

Jesus Is Born

The most important person ever to come into the world came not as a conquering king but as a tiny, helpless infant. God's Son was born not in a high-tech hospital with the world's best attending physicians, not in the comfort of a warm and safe home, not in a castle with trumpets and fanfare fitting for a king. Instead, Jesus was born in a simple stable, probably a cave used to house domestic animals. Only Mary, Joseph, and perhaps a few animals attended his birth. This was the package in which God sent the precious gift of his only Son.

Three- and four-year-olds love the celebration of Christmas with its glittery decorations and enticing packages, the special foods that fill our tables, and the hospitality shared with family and friends. It takes extra effort to bring our children past the glitter, the gifts, and the abundance to the true meaning of Christmas. Use these lessons to demonstrate the wonder of Jesus' coming and to point them to the true meaning of Christmas—the arrival of Jesus, God's promised Savior and the most special gift of all.

Five Lessons on Jesus' Birth

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
1	The angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift.	11	Luke 1:26-38
2	Jesus is God's special gift.	25	Luke 2:1-7
3	The shepherds were glad that Jesus is God's special gift.	39	Luke 2:8-15
4	Jesus is God's special gift, and we worship him.	53	Luke 2:15-20
5	Jesus is God's special gift, and we love him.	67	Matthew 2:1-12



The angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift.

Bible Verse

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem” (Matthew 2:1a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- talk about things that surprise them,
 - surprise each other in a game,
 - hear a story about something special that happened to Mary, and
 - thank God for his special gift—Jesus.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ The angel comes to Mary.

Luke
1:26-38



These passages provide the only extensive account in the Bible of Jesus' birth. These events may have held greater significance for Luke than for the other Gospel writers because Luke was a physician.

Luke begins by describing the visit of an angel. The angel's announcement that Mary was favored by God no doubt caused her some confusion. She was an obscure person in an obscure family in Israel. In her culture, it was assumed that those in high positions were the ones favored by God.

The angel's description of her child must have confused Mary even more. How could any human—much less a lowly young virgin—give birth to the Son of God? However, Mary's response shows us her heart: As confusing and frightening as the angel's message must have been, Mary wanted what God wanted for her.


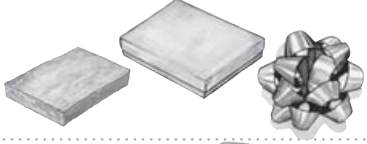






Prayer

- Read Proverbs 3:5-6.
- When have you trusted and followed God's plan for your life, even when you found it difficult?
- *Pray:* Dear Lord, help me put my complete trust in you every day. Help me model trusting you for my students as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Angel Name Tags" (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Room Angels —Make life-size angels to hang up around the room.	Newsprint, pencils, scissors, tape	
	Option 2: Mary and Joseph Living Center —Dress up and pretend they're Mary and Joseph.	Robes, towels, belts, scarves, pretend food, toy dishes, broom, wood blocks, toy tools	
	Option 3: Surprise Paintings —Make a surprising painting, and hear how Mary was surprised by an angel.	Tempera paint, white crayons, white paper, paintbrushes	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible-Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Play a game to surprise each other.	Glitter glue, "Angel Name Tags" (p. 23), scissors, index card	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear how an angel appeared to Mary.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Move to music, and decorate the Learning Mat.	CD player, crayons, markers, glitter glue	
Closing 	Surprise! —Tell Whiskers about the angel who appeared to Mary.		
	Jesus Is God's Gift —Stamp each other's hands to remind each other that Jesus is God's gift.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Angel Name Tags” (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► the angel told Mary that Jesus is God’s special gift.**
- Give each child a photocopy of an angel name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags, and pin or tape them to their clothing.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Have you ever done something to surprise someone? Tell me about it” or “Tell me about a time when someone surprised you.”

■ Option 1: Room Angels

SUPPLIES: newsprint, pencils or markers, scissors, tape

Lay a large sheet of newsprint on the floor for each child. Have the children lie on the paper, arms held out, while you trace their body shapes. Trace each child from fingertip to fingertip, and then from waist to ankle on each side, as shown in the margin illustration. Then have the child get up so you can connect the “wings” and “robe” as shown.

