

Activity: **Make Your Own Manger**
Discussion: **Jesus is Born**
Scripture: **Luke 2:8-18**

Make Your Own Manger

YOU WILL NEED: Sturdy plates, Graham Crackers, frosting containers, plastic forks and knives (you won't need one for each student), a variety of candy and sprinkles and food colorings, etc. Please help the students when mixing the food coloring with the frosting.

SAY: Today we're going to celebrate Jesus' birth! But we don't have a lot of time, so we might have to HURRY. On the count of three, everyone touch all four walls in the room as fast as you can without tripping or falling or running anyone down and have a seat in the circle. 1-2-3-Go!

SAY: You were in a hurry to get to your chairs and I want you to listen to a story about another group who was in a hurry to get somewhere too.

Read Luke 2:8-18 from your Bible.
(Be sure to mark this in advance.)

Ask the students—**Who was in a hurry?** (The shepherds)

Ask the students—**Why do you think they were in a hurry?** (They had heard that the Savior was born.)

Ask the students—**Who told them about Jesus?** (The angels.)

Ask the students—**Where did the angel tell the shepherds they would find Jesus?**
(Lying in a manger.)

Ask the students—**What was a manger?** (In a stable the manger is where food for the animals was put. It was like a trough. The animals stayed in the stable while the people stayed in the Inn.)

Ask the students—**Why were Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus staying in a stable?** (They had traveled from their home in Nazareth for a census [a count of the people] and lots of others were traveling too. The Inn was full and there was no room for them.)

SAY: This is where the shepherds found the Baby Jesus. Wrapped in clothes and lying in the animals' food trough with animals all around. Picture it in your mind. There would have been donkeys and camels and horses and dogs. Mary and Joseph were there and here came the shepherds.

SAY: Now here's your challenge. I want you to make a manger scene using Graham Crackers, frosting and candy. You can build the stable if you want. You can build the

manger. You can chew out the shapes of animals. You can lay several crackers down flat and use the frosting to paint the manger scene. There are lots of way to do it, and we're doing it not only to have fun, but to celebrate that Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world.

Control Tool

Leader: *What's Christmas all about?* / Students: *It's all about Jesus!*

Make Manger Scenes

Be sure to use sturdy plates as the base for these Graham Cracker Manger scenes. The students will take their scene home at the end of class. This is also a lengthy craft, so give them plenty of time and have fun with them. Then allow several warnings before you have them put everything away and help clean up.