

The Hope of Christmas

God promised to send a Savior.

Lesson Focus

From the beginning, God had a plan to save us from our sins. He gave hope through his promises of a Savior who would be descended from the line of Abraham and King David. Through the years, God continued to bring hope through promises told by the prophets. Then an angel appeared to Mary and told her that her baby, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, would be the long-awaited Savior.

Key Passages

2 Samuel 7:13; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26–27, 1:32–33

Memory Verse

Luke 2:10–11 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Christmas is a time of busyness and excitement, which is why it is important to take time to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. While the world tries to remove Christ from Christmas by taking down nativities and distracting people with shopping and pictures with Santa, Christians must share the true hope of the season, which is Christ coming to earth to save us from our sins. Christians should be the most hopeful people in the world. Our hope is not vain wishing but confident expectation in God and his Word. We can be encouraged because God is faithful to keep his promises. God's first promise to send a Savior, someone who would defeat Satan, was given in Genesis. After Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden of Eden brought sin and death into the world, mankind, along with the rest of creation, was cursed. Our sin separated us from God. But in Genesis 3:15, God said that the offspring (descendant) of Eve would "bruise the head" of Satan, referring to Christ's death on the cross delivering the final blow to Satan.

This promise of hope and redemption is a major theme throughout the Old Testament. God chose Abraham, a man of faith, to be the father of a great nation and to have a special descendant who would bless all families of the earth (Genesis 12:1–3). His promise passed from Abraham to his son Isaac, from Isaac to Jacob, and from Jacob to his son, Judah (Genesis 49:10). Hundreds of years later, a man from the tribe of Judah was chosen to be king of Israel. That man was David! God's special covenant with David included a descendant who would establish an eternal kingdom (2 Samuel 7:12–13). Both Abraham and David died without seeing the fulfillment of the promises God made, but they had faith and hope that God would keep his word.

God also told prophets about the coming Savior. The prophets received and recorded his message,

which included predictions about who the Messiah would be and where he would be born. God said that the Messiah would be a righteous and humble king, bringing salvation (Zechariah 9:9). He would be born of a virgin and called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). The child would inherit the throne of his father David (Isaiah 9:7). He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), live in Egypt (Hosea 11:1), and enter the temple in Jerusalem (Malachi 3:1).

After Malachi's prophecy, the Israelites waited expectantly for 400 years without another message from God. Then in the town of Nazareth in Galilee, an angel appeared to a young woman, Mary. His message from God was incredible! Mary was chosen to bear the Son of God! When Mary asked how this could happen since she was a virgin, the angel told her that her son would be conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary responded with humble obedience (Luke 1:26–38). God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of the Savior, Jesus. They were both descended from Abraham and David (Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38), making Jesus the promised descendant who would bless all nations and establish an eternal kingdom. Jesus fulfilled God's promises and also the prophecies about his life: being born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1–7), being brought into the temple in Jerusalem where he was recognized by Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:22–38), and living for a time in Egypt to be safe from King Herod (Matthew 2:13–15). These events are powerful evidence that Jesus is the Messiah. No baby could control the events surrounding his birth, only God could.

Jesus demonstrates God's great love to us (Romans 5:8). By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus provided salvation. Because of him, we have the hope of forgiveness and eternal life with God. This is the message of Christmas that we must remember and share with others—not just at Christmas but throughout the year!

Historical/Apologetics Background

The virgin birth of Jesus is a topic of some controversy not only from unsaved skeptics but also within the church. Skeptics have claimed that the account

of Jesus' birth is a retelling of the myths of ancient gods, such as Horus, Osiris, or Mithras. But on closer examination, these claims are completely false. Ver-

sions of Mithras' creation specify him being born from a rock, not a virgin. The Egyptian god Horus came from Isis, who was married to the god Osiris. The coming of Osiris was announced by three stars in Orion's belt, not three wise men (and the Bible does not give the number of wise men who came to Jesus). Those who see similarities between Jesus' birth and these myths are victims of poor research and false claims.

But even some Christians are downplaying the importance of how Jesus came into the world. However, the virgin birth is essential to Christianity. Ignoring or refusing to believe what the Bible says about Jesus' birth undermines the very gospel! If we can't trust God's Word regarding the birth of Christ, how can we trust it regarding the resurrection or Christ's return or anything else?

