

# Christmas

## Sharing the Good News

A resource to use with 11-16 year olds

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# Sharing the Good News

## ♦ ICE-BREAKER

Give everyone in the group a piece of paper and pen and ask them to write down the best Christmas present they ever received when they were small.



Then ask them to fold them up and put into a box/bag. Draw out the slips in turn and ask the group to guess who wrote each gift.

## ♦ BIBLE READINGS

- Luke 1:26-38
- Luke 2:1-21

Ask someone to read the passages out loud.

Some questions to consider:

- ⇒ I wonder how Mary felt when the angel visited her?
- ⇒ I wonder what Joseph might have said when Mary told him?
- ⇒ I wonder how it felt to have nowhere to stay in Bethlehem?
- ⇒ I wonder what it was like to be one of the shepherds?
- ⇒ I wonder what a difference it made to everyone involved on that night?



#### ♦ **ACTIVITY**

Spread out the images and ask the group to share whatever thoughts/words they provoke.



In small groups invite them to choose one of the starred ★ images and spend a few minutes thinking about

- ⇒ How we might share the message of Christmas with the people portrayed.
- ⇒ What is the gift we'd most like to give to them this Christmas?
- ⇒ Invite each group to share what they have come up with.

#### ♦ **PRAYERS**



Using a twig tree (can be as simple or ornate as you wish to make it—basic idea is twigs fastened in a pot using plasticine/blu-tak/flower-arranging oasis or something similar).

Have some star shapes (template provided) cut out of card and an number of pens—if using gold/silver card make sure pens will write on it! Put a small hole in the top of each star and thread piece of cotton through to make a loop to hang from the 'tree' branches

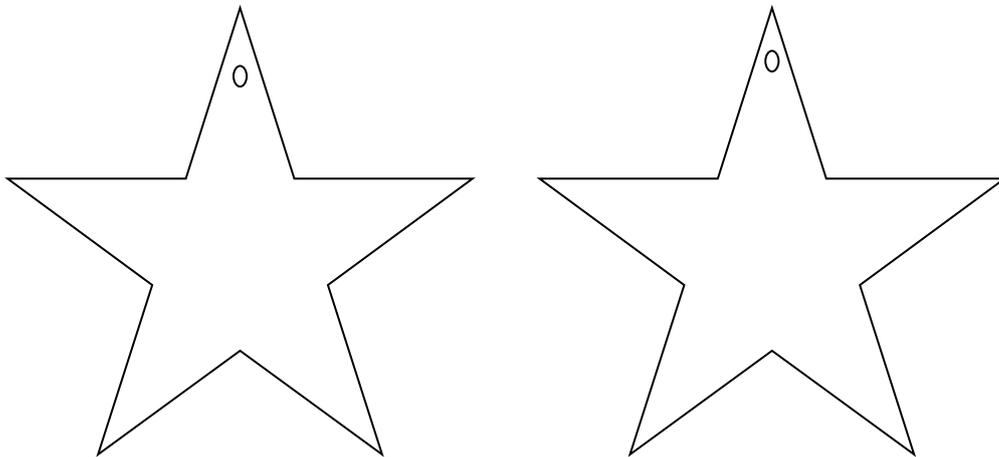
Have a few minutes of quiet and invite the young people to take the stars and write on them whatever they want to bring to God this Christmas. They can then hang them on the tree—can be a good idea to have soft music playing in the background.

Finish with the Lord's prayer.

