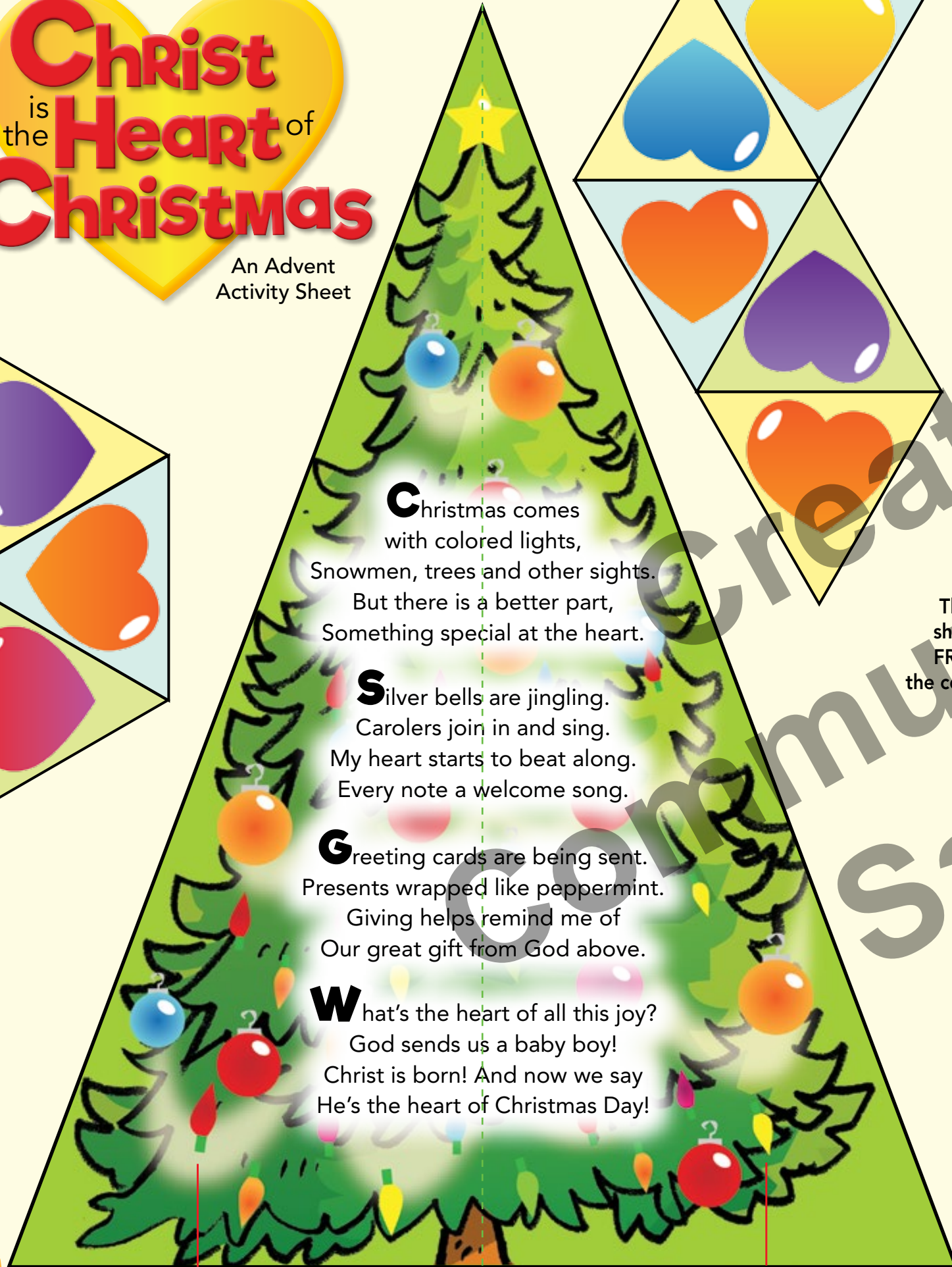
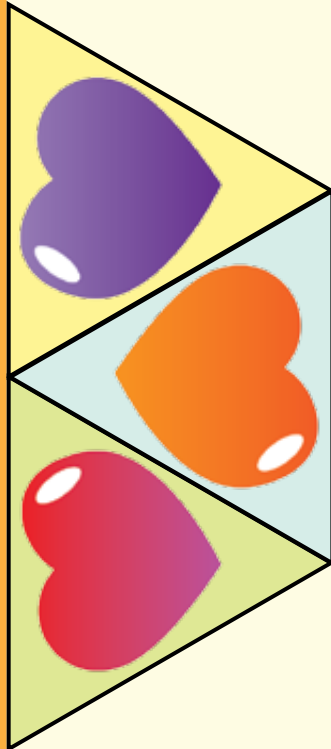


CHRIST is the Heart of CHRISTMAS

An Advent Activity Sheet



Christmas comes with colored lights, Snowmen, trees and other sights. But there is a better part, Something special at the heart.

