

Home Again (I wrote this story)

Last week, we heard about the wicked King Herod and how he tried to trick the wise men into telling him where baby Jesus was. But that didn't work did it? No, because God warned Joseph in a dream that he should get up, take Mary and baby Jesus and escape to Egypt.

And that is exactly what Joseph did. Early in the morning, they arose, packed their things and escaped to Egypt.

When the wicked king's men arrived in Bethlehem, Jesus and his family were far, far away.

And that is exactly where they stayed until one day; God spoke to Joseph again and told him that it was safe to return home again. He

told Joseph that the wicked King Herod had died.

What a happy day that was, they were
GOING HOME.

Although Joseph knew that King Herod was dead, one piece of news troubled him. A new king now sat on the throne and it was King Herod's very own son. He was reported to be even crueler than King Herod himself. Perhaps he, too, was looking for Jesus. So instead of going to Bethlehem to live, as they had planned, they went to Nazareth.

That is why Jesus is sometimes referred to as Jesus the Nazareth in the Bible.
It was because He lived in Nazareth.

Can't you just imagine how excited Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus were? They had

been away from all the people they knew for
solo a long time.

There were no newspapers in those days, no
telephones, no internet, not even a postman
to deliver a letter. They didn't know what
had happened since they had left.

I imagine that at each rest stop they came to,
Joseph would ask the people questions.
Questions like "What is the price of corn in
Jerusalem?", "What are carpenters being
paid these days?", "What have the Romans
been doing lately?" I sure he had many,
many questions.

Why do you suppose Joseph would ask the
question "What are carpenters being paid
these days."? Because he was a carpenter!
Not just any carpenter, the Bible says that he
was a very skilled carpenter. He could
probably take an old rough, ugly piece of

wood and make something very, very nice with it.

I'm sure that Joseph planned to open a new carpenter's shop just as soon as he arrived in Nazareth. He wanted to see how much money they made, so that he would know for sure that he had a way to provide for his family.

The Bible does not tell us very much about Joseph. But it does tell us that he was a "Good Man." When we see how well he took care of Mary and Baby Jesus, we can tell he was a good man can't we?

Not only do we know that Joseph was a carpenter, we also learn from the Bible that Jesus was a carpenter. Until the age of about 30 years old, Jesus worked as a carpenter. And just who do you think taught Jesus to be a carpenter? I imagine that Joseph did. You see although Joseph was not Jesus' real father, he took care of Jesus and loved Him

as if he were his very own son. So, I am sure that he and Jesus had many, many fun times in the carpenter shop together.

Can't you just see Joseph and little Jesus working on a project together?

Joseph was probably a kind and patient man.

He probably taught Jesus how to use a hammer-- tap, tap, tap. And he probably taught Him how to use a saw – scritch, scratch, scritch, scratch. And Jesus was probably a good helper for Joseph.

Those were probably some very precious memories for both Joseph and little Jesus.

They probably had many, many conversations over the years.

In the Bible, it tells us that Jesus “Grew, and was waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him.”

What a fine boy He must have been! So strong and so healthy! With His perfect little body I am sure He could run fast and jump high. And I am sure He was a curious little guy just like most boys and girls. He saw and heard everything that went on around Him.

He missed nothing, and stored up all sorts of precious memories for use in days to come.

But, He grew not only in size, He grew in knowledge and wisdom too. That means that He was very, very smart. I am sure He learned from the people around. And, Mary and Joseph probably taught Him everything they knew as well.

Mary and Joseph loved Jesus very much. They took Him to church to learn about God, the same way your mommies and daddies bring you to church to learn about God.

As Jesus grew. He learned to love God as well as His family. Jesus thanked God for His family who loved and cared for Him. Jesus may have said, “I’m so glad God hears Me when I pray.”

God planned for us to have families, too. Some of us live with our mommies and daddies like Jesus did, some of us live with only our mommies, some of us live with only our daddies, some of us live with our grandparents, some of us are even adopted.

