More Than a Manger

A PRESCHOOL MUSICAL FOR CHRISTMAS

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

By Darlene Abbott



SEMSEN MUSIC

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By Darlene Abbott

Arranged by Daniel Bondaczuk

AVAILABLE MATERIALS

Downloadable Lesson Plans, Activities & Music
Downloadable Listening Track
Downloadable Accompaniment Split Track
Downloadable Accompaniment Stereo Track

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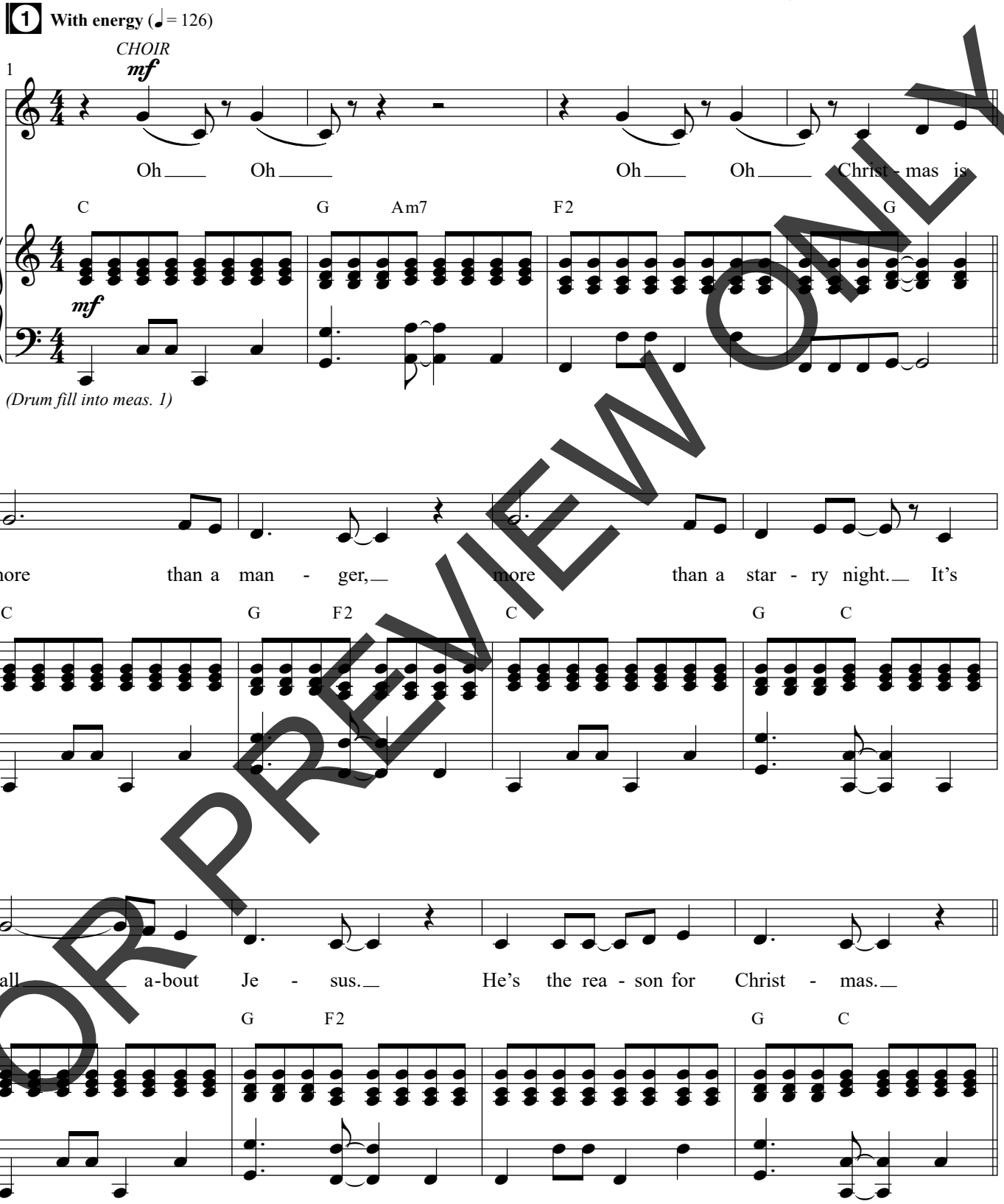
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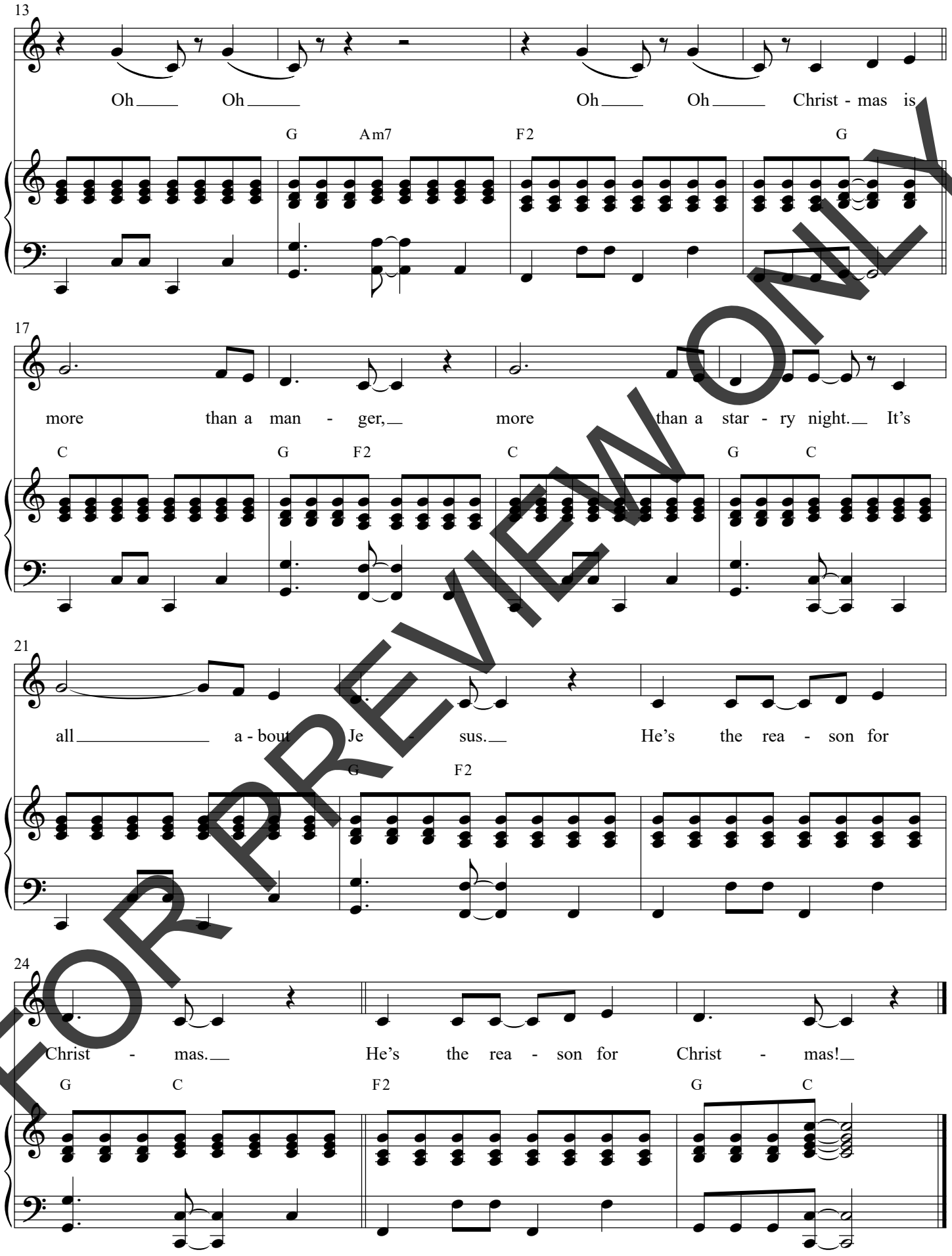


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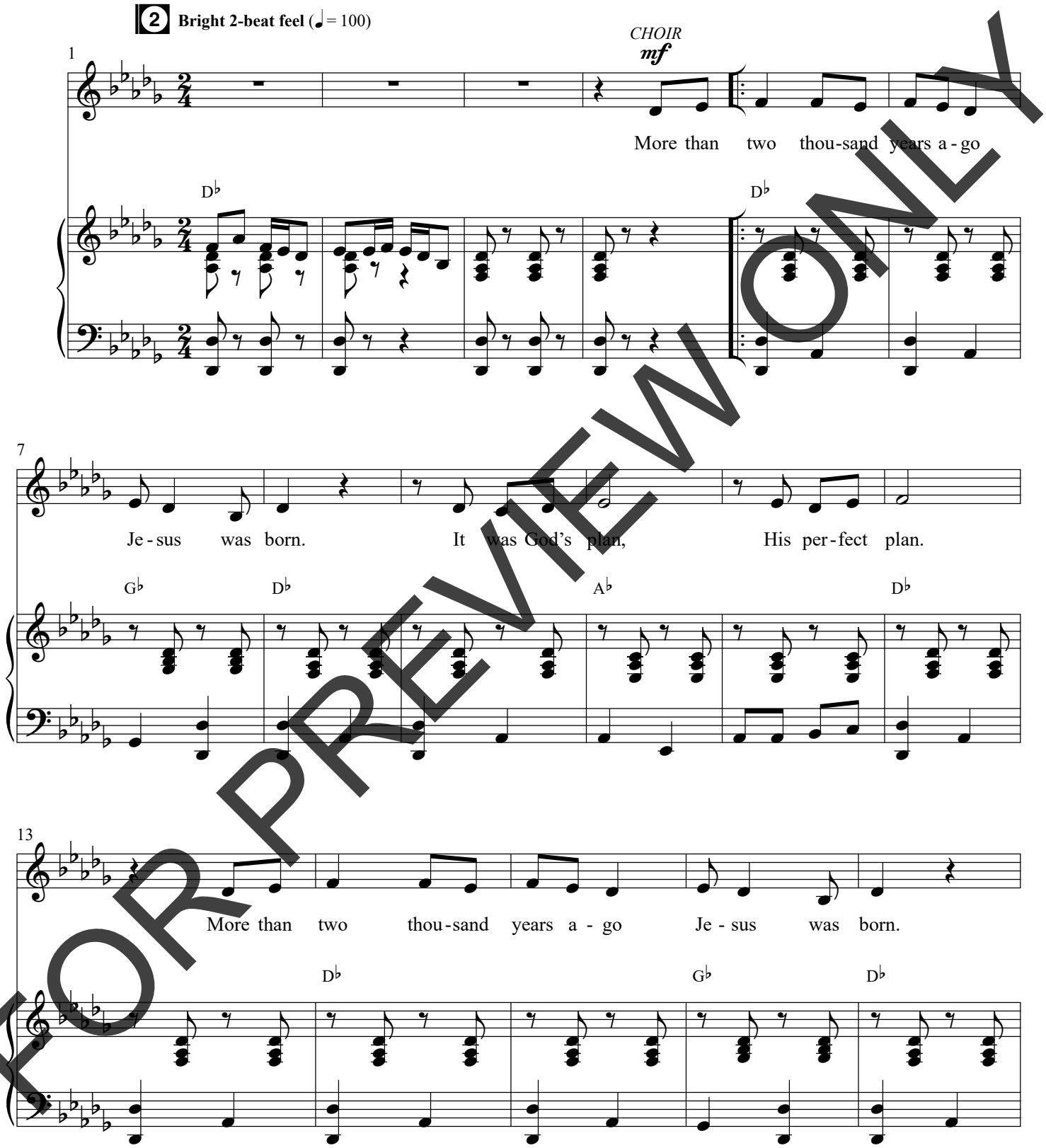
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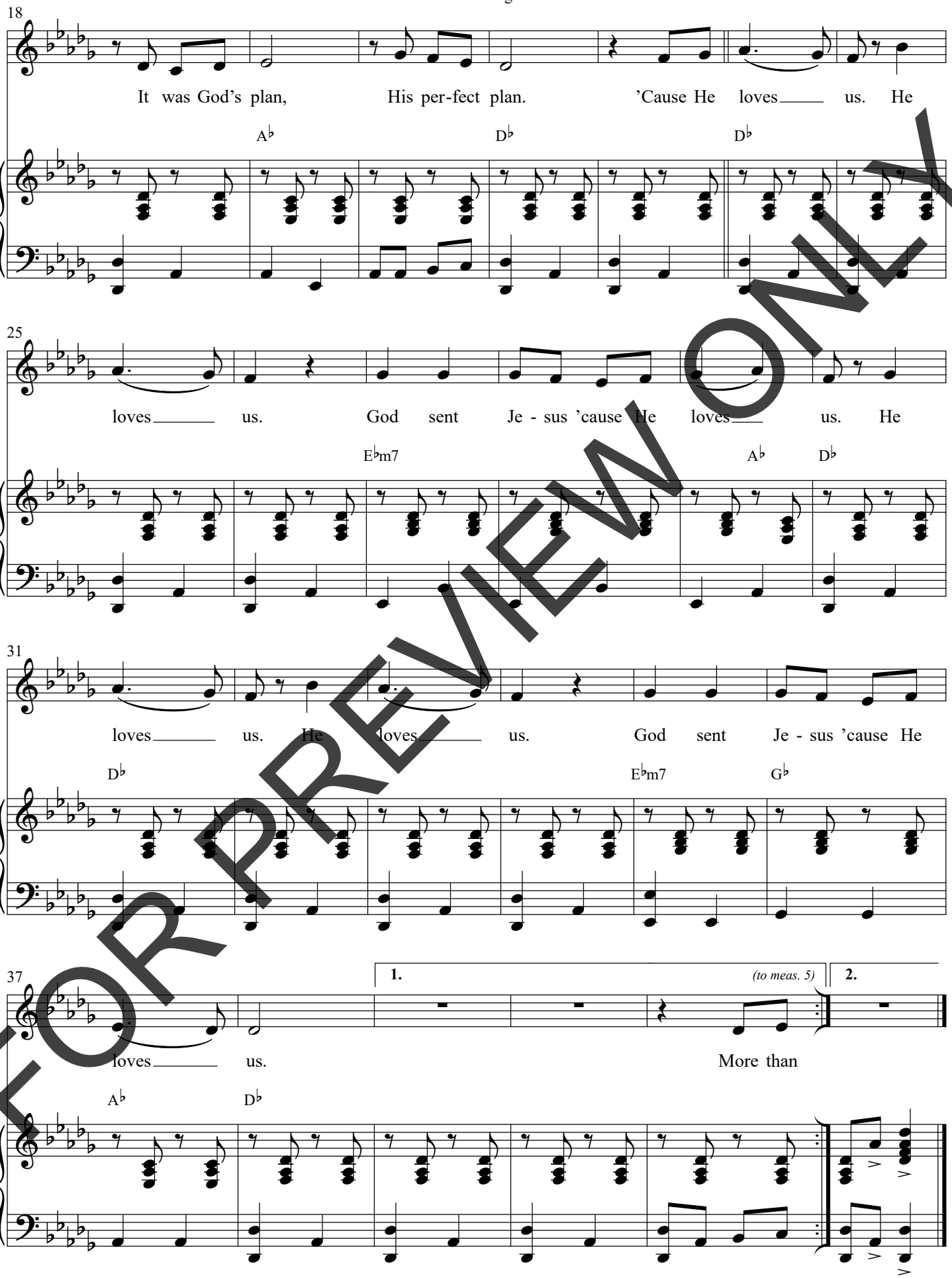


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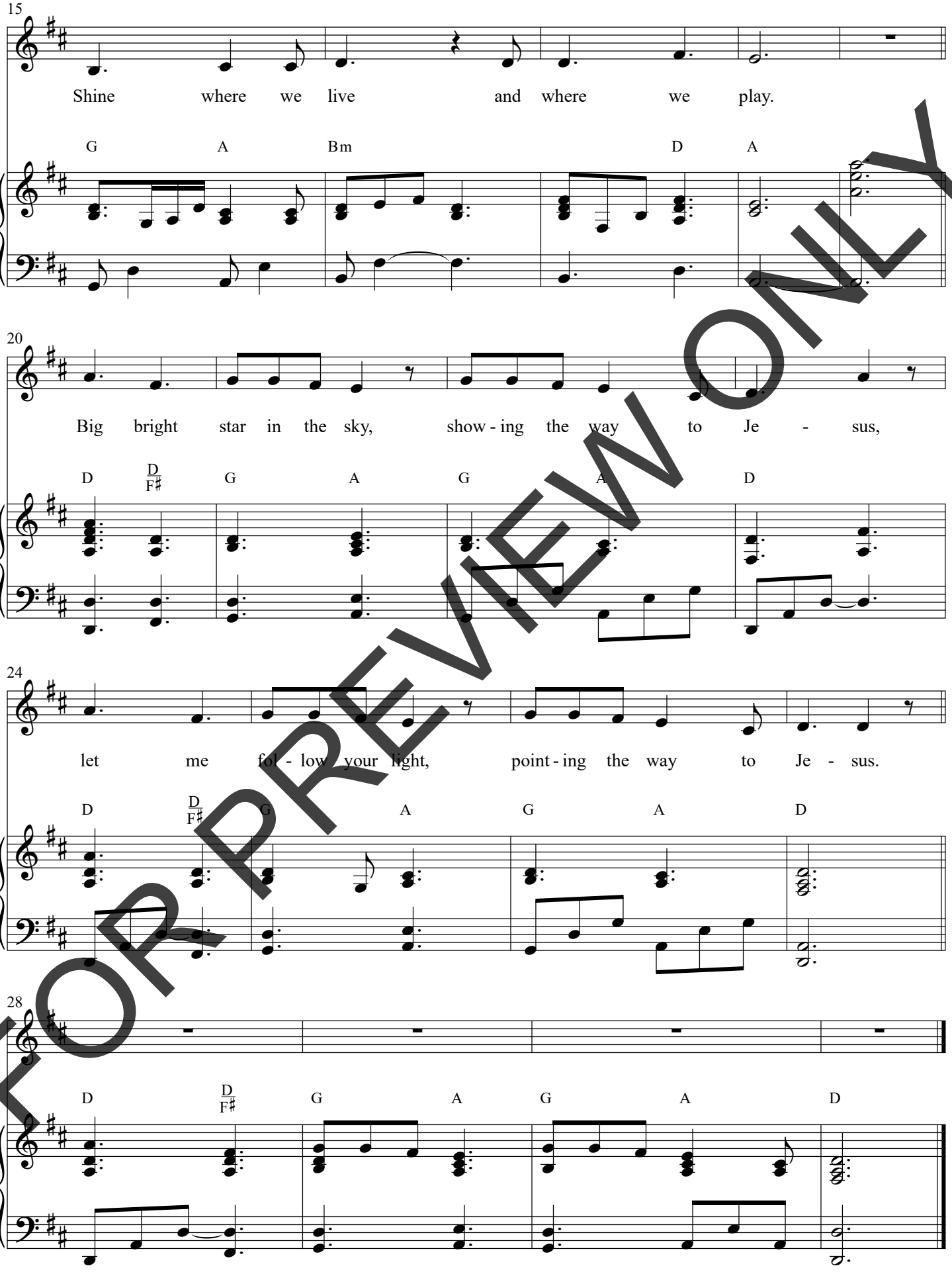


