

December 21-27 Christmas

"HE SHALL COME INTO THE WORLD TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE"

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1. Why Do We Celebrate Christmas? Cut out the picture cards on page 4 or 5 below. Hide them around the room. When children find each picture, ask if that picture has to do with the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Have family members separate them into 2 piles. One pile that has to do with the story of Christ's birth, and one to represent other things that might be fun but don't necessarily tie to the reason why we celebrate Christmas. Share testimonies of Christ and His importance to us. Share specific reasons why He is so important. Show and discuss pictures of Jesus Christ on page 3 below.
 - Share and discuss the following quote from Howard W. Hunter: *"How is Christmas regarded today? The legend of Santa Claus, the Christmas tree, the decorations of tinsel and mistletoe, and the giving of gifts all express to us the spirit of the day we celebrate; but the true spirit of Christmas lies much deeper than these. It is found in the life of the Savior, in the principles He taught, in His atoning sacrifice – which become our great heritage."*
 - Clarify that stockings, gifts, and all of the other fun things we do at Christmas aren't bad, but it's important to remember that Christ is the reason we celebrate Christmas.
2. Christmas Music/Coloring – Play some Christmas songs while coloring the pieces from the first pile with things that have to do with Christ's birth and discussing what we know about each. [This link](#) has a playlist of primary Christmas songs.
3. Tube Rolls for Nativity Picture Pieces with Scriptures – Print up page 6 and cut each strip apart. One at a time, read the scripture on each strip, roll the strip by gluing the edge of the left side onto the right side to make a tube shape that will stand, and glue the picture card (from page 4 or 5) onto it.
 - *Note: I made a strip for the star, but we'll probably glue the star onto the top of the stable instead of on the tube. I just wanted to make sure we had a scripture reference for it. Also, I couldn't find a scripture reference for a donkey, but [this talk](#) briefly mentions the fact that they most likely traveled with one.*
4. Movie – Watch "The Christ Child: A Nativity Story" <https://youtu.be/yXWoKi5x3lw> or "The Nativity" <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2012-06-1470-thenativity?lang=eng>. Color/assemble 3D stable (on page 7 or 8 below) while watching. After the video, use the 3D nativity pieces to retell the story.
5. Book of Mormon Prophecies of Christ – Did people on the other side of the world know about Christ's birth? Read and discuss "[Samuel and the Star](#)" story from The Friend. The manual says, "It's traditional to read the story of the Savior's birth in the New Testament at Christmastime, but you can also find moving prophecies of this sacred event in the Book of Mormon." If time/interest, read/discuss/summarize additional prophecies found in 1 Nephi 11:13-36, Mosiah 3:5-10, Helaman 14: 1-13, and 3 Nephi 1:4-22. Show Nephi's Vision of the Virgin Mary picture (on page 9 below).
 - [This shadow box puppet theater](#) from The Friend could be fun to use if you have lots of older family members. It includes Book of Mormon and Bible accounts of the Christmas story.
 - [This page](#) from the primary manual would also be great to go along with this.
6. Candy Nativity – based on "[A Nativity Treat](#)" activity in The Friend. This will take a little bit of prep. Get supplies to make different parts of the Christmas story out of treats. I've listed some possible ideas, but you could go with whatever works for you. Cut apart the numbered squares on pages 10 and 11 below and put into bags with the supplies to make each part that goes along with that description. Number the baggies. You can hide the baggies and have the kids look for them or just have them all set out together. Open the baggies in order. As each is opened, read the description paper and then use the treats in that bag to create that part of the nativity.

You could even just skip the baggies and just read the papers in order, creating each nativity item as each paper is read.

Ideas for nativity scene pieces:

- **Mary and Joseph people:** Marshmallows/gumdrops (two “glued” together on top of each other with frosting)
- **Stable Walls:** Graham crackers
- **Animals in stable:** Animal crackers or mini marshmallows with small pretzel pieces for legs
- **Baby Jesus:** marshmallow wrapped in bubble tape/fruit roll-up/etc.
- **Manger:** flat graham cracker/rectangle sugar wafers
- **Star:** wrapped Hershey’s kiss/ Werther’s caramel
- **Shepherds:** gumdrops/marshmallows for bodies, mini candy canes
- **Angels:** gumdrops/marshmallows for bodies, lifesaver halos
- **Wise Men:** gumdrops/marshmallows for bodies, small pieces of graham crackers with sprinkles or gold-wrapped candy to represent the gifts

We used [this recipe](#) to make glue frosting, and it worked super well.