Sometimes mommies and daddies can’t take care of their children. The real mommy or daddy may have died or something tragic like that. So the children are adopted by another family that wants, and sometimes can’t have a child of their own.

Then they become the new parents for that child. Adopted means that you have a new set of parents to love and take care of you.

You know, Jesus lived with Joseph who was His earthly father but He was not Jesus' real father. God is Jesus' real father.

But Joseph took care of Jesus as if He were his very own son. He loved Him and took care of Him and treated Him as if He were his very own son! What a HAPPY family they must have been.

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Questions:

1. Who were Jesus' earthly parents? Mary and Joseph
2. What type of job did Joseph have? He was a carpenter
3. What type of tools did Joseph use? Hammer and saw
4. Where did Mary and Joseph and Jesus live? Nazareth
5. Mary was a very good mother, what type of things do you think she did for Jesus?
Made Him clothes and good food to eat
6. Joseph was a good father, what type of things do you think he taught Jesus? How
to use a hammer and saw
7. Did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to church? Yes
8. Did Jesus love God? Yes
9. Did Jesus love Mary and Joseph? Yes
10. Was Jesus a good boy? Yes
11. Do you think that Jesus thanked God for his mother and father? Yes
12. Should we always remember to thank God for our families too? Yes

“Jesus grew in
wisdom and
stature...”
Luke 2:52

**Come see baby Jesus lying in the hay.
Such a tiny baby, born on Christmas Day.
Soon He was a small boy, just as big as me.
He sawed wood for Joseph so very cheerfully.
He was growing every day, tall and strong and good.
I'll ask Him to help me grow just the way I should.**

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Instructions:

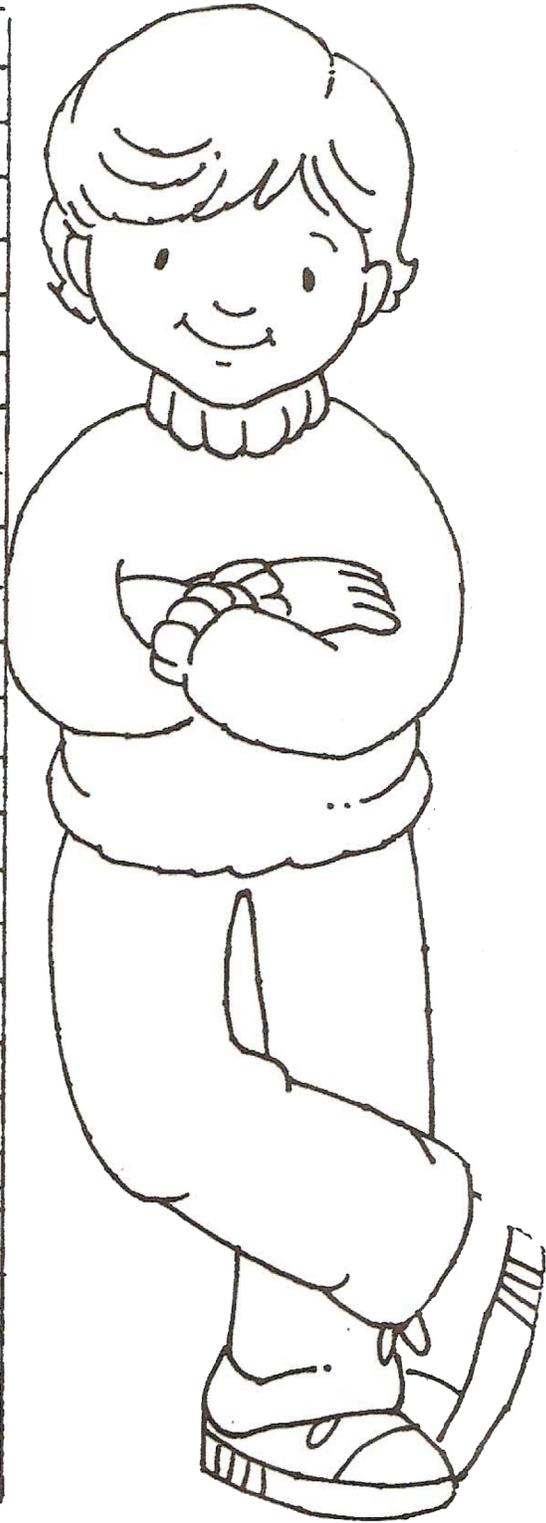
Using various colors of construction paper, run copies of the template page. Cut out and glue onto bag.

