

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 3**  
**The Birth of the Lord (Luke 1:26-28,31; 2:4-16,20)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The Lord was born at night when it was dark, representing the ignorance at the time.
- B. If the Lord had not come into the world, mankind would have destroyed itself.

**II. Story Circle**

A. Introduction

- 1. Do you remember what a prophet is?(A person who speaks for the Lord) And what is a prophecy?(A message from the Lord)
- 2. Last time we heard this prophecy from the prophet, Malachi:  
"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me." (Malachi 3:1) Who was the messenger that prepared the way for the Lord - who got people ready to hear the things that the Lord would teach them? (John the Baptist)
- 3. If John the Baptist had not come before the Lord, people would not have been ready to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and they would not have been ready to listen to and learn the things the Lord would teach them.
- 4. All through the Old Testament there are prophecies that one day God Himself would come into the world. We've talked before about two of these prophecies. I'll read them to you now:
  - a. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2) You did a project about this prophecy. Do you remember it? (Show children one of the finished projects from Lesson #1.)
  - b. "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given." (Is. 9:6) Who is the Child who is going to be born? (The Lord—Jesus)
- 5. Do you remember how Zacharias found out that he and Elizabeth were going to have a baby whom they would name John? (The angel Gabriel came to Zacharias and told him.)
- 6. In our story today, the angel Gabriel brings the same kind of news to someone else.

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### B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read aloud Luke 1:26-28,31; 2:4-16,20.
2. You may need to explain the following as you're reading:
  - a. Swaddling cloths (not "clothes"): strips of cloth wrapped around an infant (See attached project description for more details.)
  - b. Inn: like a motel—a place you can stay and sleep when you're away from home
  - c. Manger: wooden box for holding food for animals such as cows, donkeys, sheep
  - d. Multitude of the heavenly host: a huge crowd of angels

### C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Who came to Mary and told her that she was going to have a baby?(The angel Gabriel)
2. What was she supposed to name the baby?(Jesus)
3. Who came with Mary to Bethlehem to be registered? (Joseph)
4. Why did Mary have to lay her baby in a manger? (Because there was no room for them in the inn)
5. Who else heard the news that the Lord was born? (The shepherds)
6. Who told them?(An angel of the Lord)
7. After the angels went away, what did the shepherds decide to do?(To go to Bethlehem and see Jesus)
8. While the shepherds returned to their fields, what did they do along the way?(Glorified and praised God for everything they had heard and seen)

### D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord had to come into the world to teach people how to be good so they could go to heaven.
2. Only a few people were ready to hear that the Lord was born. The shepherds were ready because they were kind and good, so they welcomed the angel's news.
3. When we are selfish, we have no room in our hearts for the Lord, just as there was no room for Him at the inn.
4. On the first Christmas day, the Lord gave us the greatest gift of all. Can you guess what it was? (Himself!)

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### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "Away in a manger," *Hymnal* #206.
2. "Children, can you truly tell," *Hymnal* #201.
3. "O come, little children," *Hymnal* #203.

#### B. Activities: FLANNEL BOARD

1. Give felt pieces (lambs, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, donkey, manger, baby Jesus, stable animals) to children and have them add their pieces to the flannel board at "the appropriate time as you tell/read the story.

#### C. Project

1. Stained Glass Window
  - a. **Oiled.** After children color the attached picture with water-base felt markers, the teacher can rub it with vegetable oil. (Good to lay the picture on a stack of newspaper while oiling.) Try not to oil any closer to the edges than necessary. The oiled picture is then mounted on a poster board or construction paper frame.
  - b. **Framed.** To make the frame: Begin with a 9 X 12 piece (red, blue, or purple). On the back, draw lines 1" from all 4 sides. Cut out this center rectangle using a utility knife or single edge razor blade. (Save it for some other project.) Lay the oiled picture face down against the back of the frame, and tape the edges of the picture to the back of the frame.
  - b. **Mounted.** After children color the attached picture, use rubber cement to mount it on a 9X12 piece on construction paper (red, blue, or purple).
2. Christmas Mobile—Please note that this project requires teacher preparation, tracing and cutting some pieces for the younger children. But the finished project is well worth keeping. (See attached instructions and patterns for templates.)
3. Baby in Swaddling Cloths—See project description in the *General Convention Sunday School Activity Book* (red volume) for lesson 125.

