The Birth of Jesus Craft

Paper plate shepherds' field at night · Luke 2:1–20 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished

Easy and medium

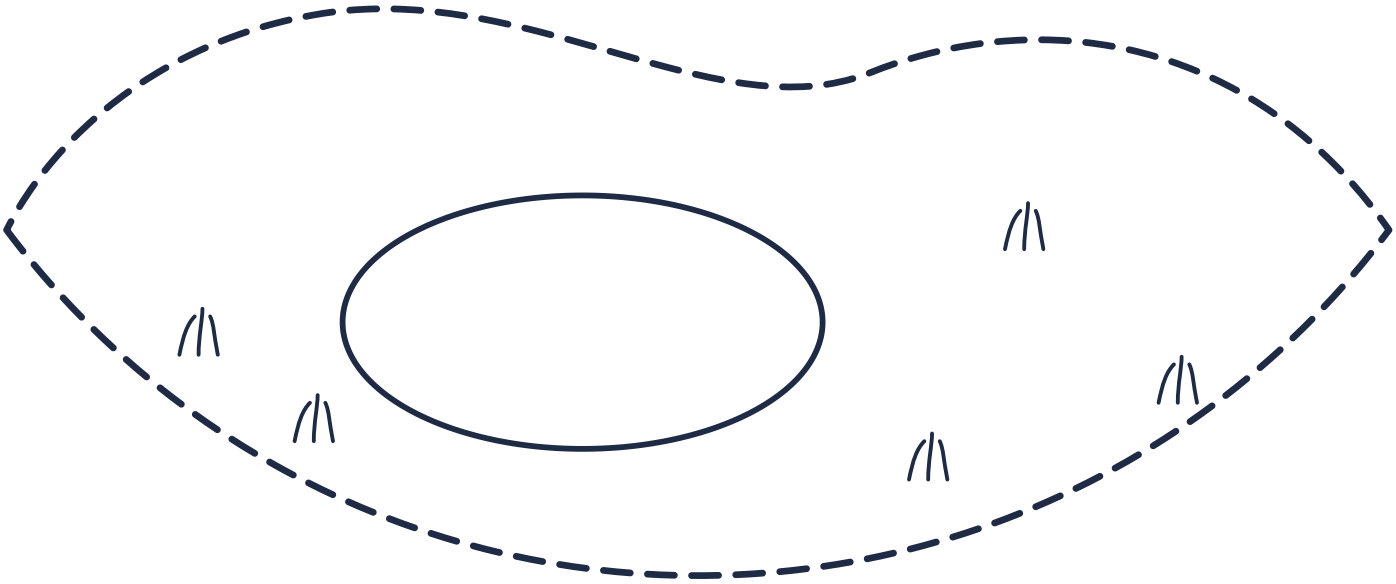
Harder

Both are a paper plate night sky with the glory light shining, a green hill with the shepherds drawn in the window and two sheep. On the left is the medium level. On the right is the harder level, where kids add a winding road up to a manger full of fringed paper hay, the way the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.

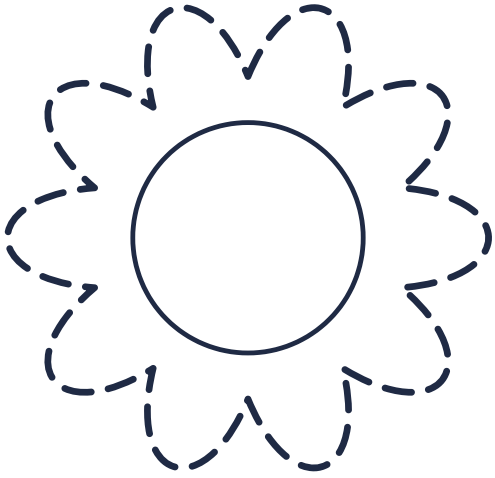
Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Name: _____

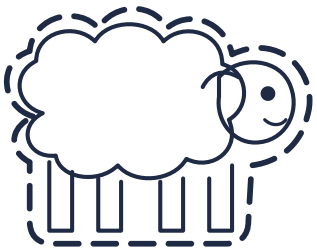
✂ Cut on the dashed lines

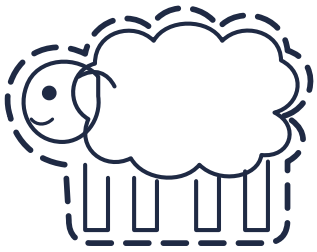


Hill: draw the shepherds in the oval window (Luke 2:8).



Glory light (Luke 2:9)





Two sheep (Luke 2:8)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

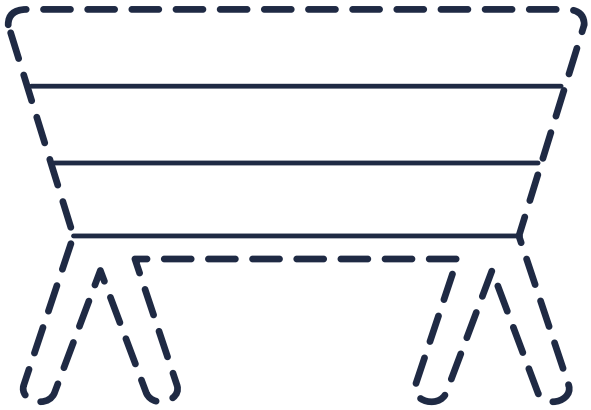
Luke 2:11 (KJV)

