

I am so glad that you are here. I hope this scavenger hunt will be a joyful and engaging way for you to share the story of Christ's birth with young children. Make sure to have fun yourself, too!

Warmly,  
*Anna Chua*



I am a pastor's wife, homeschooling mama of three, and a certified Spiritual director. I hold multiple degrees in music – of which I have spent over ten years teaching – as well as a Master's degree in Spiritual Formation from Asbury Theological Seminary.

It is my joy to provide biblically-sound resources and reflections for your family, your community, and your church. You can find more at [flourishingoakspress.com](http://flourishingoakspress.com) or on Instagram [@flourishingoakspress](https://www.instagram.com/flourishingoakspress).

Glory to God!



# Follow the Star

## SCAVENGER HUNT

This is a scavenger hunt that takes you through the Nativity Story as read in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and ends with a surprise birthday party for Jesus. The stations are as follows:

- The Annunciation
- Journey to Bethlehem
- No Room at the Inn - *Post this station on a door for added impact.*
- Jesus is Born!
- Shepherds Heard the News - *Optional supplies: cottonballs.*
- Wise Men Followed the Star - *Make this station sign removable for activity*
- Happy Birthday, Jesus! - *Keep this station a surprise until the end! Optional supplies: birthday cake!*

Each station includes a Scripture reading as well as guidance for participation and engagement with the story narrative and Scripture reading. After reading and discussion/activity at each station, travel together to the next station until finally ending at a Birthday party for Jesus.

You will find images to print and post around your space as the “stations” as well as both a corresponding Scavenger Hunt Guide to refer to as you lead and Supplemental Scriptures in case you want the Scriptures printed out - rather than reading from your physical Bible text.

I hope this blesses you, your families, and your friends this season.

Warmly,  
Anna

## SCAVENGER HUNT GUIDE



### **God sent Mary good news:**

Read Luke 1:26-33

Invite children to give a special announcement like the angel and repeat the words of Gabriel: “Do not be afraid!”

Travel to the next station (Bethlehem) creatively: walking like donkeys, acting tired from a journey, etc...

### **Mary and Joseph traveled a long way:**

Read Luke 2:1-5

Ask “What did they do after they arrived in Bethlehem? Where did they go to have baby Jesus?” Explain how they searched for a room to stay, but there were none available due to the census.

Keep traveling to the “INN” sign.



### **There was no room in the inn:**



No reading.

**Say this:** *What did the innkeeper say? He said there was no room - the place was full as many people had traveled to Bethlehem. The innkeeper told Mary and Joseph that there was no room except only a humble stable where he kept his animals.*

Invite the children to repeat “SORRY! NO ROOM!” and travel to the next station: the manger!

### **Jesus was born in humble surroundings:**



Read Luke 2:6-7

Ask: What might it have been like in a stable? What might you see in a stable? (*Animals, hay, flies, a dark night sky outside*). What might you hear in a stable? (*Animal sounds, maybe baby Jesus crying*). What might you smell in a stable? (*Animals, manure*). What might you feel there? (*A chilly dirt floor, hay, maybe breeze*).

\*Point out how Jesus was born in humble surroundings.\*



## **Shepherds were the first to hear the joyful announcement:**

Read Luke 2:8-20

Scatter cotton balls at this station in advance to be the “sheep”. After the reading, invite the children to “gather” their sheep quickly and act afraid when you announce: “Good news!” If you don’t have cotton balls on hand, just pretend!

Discuss how the shepherds were the first to hear this joyful announcement.

**Ask:** *Who visited Jesus after the shepherds?* (The Wisemen). *How did they find Jesus?* (They followed a star)! Travel to the next station.



## **Wise Men follow the star**

Read Matthew 2:1-12

Discuss the gifts that the Magi brought: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. Gold would have been like gifting someone money. Frankincense is something very fragrant and beautiful. and Myrrh would have had healing properties.

\*Remove this station sign. Walk around the room slowly holding the star and invite the children to act like kings and queens and follow the star. Lead the children in this way to the final station.\*

## **Happy Birthday, Jesus!**



**Say this:** SURPRISE! *Christmas really is about celebrating Jesus' actual birthday. Jesus - our Emmanuel - was born a baby in order to be with us and to save us from our sins, from death, and from any wicked power in this world. God sent us His Son because He loves us so much. That really is good news... how sweet it is to be loved by God.*

Sing the *Happy Birthday Song* to Jesus.

You can make this station as elaborate or simple as you would like. The simple cut-out posted at this station is plenty to suffice alongside the *Happy Birthday Song* to Jesus. Invite the children to “blow” out the candles on the image.

