

# Hatch Patch Creations

Family Home Evening Made Easy

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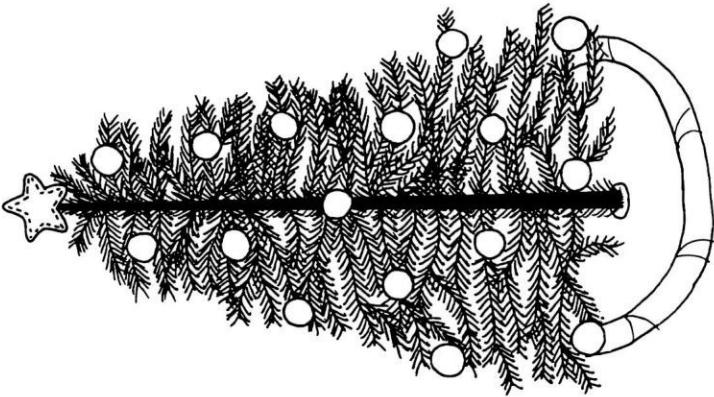
## A Christ Centered Christmas Family Home Evening Packet



### Contents:

Story, Picture Sheets, Game,  
Scripture, Treat Recipe \$7.00

# Grandma Checkett's Carmeleed Popcorn



## Ingredients:

- 1 can Borden's sweetened, condensed milk
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup light Karo syrup
- 1 tsp. vanilla

## Directions:

In a large sauce pan, bring to a boil, sugar, syrup and butter, stirring constantly. While stirring, add milk. Boil to soft ball stage. Pour mixture over ten quarts of already popped, salted popcorn. (The best kind of popcorn to use is the kind you can buy in large bags at your local grocery store.) Mix until popcorn is completely covered.

# A Christ Centered Christmas Family Home Evening Packet

## Home Evening Outline

Opening Prayer  
Opening Song

Scripture  
Story  
Game

Closing Song  
Closing Prayer  
Refreshments

*Suggested Songs:* "Silent Night", pg. 204 (Hymn)  
"Joy To The World", pg. 201 (Hymn)  
"Away In A Manger", pg. 206 (Hymn)

*Scriptures:* Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:23, Luke 2:11-12

*Story:* Color graphics with markers, colored pencils, chalks, etc. Use flannel, or laminate and cut out and place magnets on back of graphics, etc.

*Service Activity:* Preparation - Prepare manger and stars as directed on the sheet.

*Activity:* Place manger scene somewhere visible, and display throughout the entire month. Family members add stars to the manger scene as they do acts of kindness or someone witnesses a family member doing an act of kindness, a star is placed in the sky of the manger scene with their name on it.

*Skit Activity:* A script has been provided to perform a skit about the symbols of Christmas. Have family members take part in performing the skit.

# A Christ Centered Christmas

Wendy loved Christmas. She loved how the snow crunched beneath her feet when she and Daddy carried the big Christmas tree into the house. She loved the smell of pine that lingered everywhere and she loved the wreath that Mother made from all of the leftover tree branches.

Wendy and Mother would put up all of the decorations the very first week of December. Wendy couldn't have stood it if Mother had waited any longer. The house became a little fairyland adorned everywhere with reds, greens and gold.

Mother would light the big, spice candle in the foyer and the smell would soon fill the house with a deliciously, wonderful aroma. Wendy and her brothers would then hang all of the stockings on the fireplace in hopes that Santa would fill them up to the very top.

All of the children had made their lists for Santa and mailed them to the North Pole. Each child could barely sleep at night thinking about Christmas Eve and all those presents.

Soon, everything was ready for Christmas. But something had been forgotten along the way. Something very important! In the hustle and bustle of the season, the Walton family had forgotten about Jesus.

Mother realized that very seldom did they mention the Savior as they hurried to get everything done for Christmas. "How sad," she thought, "that the reason for this wonderful season of the year was rarely mentioned. I must do something about this."

Mother looked around her house that was so beautiful with all of its Christmas decorations placed just right. As she gazed at the huge wreath hanging on the wall, she remembered how her own father had helped his family to remember Jesus at Christmas. "Yes," she thought, "I will teach my family the true meaning of Christmas."

That night after dinner, Mother and Father gathered the four children to the living room. "Children," Father began, "Mother and I have a surprise for you."

There were shouts of excitement as the children began spouting out their ideas of what the surprise could be. Surely, it had something to do with Santa and all those presents.