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Flannel board with felt figures to illustrate story and/or nativity scene.
- B. Pictures of annunciation, nativity, shepherds receiving news from angel(s).

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**V. Further Reading for the Teacher**

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 5, "The Birth of the Lord" (Luke 2:1-20).
- B. "Christmas Prophecies," a talk by the Rev. Alfred Acton (see attached).

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### CHRISTMAS MOBILE

**Note:** This project takes a long time. The cutting and tracing are not easy for little children, so the teacher must be prepared to do lots outside of class time. But the finished project is worth keeping for years!

#### Materials Needed

Coat hanger/dowel  
Glue  
String  
Hole puncher  
Scissors

Construction paper: white, red, brown, yellow  
Poster board: white, red, green, yellow, black, blue  
Gold foil paper

#### Before Class

1. Mount attached patterns on cardboard with rubber cement. Cut out with utility knife and use as templates.
2. Trace (and cut—optional) for each child:

#### *From Poster Board*

Circles: 1 yellow  
1 green  
1 white  
1 black  
1 blue

Oval: 1 red

#### *From Construction Paper*

2 hearts (red)  
2 mangers (brown)  
2 Jesus (white)  
2 angels (white) – Hardest to cut  
2 lambs (white) – Next hardest to cut  
2 stars (yellow)

#### *From Gold Foil*

2 crowns and 2 halos

3. Using hole puncher, make a hole in each circle and in the oval about 1/8" from the "top" edge so children will know which way is "up."

#### In Class

Have children glue the construction paper & gold foil silhouettes onto the poster board backgrounds as follows:

