

## Session 26

# Advent – another miracle

The Wonder of all wonders.

**Scripture:** Passages from the Gospel according to Luke

### Supplies:

- ◆ Enlarged printed worksheet for the story
- ◆ 2 printed pages of the chosen activity for each child
- ◆ Glue and colouring crayons as needed
- ◆ Ribbons/string if a tree is decorated
- ◆ Christmas tree
- ◆ Prestik
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Sticky tape
- ◆ Pin
- ◆ Red cooldrink concentrate
- ◆ Two empty cooldrink bottles
- ◆ Three balloons
- ◆ Bleach (e.g. “Jik”)



### WELCOME

Inflate the **balloon** before the session (not too big). Put a piece of sticky tape on it and remember where you put it. It must be invisible to the children. Welcome the children and tell them that today is about miracles. You are going to surprise them with a miracle. Pick up the pin and ask them what would happen if you prick the balloon with it. Then prick the balloon in the spot where the sticky tape is. Ask the children: “Why didn’t the balloon pop?”

**Red cooldrink concentrate and bleach:** Pour some water in a glass. Pour Jik in another glass and keep it separate. Ask a child to add some concentrate to the water and stir it.

Ask the children: “How can we remove the concentrate to have pure water again?” Pour more “water” (Jik) and stir. It will become clear again. *(Be careful not to spill some bleach onto your/their clothes!)*

Take empty **cooldrink bottles and two balloons**. Make a hole in the bottom of one of the cooldrink bottles. Give the other bottle to a child while you keep the one with the hole. Put a balloon in each bottle with the balloon’s mouth folded back over the bottle’s opening. Start inflating it together. Ask the children: “What happened?” Only one balloon inflates.

Wow, that’s amazing! Today we are also talking about miracles. We don’t really understand how it happens. Miracles are part of God’s work and it is too wonderful for us to understand.



### WORSHIP

Do the **settle down ritual** as in session 21 and sing the **theme song** you chose for this term.



*(Use the working and playing time activities to tell the story. Enlarge the pictures, copy it onto cardboard and paste it onto the “tree” with Prestik. You could also attach these pictures to a real Christmas tree.)*

### **1. God became human / a human baby (baby figure)**

I wonder what we celebrate on Christmas. Yes, the birth of Jesus! This is the first miracle we are talking about today. God, who is so much bigger than we can imagine; God who can do all things; God who made everything (including us) – He became a small, helpless human baby because He loves us so much.

One of the names of Jesus in the Bible is Immanuel and that means: “God with us”. Jesus knew that He had to be born as a human and live with us on Earth to die for our sins. This is the biggest gift of love that any person can receive! The miracle is that God loves us so much (even though we sometimes hurt Him) that He became a baby!

### **2. A king born in a barn? (picture of barn, Mary and Joseph)**

God is the King of heaven and earth. When celebrities (famous people) like movie stars, sport stars, kings or princes have a baby, they go to the best hospitals with the best doctors to help them. But the biggest King of all isn’t born in a palace. His earthly father is a poor carpenter and his mother a young girl. They come from a small village called Nazareth. This King isn’t born in an expensive hospital, but in a barn, where there are no doctors or nurses to help. What a wonderful miracle that the most important King in the whole world is born in a barn in Bethlehem. This is something that the prophets predicted in the Old Testament. The prophet Micah predicted that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem even though they lived in Nazareth. God knew exactly when and where Jesus would be born long before it happened and He told this to some of the prophets hundreds of years earlier.

### **3. The messengers (picture of the angel, shepherds)**

There were no television announcements, Facebook or Internet to tell the world about the birth of Jesus. God has many ways to send messages to humans. We read about the dreams Joseph had and a hand that wrote on a wall in Daniel’s story etc. – but here God sent his special messengers: angels.

An angel tells Mary that she will have a baby. Joseph wanted to end their engagement because they were not married yet. Then an angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that this Baby is not another man’s child, but God’s Son. That is why Joseph didn’t end the engagement and married her. God’s miracle here is that the earthly mom and dad He chose for Jesus could take care of Jesus and raise Him without human misunderstandings or errors.

An angel even appeared to the shepherds to tell them about the birth of this special Child, otherwise this event could have passed without anyone knowing. Babies are born every day, but the miracle of Jesus’ birth is told in a very special way.