"Children," Mother said, "who can tell me why we have Christmas?"

Four year old Patrick jolted his hand into the air. "It's Jesus' birthday!" He yelled.

"Yes," Mother said, beaming at the thought that her youngest actually knew the answer.

"You know kids," Mother continued, "I love Christmas. It is my very favorite time of the year but I feel bad because I think someone else feels bad at Christmas because people have forgotten Him. Who do you think that is?"

This time it was ten year old Wendy who answered. "It's Jesus, Mom. We have forgotten Jesus."

The room became quiet as each child thought about what had happened, not only in their home but in the whole world. Mother began again, this time pulling a large sack in front of her and reaching in for the first item. She pulled a bright, yellow star from the bag.

"Jesus wants us to have fun at Christmas. He loves us so much. All He asks is that we remember Him too and all He has done for us. Many of the decorations that we use at Christmas time are symbols of Christ, His birth and His love for us. Let me tell you about them." Mother held up the big star.

Mother told them that the star reminded them of the star of Bethlehem which shone over the baby Jesus when He was born. It is a heavenly sign of prophecy that was fulfilled long, long ago. It is the shining hope of mankind.

Mother then pulled a large, red tablecloth from the bag, telling the family that the color red represents Jesus' sacrifice for all of us. Jesus came into the world to teach us by His example but He also came to die for us. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

All of the children were sitting on the edges of their seats as they listened to Mother. This was great to learn about the symbols of Christmas!

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Next, Mother pointed to the wonderful Christmas tree, with its lights twinkling brightly. She told of how important the ever-green tree is. It stands for everlasting life because the needles point upward. This means that we will all live eternally.

Suddenly, Mother reached into the bag and the children could hear the sound of little bells ringing. "You mean the bells mean something about Jesus?" Marc asked.

"Yes," Mother replied. "The bell rings out to guide the lost sheep back to the fold and this tells us that all things are precious in the sight of the Lord. Jesus loves all people and wants us to find those who are struggling to find the truth. Christ is the shepherd, we are the flock of sheep, and He will lead us."

Mother then lit the Christmas candle on the table next to her. Its warm flame lighted the room as the candle put off a soft glow. Mother told how the candle is a "mirror of starlight" that reminds us to be thankful for the star of Bethlehem which led the world to the Christ child.

Then, a beautifully wrapped present came from the sack. It had a huge, red bow tied on top and there were sighs all around the room when Mother lifted the present up. "We give gifts to each other as a thank-you to the Savior for His many gifts to us. The bow is tied as we are supposed to be tied to one another in the bonds of goodwill forever. Isn't that a nice tradition?" Mother asked.

Wendy had never thought that all the gifts she had so much fun buying were a reminder of Jesus. "This is great," Wendy shouted.

"Does the candy cane mean anything?" Jacob asked as he chewed up the last bite of one he was eating.

"As a matter of fact, it does." Mother said. "What is the candy cane shaped like? All of the children's hands went into the air at once. It was Damon who answered first.

"It's like that thing the shepherds carried back in Bethlehem."

Mother laughed. "Yes, it is called a crook," she said. "The shepherds used them to bring the sheep back into the fold or herd. It reminds us that all of us are our brother's keeper. We need to take care of each other.

Mother pulled the last item from the bag. It was a small wreath, just like the one that hung in the foyer. She showed the children how the wreath didn't have an end to it. It was one, continuing circle. This shows us the never ending, eternal love that Jesus has for us. It tells us of the love we should have for each other and the people of the world.

"You see, children," Mother continued, "many of the things we love about Christmas are symbols of Jesus. Can we all try to think about Jesus this Christmas as well as our presents, Santa and all the fun we are going to have?"

Everyone shook their head up and down. There was such a good feeling in the house that night as Mother taught her lesson about the symbols of Christmas. That feeling was the Spirit of Christ. It will tell us when we are doing something good.

