

Launching the Prayer Space

At Christmas

What is a prayer space?

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Growing up raises lots of questions, some to do with their experience, both the good and the bad, and some to do with their sense of wonder at the universe we live in and whether there's more to life than meets the eye. Many have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help them to develop their own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose.

Prayer spaces enables children, of all faiths and none, to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way.

<https://prayerspacesinschools.org/>

The CSPA Prayer Space

Children come into the Prayer Space and make their way around 5 different stations:

- Preparing /changing our hearts 
- Talking to God - What would you say to God if he spoke to you like Mary? 
- Thinking about the World - people who are seen as unimportant 
- Asking for help / guidance 
- Being thankful 

Station 1



Preparing our Hearts



What is Christmas all about?

During advent, Christians prepare themselves for Christmas. They prepare their hearts by stopping to think about the Christmas story.

In our Prayer Space, we are going to use the Christmas story to stop and think about where we might need to change our hearts.



Preparing our Hearts

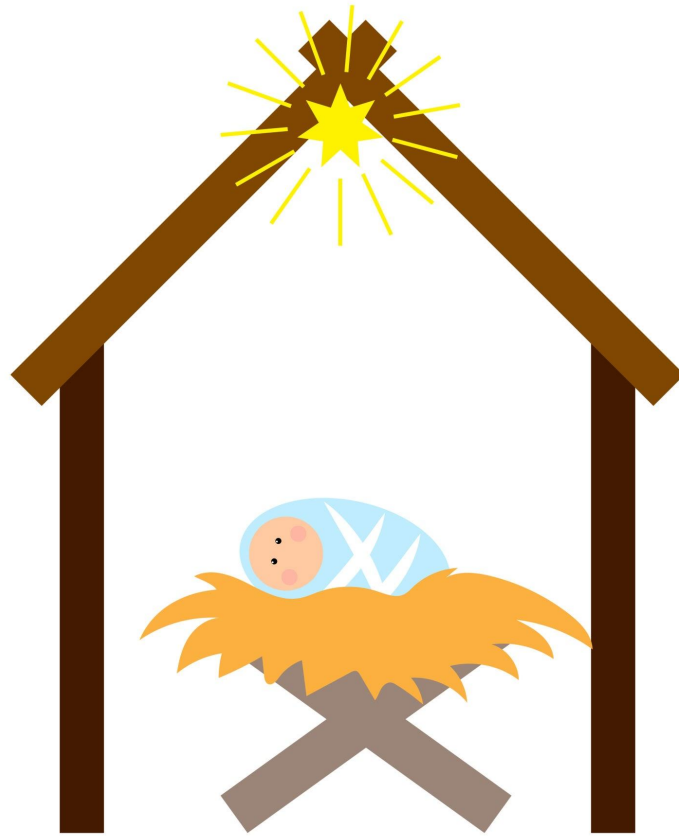


Quietly, look at the the pictures to help you think about the Christmas story.

Is there something you might need to change your heart about?

(An attitude / A friendship / saying sorry)

Choose a piece of cloth and place it in the manger while you think about how you might do this.





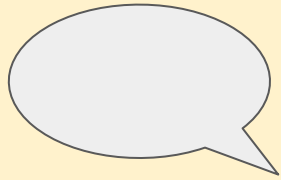
  Preparing our Hearts 

Quietly, look at the pictures to help you think about
the Christmas story.

Is there something you might need to change your heart
about?
(An attitude / A friendship / A relationship / A habit)

Choose a piece of cloth and place it in the manger
with you think about how you might do this.

Station 2



Gabriel and Mary

Read the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel.

