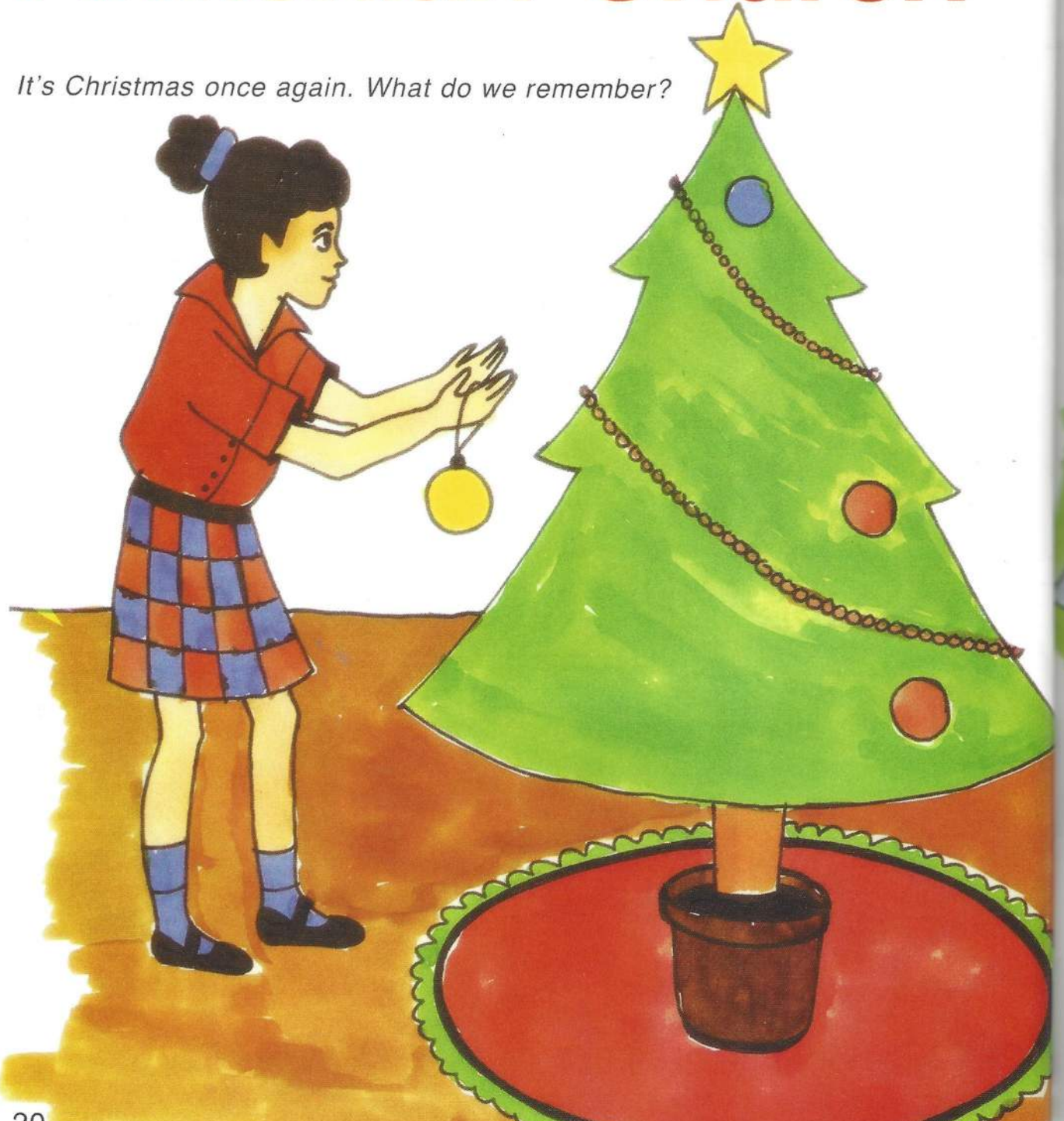


Christmas in the Armenian Church

It's Christmas once again. What do we remember?



It was a quiet thing when God came to Mary.
He told her a secret.
Then Joseph, too, was told.
In a quiet way, at night.



