



# Meeting

# 21

## Jesus' Star



The following activities are fun ways for Eager Beavers to play while learning about baby Jesus. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of your Eager Beavers or create your own activities.





## MEETING LENGTH

### 60-80 MINUTES

- Opening (5 minutes)
- Story Time (10 minutes)
- Activities (40-60 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

## Opening

Using a beaver puppet, greet each of the children by name and welcome them all to Eager Beavers. Have the children sit in a circle.

# 5

MINUTES



Listen to a book about Jesus' star.

## CHIP COMPLETED

**JESUS' STAR**



## Story Time

### THE CHRISTMAS STAR

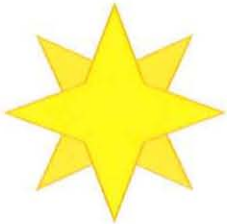
# 10

MINUTES

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Book about Jesus' Christmas star

Begin by reading a story about the star that shone at Jesus' birth. Suggested titles are *One Shining Star: A Christmas Counting Book* by Anne Vittur Kennedy (Zonderkidz, 2006), *Christmas in the Manager* by Nola Buck and Felicia Bond (HarperFestival, 1998), *The Christmas Star* by Paloma Wensell and Ulises Wensell (Liturgical Press, 2006), or a book of your choice. Tell the children that they will be making stars and playing with stars during Eager Beavers.





The following activities fulfill the requirements for the Jesus' Star chip.

## Star Ornament

15  
MINUTES

### WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Draw a star outline on yellow tag board for each Eager Beaver. Cut string or yarn into 6 in (15 cm) pieces.

Read Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV): "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.'"

Show the Eager Beavers a completed star ornament. Begin by having the children cut out the star and color the bottom half of the star brown. With the help of an adult, have each child punch two holes in the top of the star and tie a piece of string to the star. This will be how the ornament is hung. Have the children put glue on the half of the star they colored brown and place straw on the glue. Then have the children trace a penny on the tan paper to make a circle and then cut out the circle. This will be baby Jesus' head. Next, have the children trace an adult's thumb on the white paper and cut it out. This will be baby Jesus' blanket. Finally, use a marker to make a face on the circle and then glue the head and blanket onto the straw. Lay flat to dry.

1

### ACTIVITY

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Yellow tag board
- Tan construction paper
- White construction paper
- Black markers
- Brown crayons
- Pennies
- Pencils
- Craft glue
- Small pieces of straw or yarn
- Hole punch
- Safety scissors
- String or yarn



## ACTIVITY

# 2

# Star Gift Bag

15

MINUTES

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Donated gifts
- White paper lunch sacks
- Star stickers in a variety of sizes and colors

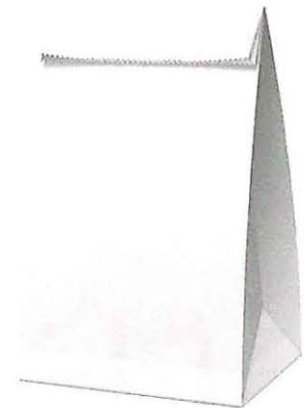
### WHAT YOU DO

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 Eager Beavers and their parents ahead of time. It's a good idea for you as a leader to purchase several extra items for Eager Beavers who forgot or are unable to make a donation.

As an alternative, the Eager Beavers 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 Matthew 2:10-11 (NIV): "When they 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."

Explain that we often give gifts at Christmas to celebrate Jesus' birth, and they are going to give gifts to other boys and girls. Show each child a gift bag that has already been decorated with star stickers. Then have each Eager Beaver cover his or her paper bag with star stickers. Once the bag is decorated, the children can place the gift they brought in the bag. You may need to label each bag as a gift for a boy or girl. If you have extra time, the children can decorate additional bags to take home.





# Pass the Star Game

10  
MINUTES

## WHAT YOU DO

Place the children in lines with about six children per line. Place a bowl (one for each team) at the front of each line of children.

Give the first child in each line an ornament to place under her or his chin. Each line must pass the ornament from the first player to the second player and so on to the end of the line using only their chins and chests—no hands or arms allowed!

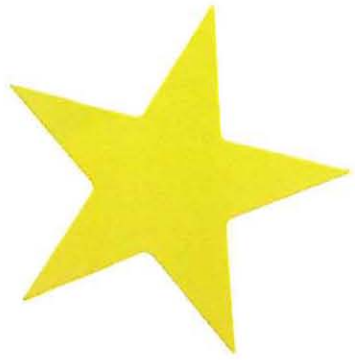
Once the ornament has reached the last player, that player runs to the front of the line and drops the ornament in the bowl on the table. An adult then hands the children another star ornament to pass down the line. Repeat until each line of children has put all of the ornaments in the bowl.

**3** ACTIVITY

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Large star ornaments (non-breakable and no sharp edges) or large foam stars
- Bowls





# Closing

5  
MINUTES



Gather the children into a circle and ask them a specific question about what they learned during Eager Beavers. Say a prayer and then ask for an Eager Beaver to volunteer to pray for the group. Rejoin the rest of the Adventurers for the closing program.



**Chip:** Jesus' Star