Conversation between Gabriel and Mary

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! ***The Lord is with you.***"

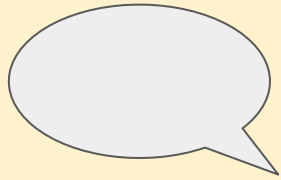
Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "***Do not be afraid***, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called [b] the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

(Luke 1: 26-38)



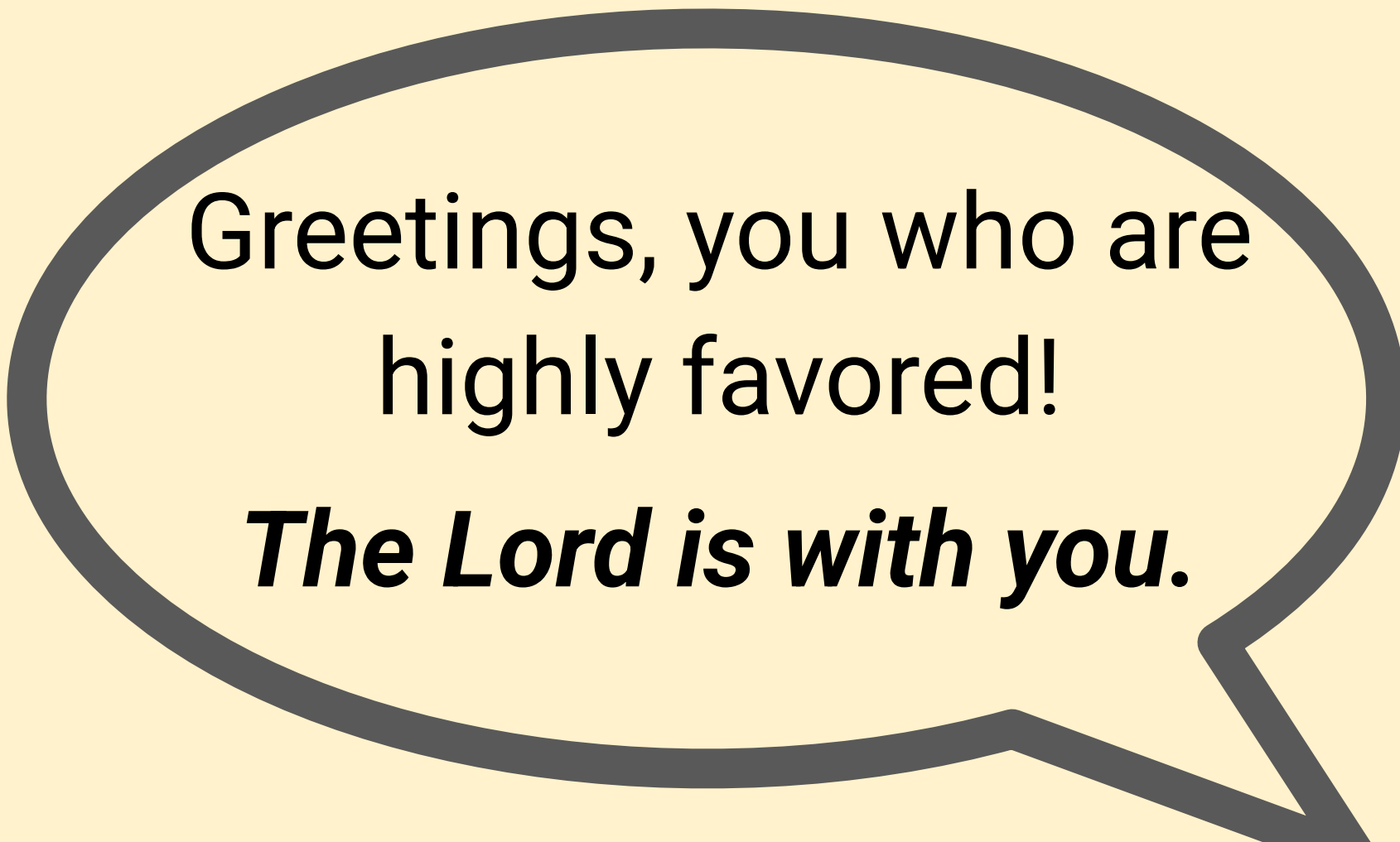
Gabriel and Mary

Now you have read the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel.

