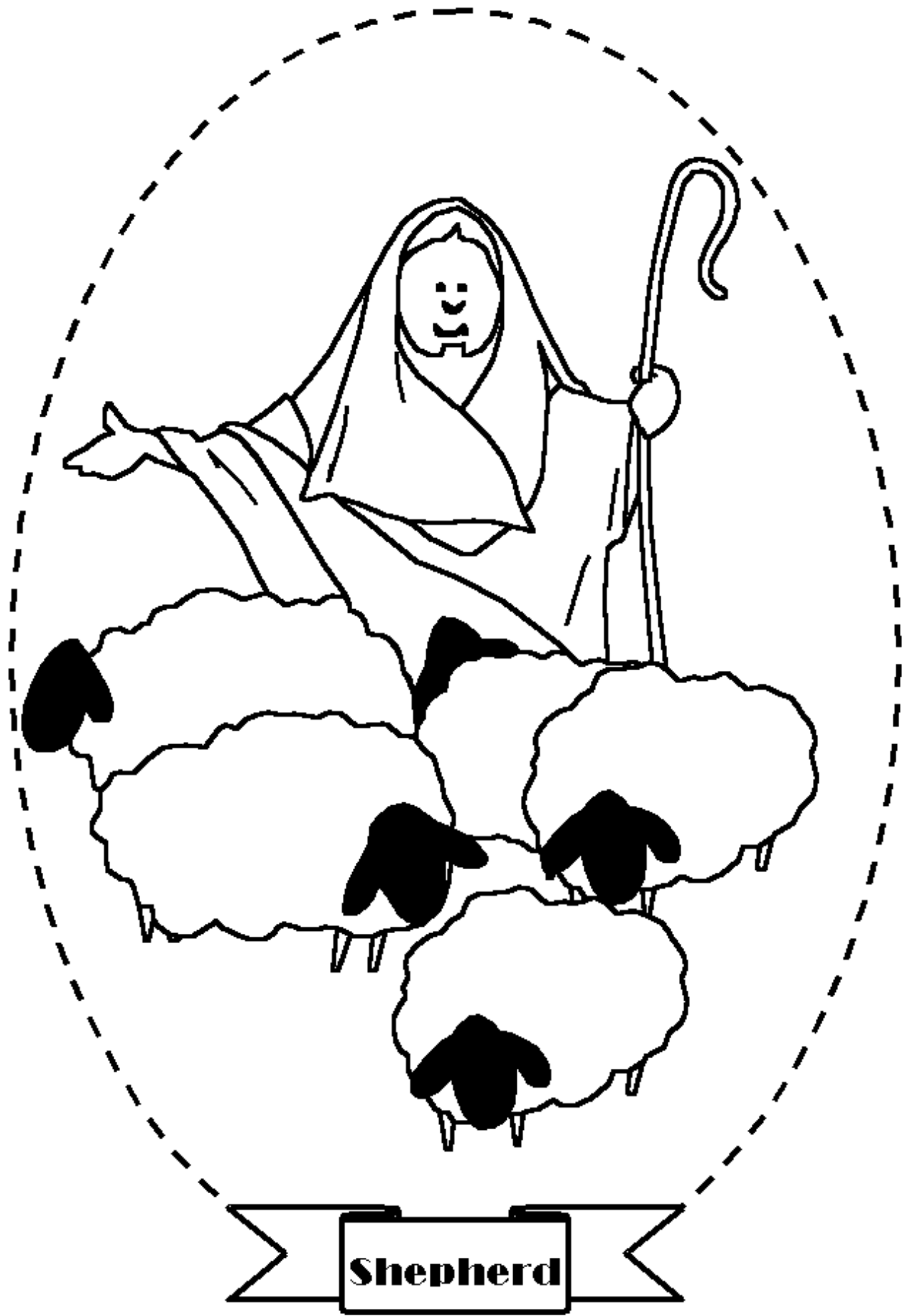
Magi





Mary









Craft Stick Nativity Scene Ornament

What you will need: Mini craft sticks, regular size craft sticks, wooden stars, acrylic paint, yellow computer paper, trim, glitter glue, oil (optional), red string, and other decorative items.

What to do:

1. Print out the [pattern](#) (A pattern for this craft is available to members.) onto yellow paper or if you are going to make copies print it out onto white paper. If you don't have a lot of time in class paint the craft sticks ahead of time.
2. Cut out the patterns. In class have the children glue the craft sticks on the pattern starting on the sides first and then the roof and bottom.
3. When everything is glued together show the children how to paint oil onto the back of the picture and wipe off the excess oil. You can use cooking oil or baby oil. This will make the yellow background slightly transparent.
4. To finish, glue a star and red string to hang the ornament to the top. Let the children decorate the ornament with glitter glue and decorative items such as ribbon and beads.

Nativity Screen Lesson and Activities

The Sunday before Christmas, I read my children a shortened version of the Christmas story with Mary & Joseph going to Bethlehem, Jesus being born, the angels appearing to the shepherds, and the shepherds visiting Baby Jesus. As I read the story, each child had a collared figure from the story. When it was mentioned, they put it up on the bulletin board to make the nativity scene. I got the figures from the [DTLK site at Christmas Nativity Felt Board Fun](#). (I didn't use felt though, just paper and a glue stick.) By Cindy Becker.

Gifts to make – Gift coupons

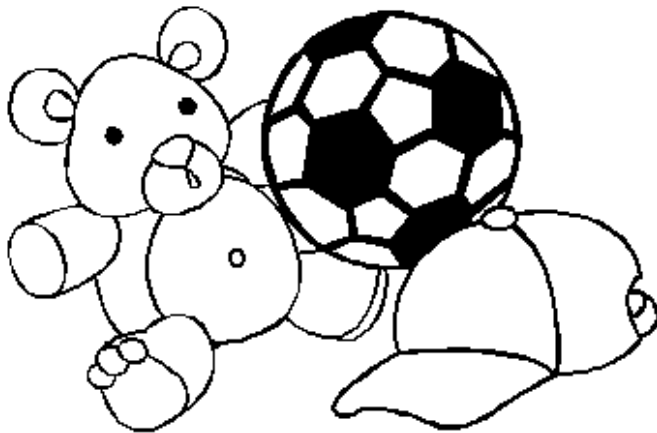
Coupon Book



Warranty: All coupons in this book are valid for a complaint free completion of the indicated task. In the event that a complaint occurs, the coupon can be re-used.

staple

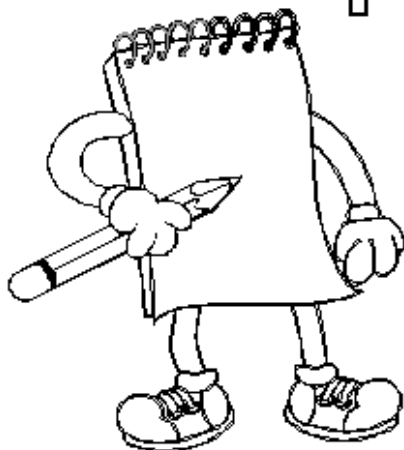
This coupon is good for...



cleaning
up my
room.

staple

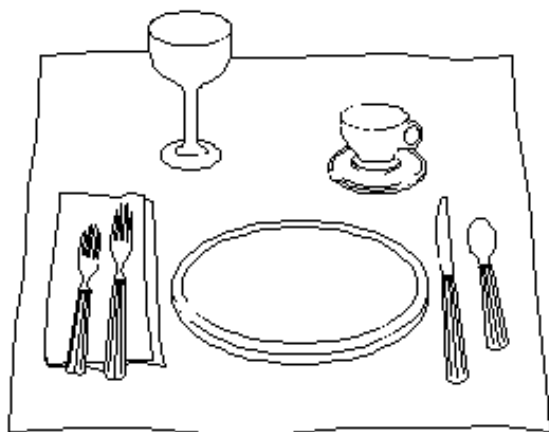
This coupon is good for...



doing my
homework.

staple

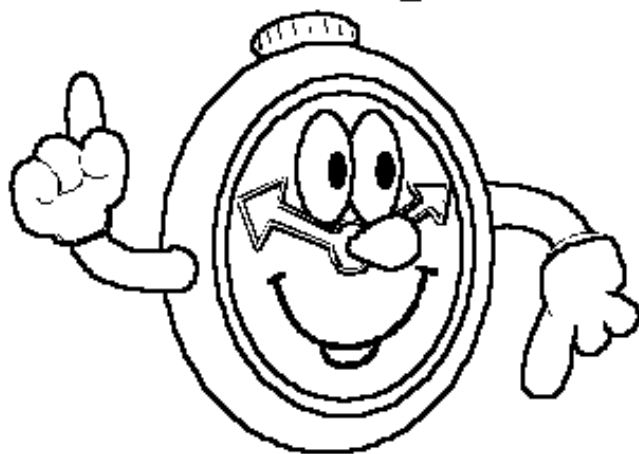
This coupon is good for...



setting
the table.

staple

This coupon is good for...



sleeping
in late.

staple

This coupon is good for...



a quiet cup
of coffee
or tea.

staple

This coupon is good for...



breakfast
in bed

staple

This coupon is good for...



taking
out the
garbage











staple











This coupon is good for...













dinner
out

Gift tags

	To: From:		To: From:
	To: From:		To: From:
	To: From:		To: From:
	To: From:		To: From:
	To: From:		To: From:

 <p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>	 <p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>
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 <p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>	 <p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>

For more templates and ideas see www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas/egifttags.html

Decorated Paper Gift Bags

Children, teenagers or adults can decorate sturdy brown paper bags and use them as gift bags.