Take tape measure to class so that you can measure the children and place their height on the bag

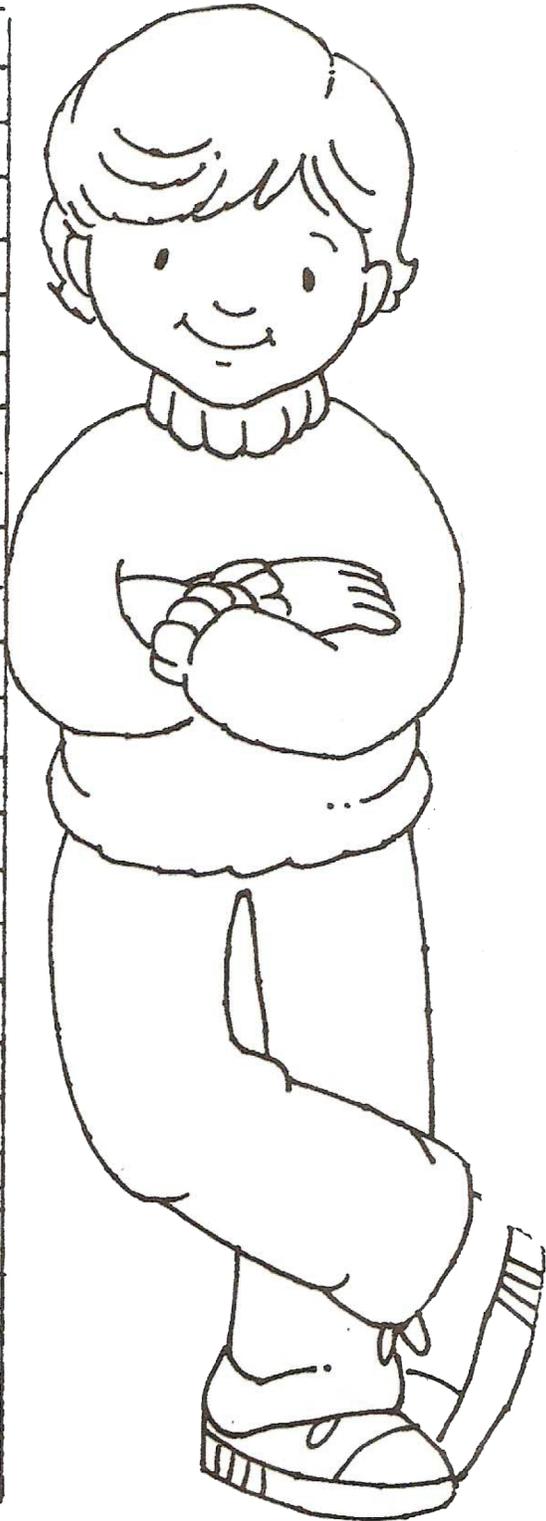
Run copies of the poem above, cut out and glue at the bottom of the bag. Or you can place it on the back with a copy of the memory verse