Think about what words the angel said to Mary,
'The Lord is with you' and 'Do not be afraid'

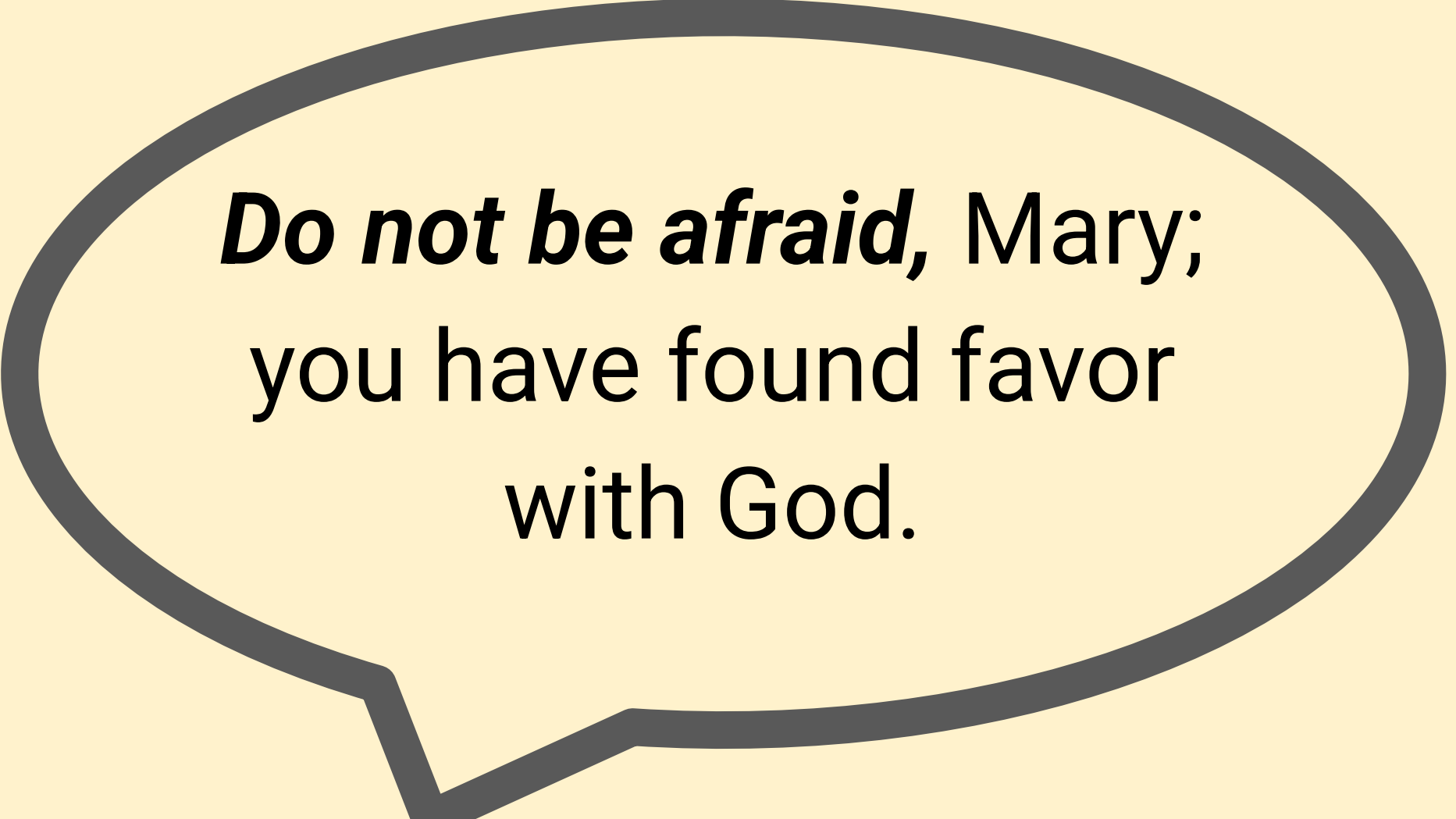
What would it mean if God said them to you?

If you would like to,
*Write down what you would say back to God on a
speech bubble.*



Greetings, you who are
highly favored!

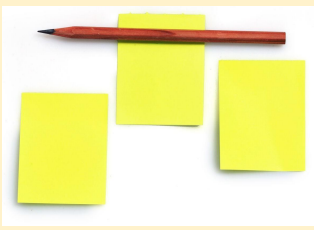
The Lord is with you.



Do not be afraid, Mary;
you have found favor
with God.



