

Cousins Hear Good News  
2 Week Lesson  
(I wrote)

In our lesson today, we are going to learn about two cousins. Their names are Mary and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was married to a man named Zacharias and Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.

Zacharias was a priest and he worked in the Temple doing all kinds of wonderful works for the Lord. He loved God *very, very* much.

In fact, he and Elizabeth were very righteous people who obeyed ALL of God's commandments.

One day, while working in the Temple, Zacharias received a visit from a very "*SPECIAL*" guest with some very "*SPECIAL*" news.

Later, Mary received a visit from the very same "*SPECIAL*" guest; and he had some wonderful news for her as well.

Zacharias visitor arrived on a day when Zacharias was performing his priestly service in the temple.

On this day Zacharias had been chosen to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

While he was inside the temple, many other people were standing outside the temple praying to God as well.

While Zacharias was inside the temple, suddenly, the room became very bright.

Zacharias was surprised but he was even more surprised when he looked up and *saw an angel of the Lord standing right there in front of him.*

Not only was Zacharias surprised; he was scared...terrified in fact.

Zacharias had never, ever seen an angel before. The Bible tells us "that fear gripped him." That means he was so scared he couldn't even move.

"Don't be afraid" the angel said. "I am Gabriel, I am a messenger from God. I have brought you great

news. You and Elizabeth are going to have a baby boy. You will name him John.”

Now Zacharias and Elizabeth were very old.

They were past the age where Elizabeth would be able to have a baby...so Zacharias began to question the angel.

“How can I know this for certain” he asked. For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years?”

And the angel answered and said to him. “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news.”

“But because you did not believe my words, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when your child is born.”

After Gabriel had finished saying these things, he disappeared as quickly as he had appeared. The room became dark again and there was no sign that anyone had ever been there.

But there was one thing that was different...it was  
Zacharias!

Zacharias was unable to speak a single solitary word.

All the people who were praying and waiting outside  
the temple were wondering what was taking  
Zacharias so long.

But when he came out, he was unable to speak to  
them. He couldn't speak one single word.

All he could do was use his hands and motions to try  
to tell them what he had seen and heard.

When the people saw Zacharias, they knew that he  
had seen an angel while inside the temple. But they  
did not know what the angel had said.

Six months later, Gabriel was sent by God to deliver  
another message.

This time the message was to be delivered to a young  
girl named Mary.

Part II

Last week, we learned about a woman named Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias.  
(Review Part I and ask a few questions)

Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph.

They lived in the city of Nazareth and just like Zacharias, she loved God *very, very* much.

On this special day, Mary was busy doing her regular chores when suddenly a bright light shown around her.

Who do you think this might be? Gabriel, that's right.

When Mary saw the angel Gabriel, she too was scared.

She had never seen an angel either.

Gabriel said to Mary: "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled by now. She didn't know what the angel was saying to her.

Why did he call her the favored one?

“Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God.”

“You are going to have a baby boy, and you will call him Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest.”

Mary still could not understand. “How can this be?” she asked. “I’m not married yet.”

The angel answered “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you.

For this reason, the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.”

You see, Jesus was not created like everyone else is.

God performed a miracle...and Jesus began to grow inside of Mary’s tummy.

“You see, Mary” the angel continued; with God NOTHING shall be impossible.”

“Even your cousin; Elizabeth who is too old to have a baby, is going to have a son.”

“That’s right”, thought Mary. “God CAN do anything!”

So, although Mary did not fully understand all that lay ahead for her, she WAS obedient to God.

She knew God’s will for her life; and she was willing to do WHATEVER God had called her to do.

Mary said, I am the servant of the Lord, let this happen to me as you say!

Then the angel went away as quickly as he had come.

When Mary told Joseph what had happened, he didn’t believe her. In fact, he was greatly troubled.

He thought that Mary had been unfaithful to him. Although he was troubled, Joseph loved Mary very much.

He knew what lay ahead for her.

The teasing, the shunning, the shame that she would have to endure.

She was an unmarried woman who was going to have a baby and that was something that they frowned upon greatly.

Joseph didn't know what to do.

But because he was a good man, and because he loved Mary so much, he decided to marry her anyway and then secretly divorce her later.

While Joseph thought of these things, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream.

The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus," because he will save his people from their sins."

"All of this will happen to bring about what the Lord had said through the prophet"

"The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do.

He took Mary as his wife.

Can you imagine how badly Mary was treated, and how scared she was?

In those days, women were considered outcasts if they became pregnant before they were married.

She knew a lot of what lay ahead of her...  
she knew that people would whisper behind her back.

She knew that a lot of the people who claimed to be her friend; would turn their backs on her.

She knew that people would make fun of her and say bad things about her; but because of her love for God, she was willing to do whatever God asked her to do.

