

Theme; Jesus' Birthday

Object; Christmas decorations, eg. Tree lights.

Scripture; Luke 2:7 And Mary gave birth to her first born son, wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger because there was no place for them in the Inn.



Christmas is coming soon. It's easy to tell. We see the signs all around us. (Point to Christmas decorations.) What signs have you seen? (Allow kids to answer.) We see Christmas decorations on houses; we hear Christmas songs on the radio; we see commercials on TV, and more. If we didn't have all of these things to remind us, how could we tell that Christmas is coming? (Pause for responses.)

Two thousand years ago, there was no TV or radio announcing that a child would be born and that He would be the Savior of the world. When Jesus was born, very few people even knew about it. But it was an event that God had promised, and it was foretold by prophets many years before. Many people had been looking forward to the coming of the Savior, but they didn't know exactly when He was coming.

We're entering the season of Advent. *Advent* means "the coming of something very important." It is a period of time when we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas--and we also look forward to Jesus' return.

Jesus promised to come again, and we look forward to it, just as people 2,000 years ago looked forward to the Savior being born. No one knows exactly when Jesus will come back. It isn't marked on the calendar, but we're watching and waiting, expectantly.

As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Savior, let's also be sure we prepare for His exciting return!

Dear God, we thank You for this special time of year and its important meaning to us. We praise You for keeping your promise to send a Savior who will come back again. In Jesus' name, amen.

ADVENT CALENDAR (Nativity)



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Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay. The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

Activities for Christmas is Coming

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36

SIGNS THAT CHRISTMAS IS COMING:

Play or sing a couple of Christmas songs; have a newspaper available for students to find "signs" of Christmas and read out loud; let the children hang some Christmas decorations around the room.

SEEKING SIGNS FOR HIS RETURN:

"HIDE" some Bible verses written on slips of paper around the room. Let the children "SEEK" for these Bible verses that tell us that Jesus is coming again. (Examples: Luke 12:40; Luke 21:27; Matt. 24:30-31; Matt. 24:44; Matt. 25:13; Matt. 16:27; John 14:1-3; Mark 8:38; I Thess. 4:16.) Discuss that Jesus himself told us that he would return again and let the children read the Bible verse written on their slip.

A STOCKING FOR JESUS:

Provide each child with an inexpensive Christmas stocking. Provide a marker for the children to write JESUS at the top of the stocking. The children will take the stockings home and hang them with the rest of the family stockings. During the Advent season, whenever the child does a good deed, it will be written down on a slip of paper and put in the Jesus Stocking. On Christmas day, before the stocking is emptied, the child will remove the slips of paper and read them aloud. Remind the children that Jesus said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

A CHAIR FOR A SPECIAL GUEST:

At the beginning of the class period, the teacher will place an empty chair at the front of the class room and explain that the chair is for a special guest that will visit the class. The chair will remain throughout the class and at the end of the class period, the teacher will explain to the children that the empty seat was for Jesus, who is ALWAYS with us.

THE CHRISTMAS STAR:

Provide each child with a large star cut out from a sheet of yellow construction paper. The children will write, "JESUS IS COMING AGAIN." The stars can be decorated with glitter. Discuss that just as the Magi were watching for the star that would lead them to Jesus, we should also be watching for his return.