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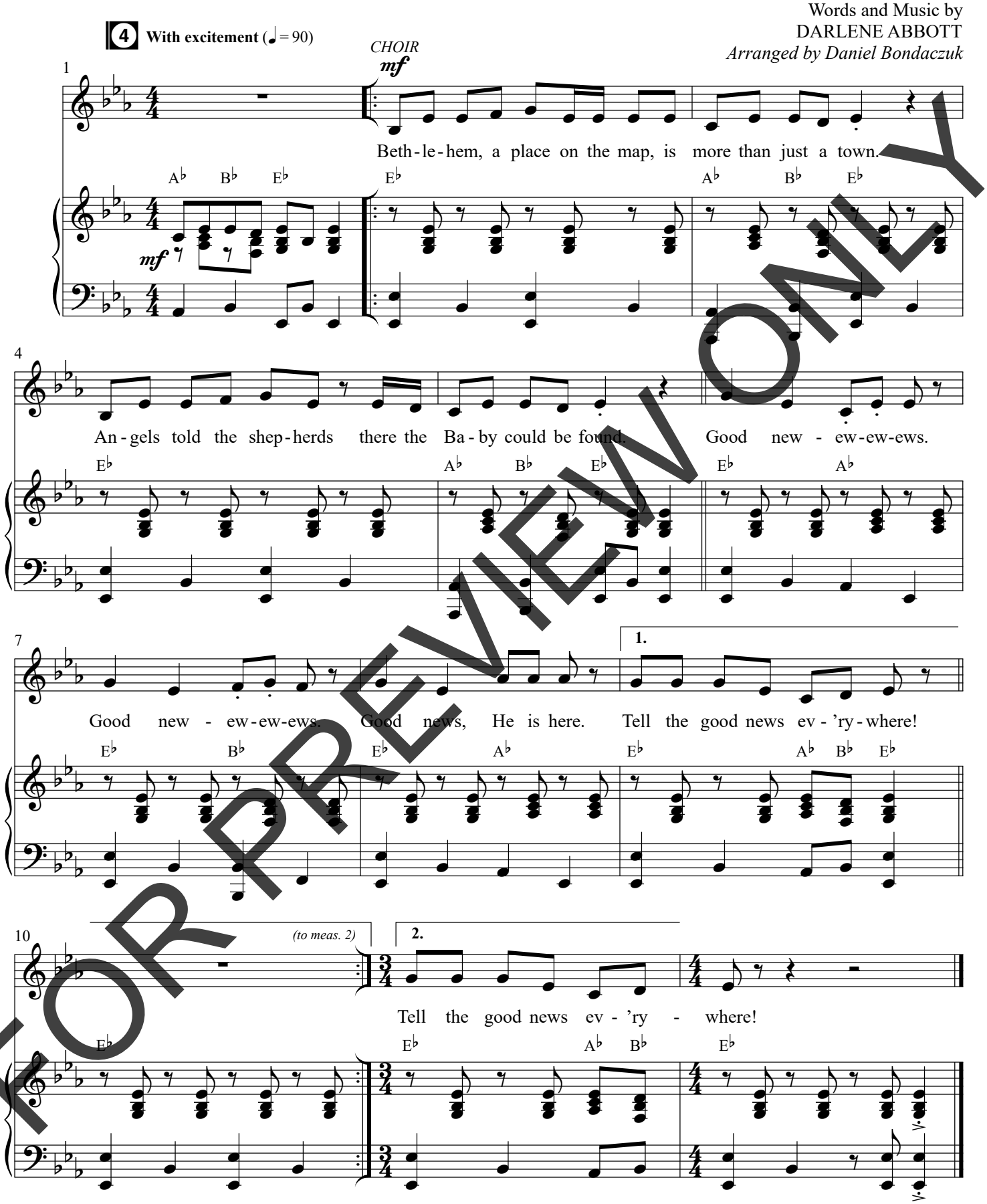
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Good News

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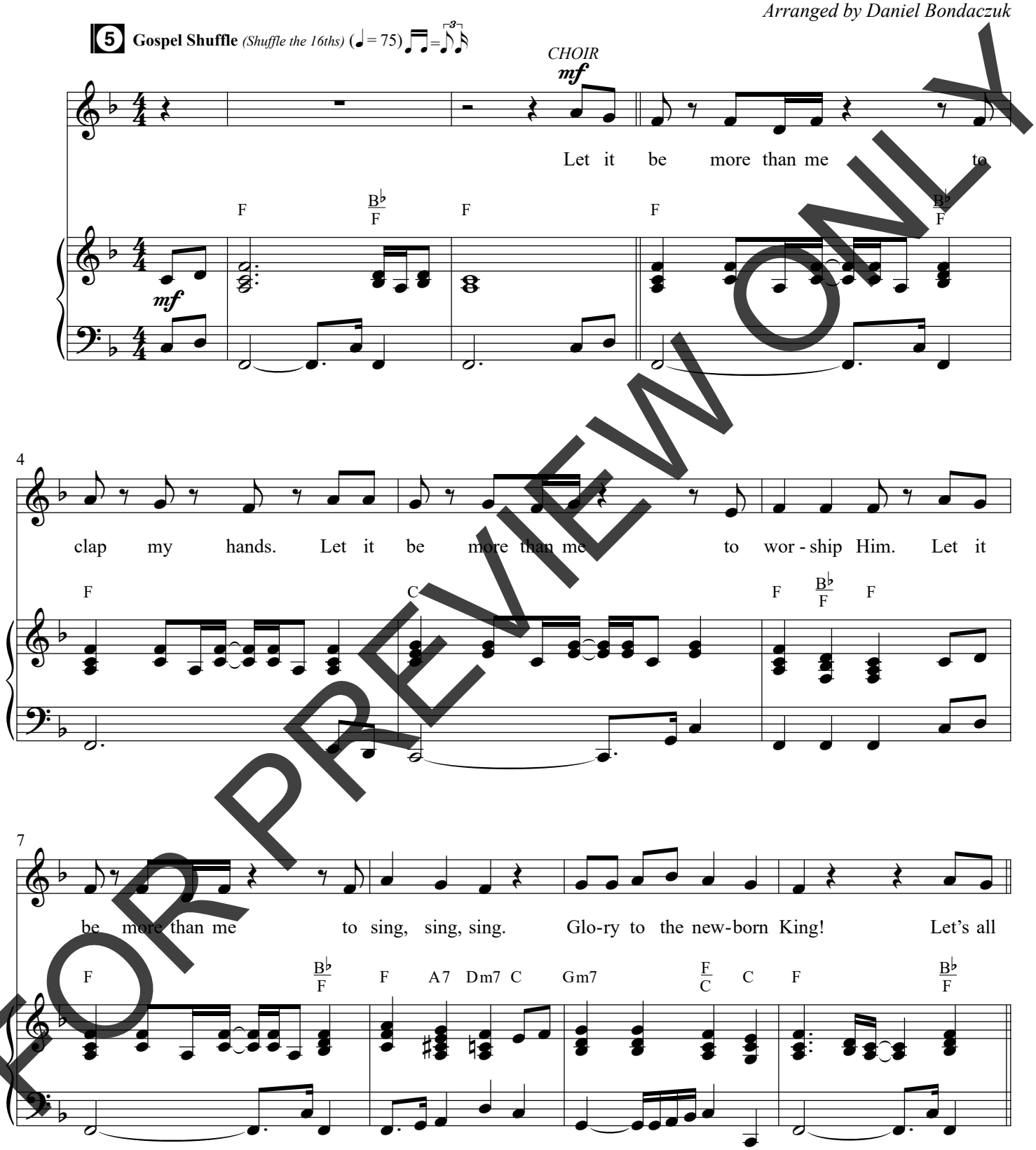
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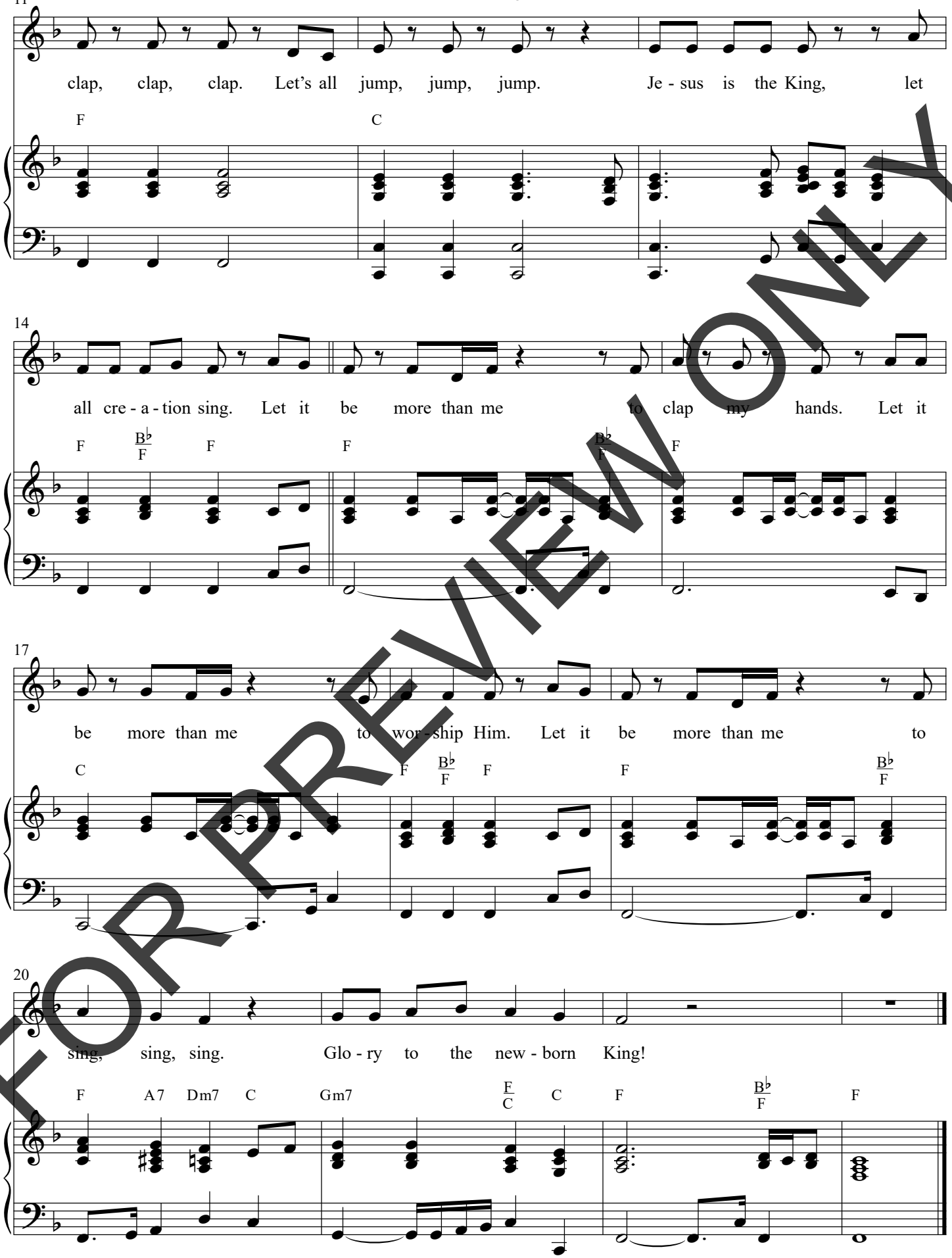


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Jesus Is My Everything

Words and Music by
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Arranged by Daniel Bondaczuk

6 **Slow Ballad** (♩ = 64)

CHOIR
mf

More than a star to light the way, more than a man-

D G2 A7sus D

mf

4

- ger filled with hay, more than a Christ-mas song we sing, Je-sus is my ev-'ry-thing. More than a star

Bm7 G2 Em7 A7sus D

7

to light the way, more than a man - ger filled with hay, more than a Christ-mas song we sing, Je-sus

D Bm7 G2 Em7

10

is my ev-'ry - thing. Je-sus is my ev-'ry-thing.

A7sus G2 Em7 A7sus D Em7 A7sus D G/D D

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More Than a Manger



How to use Pages

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Blank Lesson Plan

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How to use Pages



Scripture: This is where you will find the memory verses. Choose at least two to teach the children to memorize.

Curriculum

1 ☐ ☐



- Every song has a Song Plan.
- Every Song Plan has six categories.
  - Listening Activities
  - Small Group Activities
  - Song Portion Activities
  - Spiritual Concept Activities
  - Steady Beat Activities
- The numbers under each category are different activities. 1
- These same categories are on the blank Lesson Plan.
  - Print a blank Lesson Plan to have ready for making copies.
- Choose an activity from each song you plan to teach and write it in the blank lesson plan.
- Once you have used an activity check the box beside the number of the activity. The boxes look like this: ☐ ☐
- Each activity should be used twice.
- There is a separate plan for Scale Work. Each scale activity should be used 4 times. Preschoolers learn by repetition, and you need repetition to train their ear for hearing the notes. Boxes are also on the Scale Work Plan.

2 ☐ ☐

- An Extras folder contains all the manipulatives that you need to teach the song plan. These manipulatives should be printed to assist in teaching the Song Plan.
- Also included is a Worksheet folder. This folder includes any worksheets specified in the Song Plan and would need to be printed and copied for each student.

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How to use Pages

Recording

3 ☐ ☐

- There are three recording options that you can purchase.
  Listening Tracks – you will use to make CDs for the children and their families. Please purchase the number you plan to send to your kids/families including those via email or private link.
  Stereo Tracks – these tracks have no voice on them.
  Split-Tracks – these tracks have voices going to one speaker and music to the other so that you can control the level of voices singing with the children.
- The numbers listed at the front of each file name are the track numbers specified in the Song Plans.

Memory Verses

4 ☐ ☐

- There are 3 memory verses listed at the top of the lesson plans. It is encouraged to work on at least two throughout the duration of teaching the musical.

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5 ☐ ☐

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Lesson Plan

Week of _____

Song Portion

Supplies: _____

Steady Beat

Supplies: _____

Scale Work

Supplies: _____

Listening

Supplies: _____

Scripture / Spiritual Concept

Supplies: _____

Spiritual Concepts

Supplies: _____

Small Group

Supplies: _____

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More Than a Manger



#16

Scripts

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More Than a Manger



Scripture: Christ is all and in all.

Colossians 3:11 NIV

Narrator Script

- Director, Teacher or Narrator welcomes everyone. Explain picture opportunities, share pick-up instructions and anything that needs to be communicated to the audience.

1 More Than a Manger

- **Narrator:** I want to tell you a story about a lady who came to my Christmas store, named Miss Allot. She was getting ready for Christmas, and she wanted more and more decorations! She was so excited, like many of you, and she wanted a shiny new manger. We do have those. But Miss Allot didn't need a shiny new manger, she simply needed to remember that Christmas is not about a manger. It's about the baby *inside*. Christmas is more than a manger. Jesus is the reason for Christmas.

- Play and sing, **"More Than a Manger."**

2 He Loves Us

- **Narrator:** Well, Miss Allot was not to be discouraged. She turned her attention to the Timeline Displays. She said she wanted to show everything that happened before and after Jesus born. Do you ever get distracted from the real meaning of Christmas? I mean, it's great to know those things. But if we aren't careful, we miss God's heart. Yes, Jesus was born more than two thousand years ago. He was born at the perfect time because it was God's plan. But WHY was he born? He was born because of God's heart – His heart for you and me. Because He loves us.

- Play and sing, **"He Loves Us."**

3 Big Bright Star

- **Narrator:** Still striving for the perfect decoration, Miss Allot asked for a strand of lights. There are many kinds of lights: indoor, outdoor, big or little, and every color imaginable. She wanted a lot of little lights to look like the stars in the sky, like the star the Wise Men followed to find Jesus. Again, Miss Allot needed help to see that Christmas is about more than stars. It's about following the way to Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world! As long as you follow Him, He will light your way.

- Play and sing, **"Big, Bright Star."**

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Narrator Script Cont'd

4 Good News

- **Narrator:** I thought the star would shine a light on what Christmas is really about. But Miss Allot stumbled to the counter with a very large map.
  She said, "This map shows the EXACT location of Bethlehem."
  (Laughing) I explained that yes, Bethlehem is a place on the map. It is the town where Jesus was born, but it's more than just a town. That's where angels and shepherds began to tell the good news of Jesus. You see, it's not about the town; it's about telling the Good News. Wherever you are on the map, you can do that – so tell the Good News.

