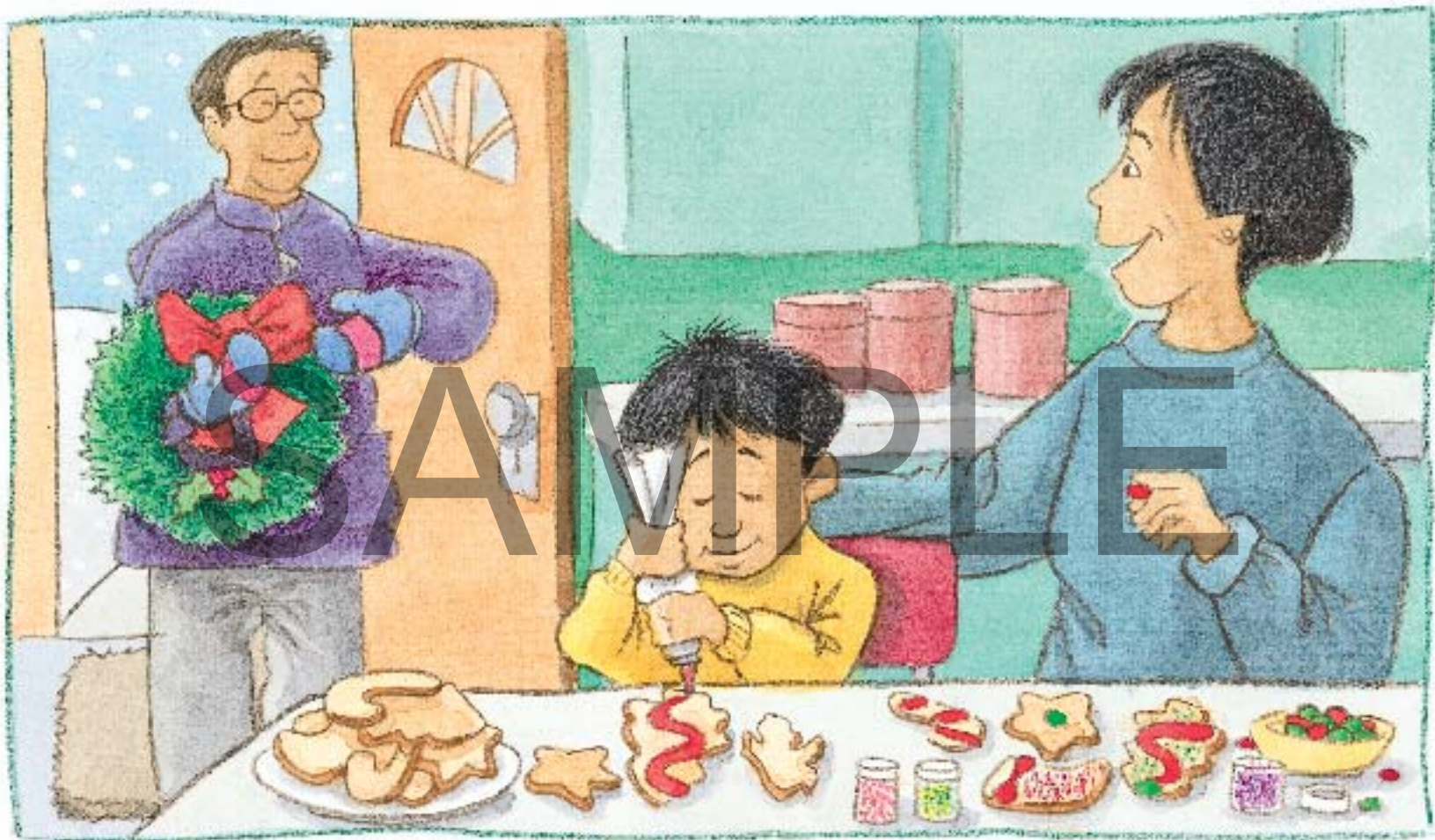