It could also be fun to use nativity chocolate molds like [this one](#) from Amazon for this.



Additional Ideas:

Support Articles and Activities from The Ensign <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2020/12/come-follow-me-book-of-mormon-support-articles-and-activities/christmas?lang=eng>

Christmas in the Americas play <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/2004/12/christmas-in-the-americas-a-christmas-program?lang=eng>

Printable props that can be used for a “Teddy Bear Theater” to act out the nativity using stuffed animals found on page 16 in [this link](#).

Nativity Lego Challenge <https://momforallseasons.com/12-days-of-christmas-nativity-lego-challenge/>

Christmas Quiz <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/1996/12/funstuf/christmas-quiz?lang=eng>

“A Week for the Christmas Story” activity

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/ldsorg/children/resources/topics/christmas/A-Week-for-the-Christmas-Story-2006-12-friend.pdf>

Paper sack manger craft

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/content/images/magazines/friend/2013/12/make-your-own-manager_1178958 prt.pdf

2019 Christmas Lesson: <https://emiscrafty.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/cfm46.pdf>



Christ in Gethsemane, by Harry Anderson, © IRI



The Crucifixion, by Harry Anderson, © IRI

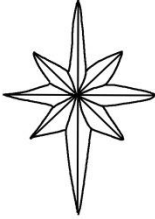










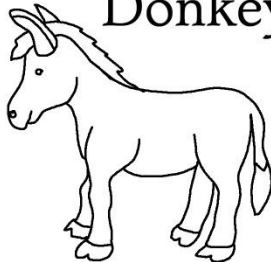


The Burial of Christ, by Carl Heinrich Bloch, used by permission of the National Historic Museum at Frederiksborg in Hillerød, Denmark

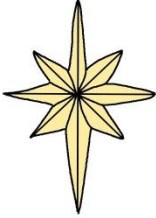




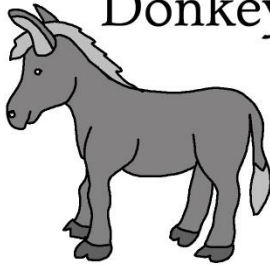


Why Weepest Thou? by Simon Dewey, © Simon Dewey, courtesy Altus Fine Art

The **Real Reason** for the Season: *Hide these pictures around the room. When the children find the pictures, ask them if that picture has to do with the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Then attach the pictures (in the pile that were a "Yes") to toilet paper rolls and act out the story, with the 3D stable.*

<p>Star</p> 	<p>Candy</p> 	<p>Mary</p> 	<p>Joseph</p> 
<p>Toys</p> 	<p>Angel</p> 	<p>Jesus</p> 	<p>Gingerbread</p> 
<p>Wisemen</p> 	<p>Shepherds</p> 	<p>Stockings</p>  <p>the red crystal.org & comefollowmekid.com</p>	<p>Donkey</p> 

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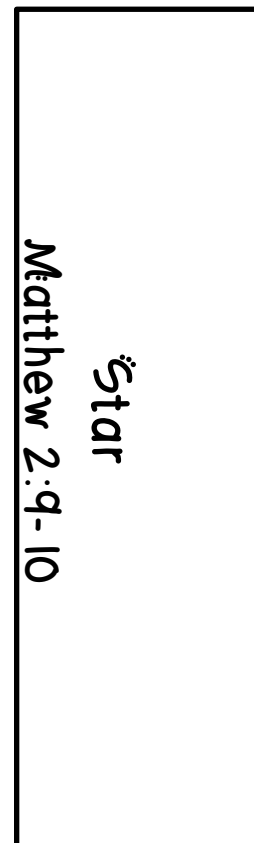
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TUBE ROLLS FOR NATIVITY PICTURE PIECES