_____ is _____ inches tall!



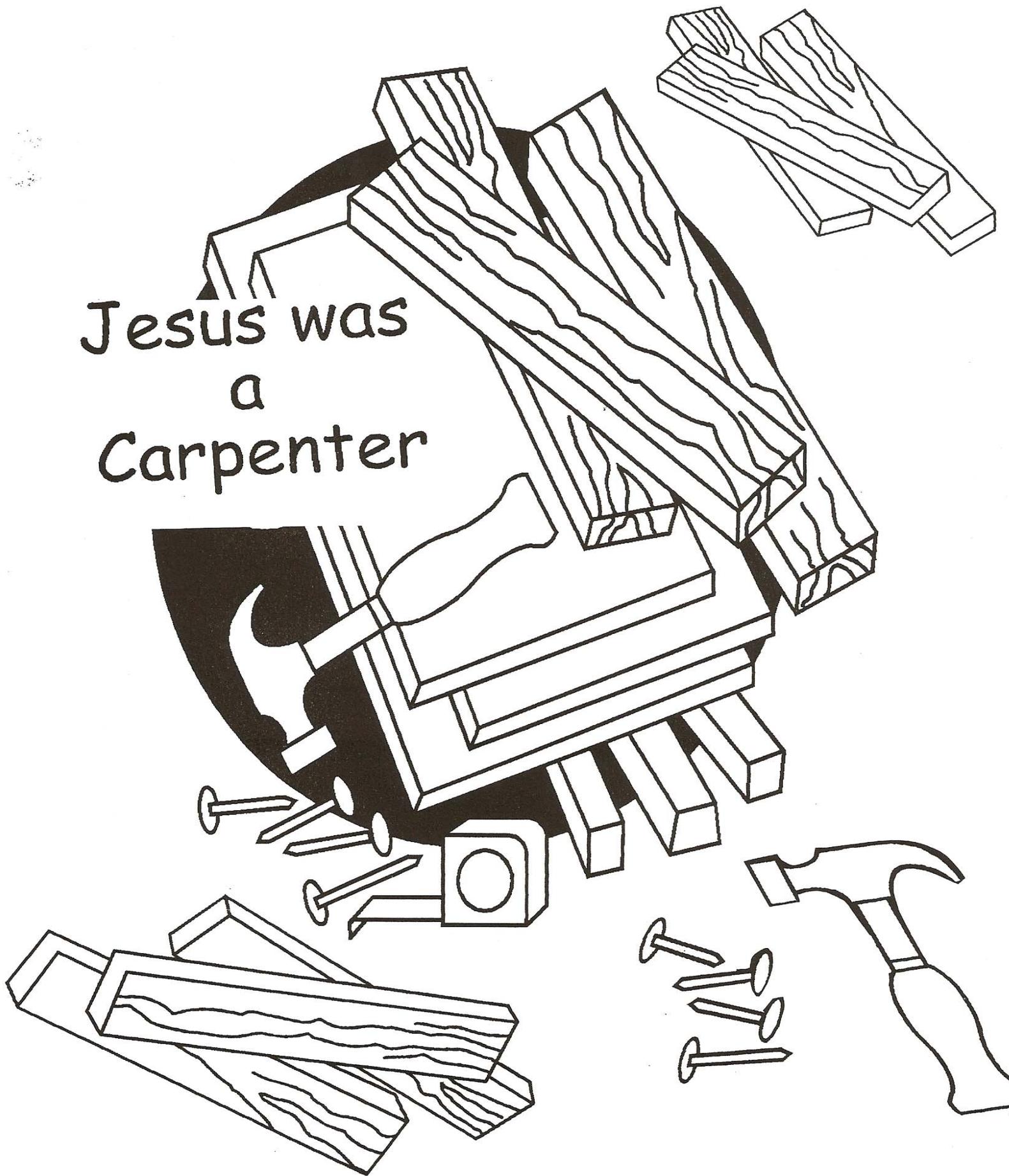
_____ is _____ inches tall!



