

## 1) A Very Special Month

*Do you know what month it is?*

*And what holiday do we celebrate in December?*

*Christmas!! At Christmas time we get to do a lot of really great things.*

*What are some fun things we get to do? We get to spend time with family, eat lots of yummy food, watch fun movies, decorate the house, and open presents. I love getting to do all of this don't you? But there's something about Christmas that is really special; there's one person in particular who we celebrate. Do you know who it is? It's Jesus!*

*On Christmas day we celebrate Jesus and remember how and why he came to earth as a tiny baby. This purposeful remembering is called Advent.*

\*This is a great time to read a storybook about the meaning of Christmas and/or the Nativity Story. (For younger kids "What is Christmas?" by Michelle Medlock Adams. For bigger kids "The Christmas Story – The Brick Bible for kids" by Brendan Powell Smith are good suggestions.)

*The bible says:*

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17

*The bible tells us that Jesus came to save the world. That's a pretty big deal. Jesus came to rescue us! This month leading up to Christmas we're going to remember that Jesus came as a little baby and that his birth was a miracle. But we're also going to learn about/remember all about how and why Jesus came to rescue us.*

### **Craft – Salt Dough Path:**

*We're going to be taking a little journey with our peg dolls every night, like the journey people went on to greet baby Jesus.*

- 1 cup Salt
- 2 cups Flour
- 1 cup Water
- 1 tsp. Olive Oil
- Cookie Sheet
- Nativity Stable

Mix ingredients until you have a soft dough. Add extra flour or water as necessary. Roll the dough out into a path shape. Using a peg doll make 23 indentions in the path that will lead to the nativity stable. Be sure to make the indentions larger than the doll so they are big enough after the dough bakes. Bake the dough on a cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 30-45 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to dry overnight.

Once the path is dry place it on a shelf or table where it can stay all month long and can be easily reached. Place your nativity stable/house at the end of the path. Your child will be taking a journey to the nativity this month by moving a peg doll one peg down the path each night.

## 2) The Greatest Rescue Story Ever Told

(Hold up the bible) *Do you know what this is? It's the bible! The bible tells us all about Jesus and how he came to rescue us.*

Read JSB 'The Story and the Song' pg 14-17...This is the child upon whom everything would depend.'

*Who is the child that they're talking about?*

*Have you ever thought about the bible as an adventure story? What makes it one?*

*How is it a love story?*

*The JSB keeps using the word 'rescue'; do you think that word might be important?*

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves." Ephesians 1: 4-6

### Craft - Peg Doll:

*If the bible is the story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them what does that mean about you? Does God love you? Do you need rescued?*

- Small wooden peg doll
- Paints and brushes

Have your child paint a wooden peg doll to represent them. Have them draw a heart on the doll to remind them of how much they are loved by God. Place the dried salt dough path on the table or shelf with the nativity stable. Place the doll on the first indentation on the path. Each night you will move the doll one spot closer to the stable. As you do this you can talk about the anticipation people felt as they waited for the savior of the world to come.

### 3) Advent

*Do you know that years and years before Jesus was born the prophets talked about him and how he was on his way? God's people were filled with excitement and anticipation knowing that the savior of the world would come one day. And now we get to celebrate Advent. Advent is a time for us to think about how God's people excitedly awaited his arrival. Some thought he would come as a king or a fierce warrior, but he surprised some and came as a little tiny baby. Advent is also a time for us to remember that the bible promises us that Jesus will come again. We get to be excited about his second arrival. Do you think he might surprise us again by coming in an unexpected way?*

Read another nativity-centered storybook. Have younger kids point out who each of the people are (Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, baby Jesus, etc.). "The Nativity" illustrated by Julie Vivas is a great option.

"A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare

the way for the Lord;

make straight in the desert

a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,

every mountain and hill made low;

the rough ground shall become level,

the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,

and all people will see it together."

