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An introduction to the *First Steps* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'First Steps introduction.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: First Steps* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: First Steps* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au.

Mary and Joseph

Bible reference...	Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 1:26-38
Lesson aim...	To tell the children about an angel speaking to Mary and Joseph about Jesus' birth.
Main message...	An angel told Mary and Joseph that God's son, Jesus, would be born.
Story card...	Print page 52 and colour in the story card.

Clapping rhyme...

Do the clapping rhyme from last week as a reminder of last week's main message.

<u>Claps</u>	<u>Teacher and Children</u>
4 <i>slow claps...</i>	In the Bi-ble
2 <i>slow claps...</i>	God says
3 <i>slow claps...</i>	that Je-sus
3 <i>slow claps...</i>	is his son.

Introduction...

"Before I tell you today's story, I need to tell you something. In today's story there are angels. God uses angels to tell people things. God used angels to tell Mary and Joseph about God's son, Jesus. Today's story is a true story from God's book, the Bible."

Story...

“This is a true story in God’s book, the Bible.
A long time ago there was a lady called Mary.
An angel told Mary that she would have a baby boy—
God’s son, Jesus.

An angel spoke to a man called Joseph too.
The angel said that Mary and Joseph would have a baby boy—
God’s son, Jesus.

The most special,
the most important baby
would be born—
God’s son, Jesus.”

Pray...

“Thank you God for your son, Jesus. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. *Paper bag puppet*

Guidelines for making this activity are on page 53. In the lesson, first show the children a completed activity. Place a paper bag in front of each child, with the opening at the lower edge. On one side the children make an angel following the guidelines on page 53. On the other side the children make Mary. This activity will require close teacher direction in systematically pasting on the pieces in the right place.

2. *Booklet*

Print page 54 and fold horizontally and then vertically to make a booklet. ‘The angel told’ is the first page. In the lesson, the children could ‘colour’ it in or take it home in black and white.

3. *Softdrink bottle Joseph*

Each child will need a 1.25 or 1.5 litre softdrink bottle for this lesson. Before the lesson, print page 55 for each child and print and cut out Joseph’s head (on page 51) for each child. In the lesson, place page 55 in front of each child. The children colour (scribble!) Joseph’s clothes. Once completed, the teacher wraps page 55 around the softdrink bottle and secures with tape, and then attaches Joseph’s face with blu-tack or tape.

4. *Story card*

Print page 52 for each child to ‘colour’.

Captions for activity #1:

An angel told...

An angel told...

An angel told...

An angel told...

An angel told...

An angel told...

...Mary that God's son,
Jesus, would be born.

...Mary that God's son,
Jesus, would be born.

...Mary that God's son,
Jesus, would be born.

...Mary that God's son,
Jesus, would be born.

...Mary that God's son,
Jesus, would be born.

...Mary that God's son,
Jesus, would be born.