### **4. The visitors (picture of the star and stargazers)**

Jesus, the boy from the small village of Nazareth, also had other interesting visitors. Some non-Jewish stargazers lived many miles away but also received a special message. God spoke to them in a way that only they understood. They looked at the stars again and saw that a great Jewish king had been born. They didn’t have a GPS, but a miracle happened. God sent a star to guide them to Bethlehem. They brought expensive gifts that are meant for a king for this baby and his poor parents. God shows us that His love isn’t only meant for certain people, but for all people all over the world.

**5. (Optional for younger children, but older children will understand the following)**

**The fulfilment of God's promise and predictions in the Old Testament:**

In the time of Adam and Eve God already said that the Saviour would one day be born. That was many, many years before the birth of Jesus. There are more than 400 references and prophecies about this Saviour in the Old Testament. One example we mentioned earlier, where Micah 4:14 and 5:1 predicts that the Saviour will be born in Bethlehem. Another example is in Isaiah 7:14 to say that a young girl/virgin will become pregnant, give birth to a son and call him Immanuel.

The experts have worked out that the odds of one person fulfilling only 8 of these prophecies are one in 100 000 000 000 000 000 (1 with 17 zeros!), in other words, basically impossible. What are the odds that someone can fulfil ALL of them? But Jesus did! It really is a marvellous miracle. A whole bunch of miracles happened when Jesus was born!

**The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:**

1. I wonder what other miracles you can recall from the story of Jesus' birth? (*John the Baptist that moved inside his mother, Elisabeth, the moment he heard Mary's voice; the miracle that Mary and Joseph found a place to stay when there was nothing available; the wonder that God protected Jesus when all boys younger than 2 years were killed.*)
2. I wonder how it feels, smells and sounds in a barn and who of you would like to sleep there for a few nights.
3. I wonder what your favourite part of the Christmas story is.
4. I wonder what will remind you this Christmas of the miracle that God became a human baby because He loves us so much.
5. I wonder how we can show God's love to other people this Christmas.



**WORKING AND PLAYING TIME**

*(Both activities can be used while the story is told.)*

- ✍ Print a worksheet of the tree and pictures for each child. *(A real tree can be used in class or at home and the pictures used as decorations. Attach the pictures to the tree with string.)*

Smaller children: Cut the pictures for them and let them colour it.

Older children: Let them colour the pictures and cut it out on the dotted lines.

As they are telling someone the story, they attach their pictures to the tree with string or Prestik.