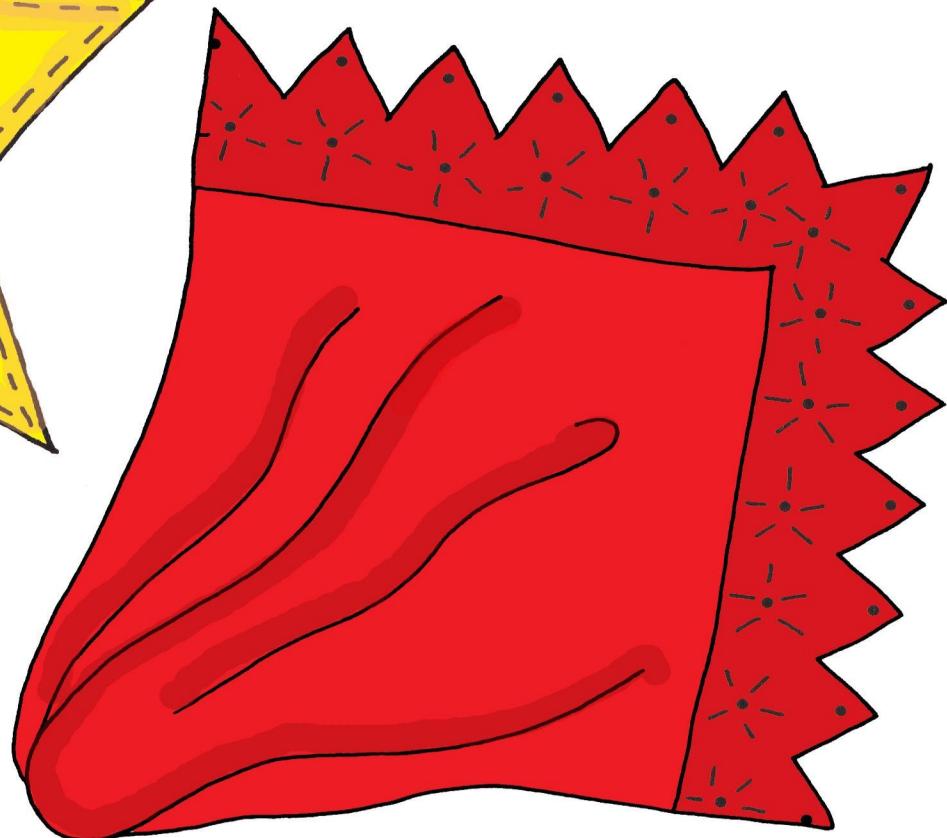
Father then explained that he was putting up a large picture of the stable where baby Jesus was born. He gave each child five yellow stars. He told them that every time one of them did something nice for someone else, they could put their name on a star and place it in the heavens above the stable. By the time Christmas day came, the family could do thirty-five good deeds. Wouldn't the world be a better place if all of us did five nice things for someone else before Christmas?

Jesus would never want us to stop having Christmas celebrations. He loves us way too much for that. We can enjoy the holiday season and remember Him too. Just by the things that we do at Christmas and all through the year, we show our remembrance of Him.