I have provided templates for a few variations of the idea, but you can get creative and use letters cut from wrapping paper, hand made characters and die cut shapes to decorate them.

Handprint characters like the [Handprint Reindeer](#), [Handprint Santa](#) and [Handprint Angel](#) also make good decorations for the bags.

Materials:

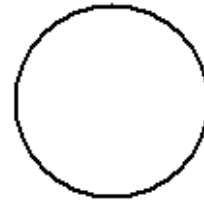
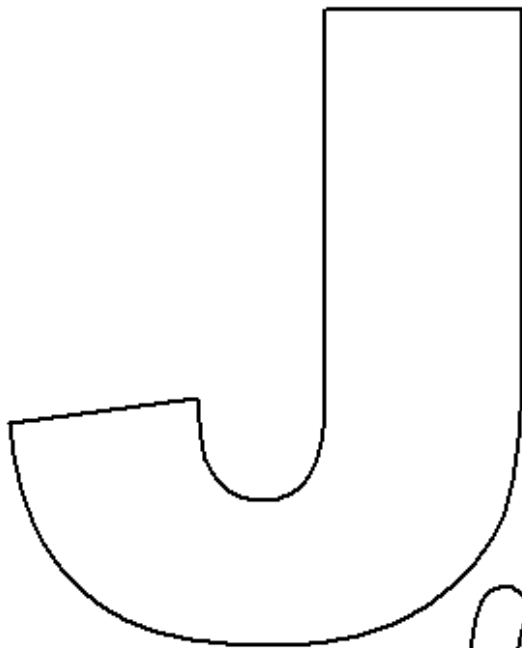
- sturdy brown paper bag (the type with rope handles). These can be purchased at craft stores. You can also buy them in colours (white, green, red, etc).
- printer and paper
- scissors
- glue
- optional: pom poms for noses

Directions:

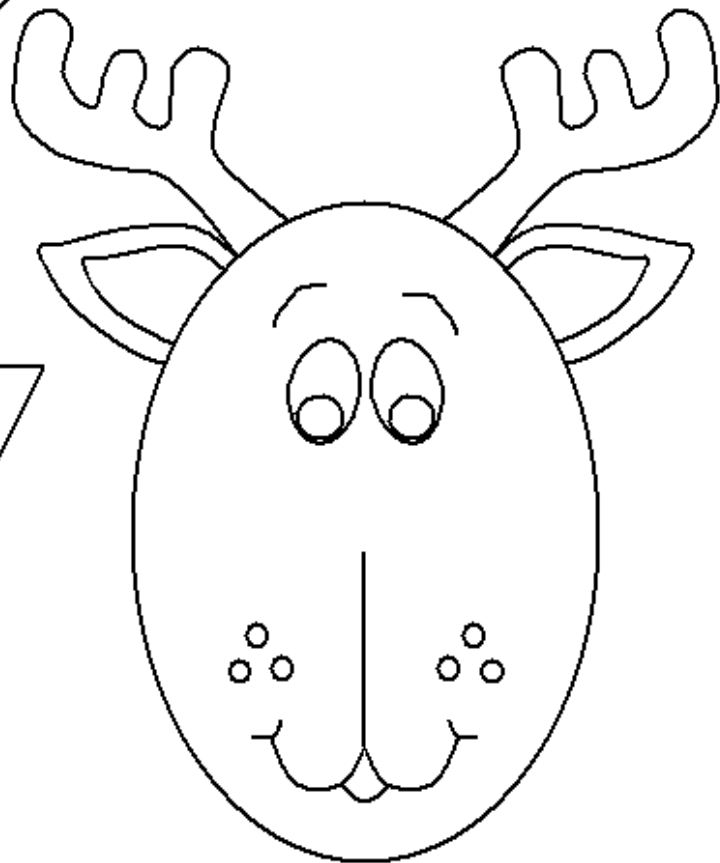
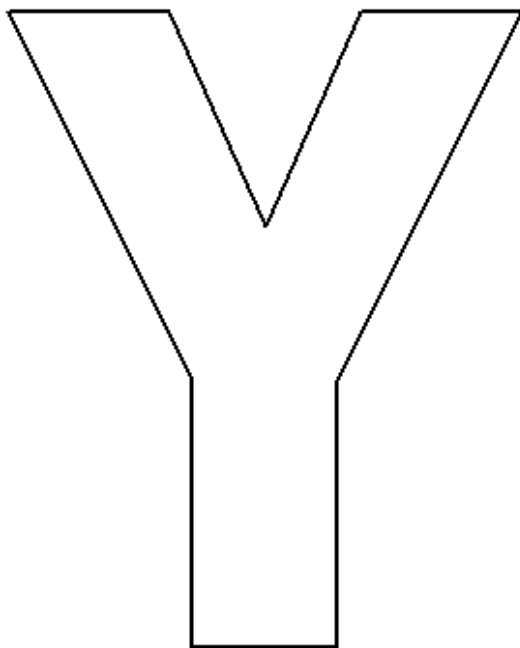
- Print out the template of choice.
- Colour (where appropriate) and cut out the template pieces.
- Arrange the template pieces on the paper bag.
- Either use the circle pieces from the template (for the noses or holly centres) or substitute with pom poms.

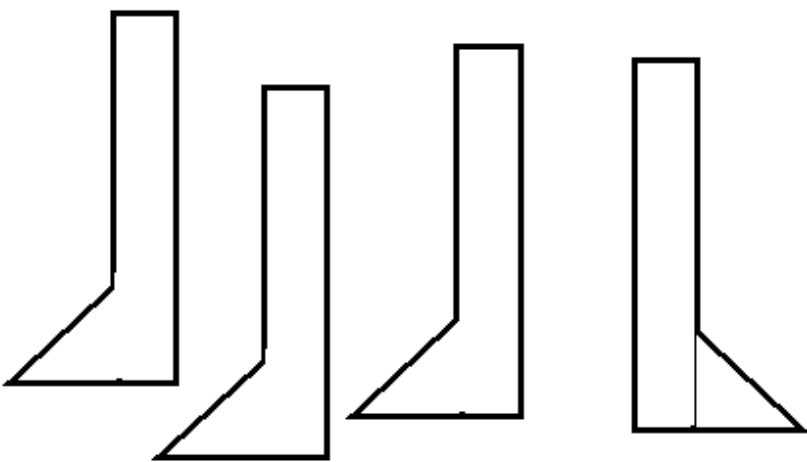
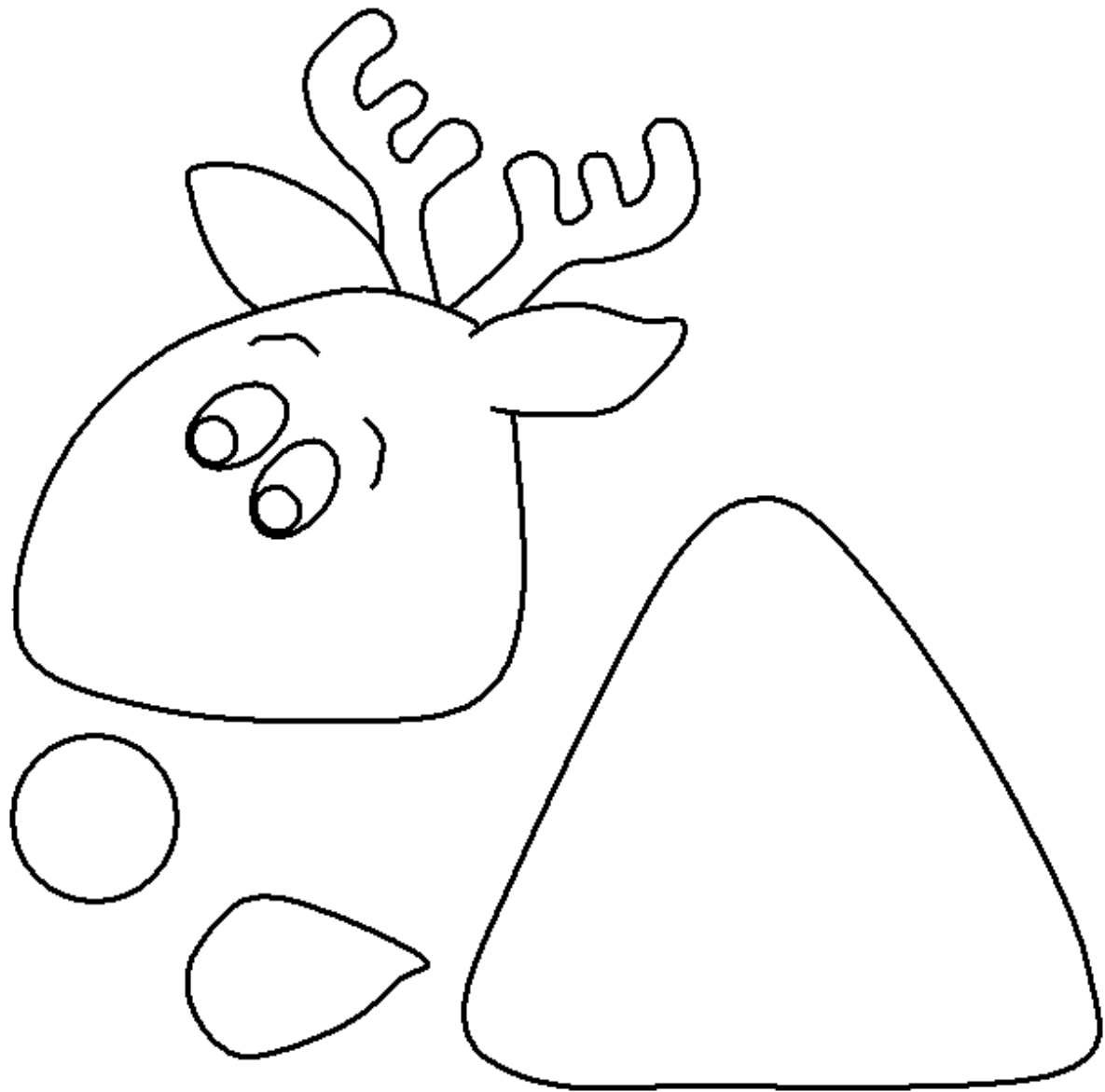


