

## **Craft - Christingle**

A Christingle, which originates in the UK, is a reminder that God came in Jesus to be the light of the world and calls us to shine our lights of God's love all around us. God's red ribbon of love goes around the world represented by the orange/tangerine and God's good gifts in creation. But this Christingle is not complete. God sent Jesus not just for a visit, but rather God planned by the Holy Spirit to pass on his light to each and every one of us in every place. The light of the Christingle candle can go on forever, if we become the candles!

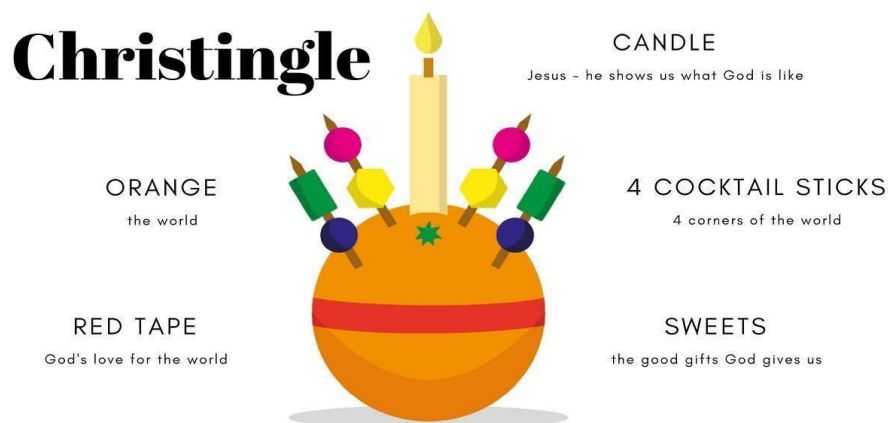
Add a human figure to your Christingle in the place the candle would normally go. We are to be the light now that brings God's love and healing to the world. Christingles start with the Christmas story and goes beyond it to say that when God's love was born in Jesus it was meant as a gift to the entire world. Suggestion would be to make Christingles for everyone who will be at your table for Christmas!

### **Supplies:**

- 1 tangerine or orange (per person)
- red tape or ribbon (enough to go around each orange)
- sticky tape
- toothpicks (4-5 per person)
- aluminum foil
- small candies or dried fruit that can be penetrated by a toothpick
- Small candle ( per person, a birthday candle is fine!)
- optional- small figure of a person out of clay or cardstock (per person)

### **How to make a Christingle**

1. Stick the red tape or ribbon around the tangerine or orange.
2. Slice off a small section from the base so that the tangerine or orange stands up on its own.
3. Depending on the size of your candle, use an apple corer or skewer to create a space where a candle could go into the top of the fruit.
4. Put the four cocktail sticks into the orange or tangerine, each bearing some fruit or small candies, etc.
5. The candle should be lit during Christmas dinner.



(From Lucy at Home, <https://lucyathome.co.uk/things-to-do/christingle-nativity-story-children/>)

## **Multitude of Angels Garland for your Tree**

Read Luke 2:8-14 in your family. Talk about what it is that angels do in the Christmas story. What might an angel look like? If you had been a shepherd, how do you think you would have felt when the angels showed up? Would you have been scared or curious or happy or surprised? What kind of angel would you want to be? What is an angel's job?

### **Supplies:**

- Angel page (print page #1)- one per person, or print multiple to string together
- Art supplies to decorate paper angel (crayons, markers, glue, glitter, sequins, etc.)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
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### **Instructions:**

Using the angel cutout on the website, or find one of your own online, and print many angels. Decorate them in many ways using ribbon, glitter, fabric, markers, anything you can find around the house.

Punch a hole at the top of each of the angel's wings and string all the angels you have made onto ribbon or colorful yarn.

### **Optional:**

Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and sing along with the Peanuts gang, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing!" (look up the clip of the final scene on YouTube!)

## **Family Epiphany Star**

The Feast of Epiphany marks the arrival of the three wise men and the end of the Christmas season. Hold a family “undecorating party” on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Epiphany. As you take down the Christmas ornaments, discuss how your family spent Christmas and whether or not you will make any changes next year. Write ideas down and put them where you will remember to review them with your family next Christmas.

