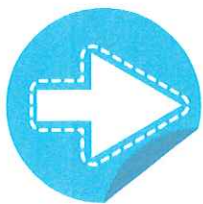
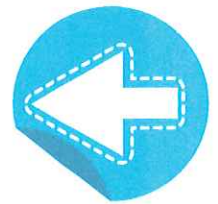


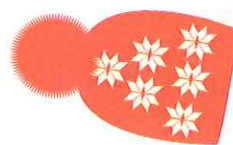
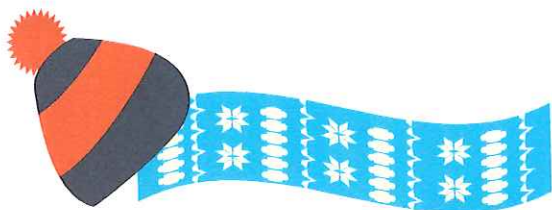


Meeting 21 Christmas



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





ACTIVITY

1

Christmas Tree Gift Bags

10
MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Items donated by Busy Bees
- Green gift bags
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Glitter glue
- Scissors
- Pom poms, colored buttons, stickers, or any Christmas-type decorations
- 1 or 2 in (2.5 or 5 cm) foam star stickers (or make your own stars out of tag board)
- Black markers

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

As an alternative, the Helping Hands could donate items for several Operation Christmas Child boxes (visit samaritanspurse.org for more information) and each make a card to go with their gift.

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.

Begin by reading John 13:33-35 (CEB): "I give you a new commandment. Love each other. Just as I love you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." Ask the Helping Hands for ideas on how to show love to others at Christmas time. (Tie this in to the donations that they brought.) Show the children a sample completed Christmas tree gift bag and tell them that they will be making one for the gift they brought to donate.

Give each child a green gift bag. Have them cut the top corners of the bag off to form the point of the Christmas tree. To simplify the activity, you can draw a line for the children to cut along. Next have them write on the back of the bag if the gift is for a girl or for a boy. Now let the children decorate the front of the bag to look like a Christmas tree. Have the children first use the glitter glue to make a garland that zigzags across the bag, then they can select from any of the decorative objects provided to decorate their trees. Top the bag with a star.





Christmas Cards

15

MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Begin by reading Matthew 2:10 (CEB): “When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.” Discuss that one of the ways Helping Hands can spread the joy of Jesus’ birth is to give Christmas cards to friends, family, church members, teachers, and classmates.

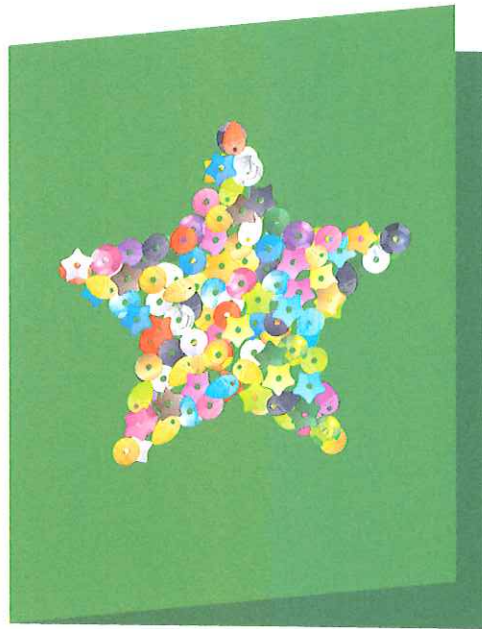
Have the children fold one piece of card stock in half. Inside the card, have them write out Matthew 2:10. Next have them decorate the front of the card by tracing around the star cookie cutter. Squeeze glue into the inside of the star outline and use a craft stick to spread it evenly. Gently sprinkle the glued area with sequins. Lay flat to dry. Let the children make more cards with other Christmas designs. You can also give the children an envelope for each card they made. Once the glue is dry, the children can write a message inside the cards place them in the envelopes.

2

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Card stock in a variety of colors, 8.5 × 11 in (22 × 28 cm)
- Sequins, variety of colors
- Craft glue that dries clear
- Wooden craft sticks
- Cookie cutters or stencils (star plus additional Christmas shapes)
- Envelopes (optional)
- Markers



ACTIVITY

3

Christmas Cookies

20
MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Set out the icing and bowls filled with your cookie decorations. Cover the work surface with parchment or wax paper.

Begin by having the children wash their hands. Then give each child a dozen cookies to decorate. Let them eat a few cookies as they go and then take the remainder home or share with the rest of the club.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Sugar cookies in a variety of Christmas shapes, a dozen per child
- Baggies to take home extra cookies
- Icing in a variety of Christmas colors
- Wooden craft sticks
- Disposable bowls
- Sprinkles, mini candies, crushed peppermint, mini marshmallows, other cookie decorations
- Parchment or wax paper

Find out if any of the children have food allergies or restrictions. You may need to provide dairy-free and/or gluten-free cookies. Recipes can be found online.



You're almost done!

