

HERE WE COME!

Have an assortment of light sources shining in the room when the children arrive. Which ones light their houses? Which ones are used for parties or special occasions? Which ones help you find something in the dark?

SCRIPTURE WORDS AND WORSHIP

Two of the scriptures come from the lectionary readings in Psalms and the Old Testament. Use them to remind the children of the lesson on joy when the angels sang. The scripture from John is abstract in meaning, but can be concrete in presentation. Use pictures of Jesus, candles or light bulbs, and the world to illustrate the verse.

SURPRISED BY THE LIGHT

Love is an important part of every commandment.

Scripture Words

Sing for joy.
—Isaiah 52:8 NRSV

Make a joyful noise to the Lord.
—Psalm 98:4 NRSV

Jesus is the light of the world.
—John 1:9–10 NRSV adapted

MOVING MUSIC

- Use familiar Christmas songs.
- “This Little Light of Mine”

This Little Light of Mine

Source Unknown



This lit-tle light of mine-- I'm gon-na let it shine;



This lit-tle light of mine-- I'm gon-na let it shine, Let it



shine, let it shine, let it shine. *Fine*



1. Hide it un-der a bush -el? no! I'm gon-na let it shine;

2. No one's gon-na (blow) it out-- I'm gon-na let it shine;



Hide it un-der a bush -el? no! I'm gon-na let it shine, Let it

No one's gon-na (blow) it out-- I'm gon-na let it shine, Let it



shine, let it shine, let it shine. shine.

shine, let it shine. let it shine. shine.

LIVE AND LEARN

We don't know much about the wise men in Matthew's story.

But we do know that whoever they were, they must have been watching for changes in the sky. They must have been familiar with the constellations and patterns in order to notice when a new star appeared. It must have come as a surprise, causing them to check prophecies and records to find an explanation. Include the children in the telling of the story.

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable. On the night he was born, a new star appeared in the sky. It was a special star marking the birth of the Savior. Have you ever looked at the stars in the sky at night? What did you see?
- Some wise men saw that special star in the sky. They were far, far away, but they wanted to come and see what the new star meant. They traveled from the east to Jerusalem to ask the king about it. They rode on camels. Have you ever ridden on a camel?
- The wise men came to King Herod and asked him about the special star. "Where is the new baby born to be the Messiah?" they asked the king. "We saw his star and have come to worship him." What does it mean to worship baby Jesus?
- King Herod was surprised. He didn't know anything about a new baby. He didn't like the idea either. He wanted to be the only king himself. King Herod asked his priests and scribes for an answer.
- "It is written by the prophets that he would be born in Bethlehem," one of the priests told the king.
- King Herod called the wise men in. "It says he is to be born in Bethlehem. Go look for him, and when you find him, come and tell me. I want to worship him too." Do you think the king really wanted to worship baby Jesus?
- The wise men left and went to Bethlehem. That night they followed the star until they came to a house. Mary and Joseph were staying there with the new baby. They were surprised to see the wise men. Have you ever heard a knock on the door, and when you answered it, were surprised to see strangers there?
- "We brought gifts for the special baby," they said, and they gave him gold and sweet-smelling spices. "It is so wonderful to see the Messiah." What gifts would you bring to baby Jesus?
- When their visit was over, an angel warned them not to go back to King Herod. "He wants to hurt the baby," the angel said. "Go home another way." And the wise men did.
- Then the angel came to tell Joseph the same thing. "You must take your wife and baby and leave for Egypt. Stay there until God tells you it is safe to come home."
- So Mary and Joseph packed up their things, picked up the sleeping baby Jesus, and slipped quietly away.

STORY TALKING

This is Christmas Day. Let the children talk about exciting things that have happened to them so far and expectations they have for the rest of the day.

UP AND AT 'EM

Pack up for a walk. Take a blanket, paper plates and napkins, a snack, cups for water, and the nativity scene. Be sure each child has something to carry. When you arrive at a spot for the picnic, share the food and talk about what it would have been like for Mary and Joseph with a new baby. What would they need to pack to care for the child? What clothes would they need? How would they get food? Where would they sleep?

