

## LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

God has just done something special. On Christmas Day we celebrated it. God sent his special Son, Jesus, into the world for us. He came to Bethlehem one dark night while the world was sleeping. Suddenly bright light exploded in the sky. The angels came pouring down out of heaven and the sleepy shepherds, sitting on a hillside, just outside of town, were amazed.

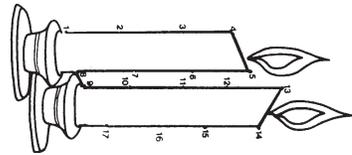
Jesus is still amazing people after all these years. The world is still a dark place. Satan is still trying to get people to do dark and evil things. But God says, "Look! I'm sending light into the darkness." Jesus is like a bright light that cuts right through the darkness. Satan's evil tries to cover Jesus, but the light from God keeps chasing back the darkness. God wants everybody to decide if we want to live in the darkness or the light. If we live in the light we can be part of Jesus' family.

John 1:1-18

A7

**ANSWERS**

DARKNESS — The day of Jesus' birth.  
 SHEPHERDS — The Evil One who is God's enemy.  
 SATAN — The town where Jesus was born.  
 ANGELS — The opposite of light.  
 CHRISTMAS — They were out on the hillside with their sheep.  
 LIGHT — The brought a special message to the shepherds.  
 BETHLEHEM — Jesus' heavenly father.  
 GOD — The opposite of darkness.



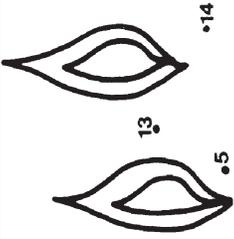
# Gospel Grams

## SUNDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

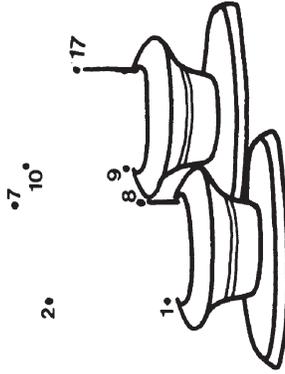


**Draw A Picture.** What is Jesus like?

Today's Gospel tells us one special way we can think of Jesus. You can draw a picture of something that gives us a clue. We usually see some of these in church on Sunday, and sometimes in our homes at Christmas-time. Connect all the numbers to complete the picture.



- 5
- 12
- 15
- 4
- 6
- 11
- 3
- 16



- 7
- 10

**Matching Words.** Today's Gospel story tells about the light that came from God to brighten our dark world. Below are some phrases from today's Gospel story. Can you match them with the words to which each one belongs? The first one is done.

- DARKNESS
  - SHEPHERDS
  - SATAN
  - ANGELS
  - CHRISTMAS
  - LIGHT
  - BETHEHEM
  - GOD
- The day of Jesus' birth.
  - The Evil One who is God's enemy.
  - The town where Jesus was born.
  - The opposite of light.
  - They were out on the hillside with their sheep.
  - The brought a special message to the shepherds.
  - Jesus' heavenly father.
  - The opposite of darkness.

**Make a Square.** Play this fun game with a friend. Each of you takes turns connecting two lines together. When your line completes a square, you win that square. When you win a square, either write your initial in it or color it your color. Then you get another turn! The one with the most squares wins!