Station 3



Shepherds in a field

In the Christmas story, God chose to share the news about the birth of Jesus with shepherds first.

You can read the story [here](#)

The Birth of Jesus

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and **they were terrified**. But the angel said to them, ***“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.*** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

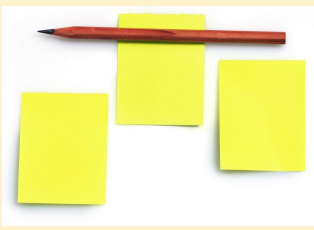
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(Luke 2: 8-20)

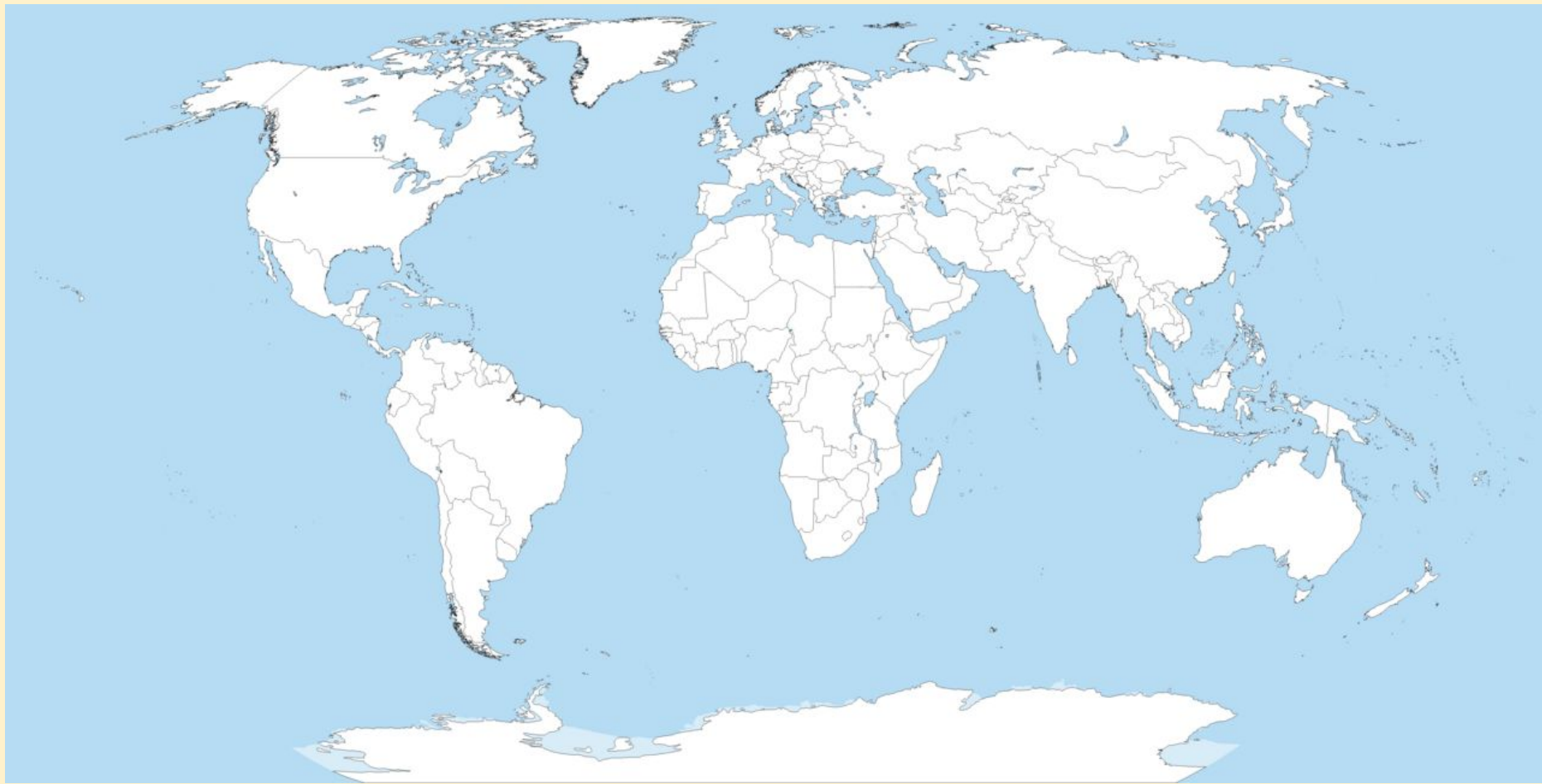


Shepherds in a field

As you have read, God chose to share the news about the birth of Jesus with shepherds first. Shepherds weren't considered important at that time.