As you trace children, tell them that God sent an angel named Gabriel to Mary and that ► the angel told Mary that Jesus is God’s special gift. Cut out the angels, and help children tape up their angels around the room.

■ Option 2: Mary and Joseph Living Center

SUPPLIES: robes, towels, belts or string, scarves, pretend food, toy dishes, broom, wood blocks, toy tools

Set up an area in your room where children can pretend to be Mary and Joseph. Set out dress-up clothing such as robes, towels, belts or pieces of string, and scarves. You might also include kitchen and household items such as pretend food, dishes, and a broom. If you have toy tools in your classroom, set them out along with wood blocks so children can pretend to be carpenters like Joseph.

teacher tips

You may want to laminate the name tags with clear adhesive plastic so they’ll last through the module.

BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

teacher tips

Three- and four-year-olds may still feel anxious about leaving their parents, so your welcoming presence is very important! If children see you smiling at the door each week, they’ll soon trust you and look forward to coming to class.



teacher tips

If you have an adult or teenage helper, have that person cut out children’s angels.

Explain that angels appeared to Mary and Joseph to tell them about baby Jesus' coming. As the children play, talk about what Mary and Joseph each might have been doing when the angels appeared. Have children act out the things they mention.


teacher tips

White Crayola-brand crayons work well for the "Surprise Paintings" activity. For extra fun, let children sprinkle salt on their papers while the paint is wet. Set aside to dry. Before sending children's artwork home, shake off the excess salt.

■ Option 3: Surprise Paintings

SUPPLIES: *tempera paint, white crayons, white paper, paintbrushes*

Before class, dilute one or two colors of tempera paint with water.

Set out white crayons and white sheets of paper. Have each child color a picture on a sheet of the white paper with a white crayon. For best results, encourage children to press hard as they color.

Hold up a child's paper. Point out that the design doesn't show up very well. Tell children that when they paint their papers, they'll get a surprise—the paint will help their designs "appear." Help children paint their papers with the paint wash. As children's designs begin appearing, tell them Mary was surprised to see an angel, just as they're surprised to see their designs. Remind children that ► *the angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift.*

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: *CD player*



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

You'll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up. At first, they may need a little encouragement. But after a few weeks, picking up and singing along will become a familiar routine.


SING

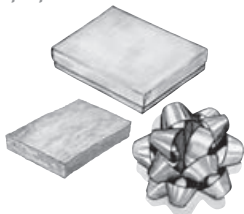
**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ *Setting the Stage*

SUPPLIES: glitter glue, "Angel Name Tags" (p. 23), scissors, index card or construction paper



Before class, remove the *cotton padding* from the *gift box* in the Learning Lab and set it aside for use in Lesson 3. Trace an angel name tag onto an index card or construction paper, and cut out the angel shape. Decorate the angel with glitter glue, and place it in the *gift box*. Put the lid on the *gift box*, and attach the *gift bow*. Each time you use the *gift box*, make sure the *gift bow* is attached.

Tell the children you'll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap three times, they're to stop what they're doing and clap three times back. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Have the children sit on the floor.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Made an angel shape; dressed up like Mary; painted a surprise picture.)

Say: **If you made an angel when you came to class today, move your arms like wings and pretend to fly over to your angel shape.** When children are standing by their angel shapes, say: **Those are wonderful angels. Fly back to us now, and sit down. If you dressed up like Mary or Joseph, stand up, take a bow, and sit down. If you painted a surprise picture, stand up, spin around, and sit down.**

Bring out the *gift box* with the paper angel inside it. Hold the box up, and say: **Look at this pretty gift. There's a surprise inside that has something to do with our Bible story. Let's open it and see what our surprise is.**

Ask a child to open the box and hand you the paper angel. Hold it up, and ask:

• **What could this glittery angel have to do with our Bible story?** (There's an angel in our story; it sparkles like an angel.)

