

Bible Story Center

Collect

Bible, Picture 29 from *Bible Story Pictures*.

Tell the Story

Use the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Picture 29. For older children, tell the version of the story on the back of Picture 29.

What do you see when you look at the sky at night? Listen to find out what some shepherds saw in the sky on one very special night.

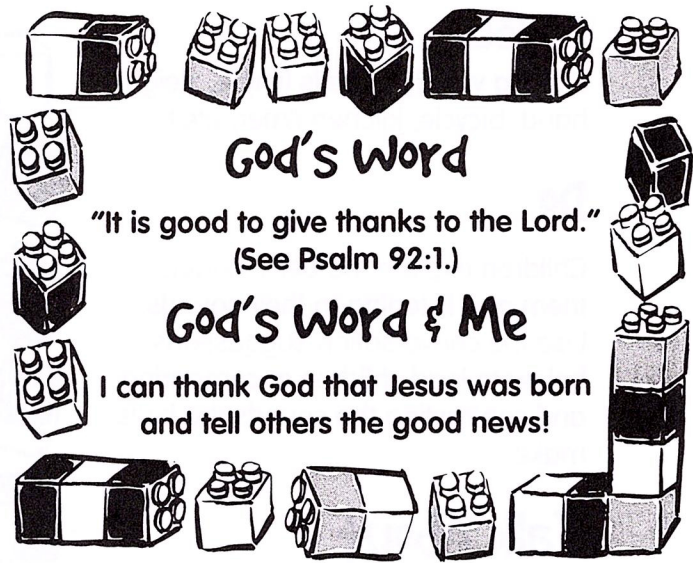
Some shepherds were in the fields at night. They were watching their sheep. All the sheep were sleeping. Stars **twinkled** high in the nighttime sky. Everything was still and quiet.

Suddenly, the shepherds saw a bright light in the dark sky. *What could this be?* they wondered. Then they saw an angel! The shepherds were very **afraid**.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said. "I have good news to tell you. Today in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born for you. You will find this special baby lying in a manger." Before the shepherds could say a word, the sky was FULL of angels. The angels thanked God that Jesus was born. Then the angels left and went back to heaven. The nighttime sky grew dark and quiet again.

The shepherds said, "Let's go right now and find this special baby." The shepherds **hurried** as fast as they could go. They ran down the hillside. Then they ran along the road to Bethlehem. When they came to the stable, they saw Mary and Joseph. Quietly the shepherds came near to see the baby. And in the manger lay baby Jesus, just as the angel had said.

The shepherds were excited and happy about baby Jesus. "Jesus is born!" they **told** everyone they saw. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep. And all the while they praised and thanked God for sending His Son, Jesus.



God's Word & Me



After visiting the baby Jesus, what did the shepherds do? (Told others that Jesus was born.) The shepherds were so thankful that Jesus was born, they told everyone they saw! We can tell others about Jesus, too! Who can you tell about Jesus' birth?

Lesson 16

Active Game Center: Chain Game

Collect

Bible, red and green construction paper, scissors, markers, tape.

Prepare

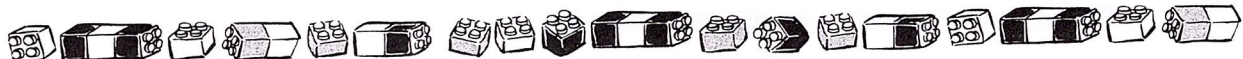
Cut construction paper into 6x2-inch (15x5-cm) strips. Make sure there are two or three strips for each child. Place paper strips in different places around classroom.

Do

1. Children move around the room, looking for paper strips. When a strip is found, the child uses markers to decorate the strip. Instruct children to take only one strip of paper at a time.
2. As children finish decorating strips, assist them in taping strips to form links, creating a paper chain. Children continue searching for, decorating and forming links with paper strips until all have been found or as time allows. Hang chain from classroom walls or around doorway.

Talk About

- Our Bible says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." At Christmas we can thank God that Jesus was born and tell others the good news. Let's make a Christmas decoration for our classroom.
- What are some of the special things your family does to celebrate Christmas?
- Who can you tell about Jesus' birth? What can you say?
- At Christmas we thank God for sending Jesus to be born. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, that Jesus was born.



For Younger Children

Be alert to younger children who may have difficulty finding strips. Offer verbal clues. **Look under the table. Check higher on the bookshelf.** If needed, take the child by hand and lead him or her directly to a strip.

For Older Children

Children count the links as they are added to chain. Start counting over when children reach 20 links.

Art Center: Paper-Plate Angels

Collect

Bible, two paper plates for each child, scissors, red construction paper, chenille wires, hole punch, stapler, markers, glue; optional—heart-shaped stickers.

