

# ~ Christmas in the Book of Mormon ~

prepared by Melissa Dillon ~

## Contents of Packet:

Outline Page with Recipe

Lesson (2 pages)

Map

Wordstrips (3)

GAK mini-pictures (2)

Thought for the Week

Twelve Days of Christmas Reading

Star & Scripture ~ master

Five Ways to Focus on the Real Meaning of Christmas

Test Your Christmas IQ ~ master



“At this special time of year may you feel the joy of Christmas, remembering Jesus as you see the lights of Christmas, as you sing the music of Christmas, and as you sense the hurry and busyness of Christmas. May love be mirrored in your hearts as you reach out and give of yourself with love to all those around you...”

First Presidency, 1972



# ~ Christmas in the Book of Mormon ~

**Preparation:** Plan to give this lesson at least 12 days before Christmas if you want to complete the “Twelve Reading Days of Christmas” as a family; Make the Spice Cookies; Make copies of the Christmas Star for each member of your family; Make copies of the Christmas Quiz for those old enough to complete it (cover the answers before copying); Have a copy of the Book of Mormon to use during the lesson.

**Scripture References:** Helaman 13-15; Helaman 14; Helaman 14:2; 3 Nephi 1; Luke 2:25-26; Isaiah 7:14-15; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 53; 1 Nephi 11:9-33; 1 Nephi 12:4-8; Mosiah 3:1-12, 20-21; Doctrine & Covenants 76:19-24, 40-42; Alma 7:7-13; Luke 1; Luke 2; Mark 1:1—2:13; Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 2

**Opening Song:** Samuel tells of Baby Jesus (CS, 36)

**Opening Prayer:** by assignment

**Thought for the week:** “At this special time of year may you feel the joy of Christmas, remembering Jesus as you see the lights of Christmas, as you sing the music of Christmas, and as you sense the hurry and busyness of Christmas. May love be mirrored in your hearts as you reach out and give of yourself with love to all those around you...” First Presidency, 1972

**Lesson:** See lesson and corresponding visuals in this packet.

**Closing Song:** Picture a Christmas (CS, 50)

**Closing Prayer:** by assignment

## Refreshments

### Spice Cookies

Mix together:

