



Christmas and Advent Ideas 2016

Hi! Well here we are again on the cusp of the busiest time of the year! If you are rooting around for some new ideas and a little bit of inspiration, we hope that what we have gathered together here is of some help. Just in case no one tells you, we at the Children's' Ministry Network really do know how much creative energy and hard work is required to help children engage with the amazing reality of Emmanuel, God with us, and we want to thank you! It may seem like an awful lot of glitter, tinsel, glue, doilies and party food, but be encouraged...you really are sowing seeds which, if the time is not yet, will bear fruit!

Since the run up to the first Christmas was a time of extra busy-ness for the angels, we've made them our theme this year. You'll find some angelic crafts, a song, some games and a prayer for you to consider.

*And we pray that, in all **your** busy-ness with family, friends, work, church and children, that you enjoy the journey of Advent and are able to find time to reflect on the gift the angels heralded, Jesus, in your own life.*

Big art banner

The joy of this idea is that you can add to it week by week, facilitating children who are absent one week or not involved for example in nativity practices etc. Children can of course make more than one angel. It would also serve as a back drop to a nativity play, or as decoration in your church on Christmas day.

You will need

A long strip of wallpaper
Paints (blue/black, green)
White/yellow paper
Paper doilies
Glitter/tinsel etc

Prepare the wallpaper before hand so that it looks like a landscape, painting the top half dark blue or black for the night sky, and the bottom half dark green to create rolling hills. If you are feeling very artistic you can even add a small, silhouetted town scene.

Once it has dried, paint the words "Glory to God in the highest!" across the bottom.

The children are going to make the heavenly host to fill the sky.

1. Draw round hand on white/yellow paper so that middle three fingers are together and thumb and little finger stick out as if wings.
2. Cut out.
3. Stick circle of white paper at top of 'hand' to make the face.
4. Decorate to 'angelify' using glitter glue, felt pens, doily etc.
5. Stick onto dark sky.

Hand print angels

You will need

Dark background A4 paper
White ready mix paint
Pink paper circles for faces
Glitter pipe cleaner for halo
Pens, googly eyes, wool for hair etc



1. Cover palm of hand with white paint and use to print three hand shapes on the dark paper so that there is a middle 'body' and a 'wing' either side of it.
2. Take pipe cleaner and make a loop in it and place it on the paper so that it sits just above where the face will be.
3. Give each child a circle to make into the face. Add features using felt tip pens, or stick on googly eyes and wool hair.
4. Stick ready face just above the hand print, over the pipe cleaner to secure it in place.
5. Sprinkle with glitter to add an extra bit of Christmas sparkle!

Cone Angel

You will need

One template (see next sheet) per child photocopied onto thin card
 Half a paper doily per child
 Colouring pens
 Glitter pens/glitter glue
 Tinsel or other decorating items



1. Give one template per child and have them colour in any parts they want to.
2. Cut out.
3. If you want, decorate the bottom edge with sequins or glitter glue and allow to dry. Similarly decorate the doily.
4. Fold cone round and either stick using the 'GLUE HERE' tab or secure with tape.
5. Glue half a doily to the back of the cone.
6. Glue the head to the top of the cone, with the small paper circle behind it.
7. Glue the arms to the sides of the cone.

An action song to the tune of 'Frere Jacques' ..easy to learn and slot into a nativity presentation.

I see angels. I see angels.	(point to the sky)
Don't be scared! Don't be scared!	(shake finger as if to say 'no!')
Listen to the good news! Listen to the good news!	(cup left hand to ear)
That they bring. That they bring.	(cup right hand to ear)
I see angels. I see angels.	(point to the sky)
They say GO! They say GO!	(point to the distance)
Find the baby Jesus. Find the baby Jesus.	(rock a baby)
He's the king. He's the king.	(place crown on head)
I see angels. I see angels.	(point to the sky)
Celebrate! Celebrate!	(thumbs up)
Glory in the highest! Glory in the highest!	(wave hands up high)
Worship him! Worship him!	(hold hands open in worship)

Angel dress-up relay

A silly game..but lots of fun!

You will need dressing up items, for example:

A pair of wellies,
A tu-tu
Some wings
A woolly hat
A scarf
A bible
A piece of tinsel (to wrap around somewhere)
A musical instrument

You will need one item per team member.

Divide the children into teams and put each team's dressing up items in a pile at the far end of the room.

Each team selects one member to be the one they dress up . (even better if you have enough leaders to assign one to each team to be the happy soul who gets dressed up!)

When you shout GO..one team member at a time runs to the pile of clothes, selects one thing, brings it back and puts it on the 'model'. The winning team is the first to dress their 'model' in the full gear.