## DISCUSSION

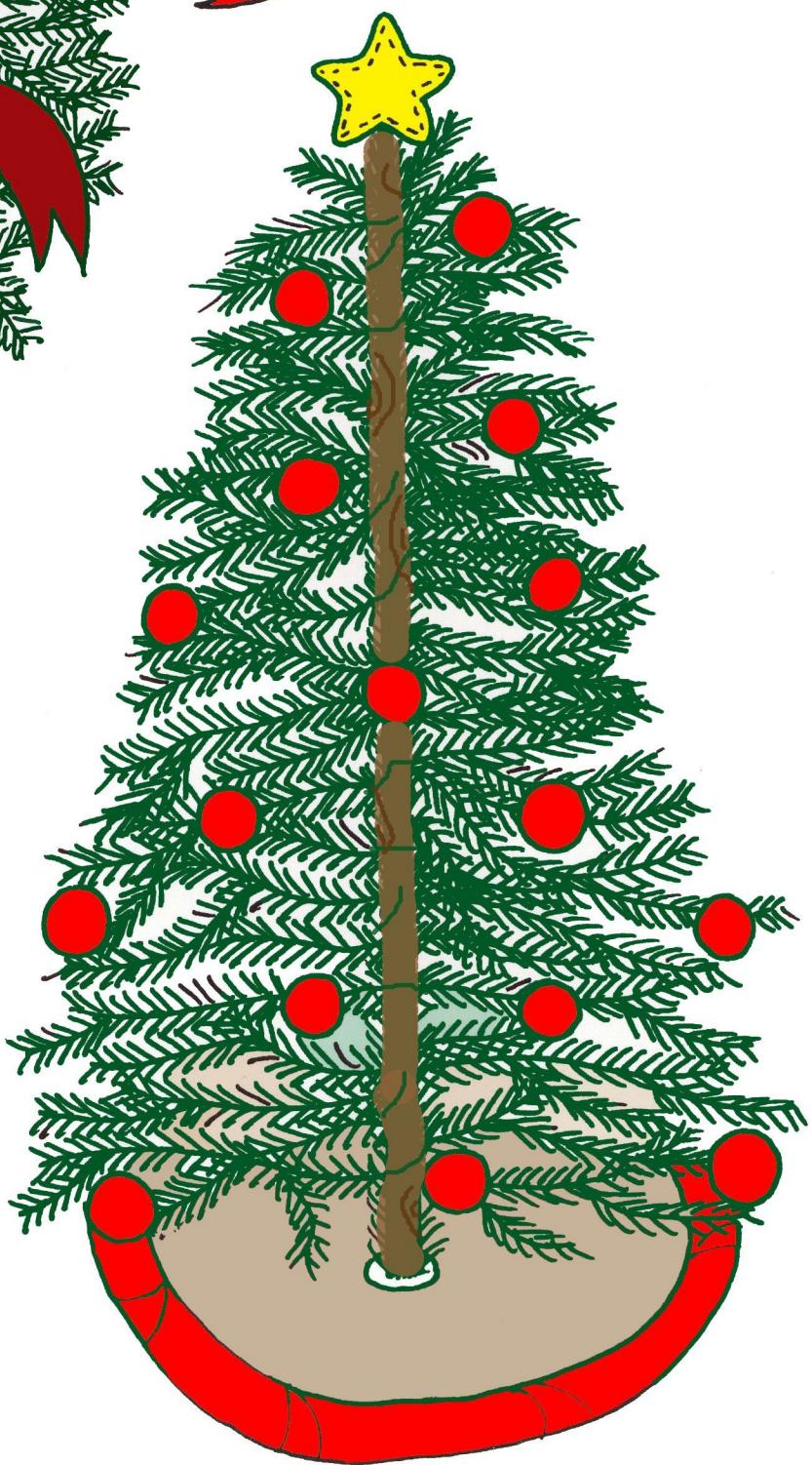
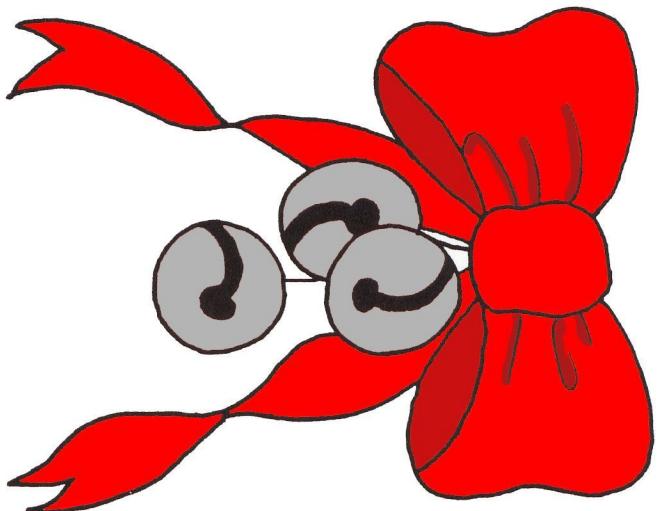
- What are some things that we could do for others at Christmas time?
- Why is it important to be nice to other people?
- Do you think that by being kind to others, they will be nice to others too?