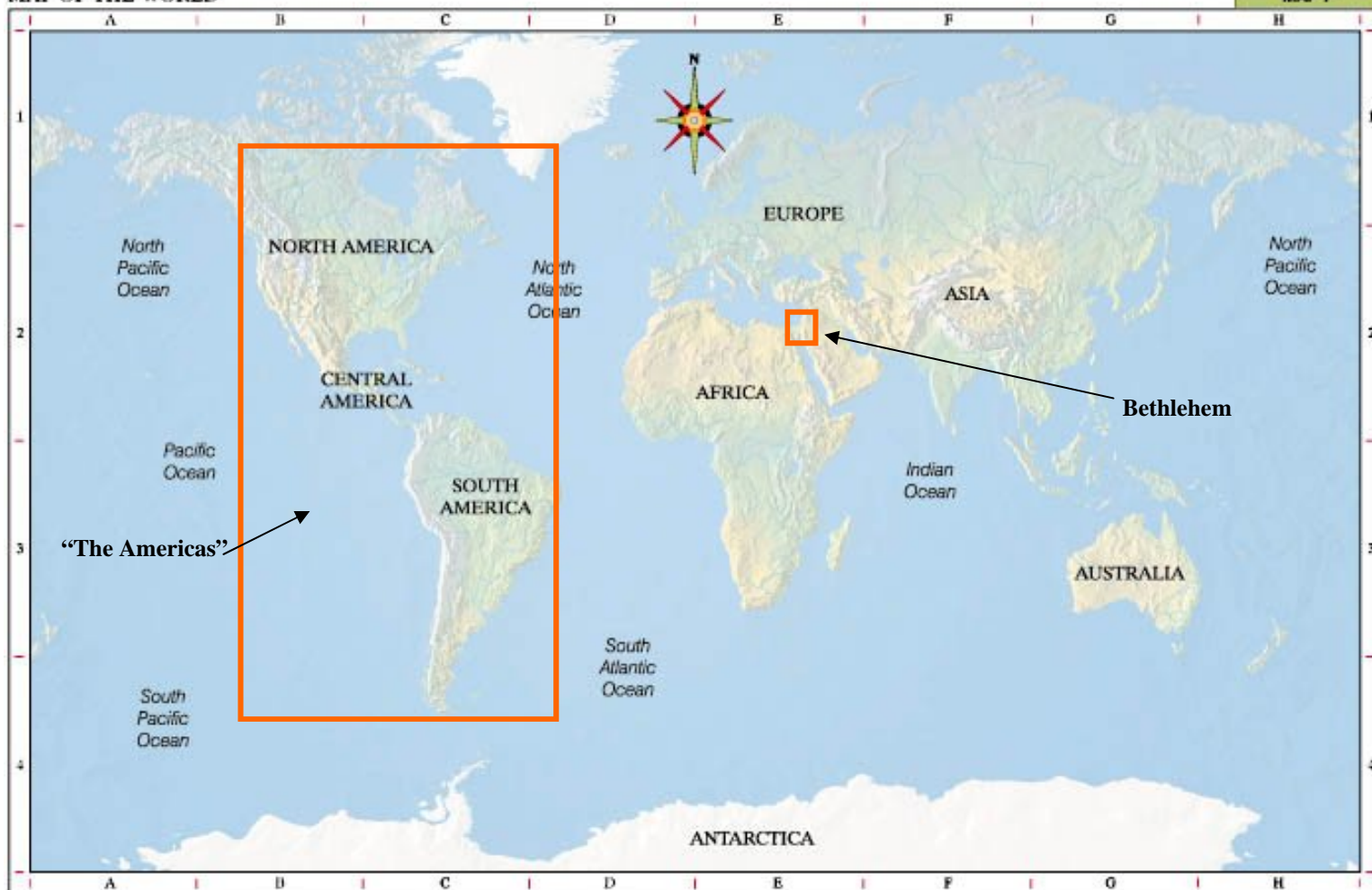
1-1/2 C. shortening	1 C. brown sugar
2 eggs	1 C. white sugar
1/2 C. molasses	

then stir in:

4-1/2 C. flour	4 t. baking soda
1/2 t. salt	2 t. ground cloves
2 t. ginger	2 t. cinnamon

When all ingredients are combined, form small balls; roll in sugar. Drop onto an ungreased cookie sheet, 2” apart. Bake at 375° for 8 minutes.