Isaiah 40: 3-5,

#### **Craft – Baby Jesus Peg Doll:**

*What are babies like? What do you think about Jesus coming to the world as a tiny baby? Do you think that makes sense? Why/why not? Why do you think people expected him to come as a mighty warrior?*

- Peg doll
- Paints
- Cloth strips

Have your child paint a wooden peg doll to look like a baby. Wrap it in cloth like a baby.

\*Hang onto this doll; you will use it for baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

#### 4) We Need a Rescuer

*To understand why Jesus had to come to earth, let's go back to the beginning of all of creation. When God created the heavens and the earth he created all the animals and a man and a woman named Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve loved God, but one day they believed a lie and they disobeyed God.*

Read JSB "The Terrible Lie" page 33 from "...And a terrible pain came into God's heart..." to page 34 "God couldn't let his children live forever, not in such pain, not without him."

*Oh no! What happened to cause so much pain? The bible calls it sin. But...*

Page 36 "God loved his children too much...God himself would come."

*There's that word again 'rescue'. Do you think we need to be rescued?*

"This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3: 22-24

#### **Craft - Christmas Wreath:**

*The bible talks a lot about how much God loves us. His love for us is unending; that means it goes on and on and on. This Christmas wreath is a good reminder of his love for us. The wreath is a circle and a circle never ends, just like God's love for us.*

- Christmas wreath, any kind as long as it's round
- Decorations, whatever your child will like. Lights, fabric, Christmas ornaments etc.

Have your child decorate their wreath any way they want. Hang it on the front door, mantle or Christmas tree.

## 5) A Flood Can't Rescue Us

JSB 'A New Beginning'

page 38 "Time passed... - ...(which was odd in those days because no one else was)."

"Noah," God said... - ...I must stop them."

Page 40 ""A storm is coming." God told Noah."

"The storm was going to wash away... - ...and make the world clean again."

"So Noah built an ark."

*Who else got on the ark with Noah?*

Page 44 "And it started raining... - ...that covered the whole world."

"Finally the rain stopped... - ...everyone shouted."

Page 46 "And the first thing God did... - ...destroy the world again."

" See, I have hung... - ...bow made of light."

Page 47 "It wasn't long before... - ...a plan to one day send his own Son, the Rescuer."

*It seems to me that washing away all of the hate and sadness and everything that had gone wrong would get rid of sin, but then what happened? It all came back didn't it?! The plan to send the flood wasn't enough was it?*

*But God had a better plan. What was the better plan?*

"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways." Genesis 6: 11-12,

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..." Romans 8:1

### **Craft – Rainbow Stained Glass:**

*The bible tells us so many of God's promises. The rainbow reminds us of God's promise to never destroy the world again, but it also reminds us of God's other promises. Especially his best promise of all, Jesus!*

- Tissue paper in different colors
- Contact paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- Black construction paper & glue

Tape a large piece of contact paper to a window, sticky side out. Have your child cut or tear bits of the colored tissue paper and stick them on the contact paper to make a 'rainbow stained glass window'. Bigger kids can cut the word 'Promise' out of black construction paper and glue it over the tissue paper.

## 6) Jesus Is The Way To Heaven

*After the great flood we know that it wasn't long until things went wrong again.*

JSB 'A Giant Staircase to Heaven' –

Page 49 "One day, everyone was talking..." to the end of page 51

Page 54 "You see, God knew... - ...And one day it would."

*Do you think it's even possible to build a staircase to heaven? Do you think we can get to heaven through our own efforts, by something we build or do? The bible says the way to heaven isn't something we can build or achieve; it's a person. Who is that person?*

*Jesus said:*

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." John 14: 1-4

### **Craft – Christmas Card / Care Package:**

*We know that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to be our way to heaven. But not everyone knows that. Let's make a card to let someone else know how much God loves them.*

- Construction Paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Glitter
- Anything that can be used to decorate a homemade card
- Envelope
- Box and care package items

Have your child make and decorate a Christmas card. It can say 'Jesus is the Way' if you want to tie it into the lesson. This is a great opportunity to make a care package and send it to a family member or friend in need or a member of the military serving overseas.

