

Lesson 8: THE BIRTH OF THE LORD

Luke 2:1-20

READING:

Have the children read aloud from **Luke 2:1-20**.

DISCUSSION:

The world had been waiting thousands of years for the Lord to be born on earth as a baby. The Word has many prophecies fortelling this wonderful event and as the world grew darker and darker with evil, people held onto the hope and belief that someday the Messiah would bring His light back again.

No one knew when this would happen. Imagine the incredible excitement of Mary, Elizabeth, the shepherds, and the wisemen when they realized that the Lord would be born, or had been born, during their lifetime! After so many years of waiting, the prophecies would finally be fulfilled.

Part of the wonder of the Lord's birth is that it can happen over and over again. Any time we are having difficulty following the Lord, perhaps we feel jealous of a friend, or angry and hateful toward a family member, we are in darkness. The moment we ask the Lord to help us and we stop to listen for His answer, a light will start to shine in our hearts and minds. This is the Lord's birth into our lives. This is Christmas. And if we continue turning to the Lord, that light will grow and brighten, showing us the right way to live. And we will feel so happy.

PROJECT: CHINESE LANTERNS

When Chinese artists painted the nativity they showed angels holding decorated lanterns as they gazed upon the Holy Family.

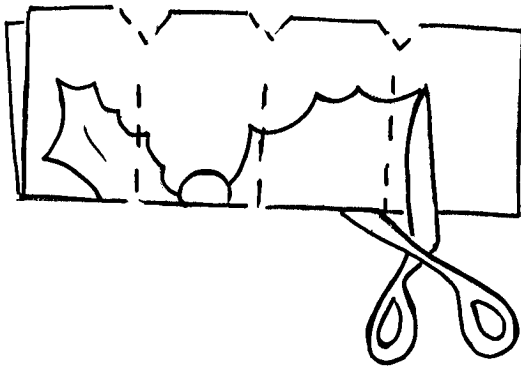
Directions for making lanterns begin on the next page.

Chinese Lanterns Instructions

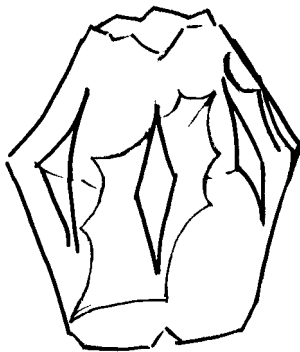
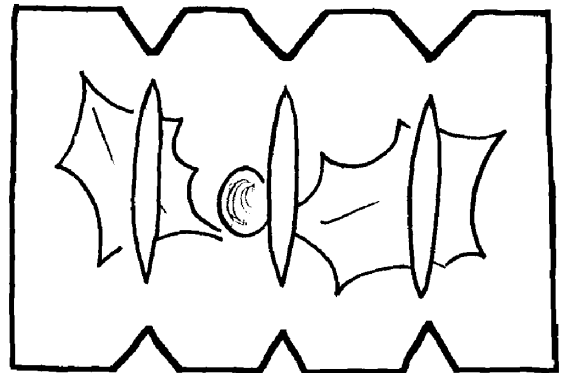
Supplies:

used greeting cards (front only)
scissors
ruler
glue

1. Fold the front of the greeting card in half lengthwise. Make sure that the picture is showing
2. Cut into the folded edge, with cuts being $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart and extending to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch away from the open edge. Within the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch area above the cut lines, cut small triangles into the edge of the card.



The open card should look something like this:



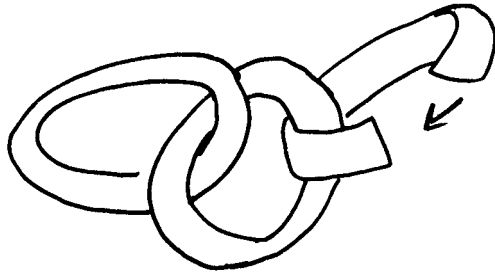
3. Open the card up and glue together the sides that have not been cut. It should now begin to look like a lantern

4. Cut a 6 inch strip from either a leftover piece of the card or another card to use as a handle. The ends can be glued to the inside of lantern.

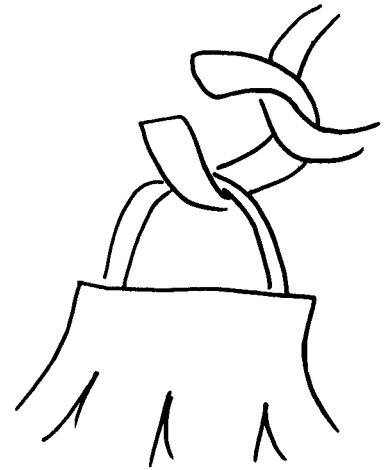


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5. The greeting cards can also be used to make paper chains. Using ½ by 4-6 inch strips of the card glue on strip into a ring. The chain is then made by looping the next strip through the first circle and glueing it to make it's own ring. This process can be continued until your paper chain is as long as you want.



6. To fasten your lantern to the paper chain use the same process as for making the long chain. By linking additional strips through the handle of the lantern you can make a small chain that can be attached to the long chain.



7. Your lantern chain is now ready for hanging!