And although the people thought badly of her...Mary must have been an incredible person.

Because she was chosen by God to give birth to His one and only son...Jesus.

## Craft Angel Chain/Hat

Prior to class: (Or if working with older children, they can make their own)  
Using the template, cut out the blue angel shape (Can use any color)  
Cut around the edges using pinking shears or design scissors  
Using 8" Gold Doilies, Cut them into fourths for the angels wings  
Using 8" White Doilies, cut them into half to form the angel gown  
Run copies of the angel face and cut out  
Run copies of the poem and cut out  
Cut a piece of gold pipe cleaner into a length of approx 8". Shape into a halo  
Cut out pieces of construction paper measuring 1" X 8" (To be used for the chain) for each child. (Use as many as you want but with the younger kids, 7 is usually plenty)

### Child's Part

Glue wings onto angel pattern  
Glue halo onto halo pattern (It is a good idea to tape the halo down as well so that it will hold long enough for the glue to dry)  
Glue face on angel  
Glue gown to angel  
Glue Angel poem to gown  
Make a 7 link paper chain. It is a good idea to write the dates on it as well so they will know that they are pulling the correct date off,  
Staple the chain to the bottom of the angel  
Pull off one link each day until Christmas Day

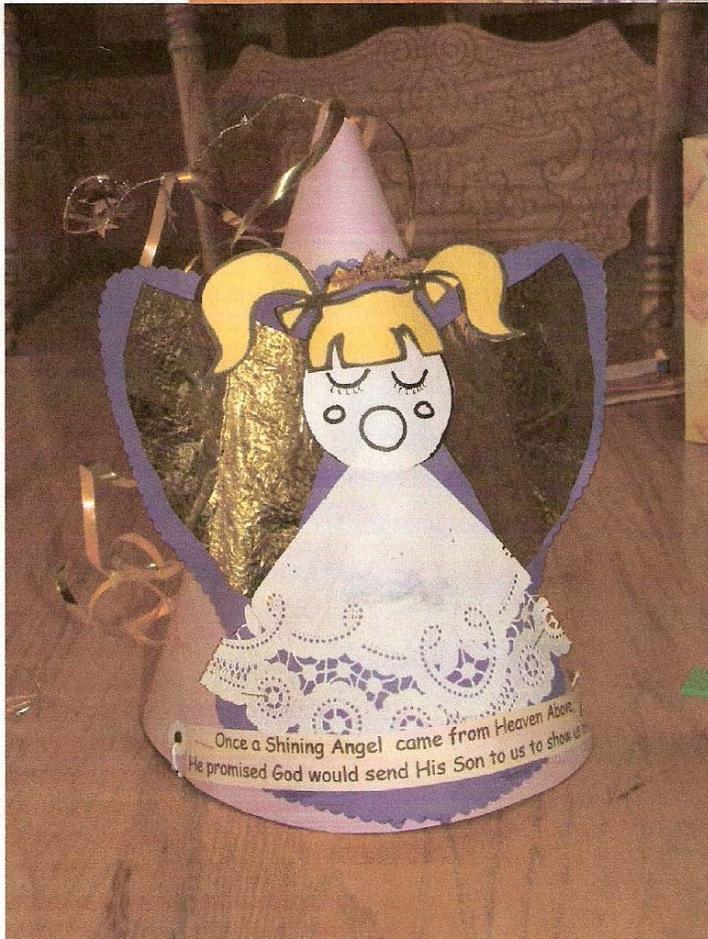
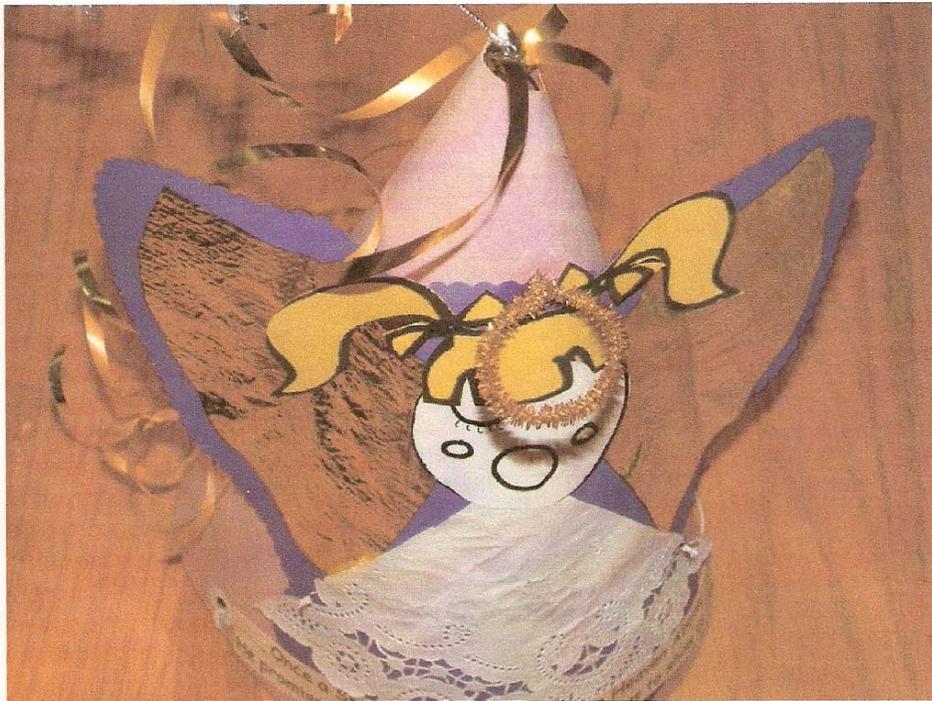
### HAT