- Play and sing, **"Good News."**

5 More Than Me

- Narrator: Miss Allot was finally beginning to understand that she didn't need all those things to celebrate the birth of Jesus. He wants our praise. I encouraged Miss Allot to find her friends and do just that: to celebrate the Good News and praise God for the birth of Jesus. When the angels announced Jesus' birth, there were so many of them they filled the sky. The good news of Jesus is so big it takes many voices to tell about it! Maybe you could make room for a few friends this Christmas to celebrate and sing about Jesus too. I want it to be more than me…..and more than you.

- Play and sing, **"More Than Me."**

6 Jesus Is My Everything

- **Narrator:** Miss Allot got it. She knew she had really missed .. a LOT! There was so much more to Christmas than she knew before. Christmas is more than a star, more than a manger, more than decorations or songs or even presents. Christmas is about Jesus.

  Miss Allot actually left my store without buying a thing. She left that day with nothing, because she had found more than decorations. She had found Jesus. And Jesus is everything.

- Play and sing, **"Jesus Is My Ev'rything."**

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More Than a Manger

Scripture: Christ is all and in all.

Colossians 3:11 NIV



Parent Night In Script

1 More Than a Manger

- Teacher: "Welcome, everyone. We're going to take some time this evening to look closely at all we have learned about Christmas. We have looked at many things included in the Christmas story. They have helped to teach us about the real meaning of Christmas."
- Lead the activity from Small Group Activity 2.

OR

- Lead all in the motions to the songs.
- Play and lead all to sing, "More Than a Manger."

2 He Loves Us

- Teacher: "Who can tell me how long-ago Jesus was born? (Hint: The answer is in our song.) Yes, 2000 years ago. It is much more important for us to know "Why" Jesus was born. That answer is also in our song. Why was Jesus Born? Because He loves us."
- Lead the Spiritual Concepts Activity 1.

OR

- Lead Listening Activities 1.
- Play "He Loves Us" and lead the motions.

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Parent Night In Script Cont'd

3 Big Bright Star

- Teacher: "Lights are so fun at Christmas, but we have learned how Jesus is the Light of the World."
- Lead Song Portion Activities 1.
- Play "Big, Bright Star" and lead the bassline accompaniment as all sing.

4 Good News

- Teacher: "Where was Jesus born? Yes, Bethlehem. That is a good piece of information to know but more important is what happened after the Shepherds saw Jesus. Does anyone remember what the Shepherds did? They went and told everyone what had happened. Jesus wants us to do the same thing."
- Lead Song Portion Activity 1 and 2 and sing "Good News."

5 More Than Me

- Teacher: "Jesus came to earth because He loves us, and He deserves our praise. He made us to worship. If we all do what we were made to do, then there will be many worshipping."
- Lead Steady Beat Activity 1.
- Play "More Than Me" and lead all to play a steady beat or teach the motions.

6 Jesus Is My Everything

- Teacher: "We love Christmas, but Jesus is still best. He made us, provides for us, hears us when we pray, and His love lasts forever. He is everything!"
- Lead Spiritual Concepts Activity 1.

OR

- Lead Steady Beat Activity 1
- Play "Jesus Is My Ev'rything" lead with the cards.
- Teacher: "Thank you for coming."

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More Than a Manger



#1

Scale

Work

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Scale work



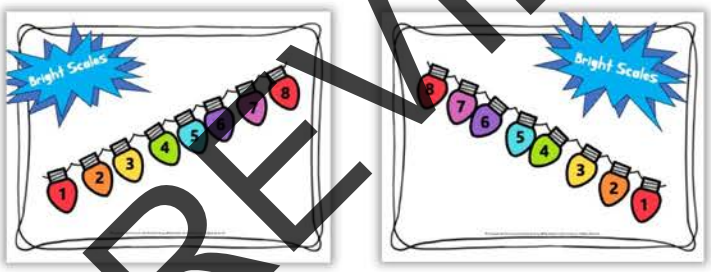
Scripture: Sing to God! Sing in praises of His name.

Psalm 68:4 NIV

Scale Activities

1 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Print the *Bright Scales* from the Extras section, pg. 34-35.
- Display the poster as shown.



- Explain that pitches can go up and down, and when we sing, our voice should do the same as the notes. Point to the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and ask if those pitches are going up or down. Answer: Up. Repeat by asking about the 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Answer: Pitches are going down. Sing several times.
- These three scale songs should last an entire semester. Change about every 4 or 5 weeks.

1 2 3 4 5 5 4 3 2 1
We are sing--ing up, we are sing-ing down.

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1
Je-------sus was born in Beth—le—hem

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1
Christ-mas cook-ies and some can-dy yum.

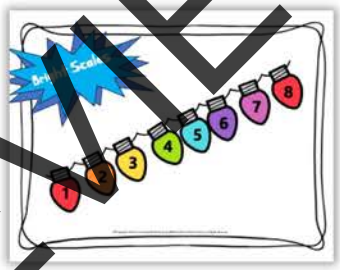
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Scale Activities Cont'd

2 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Instruct and demonstrate for children to give a thumbs up when they hear pitches going up and a thumbs down when they pitches going down.
  Sing any of the following patterns on different syllables:
  a. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 b. 1, 3, 5 c. 1, 2, 3 or 3, 4, 5
  d. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 e. 5, 3, 1 f. 3, 2, 1 or 5, 4, 3
- After everyone has responded give the answer. Lead all to sing the pattern that was just sang.
- Note: In the beginning, their answers will be 50/50 right and wrong. As you repeat this activity over several weeks, you should see an improvement of more answers correct as the young ear is trained.





3 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Use the *Lovely Scales* from #1 in this Scale Work file. Point to the following pattern and sing these words:
  Je ---sus loves me this I know
  1 3 5 4 3 2 1



4 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Print and copy the *Body Scale Cards* from Extras section, pages 36-39.
- Use any of the patterns from #2 in this Scale Work section.
- Lead children to sing and use the corresponding Body Scale position from the poster.

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Lesson Plan Week of _____

Song Portion

Supplies: _____

Steady Beat

Supplies: _____

Scale Work

Supplies: _____

Listening

Supplies: _____

Scripture / Spiritual Concept

Supplies: _____

Spiritual Concepts

Supplies: _____

Small Group

Supplies: _____

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More Than a Manger



#1

Song Plan

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More Than a Manger



Scripture: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.

John 3:16a NIV

Listening Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Distribute scarves.
- Give instructions to listen for the word "more." Each time the children hear that word, they should raise their scarves over their head, then lower them back down.
- Play the music and allow children to respond.
- Lead all to move their scarves in a rainbow pattern overhead each time they hear "more."
- Lead other steady beat moves with the scarves for the rest of the music. Up and down, side to side, and bouncing the beat are a few ways to lead a steady beat.

Small Group Activities

1 ☐ ☐



- Print the *Manger Worksheet* from the Worksheet Section, page 2. Print a copy for each child to color. Place a container of crayons in the middle of the group.
- Say, "Look at the manger on this page. What is a manger? It is where the animals ate. Where do you put your pet's food at home? They would put hay or feed in the manger for animals to eat. Sometimes, the manger was in a stable or cave and sometimes it was outside. The manger wasn't special. What made the manger special? It became a bed for baby Jesus. Do we sing Happy Birthday to the manger? No, we sing to Jesus because without Him the manger is just a place for animals to eat.
- Encourage kids to take the worksheet home and place it where they can be reminded that Christmas is about Jesus and nothing else.

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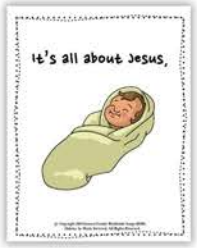
Small Group Activities

2 ☐ ☐

- Print the *More Than a Manger Cards* from the Extras section, page 2, and cut apart.
- Place the cards in random order on the floor or table.
- Echo-sing the first phrase of the song, "More than a manger."
- Ask a volunteer to identify which card they think matches the first phrase.
- Hold up the card and echo-sing the song again, then place the card where everyone can see it.
- Repeat with phrases 2, 3, and 4. Place the cards in order on the floor from left to right.
- Once all cards are down, lead all to sing the song and point to the matching card on each phrase.
- The second time this activity is done, give each card to a child. Give directions to place the card on the table when the matching phrase is sung.
- If more than 4 children are in the small group, repeat the activity giving different children a turn.









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Song Portion Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Echo-sing the first words, *"Christmas is…."* and explain that the motions start on the word *"more."*
- Teach the following motions.
  "More than a manger," – Right hand straight up, rainbow back down to side.
  "More than a starry night." – Left hand straight up, rainbow back down to side.
  "It's all" – Both hands by shoulders, open and palms to the front.
  "about Jesus," – Sign for Jesus. Right tall finger touches left palm. Left tall finger touches the right palm.
  "He's the reason for" – Both hands point up to the sky.
  "Christmas." - Both hands, fingers together, like a mountain top over head. Make the shape of the top of a Christmas tree.
- Sing song slower and lead all to do the motions.
- As the children learn the motions, challenge them to sing as you lead the motions slowly.
- Play song and lead all to do the motions.

2 ☐ ☐

- Print the *Hand Signs Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 3, and cut apart.
- Place the cards in the following pattern to help children visually see the pitches their ears should hear.









- Echo-sing the *"Oh's"* from the beginning of the song and point to the pitches as you sing.
- Instruct all to try the hand signs with their own hands. Teach each sign and lead all to sing as they do the hand signs.
- Repeat several times.

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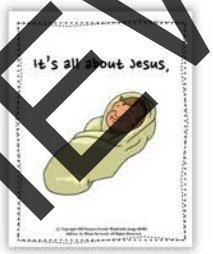
Spiritual Concepts Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print the *More Than a Manger Cards* from the Extras section, page 2, and cut apart.
- As you hold up each card, teach the devotional.
- Say, "When we put our Nativity scene together in our homes, do we sing to the star? (Answer: No) Do we sing to the manger? (Answer: No) Do we sing to any of our other decorations? (Answer: No). We don't; we sing to Jesus. We sing because it is one way that we can praise Jesus. Jesus is the only one that deserves our praise."
- Pray thanking God for sending Jesus to save us from sin.









2 ☐ ☐

- Print *What Goes in the Nativity? Worksheet* from the Worksheet Section, pg. 3.
- Discuss the *What Goes in the Nativity? Worksheet* one picture at a time. For each picture, ask, "Does this go in the nativity?" Ask about the picture of Jesus last.
  Ornament – No, it doesn't go in the Nativity.
  Star – Yes, the star led the Wise Men to Jesus.
  Cows and Chickens – Yes, they were most likely in the stable where Jesus was born.
  Gift – No, it doesn't go in the Nativity.
  Shepherd's Staff or Hook – Yes, the shepherds used them.
  Christmas Tree – No, it doesn't go in the Nativity.
  Stable or a Cave – Yes, it is where Jesus was born.
  Teddy Bear – No, it doesn't go in the Nativity.
  Manger – Yes, it became the bed for Baby Jesus.
  Sheep – Yes, it is very likely that sheep were there.
  Rocking chair – No, it doesn't go in the Nativity.
  Baby Jesus – YES!! He is not only the reason we have Christmas but the reason we have the Nativity.



- Pray thanking God for the gift of Jesus.

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Steady Beat Activities

1

- Print the *Christmas Groups Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 4, and cut apart.
- Choose two classroom instruments groups and divide children into two groups.
- Choose a card to represent each group.



- For example: Choose the Red Ornament group and distribute rhythm sticks. Choose the Green Ornament group and distribute jingle bells.
- Lead groups to play a steady beat when you bounce the card for that group.
- Lead each group to play separately as well as together, when bouncing both cards simultaneously to the steady beat.
- Once successful, play the Accompaniment track (without the words) and lead all to play steady beat only when the card representing their group is bouncing.
- The second time this activity is done, choose different group cards and different instruments.

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He Loves us



#2

Song Plan

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He Loves us



Scripture: For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son…

John 3:16 NIV

Listening Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Make the hearts in Small Group Activity 1 to use in this activity.
- Use the Heart Spoons that were made in small group for steady beat.
- Sing *a capella* while leading all to play the steady beat by tapping the spoons on their hands.
- Ask the children where other places are we can tap our spoon for a steady beat. Possible Answers are shoes, legs, floor, etc.
- Play the recording and lead all to tap the 8 steady beats in each of the different places named by the children.
- Don't send the spoons home and use them again to do this activity.

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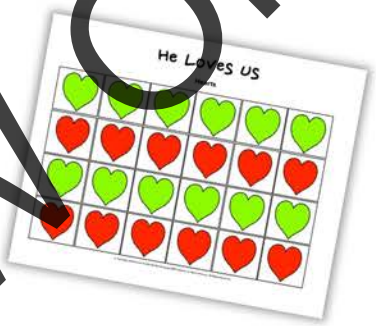
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Small Group Activities

1

- Print the *He Love Us Hearts* from the Extras section, pg. 5, and cut apart.
- Other supplies needed for this activity are a plastic spoon for each child, and tape or glue.
- Distribute a heart and a spoon to each child.
- Lead all to tape or glue their heart on the front top of the spoon. The heart may stick off the end of the spoon.
- The children should take their spoon with them to large group to use in the *He Loves Us* Listening Activity.



2

- Supplies needed for this activity are the following: two small paper cups per child, craft pompons or cotton balls.
- Distribute 2 cups and a handful of cotton balls. Ask them to put some cotton balls in each cup.
- On each child's turn they should set their cups in the middle of the table or circle. All of the other children try to guess which cup has more cotton balls.
- Once everyone has guessed, count the cotton balls in each cup and see which one had more.
- Once everyone has had a turn, explain that no one can ever love us more than Jesus, not even our families. Jesus loves us so much and His love lasts forever.
- Pray, thanking Jesus for His big, great, never-ending love.

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Song Portion Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print the *Body Scale Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 6, and cut apart.
- Teach the chorus by demonstrating the movements on the word "loves."

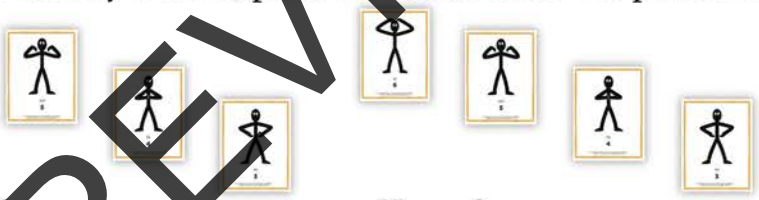


'Cause He loves---------- us, He loves---------- us.



God sent Jesus 'cause He loves---------- us.

- The second time this activity is done, place the above cards in a pattern that represents the melody.



'Cause He loves---------- us, He loves-------- us.



God sent Jesus 'cause He loves---------- us.

2 ☐ ☐

- Teach the following motions.

He - both hands up pointer fingers pointing to the sky.
Loves – arms crossed over chest.
Us – thumbs pointing to shoulders
God - same movement as He.
Jesus – Tall man finger on left hand touches palm of right hand, then right tall man finger touches palm of left hand.

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Spiritual Concepts Activities

1

- Teach the memory verse John 3:16a. "For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son."
- Keep a steady beat when teaching the following rhythm.



"For God so loved the world, He gave His one and on--ly Son." John three six-teen

- Repeat this rhythm often to teach the first part of this verse.
- Pray thanking God that His word tells us about Him.

2

- Lead all to recite the memory verse John 3:16.
- Say, "God sent Jesus to earth to show us how much he loves us. Jesus came as a baby and that is the only reason we have the holiday we call Christmas. Jesus was a very special gift to the whole world."
- Lead all do the motions for *He Loves Us* while you sing *a capella.*
- Pray thanking God that Jesus will always be the best gift ever.

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Steady Beat Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- A bean bag is needed for this activity.
- Print *Movement Cards* from the Extras Section, pg. 7-12, and cut apart.
- Have children stand in a circle.
- Place 6 to 8 of the cards face up, on the floor, in the middle of the circle.
- Choose a volunteer to toss the bean bag on a *Movement Card*. Name the movement for the child, then ask them to show how they would like to do that move. Let the child lead all in doing the steady beat for 8 counts.
- Give the bean bag to the next person in the circle and repeat.
- Continue until all have had a turn, or as time allows.



2 ☐ ☐

- Print *Movement Cards* from the Extras Section, pg. 7-12, and cut apart.
- Choose four of the *Movement Cards* and place them where every one can see them.
- Pointing from left to right, lead all to do each movement card for 4 steady beats.
- Play the accompaniment track, and lead all to do each move for 4 steady beats.
- Pause the track and place the cards in a different order. Always point to the cards from left to right, as this is pre-reading skill for preschoolers.
- Play the accompaniment track again and lead all to do each move for 4 steady beats.



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Big Bright Star



#3

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Big Bright Star



Scripture: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

John 8:12a NIV

Listening Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Scarves or streamers are needed for this activity. If using crepe paper, streamers should be 18 to 24 inches long.
- Lead all to move streamers side to side, up and down, in a circle, side to side rainbow over head, elephant trunks side to side, etc.
- Lead all to move in a steady dotted quarter note beat.
- Play the recording and lead all to move to the steady following the patterns you demonstrate.
- Play the song again and lead them to move from high to low on "Big bright," and "Let me."
- On the chorus, "Shine like a star, shine every day," lead all to start with scarves low and swirl upward. Start low again on the next phrase of the chorus and repeat swirling upward: "Shine where we live, and where we play."
- Ask the children if they can think of moves to do with the scarves. Help to translate those moves to the steady beat.

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Small Group Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print the *How to Shine Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 17-18, and cut apart. Also print He Loves Us Hearts from the Extras section, pg. 5, and cut apart.
- Say, "Did you know when we shine like a star, we show God's heart? God tells us to love others like He has loves us. When we help others, (point to card) we show how God loves us."
- Show pictures one at a time and discover how many heart beats each word would be…. Serve, Caring, Loving, Obedient, Helpful, Sharing, Worship, Kindness.
- Lead each volunteer to choose a word and place the number of hearts under the card that represent the beats in the action word. For example: Serve and Share would only have one heart under it. Worship, Kindness, and several others would have 2 hearts under it to represent the number of beats when that word is said.
- Lead all to tap the number of beats as each action word is spoken.