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

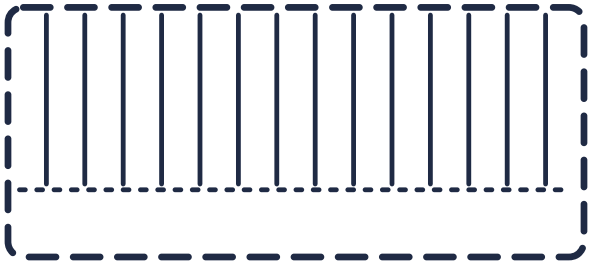
Name: _____ ✂ Cut on the dashed lines

Road to Bethlehem and the manger (harder level)

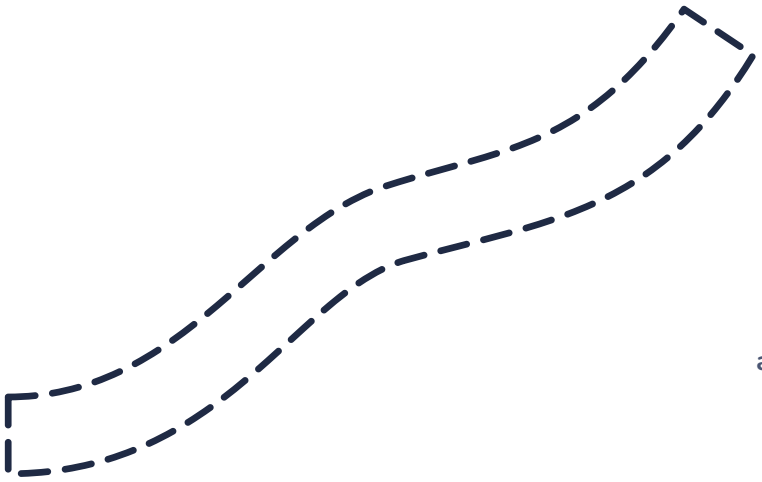
Cut on the dashed lines. Snip the hay on the solid lines, but stop at the dotted line.



Manger



Hay: snip the solid lines



Road to Bethlehem (Luke 2:15–16)
Glue the low end on top of the hill
and the high end under the manger.

Harder level, after the medium steps:

1. Color the manger brown, the hay yellow and the road tan.
2. Cut out the manger, the hay strip and the road on the dashed lines.
3. Snip the hay on the solid lines. Stop at the dotted line so the strip stays in one piece.
4. Glue the bottom of the hay strip behind the top of the manger, so the fringe sticks up.
5. Glue the low end of the road on the hill above the window; wind it up to the upper right.
6. Glue the manger at the top end of the road, near the upper right edge of the plate.

VBSHQ Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/jesus-is-born-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: one plain white paper plate per child (9 inch, uncoated, so the glue stick holds), page 2 printed once per child, crayons (dark blue, yellow, green, gray and brown), scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a tan crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the hills, glory lights, sheep and verse strips ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's hill, glory light, two sheep and verse strip. Kids color the plate dark blue, color the pieces and draw the shepherds in the window (scribbles are fine). Rub the glue on for them; they press the hill along the bottom, the glory light at the top left and the sheep on the hill. Glue the verse strip on the back for them and read it together.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color the plate and the pieces, draw the shepherds, cut everything out, glue it on and glue the verse strip on the back. This is the craft on the left in the photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the medium craft, then add page 3. Kids color and cut out the manger, the hay strip and the road, snip the hay into fringe, glue it behind the manger and glue the road from the hill up to the manger in the upper right (Luke 2:15–16). Then they say Luke 2:11 from memory. This is the craft on the right in the photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Night sky:** turn the paper plate over. Color the whole bottom side dark blue, for the night when the shepherds were watching their flock (Luke 2:8).
2. **Color:** color the hill green, the glory light yellow and the sheep's heads and legs gray. Leave the sheep's woolly bodies white.
3. **Draw:** in the oval window on the hill, draw the shepherds keeping watch at night.
4. **Cut:** cut out the hill, the glory light, the two sheep and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Hill:** glue the hill across the bottom of the plate, with its curved bottom edge along the bottom rim.
6. **Glory light:** glue the glory light in the upper left of the plate. The glory of the Lord shone round about the shepherds (Luke 2:9).
7. **Sheep:** glue one sheep on the hill to the left of the window and the other sheep on the hill to the right of the window.
8. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the plate and read it together.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Questions to ask while kids work

- The shepherds were out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night (Luke 2:8). What do you think the night was like?
- When the angel came and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, the shepherds were very afraid. What was the first thing the angel said? *("Fear not," Luke 2:9–10)*
- The angel said a Saviour was born in the city of David, and the sign was a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger (Luke 2:11–12). Where did the shepherds go to find Him? *(Bethlehem, Luke 2:15–16)*
- After they saw baby Jesus, the shepherds told everyone (Luke 2:17). Who can you tell about Jesus this week?

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** unto = to, Saviour = the One who saves us, Christ = the promised King God sent, city of David = Bethlehem, swaddling clothes = strips of cloth wrapped snugly around a baby, manger = a box that animals eat from.
- **What the Bible says:** Luke 2 tells about the manger, the angels and the shepherds. The wise men and their star come later, in Matthew 2, so they are not on this craft.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Coloring the sky:** a big plate takes a while to color. Kids can color with the side of a peeled crayon to cover it faster.
- **Fringe (harder level):** remind kids to stop each snip at the dotted line, or the hay falls apart.
- **Retell the story:** send the plate home and ask kids to tell their family what the angel said to the shepherds, and what the shepherds did next.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free birth of Jesus Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/jesus-is-born.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post