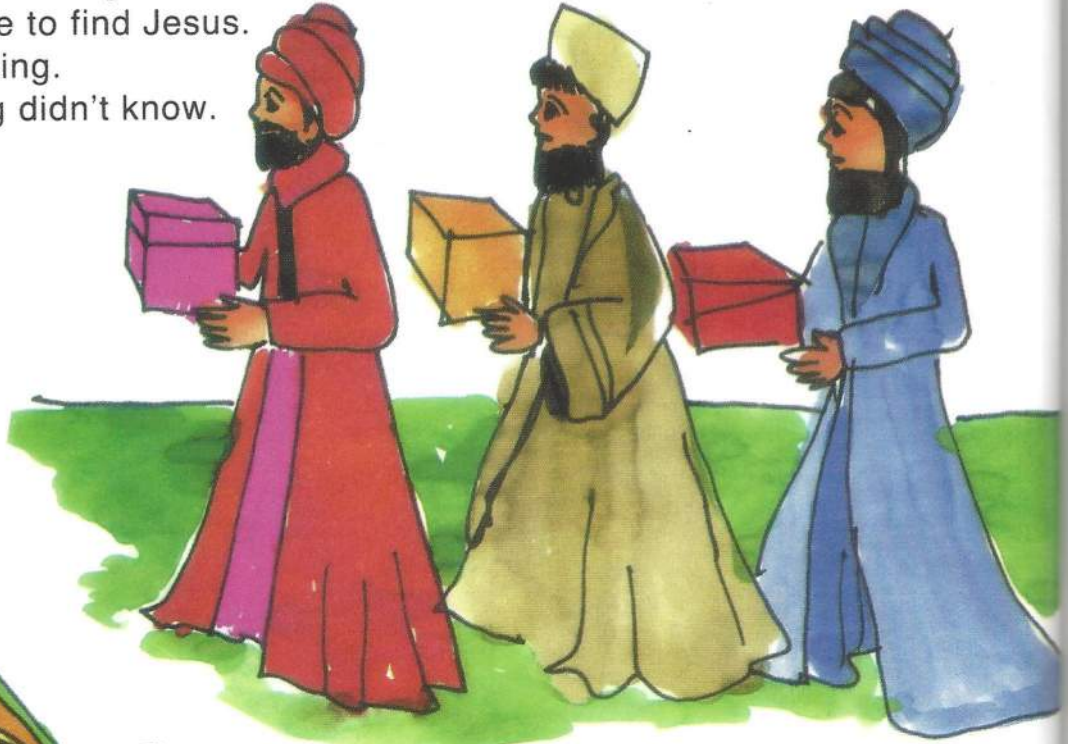
Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem.
They went quietly.
And the innkeeper said he had no room.
Joseph looked around for a quiet place.
He found a stable.



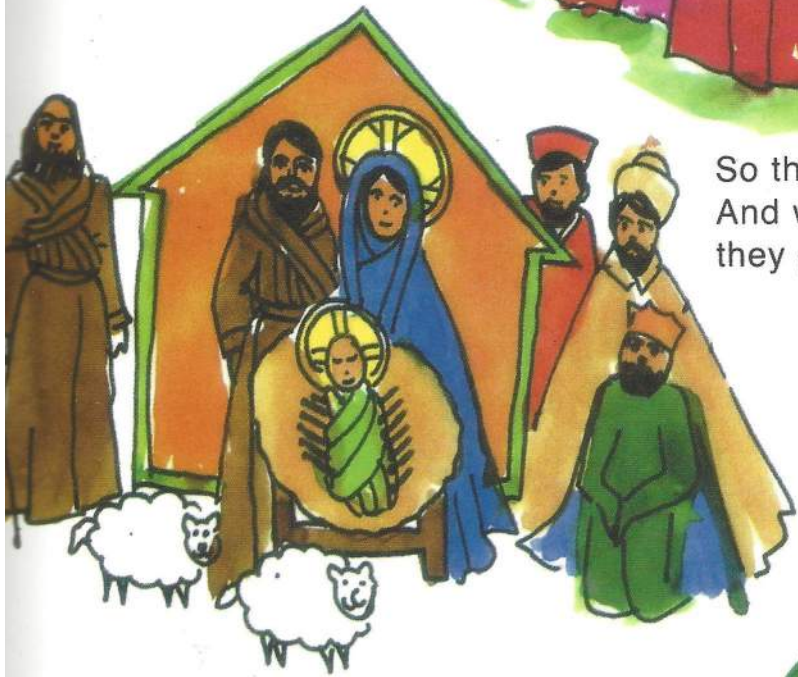
Jesus was born there in the quiet stable.
Mary and Joseph told no one.
But someone told some shepherds
to come to see Jesus.