Prepare

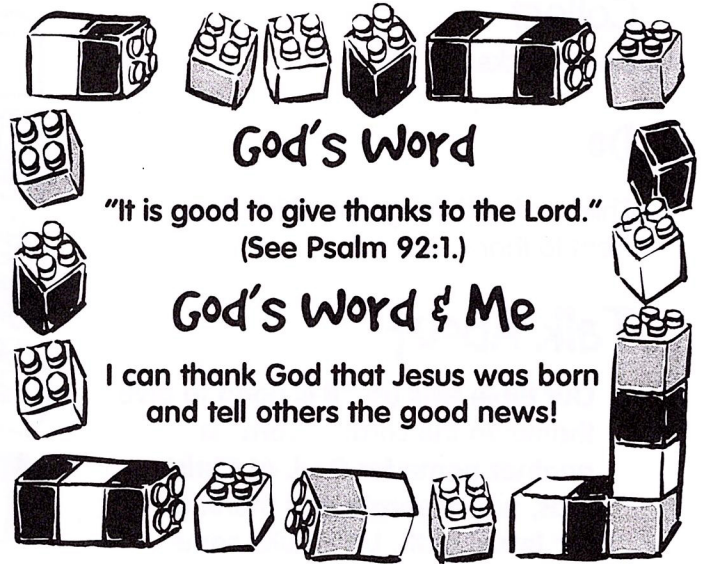
For each child, cut one paper plate in half for wings. Cut 1-inch (2.5-cm) hearts from red construction paper. Cut chenille wires into 6-inch (15-cm) lengths. Punch two holes at the top of the paper plate.

Do

1. Each child arranges the cut halves of a paper plate in back of a whole paper plate to form wings. Help children staple plates together. Children draw eyes and hair. Then children glue construction-paper heart over staple to form the mouth. (Optional: Children stick heart-shaped sticker over staple instead of red construction paper and glue.)
2. Help children thread chenille wires through holes and twist to secure at back to form a halo. Halo may also act as a hanger.

Talk About

- In our Bible story the angels told the shepherds the good news that Jesus was born. Let's make angels to remind us of this good news.
- The angels we made will remind us of the angels who told the shepherds about Jesus. What other things remind you of Jesus' birthday? Who can tell you about Jesus' birth?
- Our Bible says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." I am thankful that Jesus was born! Invite children to join you as you pray briefly, **Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be born!**



For Younger Children

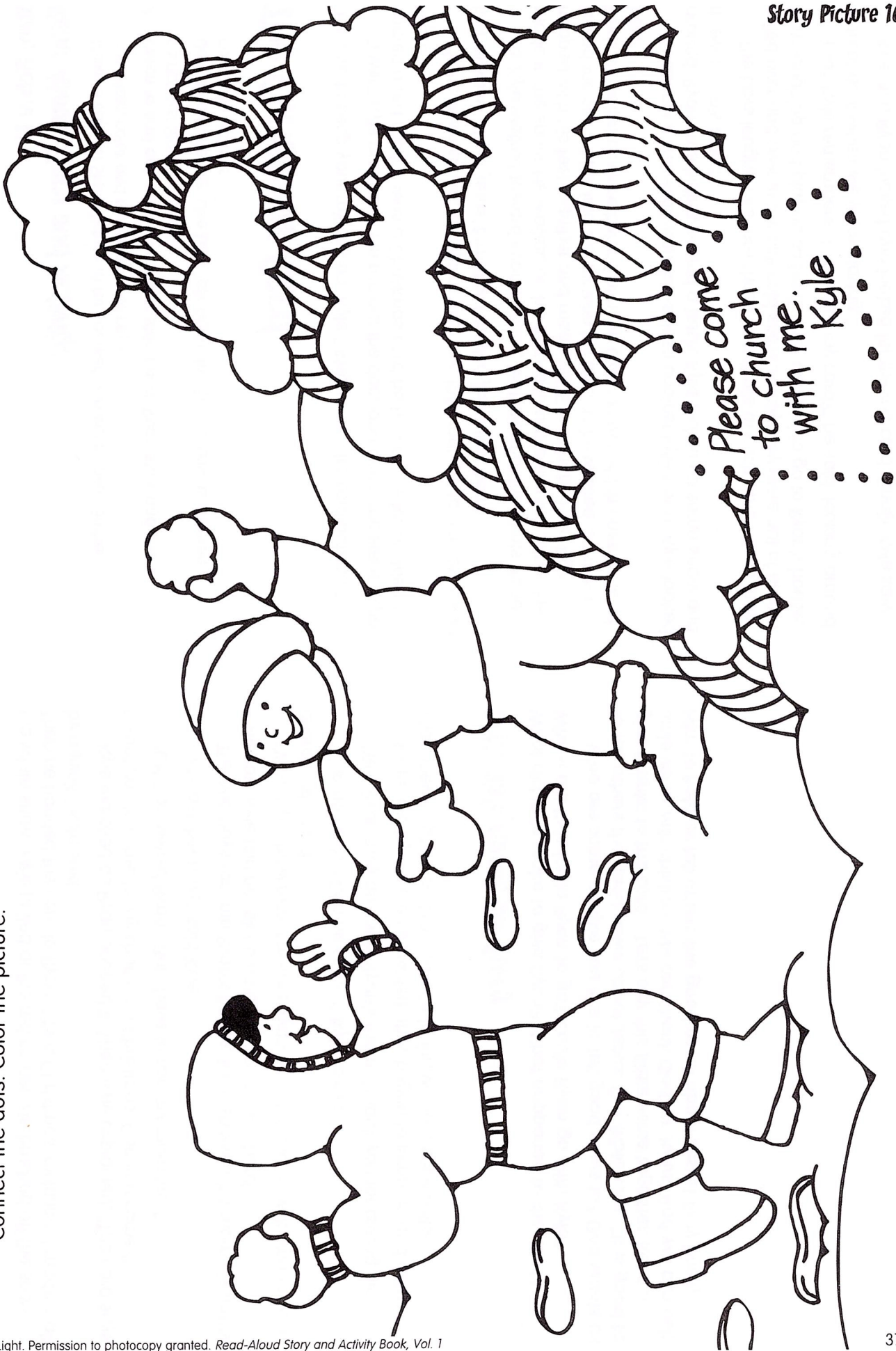
Provide lace for children to glue to wings.