Read Matthew 2:1-12. Talk about the wise men. Why do you think the wise men were coming to visit the baby Jesus? What were the gifts that they brought? If you were a wise man, what gift would you want to give to Jesus? What do you think the wise men might have said to Mary and Joseph? How do you think it feels to ride a camel?

Read Ephesians 5:8-10. As children of the light, talk about what pleases the Lord.

### **Supplies:**

- Large star (print page #2) one per household
- Art supplies to decorate the star
- Markers/crayons/colored pencils (something to write with)

Make a large star. You can use the cutout on our website or make one of your own, and decorate your star. Color and write words or draw pictures representing your discussion about things that were special to you this year.

Leave the star up in your home until the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17 so Lent begins on that day.) Let the star remind you that Jesus is the light of the world.

# **Nativity Story Cube (activity)**

## **Supplies:**

- 1 page to cut/color (print page 3, either 1 per family or per person, your choice)
- Coloring supplies
- Glue or tape
- (optional) string

## **Make your Cube**

1. Cut out the net of the story cube. Be sure to cut the dotted tabs out WITH the cube!
2. Color the pictures on each square
3. Fold at each square and fold the dotted tabs inward.
4. Tuck the tabs under the squares and tape or glue in place to form a cube. Tape is great to repair any accidental cuts, too!

Use your story cubes to retell the story, or take turns rolling the cube as a die and see who can remember the part of the story represented on the cube.

Optional: Glue or tape a loop of string at a corner to transform your Nativity Story Cube into an ornament.

(from Flame Creative Children's Ministry,  
<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2013/12/nativity-story-cube-full-colour-or.html>)

## **You Be the Shepherd (game)**

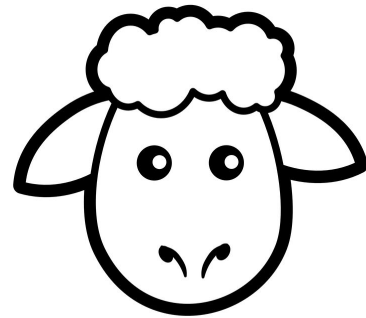
The shepherd led their flock to see Jesus and his family. In this game, you are the shepherd leading your flock to the goal (manger)

### **Supplies**

- White balloons (per household)
- 1 permanent marker (per household)
- Fly swatters/sticks/anything long and skinny to 'herd' your sheep with (1 per person)

### **Instructions**

1. Blow up your balloons, as many 'sheep' as you would like.
2. Draw a sheep face on each balloon:
3. Pick a space to play- any room with an open floor space.
4. Pick one side to be the 'goal' (baby Jesus)
5. Put your 'sheep' on the floor and use your 'shepherd rods' (fly swatters, sticks, etc.) to 'herd' your sheep toward the goal.



# **Sheep Cereal Snacks**

Make a tasty sheep-shaped treat to share!

## **Supplies:**

- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 2/3 cups marshmallows, plus a few additional for assembly
- 4 cups cereal (Rice Krispies or Cheerios work well)
- 10 - 12 chocolate covered almonds, white and dark
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips, semi-sweet or milk
- 20 - 24 in pretzel sticks