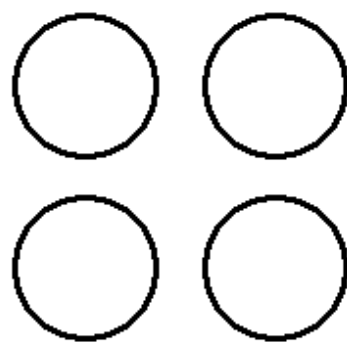
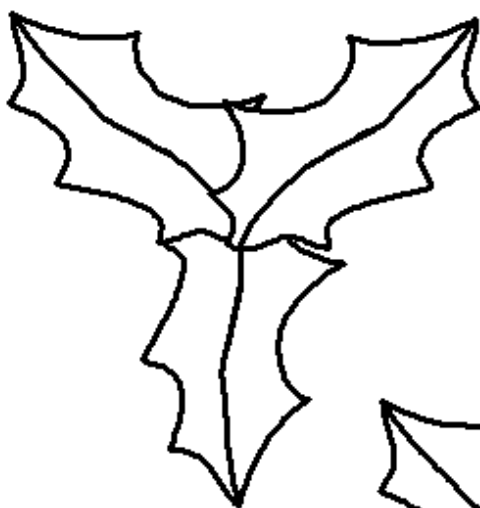
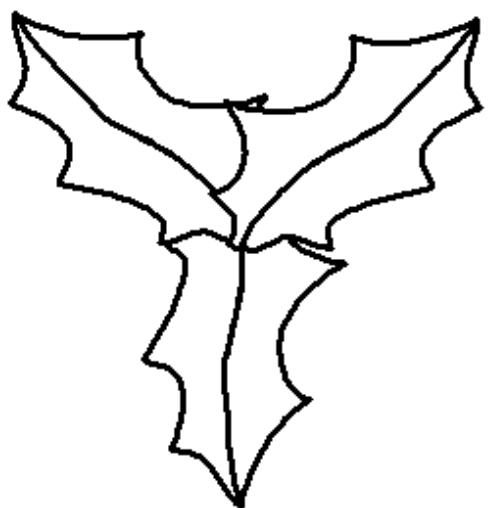
Decorate Paper Gift Bags



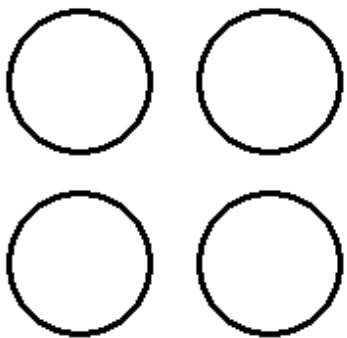
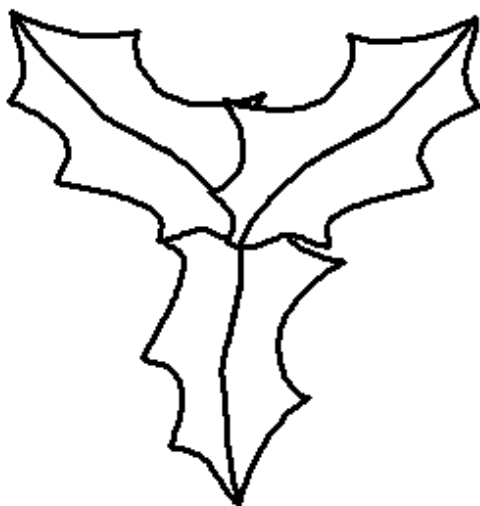
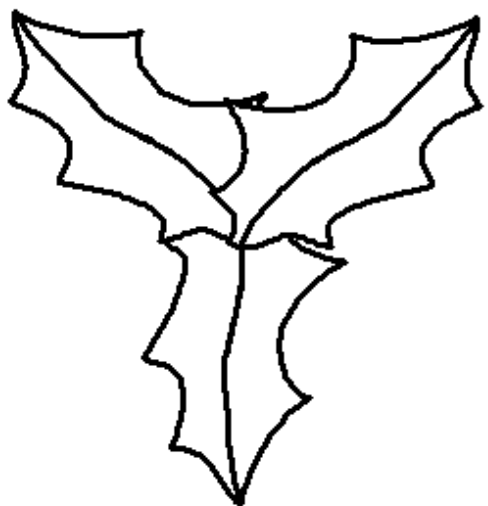
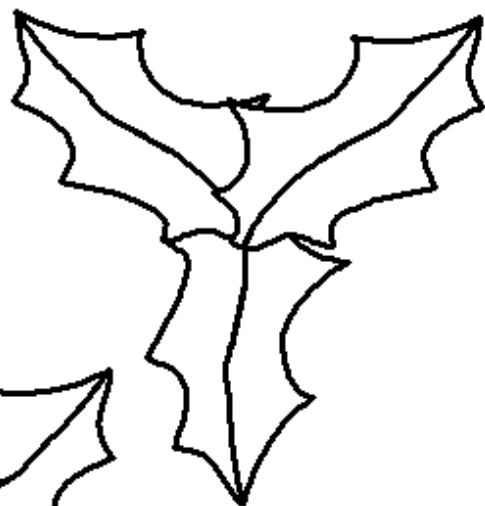
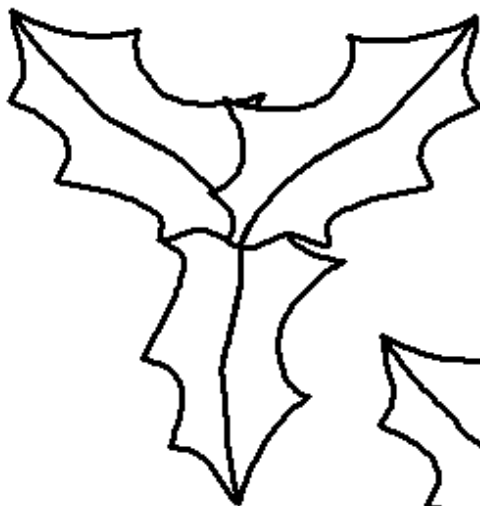
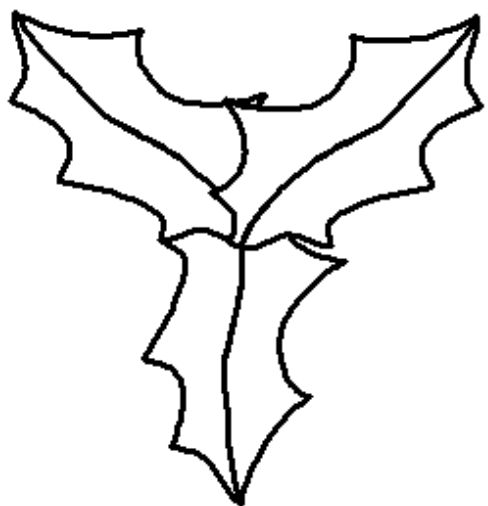
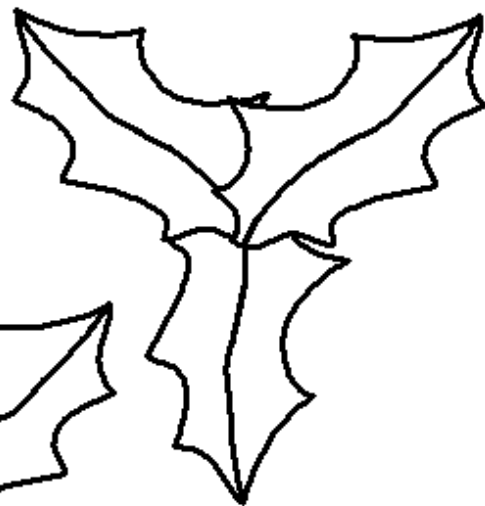
Use this or
a pom pom
as the
nose







Glue the spots in the center of each holly
or use red pom poms or sequins instead.



Baking craft



M&M Christmas Poem and Craft

Before you bite your biccy, check out the lolly and you will see
The M becomes a W, an E and then a 3.

They tell the Christmas story, it's one I'm sure you know.

It took place in a stable a long, long time ago.

The E is for the East where the star shone oh so bright.

The M is for the Manger where the baby Jesus slept that night.

The 3 is for the Wisemen bearing gifts, they say they came.

