

BE AN ANGEL! SPREAD THE NEWS!

CHAIRPERSON'S PLAN

Sing JP 285
Opening prayer
Sword drill
Sing
Bible reading (1)
Sing
Bible reading (2)
Sing
Bible reading (3)
Sing
Bible reading (4)
Sum-up
Chain prayer
Offering
Angel craft
Benediction

To Prepare

Praise Leader: Choose for *shepherd and angel* theme:

JP 285 While shepherds watched
219 Silent night, holy night
10 Angels from the realms of glory.
69 Hark the herald angels sing
51 Glory to God in the highest
323 Come and join the celebration
214 See him lying on a bed of straw
110 Infant holy, infant lowly
344 Girls and boys leave your toys
396 It was on a starry night

Sword Drill: Choose appropriate number of verses from the list.

Genesis 16: 7+8	Matthew 2: 19	Revelation 22: 6
Exodus 3: 2	Luke 1: 26	Acts 12: 7
Exodus 14: 19	Matthew 24: 31	Matthew 28: 2

Bible reading (1) Luke 1: 26-31, 38

Bible reading (2) Matthew 1: 18-24

Bible reading (3) Luke 2: 8-20

Bible reading (4) Matthew 2: 13,14

Choose 4 Juniors
to prepare these
readings.

Angel Craft:

Wax resist picture: Photocopy a shepherd picture for each Junior. Bring wax crayons, white candles, black or dark blue water based paint, paintbrushes, newspapers to cover work surfaces and absorbent paper towels

Angel decoration: photocopy an angel shape onto thin card for each Junior, bring scissors, colouring pens (gold and silver), adhesive stars, stapler

Programme

Sword Drill: For method see First Steps: "Books" (4) or Peter (introduction). After the verses have been found, ask the Juniors which word appeared in all verses. ('angel', using Good News Bible) What is an angel? (messenger from God) Explain that this programme concentrates on how God sent His angels to bring very important messages to specially chosen people.

Wax resist picture: On the sheet, Juniors draw a large angel speaking to the shepherds but do not colour him in. Colour in the shepherds using coloured wax crayons. Use the candle to fill in the angel and rub on the shepherds' faces. Make a "wash" by mixing up some watery dark paint. Starting at the top, brush the paint across the whole picture, backwards and forwards, to the bottom. The paint will not stick to the candle grease and give the impression of the glory of the angels and the reflected light on the faces of the shepherds.

Sum-up: on page two

Sum-up

God had a plan to bring love and forgiveness to the world but He needed the help of some obedient, trustworthy people who worshipped and believed in Him. In this Christmas story, who was the first person to be contacted? (Mary) How did Mary feel when she saw the angel? (Luke 1: 29) What was her reply to this very unexpected news? (Luke 1: 38) Although Mary was still a teenager, God could use her because she was willing to accept God's instructions.