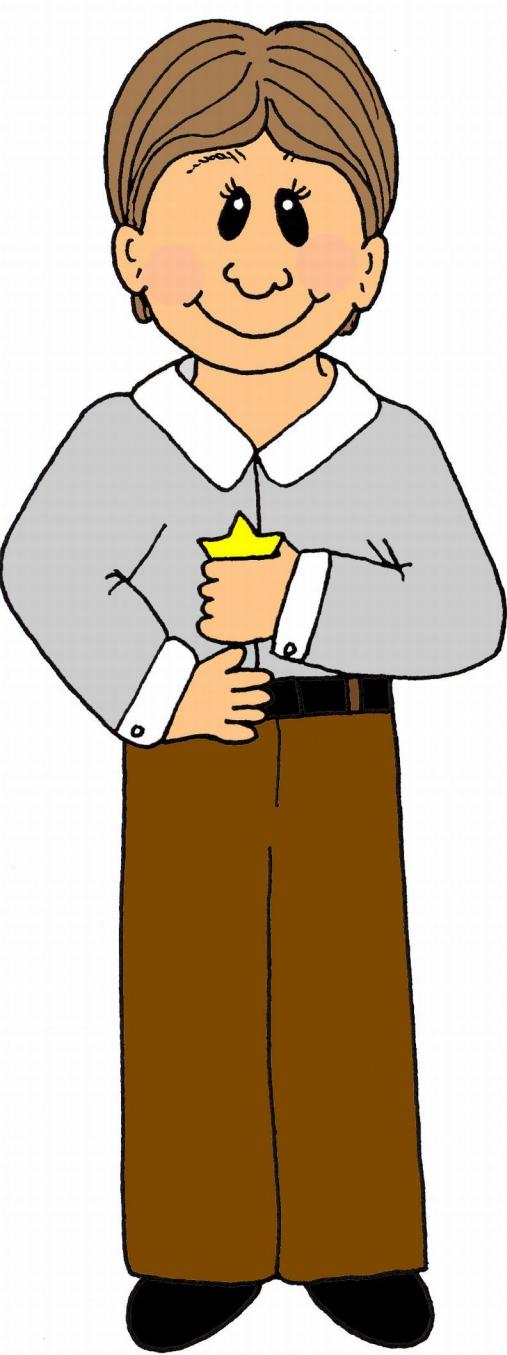
*We want to thank all of you again for your support for us and Hatch Patch Creations.  
We sincerely hope that in these hard times that all of you will have peace and love in your homes  
and that you will have a very joyous Christmas season. Merry Christmas!*