Can you think of any people in our world that might not be considered important?

If you want to,
Write a thought or a prayer for them onto a Post-it note and stick it beside the map.








Compassion



Station 4



Wise Men's Star

In the Christmas story, the Wise Men followed a star to find Jesus.

You can read the story [here](#).

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? **We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**"

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them **the exact time the star had appeared**. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, **and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.**

(Matthew 2: 1-3 & 7-9)

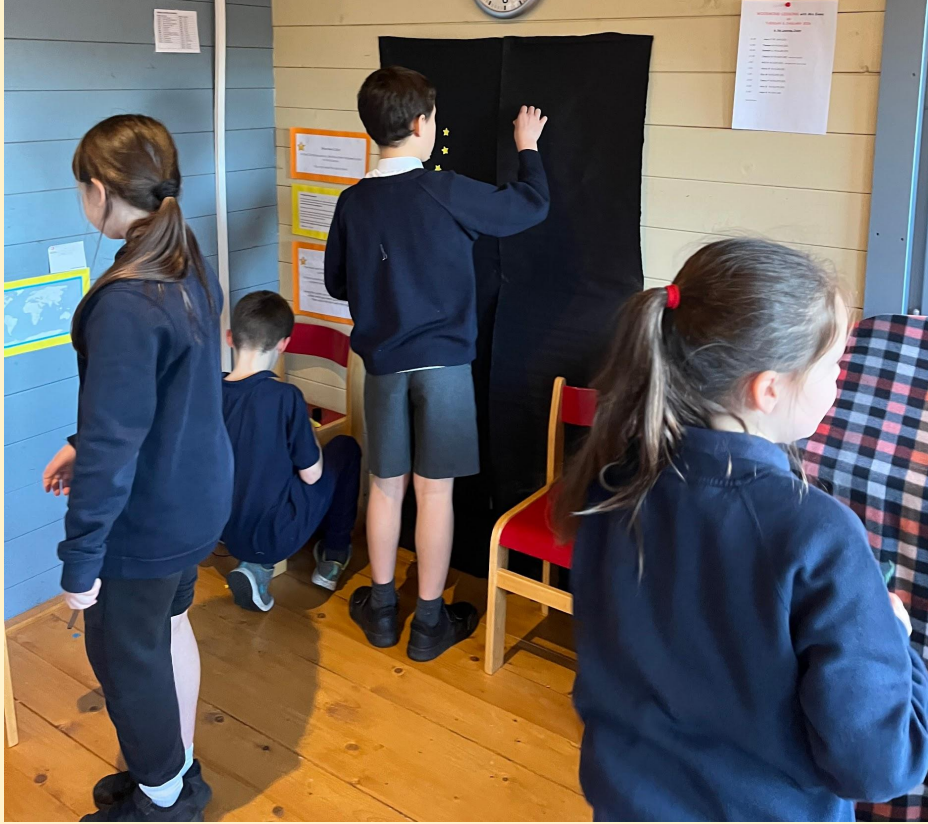


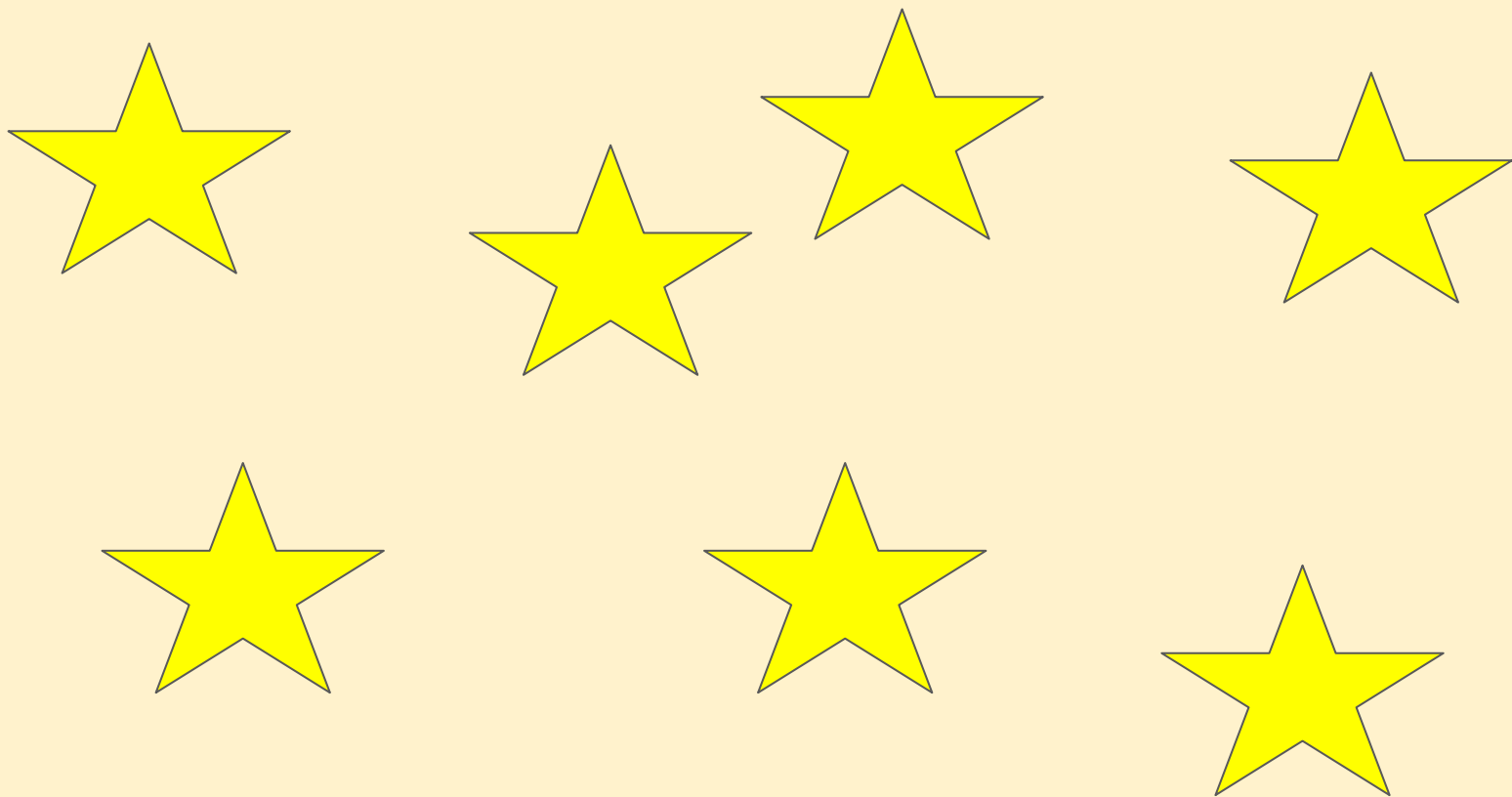
Wise Men's Star

You have read how the Wise Men used the star to guide them to find Jesus.

Is there something that you need guidance about?
Is there something you need help with?

If you want to,
*Using the cutter, cut out a star as you think or pray
about what you need guidance or help with.
Then stick the star onto the night sky.*





Station 5



Christmas Thanks

When the wise men found Jesus, we read they were
overjoyed.

Our school Vision is
Bringing **Joy**... inspiring success

We often think of Christmas as a time of **joy**.

The Magi visit Jesus

When they (The Magi) saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

(Matthew 2: 10-12)



Christmas Thanks

“Overjoyed”

Christmas is a time where many people see their family and friends. It's also a time to think about the year that is ending and the year ahead.

What are 3 things you are joyful or thankful for?

If you want to,
Write 3 things you are joyful or thankful for onto a Christmas bauble and then hang it on the tree.