## 7) Jesus Is God's Promise

Read JSB 'Son of Laughter'

Page 56 "Years passed... - ...a family."

Page 58 "And then God told Abraham his Secret Rescue Plan... - ...all the stars in the sky."  
"You will be my special family... - ...And he believed."

Page 60 "Sure enough... - ... which means "son of laughter."."  
"And one day... - ...dream come true."

*God promised Abraham that his family would become so big it would number more than all the stars in the sky. And that through Abraham's family Jesus would come. Abraham believed God's promise. And we can believe God's promise that Jesus is coming back again.*

"You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. If you are Christ's then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26 & 29

Matthew 1:1-16 (show the genealogy, how Jesus is the descendent of Abraham)

### **Craft: Star Globe or Snow Globe.**

*There are billions of people in this world who love God and believe in his promises just like Abraham did. There are so many of us we're like the stars in the sky...or the snowflakes when it snows, too many to count!*

#### **Star Globe**

- Small glass jar with lid
- Hot water
- Glitter Glue
- Blue glitter
- Blue food coloring

Mix about 1 tablespoon of glitter glue with 1 cup of hot water. Add some blue food coloring and some blue glitter. Place the lid on the jar and shake to see the stars!

#### **Snow Globe**

- Small glass jar with lid
- Distilled water
- Glycerin (found in Walmart pharmacy)
- Hot glue gun & hot glue
- Mini fake trees or figurines
- Glitter (chunkier is better)
- Gold spray paint for the lid
- You can skip the water and glycerin and make it a dry snow globe if you'd prefer that too.

Spray paint the lid gold if desired. Put a little glue on both the inside of the lid and the bottom of the fake tree and press the tree onto the lid. Allow to dry. Add about 1 tsp of glitter to jar and fill with distilled water. Add 5 drops of Glycerin. Screw the lid onto the top.

## 8) Jesus is Our Passover Lamb

*God had told his people that their rescuer was coming, but while they waited in expectation their lives weren't easy.*

JSB 'God to the Rescue'

Page 84 "Later on, a new king... - ...I will be with you."

Page 86 "So Moses went... - ...called "Plagues"."

All of pages 88-91

*God rescued his people from Pharaoh, but it was only a temporary freedom. Who was coming to rescue us from sin forever?*

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

### Craft - Painted Lamb or Pom-Pom Lamb

*In the Passover story God's people put lamb's blood on their front doors to save them from death. The lamb died so they wouldn't have to. Jesus is our Passover lamb.*

#### Painted Lamb

- Smooth dark craft rock
- White & Silver paint pens

Have your child paint a sheep's face and swirls on a rock with the paint pens to imitate sheep's wool.

#### Pom-pom Lamb

- White yarn
- Black construction paper or foam board
- Scissors
- Glue
- Googly eyes
- Fork
- Black pipe cleaner

Cut a 6" piece of yarn and place it between the center fork prong. This will serve as your tie. Wrap a much longer piece of yarn tightly around the fork,. The more you wrap, the bigger the pom-pom. Thick yarn, wrapped 40 times; thinner yarn, 60 times. Word of advice, thicker yarn is much more difficult to keep together. Once you're finished wrapping, pull your tie yarn together *extremely tight!*

Turn yarn ball on its side and cut through the 'loops' of the yarn. Be sure not to cut your tie or it will all fall apart. Now that you have one side cut, repeat on the other side. Once you're finished cutting, fluff the pom-pom. Carefully remove the pom-pom from the fork. Trim if needed. Cut a lamb's head shape out of the black construction paper and glue on googly eyes. Glue the lamb's head to the pom-pom body. Fold the pipe cleaner in half and push through the middle of the pom-pom to form legs.



## 9) Jesus Is the Way

Read JSB 'God Makes a Way'

Page 92 "Moses and God's people... - ...he would show them."

"God sent a big cloud... - ...up to the sky."

