

Activities for Lighthouse at Home Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Our theme this month is all about Christmas and how Jesus came to earth as a baby because God loves us so much.

### **Activity 1      Christmas window poster**

**For this activity you will need:** a large sheet of greaseproof paper or baking paper and crayons, colouring pencils, felt tips or twistables. (for those with very young children just be aware that the colour from the felt tips rubs off a little more than it would on ordinary white typing or art paper so you might want to roll up sleeves if using these)

Design a poster for your window. What message would you like to display to your neighbours about what Christmas is all about? Work together as a family on this activity.

As you work talk about the real meaning of Christmas.

*Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel – ‘God with us.’ Isaiah 7:14*

### **Activity 2      Star tinsel**

**For this activity you will need:** some thread (from the pack that’s the blue thread) and some star shaped stickers

Stick stars, back to back with the thread sandwiched in the middle, along the length of thread (see video)

As you work think about stars in the Christmas story. The Wise men definitely saw a star in the sky when Jesus was born and they followed it to find them. *Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him. Matthew 2: 1-2*

But I wonder might the shepherds also have seen some stars before the angels came and made everywhere shine so brightly. What do you think? *That night there were some shepherds in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. Luke 2: 8-9*

### **Activity 3      Wooden tree decorations \*\***

For this activity you will need: wooden decorations from the pack and some felt tip pens

Colour in the decoration in any colours you would like. Then hang your decorations on your Christmas tree or in some other special place to remind you of the Christmas Story as you celebrate Christmas.

As you work talk about the part of the story that your decorations represent.

Which part of the story do your decorations represent? Is it where Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem and can’t find anywhere to stay so they end up in a place where animals live and baby Jesus is put to sleep in the manger with the straw for feeding the animals? *And because Joseph was a descendent of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea...And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips*

*of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn. Luke 2: 4 & 6-7*

Or is it the part where an angel visits the shepherds and tells them all about Jesus being born and how they should go and find the baby? *When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, 'Come on, let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'* Luke 2: 15

Or is it when the Wise men see the star and follow it all the way to Bethlehem and find Jesus? *Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him.'* Matthew 2: 1-2

#### **Activity 4\*      Christmas crown mobile decoration**

**For this activity you will need:** the Christmas crown mobile decoration printout, colours or other bits and pieces to decorate the shapes with (if you have any stars left over from the tinsel you could use them), some thread (purple thread from pack – this is six stranded thread so you need to separate the strands) and a needle (adult supervision or adult use only depending on age of children), scissors and glue stick

Cut out and decorate all the pieces. Use the thread and needle to assemble the mobile. Hang it up somewhere you will see it.

Why do you think we have a crown decoration at Christmas? Might it be because Jesus is the King of Kings and what do kings wear on their heads? I wonder why you think Jesus is called the King of Kings?

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the Lord Almighty will guarantee this.* Isaiah 9: 6-7

#### **Activity 5\*      Christmas gift box**

**For this activity you will need:** the Christmas gift box printout, some colours and a scissors.

Cut out the box template and colour it in in the way you would like. Now fold along all the dotted lines.

Glue the tab in place and then. Then slot the 2 sides around and under the part on the base marked A and B. Finally tuck the part marked G and H over between the sides and part marked A and B to hold the box together.

I wonder what small gift you will place inside your box and who will you give it to? We receive and give presents at Christmas time but the best gift ever is how Jesus comes to us. And that is not just for Christmas but for all the time.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16

\*I have emailed the printouts to families on the mailing list. If you are not on the mailing list and would like these activities please email [lighthouse@cupcork.ie](mailto:lighthouse@cupcork.ie) and if you would like to be added to the mailing list please go to [www.cupcork.ie/mccontact](http://www.cupcork.ie/mccontact) to sign up

\*\* If you have not signed up for a pack then you may like to check out these Nativity scenes that you can print out and colour as an alternative to this activity:

<http://madebyjoel.com/2012/12/paper-city-nativity-scene.html> OR

<https://www.muminthemadhouse.com/colour-in-nativity-scene-free-printable/>