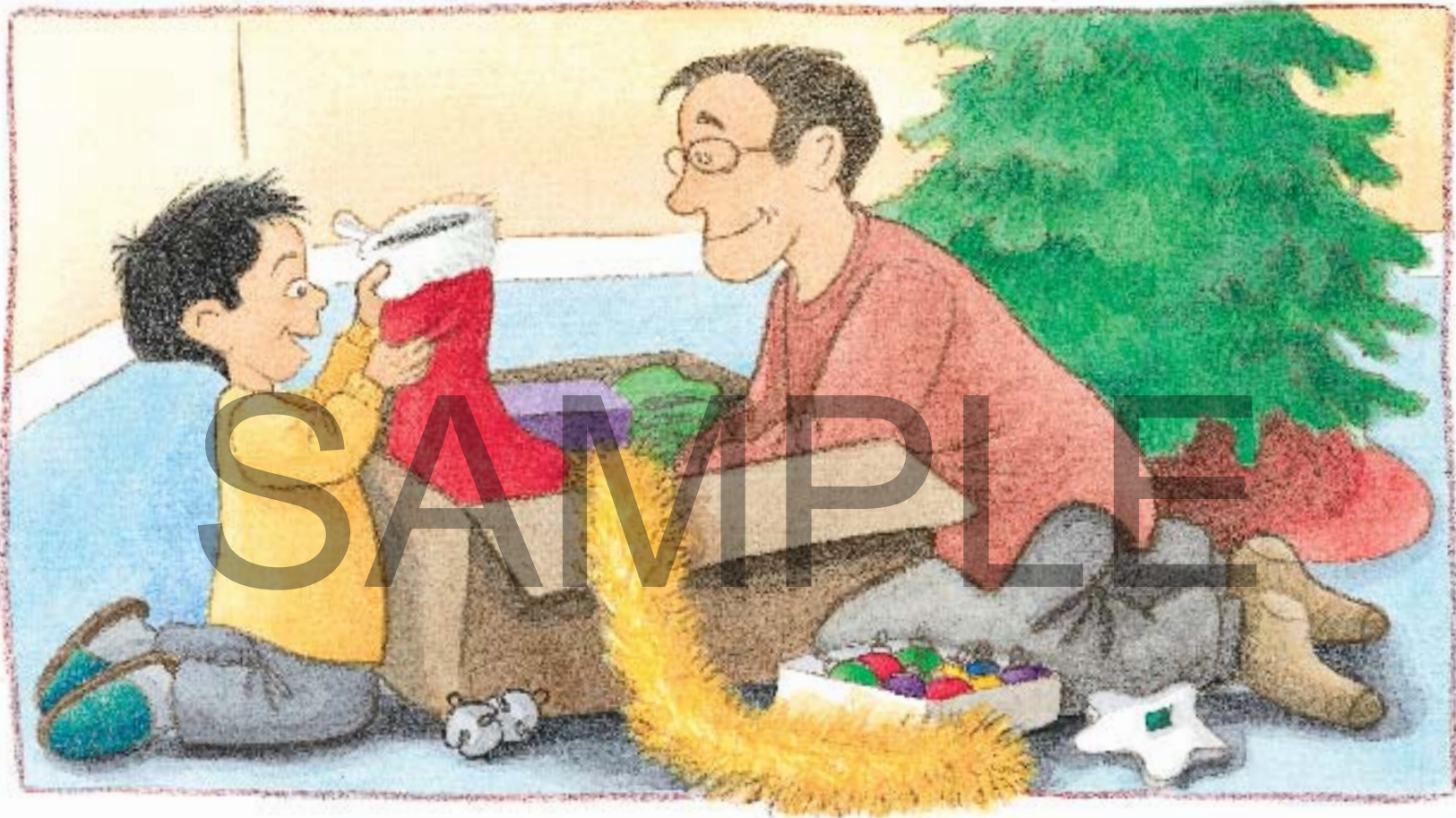