To make the hat, simply follow the directions above. Omitting the paper chain.  
Cut a large circle (15" diameter) out of construction paper.  
Cut the circle in half (Making two half circles)  
With the round edge facing you, take the two top corners, fold down towards yourself, meeting the two corners in the center. This will make a cone shape. Staple (Tape along the seam)  
Using ribbon, tie several pieces of ribbon together with a know. Stick the ribbon (knotted edge) into the top of the hat. Pinch the top together around the ribbon and staple.

Glue the angel onto the front of the hat. Staple the bottom corners to hold it onto the hat until the glue dries.

Glue the verse onto the hat. Staple the edges so it will stay until the glue dries.

Punch a hole on both sides and reinforce with a paper reinforcement circle. Run thin elastic through the holes and tie on both sides.



**Once a Shining Angel  
Came from Heaven Above,  
He Promised God Would Send His Son  
To Us To Show Us Love.**

**Hang this Chain Near My Bed Today  
So Each Morning I can tear one piece away  
As the links are removed this way  
Soon it will be Jesus' Birthday**

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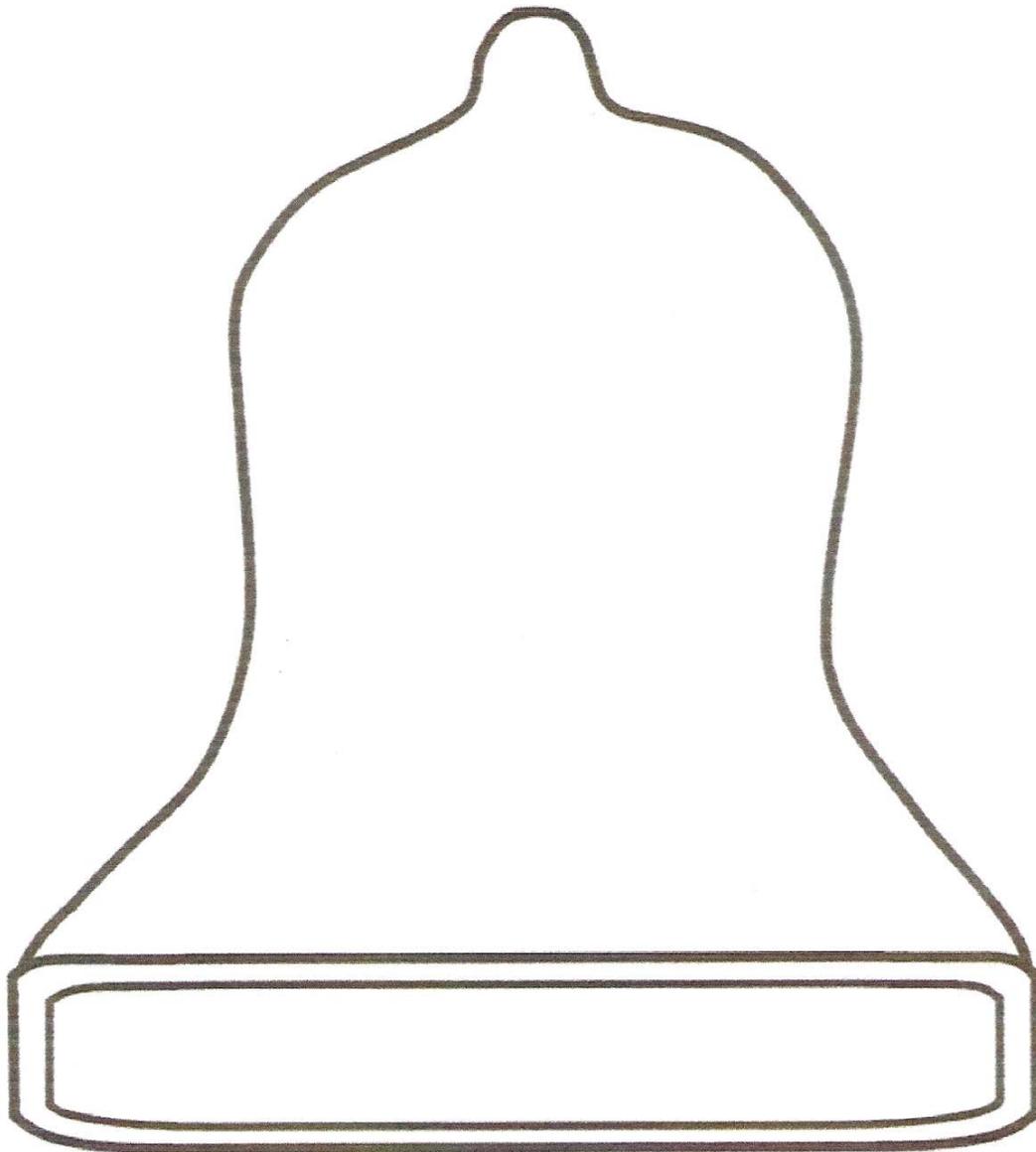
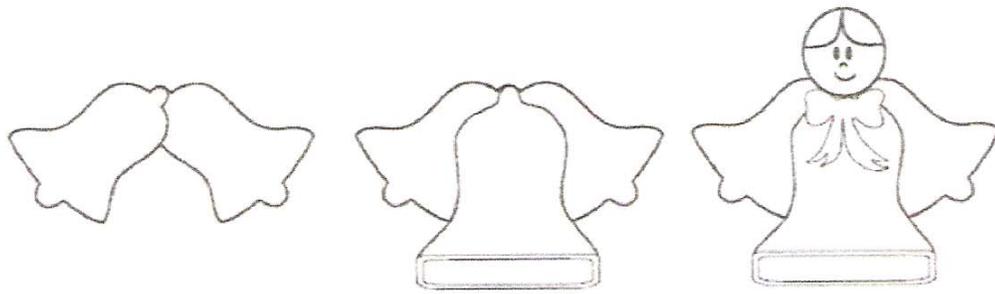
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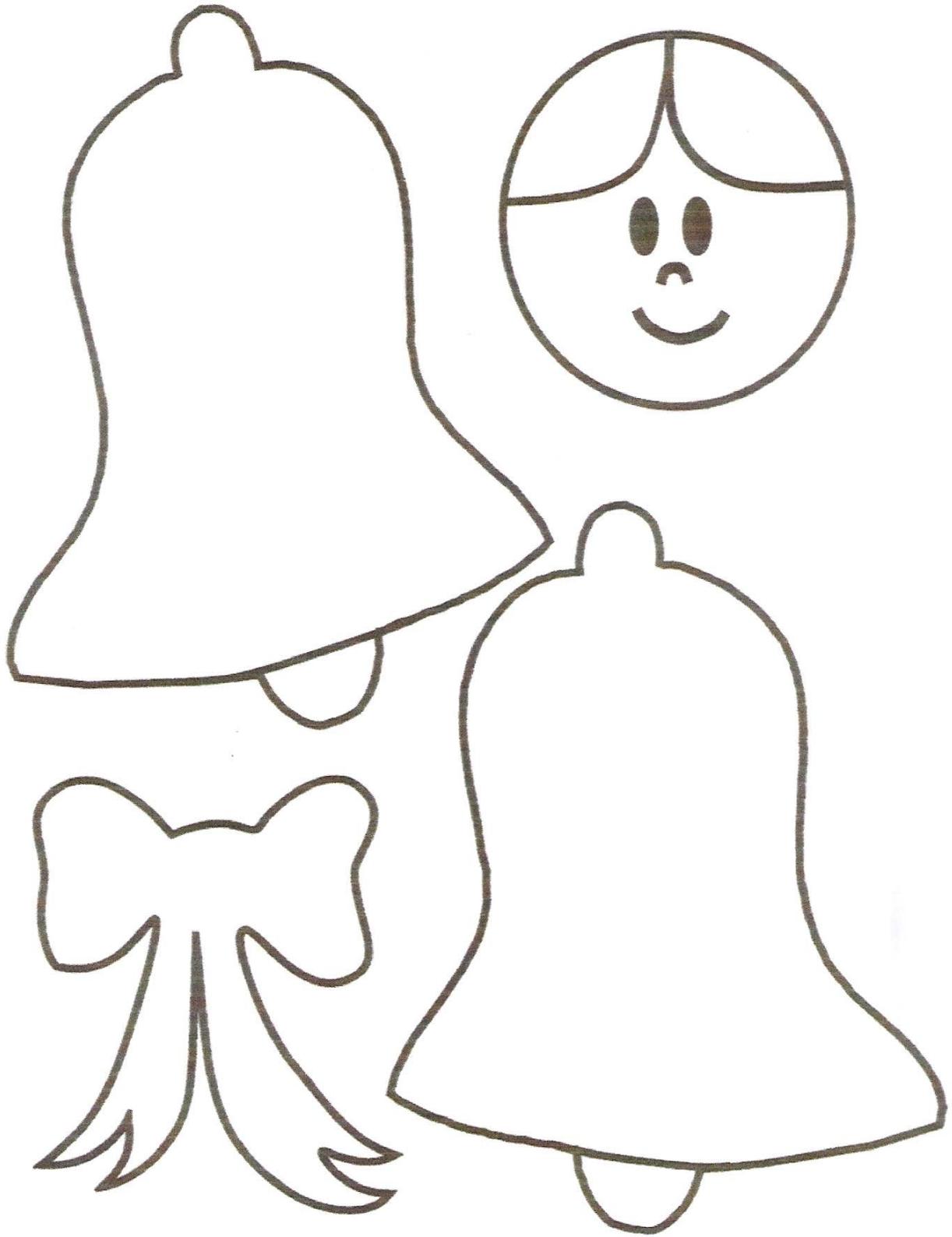
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# MARY AND ELIZABETH