"God led his people... - ...every single chariot in Egypt."

Page 95 "What were God's people going to do?... - ...it was too deep."

"We're going to die! They shrieked."

"God will make a way... - ...strangest thing happened."

All of page 96-98

*What do you think that means that "God knew the way and one day he would show them?" What is this talking about?*

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

### **Craft - Jingle Bell Wreath/ Tambourine.**

*There was surely celebrating when God rescued his people from Pharaoh. And celebrating that Jesus was coming to rescue them from sin. We can celebrate too! Jesus has rescued us and will come again some day!!*

- Jingle bells
- Pipe cleaner
- Red or green ribbon
- Hot glue gun & hot glue

Have your child thread the jingle bells onto a pipe cleaner. Form the jingle bell 'stick' into a circle to make a wreath. Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together. Make a bow from the ribbon and hot glue to the wreath to cover the twisted ends. Encourage your child to make a joyful noise of celebration to celebrate Christ's coming.

## 10) Rules Can't Rescue Us

Read 'Ten Ways to Be Perfect'

Page 100 "So there they all were... - ...much too hot."

Page 101 "God doesn't want us to be happy... - ...did they?"

Page 102 "Every day... - ...down from heaven!"

"When they were thirsty... - ...from a rock."

Page 103 "And still... - ...do what he said."

"So God led them to a tall mountain."

All of pages 105-107

*Why do we follow rules?*

*Do you think it's possible to be perfect and follow all the rules perfectly?*

*Why do you think God would give his people rules if he knew they couldn't keep them all?*

"...know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified."

Galatians 2: 16

### **Craft – Paper Snowflakes:**

*When God's people were travelling in the wilderness God sent bread from heaven to feed them. Just like the snow falls out of the sky, God sent food to fall out of the sky to take care of his people. God loves taking care of us. Instead of leaving it up to us to try to follow the rules perfectly, He took care of us by sending Jesus to rescue us.*

- White paper or cardstock
- Scissors
- Glitter glue (optional)

Find a tutorial on-line or on my Pinterest Advent board on how to fold and cut out your snowflakes. Decorate with glitter glue if desired. Use the snowflakes you make to decorate your home.

## 11) Jesus the King

Read JSB 'The Teeny, Weenie...True King'

All of pages 116-117

Page 118 "So Samuel went to... - ...Jesse had seven strong sons."

Page 119 "Samuel asked Jess to bring him each son in turn."

"God didn't choose any... - ..."Bring him," said Samuel."

Page 120 "Jesse's youngest son... - ...will rule the world forever."

"And, sure enough... - Wise Men would find him."

*God's rescue plan took a long time didn't it? Why do you think that is?*

*Why did God choose David as king instead of David's older brothers?*

*How is David similar to Jesus?*

"On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 19:16

### **Craft - Candy Cane Shepherd's Crook:**

*David was just a young shepherd boy who one day became a king. Jesus is the King of Kings who cares for his people the same way a shepherd cares for his sheep.*

- Pipe cleaner
- Red and white beads

Crimp one end of the pipe cleaner. Have your child string the beads onto the pipe cleaner alternating red and white. Once the pipe cleaner is full, crimp the other end and bend it into the shape of a shepherd's crook

## 12) Jesus is the Light

Read JSB 'Operation "No More Tears!"'

All of pages 144 – 149

*We've been learning about how when sin entered the world there was nothing we could do to make things right again; the world was in darkness and needed a rescuer. Wiping out all the bad didn't work; things just went wrong again. Trying to find our own way to heaven didn't work; we can't get there on our own. Being good and following the rules didn't work; we couldn't keep all of the rules. The world was in darkness, but God was getting ready to send Jesus to rescue us and be the light of the world!*

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

### **Craft - Light in Darkness Craft or Candles Activity**

*Just like when a candle is lit and a room is rescued from darkness, Jesus has come to rescue the world from the darkness of sin. Jesus is the light of the world.*

#### **Light in the Darkness Craft**

- Black construction paper
- Battery powered tea candle
- Scissors
- Tape

Fold a piece of black construction paper into quarters and cut shapes across the folds as if making snowflakes. Open the piece of paper and roll it into a tube. Tape the top of the tube shut. Place the tea light into the tube and turn it on. Let the light shine through the darkness.