Say: **This glitter reminds me of shining angels. Our story today is about an angel named Gabriel. ► Gabriel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift. We're going to use glitter in a little while to help us learn about that Bible story.**

Set the angel aside, and say: **Mary was surprised by the angel's visit. The Bible tells us that an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, too, and told him about Jesus. We're going to play a surprise game now to see what that might have been like.**

I'll choose one person to be Mary or Joseph and one person to be an angel. The angel will say, "Jesus is God's special gift." Then Mary or Joseph will get to guess—without looking—who the surprise angel is. You'll each get a chance to be Mary or Joseph and the angel.

Let's practice the angel's message together first. Say with me, "Jesus is God's special gift."

Repeat the message a few times, and then choose a child to be Mary or Joseph. Have the child close his or her eyes and face away from the rest of the group. Choose another child to be an angel. Have the angel stand near the first child and say, "Jesus is God's special gift." Have the child who is Mary or Joseph guess which child is speaking. Then invite the child to turn around and see who the surprise angel is.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Ask: • **Are you surprised that the angel was** [name of child]?

Say: **Mary was surprised when the angel Gabriel came to her.**

Invite the angel to be Mary or Joseph, and then choose a new angel. Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to be Mary or Joseph. Then lead the children to the story area and have them sit down. Return your supplies to the Learning Lab.

teacher tips

If it's too difficult for some of the children to say, "Jesus is God's special gift," shorten it to "Jesus is God's gift."

If you have a large class, choose a Mary and a Joseph each time. Let Mary and Joseph take turns guessing the angel's identity before you reveal it.

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I'll choose someone to be the Bible helper. The Bible helper will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today's Bible helper, let's learn our Bible song. As we sing, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *angel stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *angel stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."

teacher tips

A special Bible for this section of the lesson each week will make Bible time memorable for the children.

For example, you could use the *Hands-On Bible*® or a Bible with gold-edged pages.





I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
 I'm so glad we're all here today.
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
 Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
 Thank you for everyone who's here.
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible



Before class, fold the *Learning Mat: Jesus' Birth* in thirds so only the segment with Mary and the angel and Mary and Joseph traveling is showing. Lay the *Learning Mat* on the floor so all the children can see it. If you have a large class, you may want to tape the mat to a wall or bulletin board. Have the children gather around the mat.

Ask: • **What do you notice about this *Learning Mat* that's different from other *Learning Mats* we've had?** (There's no color; it's black and white.)

Say: **This *Learning Mat* is black and white so we can work together on making it colorful!**

Open your Bible to **Luke 1**, and show the story to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Our *Learning Mat* shows us pictures of our Bible story. I'm going to tell you about a surprise Mary received one day. Can you find Mary on our *Learning Mat*?**

Help children find the picture of Mary, and then continue: **Mary listened to the angel's message from God and promised to do what God wanted. Whenever you hear me say the name *Mary*, fold your hands in front of you and nod your head up and down like you're saying "yes." Let's practice together. *Mary*.**

Let children practice their actions, and then continue: **Mary was surprised to see an angel. But the angel told her not to be afraid. Whenever you hear me say the word *angel*, I want you to say, "Don't be afraid." Let's practice that together. *Angel*.**

Let children practice, and then tell the story using the text printed below.

One day God gave one of his angels a special job. The angel's name was Gabriel. God sent Gabriel to a town called Nazareth. Can you say Nazareth? Pause. He went to see a woman named Mary. Mary loved God. She was getting ready to marry a man named Joseph.

The day the angel came, Mary was working around the house. She was

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



doing all the things she usually did. She didn't know yet that it was a special day. As she worked, something wonderful happened! The angel Gabriel came to her! He said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you." Mary was so surprised! Show me how you look when you're surprised.

Let children show you their surprised looks, and then continue: **Wow! You look very surprised. Well, Mary was surprised, too. She'd never seen an angel before, and she didn't know why the angel had come to see her.**

Then the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. You are going to have a baby. You will name him Jesus."

Mary said, "How can I have a baby? I'm not married yet."

"God will help you," said the angel. "Your baby will be called the Son of God. God can do anything!"

Mary said, "I love God. I will do everything he says."

Then the angel went away.