Alternatively, you could also place a decorated birthday cake waiting at this station as a fun surprise to celebrate the sweetness of the season.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS



### Luke 1:26-33

*“God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. Her name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*



### Luke 2:1-5

*“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”*



**No reading.**



### Read Luke 2:6-7

*“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS CONT.



### Luke 2:8-20

*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”*

### Matthew 2:1-12



*“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

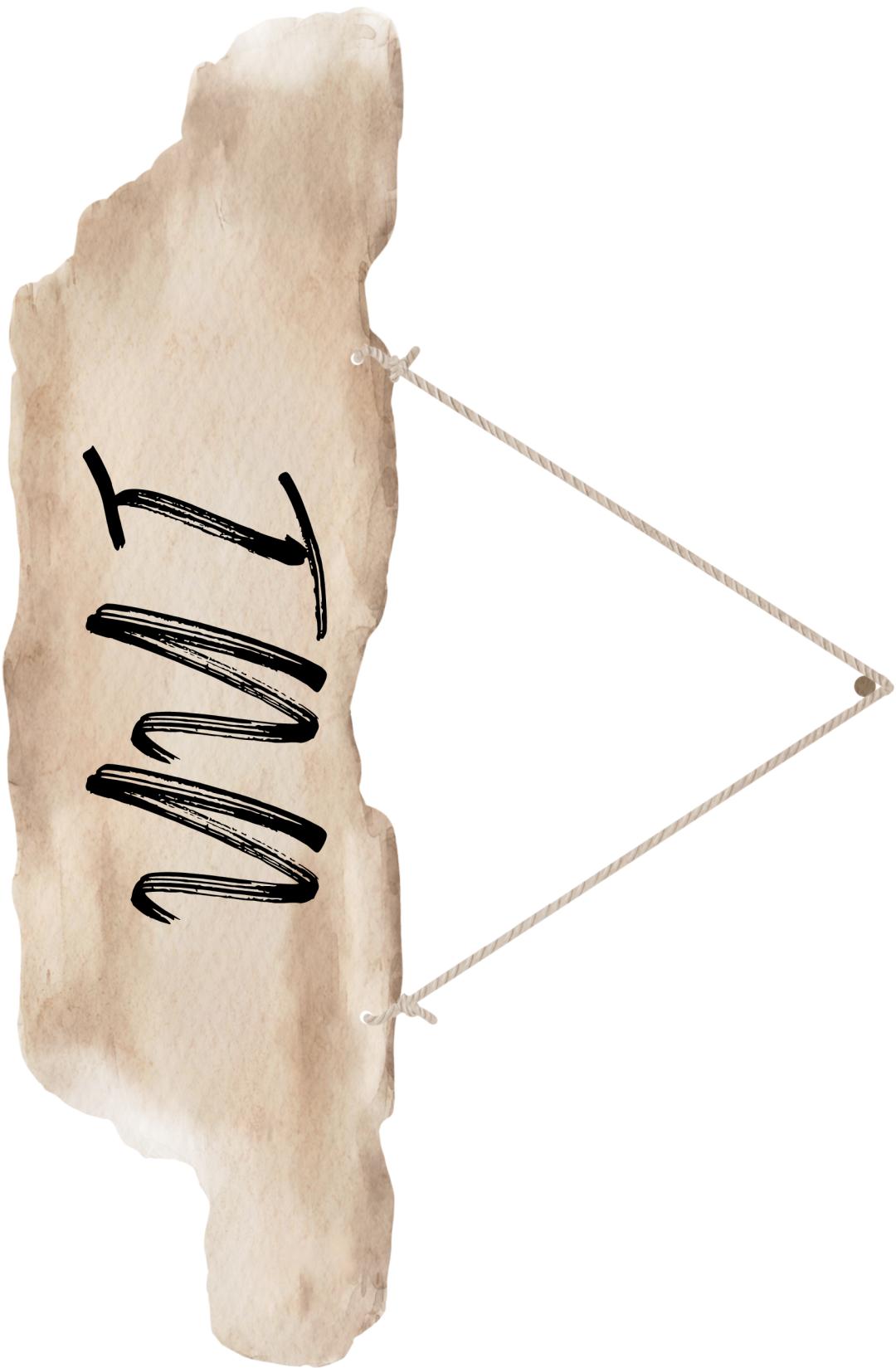
*When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:*