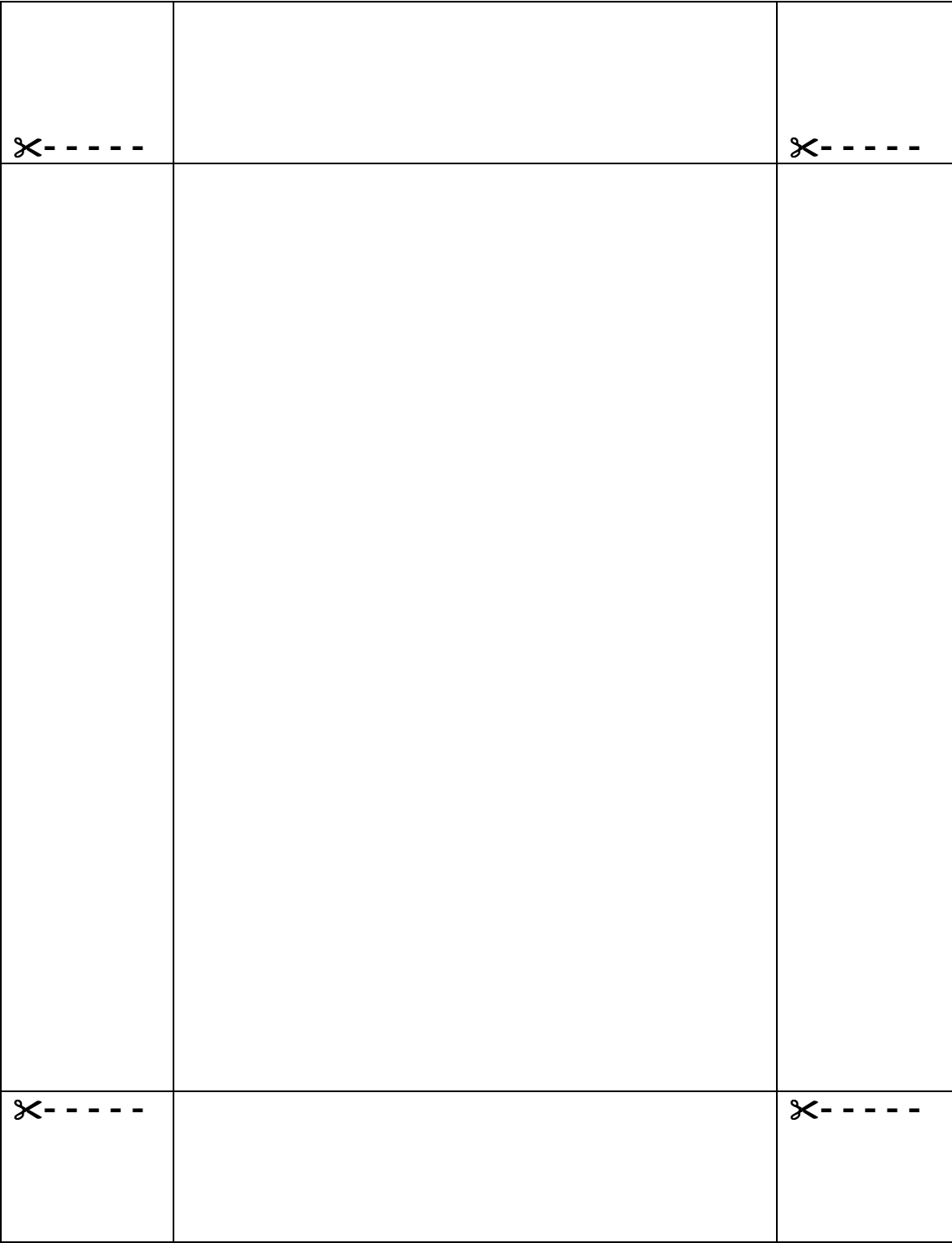
W is for Worship, Hallelujah praise to his name.

So eat these M&M cookies or share them with a friend

And remember the spirit of Christmas and never let it end.

Craft idea: Make Christmas cookies - buy blocks of readymade sweet short pastry and give each child a piece, have Christmas cookie cutters or let them do their own creative thing. Put on tray in oven at 180 degrees or 160 fan bake. Takes about 10 minutes to cook. Do it at the beginning of your time together so they can cool while the children make their baskets to carry them home in. Ice them and put m&m's on top and placed them in a paper basket with the poem above printed on the bottom of the basket.

Template for paper basket



Handle

Christmas Colouring Book



And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:26-27



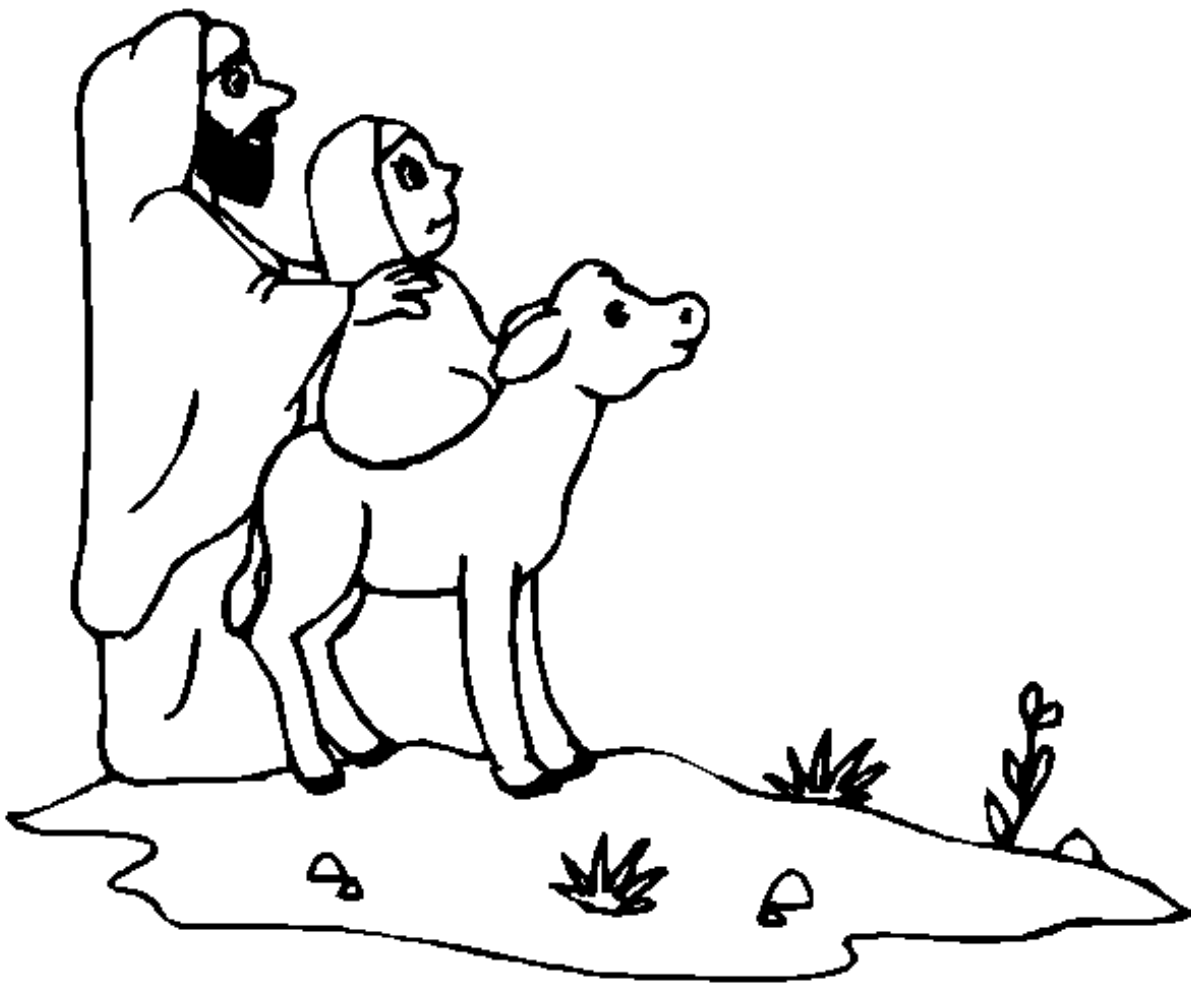
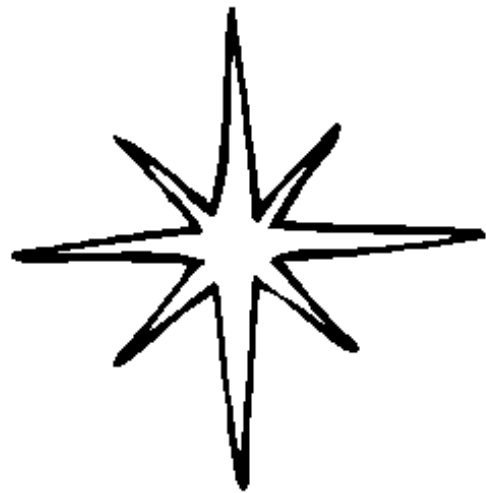
Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matthew 1:23