2 ☐ ☐

- Rhythm sticks and sand blocks are needed for this activity.
- Print the *Gingerbread Beats Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 19-20 and cut apart. Print 2 copies of page 20.
- Say, "In music we have measures that help us count beats. We can have 2, 3, or 4 beats in a measure. However, no matter how many beats there are there is only 1 big beat. It is the first beat. The other beats are called small beats."
- Distribute both rhythm sticks and sand blocks.
- Explain: rhythm sticks will only play on beat 1, the big beat, (the larger gingerbread man) and the sand blocks will play on the small beats (the smaller gingerbread men)
- Start with the cookie sheets that have 2 cookies and lead all to play appropriately as you point to the beats. Repeat with 3 beats, then 4 beats.







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Song Portion Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Pitched plastic tubes are needed for this activity. Pitches D, F#, G, and A are needed.
- The bass accompaniment is as follows:

D F# G A G A D D
Big bright star in the sky, showing the way to Jesus.

D F# G A G A D D
Let me follow your light, pointing the way to Jesus.

- If you do not have the F# you can play D in place of that pitch.
- Play dotted quarter notes on the specified bass note. Repeat several times.
- Lead all to play as you point to them while you sing.
- Encourage anyone without a plastic tube to sing.
- Repeat until everyone has had a turn to play.

2 ☐ ☐

- Print the *Big Bright Star Melody Charts* from the Extras folder, pg. 13-14. If available print these charts on 11 X 17 paper.
- Use the charts to teach the verse of the song.
- Point to each pitch as you sing *a capella*.
- Repeat several times.





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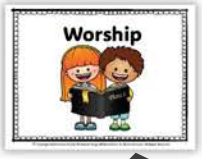
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Spiritual Concepts Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print the *How to Shine Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 17-18, and cut apart.
- Ask, "What does it mean to 'shine like a star?' " Pause for answers.
- Show the pictures one at a time and discuss the word at the top of the picture. Ask with each picture what are other ways we can or can be…
  Serving, Caring, Loving, Obedient, Helpful, Sharing, Worshipful, Kind.
- Explain that each of these are ways that we "shine like a star." When we show the love of Christ, we, like the star, are pointing others to Jesus.
- Pray and ask Jesus to help us point others to Him and His love.









Steady Beat Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print 2 copies of *Gingerbread Beats Cards* from the Extras section, only pg. 20, and cut apart.
- Distribute a pair of rhythm sticks to each child.
- Demonstrate how to click on beat 1 (larger gingerbread man) and slide one rhythm stick on the other one on beat 2 (smaller gingerbread man).
- Point to the cookies on the dotted quarter note steady beat and sing *a capella*.
- Play the accompaniment track (the track without the words) and lead moves of 4 counts, pointing to each card from left to right.









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Good News

#4



Song Plan

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Good News



Scripture: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people."

Luke 2:10 NIV

Listening Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print for each child *Big G Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 21, and cut apart.
- Instruct all to place the "G" in front of them on the floor.
- Explain that you will sing a song, and they will listen for the words "good news." Each time they hear the words, they should tap the "G" card in front of them.
- Sing the song *a capella*. Don't demonstrate for the kids when to tap the card. Allow them to listen for the words and respond.
- Ask, "How many times did you tap your card? How many times did we sing the words?" Answer: 4.
- Sing the chorus only again, leading all to tap the card on the words "good news."



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Small Group Activities

1

- Print the *Instrument Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 22, and cut apart.
- Divide children into two groups. Have the two groups sit in a straight line facing the other group.
- Distribute rhythm sticks to one group and jingle bells to the other group.
- Demonstrate and practice that when you bounce the Rhythm Stick card, that group should play the steady beat. Repeat the same with the other group. When you bounce both cards both groups should play the steady beat.
- Sing the song *a capella* leading the first group to play as listed below.
  Rhythm sticks – *"Bethlehem, a … more than just a town."*
  Jingle bells – *"Angels told …could be found."*
  Everyone – *"Good new-ew-ew-ews … tell the good news everywhere."*



- Play the accompaniment track, without the words, and lead all to play the steady beat by alternating between groups as well as leading the groups to play together.

2



- Crayons or markers are needed for this activity.
- Print the *Good News Coloring Sheet*, for each child, from the Worksheets section, pg. 4.
- Before distributing the worksheets to color, say, "What is the Good News that the Angels told about Jesus? (Pause for response.) The angels came to tell the Shepherds that Jesus was born. After the Shepherds went to Bethlehem and saw Jesus in the manger just as the Angels had told them, they went and told everyone they saw what had happened."
- Lead the children to think of someone they would like to tell the Good News to.
- Distribute the picture and the crayons. Instruct kids to color the picture as they think of someone with which to share the picture.

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Song Portion Activities

1

- Print the *Good News Lyrics Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 23-24, and cut apart.
- Echo-sing each phrase as you show the picture and then display them in the following order.


Bethlehem,


a place on the map,


is more than


just a town.


Angels told


the Shepherds


there the Baby


could be found.

- Point to the pictures as you echo-sing each phrase again.

2



- Print the *Ooo Posters* from the Extras section, pg. 25-27, and cut apart.
- Show the first poster and ask, "Are all of these faces the same?" Answer: no. "What are all of these faces doing?" Answer: They have a round mouth.



- Echo-sing the following phrases on the syllable "Ooo."
  Good New – ew – ew – ews. Good New – ew – ew – ews.
- Demonstrate our mouths should be shaped the same when we sing the "Ooo's" in the "Good News" section of the song.



- Lead all to sing while showing the cards with the "Ooo's" illustrated.
- Ask if the patterns on the two cards are the same or different. Answer: Different.
- Echo-sing each phrase.
- Show the cards with the words and explain even though we sing the words "Good News," our mouths should stay rounded and our sound should still be the "Ooo" sound.





- Echo-sing again, pointing to the pitches as you sing.
- Echo-sing the *Good News* section.

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Spiritual Concepts Activities

1

- Print the *Good News Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 24, and cut apart.
- Divide children into 2 groups: Shepherds and Angels.
- Explain to the children that you are going to read a story and each time they hear the name of their group they will respond with two words. "Shepherds" should say, "Good News." "Angels," should say, "Praise God."
- Read the following story.
  One night Shepherds (Good News) were watching sheep in the fields. It was a quiet night for the Shepherds (Good News). An Angel (Praise God) appeared in the sky. The Angel (Praise God) told the Shepherds (Good News) that a baby, the Messiah, Jesus had been born. The Shepherds (Good News) were amazed. Then many Angels (Praise God) appeared in the sky and sang, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men." The Angel (Praise God) specifically told the Shepherds (Good News) that they would find the baby in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. The Shepherds (Good News) left the sheep and immediately went as the Angels (Praise God) had told them. After they found Jesus in the manger, the Shepherds (Good News) went and told everyone what they had seen.





- Pray thanking God for teaching us the Good News about Jesus.

2

- Ask the following Bible questions.
  Who told the shepherds Jesus was born? *Answer: An Angel*
  Keeping that in mind, who told Mary Jesus would be born? *Answer: An Angel*
  Who told Joseph Jesus would be born? *Answer: An Angel*
  Who told the shepherds Jesus was born? *Answer: An Angel*
  Who sang praises that Jesus was born? *Answer: Many Angels*
  The Shepherds went to see Jesus in Bethlehem. What did they do after they saw Him? *Answer: They went and told everyone they saw what happened.*
- Say, "Let's be like the shepherds and tell everyone Jesus came because He loves us."
- Ask the kids to think of someone with whom they can share the Good News.
- Pray, asking God to help us remember to tell others how much He loves us.

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Steady Beat Activities

1

- Have children stand in a line facing you to mirror your moves.
- Tap the following rhythm to match the words.



Tap legs Tap legs Rt Chest Left Chest Clap

Good New ----------ew----------ew----------ews.
Good New ----------ew----------ew----------ews.
Good News, He is here.
Tell the Good News ev----------'ry----------where.

- Start by teaching the Right Chest, Left Chest, Clap. (The "ew-ew-ews.") Sing the chorus, leading only the left chest, right chest, and clap section.
- Next, add the 2 quarter taps on the legs, bringing the whole rhythm together.
- Sing chorus *a capella* and lead all to tap the rhythm.

2

- Print *Movement Cards* from the Extras Section, pg. 7-12, and cut apart.
- Have children stand in a circle.
- Hold cards facedown and fanned out in your hand. Choose 4 volunteers to choose 1 card.
- When the card is chosen, have the children lay them in a row in the middle of the circle.
- Once 4 cards are chosen, play the accompaniment track (without words) and lead all to do each move for 8 counts.
- After one time through the song, pause and allow four more cards to be chosen.
- Repeat as above.



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More Than Me



#5

Song Plan

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More Than Me



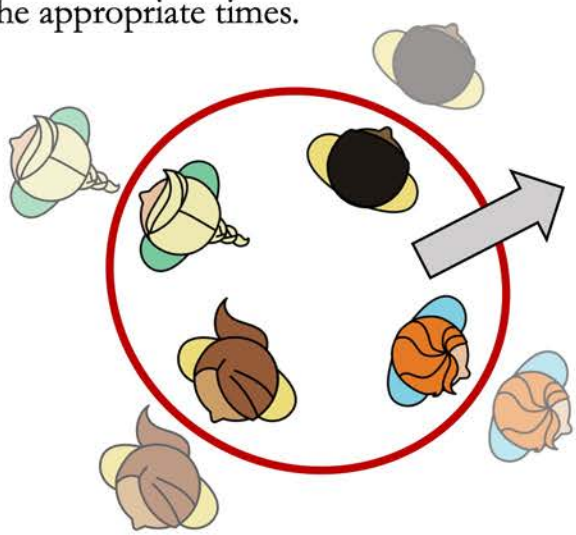
Scripture: I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psalm 146:2 NIV

Listening Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Place plastic play hoops on the floor and divide the children into groups of 4. If using small hoops, divide into groups of 2.
- Explain kids will begin on the inside of the hoop. When they hear the words, "Let it be," they should jump to the outside of the hoop.
- Lead all to step back inside the hoop, when they hear the words, "more than me."
- Sing the song slowly while children jump. Don't jump with them the first time, so that they will respond through listening.
- Sing again, a little faster.
- Explain there are more action words: "Clap" and "jump."
- Sing again, leading all to respond on these words as well.
- Play the recording, and lead all to move at the appropriate times.



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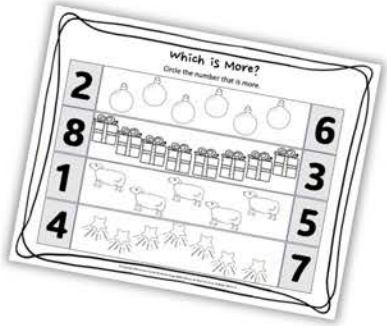
Small Group Activities

1

- Supplies needed for this activity are small funnels, a balloon, and a tablespoon of rice for each child. Plan to do this activity in the same lesson as Steady Beat Activity 1 from this Song Plan.
- Lead all put the opening of the balloon on the small end of the funnel.
- Lead all to pour their table of rice into the balloon.
- Assist each child in blowing up and tying the balloon.
- Write each child's name with a marker. (Make several ahead of time in case any pop.)
- Lead all to hold the balloon against their body with one arm and tap the balloon with the other hand.
- Explain that you will tap a rhythm and when you say, "More than me," they should echo the rhythm. If they don't the words, "More than me," they shouldn't tap.
- Repeat several times.

2

- Print a copy for each child of the *Which is More? Worksheet* from the Worksheet section, pg. 5.
- Distribute the worksheet and lead all to circle the numbers that are more on each line.
- Discuss how easy it is to tell if something is more when we count. Say, "In the Bible, God tells us to worship Him. Did God say that to just me? No, He didn't. He said it to you and you and you and you. God said that we all should praise Him. Sometimes, we are concerned about how we sound or look and so we don't. This song we are singing is a prayer telling God that we don't want to praise Him by ourselves, so let it be more than me. Let it be all of us!"
- Echo-sing the chorus,
"Let it be more than me ….Glory to the newborn King."



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Song Portion Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Teach the chorus motions:
  "*Be*" – both hands in front, palms up. (This move is done each time these words are sung.)
  "*Me*" – both thumbs pointing to shoulders.
  "*clap, hands*" – 2 steady beat claps.
  "*worship*" – praise hands in the air.
  "*Him*" – point to God with both hands.
  "*Sing, sing, sing*" – both hands beside mouth, pulse 2 steady beats.
  "*Glory*" – shaking jazz hands up.
  "*newborn*" – arms holding a baby (don't rock)
  "*King*" – hands form crown on top of head.



2 ☐ ☐

- Teach the verse motions:
  "*Clap, clap, clap*" – clap 3 steady beats.
  "*Jump, jump, jump*" – jump 3 times.
  "*Jesus is the King*" – one fist pump in the air.
  "*Let all creation sing*" – both hands open, start at face, go up and out.
- Add motions from the chorus above.
- Play recording and lead all to do the motions.

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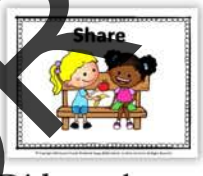
Spiritual Concepts Activities

1

- Use the balloon shakers that were made in Small Group Activity 1 in this Song Plan.
- Have all the children sit in a circle.
- Ask one child to gently shake their balloon. Explain how we could hear it but let's see how much more we can hear it if 2 people play. Then 3, then 5, until all are shaking their balloons.
- Say, "It is so good when all of God's creation praises Him, because that is what we were created for. And God is the only one that deserves our praise because of how much He love us. Let's all praise God together and very gently bounce our balloon shakers on the steady beat."
- Sing *a capella* and lead all to bounce balloon shakers on the steady beat.
- Pray thanking God for giving us the ability to praise Him.
- Allow everyone to take their balloon shaker home.

2

- Print the *How to Shine Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 17-18, and cut apart.
- Say, "We sing a song about shining like a star. When we do that, we shine and point others to Jesus. Look at these cards and let's remember what some of the ways are we can shine."
- Show and discuss each of the 8 cards.









- Say, "Did you know, when we show our love, it helps us shine a light to help others see Jesus, but it is also some of the ways we worship Him. What are some other ways that we worship Jesus that is not pictured on these cards?"
  Possible answers: sing, read the Bible, and pray.
- Pray asking God to help us remember to praise Him in everything we do.

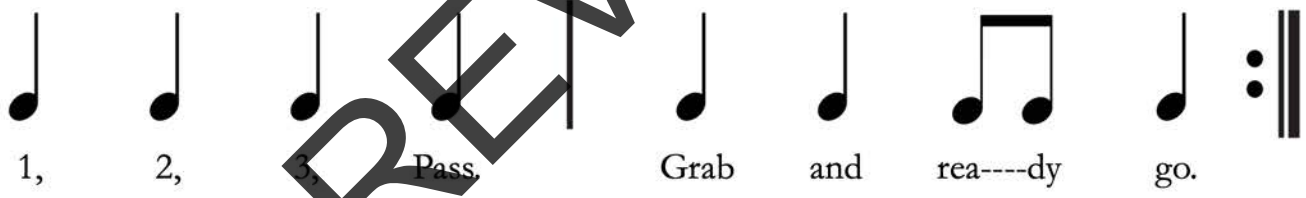
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Steady Beat Activities

1

- Distribute one small plastic cup to each child. Instruct each child to place the cup upside down on the floor so that they can easily grab the bottom.
- This activity works better if the children's knees are a little closer together so they can actually set the cup in front of their neighbor once it is passed.
- Lead all to tap the cup 3 times on the floor and then tap the floor to the right of the cup on the fourth beat.
- Practice several times.
- Sing the song *a capella* and lead all to do the pattern above.
- Lead all to tap the cup 3 times and on the fourth beat to pass the cup to the person on their right by placing the cup on the floor right in front of their neighbor. For the next 4 beats count these words: Grab and ready go. The rhythm will go as follows.



- Play the accompaniment track (without the words) and lead all to tap and pass on the steady beat using the rhythm above.

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Jesus Is My Everything



#6

Song Plan

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Jesus Is My Everything



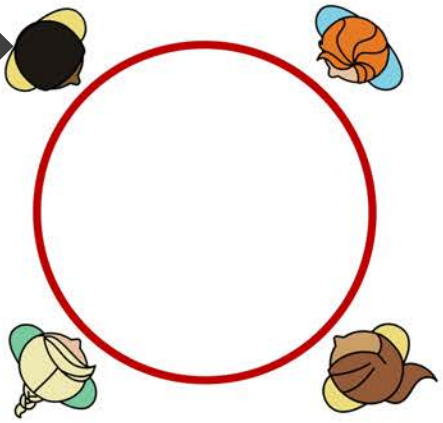
Scripture: Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.

Psalm 63:3 NIV

Listening Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Distribute a scarf to each child and divide children into groups of 4.
- Send each group to stand around a plastic play hoop.
- Lead all to stand around the circle with scarves down at their sides.
- Demonstrate how to raise and lower scarves over the circle to the steady half note beat.
- Continue with other moves. Hold scarves to the middle of the circle and walk around the circle on the steady beat.
- Play the recording and move scarves in a similar manner.



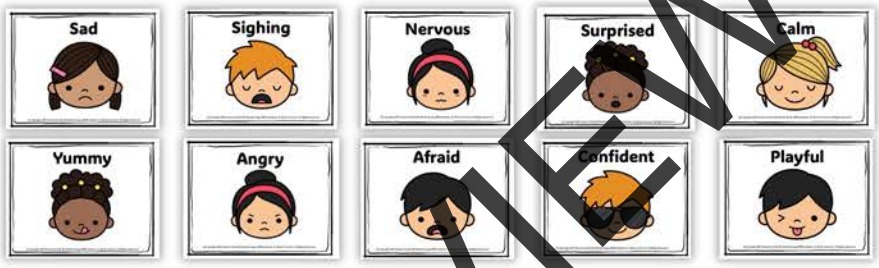
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Small Group Activities

1

- Print the *Feelings Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 28-30, and cut apart.
- Show the cards and ask the children to guess what feelings are pictured. Discuss when the children have felt that way too.
- Say, "No matter how we feel, Jesus is ALWAYS with us. We can talk to Him, sing to Him, and ask for His help anytime we need it. Jesus is ALWAYS there."
- Lead each child to pick a feeling and hold it while we echo-sing the chorus.



