

## REFLECTION (Accompanying scripture: Luke 2:8-14)

Begin this time of reflection by creating a calm and quiet atmosphere. You might want to light the third candle on your Advent wreath and/or play some gentle Christmas music. After reading the scripture, draw the children's attention to the pink candle that we light during Advent's third week. This is different to the purple candles that we light in weeks one, two, and four. Pink is a colour that represents joy and it is added to the wreath to let us know that we are getting closer to the joyful event of Jesus' birth.

Ask the children if they are feeling more joyful as we move closer to Christmas day! This is hopefully not just because of the gifts they're looking forward to receiving but also because at Christmas we may have visitors that make us feel happy. It is good news when we hear that much loved family members and friends are coming to share Christmas with us. Ask the children who they are looking forward to seeing this Christmas and why.

In the Nativity story, it is the arrival of angels that brings good news and joy. It is an angel who appears to Mary, telling Her She is going to give birth to a very special baby, God's Son. This baby will be called Jesus and He will help people understand how much God loves everyone. Who else do angels appear to? Angels appeared to the shepherds to let them know that the Son of God will soon be born, and that they are invited to visit Him. This was very good news for the shepherds. Usually nobody wanted them around as they were often dirty and smelly after having spent days in the hills looking after sheep. But God didn't mind their appearance, He loved them regardless, and the invitation from the angels helped everyone to see this.

## ACTIVITY

Explain to the children that just as the angels brought good news to Mary and the Shepherds, we too can bring good news to others. Today we are going to create a symbol of this by making Joyful Angels. The wings of these angels will be made from cut out prints of the children's hands, a reminder that through our actions we can share God's love with others. What kind of actions help us to do this?

Explain to the children that on the angels' robes they will write a prayer for someone in need. This is also a reminder that another way we share God's love is through the words we choose to use. What kind of words help us to share God's love? Recite the Mission Children Prayer to conclude this time of reflection.

For activity instructions, turn to the next page. Young children especially will need assistance.



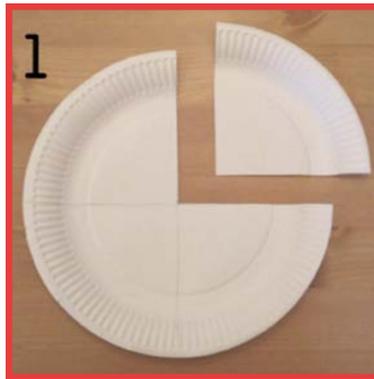
## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper plates (3 for each child)
- Scissors
- Pencils and rulers
- Sellotape or staplers
- Coloured pens
- Glitter (optional)

## ACTIVITY

### Step 1

Take a paper plate, with a ruler and pencil draw a line through the middle vertically and horizontally. Cut out a quarter of the plate. Keep this cut out section safe.



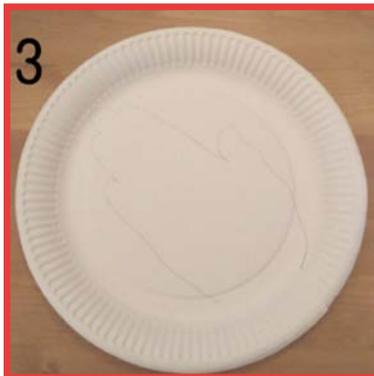
### Step 2

Invite the children to write a prayer on the plate. The prayer should be focused on how the children could share the good news of God's love with others. Trim the cut out quarter by removing the frilled edge of the paper plate. Save for later.



### Step 3

Ask the children to help one another draw the outline of their right and left hand on two additional paper plates or coloured card.



### Step 4

Cut out the hand outlines, leaving a section near the wrist to attach the hands/wings onto the angel.



### Step 5

Take the plate and twist it into a cone shape, with the prayer visible on the outside. Secure with staples or Sellotape. Then take the saved quarter section and after drawing an angel's face onto this, attach to the top of the cone. You should now have a wingless angel!

Lastly, secure the hand shapes onto the back of the angel's body, again using staples or tape. The children could decorate their angel with coloured pens and glitter, but be careful as too much moisture makes the paper plate sag.