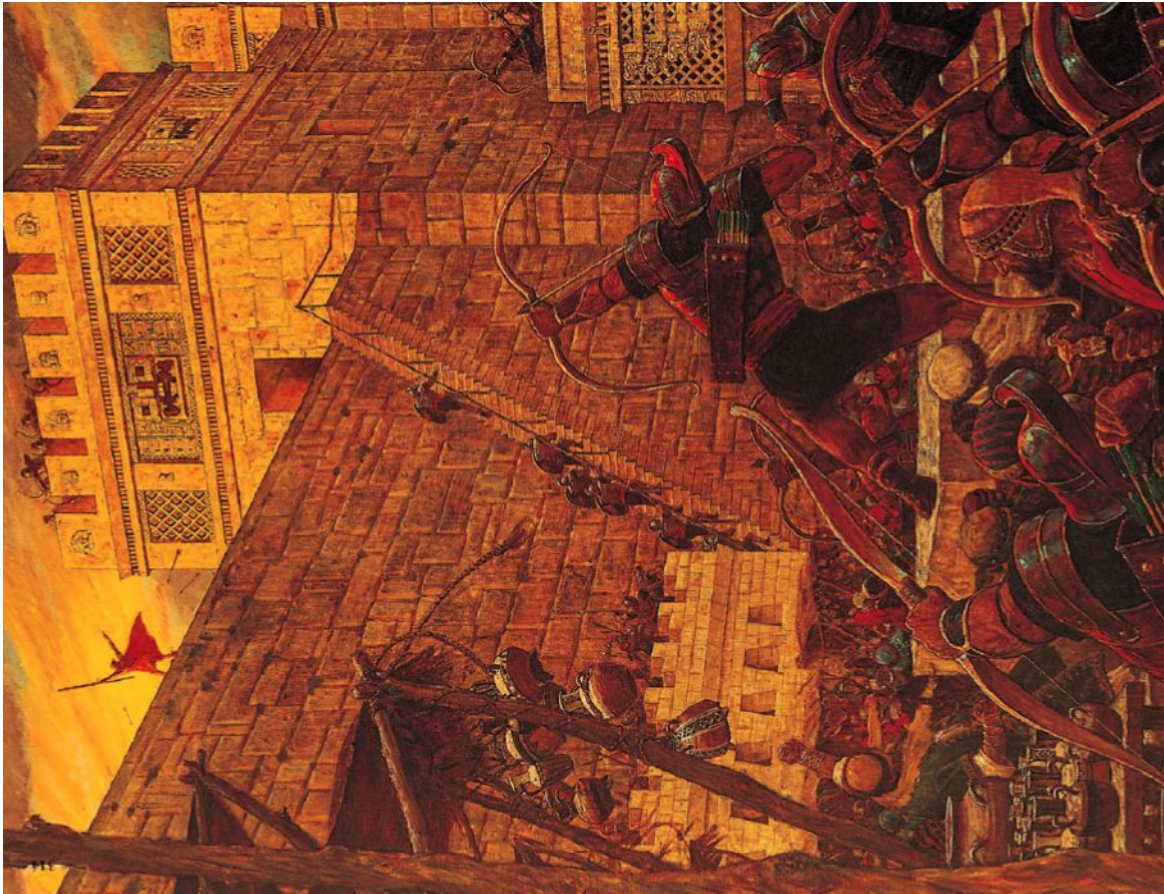


**Great lights in the sky**

**No darkness for a day,  
a night, and a day**

**A bright new star**





Christmas in the Book of Mormon ~ prepared by Melissa Dillon: ~ for the Sugardoodle FHE Exchange ~ October 2007

# *The Twelve Reading Days of Christmas*

You can make this Christmas special by learning more about the Savior. Here are some scriptural selections to help you. Study one on each of the days leading up to Christmas.

***December 14:*** The prophet Isaiah foretold and testified of the Savior's divine mission and birth in Isaiah 7:14-15; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 53.

***December 15:*** Nephi saw in vision the Savior's birth and ministry before and after the Lord's Crucifixion. Read Nephi's account in 1 Nephi 11:9-33; 1 Nephi 12:4-8.

***December 16:*** King Benjamin testified of the coming of the Savior in Mosiah 3:1-12, 20-21.

***December 17:*** The Lamanite prophet Samuel prophesied to the wicked Nephites about Christ's birth and death in Helaman 14.

***December 18:*** Read the Prophet Joseph Smith's testimony of the Savior in Doctrine & Covenants 76:19-24, 40-42.

***December 19:*** The prophet Alma testified of the Savior and the power of His Atonement in Alma 7:7-13.

***December 20:*** Read about Mary's and Elisabeth's experiences before Christ's birth in Luke 1.

***December 21:*** Read Luke's account of the Savior's birth and childhood in Luke 2.

***December 22:*** Read Mark's account of the Savior's baptism and ministry in Mark 1:1—2:13.

***December 23:*** Read Matthew's account of the Savior's birth in Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 2.

***December 24:*** On the eve of Christ's birth, the prophet Nephi prayed in behalf of his people who were about to be slain by the wicked. Read the Lord's response and the fulfillment of the prophet Samuel's prophecy in 3 Nephi 1:9-22.

***December 25:*** Read and ponder "The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles." You can find it at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org), in *For the Strength of Youth* (2001), or in the April 2000 *Ensign*. Write your testimony in your journal.