INSTRUCTIONS

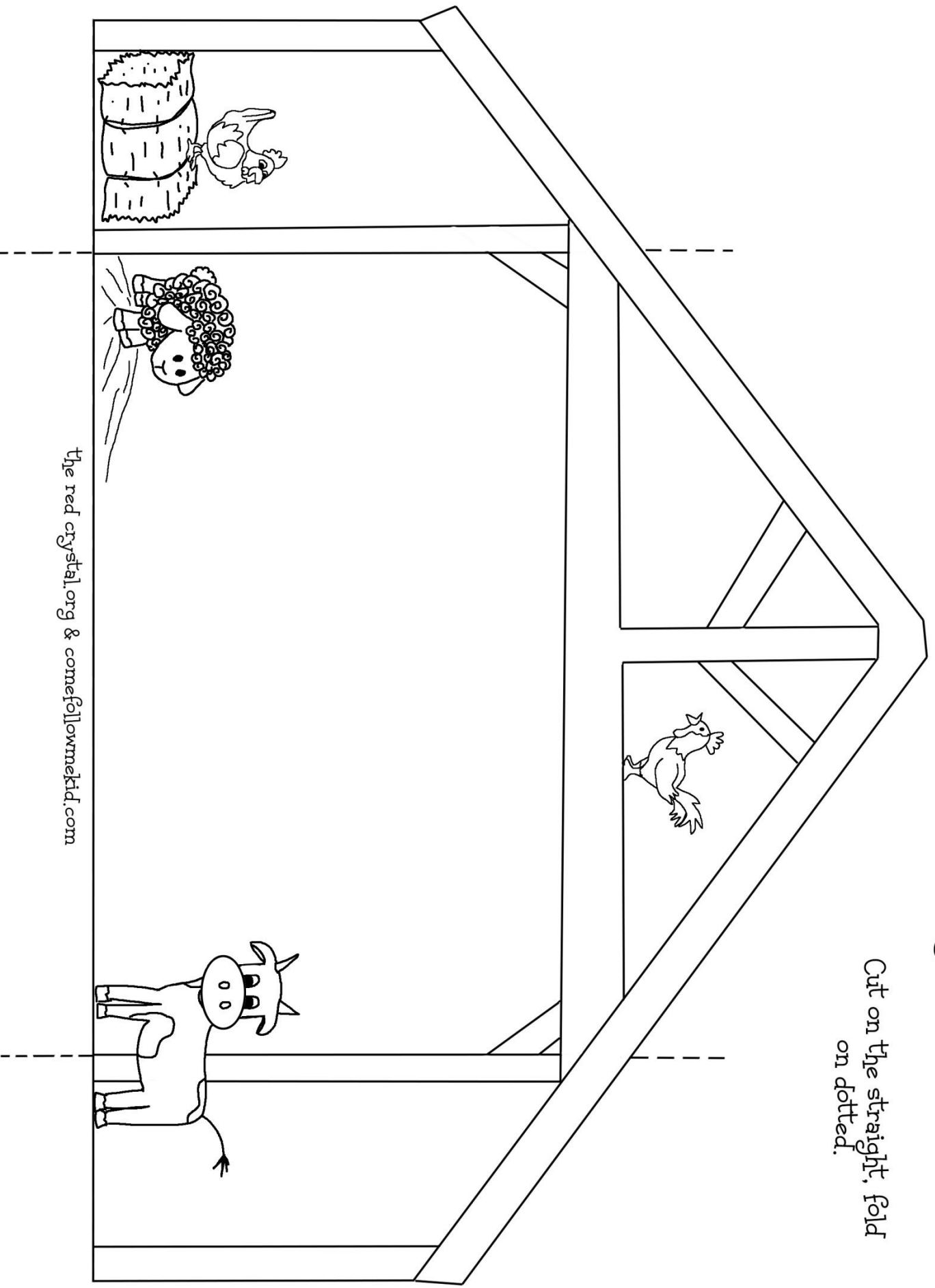
1. Cut each strip apart.
2. Read the scripture on it.
3. Roll the strip by gluing the edge of the left side onto the right side to make a tube shape that will stand up.
4. Glue the picture card onto the tube shape.
5. Use the pieces to act out the Christmas story.

Mary Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:19
Joseph Matthew 1:18-25
Angel Luke 2:9-14
Baby Jesus Luke 2:7
Wise Men Matthew 2:1-12
Shepherds Luke 2:8-17
Donkey