And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Luke 1:41-42



And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Luke 2:4-5



And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7



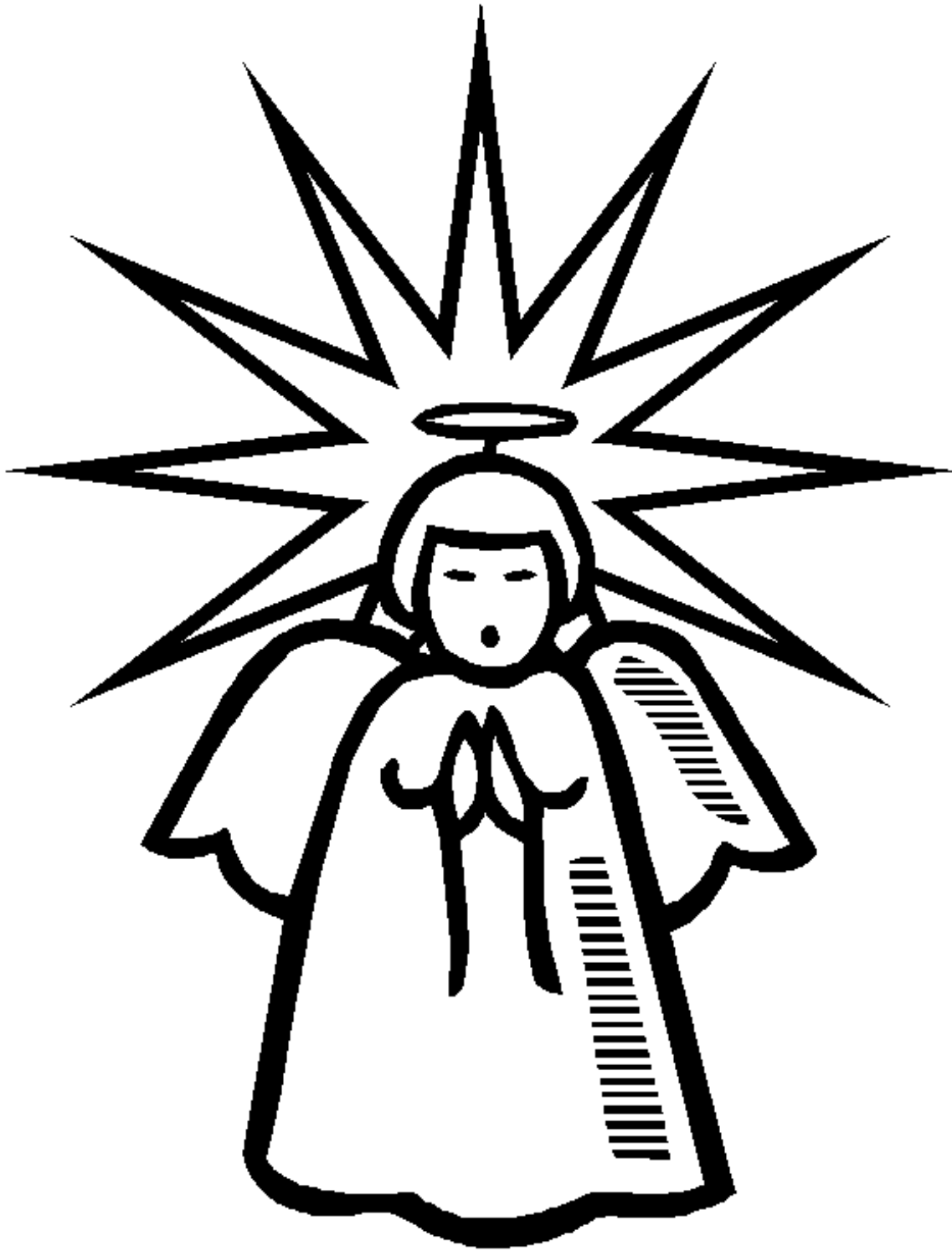
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:8



And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Luke 2:9



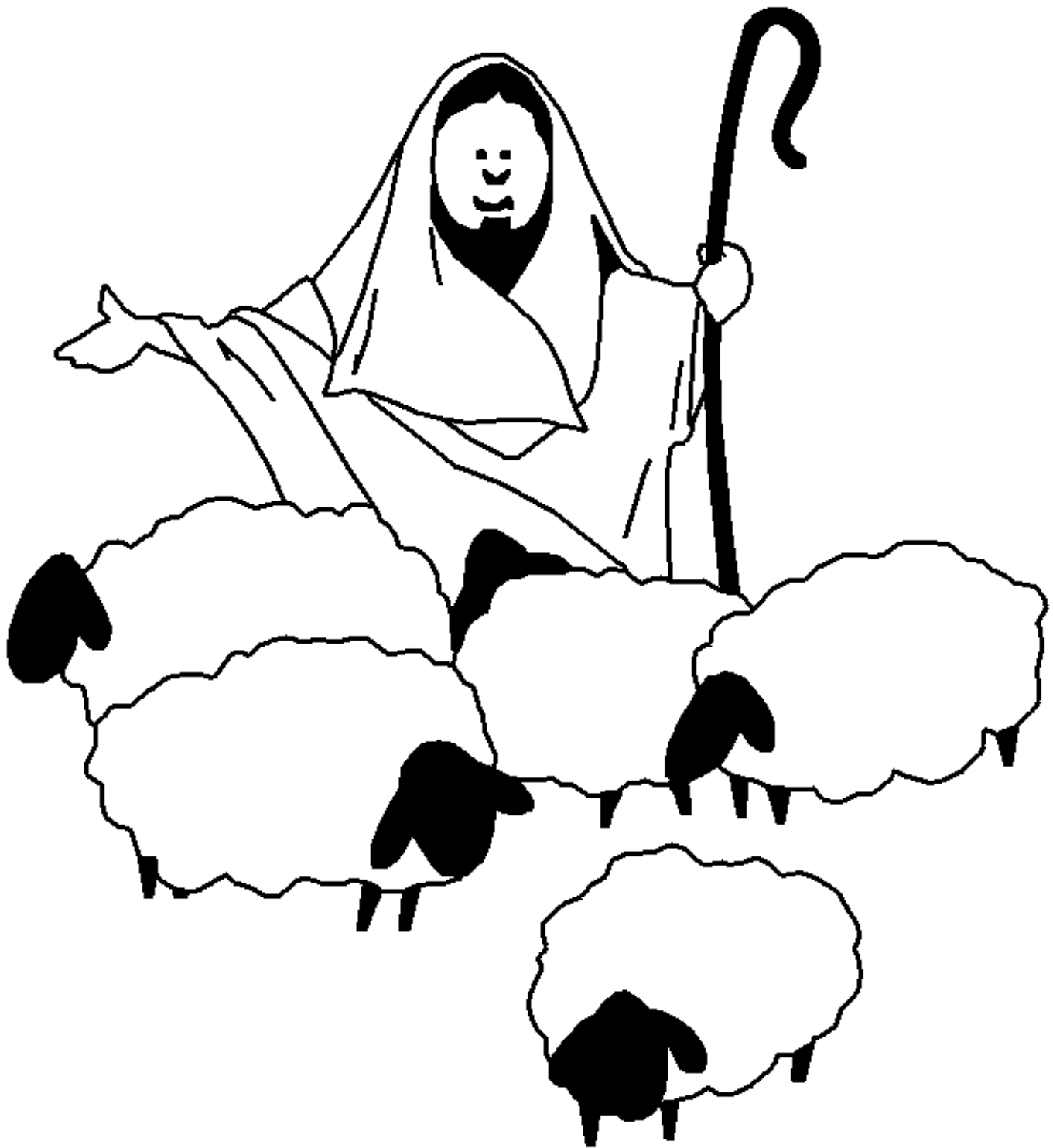
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:10-12