"Idea List: The 12 Reading Days of Christmas," *New Era*, Dec. 2005



## *Five Ways to Focus on the True Meaning of Christmas*

One of my least favorite things about Christmas is the commercialization that draws the attention away from the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is the day set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. It is important that we remember that as we go throughout the holiday season. Through careful planning you can provide your family with a meaningful and uplifting holiday experience. It is important to schedule these events in early, so that they do not become neglected or pushed aside.

1) You should attend or put on a Nativity. This is fun activity for children, but it also brings the focus back to what Christmas is truly about. You can also have a nativity set in your home, and read the scriptures about the entire experience with your family leading up to Christmas. I enjoy reading from Luke the most.

2) Take the time as a family to give service to someone outside the home during the holiday season. This brings the feeling of love back into your home. The service can be simple. You may do the Twelve Days of Christmas for a lonely widow or elderly couple, or you may do a Sub for Santa for a needy family. You may decide to visit a nursing program and put on the nativity there.

3) You can go caroling as a family. You can sing the beautiful Christmas hymns that celebrate Christ's birth. This can be a lot of fun. If the weather is too cold to go outside, you may want to visit a nursing home, and carol in the halls.

4) Attend the church's Christmas broadcast. This is a wonderful event that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas. It is [typically] scheduled for [the first Sunday in] December at 6:00 p.m. MST. You can attend this at your local church building. The music is beautiful every year.

5) Sometime on Christmas Eve or Christmas take the time to have a family testimony meeting. You can share your testimony of the Savior with your children, as well as list the many blessings you are grateful for. This will be an uplifting experience for your family.



by Miriam Caldwell; <http://lds.families.com>



## Christmas Lesson

“The message of the birth of Jesus Christ is a message for all. It is a message of peace, a message of hope. It is a message that provides us with the knowledge of what we must do to return to live with our Father in Heaven.” First Presidency, 1997

If you had a message you wanted to share with people all over the world, how could you send it? (e-mail, phone, satellite, television, newspapers, radio, etc.)

Why couldn't this have been possible if you were living 2,000 years ago? (none of these things had been invented at that time)

About 2,000 years ago something so wonderful happened that our Heavenly Father wanted people in both the Holy Land and in the Americas to know about it. What was that great event? (Jesus Christ's birth)

*Show the map of the world.* Point out Bethlehem (where Jesus was born) and the Americas on the other side of the world. Heavenly Father loves all his children and wanted them all to know that his Son, Jesus Christ, had been born on the earth to be their Savior. But Heavenly Father did not send this great message by e-mail, telephone, satellite, television or radio, or any of the other communication advances that we have today. The story of Christmas is recorded in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Listen as we learn this story from the Book of Mormon...

### The Book of Mormon tells the Christmas Story

(show a Book of Mormon) Explain that in the Americas, a Lamanite prophet named Samuel had been called by God to prepare the people for the birth of Jesus. He was to warn them to repent. The people were wicked, and Samuel's words made them so angry that they drove him out of their city. But the voice of the Lord came to Samuel and told him to return and try again. The people would not allow Samuel to enter the city, but with great courage he climbed up on the wall and gave his message. (show GAK 314) Samuel told the people to repent and to be ready for the birth of the Savior. He even told them the signs that would appear when Jesus was born (see Helaman 13-15).

Read Helaman 14:2-5. Ask your family to listen closely and to raise their hands when they hear a sign. (Show the word strips: Great lights; No darkness; New Star)

Some of the people believed Samuel, repented, and began to live righteously. These people waited anxiously for Samuel's prophecy to be fulfilled. And, as the five years passed, they began to look for the signs he had foretold. But the wicked said that the time had already passed. They began to mistreat the believers. They even threatened to kill the believers on a certain day if they did not reject Samuel's teachings (see 3 Nephi 1:4-9). But those who believed still watched eagerly for signs of the birth of the Savior.

The day before the believers were to be killed a wonderful thing happened. Listen to see if the signs Samuel predicted came to pass.