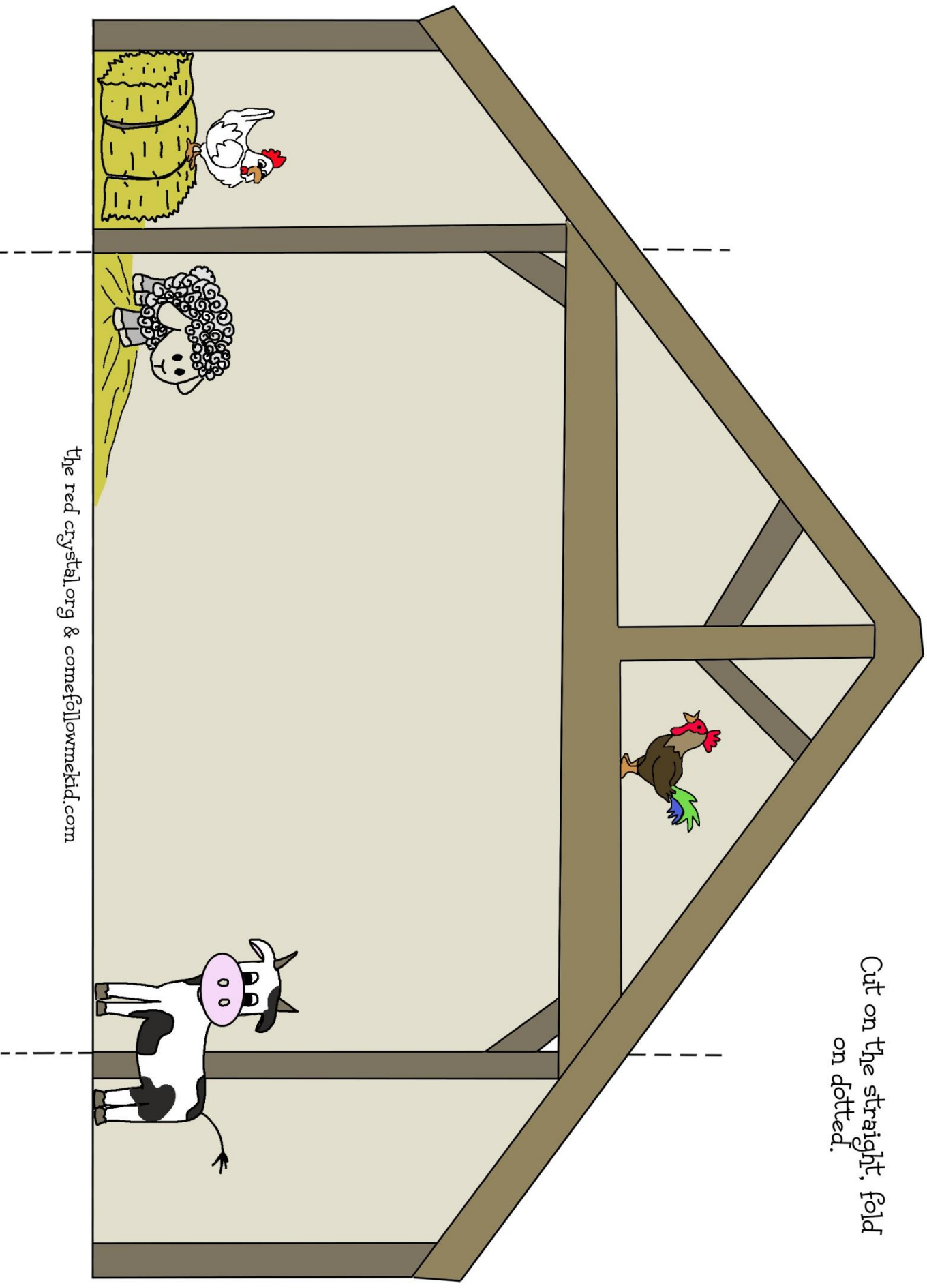
Jesus Christ came to Earth to be my Savior.

Cut on the straight, fold
on dotted.



Jesus Christ came to Earth to be my Savior.

Cut on the straight, fold
on dotted.





Nephi's Vision of the Virgin Mary, by Judith A. Mehr



Candy Nativity



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Cut apart the numbered cards below and put into bags with the candy supplies to make each part that goes along with that description (numbers are in the bottom right corner). Number the baggies. You can hide the baggies and have the kids look for them or just have them all set out together. Open the baggies in order. As each is opened, read the description paper and then use treats to create that part of the nativity. You could also skip the baggies and just read the papers in order, creating each nativity item as each paper is read.

Underneath each card are ideas of possible treats that could be used to make each. However, feel free to be creative and use whatever you think would look great! Or if you have a mom-fail moment like me and forget to buy these items beforehand, just use whatever you can find around the house! 😊

MARY

A long time ago, a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph were going to be married. Mary and Joseph were good people who did what God wanted them to do. One day an angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby! The angel said she should name the baby Jesus. The baby would be the Son of God, the Savior.