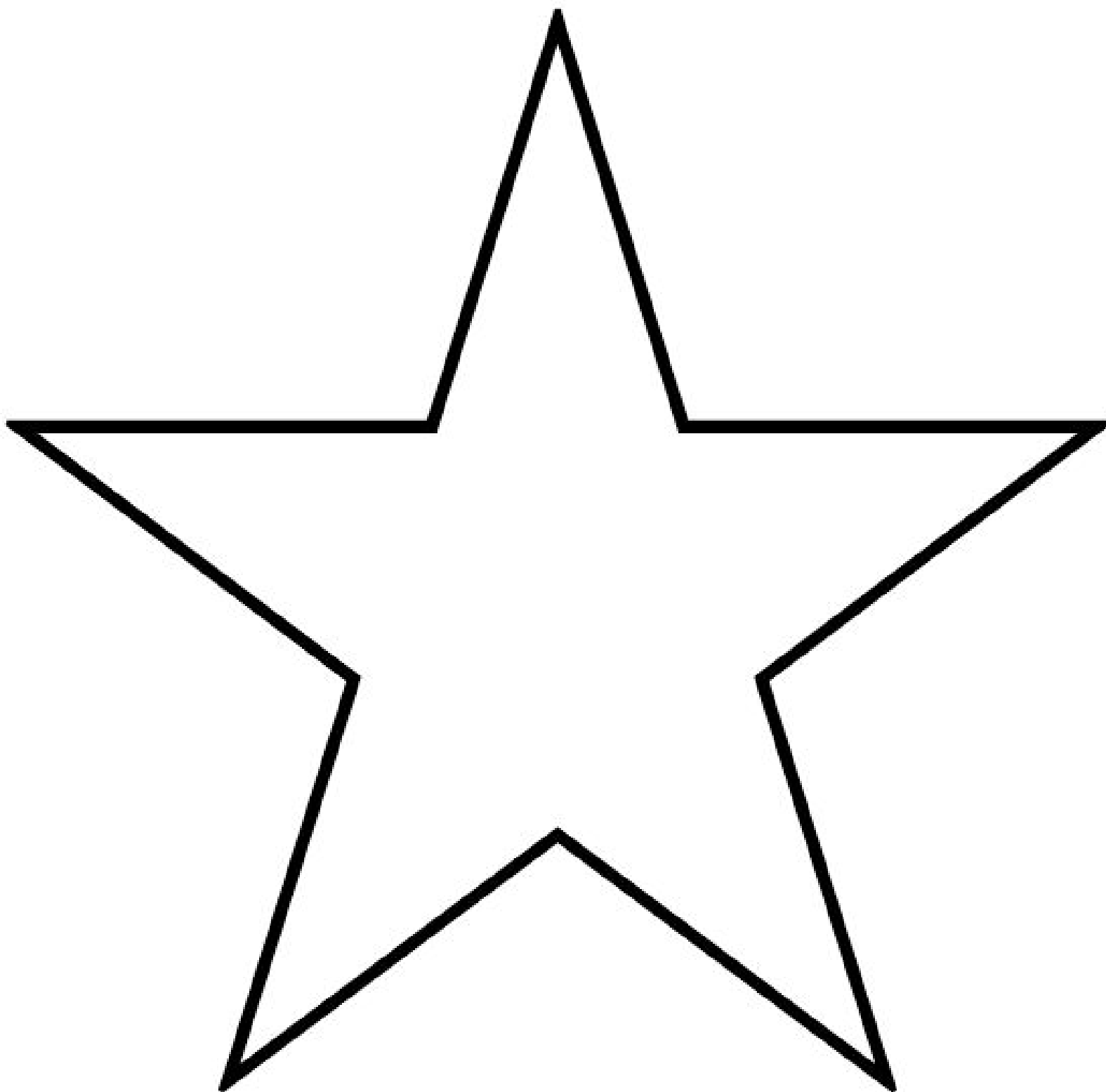
## **Instructions:**

1. Place a heavy bottomed saucepan over medium low heat and melt butter. Add marshmallows and stir just until melted.
2. Remove from heat and add 2 cups of Cheerios and mix until the cereal is evenly coated in marshmallow.
3. Spoon out 1 heaping tablespoon of cereal mixture mold into an egg like shape using lightly greased hands. While the mixture is able to be shaped, make an indentation where the head and legs will be placed on the body. (Use an extra almond and pretzel to make the exact size indentation that will be needed, noting that about half of the almond and half the length of the pretzel will need to be embedded into the body for them to remain in place after they have been adhered with the melted chocolate.)
4. Melt chocolate chips in the microwave to use as glue. (This should only take a few seconds.)
5. Apply small amount of melted chocolate to the ends of the almonds and pretzels and press them into the indentations that were made in the body. Allow the chocolate to set.
6. For the ears, cut mini marshmallows into small pieces and use melted chocolate to glue them on top of head.
7. For the eyes, dip a toothpick into melted chocolate and add two dots to face.

