

# Supply List and Instructions for Making the “Journey” Ornaments

## Rotation.org Writing Team’s Jesus is Born! Art Workshop



This three part “Journey” ornament is designed to recall and reinforce the memory of the scripture passages for this lesson. The materials and construction are designed to create a durable ornament that will continue to teach for many years, -surviving handling, storage and re-use year after Advent year. Depending on the age of your students, and the amount of class time you have been given, you will want to prepare certain things in advance, and have extra helpers. See our “time saving tips” below. The lesson plan describes a terrific way of splitting up the creation process into different stations. The station approach is a real time saver.



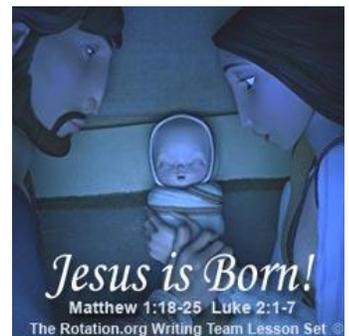
**A note about these instructions and materials:** The instructions in this document are mostly visual, -owing to the simplicity of putting together what looks complicated! The key technique is being able to tightly wrap things together using the recommended craft wire. Smaller children will need help.

We have selected craft materials and assembly process that are both durable and quick. By minimizing the use of glue, and emphasizing the use of wire to hold things together, your projects will be ready to go home, and stay together for a long time to come. In the Rotation Model, a different class comes into the Art Workshop each week, but by keeping the same teachers/helpers each week, they will get better at preparing and assembly, as well as, sharing the lesson. Feel free to improve on the process and materials, keeping in mind the overall goals of story-telling and durability.

### Ornament Overview

Students will create three ornaments that represent the three key parts of the scripture for this lesson: (1) the angel appears to Joseph, (2) The journey to Bethlehem (represented by the donkey ornament), and (3) the birth of Jesus.

After completing all three, students will string them together by using a string of “twine wire” stapled to the back of the clothespins. As seen in the photo above, beads are added between each. The beads not only to separate the ornaments, but to represent both the “counting” of days we traditionally engage in at Advent, and the “counting decree” issued by Caesar Augustus. (Romans used a form of “abacus” to tally numbers, ...a device which used beads.)



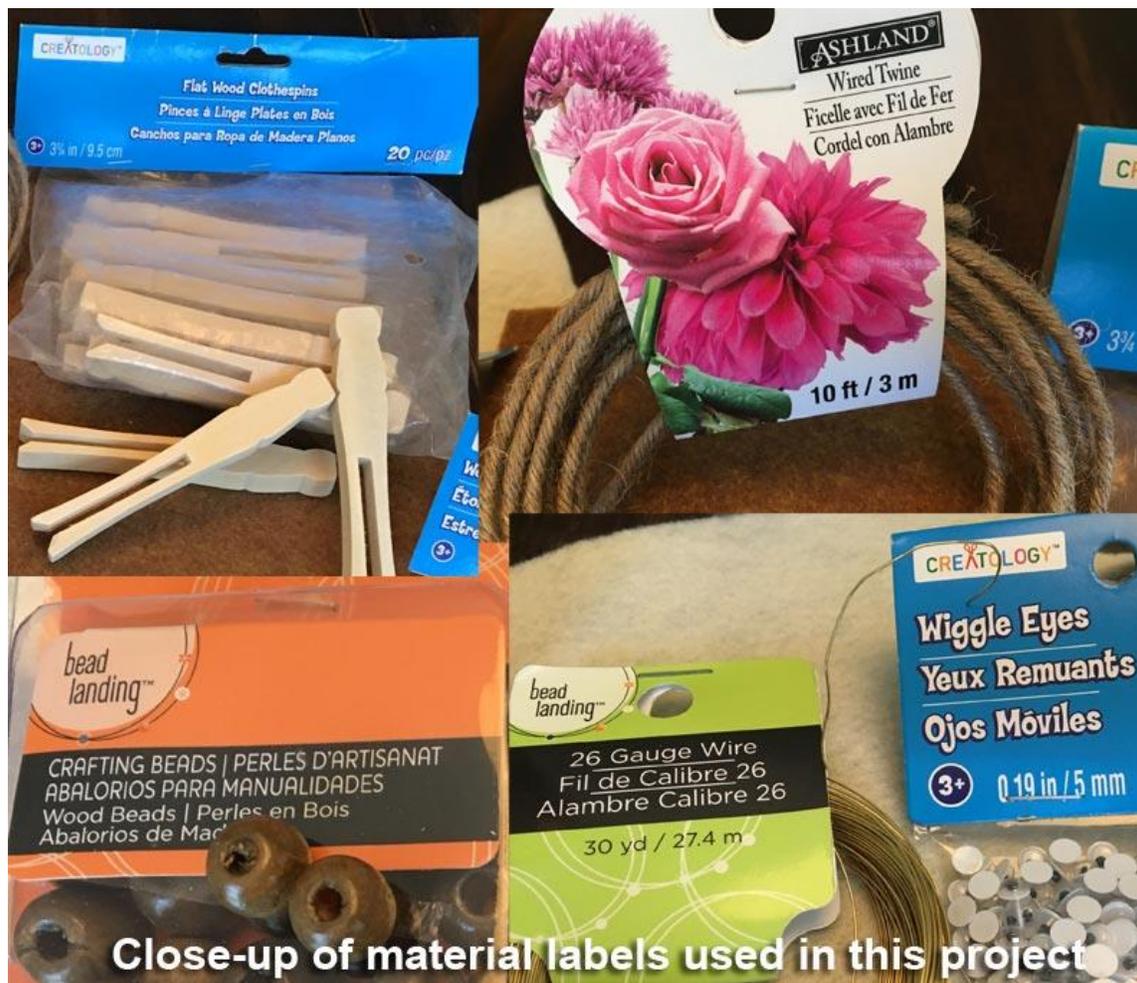
## Materials List:

All the following are found at craft stores, such as, Michael's. See photos below for more details.

1. Old fashioned clothespins (the flat "craft" style are easiest to work with)
2. "Twine wire" (brown twine wrapped around a wire. You'll use it to connect and hang the three ornaments)
3. Bead wire (you will use a lot of this to firmly fasten the clothespins together)
4. Wooden beads (to go on twine wire and separate ornaments)
5. White and brown felt (For the angel wings thick felt is best. Thin for swaddling clothes, and Joseph's blanket so that it wraps easily)
6. Googly eyes (4 per student. 0.19"/5mm fits best)
7. Tacky glue (For the eyes and felt. Sets up fast.)
8. Wooden stars (found precut by the bag)
9. Grey and yellow crayons to color the donkey and star (markers work too, but crayons are more vibrant.)
10. Several pairs of pliers to twist wire tightly
11. Wire cutters
12. Scissors to cut felt (recommend you do this ahead of time).
13. Craft stapler (to staple the twine wire on the back of your clothespin ornaments).

## Time-saving Tips:

- Precut your felt angel wings, Joseph blanket, and Swaddling clothes
- Precut your Jesus clothespin (you only need the top part)
- Youngsters will need an extra pair of hands to wrap and cut wire.
- Pre-wire your Mary and Joseph clothespins together.
- Pre-glue the blankets on all your Joseph clothespins to save time.
- Always do the gluing AFTER you've finished twisting the wire on.





Matthew 1:18-25  
Joseph and the Angel  
Attach eyes LAST with dab of glue



Glue Joseph's blanket  
before fastening to angel  
clothespin. Fasten by tightly  
twisting a piece of wire



Precut wings to save time  
Attach angel wings  
to clothespin with wire  
and a dab of glue  
(leave extra wire in back to attach  
to twine wire)  
Wrap wire around angel's  
head in notch of clothespin  
then form an halo



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Luke 2:1-5  
Journey to Bethlehem

Color the clothespins grey  
Color the hooves and ears  
Twist twine wire tight to fasten together  
Glue eyes



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## More Tips!

- Yellow and grey crayons are great for a durable and vibrant sheen on the donkey and star.
- The “flat” style craft clothespins are preferred to the round type because the flat type have grooves in them that the wire can grip into. 24 or 26 gauge gold “craft bead wire is easy to bend, wrap with, and is fairly strong. Don’t over-twist with the pliers. Notice that we used “twine wire” to wrap the two clothespins to form the donkey. Looked more like a bridle than the gold wire.
- Use a short heavy duty “craft” staples to fix the twine wire to the back of the ornaments. Length = approximately 24” per set of ornaments. The twine wire looks great, and makes it easy to hang the ornaments on a tree or special location.
- Always cut your wire AFTER you are sure you have taken enough!
- Be sure the hole in your beads is big enough for the twine wire to go through. If the twine starts to fray off the wire, wet the twine and twist it back on, then twist the beads onto the wire in the direction of the twine twist.