For Older Children

Children cut paper plate in half to form wings.

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord." (See Psalm 92:1.)

Connect the dots. Color the picture.



Story Picture 16

Read-Aloud Story and Activity

1. Make a copy of Story Picture 16 for yourself and each child. Gather materials; color and complete your copy.
2. **Listen to find out what one boy couldn't find.** Read story and show completed Story Picture 16.
3. Distribute materials. Use Let's Talk About the Story ideas as children complete pictures.

The Christmas Card

"Be sure to keep your mittens on, Kyle," Mom said. "It's cold outside."

"I will," Kyle promised. He ran out the door and down the steps. Kyle carried a red card. It was a Christmas card he had made for his friend Ryan.

I hope Ryan can go to church with me, Kyle thought to himself. I want him to know about Jesus' birthday. I'm glad Jesus was born!

As Kyle walked toward Ryan's house, he looked at the prints his feet made in the snow. He walked on his tiptoes to make tiny footprints. He hopped with his feet together and made WIDE footprints. Then Kyle kicked the snow high into the air with his toes as he walked. So many kinds of footprints were behind him, he didn't know which ones he liked best!

Suddenly a snowball went ker-splash against Kyle's arm! Kyle looked around. Ryan was hiding behind a bush. Kyle picked up some snow and threw it at his friend.

The boys laughed as they threw snowballs at each other. Then they rolled over and over in the soft cold snow. Finally they were out of breath from laughing and playing so hard. They decided to go to Ryan's house.

Then Kyle remembered! "Where's my card?" he said, looking around. "I dropped it when we were playing."

Kyle and Ryan looked and looked for the red card. Finally Kyle saw something in the snow under a bush. He ran over to the tiny bit of red in

the white snow. Kyle pulled at the red corner. He brushed off the snow. Then he handed the card to Ryan. "It's a Christmas invitation. I made it all by myself," Kyle said.

Kyle watched as Ryan opened it. Then Kyle explained, "The card says I want you to come to my church on Christmas. Can you come?"

"OK," answered Ryan. "But I have to ask my mom first."

"Let's ask her now," said Kyle.

The two boys ran into Ryan's house. Ryan showed his mom his pretty invitation. Kyle told her all about Christmas at his church.

"Why, Kyle, how nice! I'm sure Ryan would like to go with you to your church," she said.

"Can he come? Can he come?" Kyle asked.

"Yes, Ryan may go," said Ryan's mom. "Thank you for asking him!"

Ryan and Kyle were so excited, they began to jump up and down. Then they laughed and ran outside to throw more snowballs!

Let's Talk About the Story

What did Kyle make to give Ryan? What happened to the card?

Where did Kyle invite Ryan to go? Could Ryan go with Kyle?

Who are some people you like to tell good news to? God wants us to tell others the good news about Jesus. Our Bible says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." Let's say this Bible verse together. Repeat Bible verse with children. We can thank God for Jesus. And we can ask Him to help us tell others the good news about Jesus! Pray briefly.

Look at the picture of the shepherds hearing the good news of Jesus' birth.

Find and draw a ○ around the numbers 1 to 15 hidden in the picture.



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|

We can thank God that Jesus was born.
 Our Bible says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." (See Psalm 92:1.)



Draw a line to connect each of the numbers in the correct order.