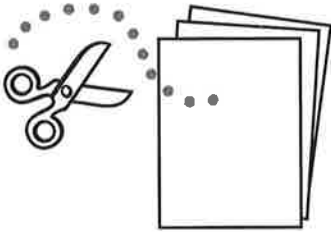


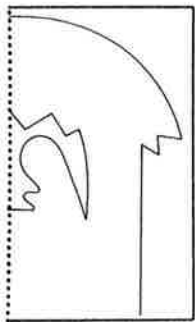
JESUS IS BORN


PREPARATION




You'll need scissors and one sheet of typing paper.
The pattern for this activity is on page 63.


THE STORY



 *Fold the paper in half horizontally.*


 *Begin cutting figure from A to B.*

The town of Bethlehem was very busy. People had come from many different places to be in Bethlehem. Everyone who was born in Bethlehem had come back to be counted. The king wanted everyone to be counted so he would know how many people were in his kingdom.

 *Cut figure from B to C.*


A man named Joseph came to Bethlehem to be counted. He brought his wife, Mary, with him. Mary was going to have a baby soon. Does anybody remember how Mary found out she would have a baby? *Let children respond.*

God sent an angel to Mary. The angel told Mary that her baby would be God's son. The angel also brought this news to Joseph and told Joseph to name the baby "Jesus."

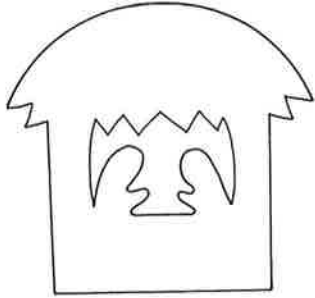
 *Cut figure from D to E.*

When Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem, they started looking for a place to spend the night. They looked and looked and looked, but all the rooms were full because of all the people who had come to Bethlehem to be counted. Have you ever had to look for a place to spend the night when you've been on a trip with your family? What would you do if you couldn't find a room? *Let children respond.*

Mary and Joseph looked for a long time. Finally, they found somewhere they could sleep. The only empty room in the whole city of Bethlehem was a stable where the animals stayed. So that's where Joseph and Mary stayed, too. How would you feel if you had to stay in a stable with animals? How would you stay warm? What would you use for a pillow? *Let children respond.*


 *Cut figure from E to F.*


While Mary and Joseph were staying in the stable, the baby was born.

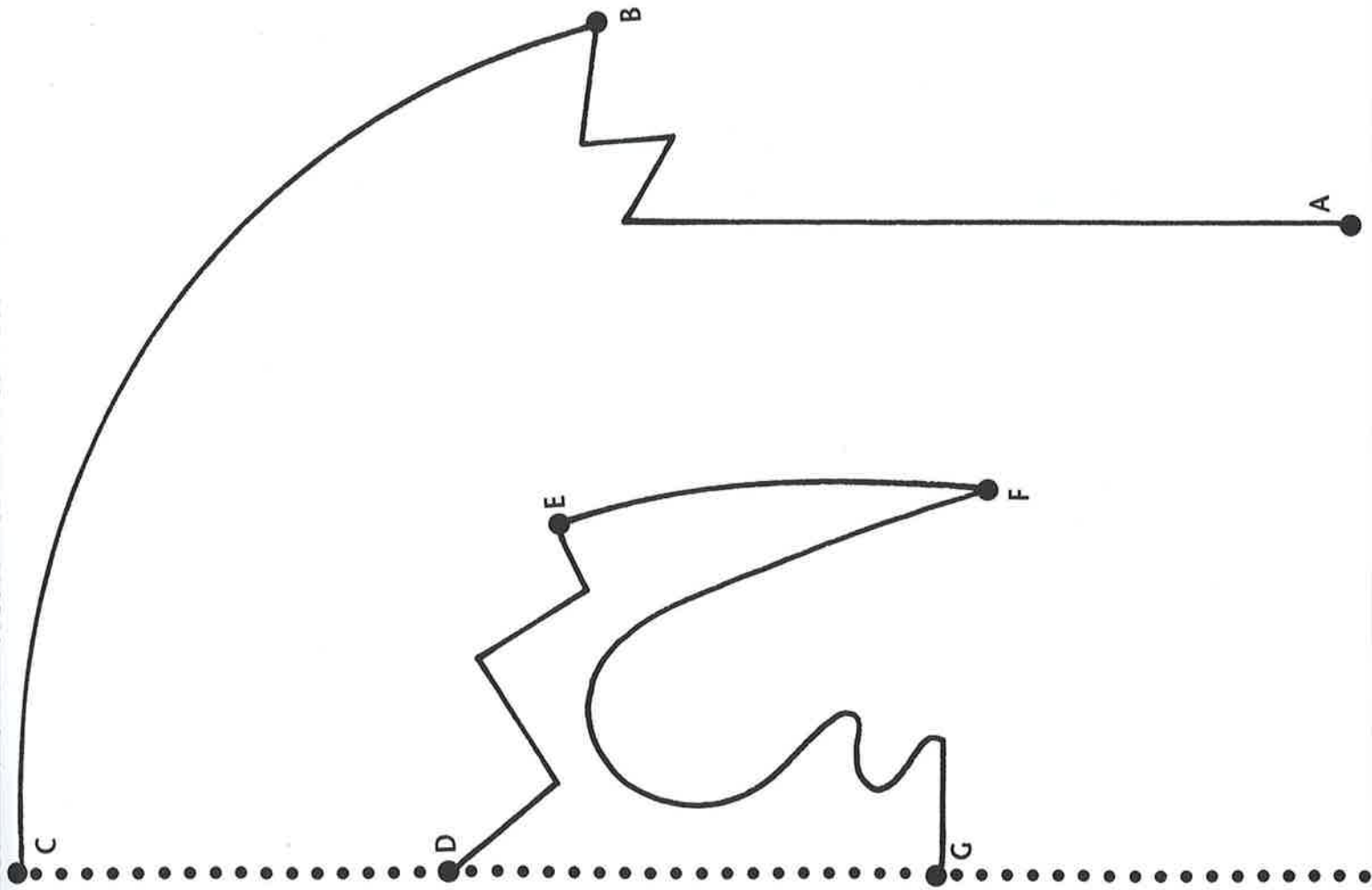


Who was this baby? Why was he special? *Let children respond.*

This baby was God's son, Jesus. Mary carefully wrapped the baby in soft cloth and laid him in a manger.

 *Cut figure from F to G.*

 *Unfold the figure.*



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