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Patrick



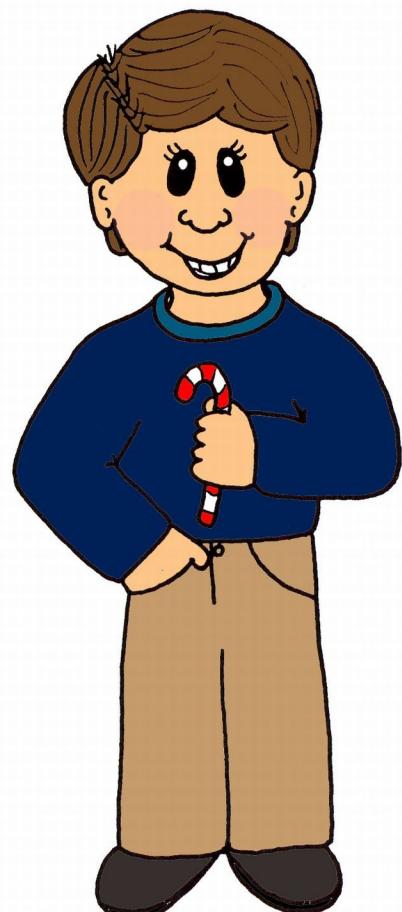
Wendy



Damon

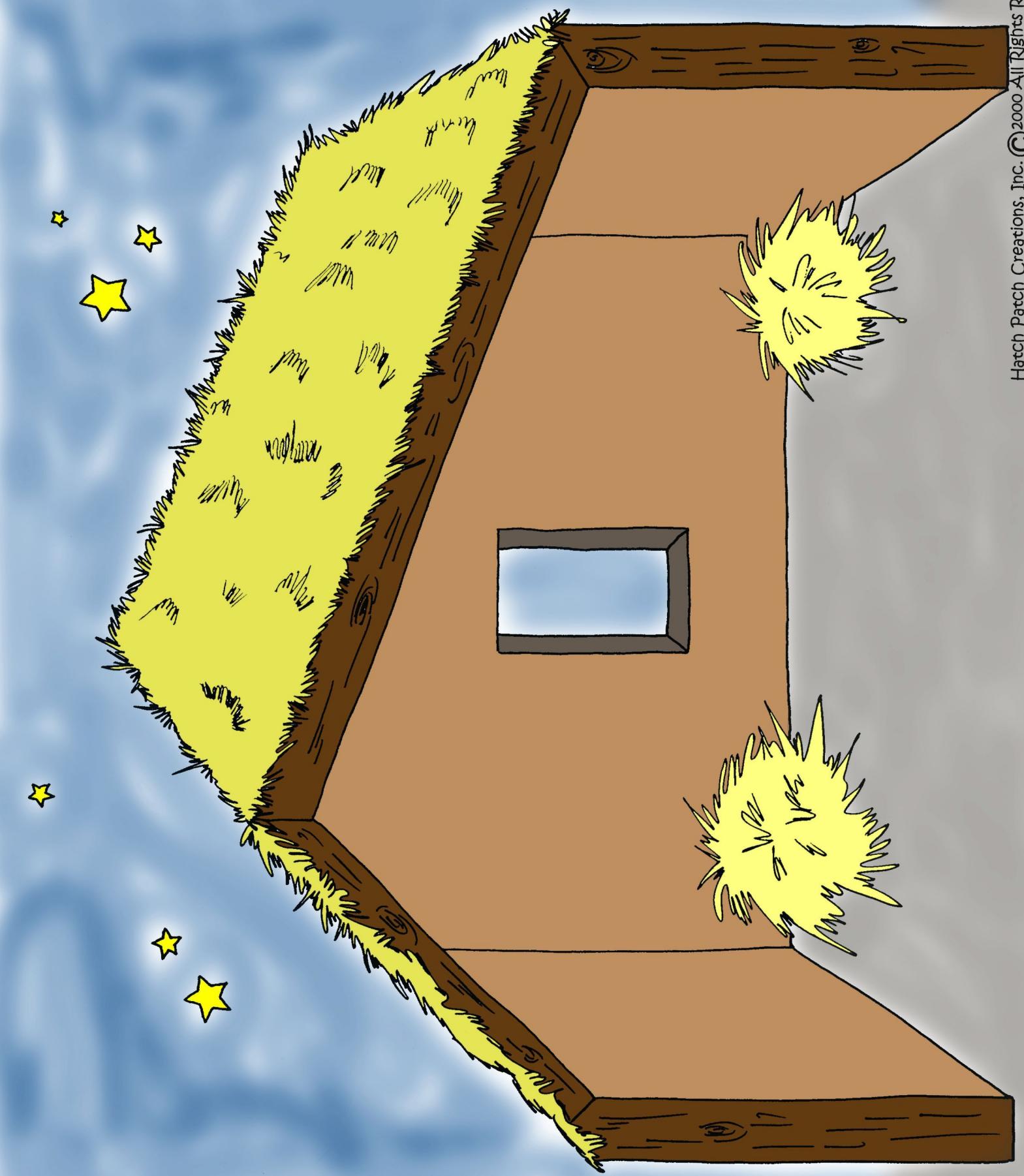


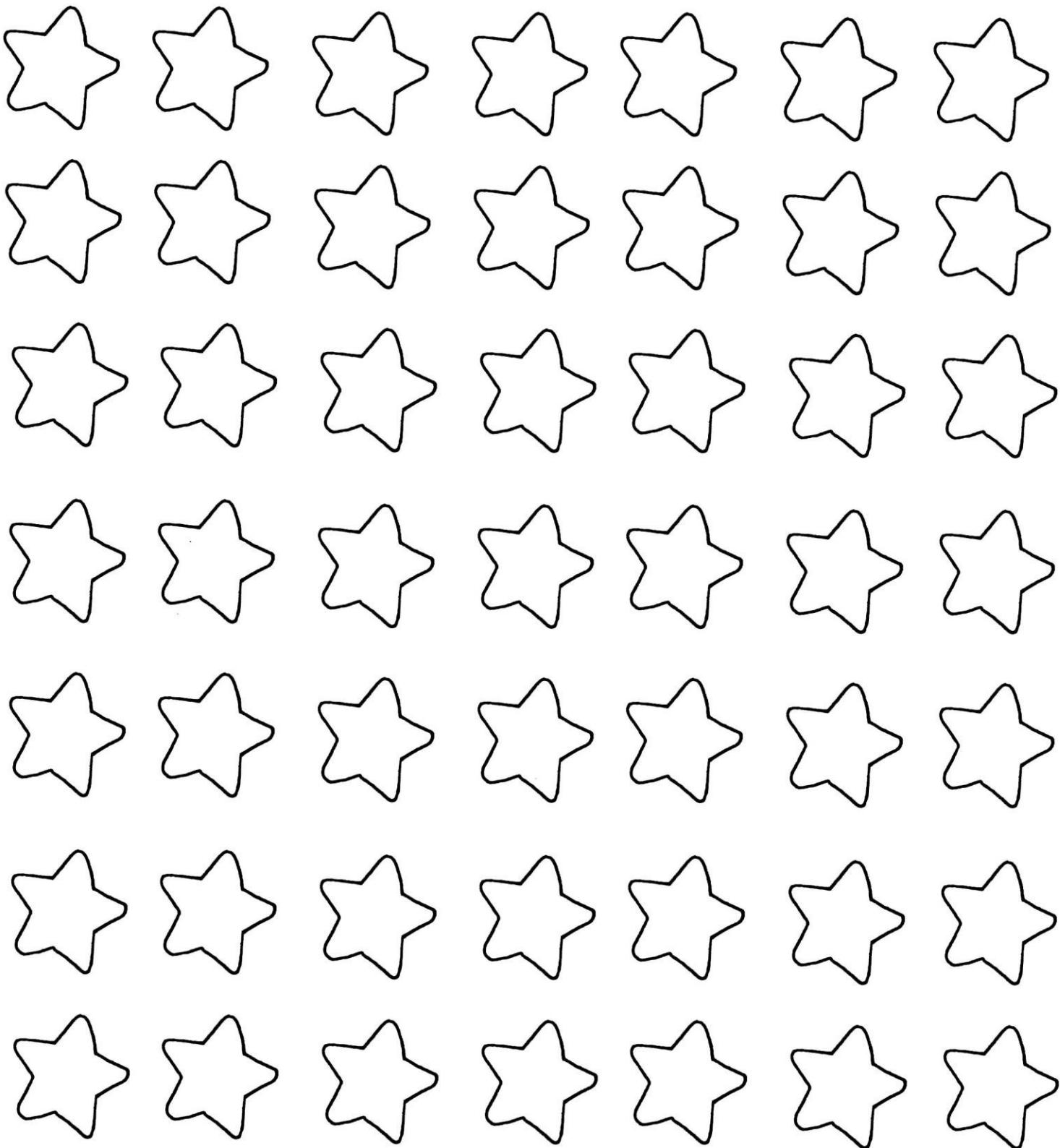
Mother



Jacob

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Color manger scene as desired. Have each family member cut out six stars and write their names on them. Throughout the month, encourage family members to do small acts of kindness or service for each other, and better yet to do acts of service for people that are not members of your family.

"It is easy to do things for our own families and loved ones, but to give of our substance for the stranger who is in need is the real test of our charity and love for our fellowmen." N. Eldon Tanner.

Each time a family member does an act of kindness for someone else, they can place one of their stars on the sky of the manger scene. Place the manger scene on the refrigerator or somewhere visible for the entire month.

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# *A Christ Centered Christmas Skit*

## **CAST**

Grandfather  
Santa Claus  
Wendy  
Marc  
Angel #1  
Angel #2  
Angel #3  
Angel #4  
Angel #5  
Angel #6  
Angel #7  
Angel #8

*The scene is set in a home atmosphere with a rocking chair and a staircase close by. A Christmas Tree is glowing in the background with the chair pulled forward and a cozy rug in front of it. Grandfather is seated in the rocking chair with the book, "T'was The Night Before Christmas" in his hands and Wendy and Marc are seated on the rug in front.*