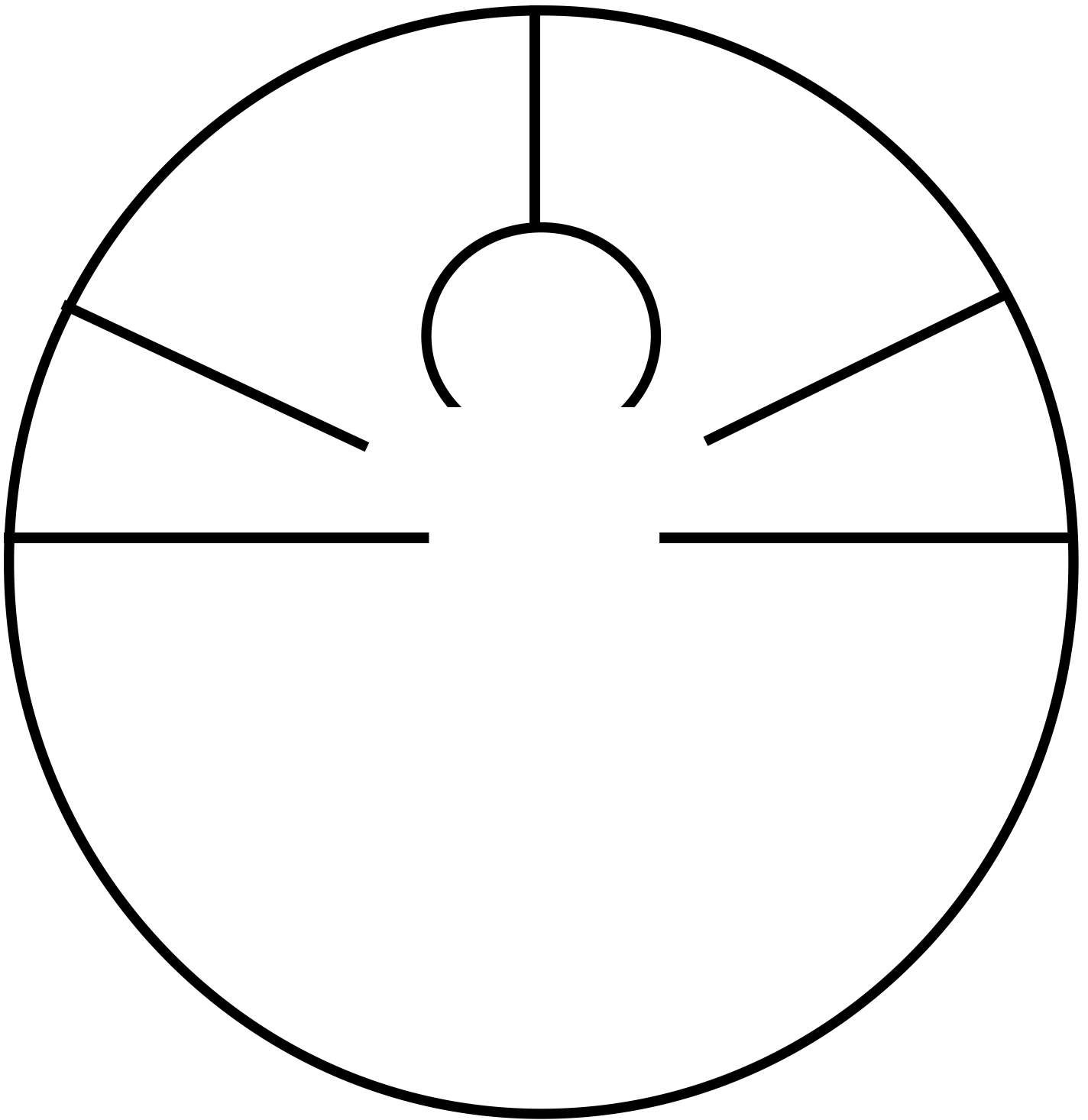
How did the angel appear to Joseph? (Matthew 1: 20 - in a dream) God gave Joseph important information which took a lot of courage to accept and act upon. But Joseph was a man who knew right from wrong. (Matthew 1: 19) so God could use him.

The shepherds were terribly afraid, too, when they saw the angel but they listened carefully. The glory of the Lord shone over them (Luke 2: 9) and then the angel choir sang praises to God. What an experience! What did the shepherds do when the angels left? (Luke 2: 15-17) They wanted to put God's message to the test and they found out it was exactly as God said it would be! Then they were so excited they had to tell others.

God can still speak to us and bring us instructions and knowledge about Himself. We must be willing to accept His word, like Mary, know that it is a good message from God and not a bad message from the Devil, and like Joseph, listen carefully to God's messenger. (This could be a Christian friend, a Christian teacher or words written by a Christian in a book.) God wants us to be angels too! God wants us to take His message to others. He wants us to tell others that Christmas is when God's son, Jesus, was born. He came to show God's love and His plan for forgiveness of our sins and wrongdoing. Go on, be an angel!



***An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born – Christ the Lord!
Luke 2: 9 and 10 (Good News Bible)***



ANGEL DECORATION

Cut along all black lines.

Fold the wedge shaped pieces on either side, the arms, forward.

Decorate the wings and gown with adhesive stars etc., or gold or silver pens.

Fold back lower half and staple to form a cone shaped dress.

Add facial features and halo or hair if desired.