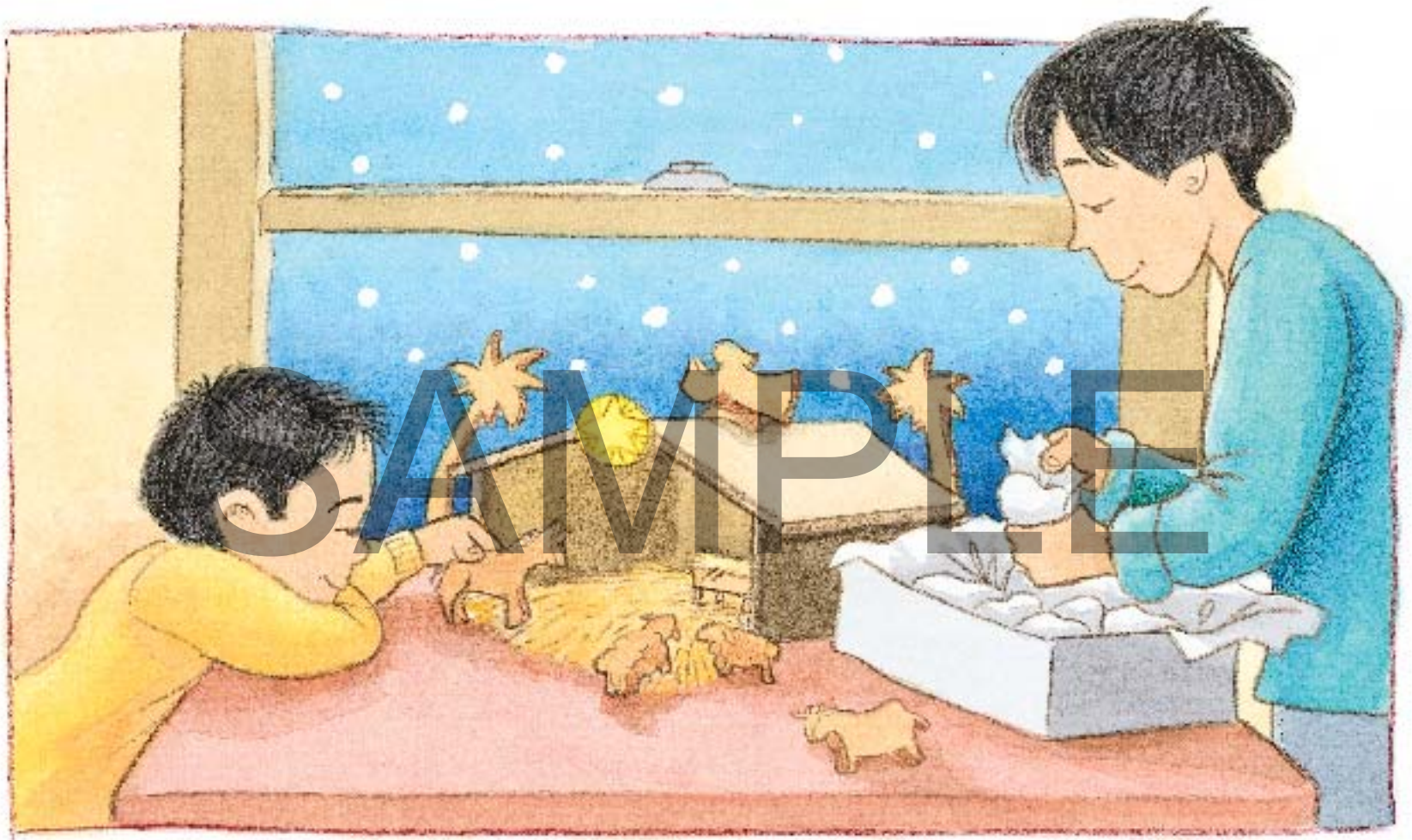
Christmas Decorations







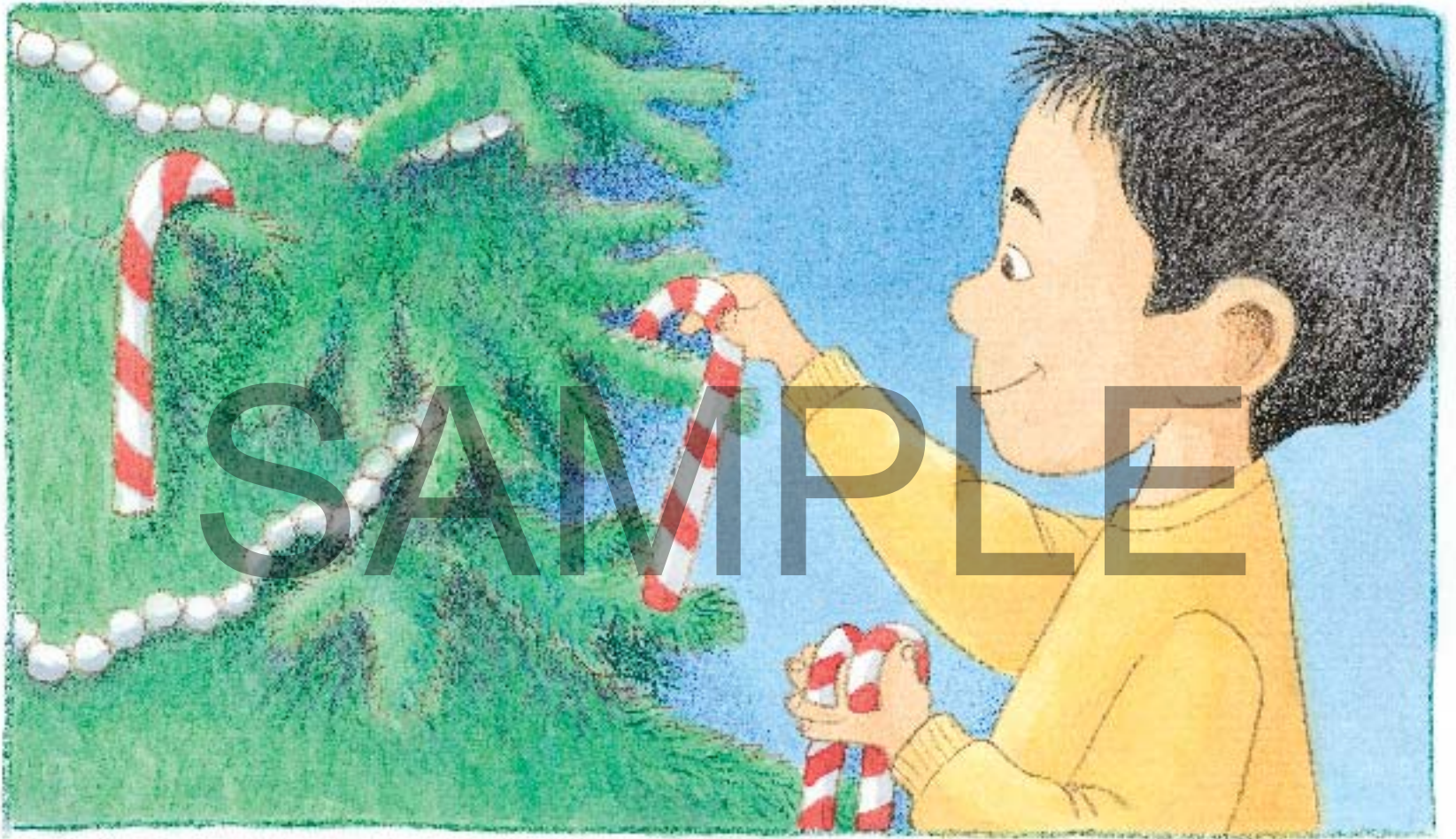
One of the things I like most about Christmas is decorating the house. There is a reason for each decoration.



We set up a nativity scene on our table.



It reminds us of the manger where the story of Christmas tells us Jesus was born.