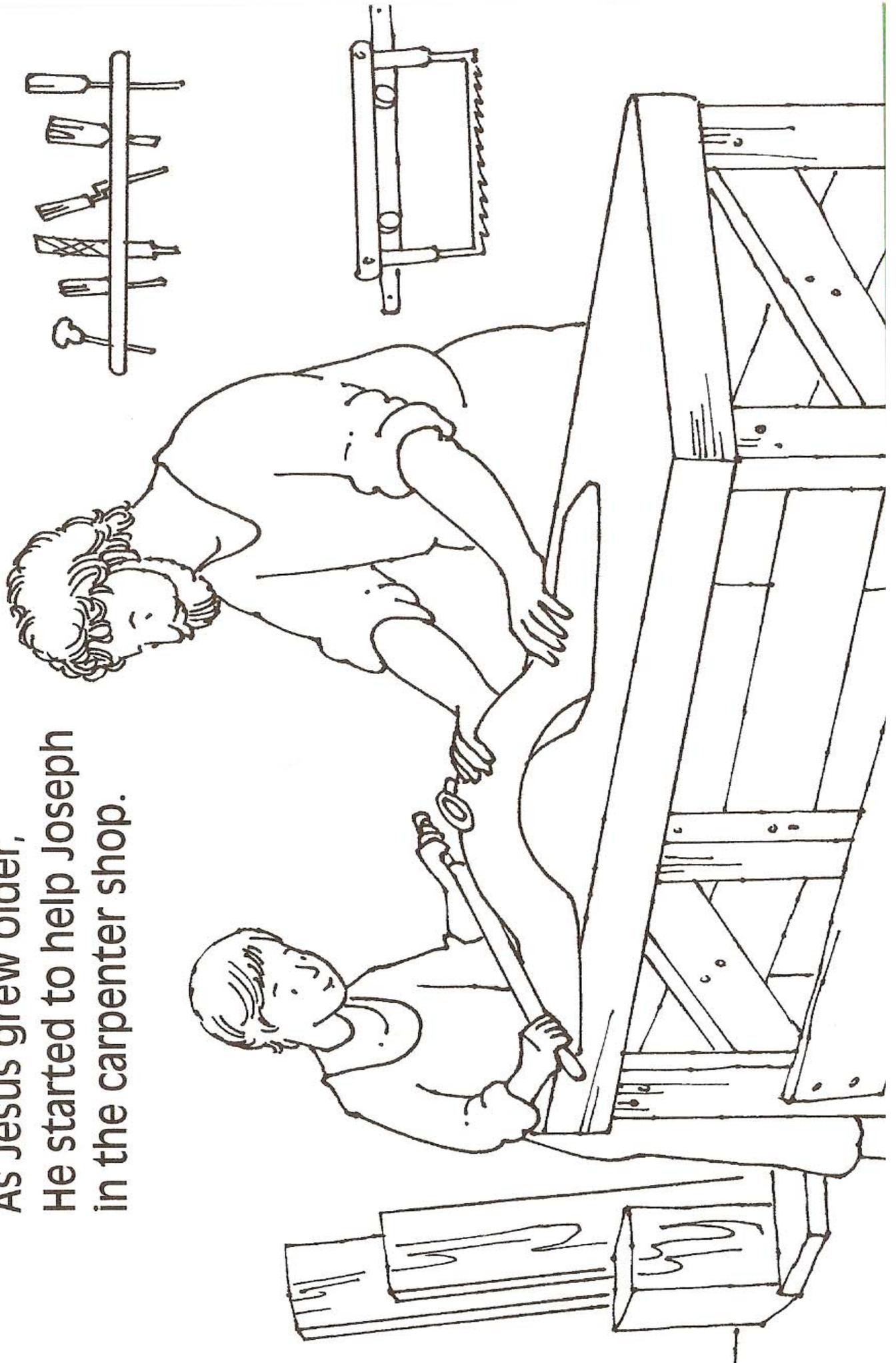
Jesus learned to make things from wood.



Jesus was
a
Carpenter



As Jesus grew older,
He started to help Joseph
in the carpenter shop.



Suggestions:

Take Lincoln Logs and let the children build houses with the Lincoln Logs

Take the little fisher price hammer and bench with the pegs that they can pound on.

Jesus was
a
Carpenter



Craft Instructions

Supply children with the following items

Craft sticks- 14 each

Construction Paper- 1 piece each

Jesus was a carpenter label- 1 each

Glue

Allow the children to use the stick and glue them into the form of a house.

Add sticker.

Jesus was
a Carpenter

Jesus was
a
carpenter