2

- Print the *Jesus Is My Everything Worksheet* from the Worksheets section, pg. 6. Make one copy for each child.
- Distribute worksheets and crayons. Lead children to color the four pictures.
- Echo-sing each phrase and ask the children which picture they think goes with that line.



More than a star to light the way, - star
More than a manger filled with hay, - manger
More than a Christmas song we sing, - child singing
Jesus is my ev'rything, - Baby Jesus

- Once all four phrases have been identified, sing each phrase and lead all to point to each picture as you sing.

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Song Portion Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print the *Bright Melodies* from the Extras section, pg. 15-16. Print 2 copies of Melody 1.
- Lead all to sing the numbers of the scale as you point to each light.
- Show *Bright Melodies 1*. Ask, "Do you notice anything about some of the lights on my picture? Yes, some of them are bigger and those are the notes of the scale that we are going to sing."
- Echo-sing the numbers of the pitches 1, 2, 3, 5 in the same rhythm as the phrase *"More than a star…"*
- Show *Bright Melodies 2*. Ask, "Do you notice anything about some of the lights on this picture? Yes, some of them are bigger just like the first picture. They are still scale notes that we will sing but are they the same notes? No they are not. Listen to the difference."
- Echo-sing the numbers of the pitches 1, 2, 3, 4 in the same rhythm as the phrase *"More than a man-(ger)…"*
- Place the pictures in the following order: Melody 1, Melody 2, Melody 1.
- Lead all to sing the song, pointing to the notes when it is applicable as noted below.
  More than a star (Melody 1) *to light the way,*
  More than a man-(Melody 2) *–ger filled with hay,*
  More than a Christ – (Melody 1) *–mas song we sing,*
  Jesus is my ev'rything.







2 ☐ ☐

- Teach the motions.

More than a star to light the way, - hands by shoulders, open and close like a blinking star, while moving upward.
More than a manger filled with hay, - arms together as if rocking a baby on steady beat.
More than a Christmas song we sing, - palms facing each other, fingtips together, start at mouth and move up, overhead like a Christmas tree.
Jesus is my ev'rything. - Pointing hands go up and out to side.

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Spiritual Concepts Activities

1

- Print the *Christmas Story Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 32-33 and cut apart.
- Mix up the cards so they are not in order, but keep out the Baby Jesus card to use last.
- Place all the cards (except the Baby Jesus card) facedown on the table. Give each child a turn to choose and flip over a card.
- Each time a card is turned over, ask the child if the object on their card is what we focus on for Christmas.
- Once all cards have been turned over, explain that each thing pictured on a card helps to tell the Christmas story. However, they are not what Christmas is about.



Donkey, Wise Men, Angels, Stable, Baby Jesus, Sheep, Mary & Joseph, Cow.

- Show the Baby Jesus card and say, "Jesus is the reason we have Christmas at all. It is about His birthday. He is what the Christmas story is all about."
- Lead all to sing the song.
- Pray thanking God that Jesus is the reason for Christmas.

2

- Discuss how all gifts are blessings from God. He is our provider, and He loves us very much. Jesus is still better than any gift we can receive on earth.
- Give each child a turn to say the best gift they have ever been given. After each child names their gift, lead all to sing, "Jesus is my ev'rything."
- Praying thanking God that Jesus is better than any gift we have ever or will ever receive.

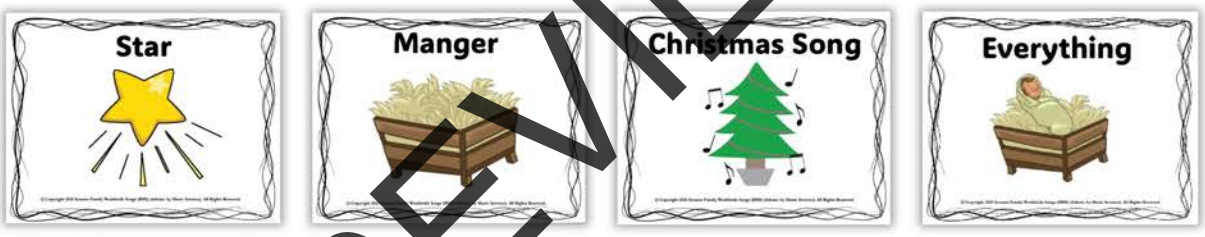
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Steady Beat Activities

1 ☐ ☐

- Print the *Jesus Is My Everything Cards* from the Extras section, pg. 31, and cut apart.
- Place cards in order for all to see. Star, Manger, Christmas Song, Ev'rything.
- Call 4 volunteers up to sit in front of each picture.
- Instruct the volunteers to tap their picture for 4 beats when the phrase is sung that goes with their card.
  Star – *More than a star to light the way,*
  Manger – *More than a manger filled with hay,*
  Christmas Song – *More than a Christmas song we sing,*
  Ev'rything – *Jesus is my ev'rything.*



- Sing again, choosing 4 new volunteers. Repeat until all have had a turn or as time allows.

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Extras Section



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More than a manger,



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More than a
starry night.



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It's all about Jesus,



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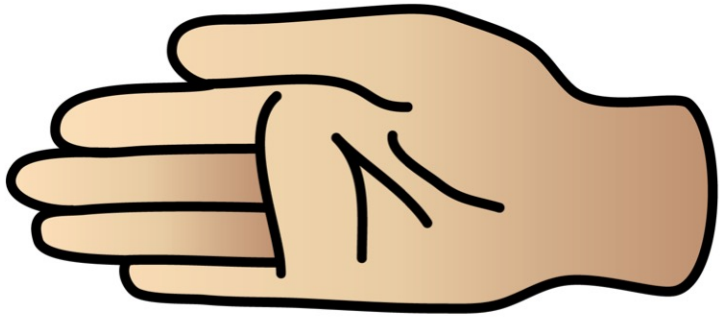
He's the reason for
Christmas.



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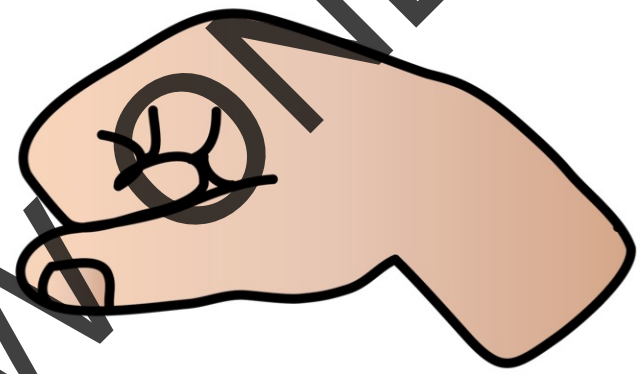
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Sol



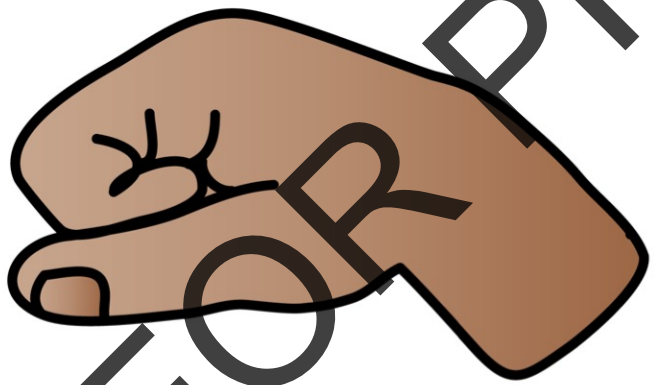
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Do



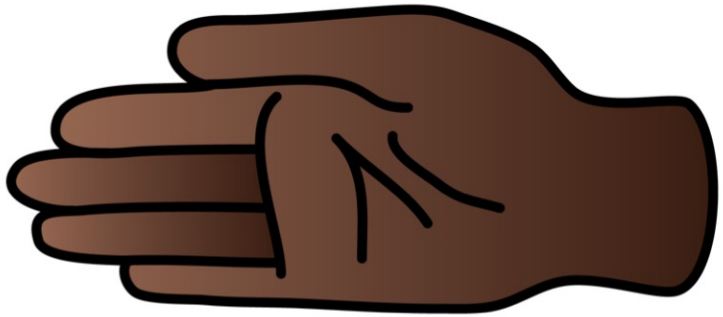
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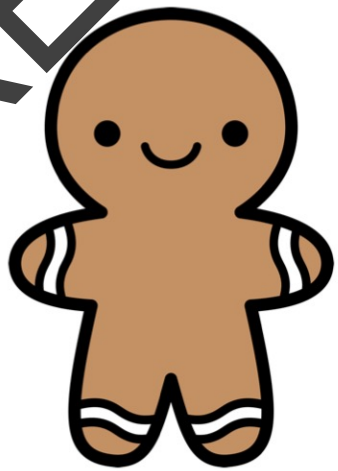
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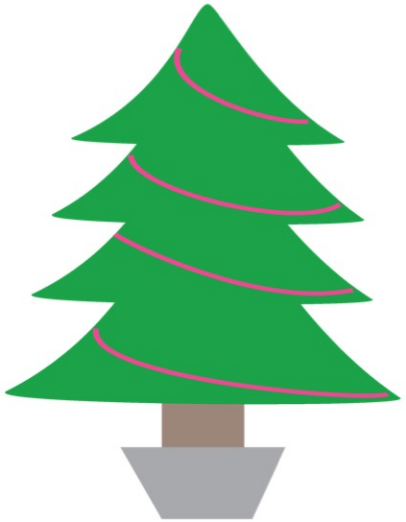
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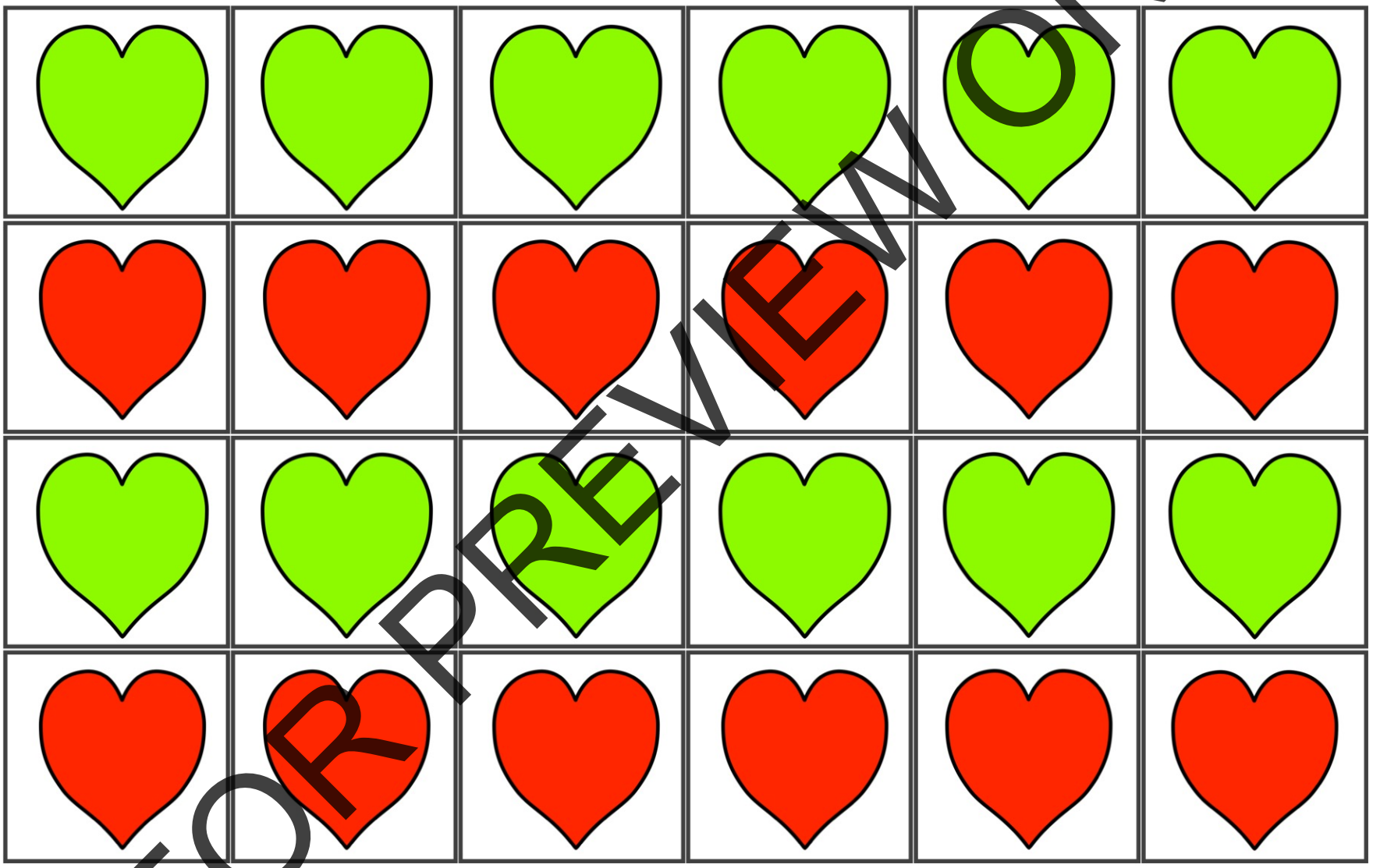


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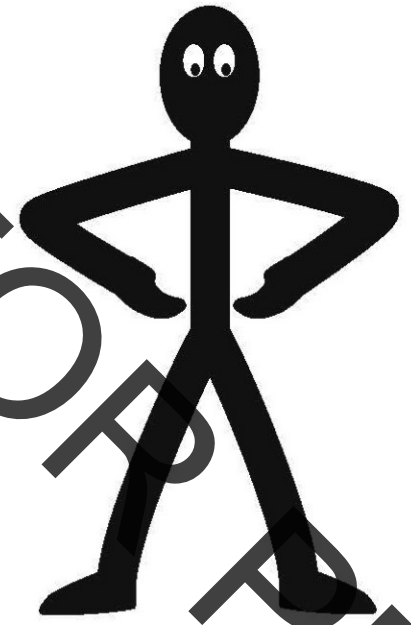
He Loves Us

Hearts



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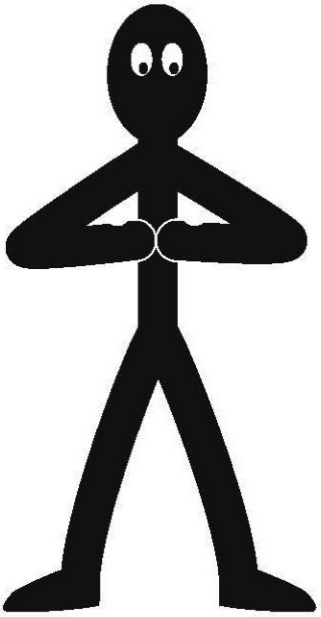
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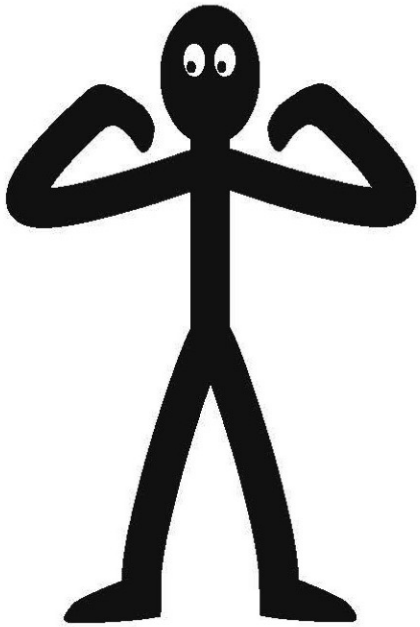
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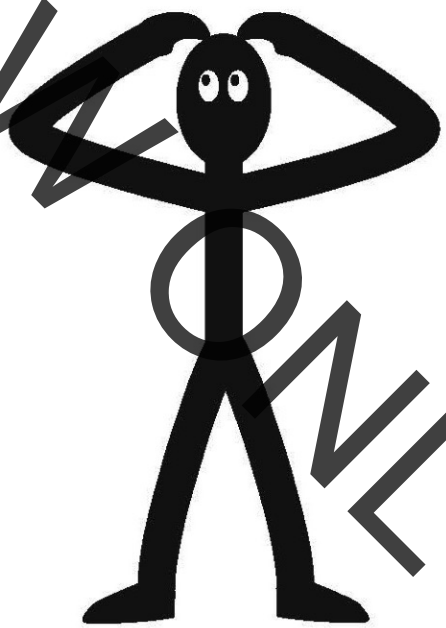
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la

6

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Hands on Shoulders



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Hands on Hips



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WALK



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Sway Side to Side



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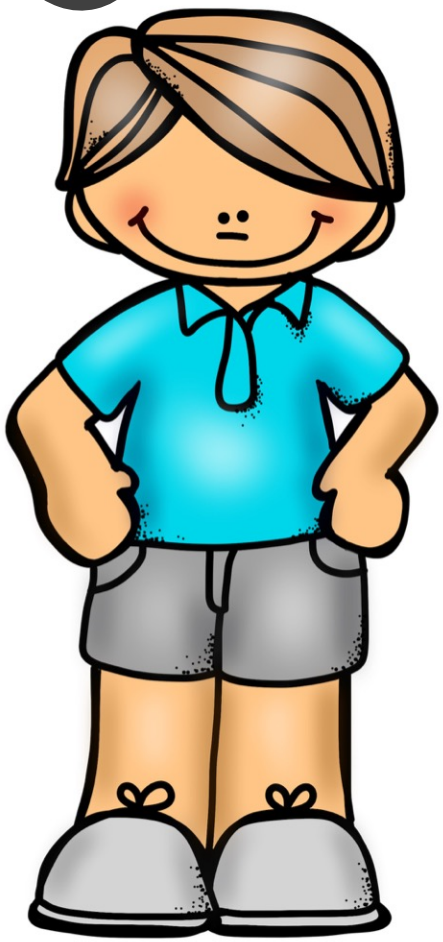
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clapping