**An angel told Mary, "You will have a baby boy.  
His name will be Jesus."**





**Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth.**

MEMORY VERSE

“You shall call his name  
Jesus”  
Matthew 1:21

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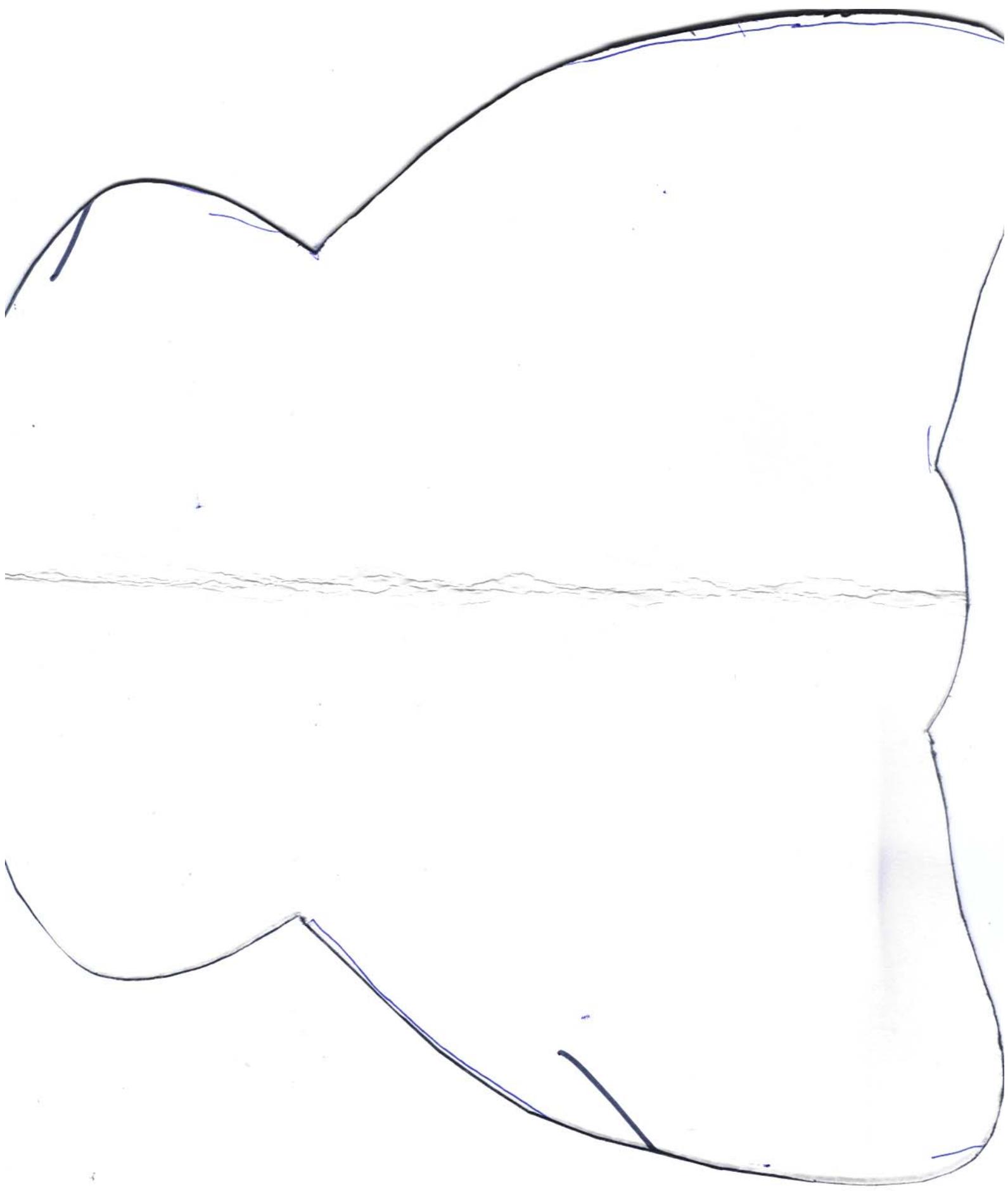
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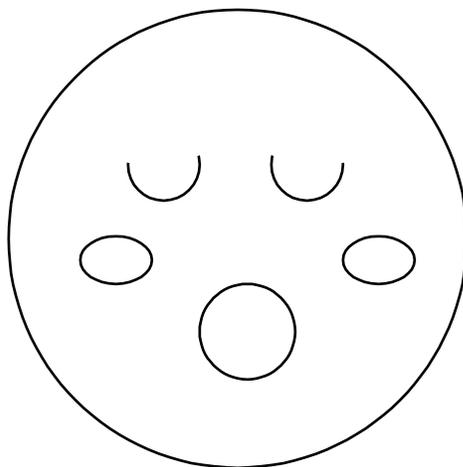