The birth of Jesus is described in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke but not Mark and John. This doesn't mean the two accounts we have are false; it indicates that John and Mark had different starting points and purposes for their accounts. Other teachings and accounts in Scripture are given only once, and we consider those the inspired Word of God.

The virgin birth of Jesus is essential for him to be our Savior. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the

Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). He had a human mother but not a human father. His unique conception made him fully God and fully man. As God, Jesus was sinless, and as a man, he could take our place. If he had both a human mother and father, he could not be the perfect and acceptable sacrifice for our sin when he died on the cross. His death would not have accomplished anything or defeated Satan, which God promised would happen in Genesis 3:15. The virgin birth also fulfilled the prophecy given in Isaiah 7:14 that Immanuel would be born of a virgin as a sign.

The prophecies fulfilled in Jesus' birth are essential to understanding God's sovereignty, faithfulness, and omnipotence. To defend the virgin birth, we don't need a scientific explanation; we simply need to trust in the character of God. As the all-powerful Creator, God has complete control over the laws he put in place, including human reproduction. Those who reject the virgin birth and redefine Jesus as just a man have no hope of salvation. Only the blood of the perfect Christ can cleanse us of sin (Hebrews 9:11–14). The promise of eternal life is offered to all who will believe in Jesus as the resurrected Son of God (John 10:24–29). This is the true hope of Christmas, and it begins with the miraculous birth of Immanuel, God with us.

Unit 19 Grace Group (Sunday School) & Children's Church Activities

3s-K Grace Groups, 3s-2nd Grade Children's Church

| Date & Lesson | Grace Group Activity Options | Children's Church Activity Options |
|--|--|--|
| November 23, 2025 Thanksgiving Lesson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Pumpkin Echo! Echo! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey Hunt Review Game Thank You Candle |
| November 30, 2025 Advent Lesson? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD |
| December 7, 2025 Christmas 1A Lesson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bag of Bows Review Game Gift Go Around | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Echo! Echo! Christmas Bingo |
| December 14, 2025 Christmas 1B Lesson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze! Ornament from Oriental Trading (see below) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick Christmas Cleanup Christmas Poster |
| December 21, 2025 Christmas Lesson 2B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Game Cards Missing Gift Game Gift Certificate (from Christmas Lesson 2A) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popcorn Memory Verse Game Decoration Dash |
| December 28, 2025 Christmas Lesson 2A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Card Match <i>Another activity to be provided</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Present <i>Another activity to be provided</i> |

December 14 Grace Group Crafts:



3s-2nd Grade



3rd-5th Grade

Memory Verses For Children's Church (November-December 2025)

*Verses are in ESV Translation

| Date | 3's-PreK | Kindergarten | 1 st Grade | 2 nd Grade |
|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Nov 23 | Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" | Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" | Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" | Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" |
| Nov 30 | Psalm 4:8 "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. " | R 2.1-2 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it." | Psalm 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." | Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." |
| Dec 7 | Genesis 9:13 " I [God] have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth." | R 2.3 "...Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." 1 John 4:14 "... The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world." | Mark 16:15 "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'" | 1 John 4:15 "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." |
| Dec 14 | Luke 2:11 " For unto you is born this day...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." | R 2.4 "... These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ..." | 1 Peter 1:25 "But the word of the Lord remains forever..." | Romans 5:8 "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." |
| Dec 21 | Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." | Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." | Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." | John 1:1 Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." |
| Dec 28 | Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." | Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." | Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." | Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." |

Christmas Bingo

Materials

- ☐ Word Cards (following page)
- ☐ Bingo sheets (following pages)
- ☐ Container for Word Cards
- ☐ Small wrapped candies, such as Hershey's® Kisses to use for markers (enough for a handful per student)

Instructions

Print enough Bingo sheets for each student to have one. Use all four sheets for variety. Print and cut out three copies of the Word Cards and put into a container.

Pass out a handful of candies to each student. Draw Word Cards one at a time from the container and announce what it says. Students will use a candy to mark one matching picture on their Bingo sheet.

Continue playing as time allows or until someone gets a complete row filled in on their sheet and shouts "Merry Christmas!"

Suggested Discussion

Christmas is a wonderful time of year! There are many things we love about Christmas. Many of those things are on your Bingo sheets.