**Our Christmas tree is a pine tree.
We hang candy canes on the tree.**



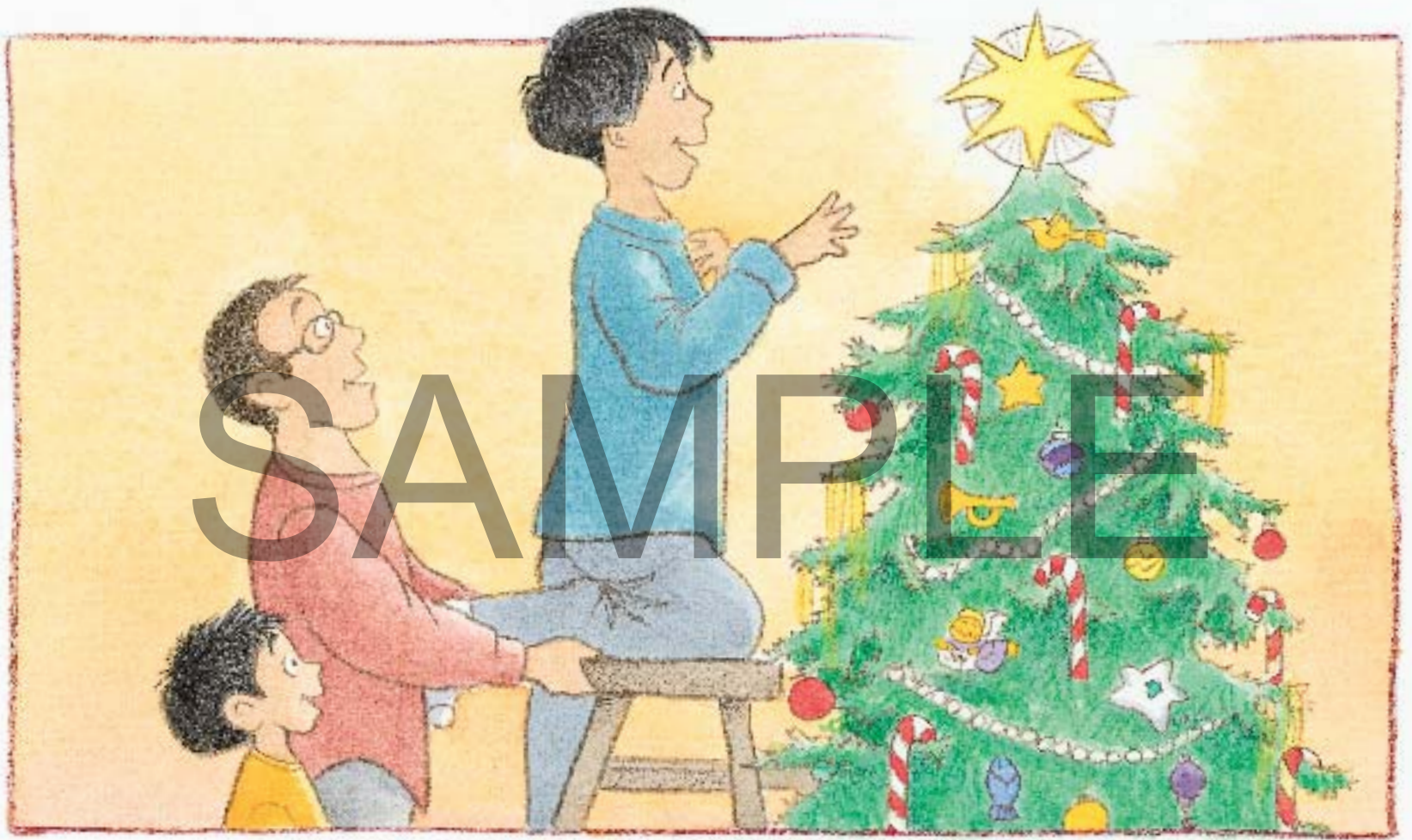
The candy canes are shaped like a shepherd's staff to remind us of the shepherds who first heard about baby Jesus.