Christmas
Սուրբ Ծնունդ
Soorp Dzunoont

It was such a quiet thing that three wise men
didn't know where to find Jesus.
They asked the king.
But even the king didn't know.



So the wise men went on hunting.
And when they found Jesus,
they gave him gifts.



At Christmas
we like to talk with friends
and sing and play our
drums.
For Christmas is a
birthday —
Jesus' birthday.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Lori was hurrying home from school today. She knew mother had told her it was a special day, but she couldn't remember exactly what it was. As she turned the corner she saw her brother David coming from school. "Hurry up, Lori," David yelled. "You know today is Christmas Eve. I have to get to church early!"

Then Lori remembered. Mother had told them to come straight home after school so that they could get cleaned up and ready for church. David was reading something from the Bible tonight at the services. Lori knew David had been practicing for weeks.

David opened the door and Lori followed in. "Take off your boots and hang up your coats," mom called. "What's to eat?" Lori asked her mother. "Nothing today. We're all going to receive Holy Communion tonight. We'll skip snacks today. Der Hayr said if we didn't eat after 3:00 p.m. it would be fine."

David was practicing his reading again when the doorbell rang. Lori ran to get it. It was Sandra, the girl in her class who lived down the street. "Are you ready to come and play in the snow," asked Sandra? "I can't," Lori answered. "It's Christmas Eve, and we have to get ready to go to church."

"How can you be going to church? This is Wednesday, not Sunday, you know. And what's this Christmas Eve stuff?" asked Sandra.

"Tomorrow is Christmas in the Armenian Church," said Lori. "We are lucky, we have *two* Christmases, one for presents and one



for church. After church tonight we will have a big party, especially for the children. I can hardly wait!"

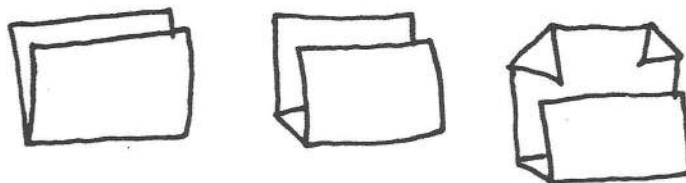
"Are you really going to have a party?" asked Sandra. "What kind of a party? We had a birthday party for Jesus in my Sunday School class a few weeks ago."

"All the children from the Sunday School will be there, my mother said. And there will be dinner, and chocolate cake, and ice cream, and candy for all the children. And there will be games too, and prizes for everyone. First, we'll go to church, and David will read, and then after, we'll have the party. And tonight we're going to take our grandparents too."

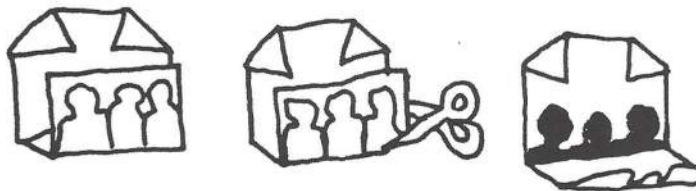
"I wish you could play now," said Sandra. "But I wish even more that I could come with you tonight. Do you think I could?"

"Sure you can," said Lori. "We can take you with us. Go ask your mother."

MAKE A CRECHE (Take Home Activity)



1. Take a heavy piece of paper and fold it in half almost to the top.
2. Open it up and fold it again about two inches lower.
3. Fold the corners down to make the stable. Color this yellow to look like the straw.



4. On the top sheet draw the figures of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Cut out these figures leaving them attached to the fold.
5. On the bottom sheet draw the animals which were in the stable, and the shepherds.
6. If the paper is heavy enough, your crib will stand. Otherwise, it is nice to hang it up.