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### Circle/Oval

green  
white  
blue  
black  
yellow  
red

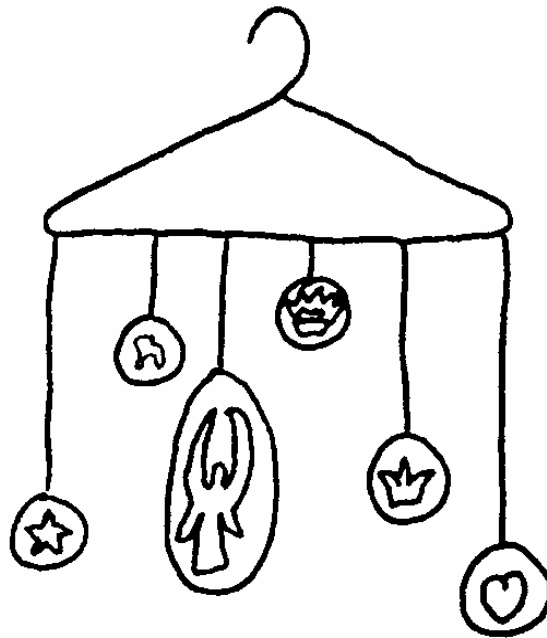
### Silhouette

lambs  
hearts  
crowns  
stars  
mangers  
babies halos  
angels



### After Class

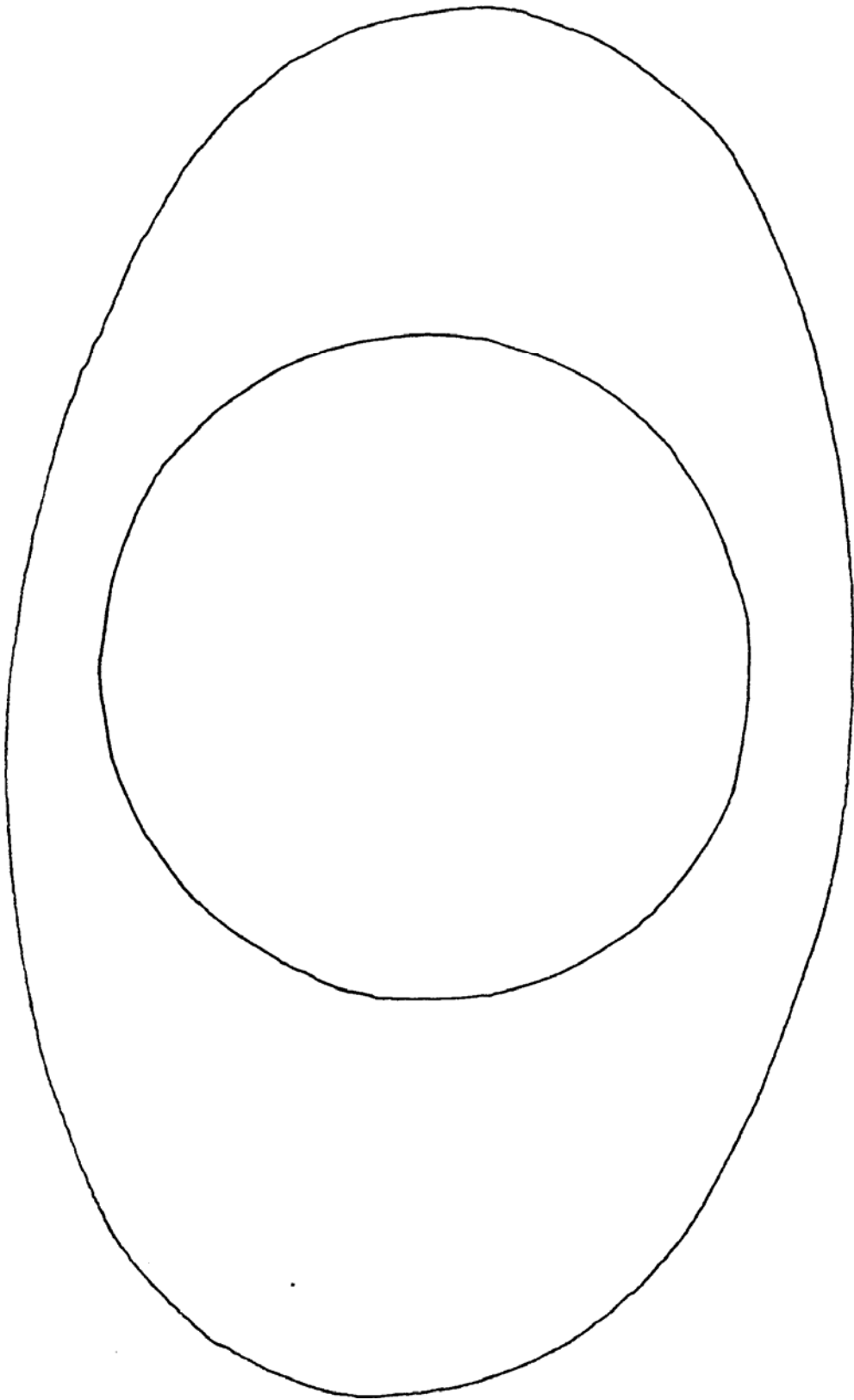
Teacher puts mobiles together. The following arrangement of the pieces gives a nice sense of balance as far as size of backgrounds and dark and light colors:



Lengths of strings from hanger to top of circle (but cut them longer to begin with)

Star	8"
Lamb	3 1/2"
Angel	5 1/4"
Jesus	1 1/2"
Crown	6"
Heart	10"

Be sure to put a nametag on each hanger to identify the owner.



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CHRISTMAS MOBILE TEMPLATES