#### **Candles Activity**

- Multiple candles
- Match or lighter

Spread the candles around the room. Turn off the lights and sit for a moment in the darkness. Using a match or lighter, light one candle. Proceed to light all of the candles until the room is bright.

### 13) He's Coming!

Read JSB All of 'Get Ready!' pg 170-175

*Even though God's people felt like they had blown it by disobeying Him, He reminded them once again of how He loved them. God was sending the Rescuer to save His people because of His great love for them.*

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ..."      Philippians 3:20

#### **Craft - Chalkboard Sign -**

*The Rescuer, Jesus, was on the way. Can you imagine how excited God's people must have been to know that God loved them so much He was sending Jesus to save them?*

- Wooden craft sign
- Chalkboard paint
- Chalk

Have your child paint the sign with the chalkboard paint. Once it is dry, have them write 'He's Coming!' with chalk.

## 14) Anticipation!

Read JSB 'He's Here' - All of page 176

*The Rescuer, Jesus, was almost here!! All of creation was anticipating his arrival. What an exciting time to be alive!*

Read 'Song of the Stars' by Sally Lloyd-Jones

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

### **Craft - Names of Jesus -**

*The bible refers to Jesus in many ways. He's called the Lamb of God, the Light of the World, and our Rescuer! Can you think of any others?*

- White watercolor or paint paper – prepared beforehand with the name JESUS sketched out in pencil
- Watercolor or water-based craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Painters tape

Have your child fill in the pre-sketched name of JESUS with painters tape. Let them paint on the paper and tape, filling the page with paint. Before the paint dries, remove the tape to see the name JESUS left behind.

\*After the paint is dry you can also write all the different names of Jesus all over the paper.

## 15) Mary

Read pages 178 -179

*God could have sent Jesus to be born to a queen in a beautiful palace, but instead God chose a young girl who had no money and no connections to important or powerful people. Why do you think God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus? What can we learn about God by His choosing Mary?*

“But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,<sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” Luke 1:30-33

### Craft – Mary Doll –

*God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. How do you think she felt when she learned that she would be the mother of the one to rescue the world?*

- Peg Doll
- Craft paints
- Paintbrushes

Paint a peg doll to look like Mary. Add her to the Nativity.

## 16) Joseph

Read Matthew 1:18-25

*God’s plan to send Jesus to rescue the world was prophesied about years and years before Jesus was born. The prophets said that the Rescuer would be a descendant of King David – that means that the Rescuer would be related to King David. Joseph was the great-great-great-great-great grandson of King David. Because Joseph was his father, Jesus was a descendant of King David! This is one of the ways we know for sure that Jesus is the Rescuer God was sending!*

### Craft – Joseph Doll –

*God chose Joseph to be the earthly father of Jesus because he was a great grandson of King David. Why else do you think God chose Joseph to be the father of Jesus?*

- Peg Doll
- Craft paints
- Paintbrushes

Paint a peg doll to look like Joseph. Add him to the Nativity.

## 18) Bethlehem

Read Luke 2:1-5

*Joseph and Mary had to travel around 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem because they had to take part in a census. That's a long way to travel! But traveling to Bethlehem also fulfilled a prophecy about the Messiah. It was prophesied that the He would come forth from Bethlehem. How exciting!*

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans<sup>[a]</sup> of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.” Micah 5: 2

### Craft - Gingerbread house:

*Bethlehem was the city where Jesus was born. There were many people living in Bethlehem, but there was no room in any inns for Mary and Joseph.*

- Gingerbread house kit or Graham Crackers, icing and candies

Put together and decorate a gingerbread house.