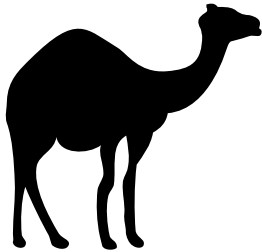
- ?** Which pictures come from the Bible? *Allow discussion.*
- ?** What about the pictures that aren't from the Bible? What do they remind us of at Christmastime? *Allow discussion.*



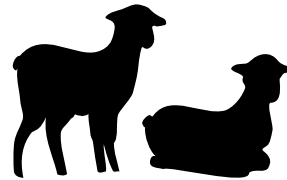
***Mary
and
Joseph***



***Wrapped
present***



Camel



Sheep



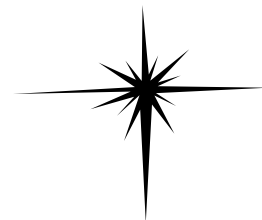
Candle



Shepherd



***Candy
cane***



Star

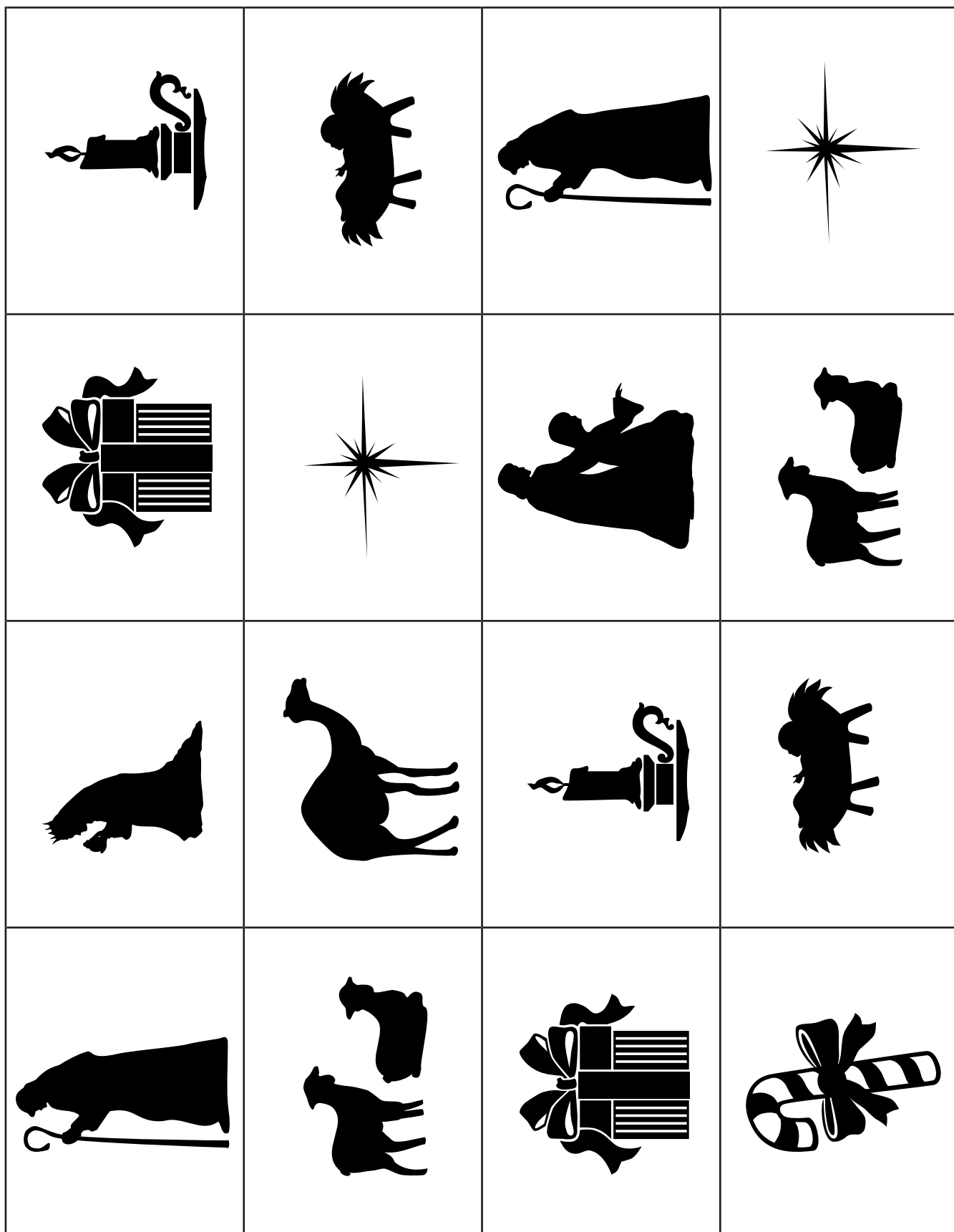


***Baby
Jesus in a
manger***

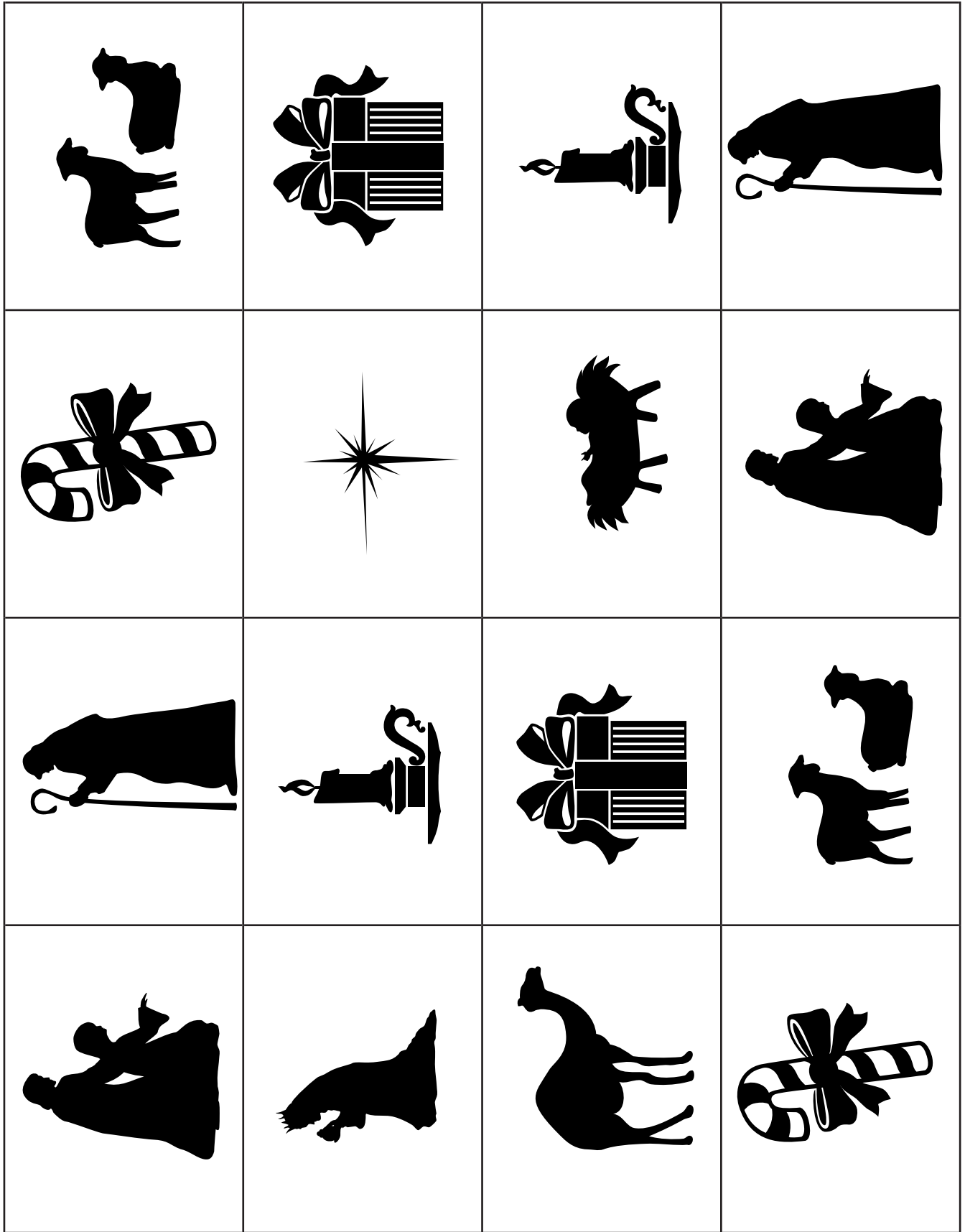


Wise man