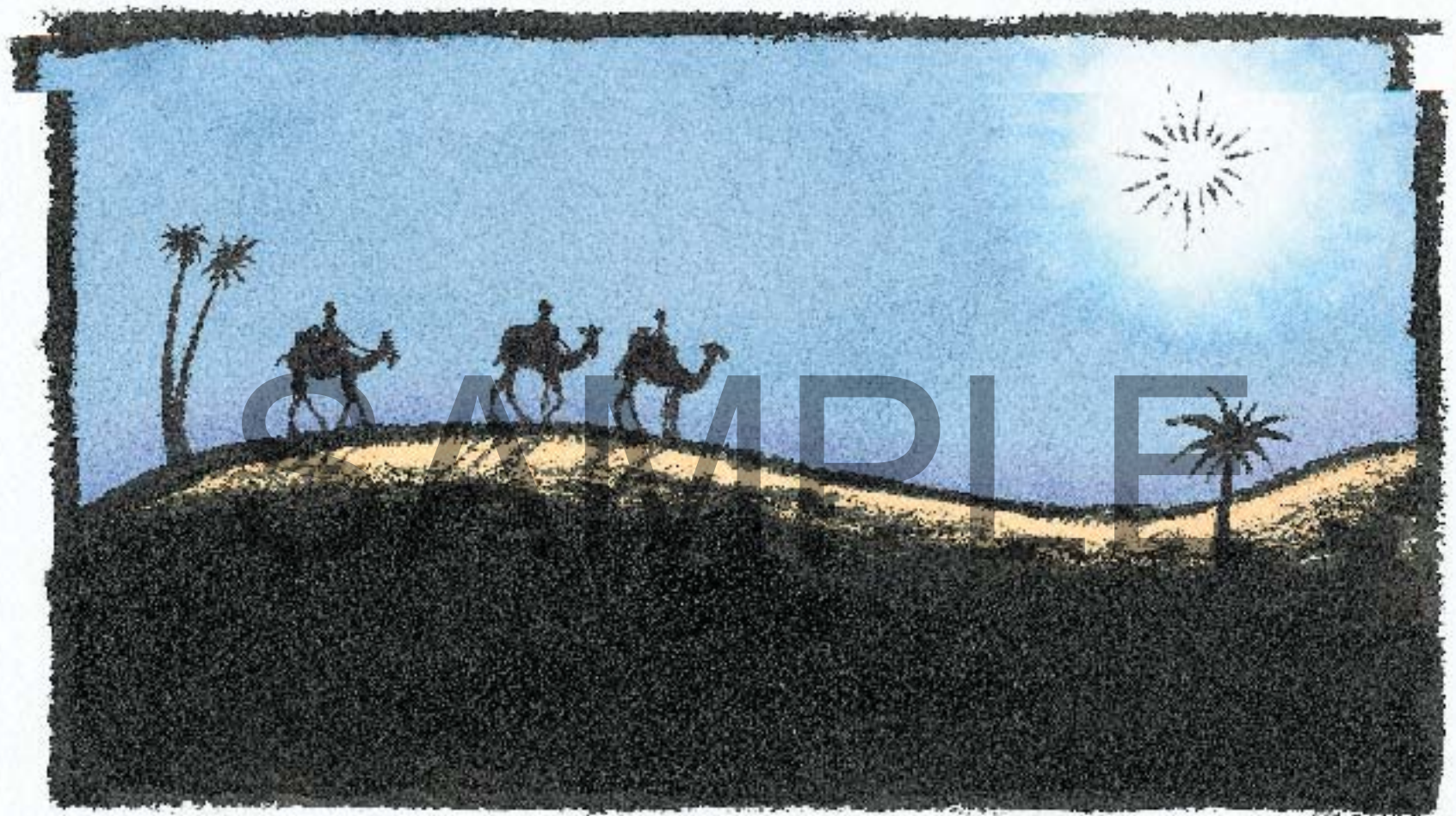
Many of our decorations have angels on them.