**Marc:** Oh Grandpa, please read us the story of Santa again before we go to bed.

**Wendy:** Yes, Grandpa, we love that story.

**Grandpa:** Aren't you two tired of this book yet? Why, I must have read this story a dozen times in the last week.

**Marc:** Oh, please.

**Grandpa:** All right, all right, but we must hurry because Santa will be here any minute and if you two aren't in bed, he may just miss us.

**Wendy:** He wouldn't really do that, would he?

**Grandpa:** Gee, I don't know but we best be on the safe side, don't you think?

**Marc:** Come on, Grandpa, you can read the story.

**Grandpa:** (chuckling) All right. T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house . . . . .

*(The sound of bells are heard in the house)*

**Wendy:** What was that, Grandpa?

**Grandpa:** I don't know child. Maybe it was Santa. *(Both children jump to their feet)*

**Marc:** *(Bells are heard again)* Grandpa, hurry, we've got to get into bed. *(Santa appears in the room)*

**Santa:** Hey hold it there, you two.

**Angel #3:** (Coming down the stairs carrying candle) Green is for the evergreen tree. It stands for everlasting life, because the needles point upward. We will all live eternally.

**Santa:** What do you suppose the next one is?

**Marc:** Electric trains?

**Santa:** (Laughing) No, watch.

**Angel #4:** The fourth is the bell. The bell rings out to guide the lost sheep back to the fold telling us that all things are precious in the sight of the Lord.