- ✍ *(Especially for older children)*

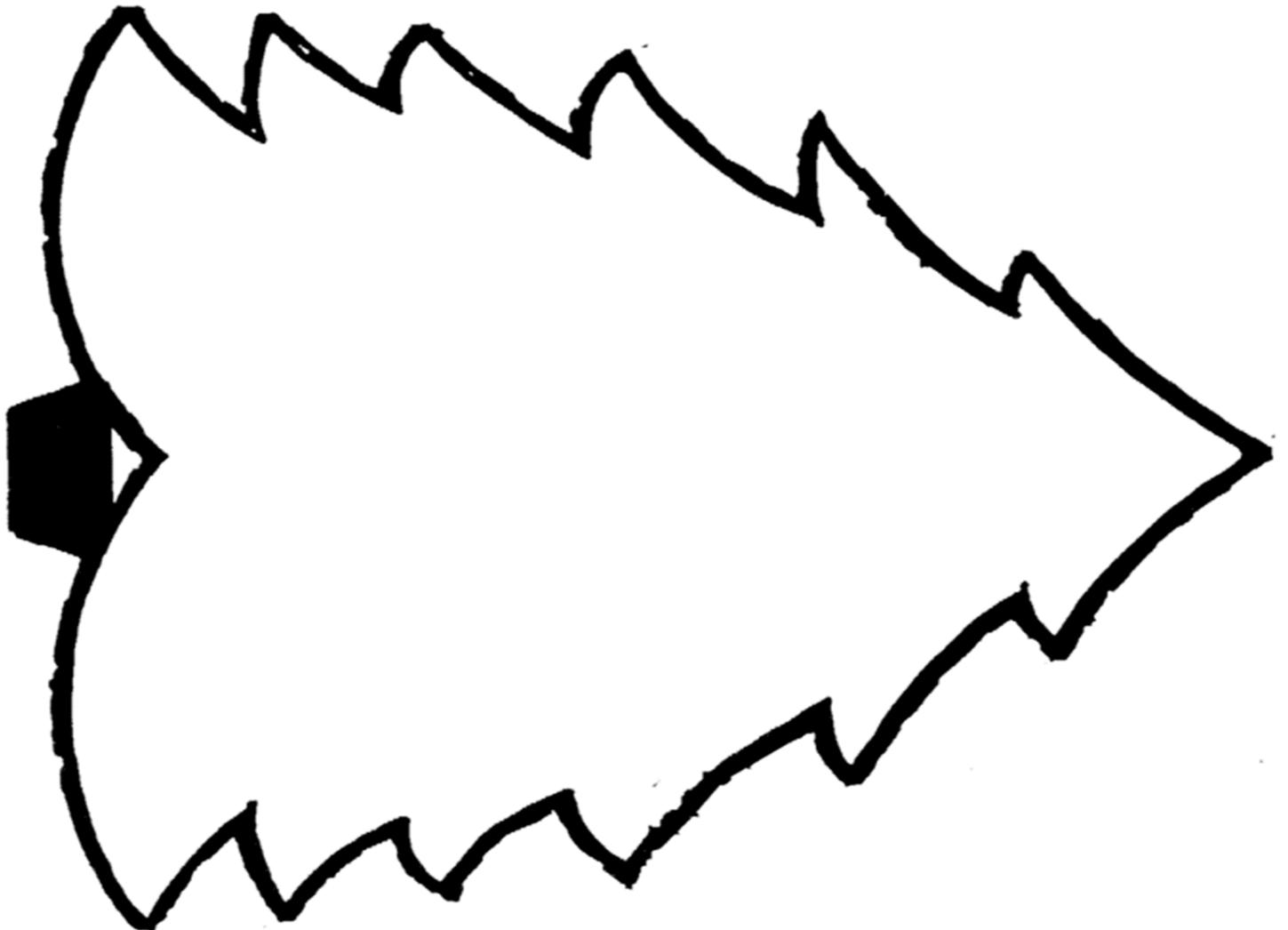
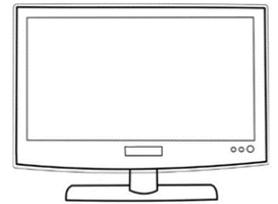
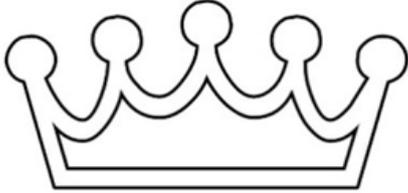
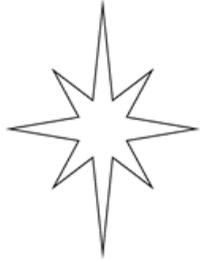
Print a page of clues for each child as well as one page / stickers with pictures. The children must paste the picture with the correct description.