*“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”<sup>11</sup>*

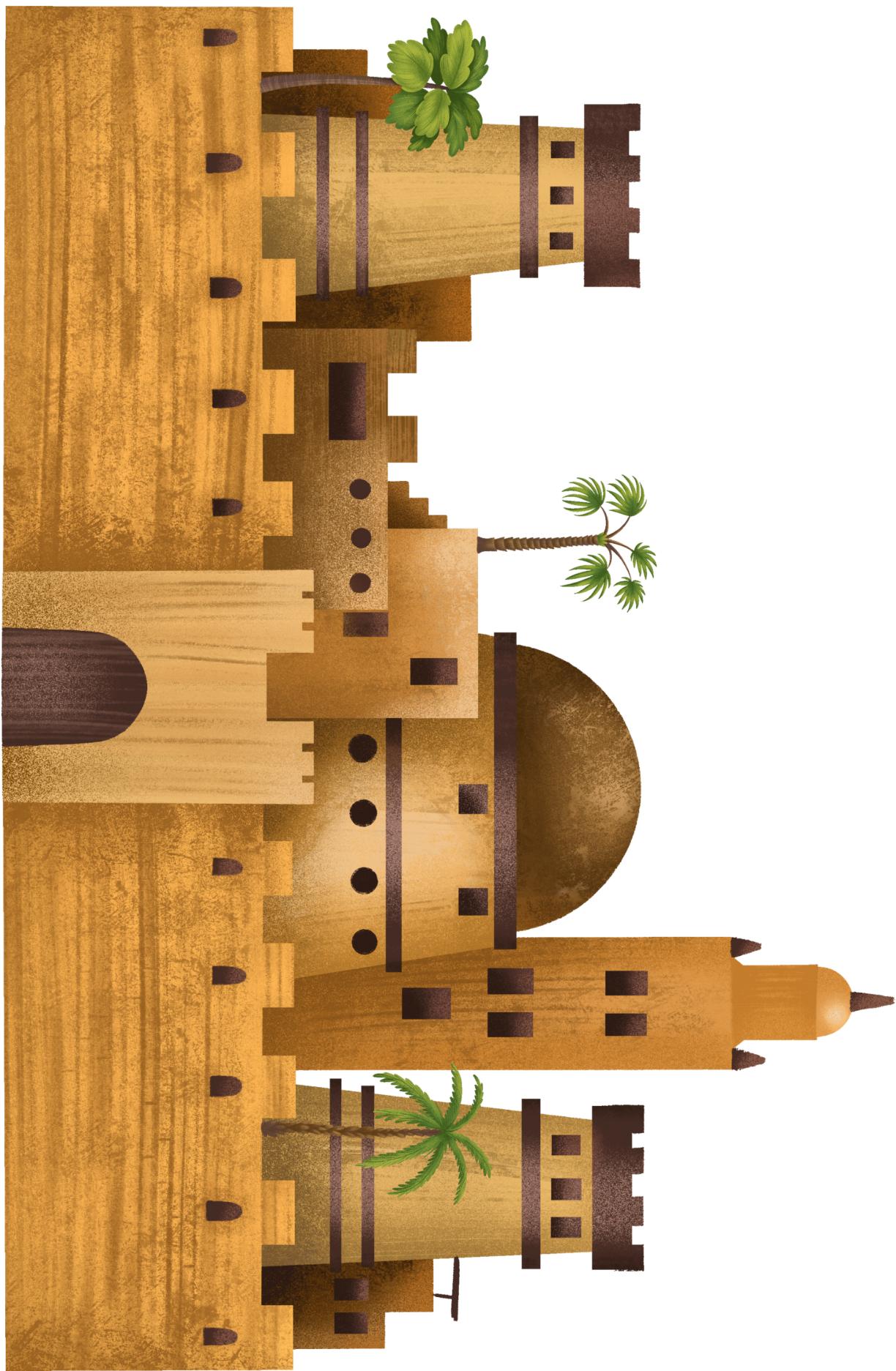
*Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”*

*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”*

PRINT AND  
POST THE FOLLOWING  
IMAGES AROUND YOUR  
SPACE AS MARKERS OF  
EACH STATION IN THE  
HUNT.

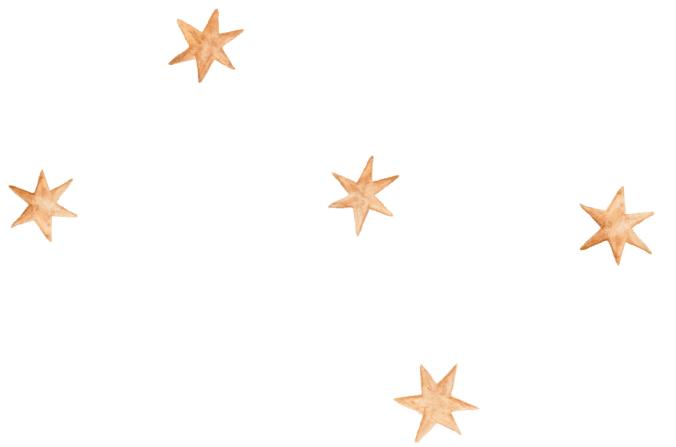














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