

Epiphany Play Story:

Resources: universe fabric, fabric earth, stars and planets, large star, Nativity figures: 3 Magi, Mary and Joseph, miniature books/charts, camels (laminated pictures), something to represent a palace, a sword, stable, manger and straw, gold crown, incense stick, lip balm, picture of a newborn baby and heart shaped button

I wonder if you have you ever looked out at the night sky and wondered at how vast it is or how it seems to stretch on forever?

Unroll half the universe fabric

I wonder if you have you ever thought about how deep and dark it is.

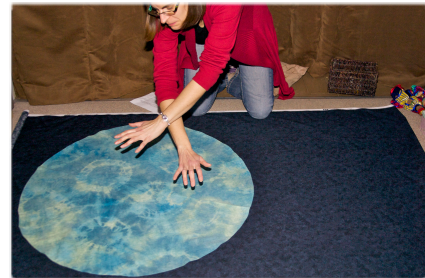
Sit back

Or wondered that much of the night sky is a complete mystery to us?

Unroll the rest of the fabric

In the beginning of God's creating, the earth was formless and void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind of God swept over the waters.

*Put on the earth
Swirling movements with hands*



And God said "Let there be light" and tiny pinpricks of stars beamed their light deep into space, illuminated the planets and made the darkness look even deeper.

Scatter stars and planets



As your eyes grow accustomed to the dark, you begin to make out star after star after star.

Well on the night our story began light from one tiny distant star traveled across the vast expanse of space.

Add new large star



And reached our tiny blue-green planet

So, it is truly amazing that one day, some Magi, who were people who studied the stars, looked up at the sky

Add Magi onto the earth



and saw the light from one, tiny star in the wrong place!

This must be a sign, the Magi said to one another. We know where all the stars should be. So they consulted all their books and charts.

Add books/charts



They read some of the ancient stories that told of the coming of the Messiah, the one sent by God who would join heaven and earth

And decided that the star was pointing to where the Messiah would be born.

So they set off on a very long journey — but where to go? The star was still burning bright to the west, so they started in that direction

Add camels leading away



They saw a palace and decided that Messiah must be there

Add palace

But they soon realized that Messiah wasn't there—and that the king who lived there was a jealous king who wanted to kill Messiah.

Add sword



So they escaped

And followed the star to a tiny town called Bethlehem

Here there was no palace

Here there was no cathedral

Here there was not even a hotel

Imagine the surprise of these great, important men, when the star came to rest over a dirty old cave, used as a stable.


Add stable, manger and straw

And there, amidst the straw and dirt from all the animals, they found the one whom God had sent to join heaven and earth. A baby called Jesus.

Add Mary, Joseph and Jesus



They brought out gifts for the baby, strange gifts, wonderful gifts, puzzling gifts.

<p>Messiah they thought to themselves was sent to lead the people so they gave the gift of Gold for a king.</p>	<p><i>Add gold crown</i></p>
<p>Messiah they thought to themselves was sent to connect heaven and earth so they gave the gift of Frankincense to symbolize prayer.</p>	<p><i>Add incense</i></p>
<p>Messiah they thought to themselves was sent to suffer and save the world so they gave the gift of myrrh, a perfumed ointment for anointing.</p>	<p><i>Add balm</i></p>
<p>And the Magi in all their robes and finery, knelt down in the dirt and straw and bowed down before the baby.</p>	<p><i>Add straw</i></p> 
<p>God's tiny heartbeat, beating in the darkness, beating at the heart of the universe to connect heaven and earth and speak of God's love for all people.</p>	<p><i>Add picture of a baby on earth.</i></p>
	<p><i>Add tiny heart shaped button onto the baby</i></p> 