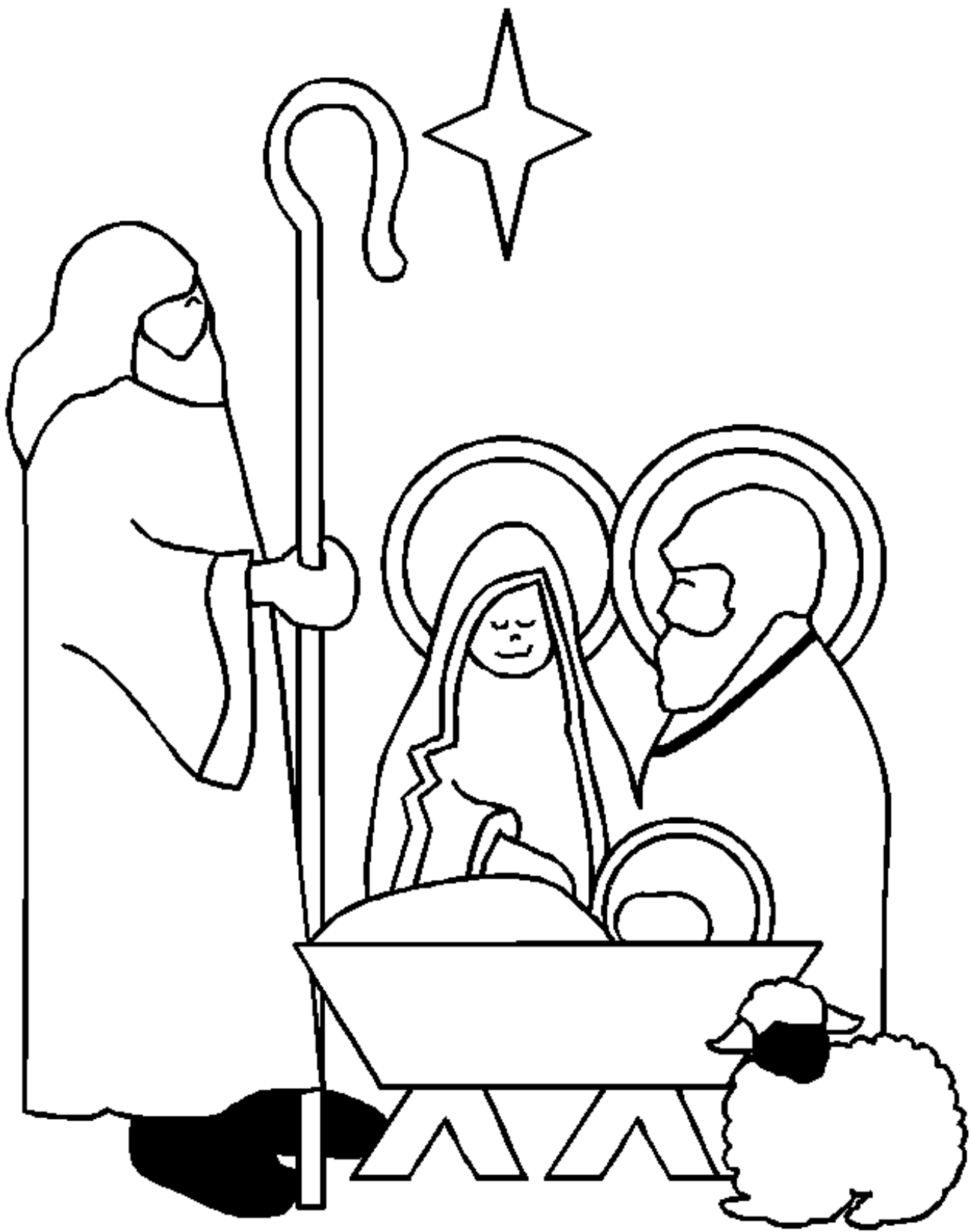
**And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying, Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men.**