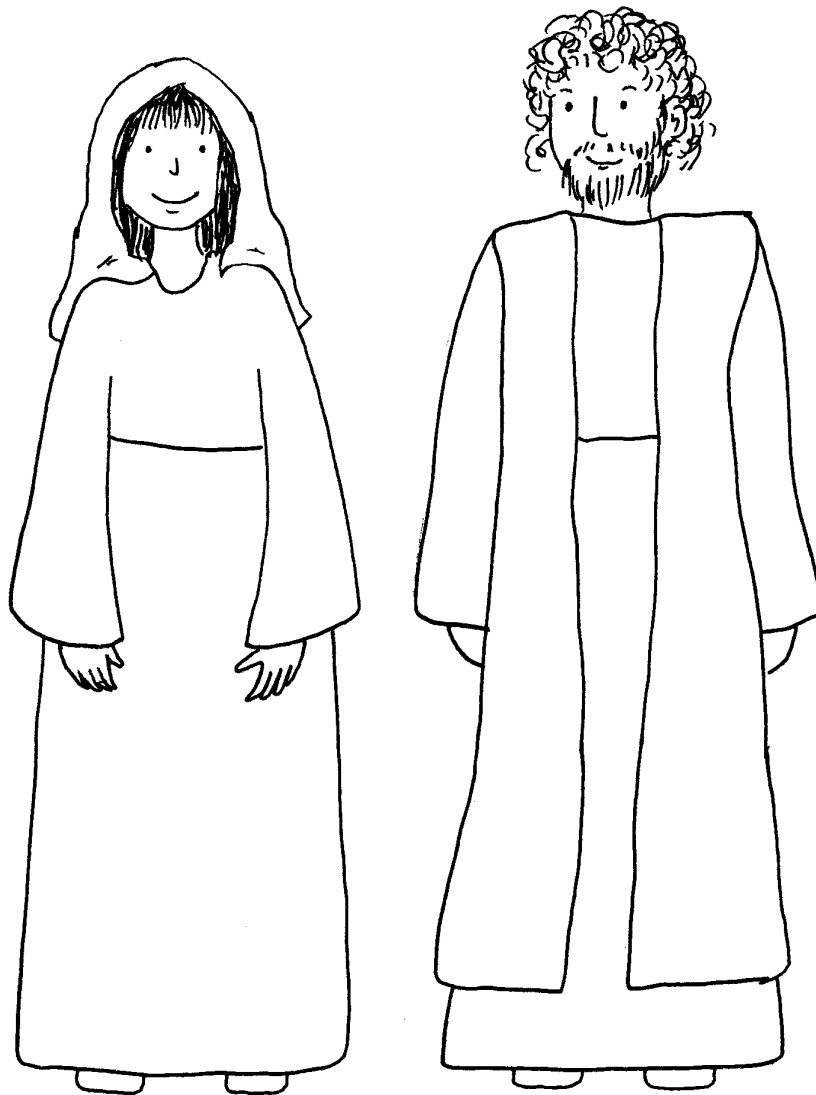


Mary and Joseph

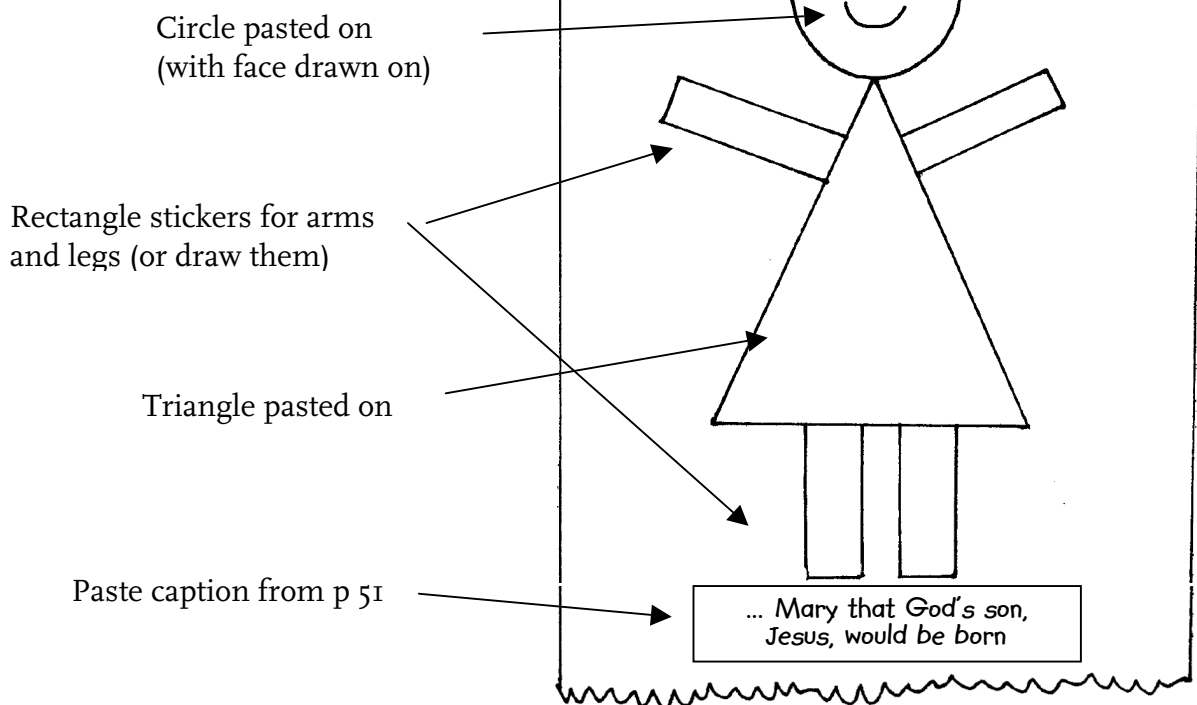
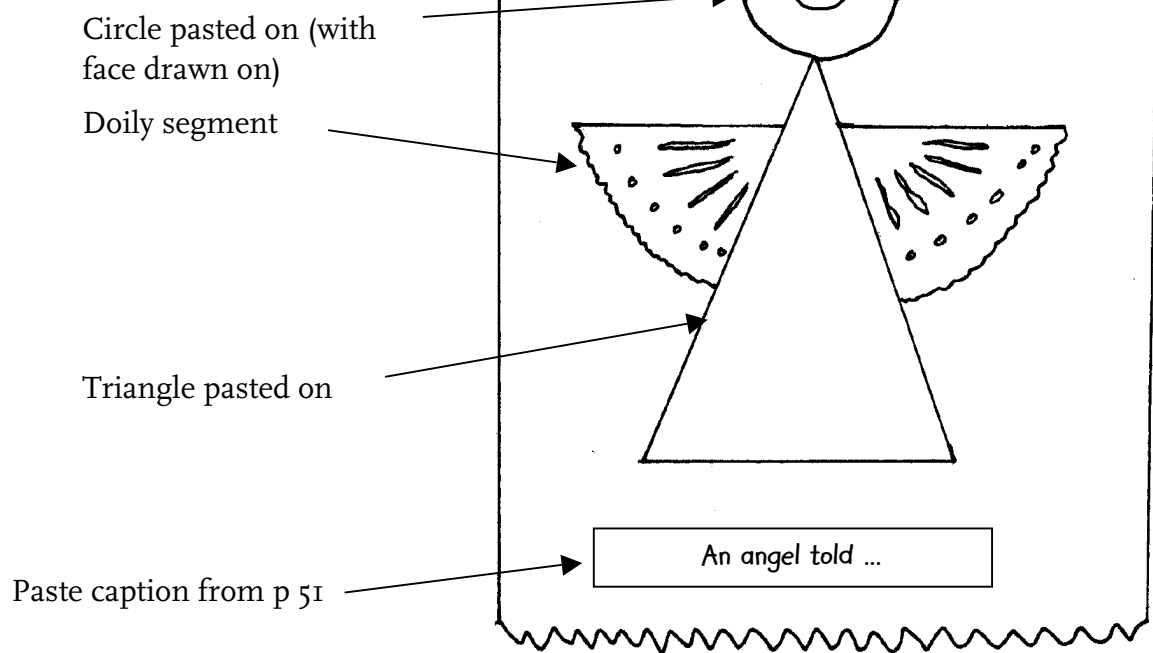
“This is a true story in God’s book, the Bible.
A long time ago there was a lady called Mary.
An angel told Mary that she would have a baby boy—
God’s son, Jesus.