Even though Mary was probably worried by what the angel told her, she had the faith to accept God's will. She said, "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:47). Have you ever been afraid because you thought something was too hard to do? Remember, God loves you and will help you!

To read more about the angel's visit to Mary, read Luke 1:26–38.

1

Mary: two marshmallows/gumdrops glued on top of each other with frosting

JOSEPH

Joseph might have worried about what people would think about Mary. Sometimes you might worry about what people think or say about you. But what matters most are the things you say and think about others, and how you treat them. Try to be like Joseph and treat others the way Heavenly

Father wants you to—with love and kindness. To read more about Joseph, read Matthew 1:18–24.

2

Joseph: two marshmallows/gumdrops glued on top of each other with frosting

THE STABLE

On this night in Bethlehem, all of the rooms for travelers were full. Someone suggested that Joseph and Mary could stay in the area with the animals. It would give them warmth, quiet, and privacy. Joseph filled a manger with clean, soft hay. Everything was ready for a special baby to be born.

Even though the inn was so crowded that there wasn't room inside for Jesus to be born, we can make room in our lives for Christ. Studying the scriptures, praying, and serving others are some things that will help us feel close to Him. Jesus Christ will always make room for you!

3

*Stable Walls: Graham Crackers
Animals in Stable: Animal Crackers*

THE BABY JESUS

The prophet Isaiah said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). Isaiah didn't say, "unto Mary and Joseph" or "unto the people in Bethlehem." He said, "unto us." Jesus Christ was born to bless everyone. He was born to bless you. What does this mean to you?

To read about the Savior's birth, read Luke 2:6–19.

4

Baby Jesus: mini marshmallow wrapped in Bubble Tape, Fruit Roll-Up, or frosting

MANGER

Joseph and Mary placed the baby Jesus in a manger probably filled with sweet straw (see Luke 2:7).

C.S. Lewis said, "Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

Jesus was born on Earth as a small baby in a manger, but lived and died to save us. 5

Manger: Graham Crackers or Sugar Wafers

ANGELS

Angels came and told the shepherds that the Savior had been born. The shepherds went to find and worship the baby Jesus. We can be like the angels by telling others the real story of Christmas. Practice telling the story of Christmas to a friend or family member now. 6

*Angels: marshmallows/
gumdrops for bodies,
Lifesaver halos*

THE SHEPHERDS

Sheep learn to trust their shepherd, and they go to him when he calls. Each sheep is important to its shepherd. Jesus Christ called Himself the Good Shepherd. You are a sheep in His flock, and He loves you and wants to bless and protect you. Have you ever noticed that a candy cane is the same shape as a shepherd's crook? When you see candy canes this Christmas, think about how Jesus is the Good Shepherd. What can you do to follow Him? To read more about the shepherds, read Luke 2:8-18. 7

*Shepherds: marshmallows/ gumdrops for
bodies, mini candy canes*

THE STAR

"The star that led the Wise Men to the Savior was real. But it also was symbolic of the light that came into the world with the Savior's birth." (Sue Clark)

How can Jesus bring light into our lives? 8

*Star: wrapped Hershey's kiss/
peppermint swirled candy*

THE WISE MEN

You can be like one of the Wise Men, who followed the light of the star to Jesus. Even though you will have challenges along the way, following the Light of Christ will lead you to happiness. You can't give Jesus a present, like the Wise Men did, but what gifts can you give Jesus? As you follow Christ, your light will help brighten the way for others. To read more about the Wise Men, read Matthew 2:1-12. 9

*Wise Men: marshmallows/ gumdrops for bodies, small pieces of graham crackers
with sprinkles or gold-wrapped candy to represent the gifts, chocolate chips for
crowns*

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(wording on cards from [The Friend](#)). [This article](#) in *The Friend* has even more of these descriptions with more details if you want a longer child-friendly version of the Christmas story or if you'd like to stretch it out and focus on one each day.



**FROSTING CEMENT
FOR GINGERBREAD HOUSES**

4 egg whites
1 tsp. cream of tartar
4 cups powdered sugar

Beat egg whites and cream of tartar until stiff. Add powdered sugar and beat 5 minutes. Keep covered to prevent it from hardening.