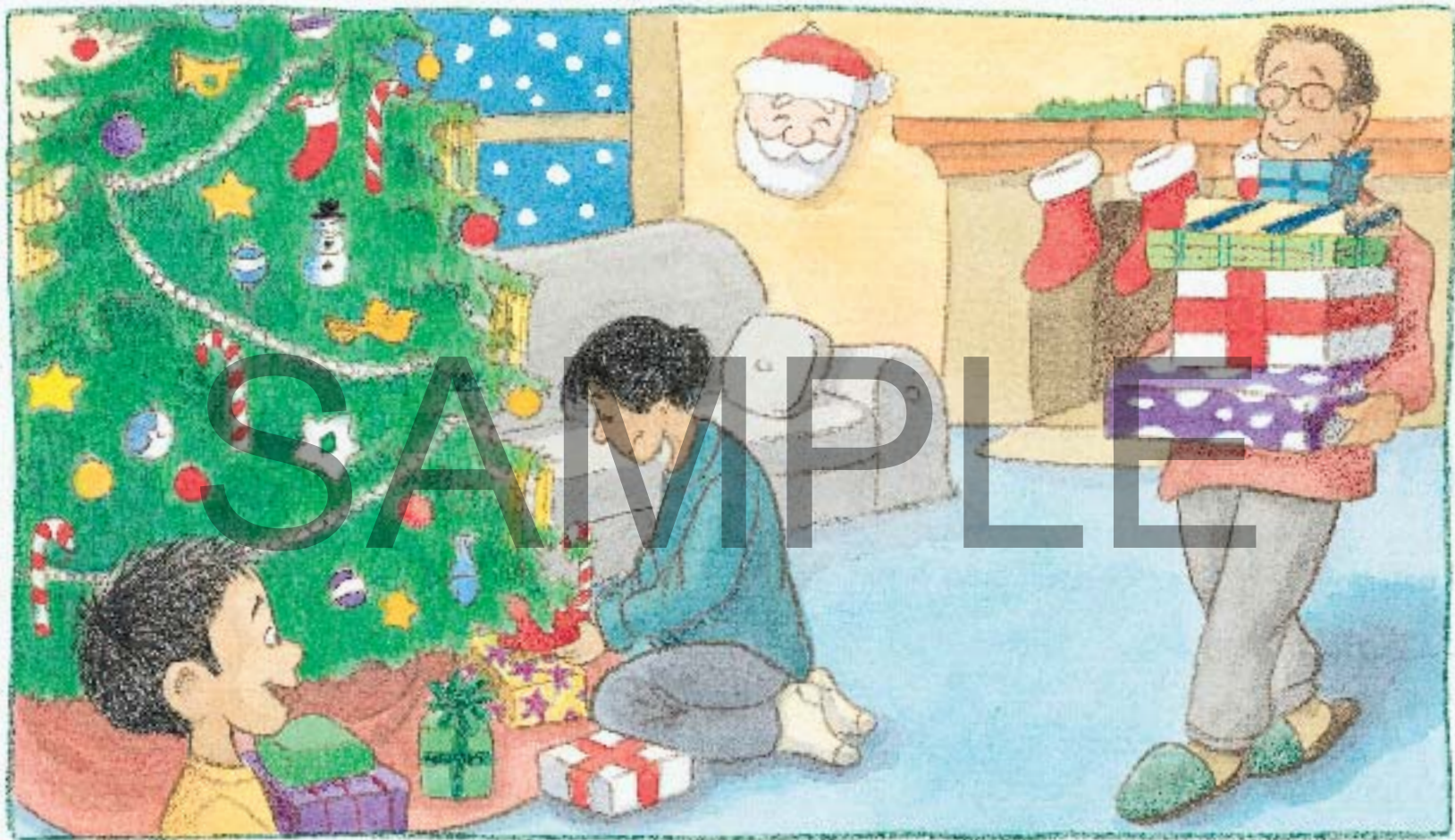
They remind us of the angels who told the shepherds where to find baby Jesus.



We hang a star at the top of the tree.



**It reminds us of the star that led
the wise men to baby Jesus.**



We put our gifts under the tree.



The gifts remind us of the gifts
the wise men brought to baby Jesus.