An angel spoke to a man called Joseph too.
The angel said that Mary and Joseph would have a baby boy—
God’s son, Jesus.

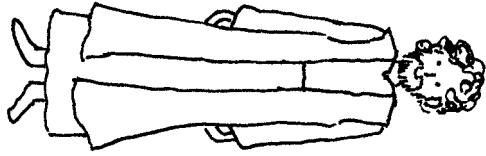
The most special, the most important baby would be born—
God’s son, Jesus.”



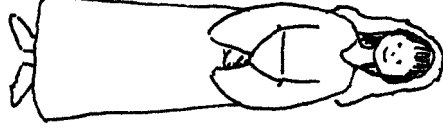
*Guidelines for
paper bag puppet:*



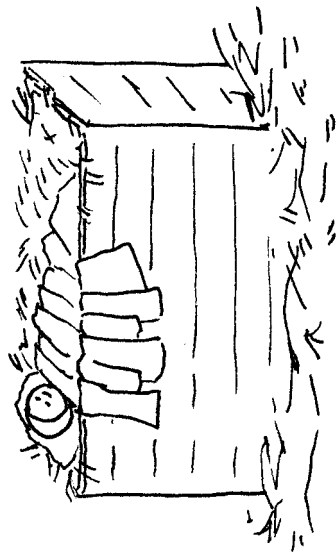
Joseph



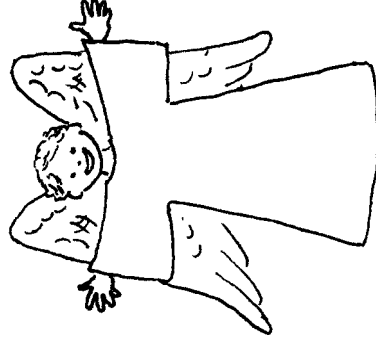
Mary and ...