This is quite fun as it is but you could also link each item to a fact about angels. For example:

Wellies – they go anywhere

Wings - some of them have them

Musical instrument - they praise God with songs (remember the heavenly host)

A Bible – they are messengers of God's word

And so on.

Enjoy!

Angel Dice Game



Something quieter.

You will need a copy of the Angel Dice sheet (see next sheet below) per child and a di per group.

Taking it in turns, the children roll the dice and colour one shape on their angel which has that number in. They continue taking it in turns to roll the di and colour one shape until the whole angel is filled.

Prayer Tree

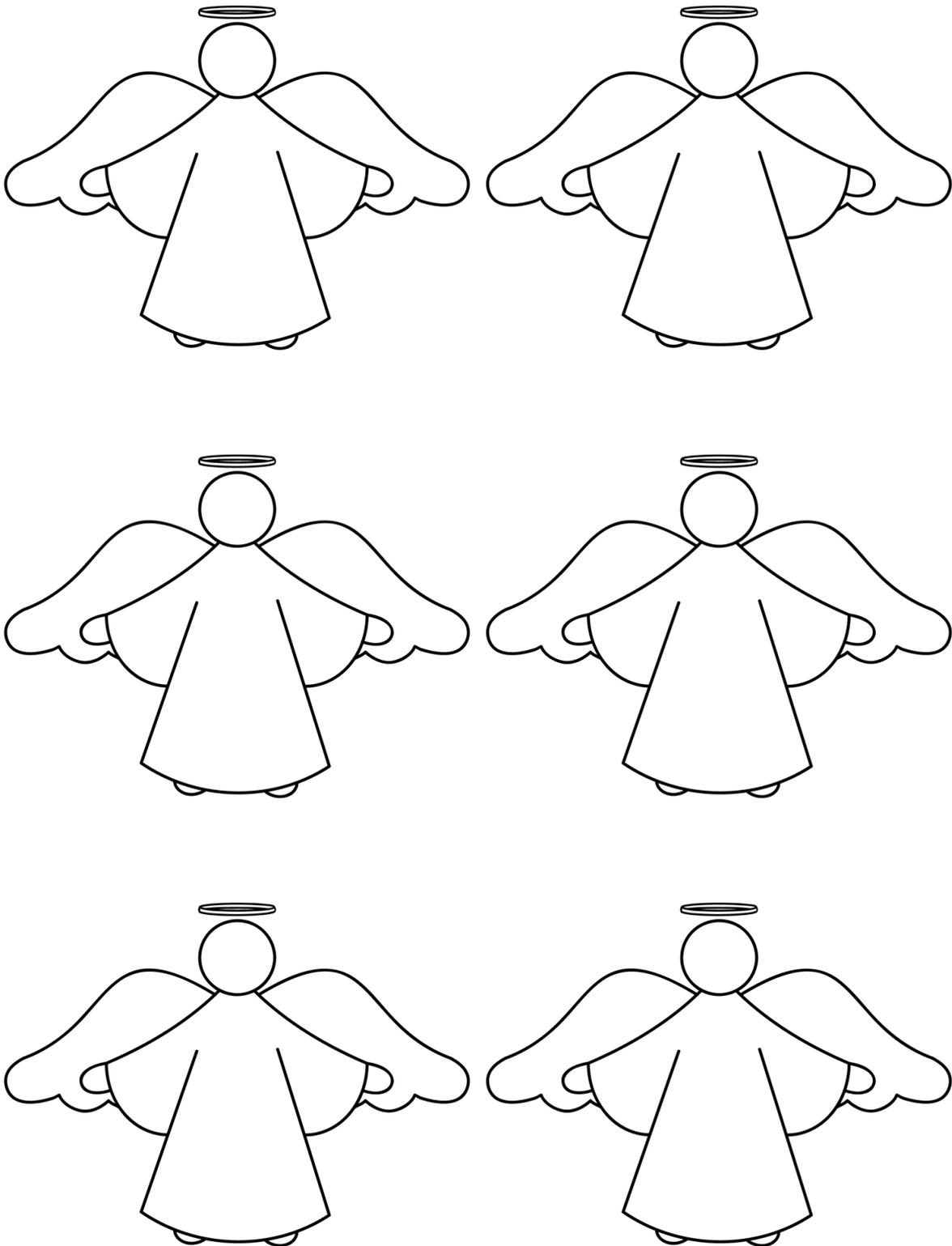
You will need to prepare a 'tree' for this. Put a medium sized twiggy branch in some oasis in a pot so that it is secure and stable. You can tightly wrap tin foil around the branch and its twigs to make it more festive if you want.