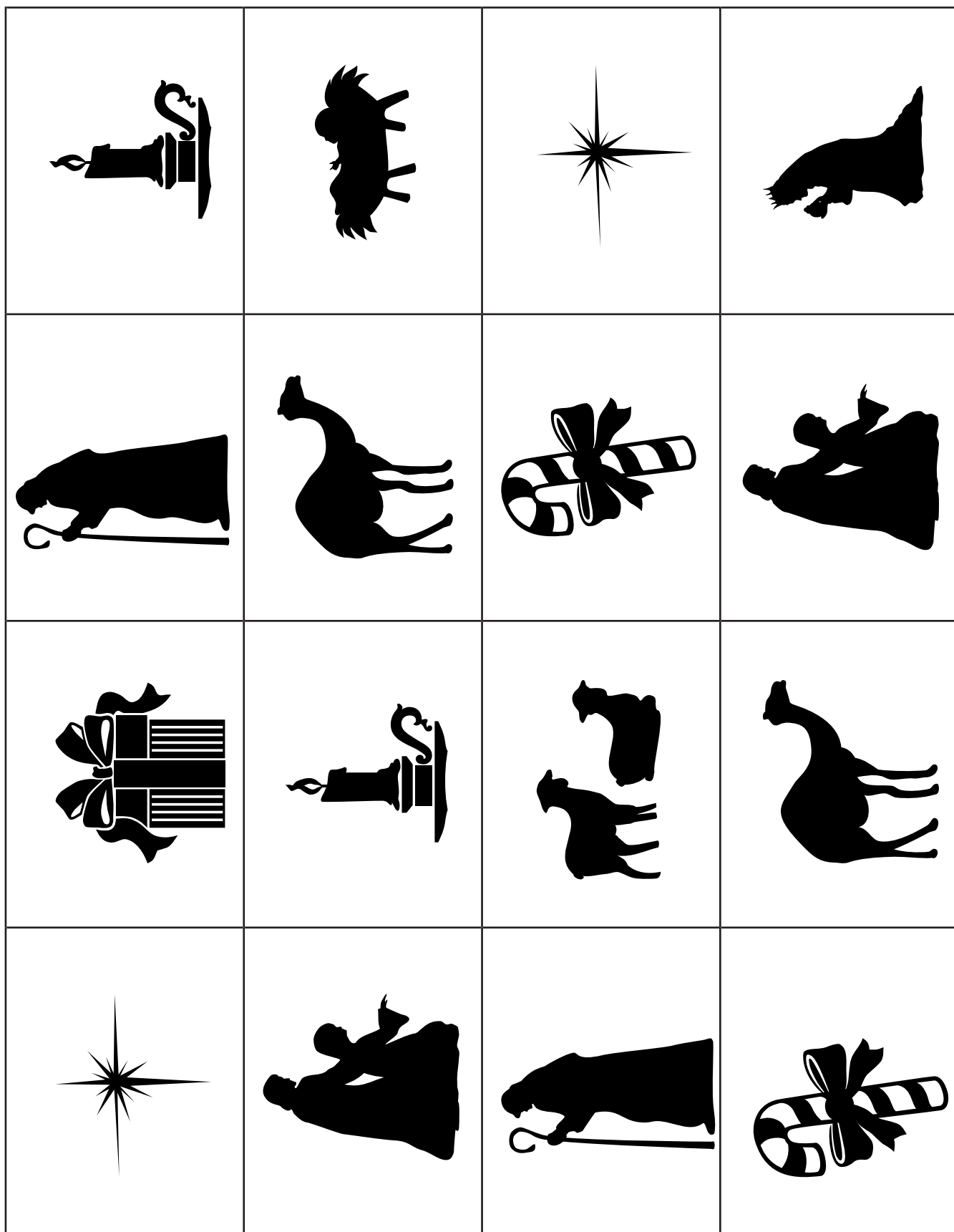
CHRISTMAS BINGO



CHRISTMAS BINGO



CHRISTMAS BINGO



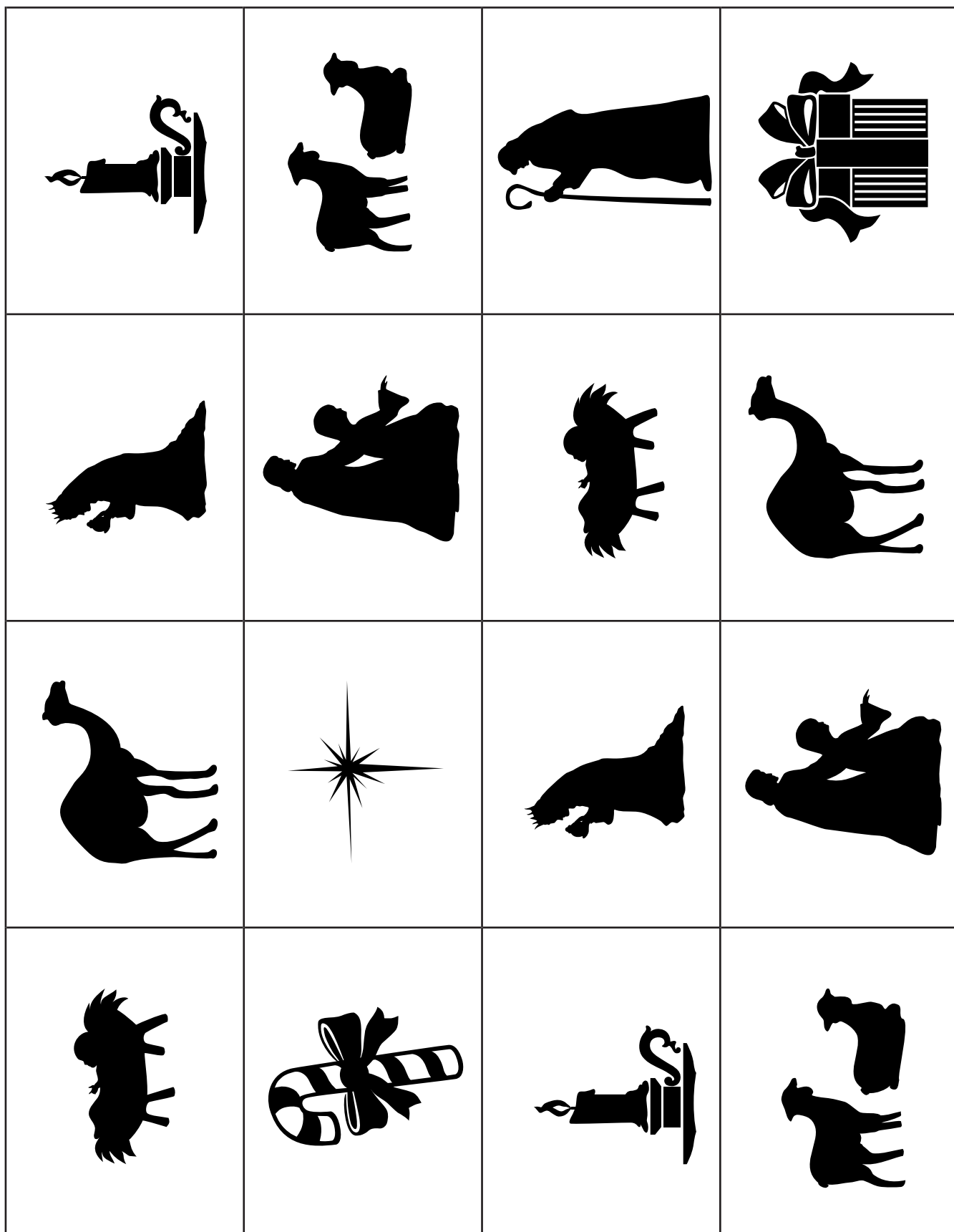
Print enough for each student to have one of the four sheets.