**Santa:** You see, Christ is the shepherd and we are the flock, and He will lead us.

**Angel #5:** The fifth symbol is the candle. The candle is a mirror of starlight that reflects our thanks for the star of Bethlehem that led the world to the Christ child.

**Angel #6:** The sixth is the bow on our gift. The bow is tied as we should all be tied together in bonds of goodwill forever. The bow on our gifts represent the many gifts Christ has given us.

**Angel #7:** The seventh is the candy cane. The candy cane is shaped exactly like the shepherd's crook that he uses to bring lambs back into the fold. This is a reminder that all of us are our brother's keeper.

**Angel #8:** The eighth is the wreath. The wreath is a symbol of the never ending, eternal nature of love. It has no beginning or end.

(As each angel descends the stairs and presents his or her symbol, they should have the item they are describing in their hands. Then, as they give their part, they can lay the symbol down on the table or the stage. They then take their places in order in a line or seated, whichever you prefer. Then all eight angels sing one verse of "Silent Night" or any other Christmas song you like.)

## **SONG**

(As the song ends, each child removes his angel robe and transforms himself into a shepherd, wise man, Joseph or Mary - those who attended Jesus' birth. They should have the main costume on underneath the angel robes and just pick up a head piece from a nearby table. As they transform themselves, Grandpa begins to read from the bible, Luke, Chapter 2, verses 1-20. The children take their places as the Nativity scene.)

**Marc:** Oh Grandpa, I feel so good, don't you?

**Grandpa:** Yes, Marc. I feel wonderful.

**Wendy:** Wouldn't it be wonderful to have been there at His birth?

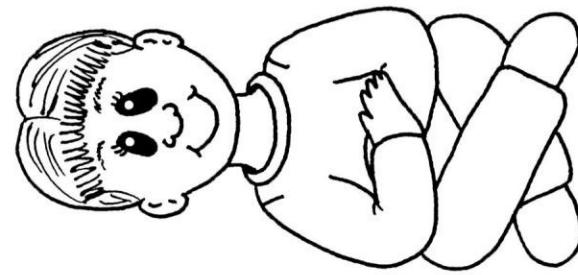
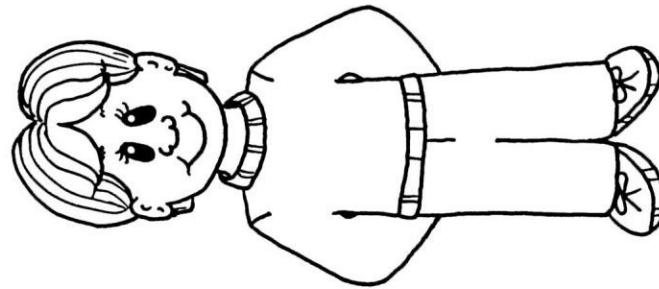
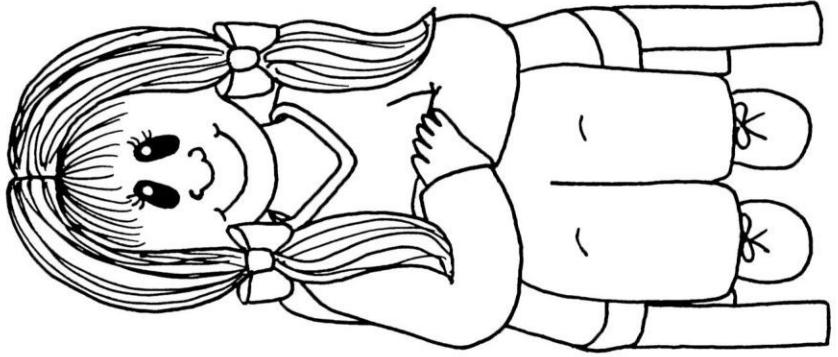
**Grandpa:** Yes, child, but we have a great work to do in this time of the world. We can be just like the angels of old and spread the word about the Savior.

**Wendy:** That's just what I want to be, Grandpa, an angel.

**Marc:** Grandpa, please read the story from the bible again.

(Grandfather begins to read from Luke again as the lights dim or go off or the play just ends.)

"If we are to be the Savior's disciples,  
if we are to become like him,  
then we must serve one another,  
then we must assume responsibility  
to help with one another's needs,  
then we must assist  
each other through  
the thorny  
pathways of life."



H. BURKE PETERSON