Crafts for the Nativity

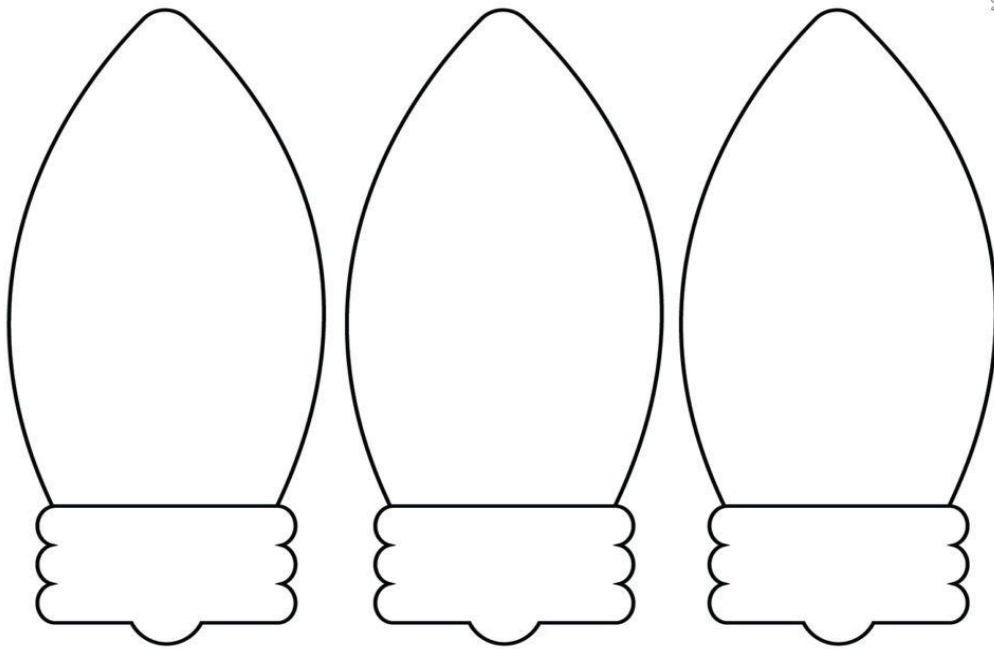


Make your own nativity scene to give as special Christmas cards for your friends and family. (These are just examples.)



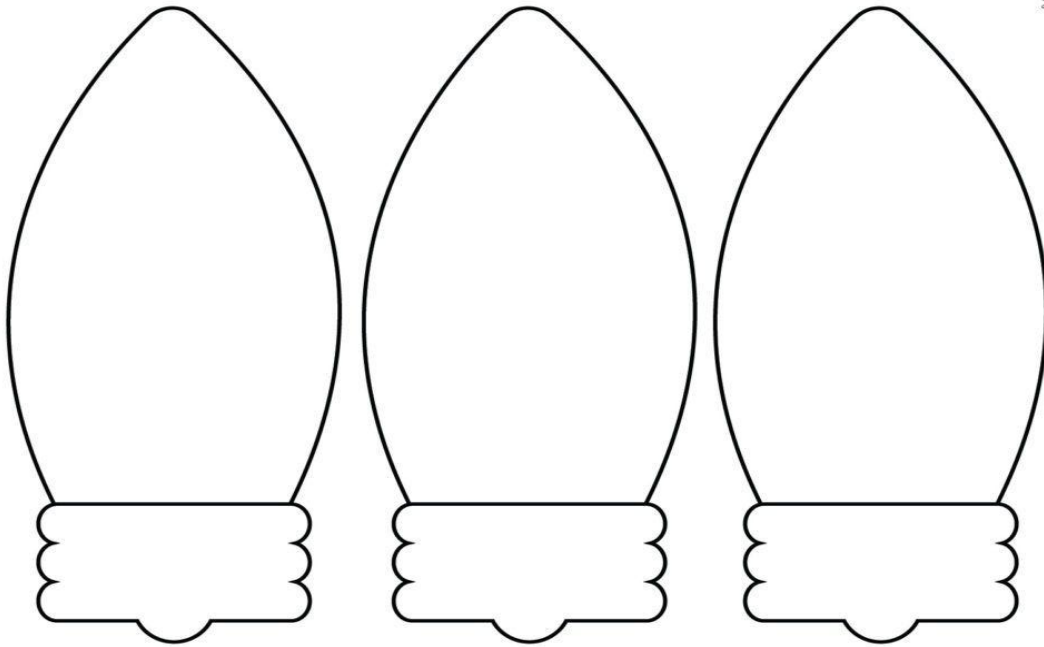






Chalk Stenciled
Christmas Light Art





You will need; Black construction paper. Light bulb stencils', (see below) coloured chalk.

Lay the stencil on the paper and using a different coloured chalk for each one, swipe lines from inside to out side the shape. When completed add a white wire attaching them together. Write J E S U S (if you want to make more, add the phrase "IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD").