

## GOOD NEWS CLUB AGENDA

### CHRISTMAS – *Penny and the Christmas Star*

WEEK OF:

MAIN TRUTH: What will you give to Jesus?

TO DO AS THE CHILDREN ARRIVE:

1. Greet the children; make them feel welcome.
2. Take attendance.
3. Listen to previous week's memory verse.
4. Have children put money in missions bank.
5. Collect coin holder.

#### NOTE FROM CEF STATE HEADQUARTERS

Please be sure to spend quality time teaching the narrative of the true Christmas story. This may be the only time some of our students hear this message. It is our goal that the focus remains more on the biblical account and less on Penny's dream.

PRE-SESSION ACTIVITY:

1. OLDER CHILD: "Another Puzzle Pleaser"
2. YOUNGER CHILD: Christmas Activity Sheet

SONG: (2 minutes) \_\_\_\_\_

PRAYER: (4 minutes)

1. Prayer song: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ask the children to share any "Thank You Prayers" or "Please Prayers" they have.
3. Lead the class in "Thank You" and "Please Prayers."

MEMORY VERSE: (9 minutes)

**Romans 12:1 – "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."**

(The underlined portion of the verse indicates what the younger children should memorize.)

**"Motions"** – After reading the verse from your Bible, explaining what it means, and repeating it at least two times, you may begin this drill. Use motions as follows: ***I beseech you therefore***, – Clasp hands together as if pleading; ***brethren***, – Hold hands over heart indicating believers; ***by the mercies of God***, – Point up to Heaven; ***that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice***, – Take one step forward; ***holy, acceptable unto God***, – Pretend to grasp something in front and set it to one side; ***which is your reasonable service*** – Shake head up and down as in saying "yes."

CHRISTMAS HYMN: (3 minutes) \_\_\_\_\_

BIBLE LESSON: (20 minutes)

**CHRISTMAS – *Penny and the Christmas Star***

(See "Involvement Helps for Younger Children" for ways to involve the children in the Bible lesson.)

COUNSEL TIME: (If you have a helper, hostess, or Teacher Junior Grade, let them do the review time while you counsel those who responded to the invitation. Otherwise, at the end of club, be sure to remind the children who responded to the invitation to stay after club for a few minutes.)

E.O.T.O.: (5 minutes) Demonstrate to the children how to use the E.O.T.O., “They Followed the Star.” Encourage the children to use this witnessing tool with a friend who needs to know about Jesus.

QUIET TIME NOTEBOOK: (3 minute) Briefly highlight what was learned from last week’s Quiet Time. Ask the children to do one per day before the next club. Remind them that they must show you their Q.T. Notebook next week to receive points.

MISSIONARY TIME: (8 minutes)

1. Pray for the missionary.
2. Show goal chart and mention the amount given so far.
3. Missions song: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Story: **Ly Huy’s Escape**. Teach the portion of the story listed under Week #11.

REVIEW ACTIVITY: (6 minutes)

Use the activity below or the Bible Learning Game from the “**Involvement Helps for Younger Children.**”

“**Pretty Packages**” – Color each package with a different color (or print colored version). (See attached pattern.) Use the same colors for the bows. Laminate them and back for the flannelboard. Divide your class into two teams. Place six of the packages on one side of the board for Teams #1 and the other six packages on the other side of the board for Team #2. Place all 12 bows in a paper bag or turn them upside down on the table. When a child correctly answers a review question, he may choose a bow from the bag. If the bow is the same color as one of the packages on his team’s side of the board, he may place the bow on the package. If it is not, return the bow to the bag. The team with the most bows and matched packages wins the game. No flannelboard: Assign each team a table or a spot on the floor and lay out their packages there.

– by **Melissa Hess, Give & Take, November/December 1997, Modified**

Review questions for *Penny and the Christmas Star*:

1. **What were Penny and Peter waiting for as they sat by the fireplace?** (For mother to tell them the true story from God’s Word about the first Christmas.)
2. **Why did Mary and Joseph travel to the city of Bethlehem?** (To be counted for the census)
3. **Where did Mary and Joseph have to stay for the birth of Jesus? Why?** (A stable, because there was no room in the inn)
4. **True or False: There was a nice, clean crib in the stable for Jesus.** (False)
5. **What is a manger?** (The animals’ food dish)
6. **Name at least two Bible characters that were part of the Christmas story.** (Jesus, Mary, Joseph, innkeeper, angels, shepherds, wisemen)
7. **Name the three gifts that the wise men brought for Jesus.** (Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)
8. **In Penny’s dream, what golden gift did the wise men suggest that she could give to Jesus?** (The love of a child’s heart.)
9. **How did Penny’s mother explain what it means to give Jesus the love of your heart?** (It means giving Him your life.)
10. **Why did God send His Son to earth as a Baby?** (Because He loves you and me)

\*COUNSEL TIME: (\*Only if you did not counsel with the children earlier.)

SEND HOME WITH THE CHILDREN:

1. Pre-session papers for older and younger child
2. Memory verse token/Take Time to Review
3. Quiet Time Notebook
4. E.O.T.O.: “They Followed the Star”

## Another Puzzle Pleaser

See if you can find the following words hidden somewhere in the puzzle below. They are all there - forward, backward, up, and down. And you'll find they all have something to do with Christmas!

ANGELS  
GABRIEL  
MANGER  
STABLE  
KINGS

BETHLEHEM  
INNKEEPER  
MARY  
TAXES  
SNOW

BIRTH  
JESUS  
SAVIOUR  
TREE

CHRISTMAS  
JOSEPH  
SHEPHERDS  
DECEMBER

A L Z E S D R E H P E H S S  
G A B R L E K F O G O E A X  
B R E G S B S E J U X N V X  
A T E R Z E A X E A J F I A  
N Y R A M Y U T T O N W O T  
G H T I T A D W S N O W I S  
E R P E E K N I U I E T O H  
L G Q C S Q C G S N H H I P  
S F N H A Y H B E Y V V N E  
D E C E M B E R J R D I N P  
G D L S T E N M A O E U K E  
R R N T S P D P Y E S M E D  
U S O E I M O H R R T E E D  
O G A B R I E L T S A A P S  
I N L T H C L I T R O R E H  
V I H B C H R F S M I E R X  
A K A I J S P R M E J B W T  
S K M E H E L H T E B N R A  
L U L K S K O J Q U S E S N

**PRE-SESSION, Younger Child – CHRISTMAS – Penny and the Christmas Star**

Color the pictures. Then add some colored stars to the sky and some cotton to the sheep.



**“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,  
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice . . . .”**

**Romans 12:1**

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# MEMORY VERSE HELPS

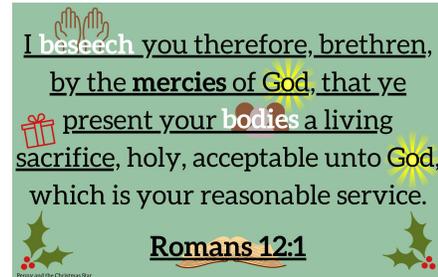
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## CHRISTMAS – Penny and the Christmas Star

**Romans 12:1** – **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”**

(The underlined portion of the verse indicates what the younger children should memorize.)

- ✓ **USE** the visual and let the children read the verse with you.
- ✓ **READ** the verse from your Bible while holding the visual so the children can follow along.
- ✓ **DO MOTIONS** together with the children while you **EXPLAIN** the verse as follows:



### **Romans 12:1**

(Hands as an open Bible.)

### ***“I beseech you therefore, brethren,”***

(Clasp hands together as if pleading. Hold hands over heart indicating believers.)

### ***“by the mercies of God,”***

(Point up to Heaven.)

### ***“that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,”***

(Take one step forward.)

### ***“holy, acceptable unto God,”***

(Pretend to grasp something in front and set it to one side.)

### ***“which is your reasonable service.”***

(Shake head up and down as in saying “yes.”)

### **Romans 12:1**

(Hands as an open Bible.)

– This is the address (where the verse is located in the Bible). This verse is found in the **book** of Romans, **chapter 12, verse 7**.

– The writer is asking, urging, those of us who are members of God’s family, those who have placed their trust in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, to do something very important.

– *Mercy* is something good that God gives us that we don’t deserve. Did we deserve for God to send His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay for our sins? No!. Because He did that for us, there is something that we should do for Him.

– God wants you to give your life as a sacrifice to Him. That means that instead of doing what you want to do, you do what God wants you to do.

– *Holy* means “set apart.” You’ll be different from others. Instead of sinning and doing what you want. You’ll choose what God wants.

– Presenting our bodies to God is the right thing to do. It makes sense that you give your life to Him after all that He has done for you.

– The **book** of Romans, **chapter 12, verse 1**.

- ✓ **DRILL** the verse with the activity listed on the Christmas – Penny and the Christmas Star Agenda.
- ✓ **TEST** the children for their understanding of the verse.

What does God want you to “present” to Him?  
How can you do that?

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# INVOLVEMENT HELPS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

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by Elizabeth Clark and Jen Walker

## CHRISTMAS – Penny and the Christmas Star

**MEMORY VERSE:** Shortened verse

**Romans 12:1** – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice . . . .”*

<b>Romans 12:1</b>	– Hold hands as an open Bible.
<i>“I beseech you therefore,”</i>	– Clasp hands together as if pleading.
<i>“brethren,”</i>	– Hold hands over heart indicating believers.
<i>“by the mercies of God,”</i>	– Point up to Heaven.
<i>“that you present your bodies”</i>	– Take one step forward.
<i>“a living sacrifice . . . .”</i>	– Wiggle arms and body.
<b>Romans 12:1</b>	– Hold hands as an open Bible.

### BIBLE LESSON HELPS:

Under Page 1, FC #3 – While saying, *“God loves you”* for “G,” point up to Heaven, then hug yourself, then point to self.

Under Page 1, FC #5 – At “O,” have children sign “Jesus” (middle finger of right hand touches palm of left, and vice versa) while saying His name softly.

Under Page 1, FC #10 – Repeat, *“Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”*

Under Page 2 – At “S, PAU,” have children say, *“Sin is anything that you think, say, or do that makes God sad,”* while pointing to head then mouth and then extending hands, palms up.

Under Page 4 – Have children climb on camel.

Under Page 5 – At “P, E,” sing “You and Me:”  
*“You and Me, You and Me, Jesus died on the cross for you and me.  
You and Me, You and Me, Jesus died on the cross for you and me.  
You and Me, You and Me, Jesus came alive again for you and me.  
You and Me, You and Me, Jesus came alive again for you and me.”*

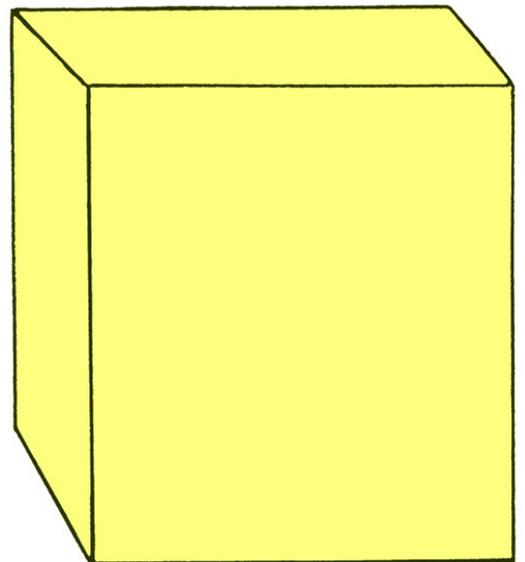
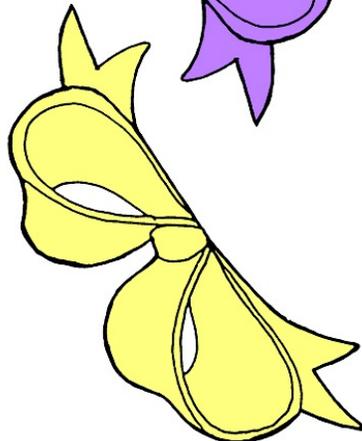
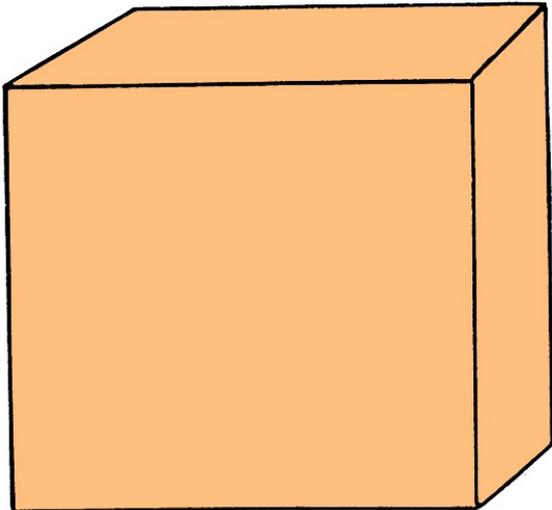
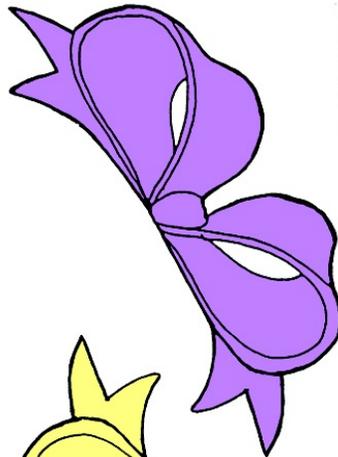
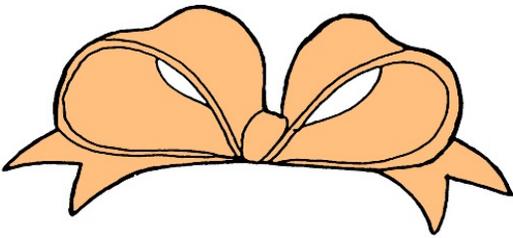
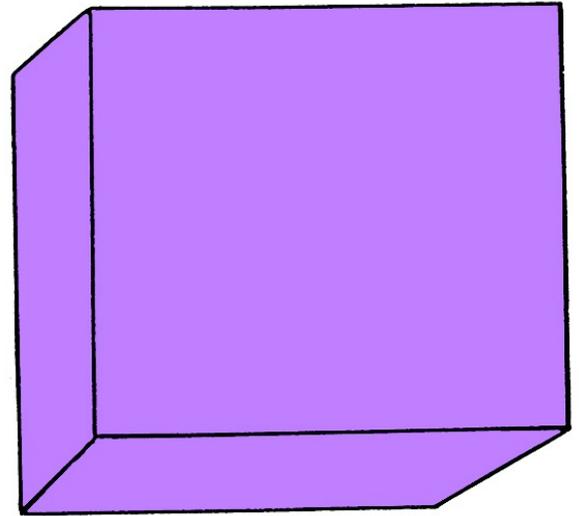
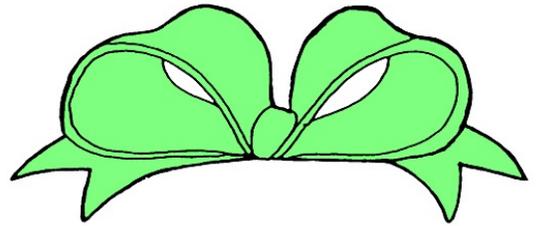
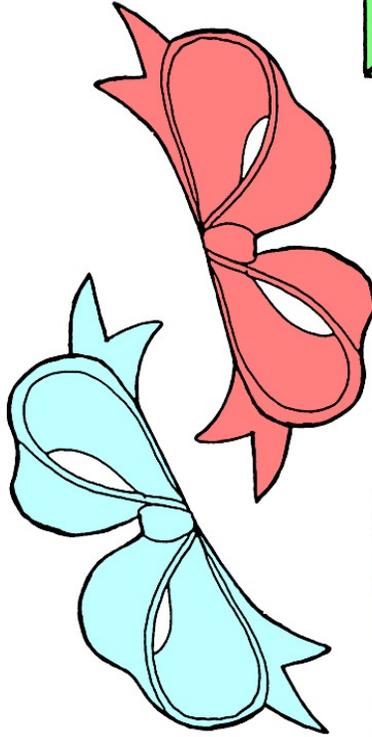
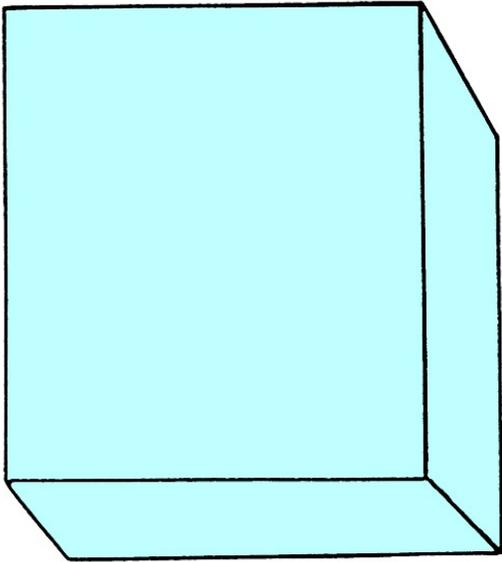
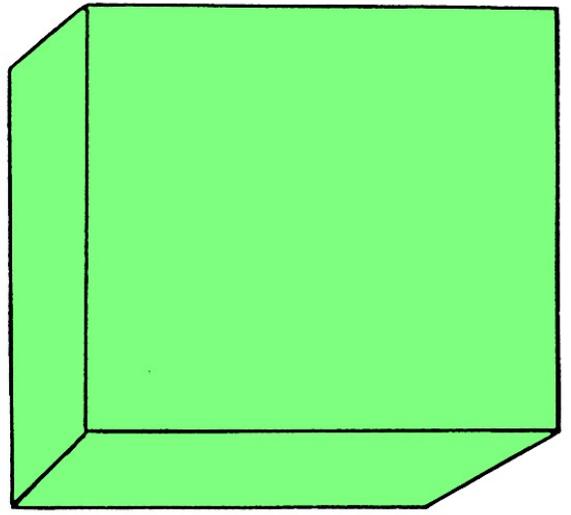
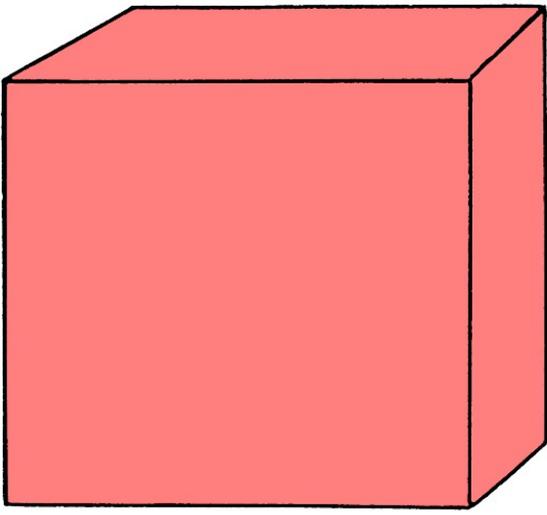
Under Page 7 – Have children say, *“Happy Birthday, Jesus!”*

Under Page 9 – Have children point to eyes, ears, hands, lips and feet as they repeat them.

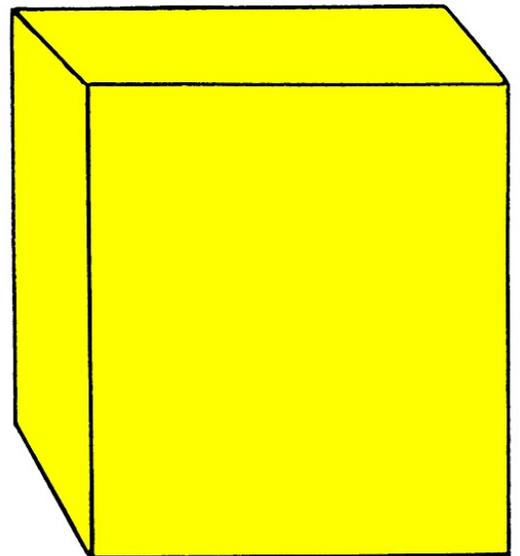
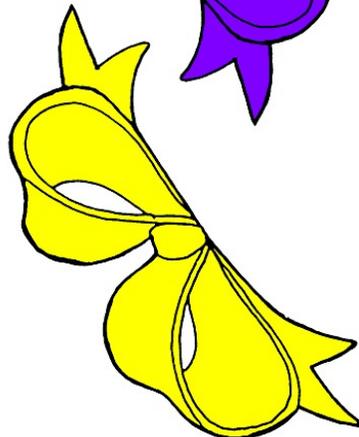
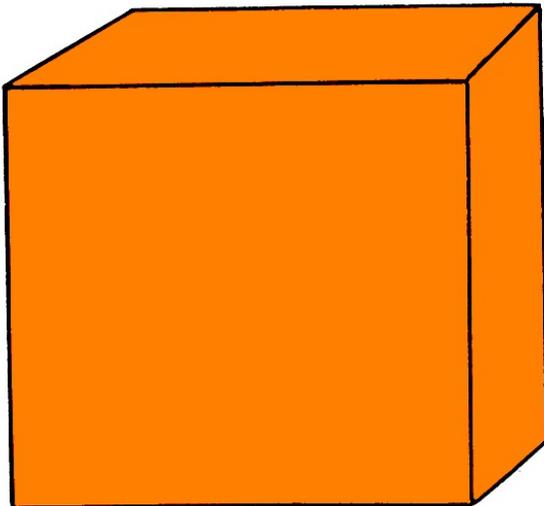
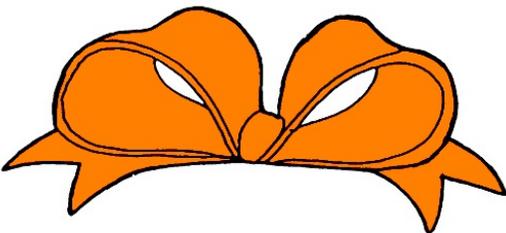
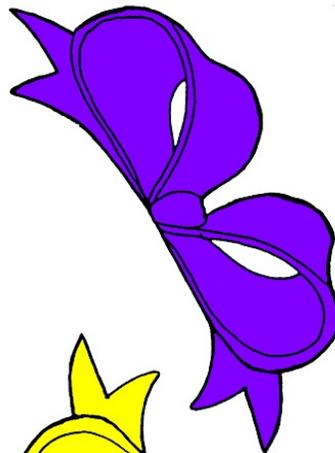
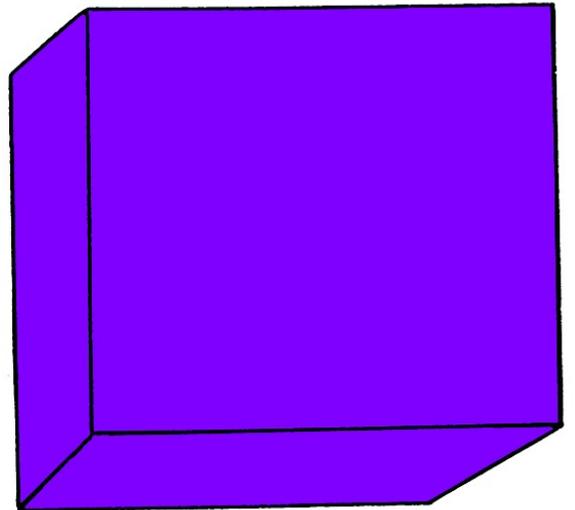
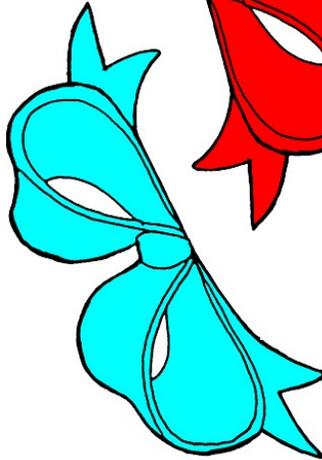
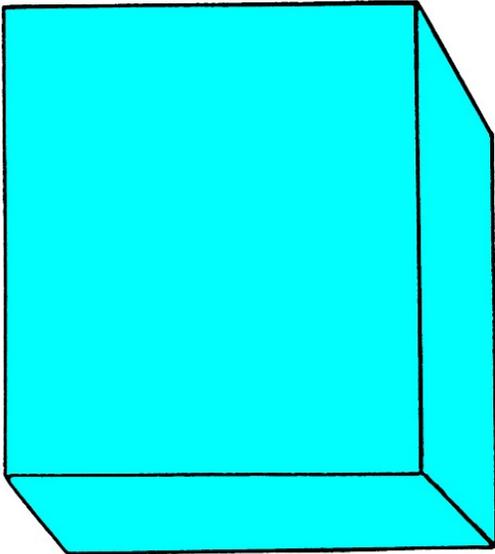
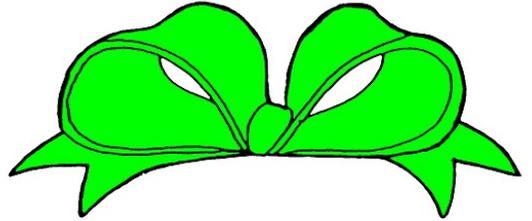
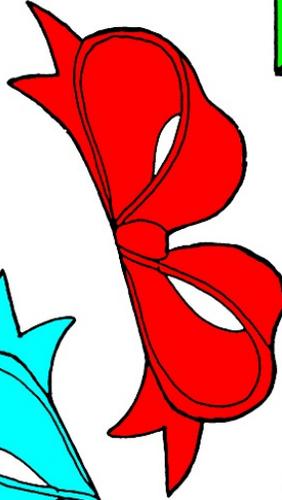
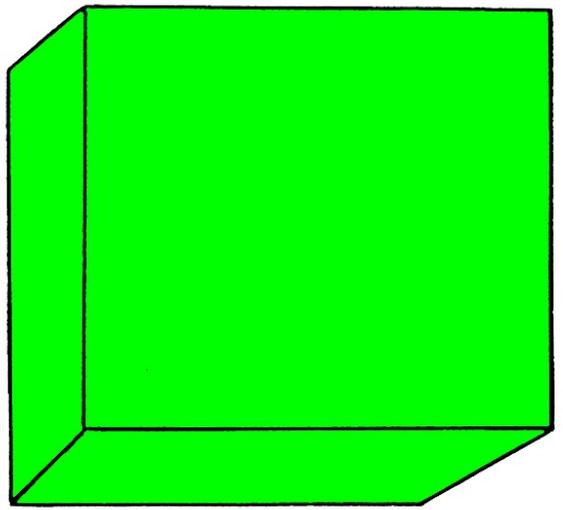
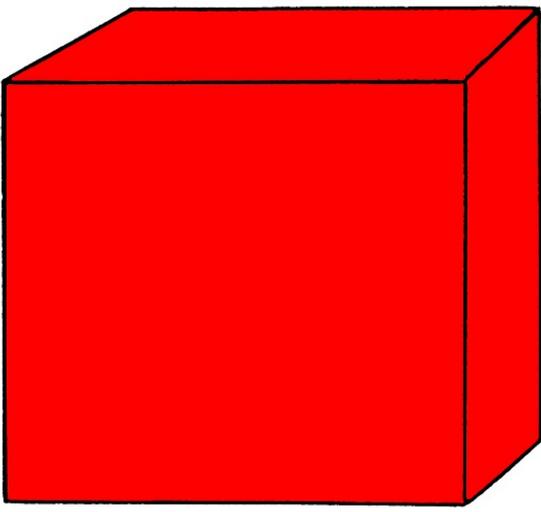
### BIBLE LEARNING GAME:

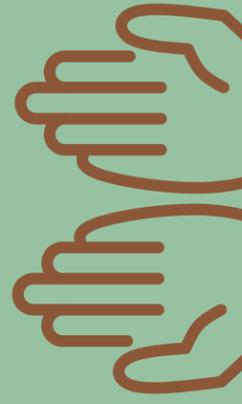
Say, *“God gave us the very first Christmas present by sending Jesus to earth to be born as a baby. So, let’s clap our hands as we sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Jesus. After singing ask, “If you have given your life to God, what can you do to serve Him?”*

REVIEW GAME:  
"Pretty Packages"



REVIEW GAME:  
"Pretty Packages"





I beseech you therefore, brethren,

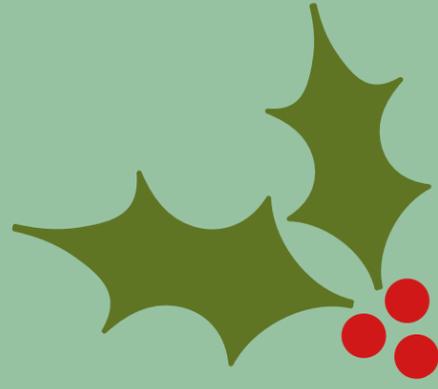
by the mercies of God, that ye

present your bodies a living

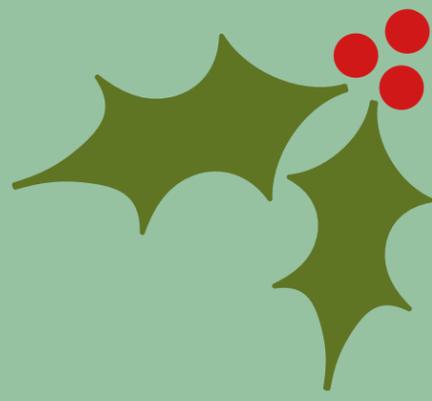


sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,

which is your reasonable service.



Romans 12:1



# "Penny and the Christmas Star" Memory Verse Tokens



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF  
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.  
PO BOX 4375, HARRISBURG, PA 17111-0375



I beseech you therefore, brethren,  
by the mercies of God, that ye  
 present your bodies a living  
sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,  
which is your reasonable service.



Romans 12:1



Penny and the Christmas Star



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Romans 12:1



Penny and the Christmas Star



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Romans 12:1



Penny and the Christmas Star



What will you give to Jesus?

- Penny smiled at the wisemen; Couldn't wait to give Jesus her gifts...

PAGE 7

- Then, all of a sudden, Penny felt someone shaking her...

- "Wake up Penny! It's Christmas!"

PAGE 9

- Penny told her mom all about her dream

- Penny's mom explained, "Yes, Penny, the greatest gifts you can give to Jesus don't cost any money..."

- ...You can give Him your ears to listen to Him, your hands to serve Him, your feet to follow Him; And most of all, you can give Him your heart to love Him"

PAGE 10

- Right then, Penny bowed her head and prayed, "Dear Lord Jesus, this Christmas, I give You my heart..."

- ...Help me to use my ears to listen to You, my hands to serve You, my feet to follow You; But most of all, help me to love You"

- What about you?

## CHALLENGE

**G** – Go over MT

**MT, PAS** – WHAT WILL YOU GIVE TO JESUS?

**R** – Review PAS verse

**Romans 12:1** – "...**Present your bodies a living sacrifice**...."

1.

2.

3.

**W** – Will you do it?

- Maybe you are here today, and you don't know Jesus as your Savior...

