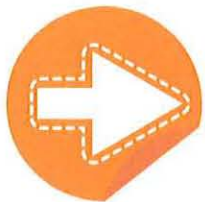




# Meeting 21 Christmas



Here are three fun ways to celebrate Christmas with your Builders. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of your Builders or create your own activities.





## ACTIVITY

# 1

# Stenciled Gift Bags

# 15

MINUTES

## WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Find a local non-profit organization that is collecting new gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves to distribute to people who need them. Make a list of what's needed and share it with the Builders and their parents ahead of time. It's a good idea for you as a leader to purchase several extra items for Builders who forgot or are unable to make a donation.

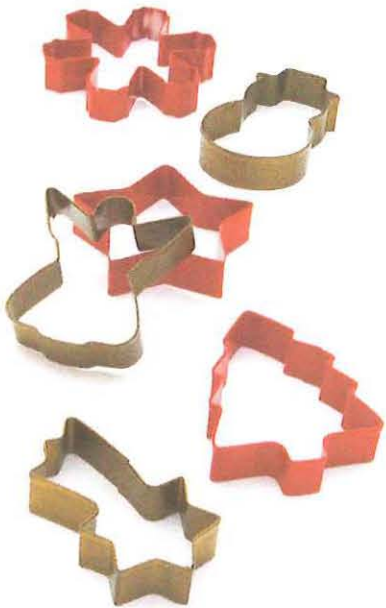
### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Items donated by Builders
- Gift bags, solid colors, several per child
- Glitter glue
- Pencils
- Christmas stencils, buy them or make your own (you can also use Christmas cookie cutters as stencils)

Not all organizations are able to accept wrapped gifts. Please check with your selected organization ahead of time. If wrapped gifts are not accepted, the kids could make a Christmas card to accompany each gift. As an alternative, the Builders could donate items for several Operation Christmas Child boxes (visit [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) for more information) and each make a card to go with their gift.

Read Psalm 112:9 (CEB): "They give freely to those in need. Their righteousness stands forever." Talk to the children about the importance of helping others. Talk about the charity or group that will receive the children's gifts.

Show the Builders a completed stenciled gift bag. Then give each child a bag and have him or her trace the stencil onto the bag with a pencil. Then have the children fill in the stenciled design with glitter glue. They can add additional designs with the glitter glue or write "Merry Christmas" on the bag. Once they are done, have them place the gifts they brought in the bag. Once they've completed and filled one bag, they can then make additional bags to take home and use for other gifts.





# Wrapped Star Ornaments

15  
MINUTES

## 2 ACTIVITY

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Star cookie cutters or stencils
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Tape
- Yarn, a variety of colors, variegated or with strands of metallic thread
- Hole punch
- Pencils
- Rulers

### WHAT YOU DO

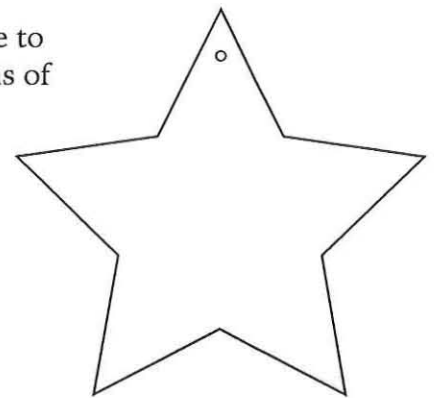
Show the Builders a completed ornament. Ask the Builders why the star is an important part of the Christmas story. Then remind them that they are celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas, so they are going to make star ornaments. Whenever they see it they will remember Jesus' birth.

Have the children trace the star onto the cardstock and then cut out the star. Next have them punch a hole in the tip of one of the star's points. Then thread a 6 in (15 cm) piece of yarn through the hole and tie a knot in the yarn. This loop will be used to hang the ornament.

Then have the children select yarn to use to wrap around the star. They can use one color or several colors. To begin wrapping the star with yarn, first cut a 6 ft (2 m) length of yarn. The children will probably need several of these lengths of yarn to cover the star. When they come to the end of a piece of yarn, have them tuck it behind yarn on the back of the star. To start a new piece of yarn, tuck the new piece of yarn behind yarn on the back of the star.

Tape the first piece of yarn to the back of the star. (It will eventually be covered.) The children can wrap the yarn around the star any way they want. Some children may begin by covering the points; others may go back and forth from opposite sides. Some children may also leave some of the cardstock bare. Let the children be creative and have fun! When the children are done wrapping the star, have them tuck the end behind some of the yarn on the back of the star.

If time permits, let the Builders make additional ornaments. If you'd like to have the children try wrapping additional shapes, you can create patterns of Christmas trees, candy canes, or other Christmas-themed shapes.





## ACTIVITY

# 3

# Christmas Charades

15  
MINUTES

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Index cards
- Pen

### WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Write a Christmas gift on each card. The gifts should include fun items, goofy items, bad items, and exciting items. Gift suggestions: an iPad, a sweater, an orange, a cell phone, a bicycle, a book, a basketball hoop, a puppy, an elephant, and a surfboard.

If you have a large group of Builders, divide the children into groups of four or five. Assign an adult to each group. Demonstrate how to act out opening a gift. (Use lots of actions and expressions!) The adult in each group will show one child in his or her group a Christmas gift written on an index card. The child will then act out opening the gift. (Encourage the children to pantomime the gift size.) Once the gift is unwrapped, they should act out being excited, sad, or surprised. Then they should act out clues that will help the other children in the group guess the gift.