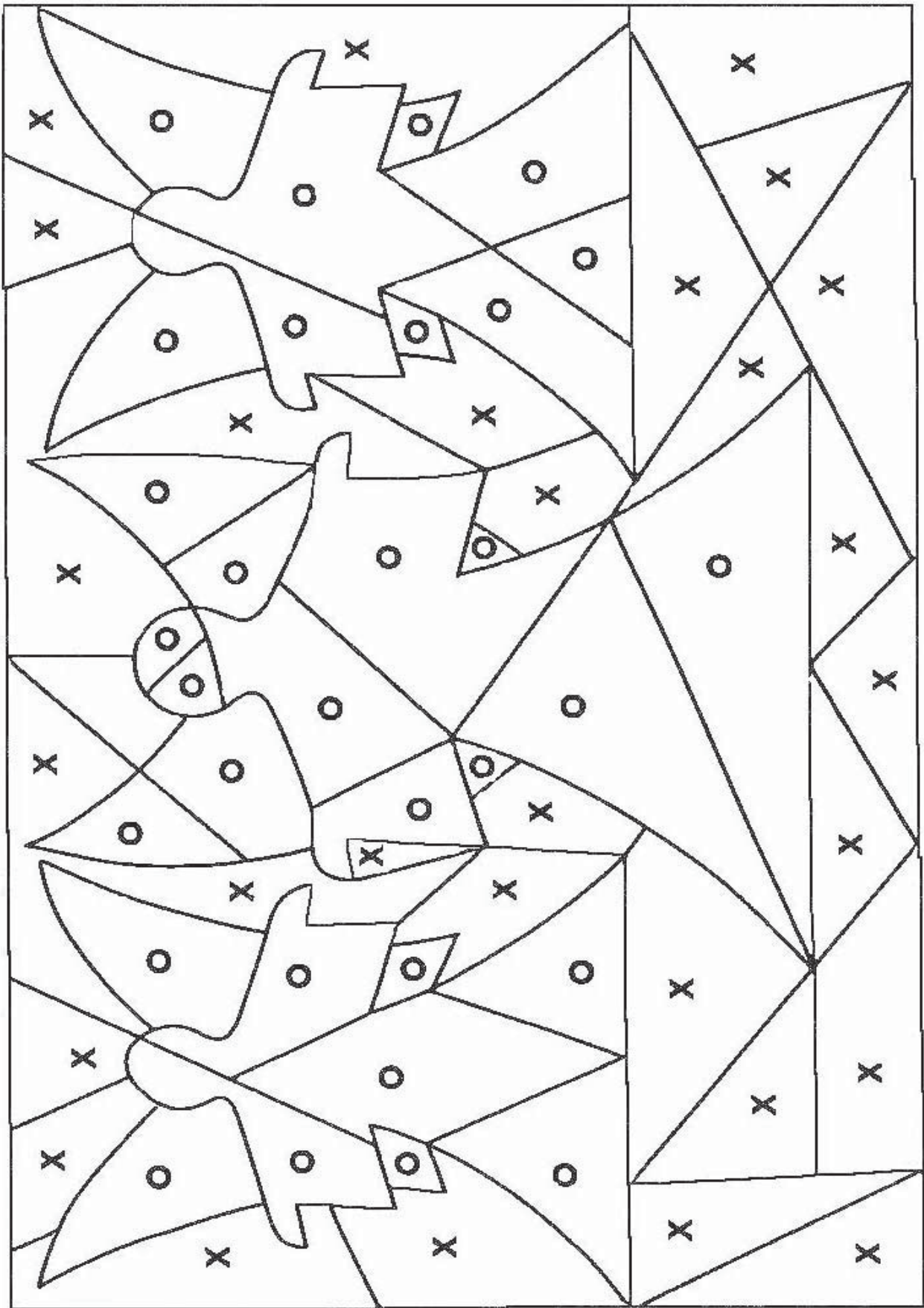
SENSE-A-TIONS

Give each child a copy of the picture on the following page. Demonstrate how to decide which color fills each shape. Use blue or dark blue for the X spaces and yellow or gold for the O spaces. Have one done to show the children before or after they finish.

THERE WE GO

Give each child a small treat as a surprise.

SURPRISED BY THE LIGHT COLOR THE SPACES WITH Xs BLUE. COLOR THE SPACES WITH Os YELLOW.



Stewardship Is

Marilyn Suddaby

Arranged by Marcia Legg

The first system of musical notation consists of three staves. The top staff is a single treble clef staff with a whole rest. The middle and bottom staves are grouped by a brace on the left and represent a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part begins with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

The second system of musical notation includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is on a single treble clef staff with the lyrics: "Stew - ard - ship is God's way of liv - in'". The piano accompaniment continues on the two staves below. The key signature and time signature remain the same as in the first system.

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My way of giv - in' thanks to God That I'm liv - in' in a

The first system of music features a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "My way of giv - in' thanks to God That I'm liv - in' in a".

world Where there's e - nough to share With

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "world Where there's e - nough to share With".

all the peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.

The third system concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "all the peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.".