Say: **You did the motions so well! You were good listeners!**

Ask: • **What did the angel tell Mary?** (That she would have a baby; that baby Jesus was coming; God wanted her to be Jesus' mom.)

• **How do you think Mary felt when the angel came to her?** (Surprised; scared; happy.)

• **Tell me about a time when someone surprised you.** (My mom told me she was going to have a baby; my parents told me we were going to move; my dad brought me a surprise when he came home from a trip.)

Say: ► **The angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift. When Mary heard the angel's message, she was surprised and a little scared at first. But the angel promised that God would help her. Sometimes we may get surprises that seem a little scary at first. If your mom is having a new baby, you may be scared about sharing your room or your toys. If you're moving to a new house, you may be scared about finding new friends to play with. But God will help you, just as he helped Mary. Let's decorate our *Learning Mat* picture of Mary and the angel now.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player, crayons, markers, glitter glue



Cue the CD to the "Angel Music" segment (track 5). Point to the picture of the angel on the *Learning Mat*. Say: **In a few moments, we're going to color the angel on our *Learning Mat* together. But first I'm going to play some heavenly music from our CD for you. I call it heavenly because it's so pretty. The instrument you'll hear is called a harp.**

When you hear the music, let's stretch our angel wings and bodies and float around the room pretending to be angels. When the music stops, you stop. Then we'll say together, "Jesus is God's special gift."



Do this several times. Then say: **Now let's float back over to the story area and work on our mat. We can listen to the pretty music while we color our angel scene. When we're finished, we'll put some glitter glue on our angel's gown to make it shiny.**

Re-cue the *CD* if necessary, and continue playing the harp music while the children work. Pass out crayons and markers to each child. Let the children take turns coloring parts of the angel scene. Be sure they color only the section of the *Learning Mat* with the angel in it. Tell children that they'll get to decorate other sections of the mat during future lessons. As the children work, remind them that ► the angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift.

When children have colored the angel scene to their satisfaction, let them take turns putting dots of glitter glue on the angel's gown. Have children gather around the mat to admire their work. Then set the mat aside to dry.



Say: **The Bible tells us in Matthew 2:1 that ► “Jesus was born in Bethlehem.” But first, God sent his angel to get the world ready for that very special gift. I'm so glad that God gave us a gift we can all share. Let's join hands in a circle. When I say, “Jesus is your special gift” and point to you, raise the hands you are holding with your partners. Keep your hands raised until we all have our hands in the air, and we'll see that Jesus is a gift for everyone.**

When everyone's hands are raised, have the children join you in saying “Thank you, God!” and then ask them all to sit down. Ask them to fold their hands as you pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you for being a special gift for each one of us. We are so glad that you were born long ago in Bethlehem and that you are with us still today. Amen.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**



If your class is large, form two or three groups. Have one group begin coloring while the others float around the room to the harp music. Have groups switch every minute or two.

If you're sharing your *Learning Mat* with another class, color only a portion of it and explain that other children will finish coloring the angel picture later. One group of children can put silver or gold glitter glue on the angel, and the other group can put red or blue glitter glue on Mary's dress.

Closing

■ *Surprise!*

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



You'll be amazed to discover how much your children have learned as they share the lesson with Whiskers. Children who are shy around adults or other children will identify with Whiskers and open up to him.

You can purchase Whiskers in your local Christian bookstore or directly from Group Publishing by calling 1-800-447-1070.





Whiskers: *(Hides behind teacher, and then suddenly pops out.)* Surprise! I'm here!

Teacher: Hi, Whiskers. You surprised me! I didn't hear you coming.

Whiskers: Oh, goody. I like to surprise people! I want to do it again. Close your eyes, and I'll appear somewhere else.

Teacher: Children, Whiskers wants to surprise us again. Let's close our eyes and see where he'll appear next.

(Have children close their eyes, and then take Whiskers to another area of the room. Let children open their eyes, and then have Whiskers pop out again.)

Whiskers: Boo! Surprise, surprise! Oh, that's so much fun. I could go on surprising you all day.

Teacher: Whiskers, all your surprises remind me of our Bible story today.