Luke 2:13-14



And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Luke 2:15



**And they came with haste, and found
Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying
in a manger.**

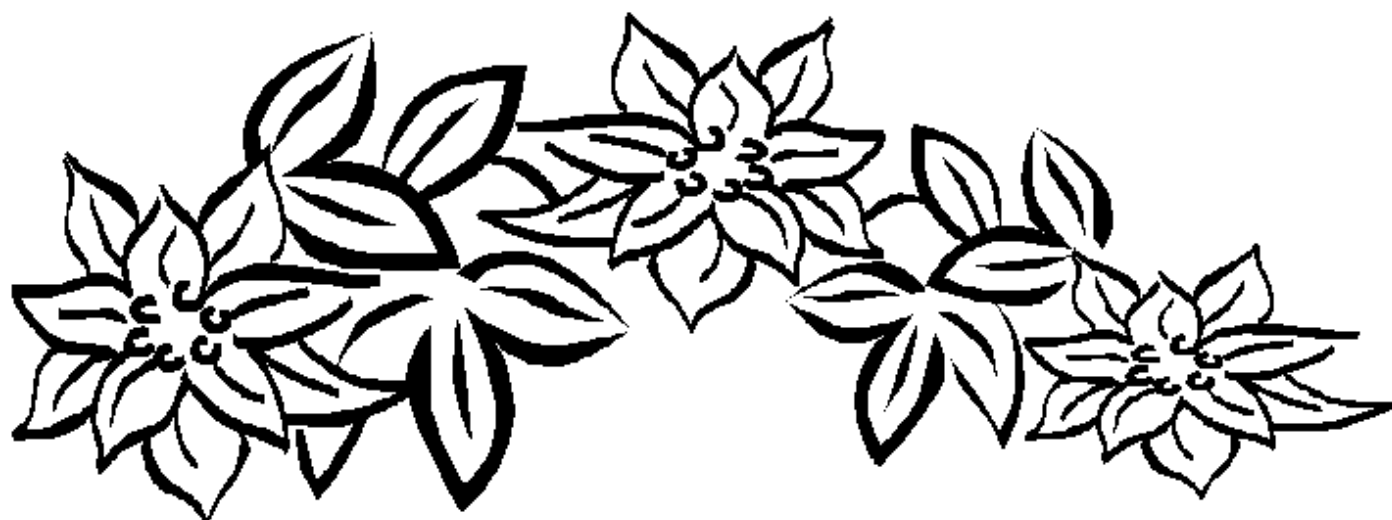
Luke 2:16



And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

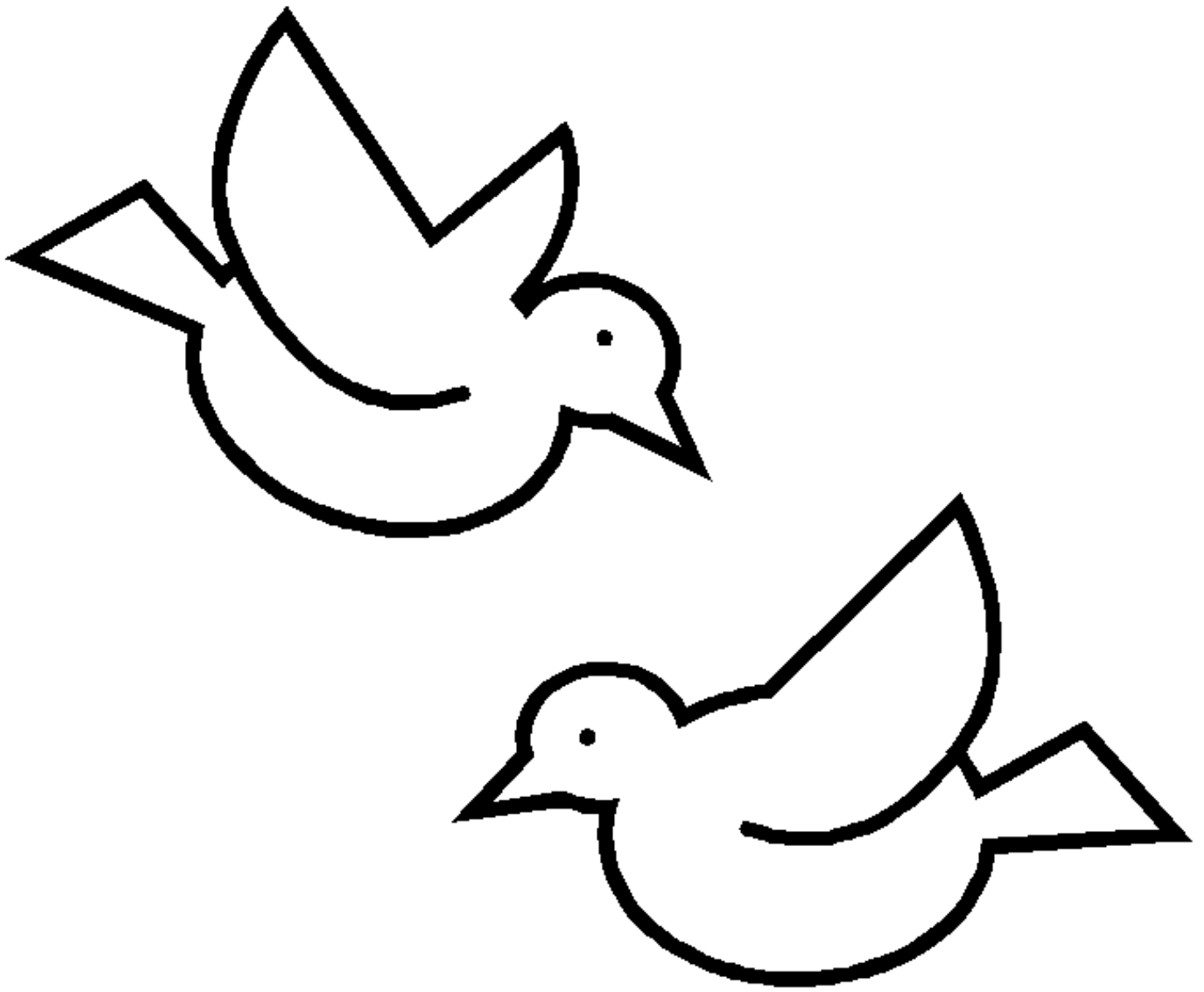
Luke 2:17-20

JESUS



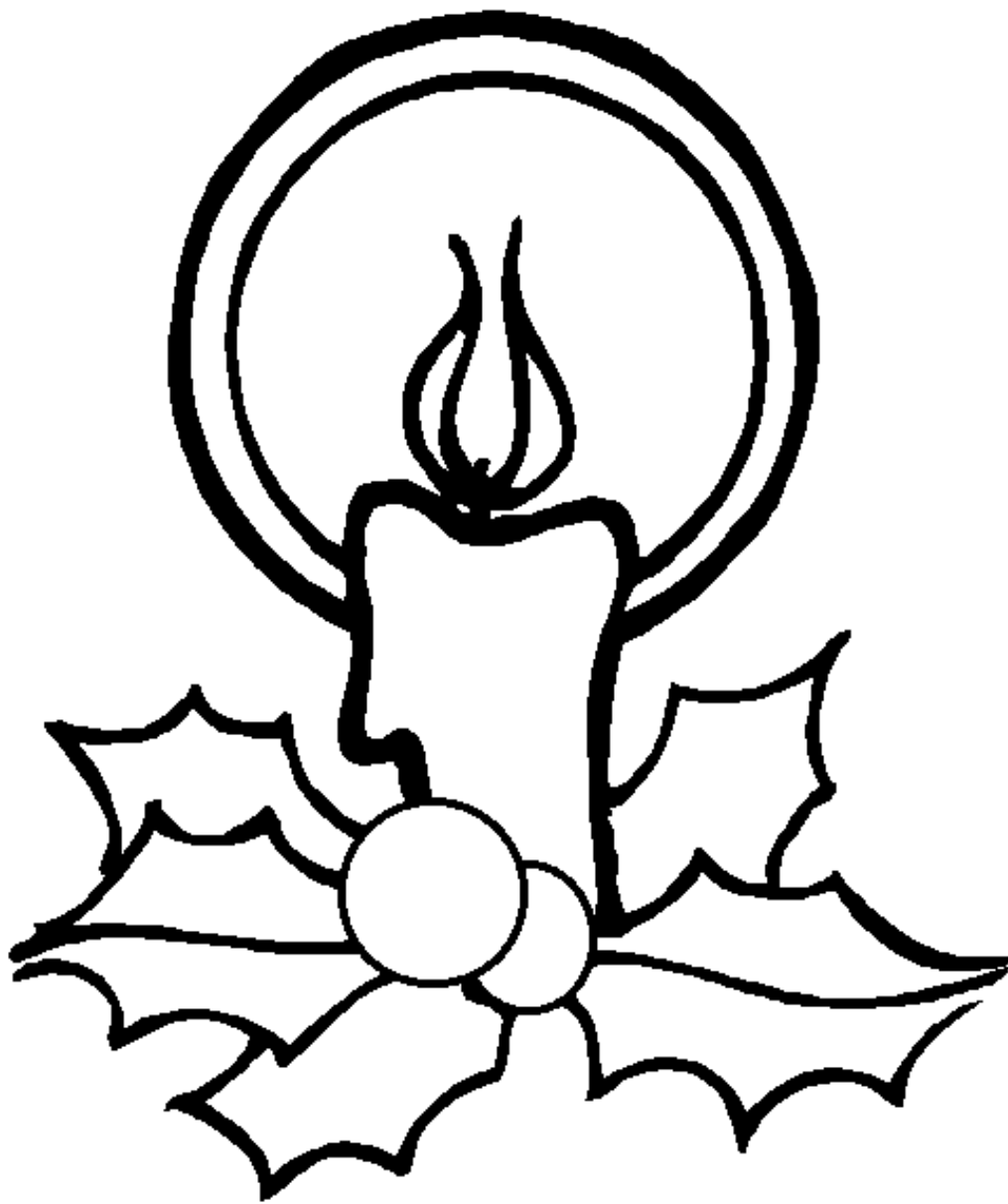
And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:21



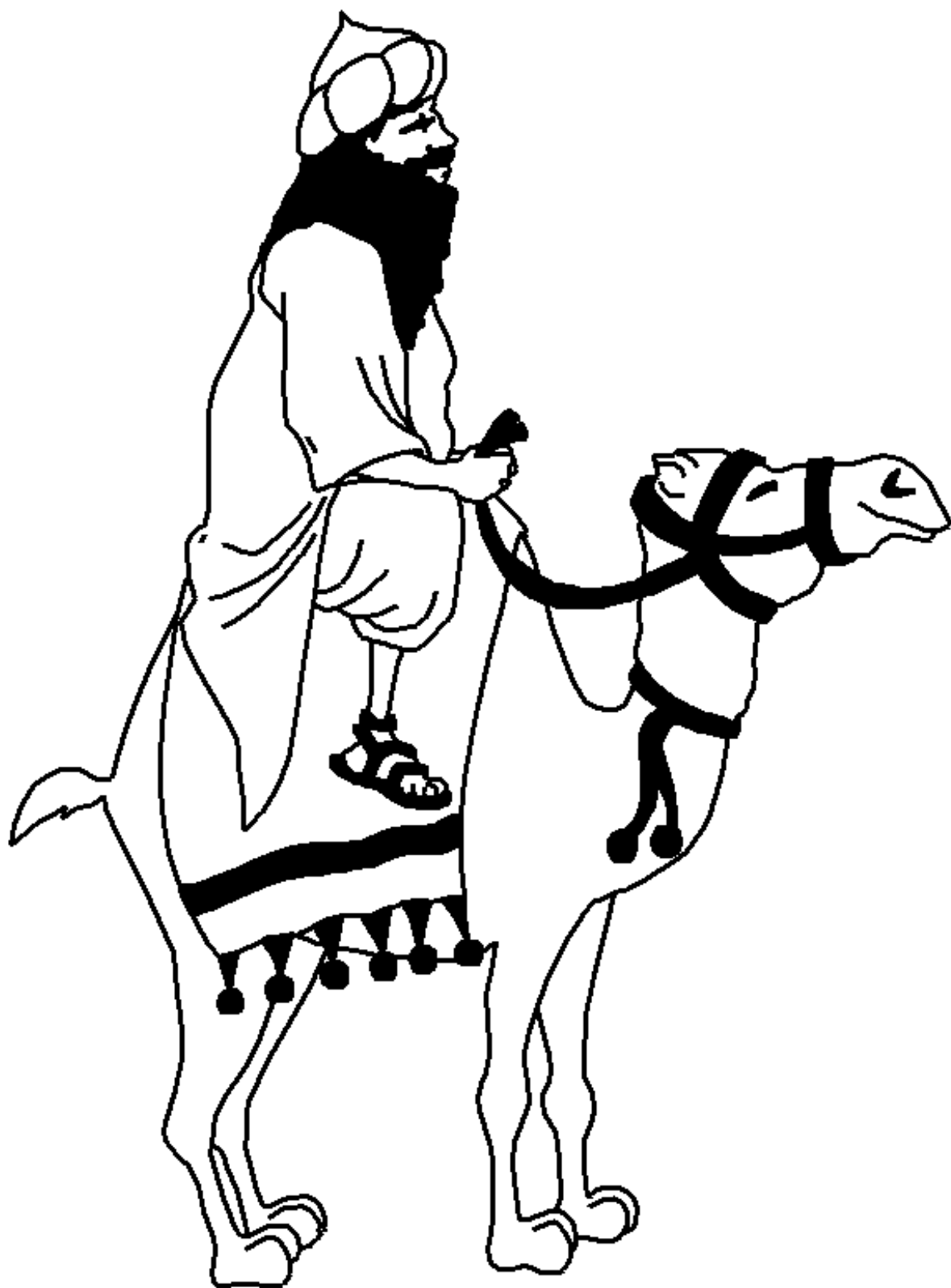
And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