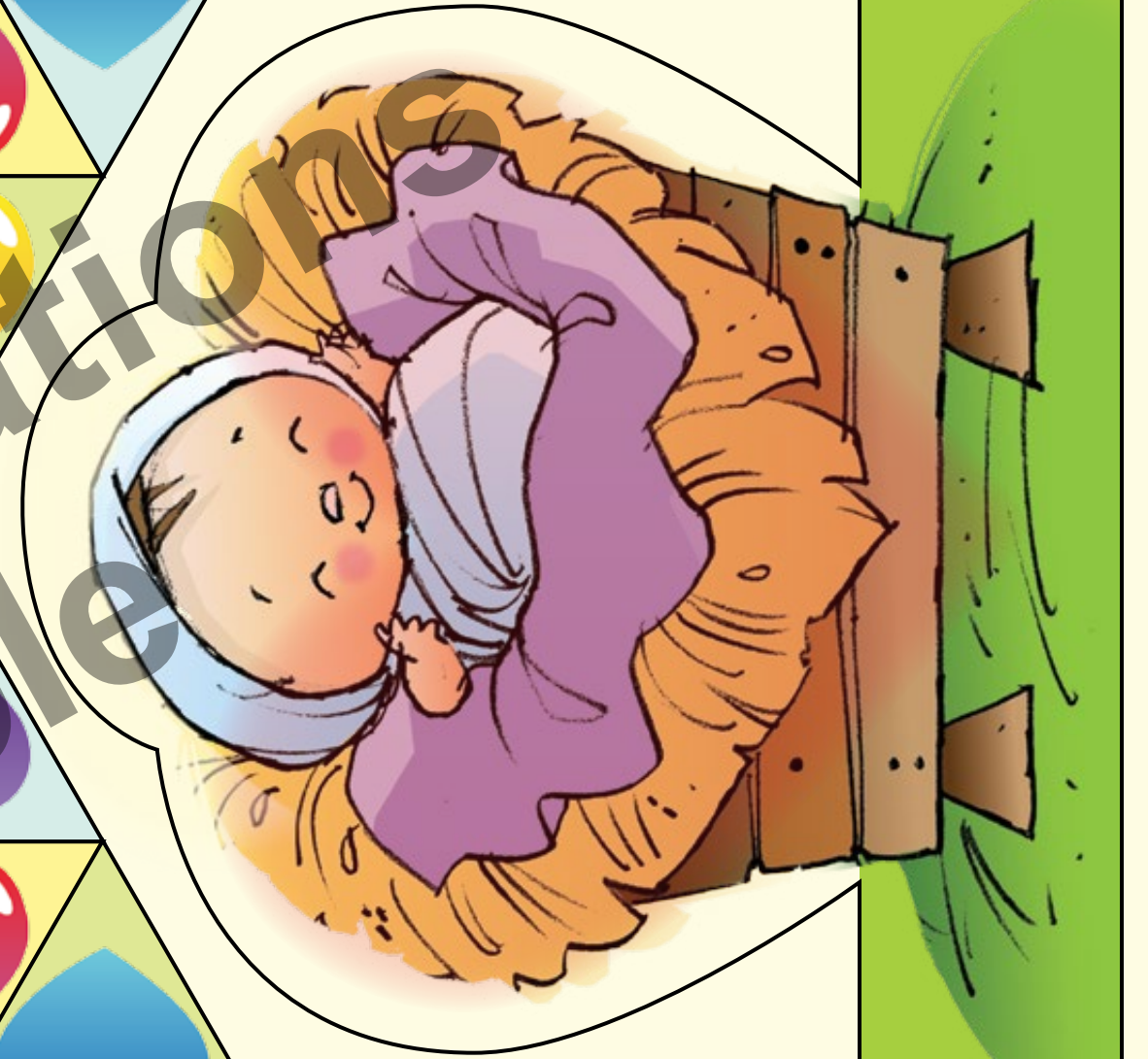
Silver bells are jingling. Carolers join in and sing. My heart starts to beat along. Every note a welcome song.

Greeting cards are being sent. Presents wrapped like peppermint. Giving helps remind me of Our great gift from God above.

What's the heart of all this joy? God sends us a baby boy! Christ is born! And now we say He's the heart of Christmas Day!



This side shows the FRONT of the centerpiece.



Slot A

Slot B

Christ is the Heart of Christmas

Count the candles in your house. Say out loud, "Jesus is the Light of the world." **PRAY TODAY** that the light of his love may shine in you and through you to the glory of God!

Ring a bell today! Whenever you hear a jingle bell, a hand bell or a doorbell, think, "Here comes Jesus!" **PRAY TODAY** that the story of Jesus' birth rings out loud and clear this season.

Read your Christmas cards. Which news of Jesus' birth? Put all your cards on display. **PRAY TODAY** for those who share the gospel around the world.

Share stories about a decoration. Are there old favorites that you've unpacked? Isn't it fun to see them again? **PRAY TODAY** that you hear about Jesus for the first time today.

Share stories about a decoration. Are there old favorites that you've unpacked? Isn't it fun to see them again? **PRAY TODAY** that you hear about Jesus for the first time today.

Watch a special on TV. If you could make a Christmas scene, how could you tell the world that "Christ is the Heart of Christmas"? **PRAY TODAY** that someone hears about Jesus for the first time today.