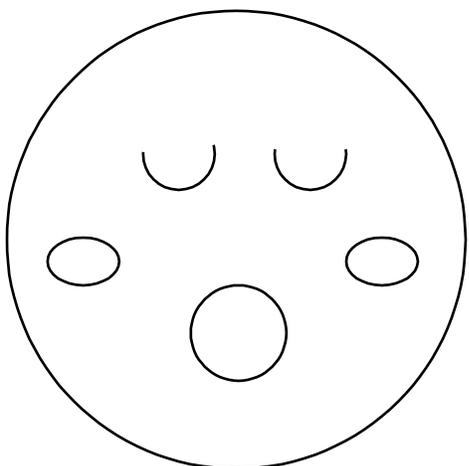
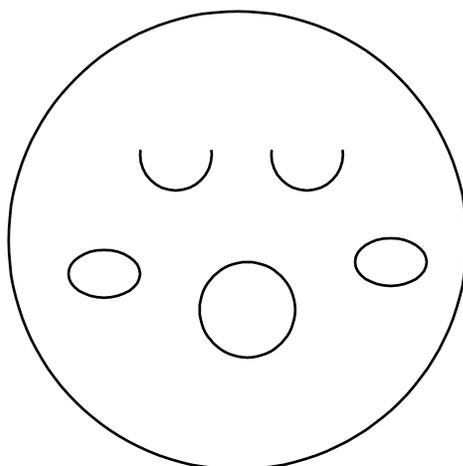
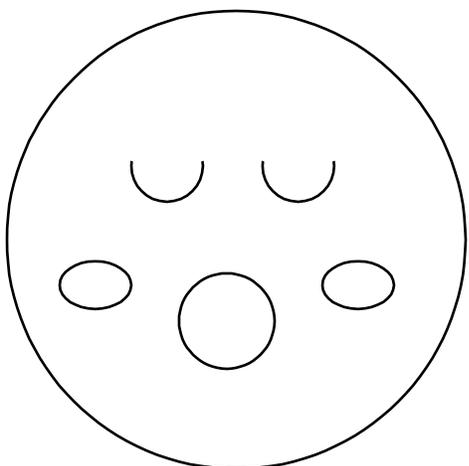
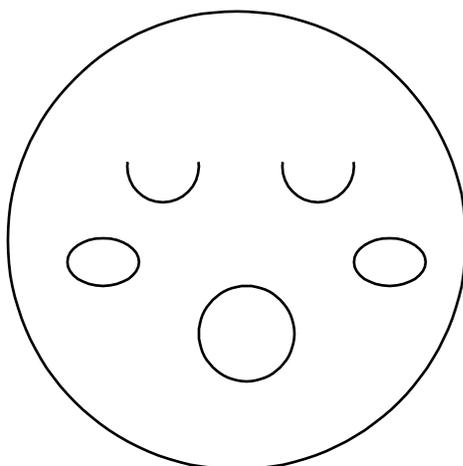
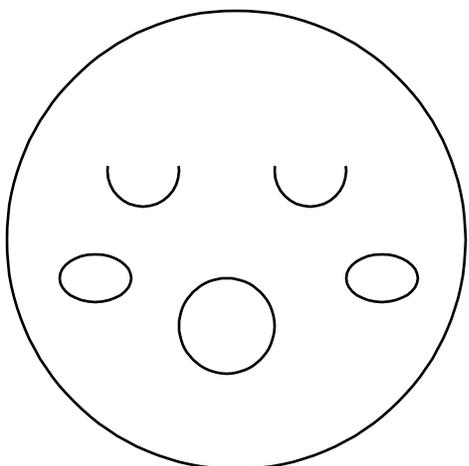
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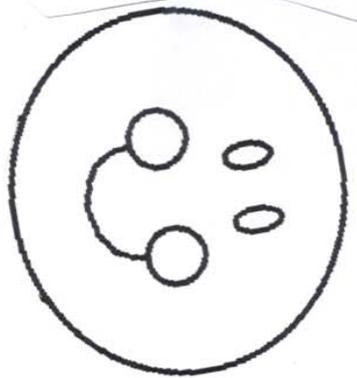
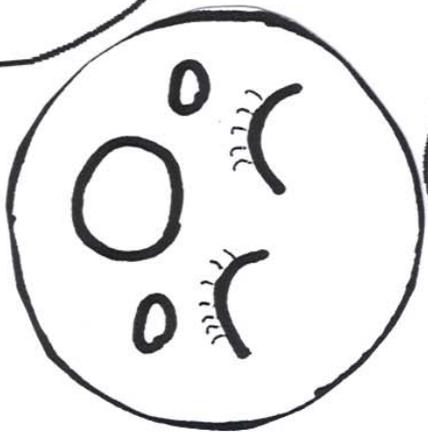
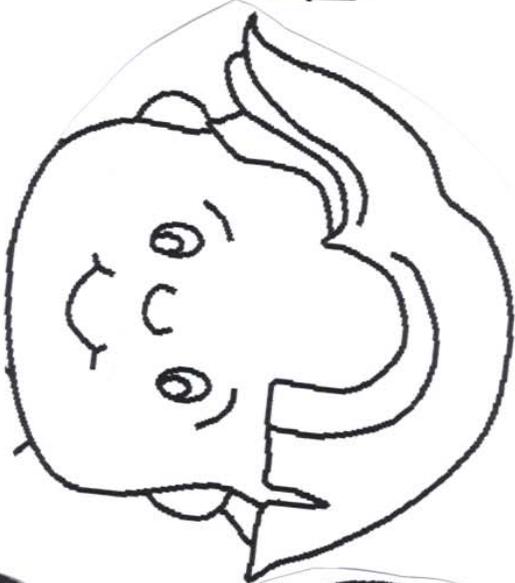
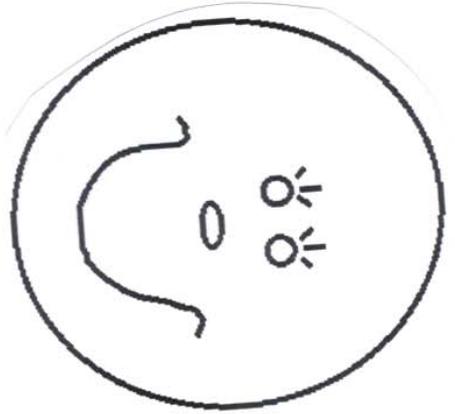