Christmas-1A Christmas Bingo • Pre-K–Grade 1

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CHRISTMAS BINGO



Review Questions

K-1 Review Questions

1. Who do we all need to save us from our sins?
Hint: What word did we use that sounds like save? *Savior.*
2. Why do we need a Savior? What do we need to be saved from? *Our sins. Punishment for our sins.*
3. When we say things like, "I hope I get a new game for Christmas," is that like God's hope or is it wishing for something that might not happen? *Wishing.*
4. When God gives us hope in his promises, is it like wishing or can we know it will happen?
We can know it will happen.
5. When someone becomes a child of God, what new hope are they given? Where will they live forever? *They have the hope of living in heaven with Jesus.*
6. Does God make all his promises happen right away or do we have to wait sometimes? *We have to wait sometimes.*
7. How many promises does God forget? *None.*
8. When was the first time God talked about his promise of a Savior? *When Adam and Eve sinned. In Genesis.*
9. Who was the man God gave a promise to that the Savior would come from his family line and bless all people? *Abraham.*
10. Whose family grew and grew until they became the great nation of Israel? *Abraham's family.*
11. God promised a king of Israel that the Savior would come from his family line. Who was that king of Israel? *David.*
12. What did God tell David the Savior would be?
A king.
13. How long would the Savior be a king? How long would his kingdom last? *Forever.*
14. God told certain men to write down his messages and give them to the people. What were these men called? *Prophets.*
15. We read from a prophet in the Old Testament who told about the Savior. What was that prophet's name: Isaiah or Jeremiah? *Isaiah.*
16. What name did God say the Savior would be called? It means "God with us." *Immanuel.*
17. Who did God choose to be the parents of Jesus while he was on earth? *Mary and Joseph.*
18. Mary and Joseph were Jesus' parents on earth, but who is Jesus' real father? *God.*
19. Who told Mary she would have a special son by the power of the Holy Spirit? *The angel Gabriel.*
20. What name was Mary supposed to give her son? *Jesus.*
21. How long did the angel say Jesus' kingdom would last? *Forever.*
22. The angel said Jesus was the Son of the Most High. Who is the Most High? *God.*
23. After Jesus grew up, what did he do to save us from our sins? How did he die? *He died on the cross.*
24. Is Jesus still dead or did he rise again after three days? *He rose again.*

Pre-K Review Questions

1. Who do we all need to save us from our sins?
Hint: What word did we use that sounds like save? *Savior.*
2. Why do we need a Savior? What do we need to be saved from? *Our sins. Punishment for our sins.*
3. When we say things like, “I hope I get a new game for Christmas,” is that like God’s hope or is it wishing for something that might not happen? *Wishing.*
4. When God gives us hope in his promises, is it like wishing or can we know it will happen?
We can know it will happen.
5. Does God make all his promises happen right away or do we have to wait sometimes? *We have to wait sometimes.*
6. How many promises does God forget? *None.*
7. When was the first time God talked about his promise of a Savior? *When Adam and Eve sinned. In Genesis.*
8. God gave a promise to Abraham. He said that someone special would come from his family and bless all people. Who was that? *The Savior. Jesus.*
9. What did God tell David the Savior would be?
Hint: someone who wears a crown. *A King.*
10. How long would the Savior be a king? How long would his kingdom last? *Forever.*
11. The prophet Isaiah said the Savior would have a special name that means “God with us.” Was that name Immanuel or Ezekiel? *Immanuel.*
12. What does the name Immanuel mean? *God with us.*
13. The prophets told the people about God’s promise of the Savior being born. Would that baby be a boy or a girl? *A boy.*
14. The angel said Jesus was the Son of the Most High. Who is the Most High? *God.*
15. Who did God choose to be the parents of Jesus while he was on earth? *Mary and Joseph.*
16. Who told Mary she would have a special baby by the power of the Holy Spirit? *The angel Gabriel.*
17. What name was Mary supposed to give her baby? *Jesus.*
18. When someone becomes a child of God, what new hope are they given? Where will they live forever? *In heaven with Jesus.*
19. What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? How did he die? *He died on the cross.*
20. Is Jesus still dead or did he rise again after three days? *He rose again.*

Echo! Echo!

Materials

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster

Instructions

Print the Memory Verse Poster and use it to review the memory verse together. Divide the class into two groups. You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse while doing some sort of action—sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will take turns “echoing” what you say and do as you recite the verse. Repeat several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Switch around and let older students take turns leading.