Read 3 Nephi 1:15 (beginning with “at the going down of the sun”), 19, and 21. Imagine how you would feel if you saw the sun go down and yet the night stayed as light as day. The night came, but there was no darkness. Some people were surprised that there didn't seem to be any night. They

became so amazed that they fell to the earth. The righteous people knew that the time had arrived that they had looked forward to for many years. They knew that Jesus Christ was going to be born. Then something else happened.

Read 3 Nephi 1:21 to your family. What was the exciting thing that happened? The Savior had been born. The faith that they had had for many years now turned to great joy as they saw the new star in the sky. Even though the Nephites were unable to go see the child, they knew his birth was important to them. (show GAK 201)

Why did Heavenly Father make sure that the Nephites saw the star? (So they would know that Jesus Christ was born.)

How do you think the Nephites felt when they saw the star?

The same star was also seen in Jerusalem. Jesus Christ's birth was important to everyone. It was something that people had looked forward to for many years, and it really happened. This is how Heavenly Father told the world that his only begotten Son had been born.

### **Testimony**

Share your testimony that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Express gratitude for having the Bible and the Book of Mormon as witnesses of Jesus Christ's life and mission. Give your family an opportunity to express their feelings about the Savior and what He means to them. Challenge your family to take time during the Christmas season to think about Jesus Christ and all He has done for us.

### **Activity 1:**

Distribute a star puzzle to each child...ask them to color the star and think about the night people all over the world saw the sign of Christ's birth. Cut the puzzles apart and have them put their puzzles together and glue them on a piece of colored paper. After all the children have finished, read the message on the star: "...Behold, I give unto you a sign; for five years more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name" (Helaman 14:2).

ASK: Who received the star as a sign of Jesus Christ's birth? (The Nephites in the Americas and the people in Jerusalem)

### **Activity 2 (for older kids/teens):**

Distribute a copy of "Test your Christmas IQ" to those wishing to improve their Christmas knowledge.

### **Activity 3:**

Use the "Twelve Reading Days of Christmas" to lead your family in a scriptural countdown to Christmas.