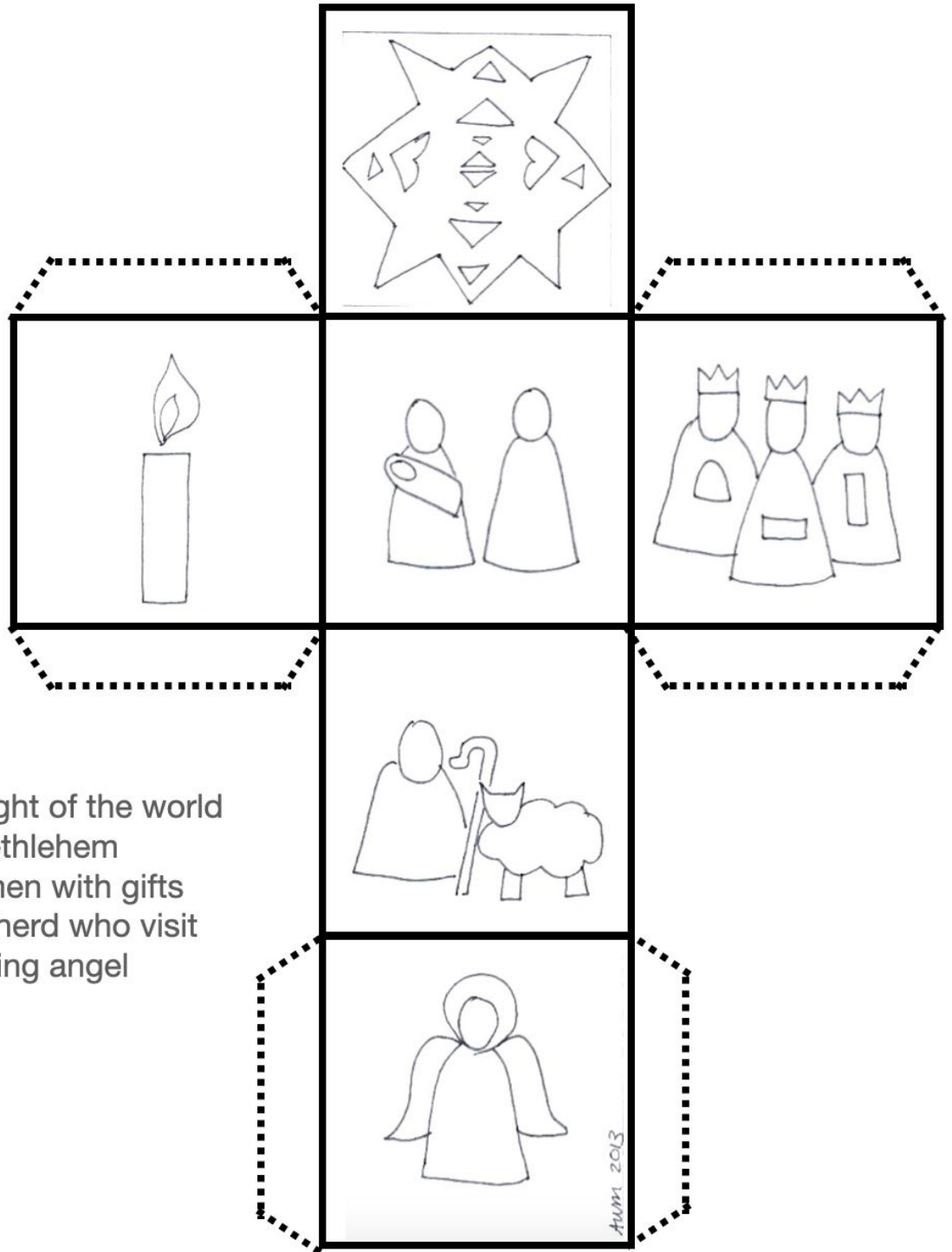


(from Everyday Dishes, <https://everydaydishes.com/holiday/how-to-make-cheerios-sheep-snacks-for-your-next-party/>)









Candle: Jesus is the light of the world

Star: Star of Bethlehem

Kings: Three wise men with gifts

Shepherd: The shepherd who visit

Angel: The guiding angel

April 2013