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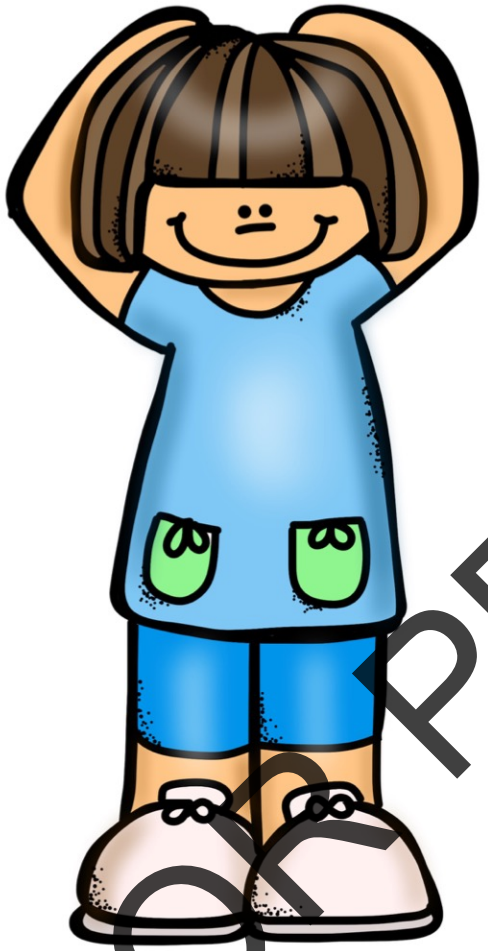
Hands on Hips



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Hands on Head



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Hands on Ears



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Hands in the Air



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Hop



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Hands on Knees



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Tap Foot

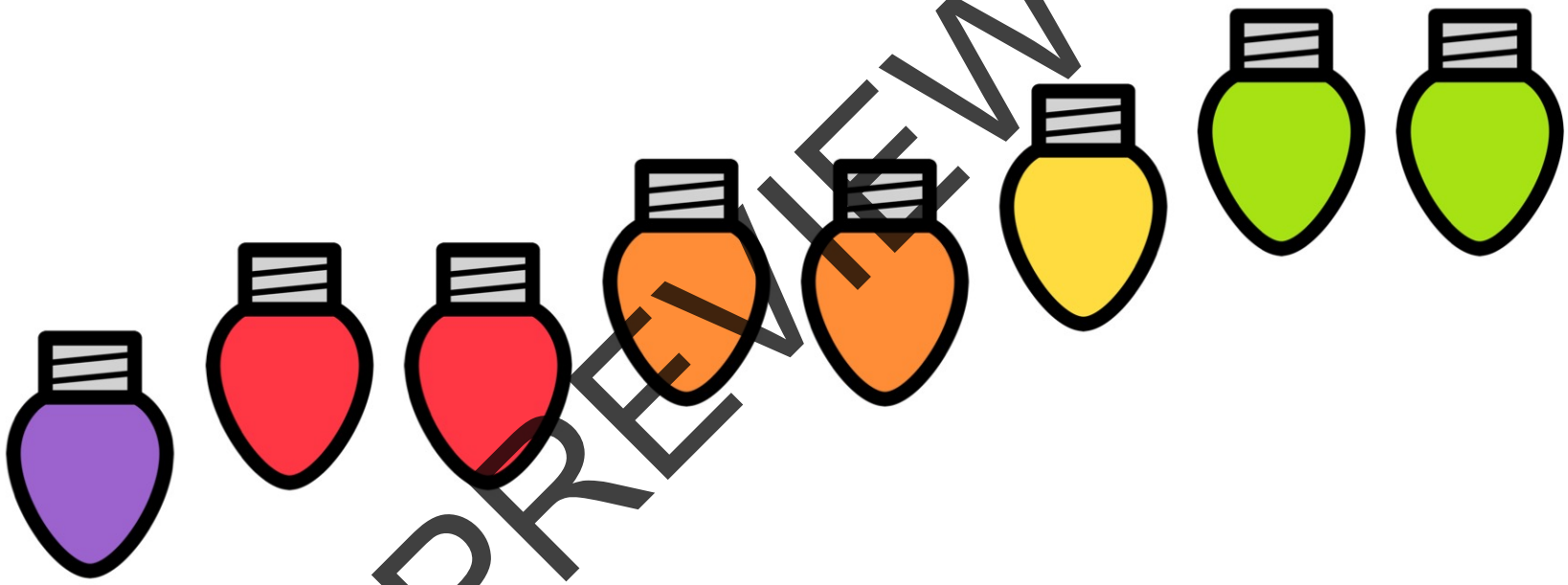


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Big Bright Star

Melody Chart 1



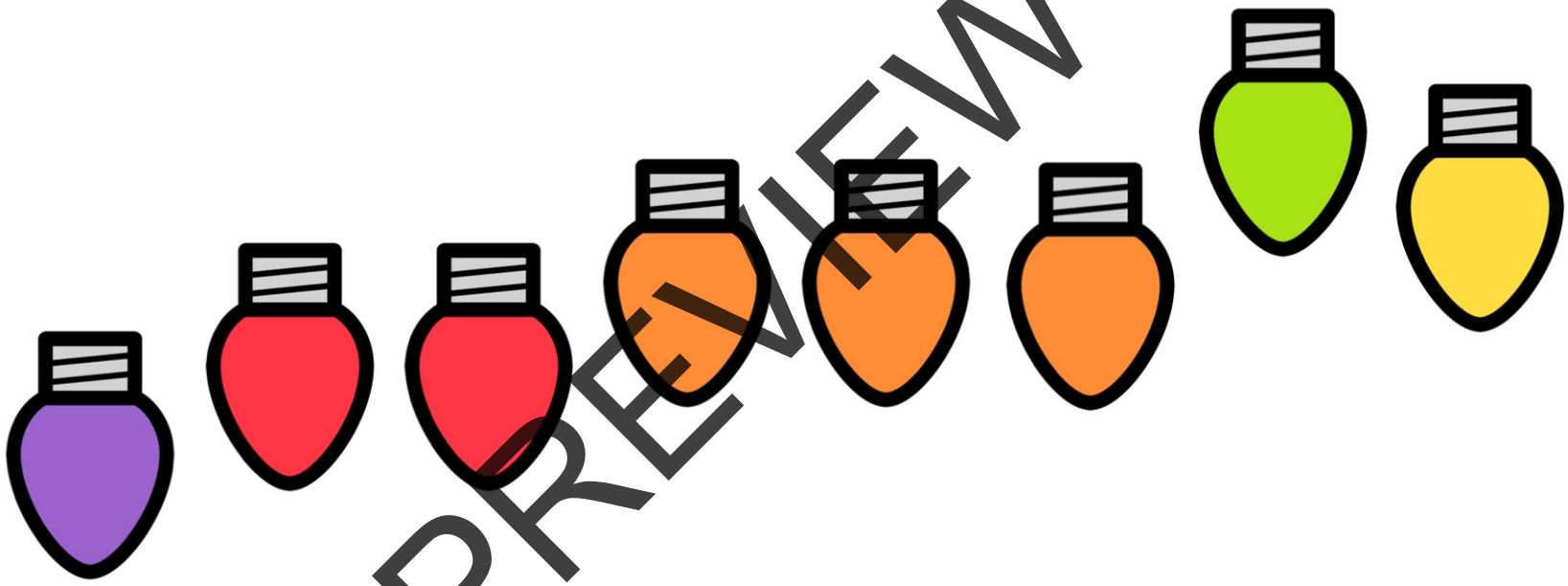
Shine like a star, shine eve ------- ry ----------day,

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Big Bright Star

Melody Chart 2



Shine where we live and where we play.

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Bright Melodies 1



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Bright Melodies 2



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Helpful



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Share



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Worship



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Kindness



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Serve



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Caring



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Loving



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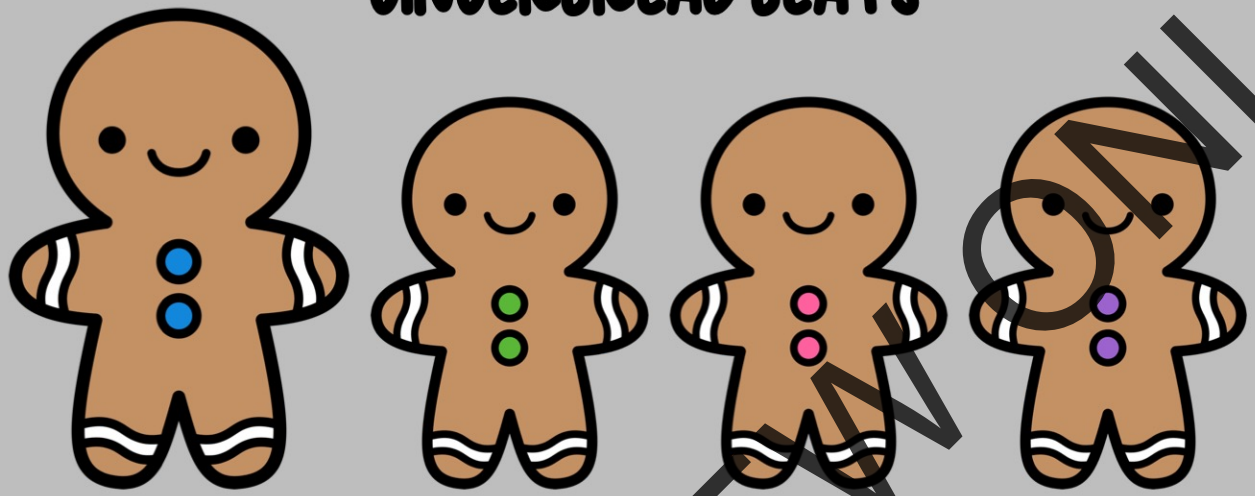
Obedient



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GINGERBREAD BEATS



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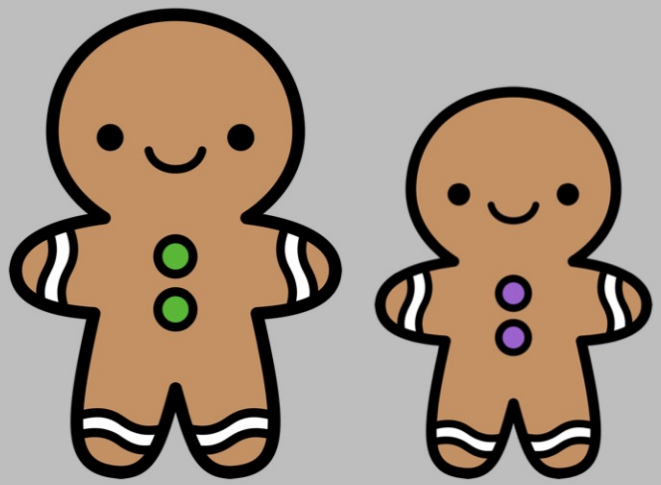
GINGERBREAD BEATS



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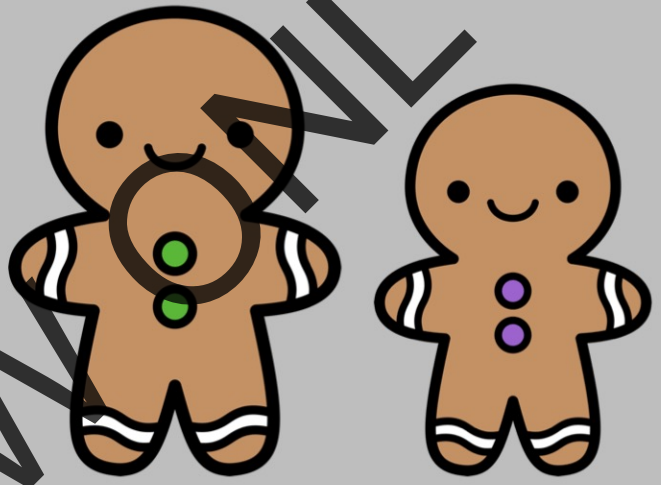
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GINGERBREAD BEATS



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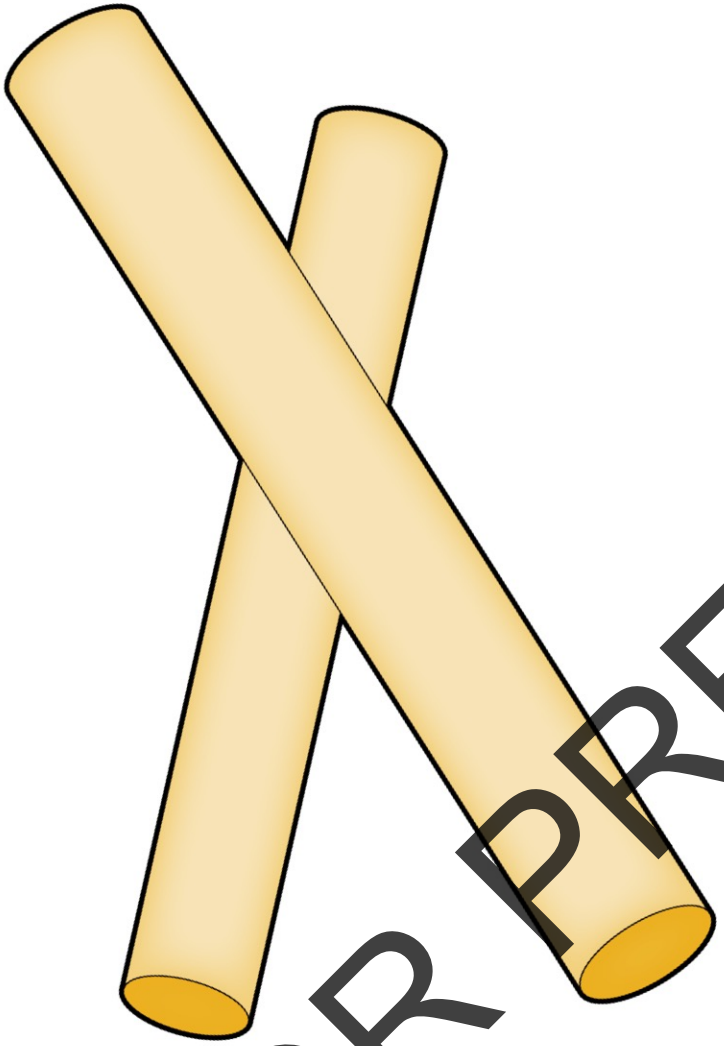


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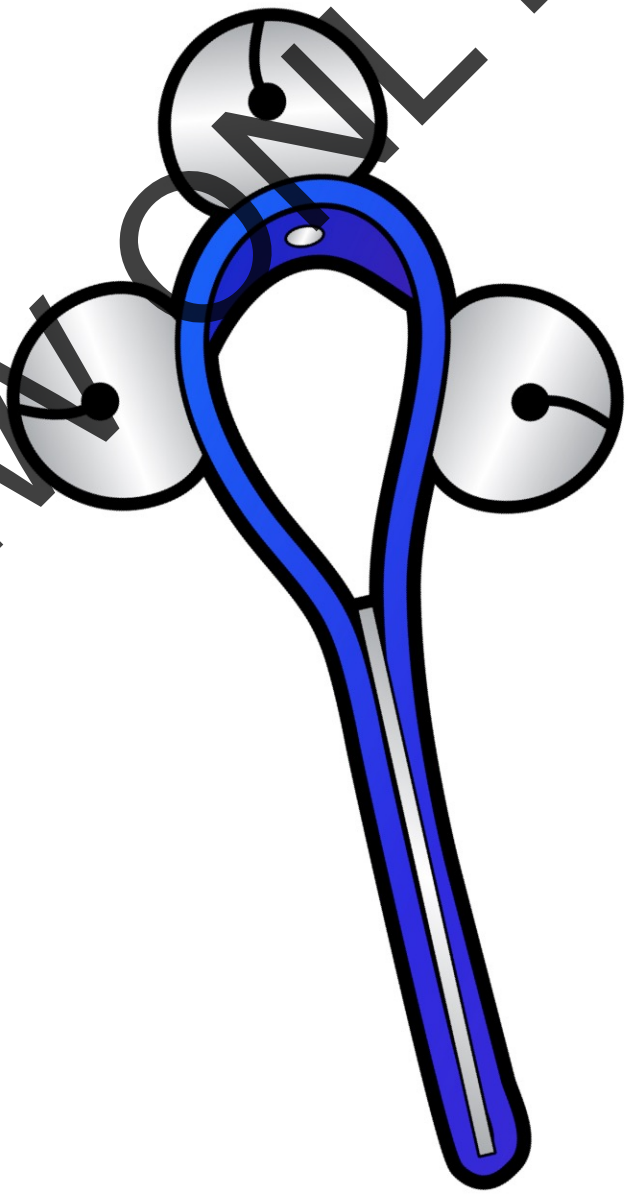


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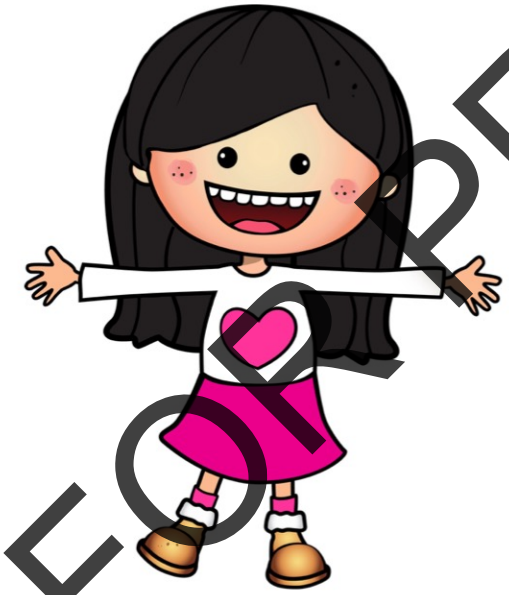
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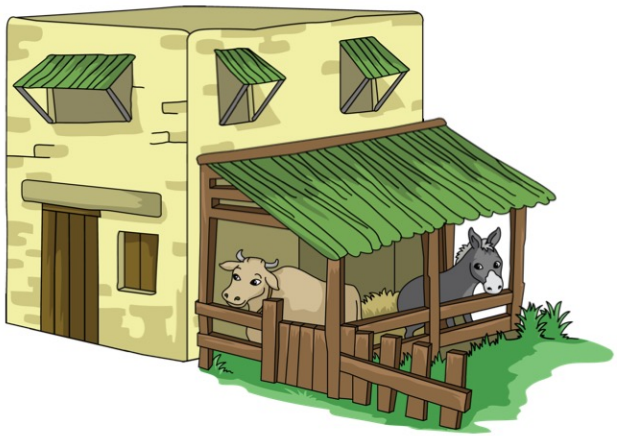
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Ooo