You will also need one angel shape per child, with a hole in the top and string thread through it to make a hanger.

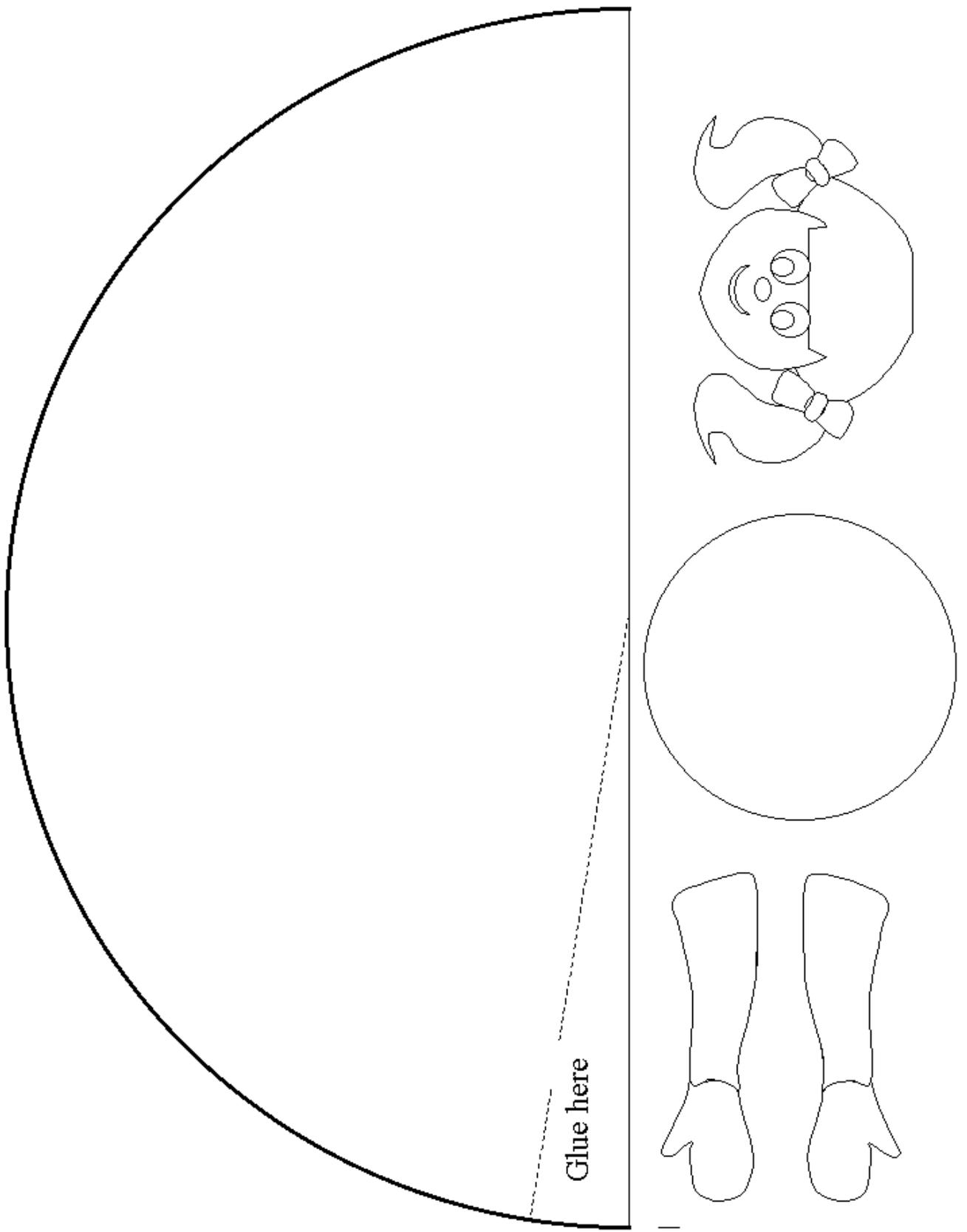
Remind the children that the angels sang "peace on earth , goodwill to everyone". Ask them if there is really peace on earth, everywhere? They may be able to tell you examples where there is not . God wants there to be peace, His peace, in our homes, our schools, between friends, in our families and all around the world.

Give each child an angel shape you have pre cut out. (see template below) and invite them to write a prayer on it, or draw a picture of someone/somewhere you want to ask God to bring his peace too.

Bring all the children together once they have done this and invite them one at a time to quietly hang their angel on the tree. Tell them that bringing their angel up like this is a way of bringing their prayer to God. Say a short prayer capturing all their thoughts to close.



Cone angel template



Angel Dice game sheet