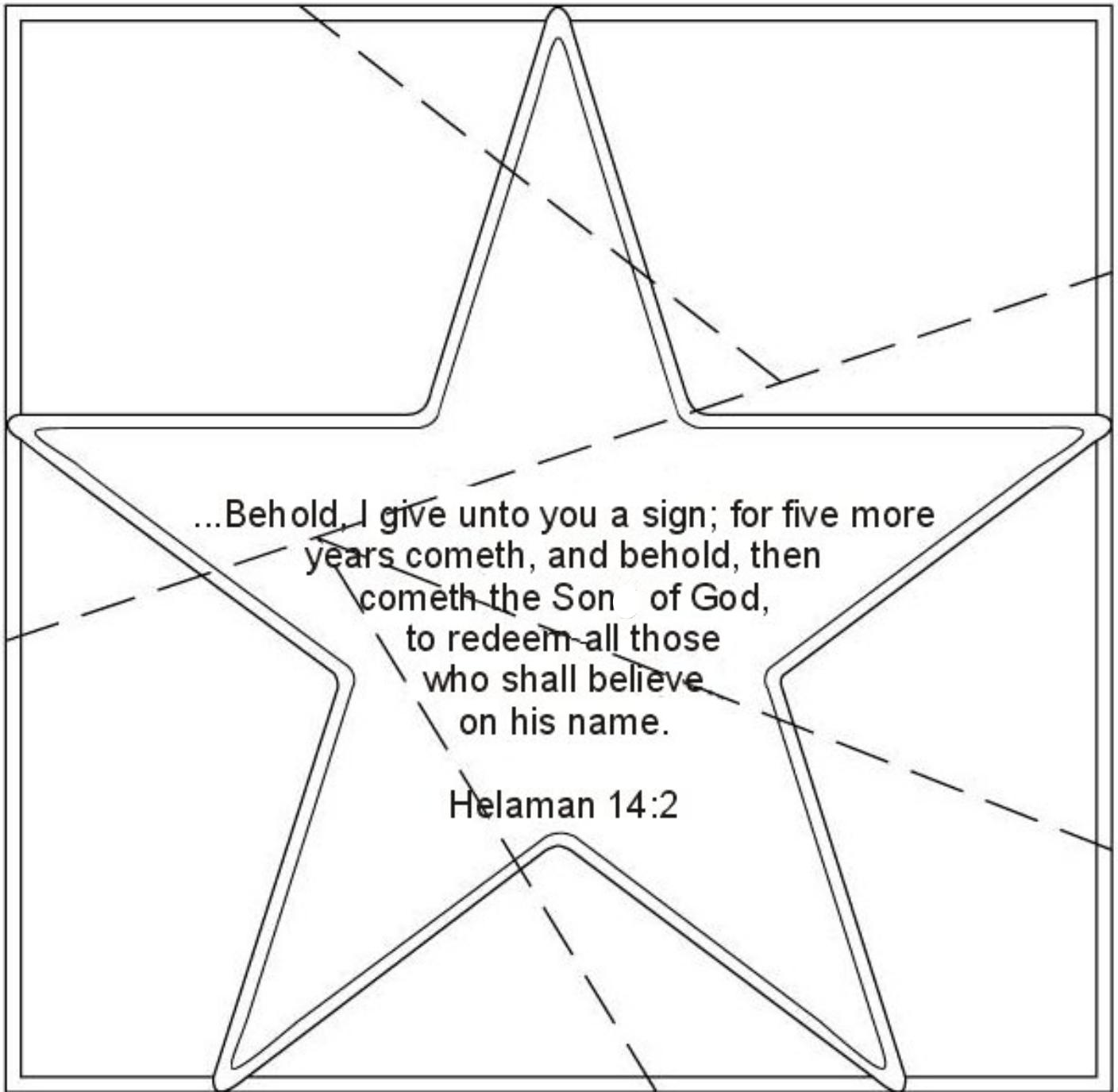
### **Activity 4:**

As a family, read "Five Ways to Focus on the True Meaning of Christmas." Decide which activities you would like to complete this Christmas season.

inspired by Family Home Evening Resource Book, "Come Let Us Adore Him." Lesson 46, Blazer A Lesson Manual, "Christ is Born." Map from [www.LDS.org](http://www.LDS.org)







...Behold, I give unto you a sign; for five more  
years cometh, and behold, then  
cometh the Son of God,  
to redeem all those  
who shall believe  
on his name.

Helaman 14:2

## TEST YOUR CHRISTMAS I.Q.

"Of All Things," New Era, Dec. 2001

You probably already know what city Christ was born in, what the wise men's gifts were, and what the angels announced to the shepherds on the night of His birth. But how carefully have you paid attention to other references to Christ's birth in the scriptures? Take this Christmas quiz to find out.

1. Who was a major Nephite prophet at the time of Christ's birth?
  - a) Helaman
  - b) Nephi, the son of Helaman
  - c) Nephi, the son of Nephi, who was the son of Helaman
  - d) Samuel
  
2. Before Christ's birth, who had a revelation that he would not die before he had seen Christ?
  - a) Simeon
  - b) Zacharias
  - c) John the Baptist
  - d) Paul the Apostle
  
3. Which section of the Doctrine and Covenants was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith on December 25, 1832?
  - a) Section 4
  - b) Section 76
  - c) Section 87
  - d) Section 136
  
4. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Name the prophet who made this prophecy before Christ's birth.
  - a) Nephi
  - b) Isaiah
  - c) Jeremiah
  - d) Abinadi
  
5. What does the name Immanuel mean?
  - a) Destruction is imminent
  - b) The Lord is salvation
  - c) God heareth
  - d) God with us



Answers:

1c (see 3 Nephi 1); 2a (see Luke 2:25-26); 3c; 4b (see Isaiah 7:14); 5d (see Bible Dictionary)