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Ooo



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Good



Noo

(New)



Ooo



Ooo



Ooos

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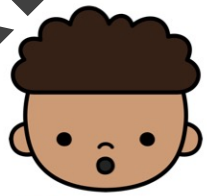


Good



Noo

(New)



Ooo



Ooo

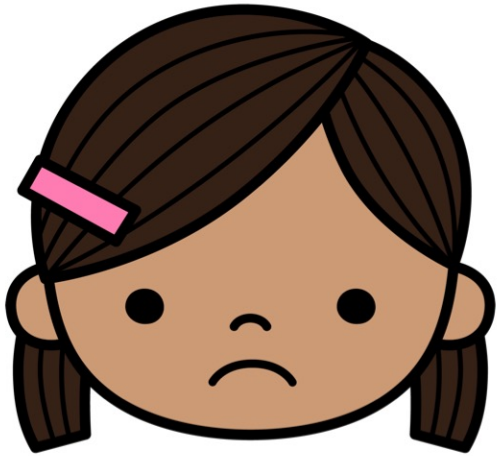


Ooos

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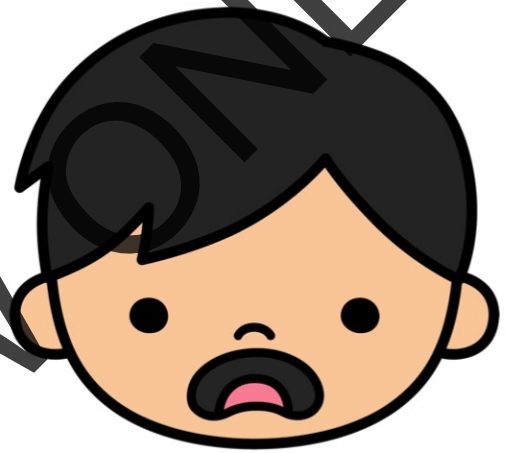
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Sad



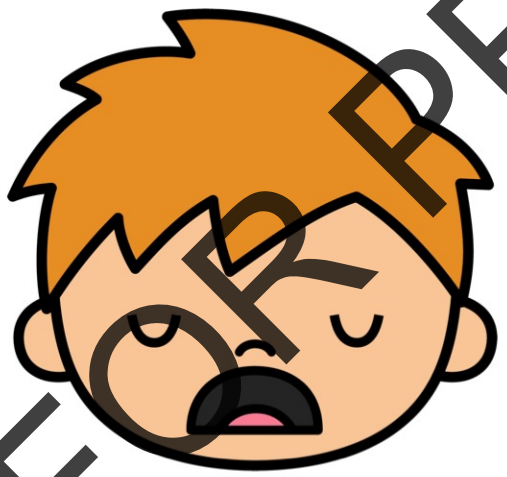
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Afraid



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Sighing



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Angry



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Surprised



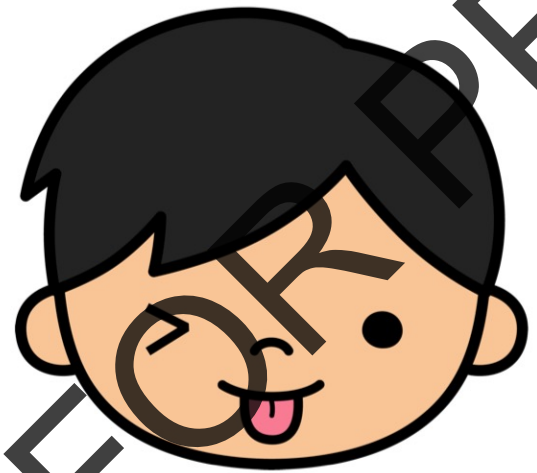
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Confident



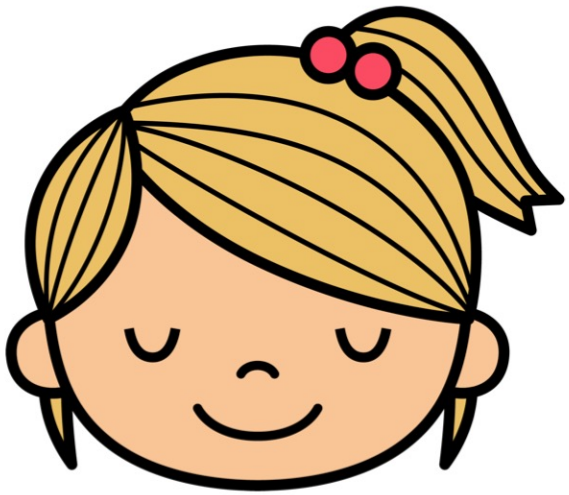
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Playful



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Calm



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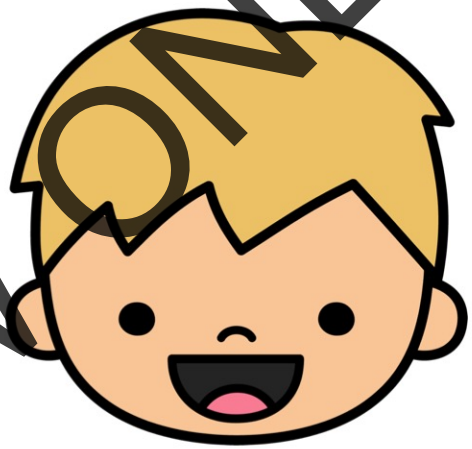
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Yummy



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Happy



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Loving/Nice



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Nervous



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Star



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Manger



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Christmas Song



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Everything



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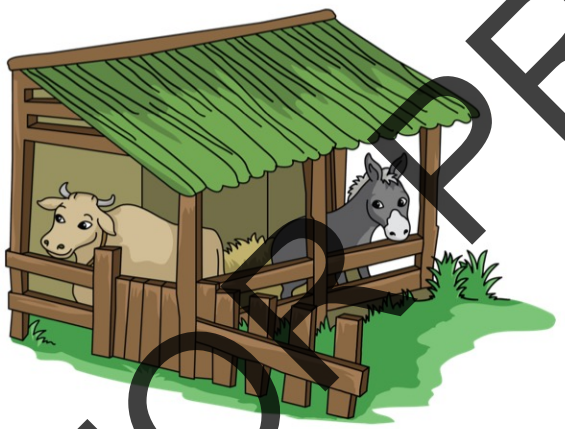
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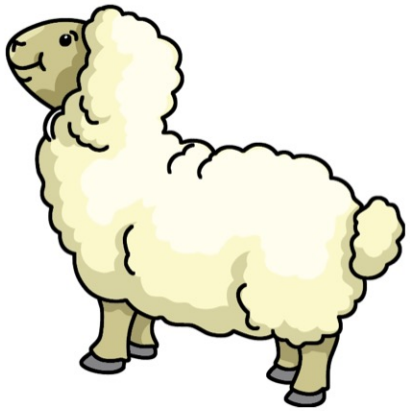


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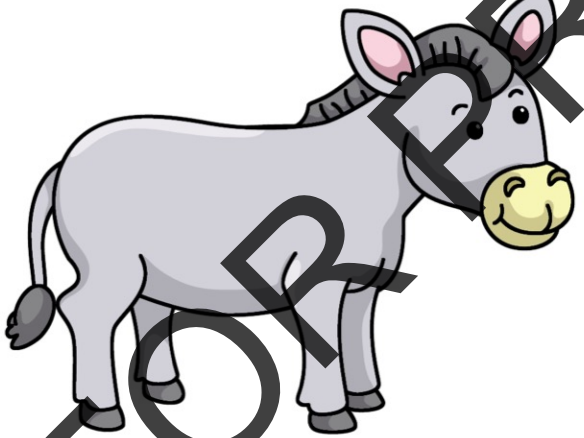
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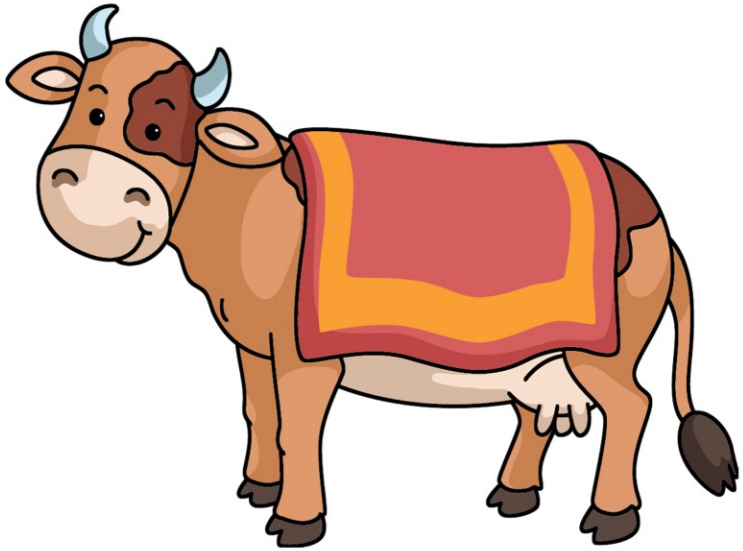
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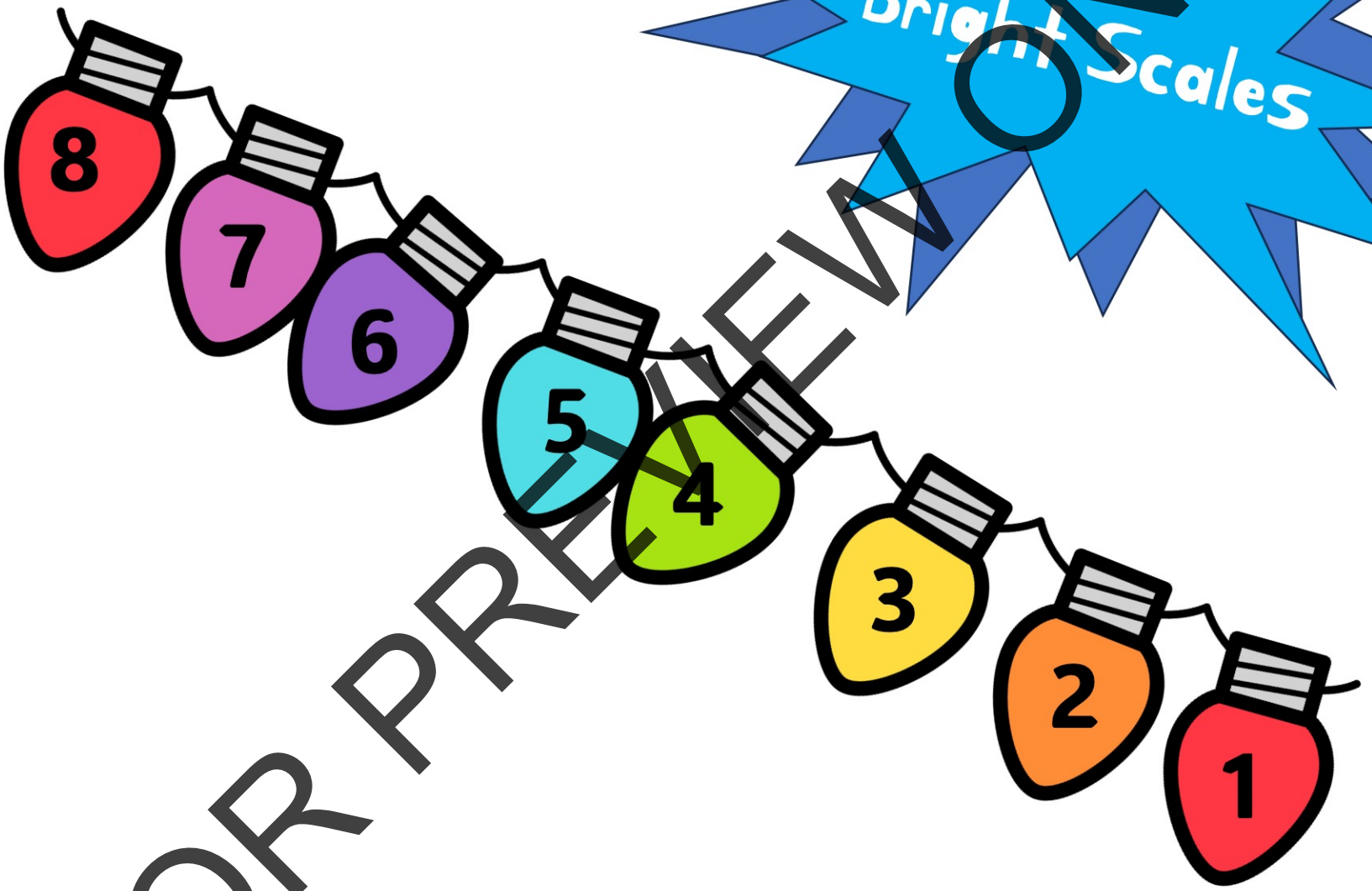
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Bright Scales



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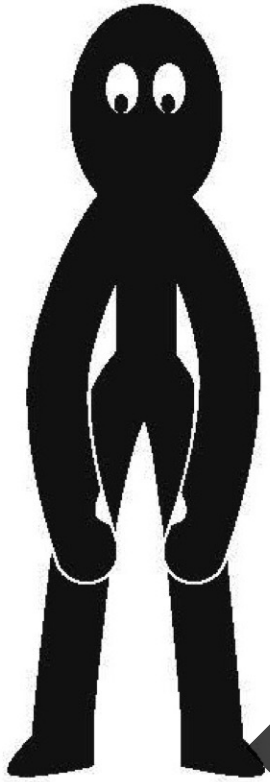
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Bright Scales

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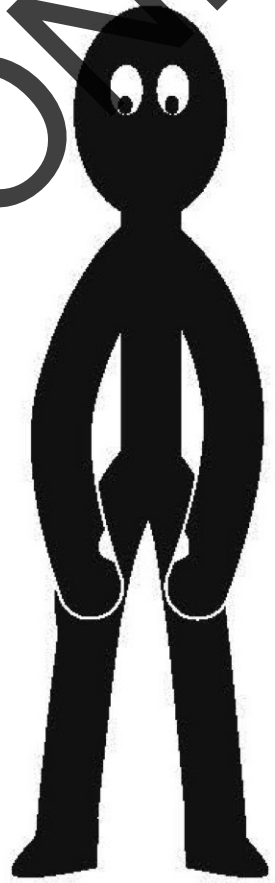
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low *do*

1

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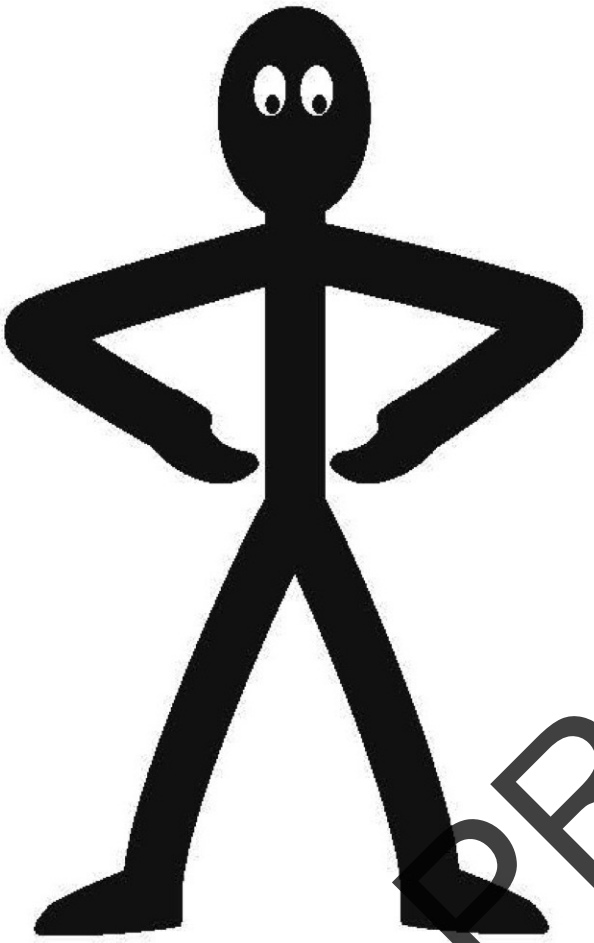


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2

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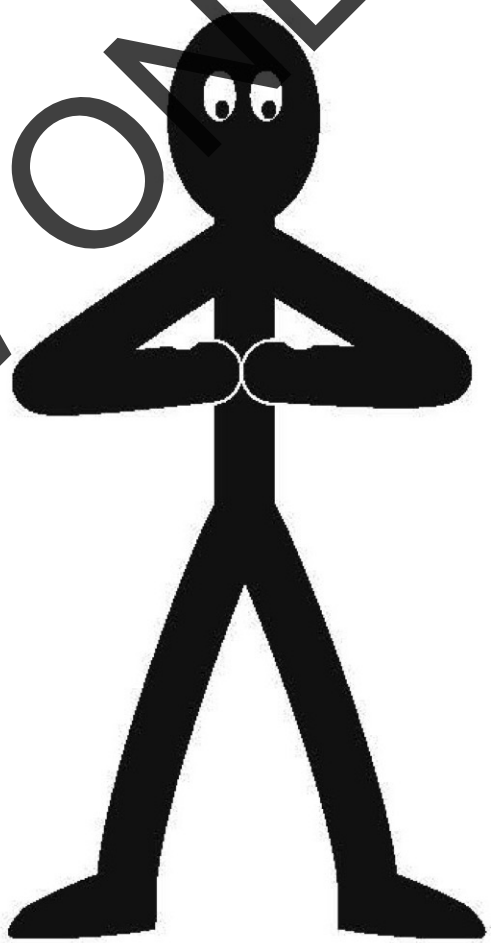
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3