## Items Required:

- **Paper, Pens, Copies of Bible Readings (Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-21), Images provided, Twig Tree, stars threaded with cotton or similar, pens, background music (optional)**

## Star Template



**Some helpful websites to look at practical ways of sharing God's love at Christmas and beyond:**

Christian Aid—[www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)

Homelessness Sunday—[www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk](http://www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk)

Make Poverty History—[www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

Operation Christmas Child— See [www.samaritanspurse.uk.com](http://www.samaritanspurse.uk.com)

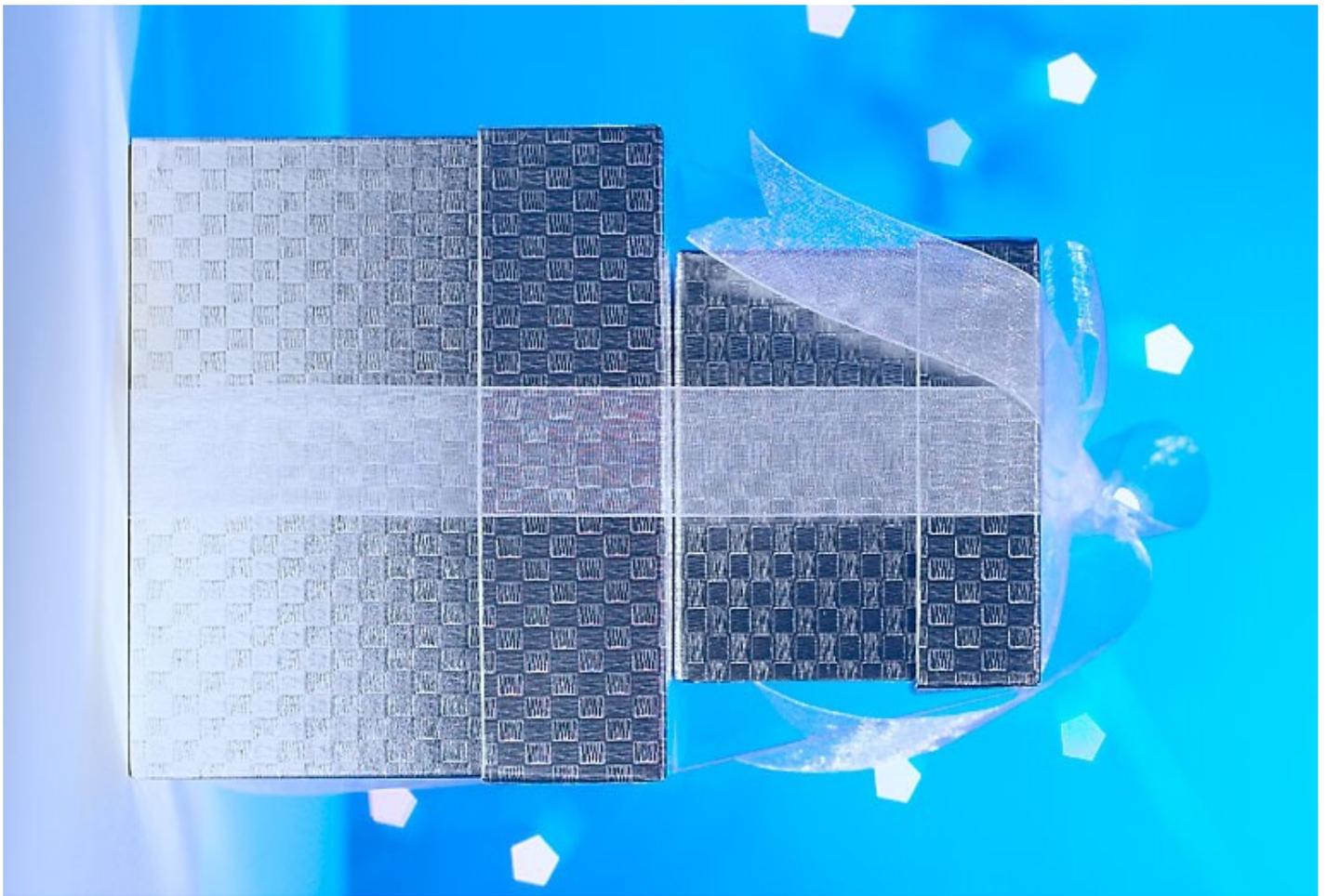


Homelessness  
can affect ALL ages

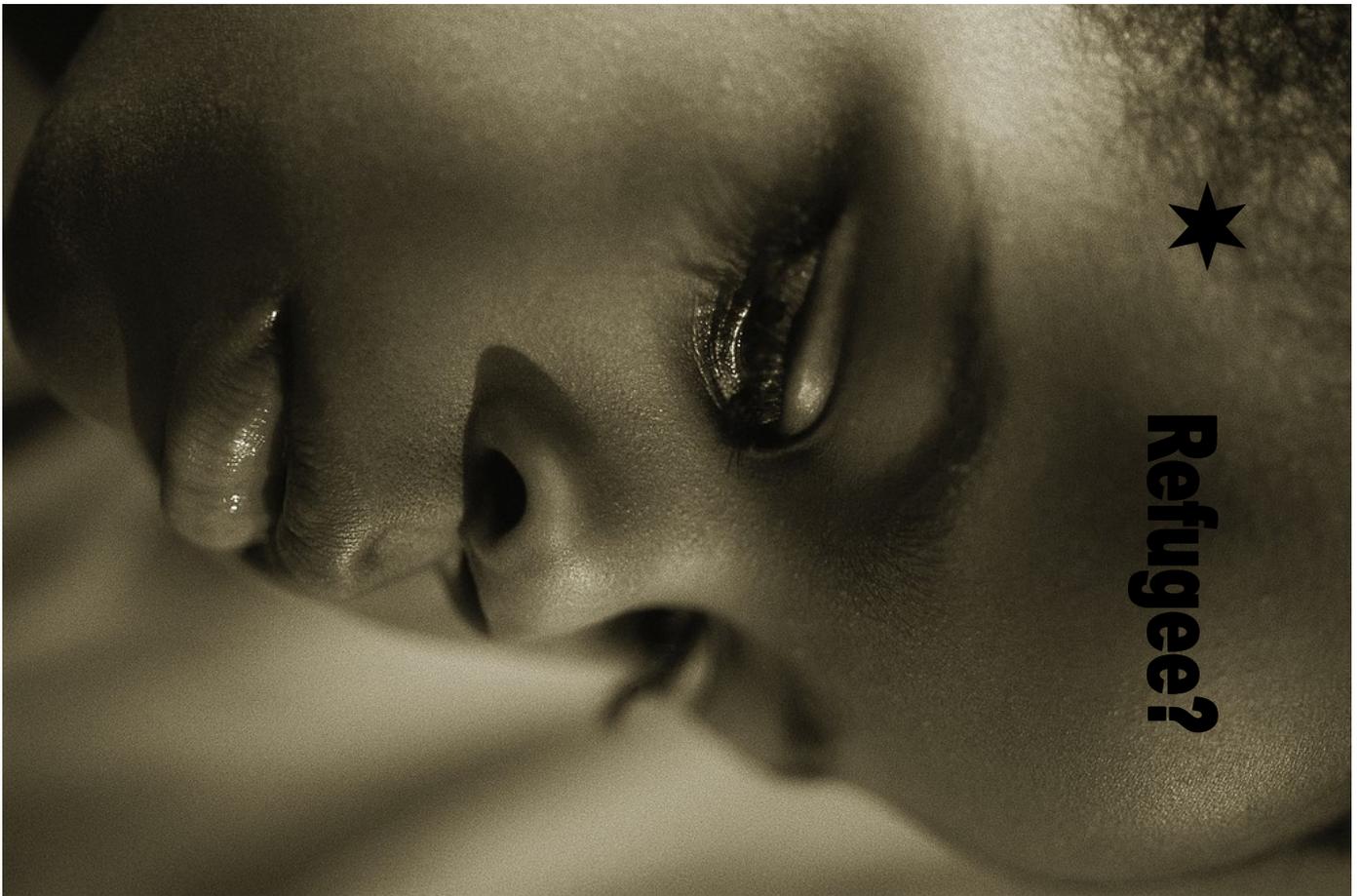


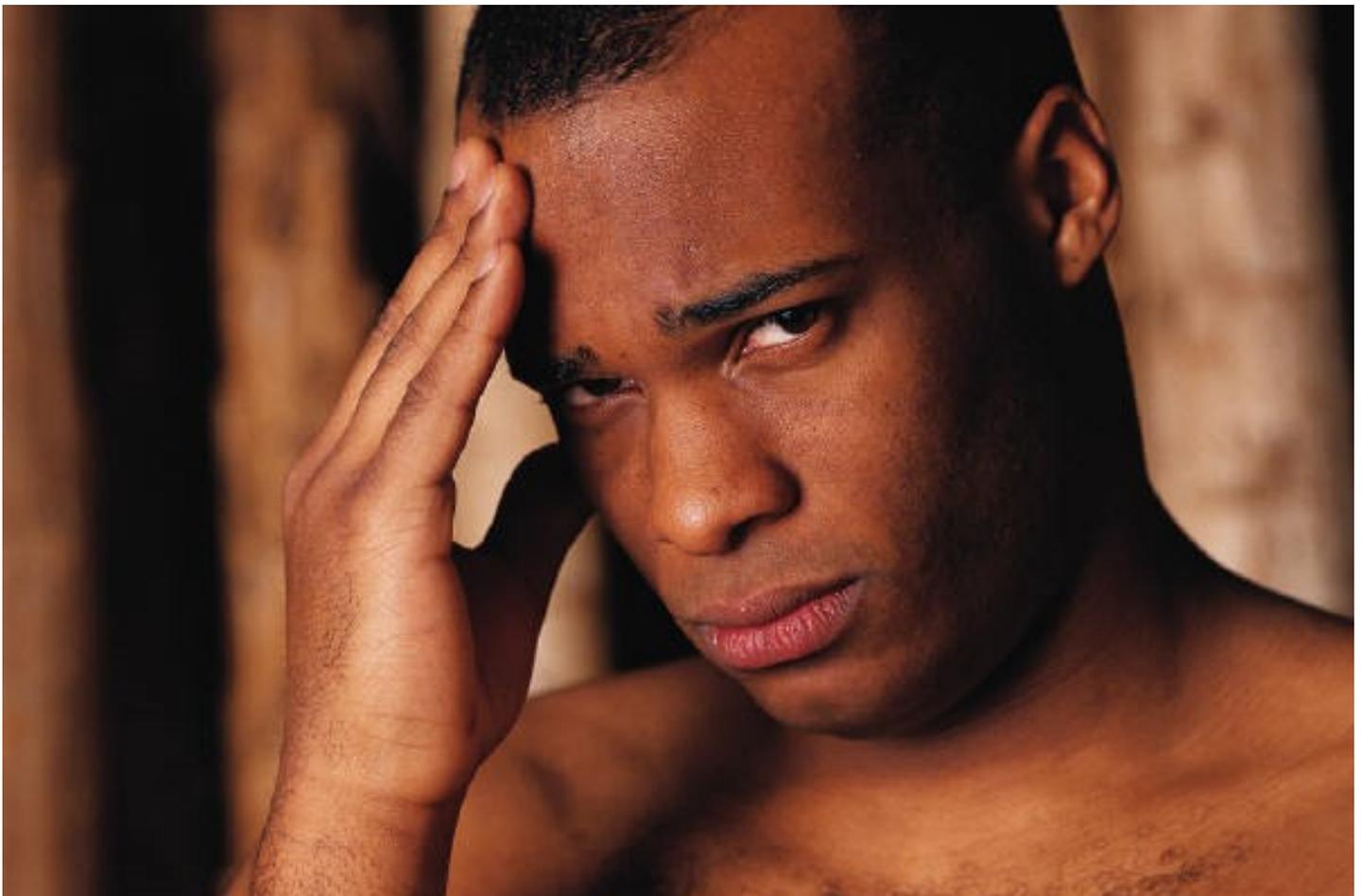
Party!!!