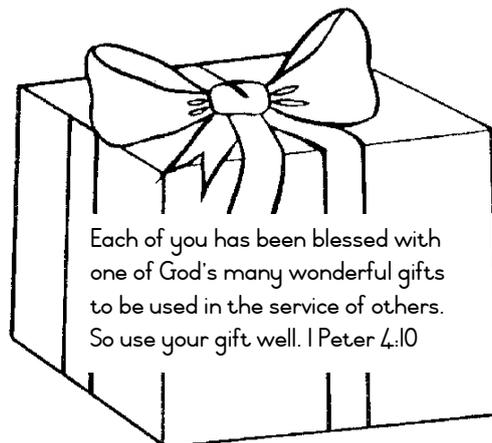
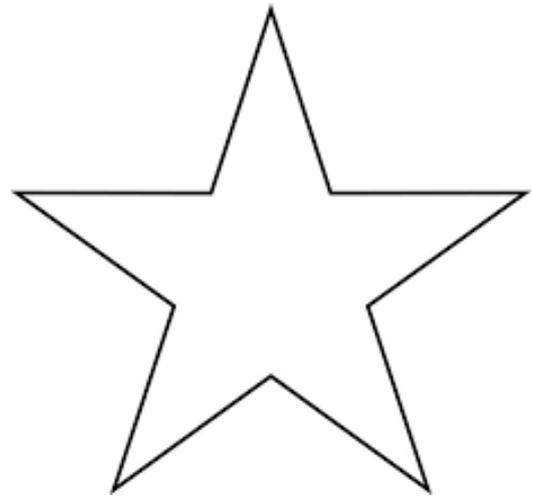
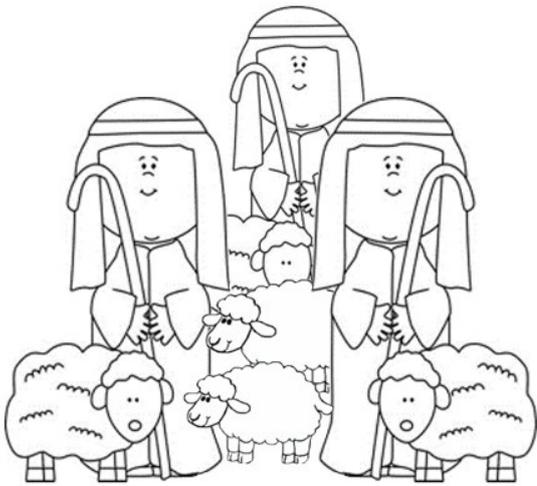
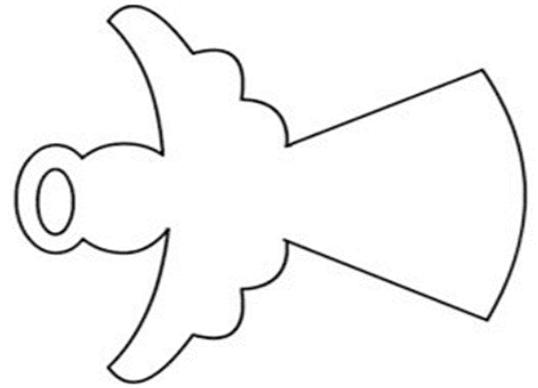
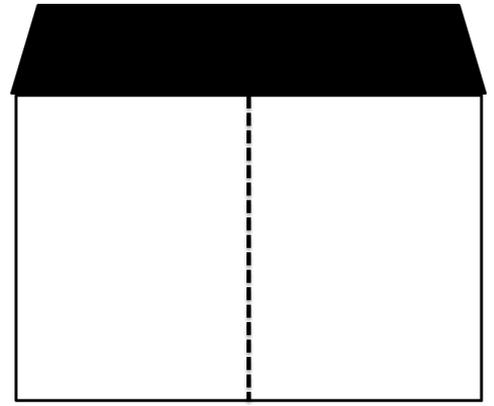
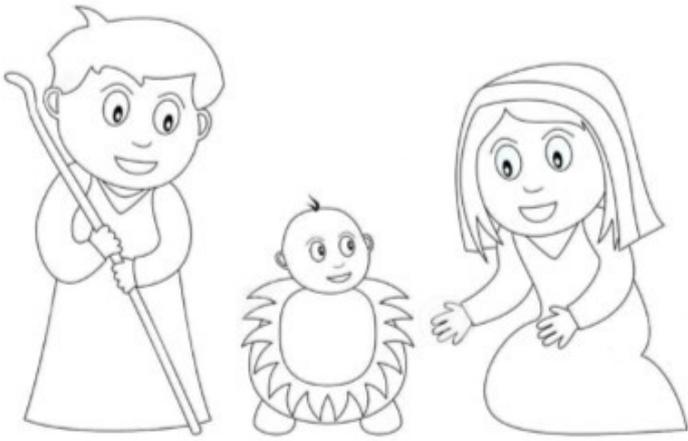
**Benediction:**

Close with the blessing as in session 21.

A king of the world is born...	The King of the universe is born:
... as a prince who deserves the best money can buy.	... as the Child of common, poor people.
... in a palace or an expensive hospital with doctors and nurses attending.	... in a manger with animals watching.
... and his birth is announced on TV and other social platforms.	... and His birth is announced to a few people by angels.
... and only very important guests are allowed to visit him/her.	... and His visitors are common shepherds and non-believers from a
... and one can use a GPS to find the place where he/she is born.	... and His visitors were led by a star to the right spot.
... as someone who knows that he will become a king and reign over his followers.	... as Someone who knew that He had to die eventually for all the people He loved so much.

Pictures to cut out and paste onto p.4:





Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. 1 Peter 4:10