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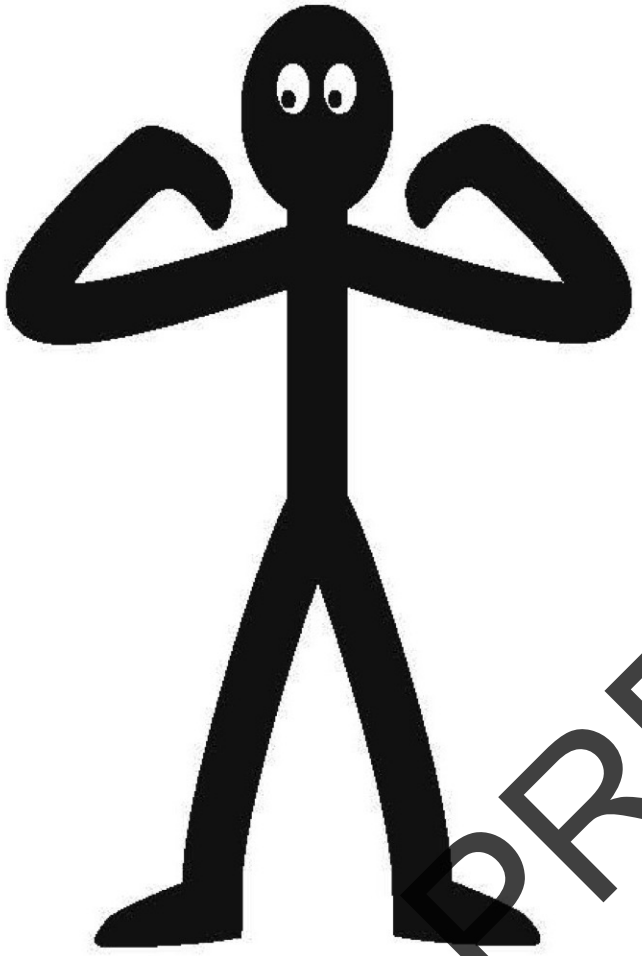


fa

4

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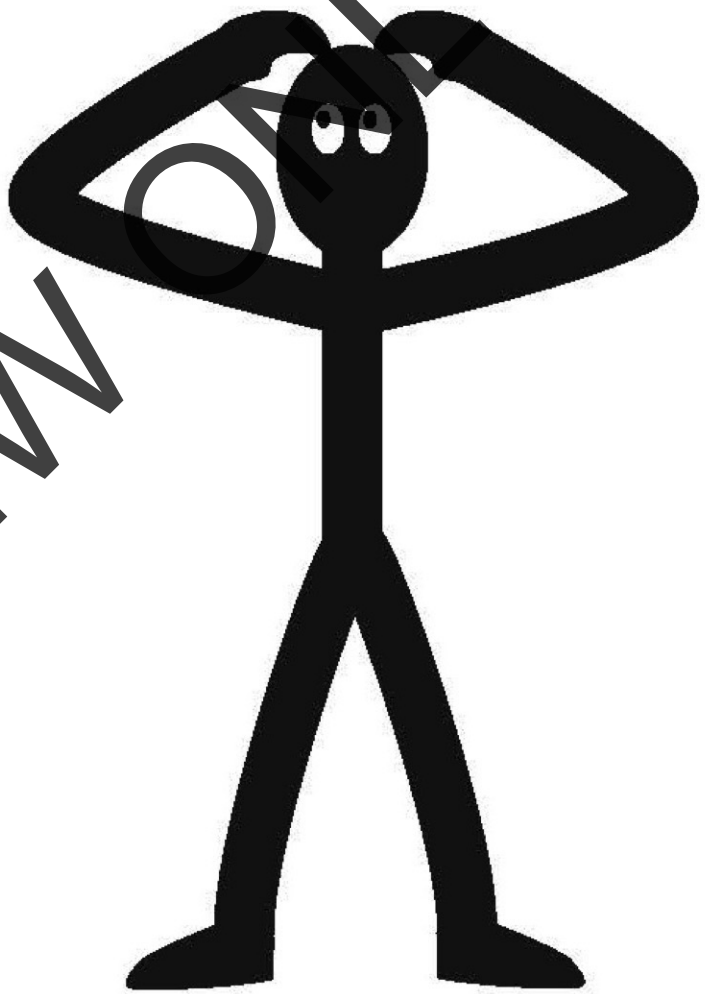
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5

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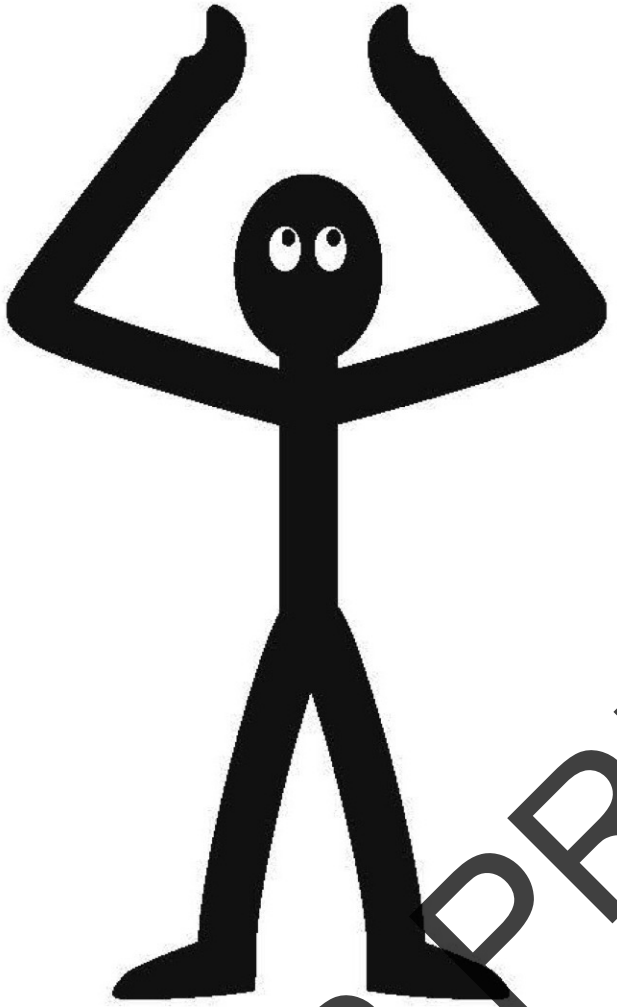


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6

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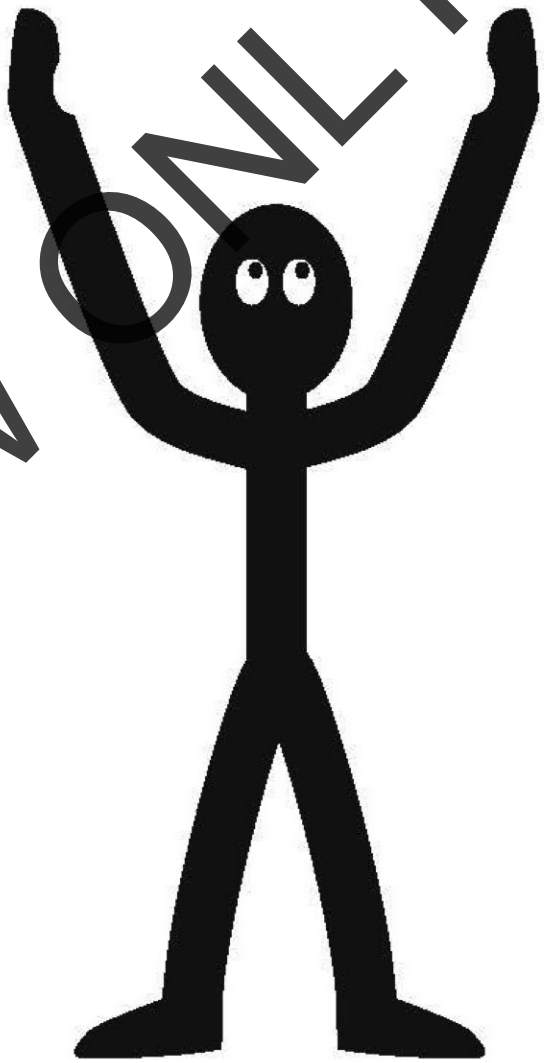
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ti

7

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high *do*

8

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worksheets Section



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Manger Worksheet

Color the manger and Baby Jesus.



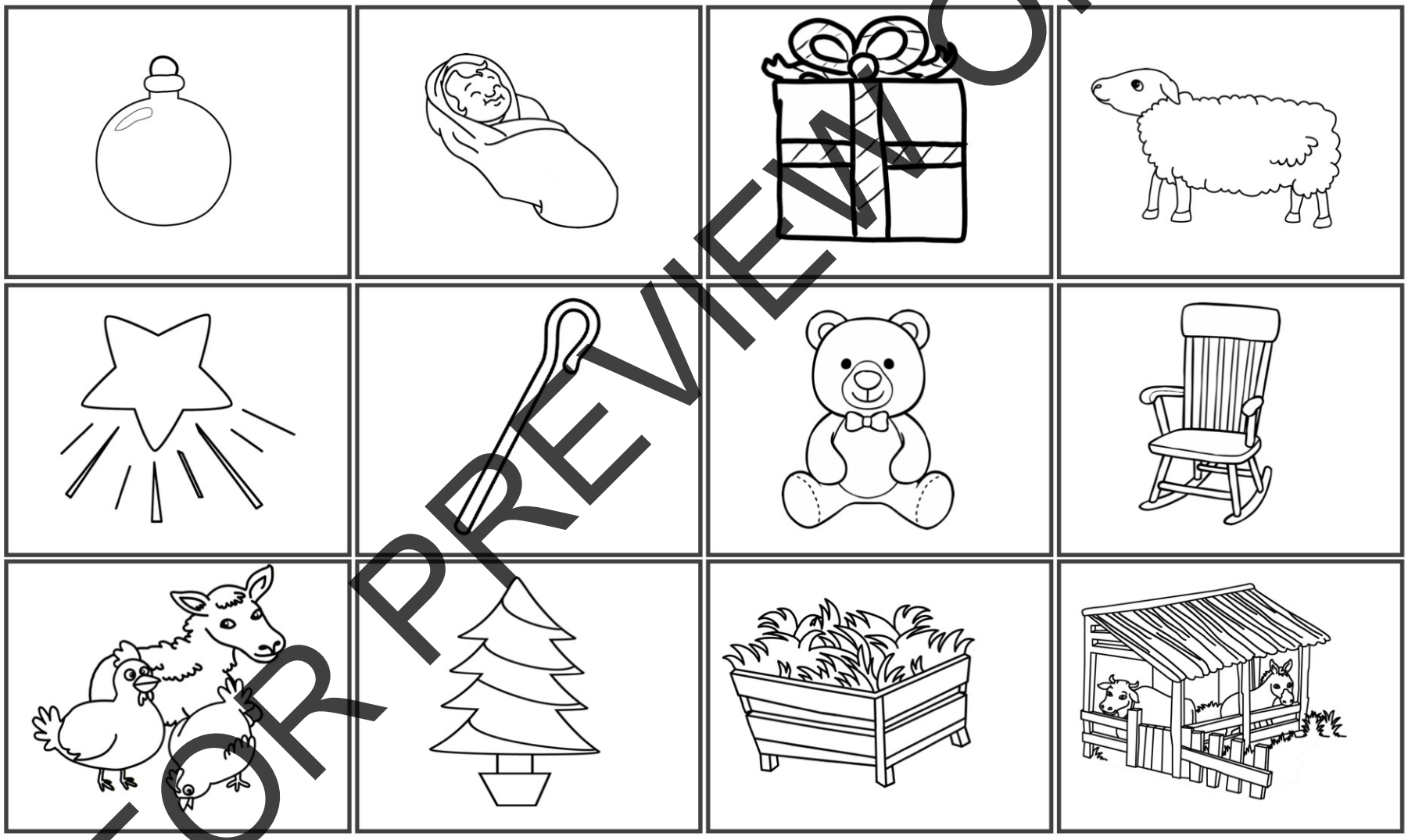
For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. John 3:16a

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What Goes in the Nativity?

Color the pictures that go in the Nativity.



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I want to tell you GOOD NEWS!

JESUS is born!!

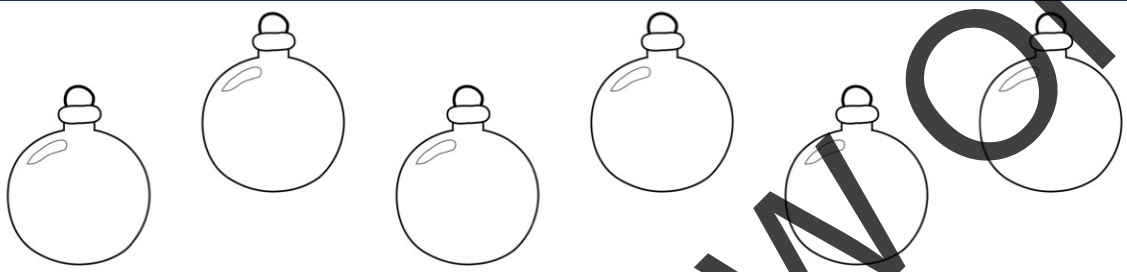
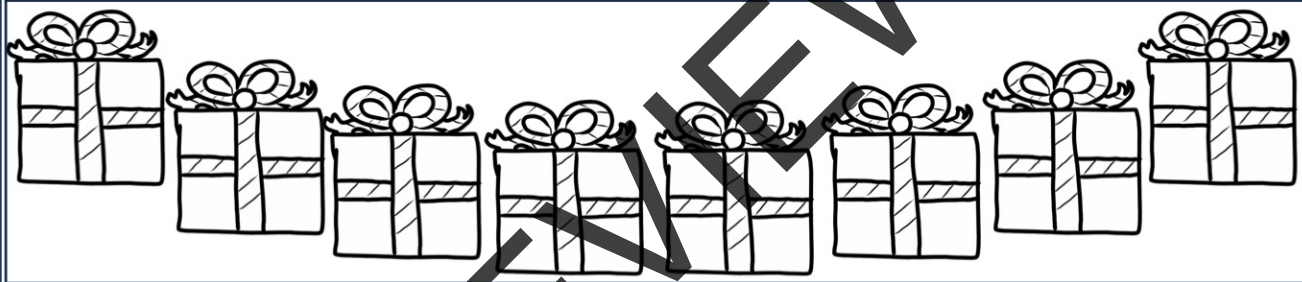
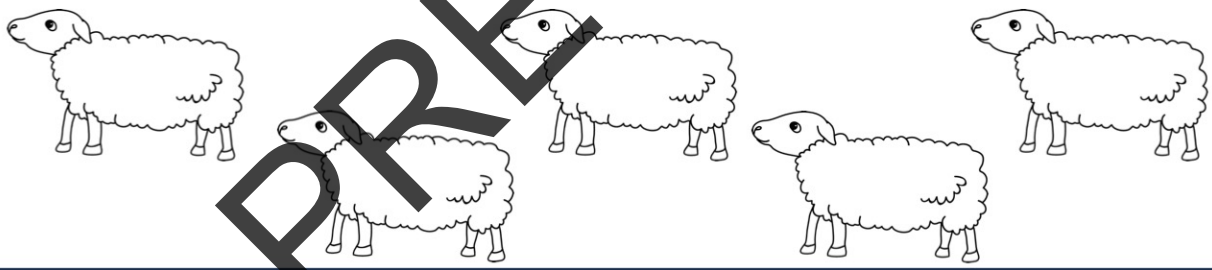
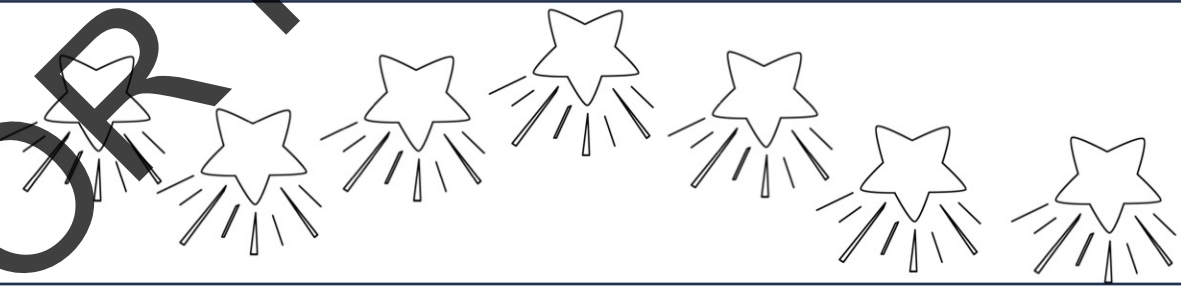


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Which is More?

Circle the number that is more.

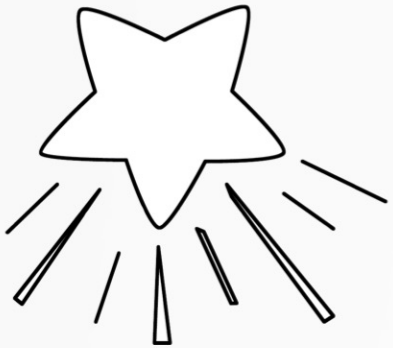
2		6
8		3
1		5
4		7

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Jesus Is My Everything

Color the manger and Baby Jesus.









For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. John 3:16a

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