Look at photos of last Christmas. As you look, try to picture Jesus in each scene. He is there—loving, caring, blessing and sharing the celebration. **PRAY TODAY** giving thanks for those who fill your good memories.

Pay attention to the smells of Christmas. What smells like Christmas to you? Talk about what the first Christmas may have smelled like. **PRAY TODAY** thanking God for his gift of love which is always good.

Make a meal or treat to share. Are there special foods you only have at the holidays? Could that special treat be shared with someone in need? **PRAY TODAY** for those in need of food or care this season.

Go on a shopping trip. Look at all the faces in the crowded stores. Jesus came for every person that you see! **PRAY TODAY** that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

Play with a manger scene. Make a point to look at the manger each day. Make sure the figures are looking at the manger, too! **PRAY TODAY** for people who have not yet found the Savior.

Wrap a gift. When you put gift tags on your presents, write the words, "Christ is the Heart of Christmas" on each one. **PRAY TODAY** and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift: Jesus!

Get ready for company. As you welcome guests this season, remember that we also welcome Jesus into our home and life. **PRAY TODAY** for people who are far away from home this holiday.

Look at an outdoor light display. Is there a way you can include a message about Jesus in the lights on your house? **PRAY TODAY** for anyone who may pass your home today. Thank God for a warm place to live.

Point out the pines in your home. Talk about your own family tree, your parents and grandparents. What Christmas traditions have they passed down? **PRAY TODAY** thanking Jesus for bringing you into God's family.

Plan to go to a special church service. Are there special services at your church this season? Go to church services at your church. **PRAY TODAY** that God opens your ears to hear his message.

Hang a new ornament. Which ornaments on your tree do the best job of saying, "Christ is the Heart of Christmas." Make one that shares that message. **PRAY TODAY** that people see Jesus on display in you!

Help bake cookies! Remember that Jesus is the Bread of Life! Could you make a heart-shaped cookie to share with those who are hungry this season? **PRAY TODAY** for those who are hungry this season that they might be fed.

Sing a Christmas song! You are singing along with Mary, Zechariah and even angels. Whenever Christmas music is played, sing along! **PRAY TODAY** for all who make music for the Lord.

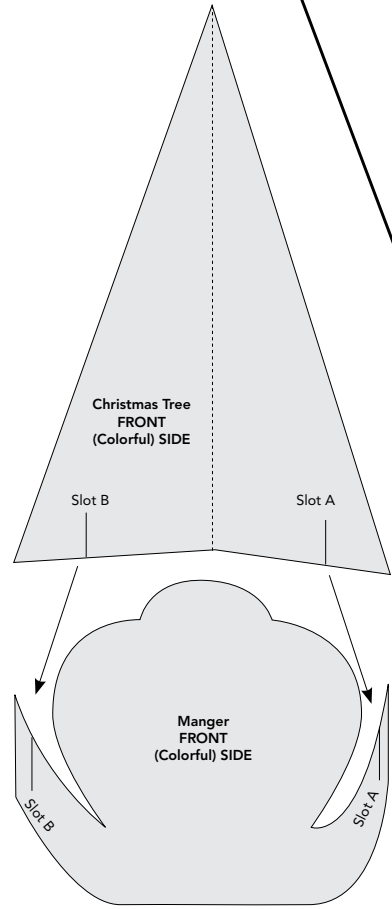
Act out the Christmas story. Perhaps you are in a pageant or play at church or school. Have fun telling the story in that group. **PRAY TODAY** that people come together to share God's love.

If it's snowy, make a snow angel. Let the angels you see this time of year remind you of the "good news of great joy" the Christmas angel shared. **PRAY TODAY** for forgiveness that makes your heart "whiter than snow."

This side shows the BACK of the centerpiece.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out the Christmas Tree and Manger pieces along black lines.
2. Assemble the centerpiece by first gently creasing the Christmas Tree piece forward along the scored line.
3. Gently bend back the long base "arms" of the Manger piece so that Slot A and Slot B of the Manger piece align with the corresponding slots on the Tree piece.
4. Slide the two pieces together.
5. Put your centerpiece on display on the dining room or kitchen table.
6. Cut out the 24 heart pieces. Mix them up and place them heart-side-up inside the ring formed by the Tree and Manger pieces.
7. Each day of December, pick a heart from the display. Follow the directions for the day, remembering that the true centerpiece of all of our Christmas activities is Christ Jesus, whose birth is the reason for all of our celebration!



Christ is the Heart of Christmas

An Advent Activity Sheet

Read the Christmas story from the Bible. Do the words of Luke 2:1-18 sound familiar? What is your favorite way to tell this story? **PRAY TODAY** that God's Word moves you to act and share!

Open a gift. It may be early, but let this one gift remind you that our greatest, most needed gift is "a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord." **PRAY TODAY** thanking God for the only gift that you truly need.

Give an offering or donation. Give your gift without sharing who it is from. Instead, write "Christ is the Heart of Christmas" on each gift. **PRAY TODAY** that God blesses those who collect for those in need.

