

When Joseph Went to Bethlehem Hand Actions

How to Play:

- Sing through When Joseph Went to Bethlehem once before introducing the hand actions.
- Introduce the first 2-3 hand actions in order, following the guide below with all the actions.
- For the first line of the song, you'll have the kids pound their fists one on top of the other twice while singing "Joseph". Then, point to the right twice as you sing "went to". Add in some stomps as you sing "Bethlehem".
- Do you think you can do those actions with me? Demo them once again and have the children follow along. Now sing through the song using your brand new actions!
- Continue adding 2-3 actions at a time and then singing the song together from the beginning.
- This will add in a ton of repetition and lots of focused repeating of each line with a meaningful action to help them remember the song!

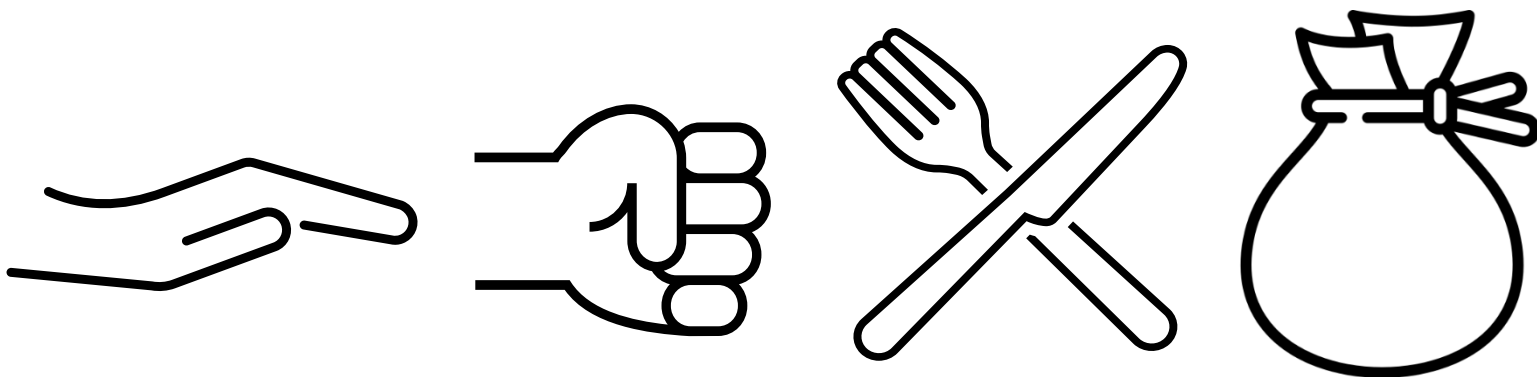
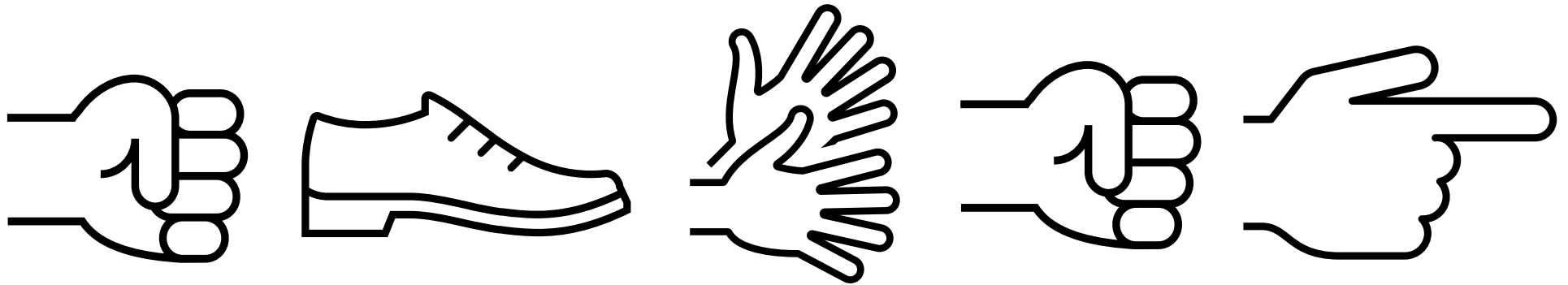
Hand Actions:

- When Joseph (pound fists twice)
- went to (point right right)
- Bethlehem (stomp 3 times)
- I think he took (pound fists twice)
- great care (patsch twice)
- To place his tools (pound fists twice)
- and close his shop (stomp 3 times)
- and leave no shavings (swipe away shavings x3) there.
- He urged the (pound fists twice)
- donkey forward then (3 lx point both fingers forward)
- with Mary on its back (patsch 4x once per word)
- And carried (pound fists twice)
- bread and goat cheese (eat twice)
- in a little linen sack. (Throw sack over your shoulder)

Alternate Activities:

- Teach one type of sign at a time – for example, add all the double fist actions first. Then, teach add in the stomps, next the pointing actions, etc.
- Have the children come up with their own actions for several of the keywords.
- Cut up the action symbols and mix them up. Demo the actions, and have the kids put the cards back in the correct sequence!
- Divide the room into 3 groups. Have them sing and do the action like they would sing a round! Group 1 sings the first line while group 2 does the actions. Now group 2 sings and group 3 does the actions. Finally, group 3 sings and group 1 will do the actions. To add another layer to the challenge, have the other group clap for each word!

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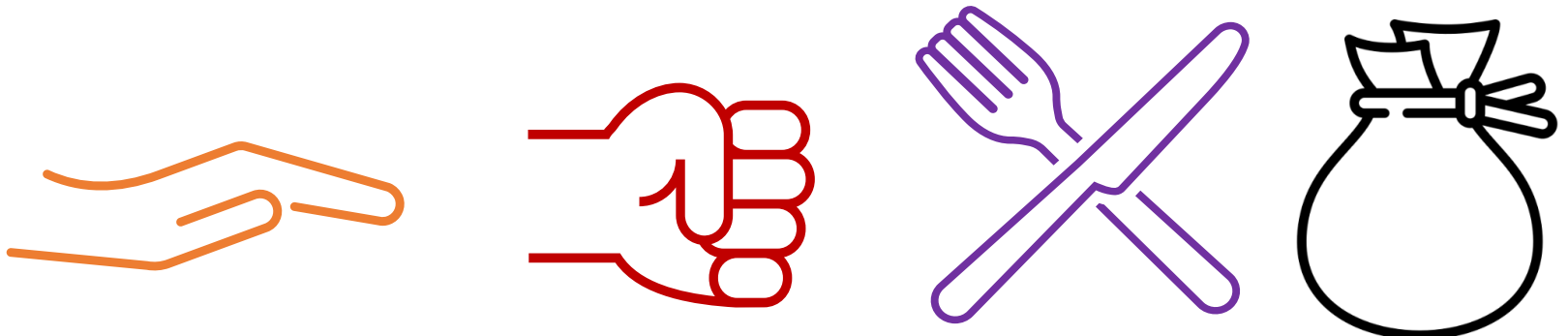


When Joseph went to Bethlehem I think he took great care to



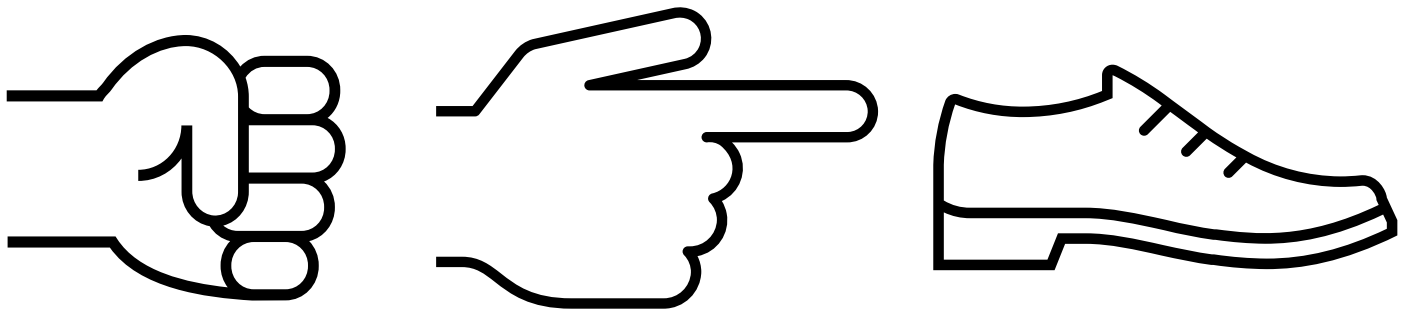
place his tools and close his shop and leave no shavings there.