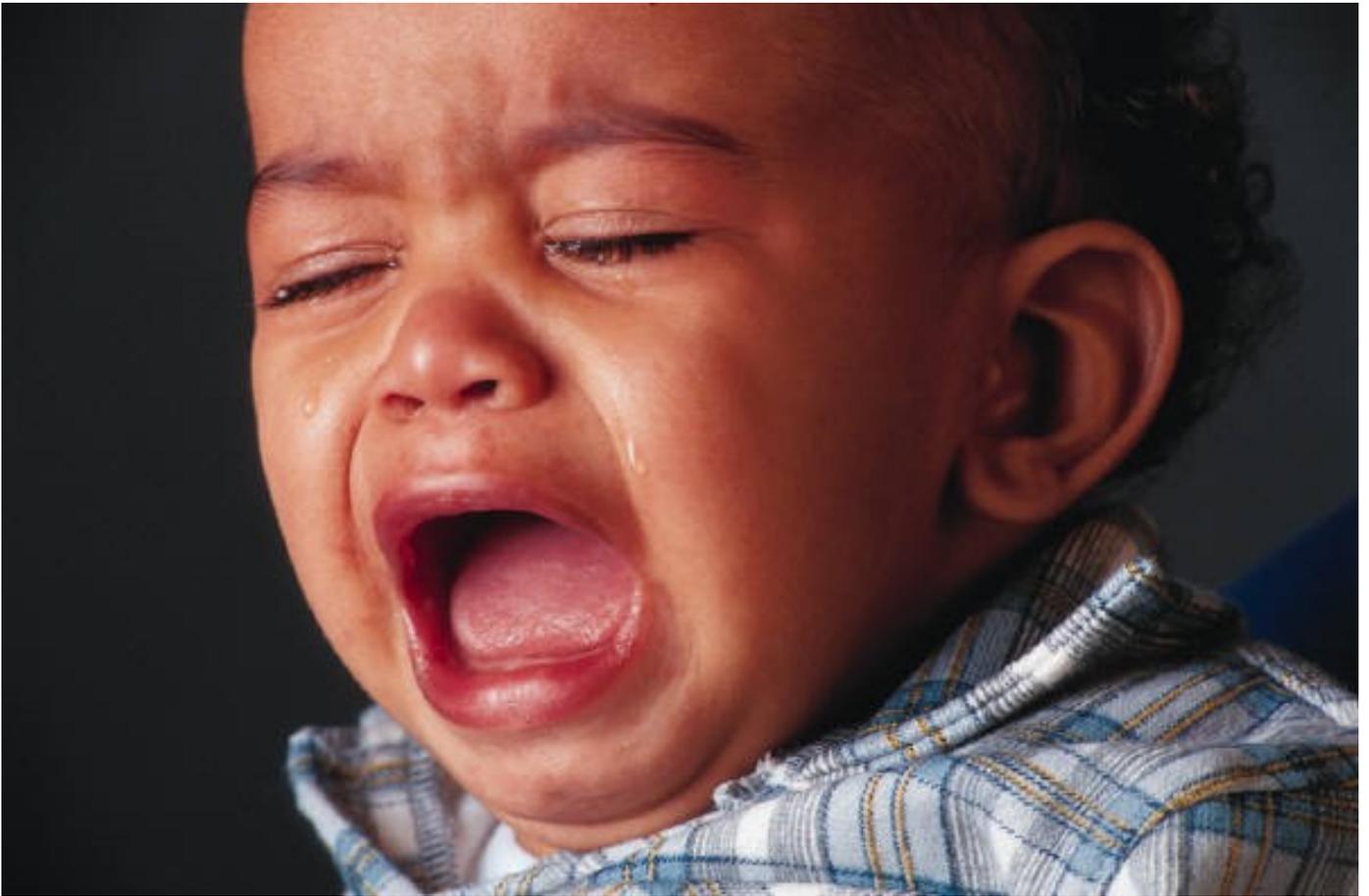














**Bullied?**

