

Away in a Manger – Draw the Song

Let the kids be an artist for the day with one of these 3 fun ways to draw along with the song this simple nativity scene that's perfect for young kids to try. The simplistic shapes of this modern watercolor painting will be easy for young children to replicate!

1. Artist of the Day

To play "Artist of the Day," start by giving each child a copy of the drawing and some crayons. For this activity, each child will trace the drawing in steps throughout the duration of the song. By the end of the song, they will have completed a beautiful drawing of the nativity scene that they can take home and share with their families.

How to Use this Activity:

1. Sing the first line of the song, then invite the children to trace Mary. As the children draw, you might have the pianist play the first line again.
2. After singing another line, invite them to trace Joseph.
3. Next, they can trace the manger and baby Jesus. While they trace Jesus, invite them to think about how they can be like Jesus during the Christmas season.
4. During the chorus, invite children to color their picture and add extra details. This might be a good time to sing acapella while the children draw.
5. At the end of the song, you may invite a few children to share their drawings with the class.

2. Let's Draw Together

This time, everyone works on tracing a single drawing together. Start by taping this drawing of the nativity to the board. While singing the song, invite a child who is singing reverently to come up and trace one element of the drawing. Continue to add to the drawing until it is completed. After completing the drawing, sing the song through at least once more.

3. Drawing Lesson

For this activity, you can tape the drawing close to the whiteboard as a reference. Start by drawing one of the shapes on the board to start the picture. Sing the first verse of the song, then invite a child to come up and draw another element of the picture. Continue singing the next verses of the song or repeat the verse.

Extension Ideas:

- Have a child volunteer to be blindfolded. This child will be the artist. Choose another child to give directions for drawing the picture to the artist.
- Place the finished pictures around the room for an "art gallery." Have the children walk around the room to view the pictures as they sing "Away in a Manger."
- If your primary allows for paints, use some watercolor to paint the pictures!



AWAY IN A MANGER