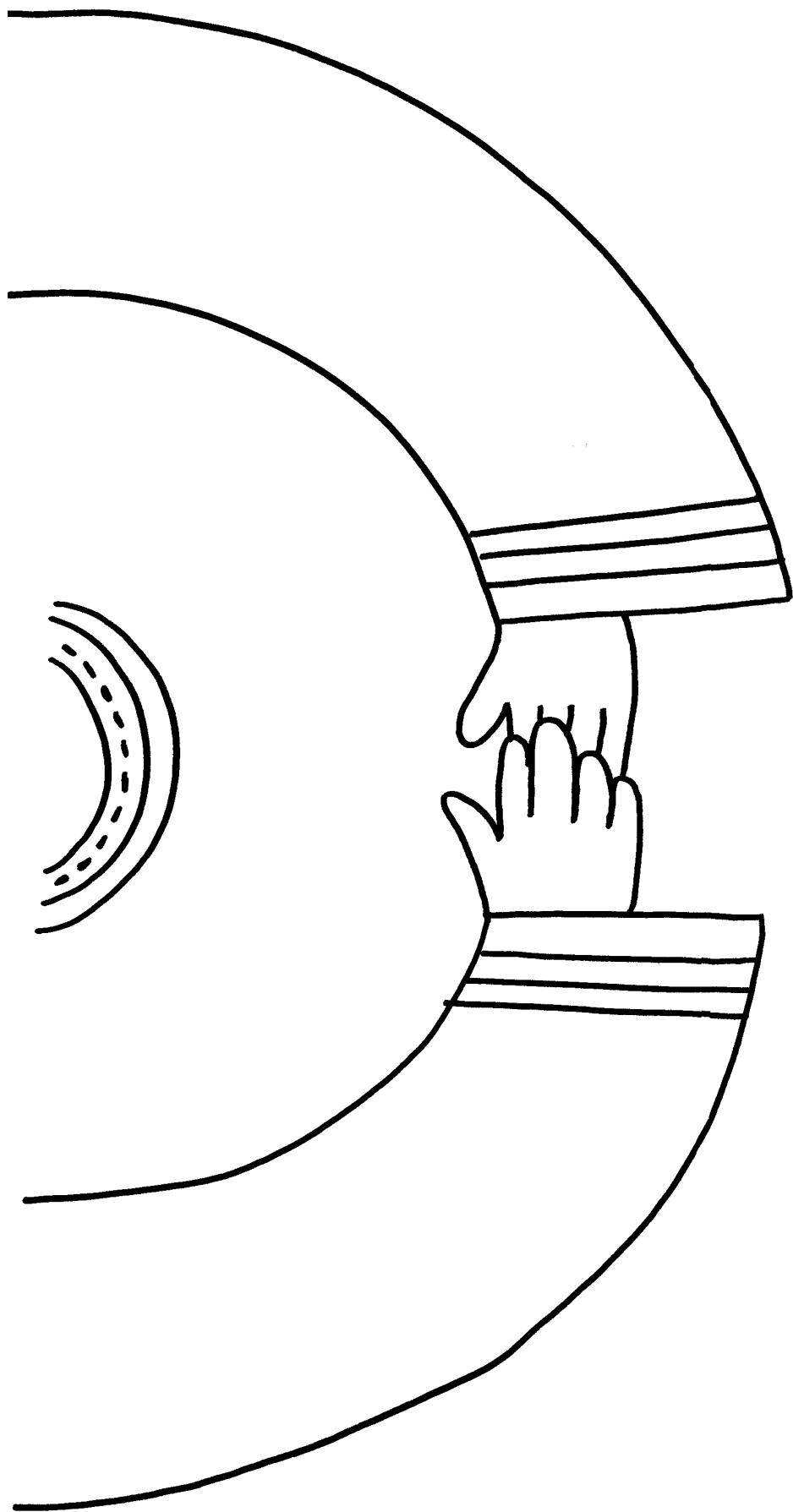
that they would have
a baby boy—



God's son, Jesus.



The angel told...



An angel told Joseph that God's son, Jesus, would be born.