Luke 2:22-24



And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

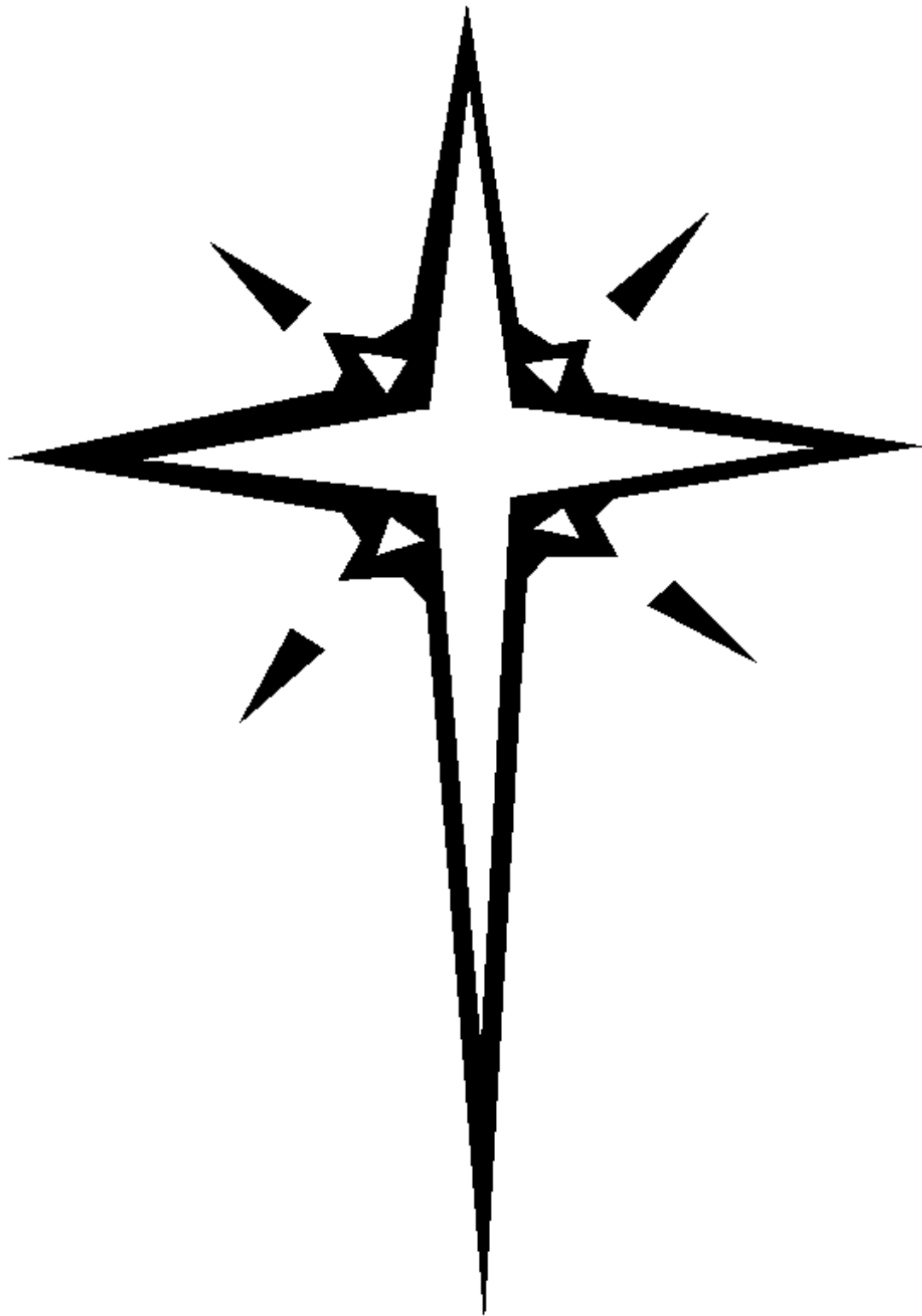
Luke 2:25-33



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Matthew 2:1

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Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2



When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Matthew 2:3-4



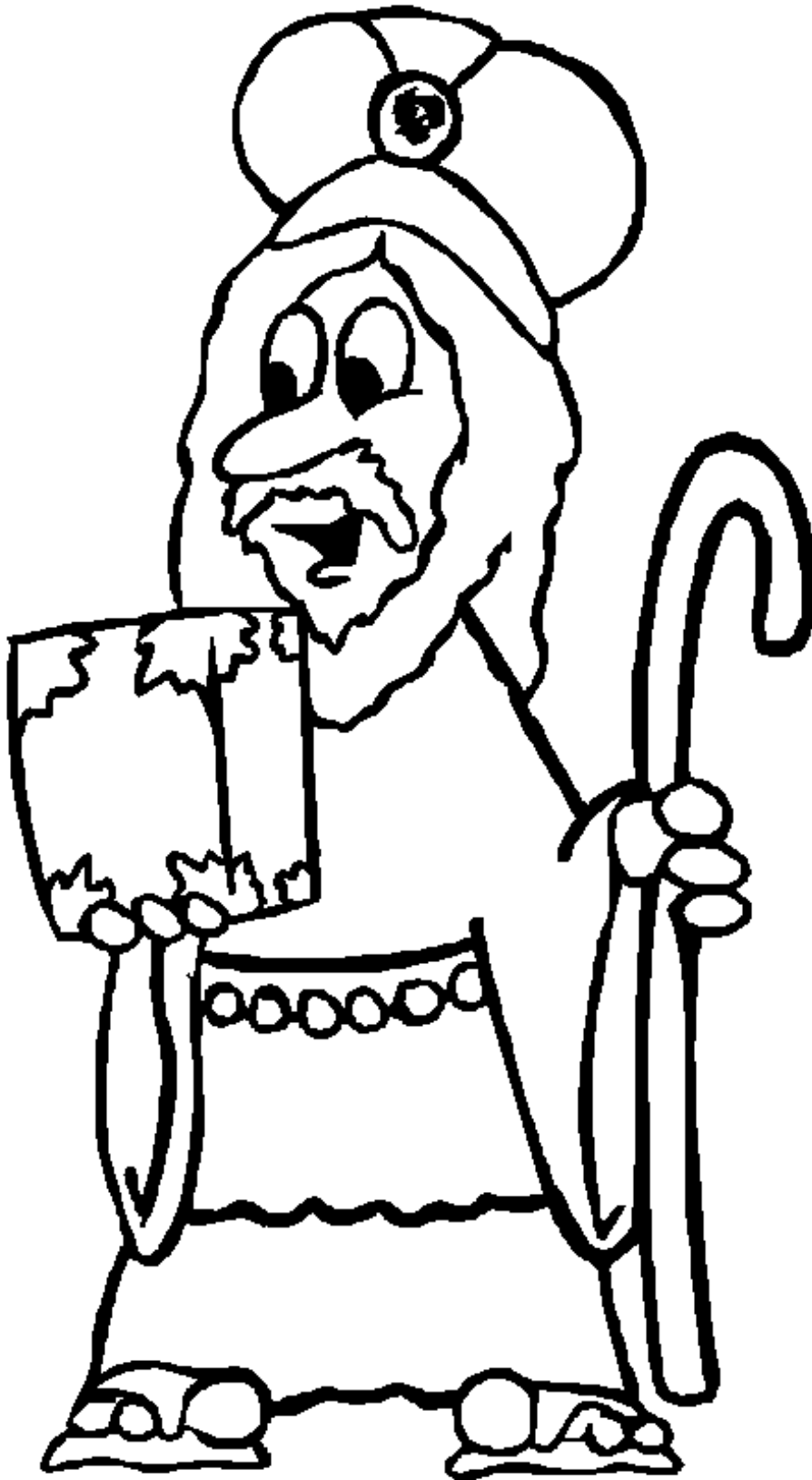
And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Matthew 2:5-7



And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Matthew 2:8-9



When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy

Matthew 2:10



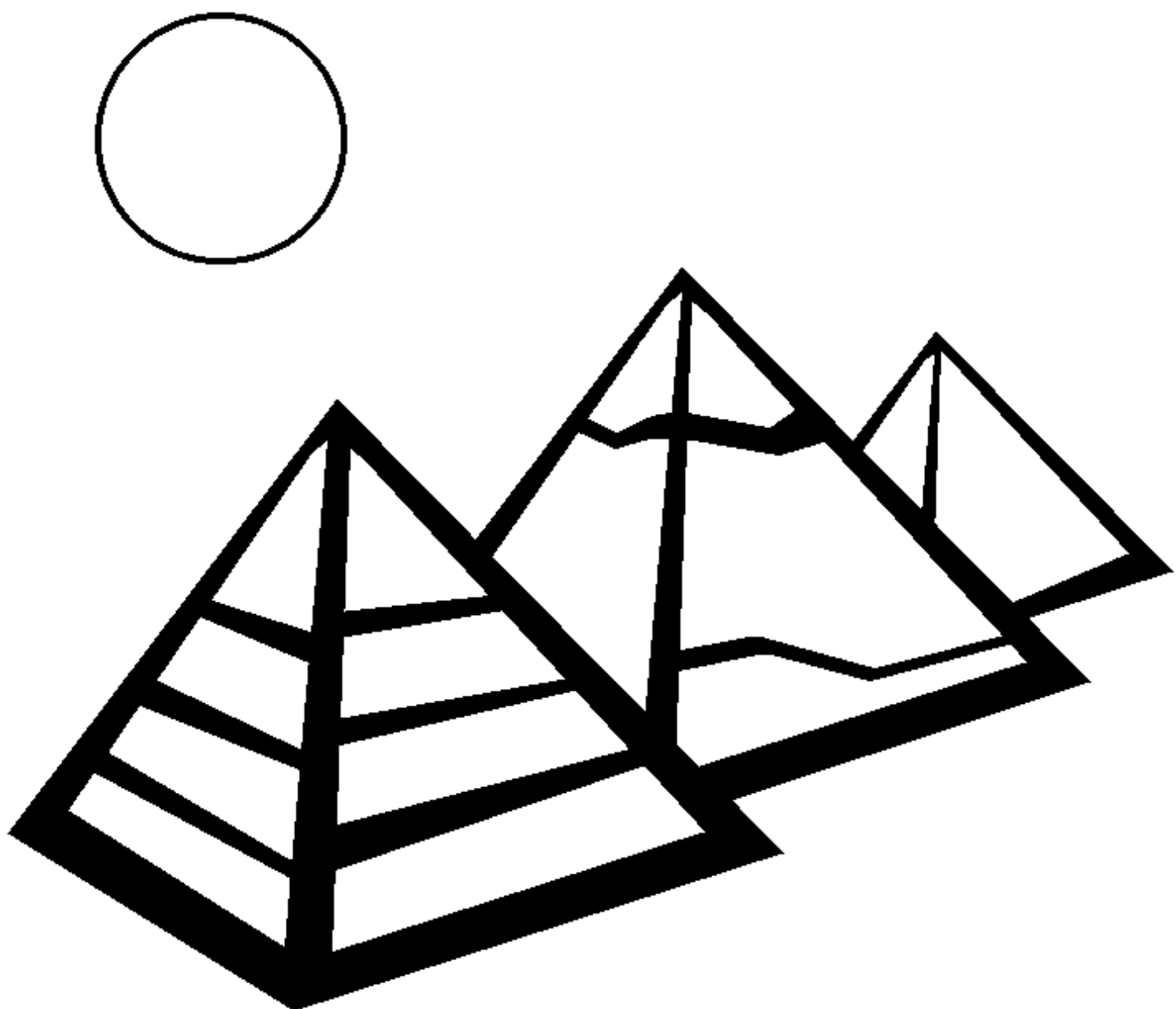
And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11



And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Matthew 2:12-13



**When he arose, he took the
young child and his mother by
night, and departed into Egypt:
*Matthew 2:14***