Whiskers: Oh, really? Was there a surprise in it?

Teacher: Yes, there was. Someone got a great surprise!

Whiskers: Oh, tell me, tell me! I love good stories! And I love surprises!

Teacher: Let's ask your friends if they can tell you about the surprise Mary got.

(Help children tell Whiskers how the angel surprised Mary with the message that she was going to be Jesus' mother.)

Whiskers: Wow! That's a great story! But if I were Mary, I would have been a little scared when the angel came. *(Asks a child.)* Would you have been scared? *(Lets child respond, and then asks another child.)* How about you? *(Lets child respond.)*

Teacher: Mary probably was a little scared at first. But ► the angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift. That made her glad! She was happy because she was going to be the mother of Jesus!

Whiskers: Well, I'm glad Mary said yes to God. She was brave! Thanks for telling me that great story. I've gotta go now! I think I'll go home and surprise my brother. Then I'll tell him the story about Mary's surprise. 'Bye!

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Preschool, granted for local church use.
Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



■ Jesus Is God's Gift

SUPPLIES: none



Have children sit with you in a circle on the floor. Say: ► ***The angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift. He's our special gift, too. Let's give each other angel stamps to help us remember that.***

Have children take turns pressing the *angel stamp* on the *ink pad* and then stamping the hand of the child sitting next to them. Each time a hand gets stamped, have everyone say together, "Jesus is God's special gift."

When everyone's been stamped, return the *angel stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab. Say: **Let's tell God thank you for his special gift. Dear God, thank you so much for sending us Jesus. He's our special gift.**

Give children the opportunity to pray aloud if they'd like to.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ Lively Learning: God's Gift—Jesus!

Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Designate one child as the angel. Have the angel walk around the outside of the circle and tap each child on the shoulder. As the angel taps a child on the shoulder, have the angel say, “God’s gift.” After saying “God’s gift” to several children, the angel should tap a child and say “Jesus!” Tell children that when the angel says “Jesus,” they should all jump up, hug the person next to them, and then sit down. After everyone’s been hugged, have the child who was tapped on “Jesus” become the next angel. Repeat the game as time allows.

■ Make to Take: Angel Wrapping Paper



Set out crayons and markers, and give each child a sheet of newsprint. Pass around the *angel stamp* and *ink pad*, and let children take turns stamping angels on their newsprint to make angel wrapping paper. Encourage them to color the newsprint as they wait for a turn with the *angel stamp*. Explain to children that they can use the angel wrapping paper to wrap a special Christmas gift for a friend or family member. Remind them that ► the angel told Mary that Jesus is God’s special gift.

If this is your second year using Hands-On Bible Curriculum for preschool, you may want to set out additional *stamps* and *ink pads* for children to use. Other stamps that would tie in well with Jesus’ birth include the *sheep stamp* from Fall 2012, the *manger* and *shepherd stamps* from Winter 2012-2013, and the *star stamp* from Fall 2013.

■ Treat to Eat: Edible Angel Faces



Cut round paper doilies in half, and set them on paper plates. You’ll need a paper plate and doily half for each child.

Give each child a paper plate and doily half for the angel’s collar. Help each child place a round slice of pineapple on top of the doily for the angel’s head. Set out items children can use to make the angel’s face and hair. Use candies for eyes, noses, and mouths, and whipped cream sprinkled with coconut for hair.