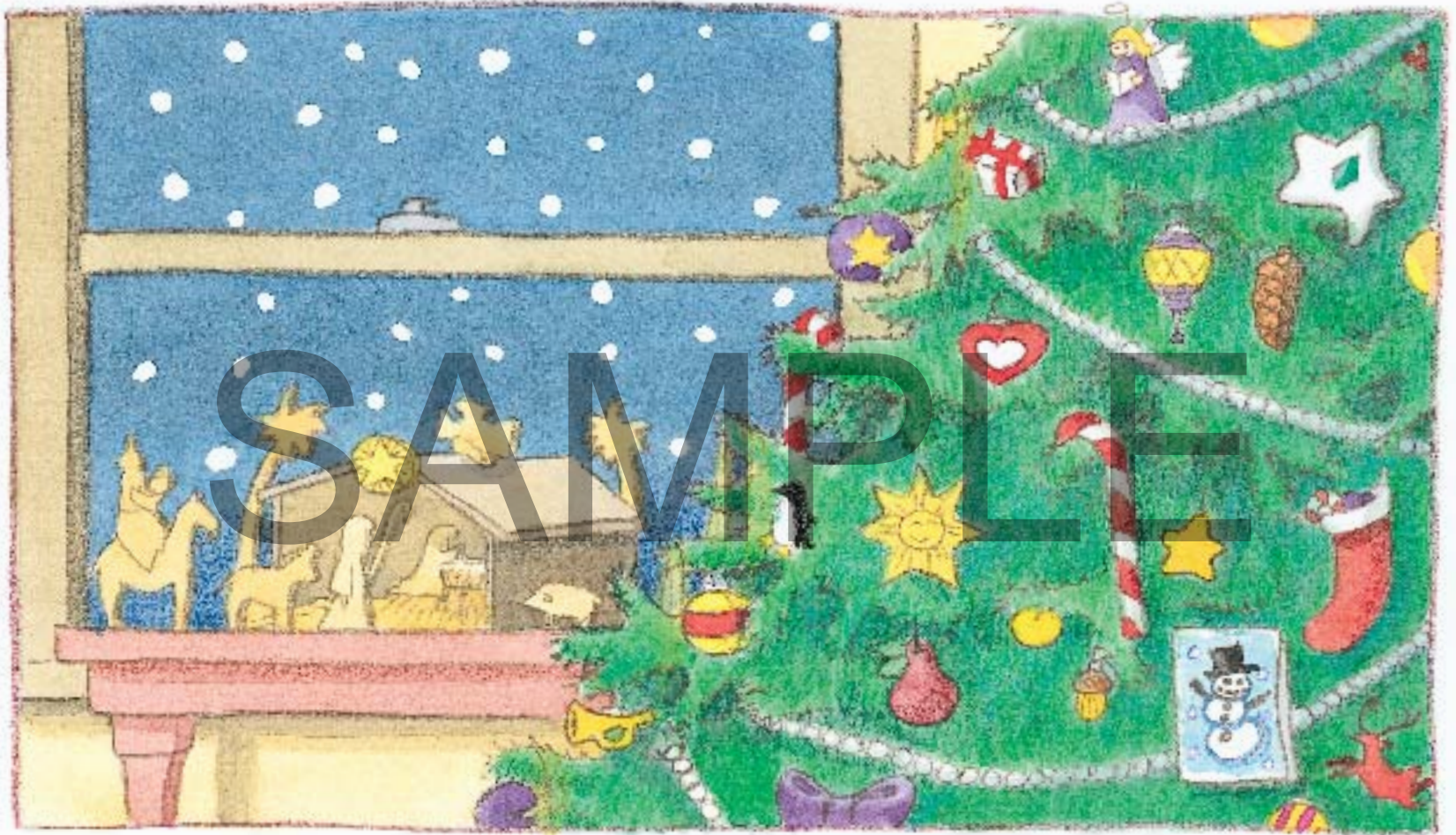


When we are finished, the whole house is beautiful.



SAMPLE

It tells a beautiful story, too!



What stories do your holiday decorations tell?

Celebrating Christmas: Christmas Decorations

About Christmas

To those who celebrate it, Christmas is more than gift giving. It is the celebration of the birth of the Christian Savior, Jesus Christ. Many children are familiar with the sights, sounds, and symbols of the Christmas holiday season, but they may not appreciate their significance. This story can help students of all faiths understand the religious meaning of Christmas without requiring that they participate in it. It can also help them think about the symbols that characterize the holidays their families celebrate.

The Meaning of Decorations

Invite students to list typical decorations for several other holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, Independence Day, and New Year's Day. Challenge them to theorize what each decoration symbolizes or represents. Then, have students suggest new decorations for Christmas and other holidays, explaining what each one symbolizes and how it relates to the holiday. For example, a child might suggest a birthday cake as a Christmas decoration that symbolizes Jesus Christ's birthday.

SAMPLE

Learn to Read Holiday Series

CTP 4522 Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day
CTP 4523 Celebrating Presidents' Day
CTP 4524 Celebrating Chinese New Year
CTP 4525 Celebrating Valentine's Day
CTP 4526 Celebrating Easter
CTP 4527 Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

CTP 4528 Celebrating Mother's Day
CTP 4529 Celebrating Patriotic Holidays
CTP 4530 Celebrating Father's Day
CTP 4531 Celebrating Thanksgiving
CTP 4532 Celebrating Chanukah
CTP 4533 Celebrating Christmas