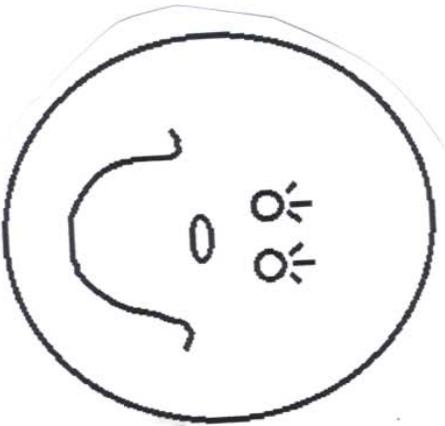
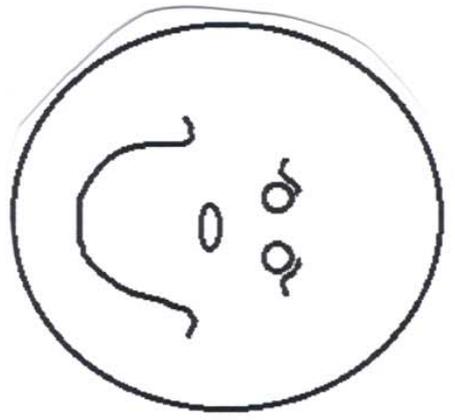
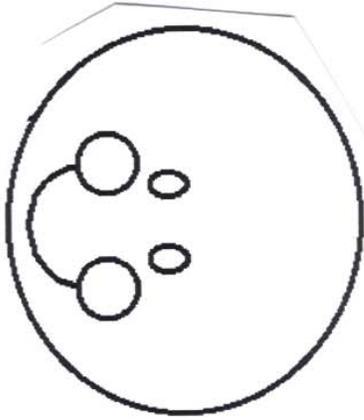
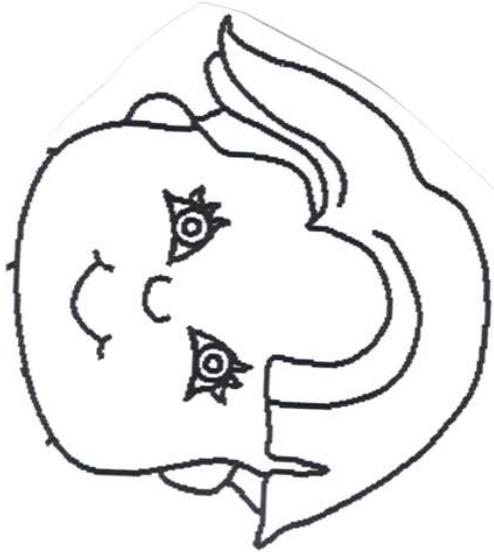
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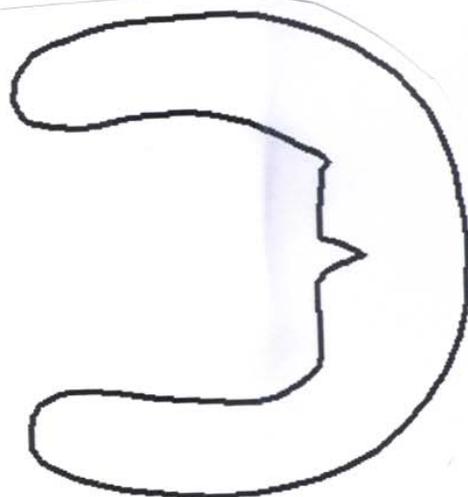
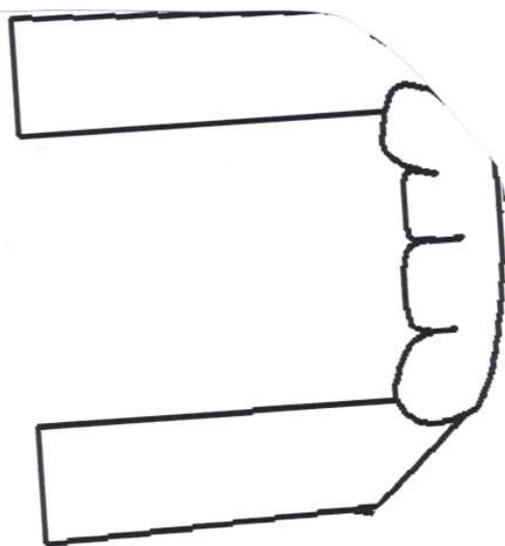
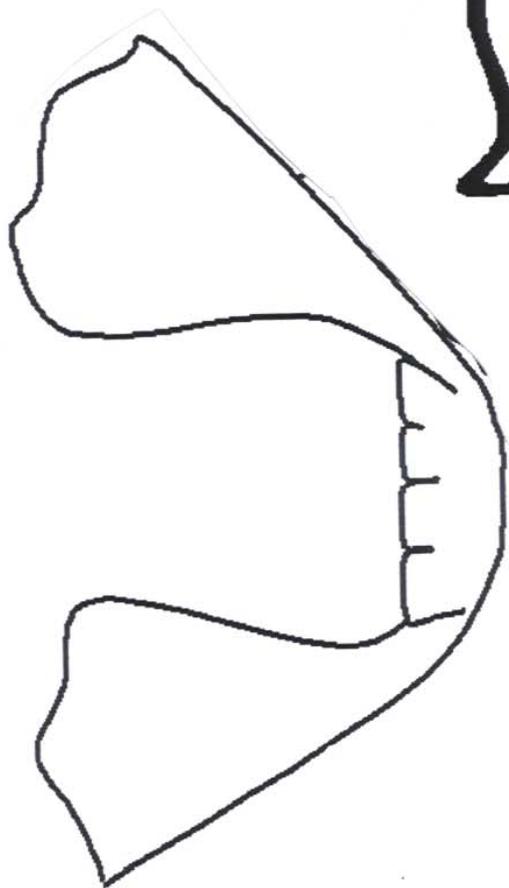
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Once A Shining Angel  
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He Promised God Would Send His Son  
To Us To Show Us Love

Hang This Chain Near My Bed Today  
So Each Morning I can Tear One Piece Away  
As The Links Are Removed This Way  
Soon It Will Be Jesus' Birth-Day

**Once a shining Angel came from Heaven Above,  
He promised God would send His Son to us to show us love.**

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