He urged the donkey forward then

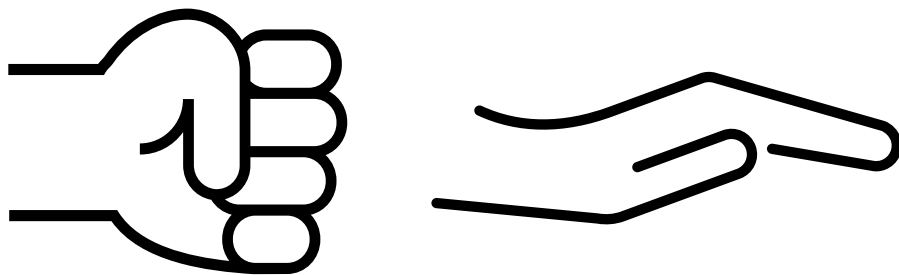


with Mary on its back and carried bread and goat cheese in a
little linen sack.

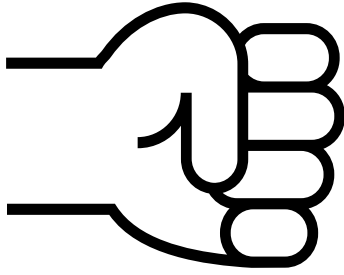
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FIST POINT STOMP