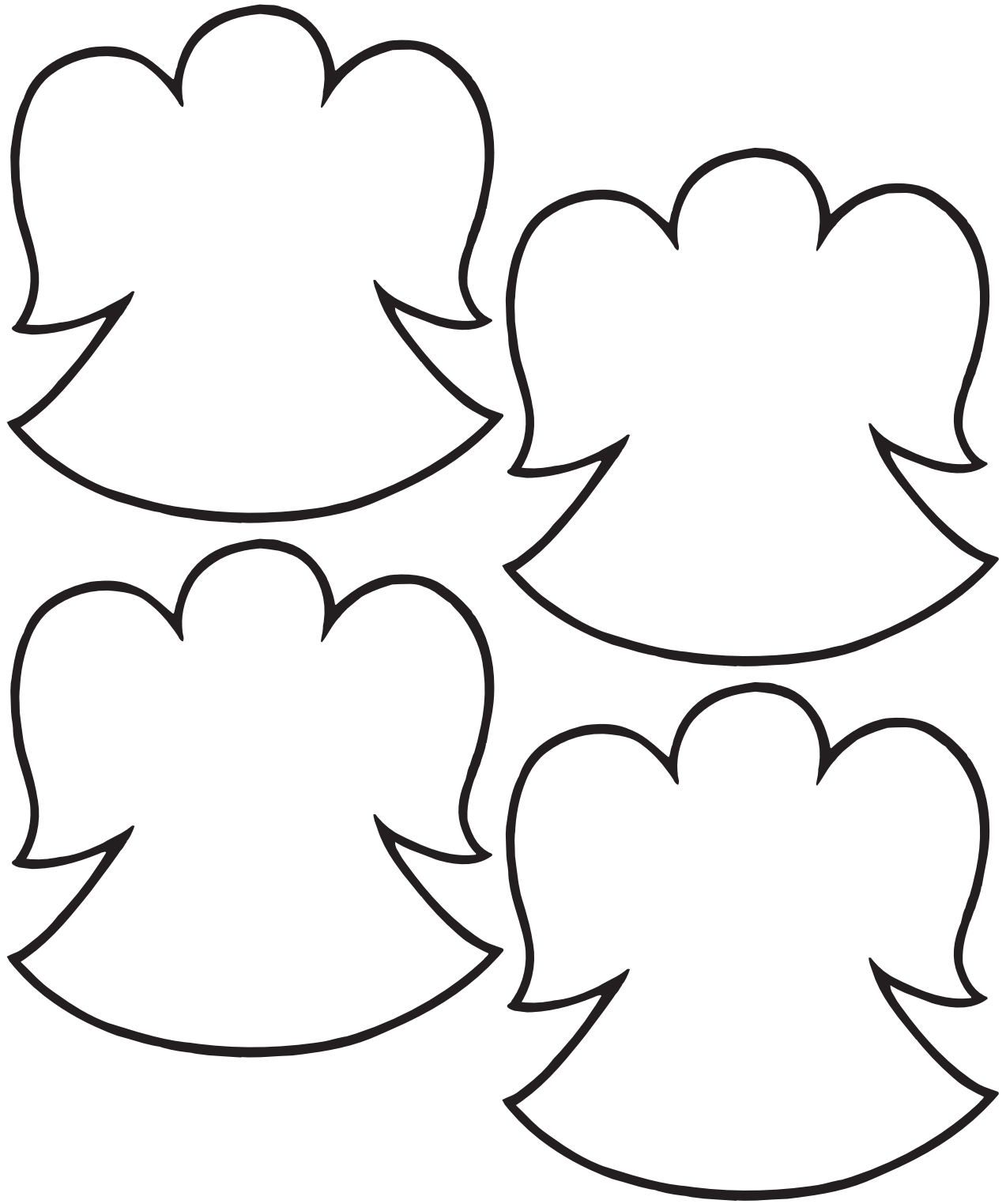


■ Story Picture: The Angel’s Surprise

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out glue, crayons or markers, and several colors of glitter glue. After children color their pictures, let them choose objects to decorate with glitter glue, such as the angel or Mary’s clothes. As children work, review the details of today’s Bible story. Remind children that ► the angel told Mary that Jesus is God’s special gift.

Angel Name Tags

Photocopy and cut out the name tags.



Today I learned... The angel told Mary that Jesus is God's special gift.

Help me learn this:

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem"
(Matthew 2:1a).

Ask me:

- What did the angel tell Mary?
- Tell me about a time when you were surprised about something.
- What can our family do to surprise others and make them happy?

Family Fun

- Cut a Christmas card or a magazine picture into several pieces. Mix the pieces up, and let your child experience the surprise of discovering the picture as he or she puts the pieces together. Talk about things you can do together this Christmas to surprise others and make them happy.



**The Angel
Gabriel
Comes to Mary**
(Luke 1:26-38)