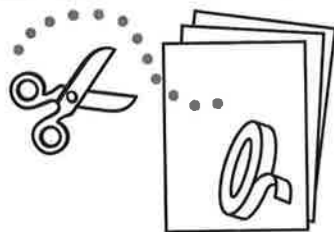


THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD

PREPARATION



You'll need scissors, transparent tape, and several sheets of typing paper. Copy the pattern onto one sheet. Before you begin, tape the sheets of paper together, end to end.

THE STORY

▣ As you tell the first paragraph, fold the paper accordion-style into an equal number of panels. Make sure the pattern is on top.

It was night. Out in the fields near Bethlehem, some sheep were resting. Shepherds were taking care of them. The night was very dark and quiet, until suddenly an angel appeared to the shepherds. The shepherds were very scared. How would you feel if you saw an angel? *Let children respond.*

The sheep must have wondered what was happening, too, because the darkness suddenly turned to light, and the glory of the Lord shone all around.

✂ Cut figure from A to B.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm bringing you good news of great joy. Today in Bethlehem a savior, God's son, has been born. He is Christ Jesus, the Lord. You'll find him in a manger."

✂ Cut figure from C to D.

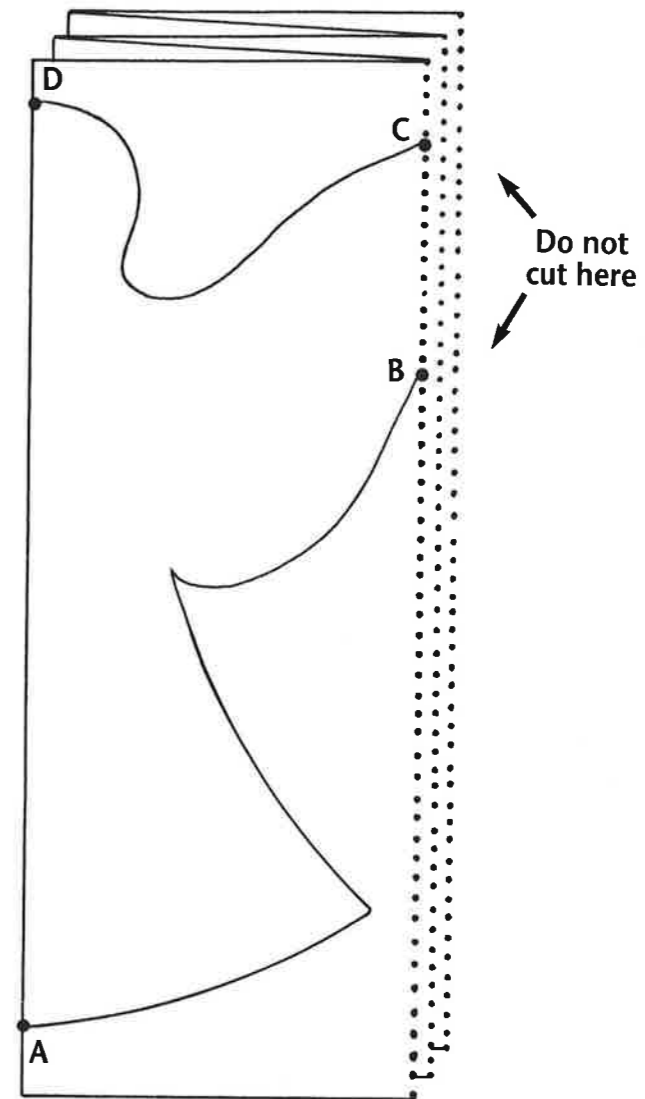
Suddenly a whole choir of angels came to stand by the first angel.

▣ Unfold the figures.

They said, "Glory to God in the highest! Let there be peace on earth!" Let's all say that together like the angels did. "Glory to God in the highest! Let there be peace on earth!" Why were all the angels singing? Why was Jesus' birth so important? *Let children respond.*

After the angels went back to heaven, the shepherds said, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see for ourselves this thing that has happened."

When the shepherds got to Bethlehem, they found baby Jesus in a manger, just as the angel had told them. The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God for what they'd seen and heard.



You may copy this actual figure on your paper as a pattern