FIST PATSCH



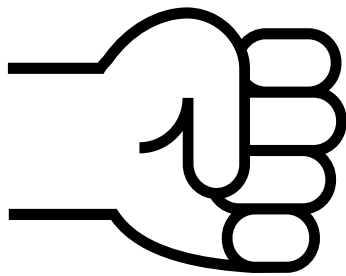
FIST



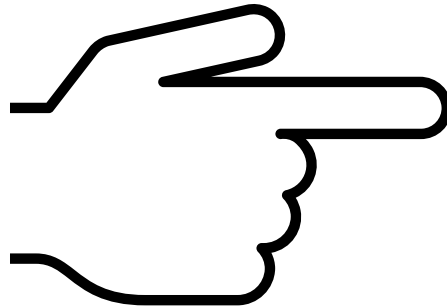
STOMP



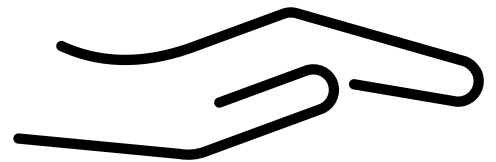
SWIPE



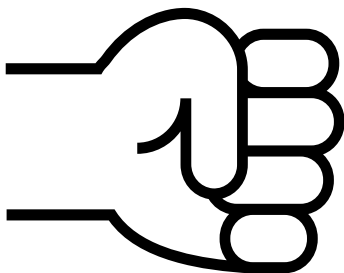
FIST



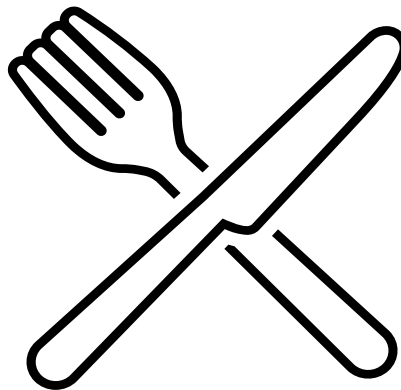
POINT



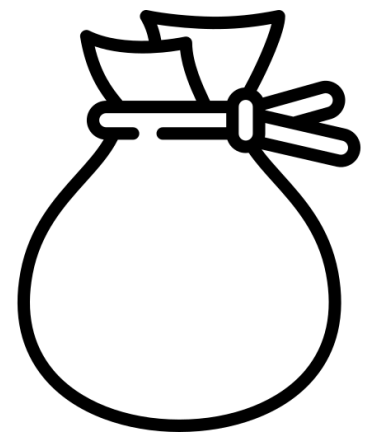
PATSCH



FIST

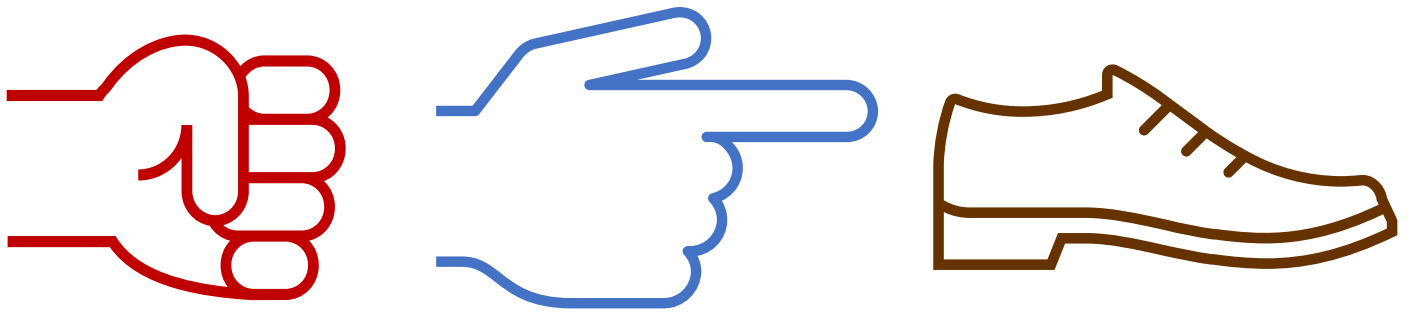


EAT



SACK

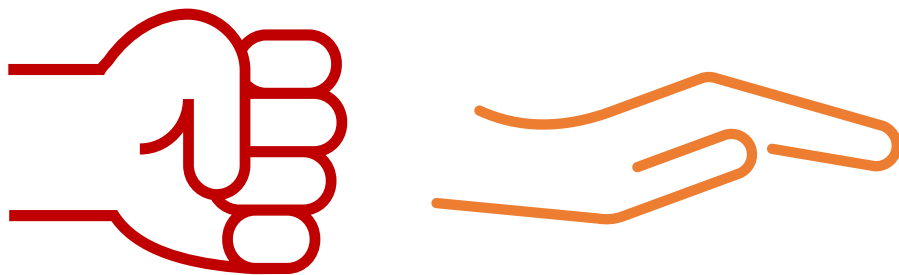
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FIST

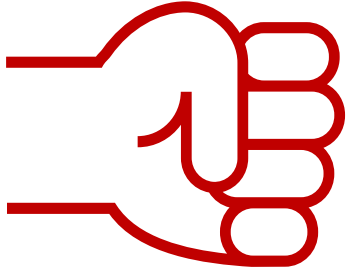
POINT

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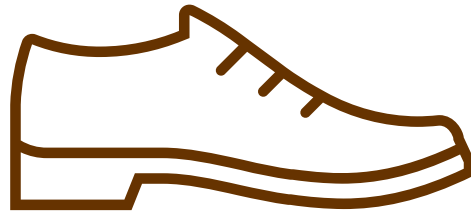


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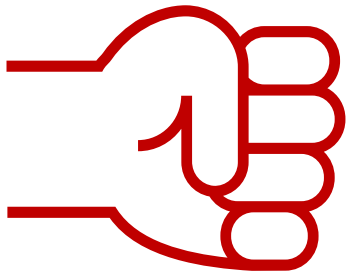
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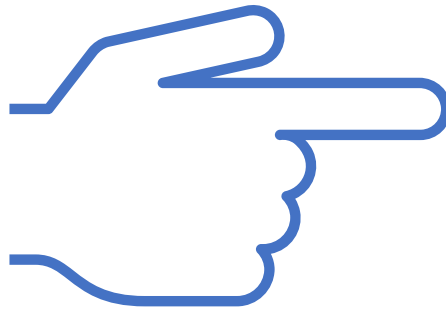
STOMP



SWIPE



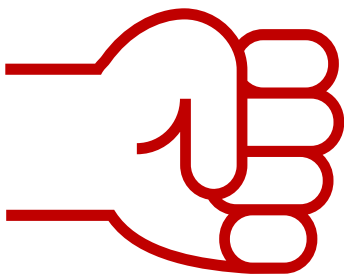
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POINT



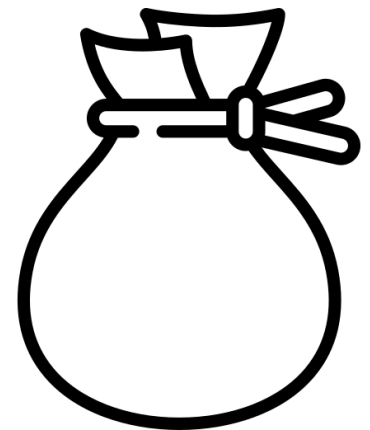
PATSCH



FIST



EAT



SACK



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