- God offers an amazing gift to you

## INVITATION

**Romans 6:23** – "...**The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**"

**S  
P, E  
L**

**BOW HEADS  
RESPONSE**

## PENNY AND THE CHRISTMAS STAR

Luke 1-2; Matthew 2:1-10

- How many of you are excited about Christmas? The little girl in our story today was pretty excited too. Her name is Penny.

- Penny and her brother Peter sat by the fire waiting for their mother to tell them the true story of the very FIRST Christmas!

PAGE 1

- Penny's mom opened her Bible

FC #1 – A long time ago, in little town called Nazareth...an angel appeared to a girl named Mary; Exciting news!

- Angel said, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you; You are going to have a baby! You will call Him Jesus."

- Mary didn't understand how all this could happen, but Mary loved God

- She answered, "I am God's servant; Let everything happen just as God has said."

- At this time, Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph

FC # 2 - Right about the time the Baby was to be born, they learned that they had to travel all

the way to Bethlehem to pay taxes to the government; Long, hard trip!

FC #3 – When they finally arrived, BIG problem! No room!

- So they had to stay in a little stable where animals stayed

- And that night, in that little stable, something AMAZING happened! Baby Jesus was born!

**O**

- Jesus left Heaven and came to earth; Did it by being born as a baby!

- God said this would happen many years before; God had promised that He would send a Savior – Someone who could save/rescue us from our sins...

**S, PAU**

**Galatians 3:22** – "...**The Scripture hath concluded all under sin**...."

1.

2.

3.

- Jesus came to save/rescue us from our sin!

- That's why years later Jesus would let those men who hated Him nail Him to a cross

## P, E

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** – “...*Christ died for our sins...He was buried, and...He rose again the third day...*”

- Jesus did all of this to make the one way for sinners like you and me to be saved from the punishment of our sin
- What amazing love!

## G

- That's why Jesus came!

**FC #4** – That same night, there were shepherds watching their sheep

**FC # 5** – Suddenly angels filled the sky! Told them Jesus, the Savior was born! Then told them where they could find Him...

**FC # 6** – Shepherds hurried...

**FC # 7** – Found Mary and Joseph, and the baby (Jesus) wrapped in cloth and laying in a manger

**FC # 8** – Far away from there, there were some men called wiseman who saw a new star in the sky!

- They knew this star was a sign that something special had happened; Knew King was born!

**FC # 9** – Followed the star until they found Jesus; He wasn't a

baby anymore; Gave Him expensive gifts; Gold, frankincense, and myrrh

**PAGE 2**

- When Penny's mother finished telling them this true story, sent them to bed, but Penny couldn't sleep...

- Couldn't stop thinking....

- *We celebrate Christmas to celebrate Jesus' birth – It's His birthday!*

- *But at Christmas, we think more about ourselves and what we want; We should be thinking of Jesus!*

- Penny laid awake thinking about that

- As she did, noticed a bright star right outside her bedroom window; Seemed as if there was a beautiful silver path coming from it right down into her bedroom window

- Before she knew it, Penny was fast asleep

**PAGE 3**

- As she slept, dreamed she stepped out onto that path

- As she did, she saw a beautiful bright star in the sky; Began to follow it; Led her far away from her town, all the way to a desert!

**PAGE 4**

- Dreamed met some men on camels; Looked wise and kind

- They offered her a ride! Penny had always wanted to ride on a camel!

**PAGE 5**

- Penny hopped right on; “Where are we going?” she asked

- “We are going to find the King,” they answered

- “We have brought gifts for Him – gold, frankincense, and myrrh”

- These were the gifts the wisemen brought to Jesus!

- At Christmas, we think about giving gifts to lots of people – friends and family, but what about Jesus?

- Isn't Christmas supposed to be about Him?

**MT – WHAT WILL YOU GIVE TO JESUS?**

- The wisemen brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh

- But Penny didn't have a gift!

- “You wouldn't want to visit the King without a gift,” the wisemen told her

- “But where can I find one?” She asked; She checked her pocket, “I don't have any money”

- Wiseman said, “You don't need money to give a gift to this King; The greatest gifts you can give Him don't cost any money”

- “What do you mean?” Penny asked...

**PAGE 6**

- Wiseman explained, “There are lots of things you can give that don't cost any money...”

- You can give Him your ears to listen to Him, your hands to serve Him, your feet to follow Him; But most of all, you can give your heart to love Him”

- Penny thought for a moment; Then a big smile broke out on her face; She could give those gifts!

- What about you?

**MT, PAS – WHAT WILL YOU GIVE TO JESUS?**

**Romans 12:1** – “...*Present your bodies a living sacrifice....*”

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**