## 17) The Stable

Read JSB pages 180-181

*The bible doesn't tell us exactly what type of structure Jesus was born in, but we do know he was laid in a manger. He could have been born in a stable, a cave or even the main room of a home where the animals were kept. What we do know is that our Rescuer wasn't born in a fancy place or a big palace; Jesus was born near animals in very humble circumstances.*

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.” Luke 2:4-5

**Craft - Stable Ornament -** *God could have chosen to have Jesus born anywhere in the world. Why do you think He chose to have Jesus born not in a fancy palace, but in a humble stable/home? What do you think this tells us about God?*

- Craft Sticks
- Hot glue/gun
- Craft paint
- Paintbrushes

Help your child make a stable ornament out of craft sticks. Let them paint it and hang it on your tree.



## 19) Jesus is born!

Read JSB page182

Re-read one of your nativity storybooks. Ask your child to tell you the nativity story in their own words.

*What questions do you have about the story of Jesus' birth? What stands out to you?*

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.      Isaiah 9:6-7

### **Craft - Manger -**

*How wonderful that the savior of the world came as a tiny baby to bring God's people hope! Why do you think Jesus came as a tiny baby instead of a conquering warrior? What do you think this tells us about God?*

- Craft sticks
- Hot glue/Gun

Help your child build a manger out of craft sticks. Place it in the nativity.

## 20) The Star

Read JSB 'The Light of the Whole World' and 'The King of all Kings'

Page 184

And page 192

*Have you ever thought about God as Jesus' daddy? What do you think about their relationship? Do you think of God as your heavenly father? How or why not?*

"...and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2: 2

**Craft - Star** - *God put the bright star in the sky to show people the way to Jesus. Why do you think He used a star instead of something else?*

- Wooden Craft Star or card stock cut out in a star shape
- Yellow or gold paint
- Paintbrushes
- Gold glitter

Help your child decorate the star. Attach it to the top of the Nativity

## 21) The Shepherds

Read JSB 'The Light of the Whole World'  
Pages 186

*The bible tells us that shepherds were looked down on and laughed at. Why do you think God chose them to be the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth? What does this tell us about God?*

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2: 8-12 & 20

**Craft - Shepherds** - *Shepherds play a very important role in the scriptures. King David was a shepherd boy, Jesus is referred to as the Good Shepherd, and shepherds were the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth.*

- Peg Dolls
- Craft paints
- Paintbrushes

Paint peg dolls to look like Shepherds. Add them to the Nativity.

## 22) The Angels

Read JSB 'The Light of the Whole World'  
Pages 188-190

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:13-14

**Craft - Angel** -

*Can you imagine seeing all those angels in the sky? What do you think it was like? Would you be afraid at first like the shepherds?*

- Peg Doll
- Craft paints
- Paintbrushes

Paint a peg doll to look like an Angel. Add him to the Nativity.

## 23) The Magi

Read JSB 'The King of All Kings' pages 194-198

*The Magi followed the star for months and months to find Jesus. Why do you think it was important for them to see Jesus? What can we learn about Jesus that both shepherds and magi visited him after his birth?*

"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:9-11

### Craft - Magi -

*The Magi were wealthy, noble people from far, far away. The bible doesn't say that the noble people near Jesus came to visit him. Why do you think only nobles from far away came to see him?*

- Peg Dolls
- Craft paints
- Paintbrushes

Paint peg dolls to look like Magi. Add them to the Nativity.

## 24) The Nativity

Read through the entire nativity story start to finish in JSB OR a picture book nativity story.

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." Luke 2:6-7

### Craft: Hay & Birthday Cookies

- Little bits of straw

Place the straw in the manger to make a nice place for Jesus. After kiddos go to bed, place a baby Jesus wooden doll in the manger so he is there for Christmas morning.

- Cookie dough
- Icing
- Cookie decorations

Bake cookies and decorate them to celebrate Jesus' birthday. If you celebrate Christmas with Santa, leave some cookies and milk out so Santa can join in the celebration.

