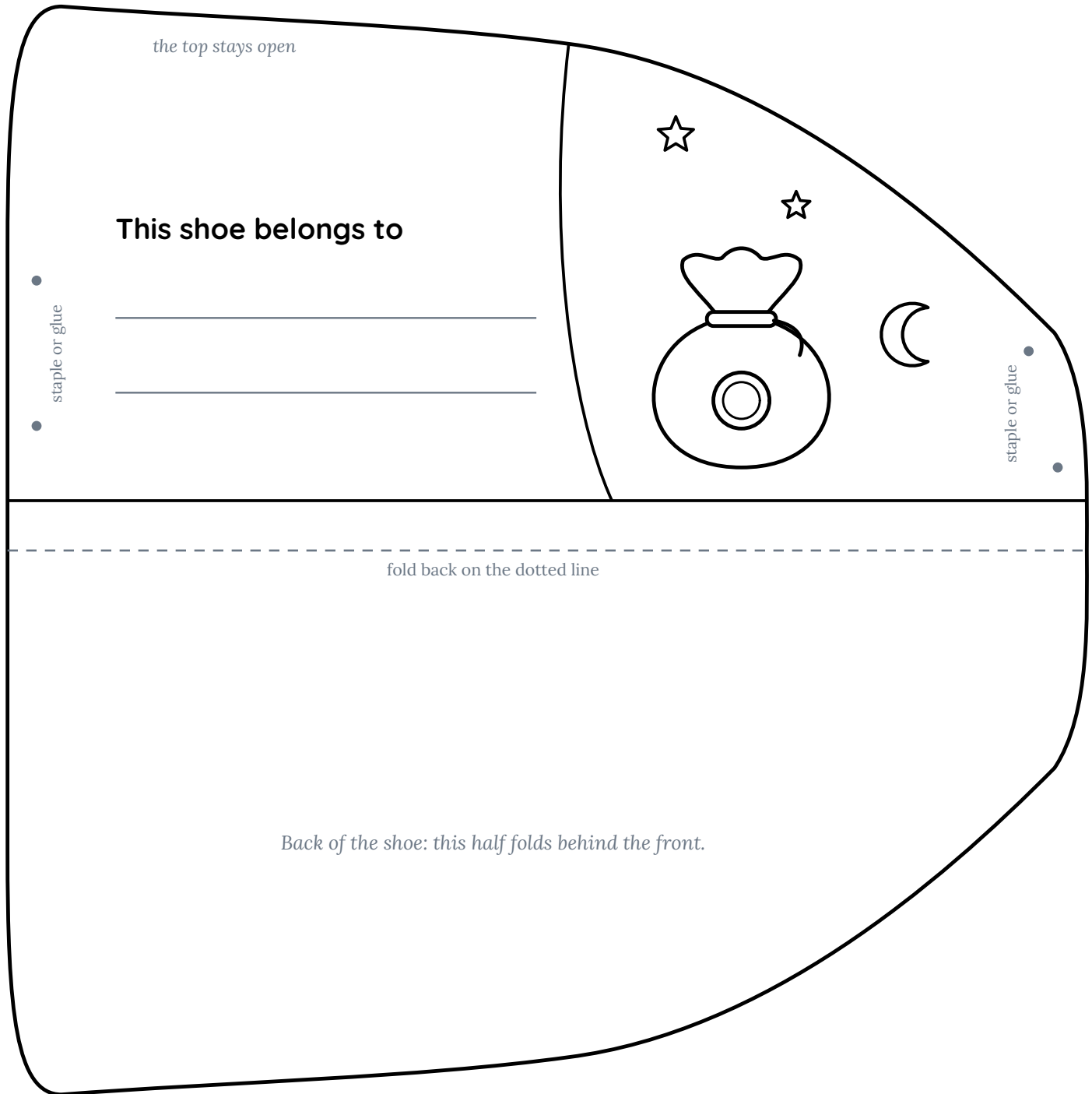


My Saint Nicholas Shoe

On the night before his feast day, children set out their shoes, hoping to wake to a happy surprise.

- 1 Color your shoe and write your name.
- 2 Cut along the solid outline.
- 3 Fold the bottom half back on the dotted line.
- 4 Staple or glue the heel and toe. Leave the top open!

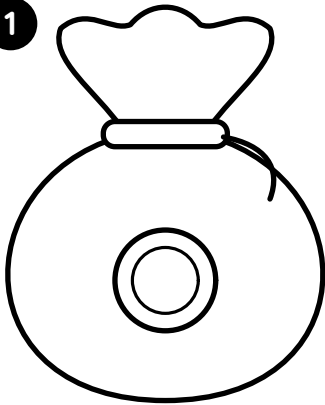


My Three Bags of Gold

Name: _____

Saint Nicholas gave three bags of gold, one for each daughter. Give like him this week, without expecting anything in return. Color a bag each time, and tick it off.

1



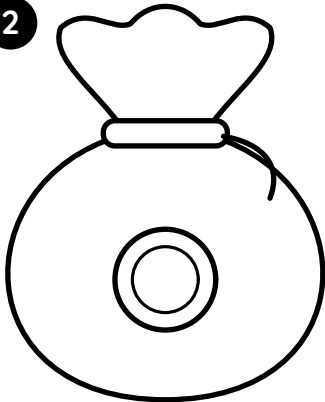
Do something kind for someone today without expecting anything in return.

☐

I did it!

What I gave: _____

2



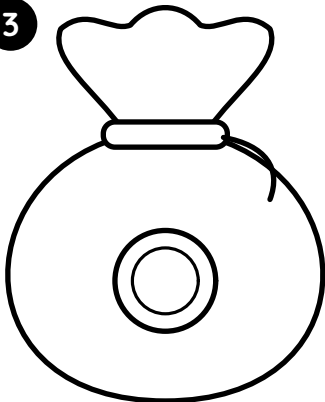
With a grown-up's help, pick something of your own to give to a child who has less.

☐

I did it!

What I gave: _____

3



Leave a little surprise for someone in your family to find: a note, a drawing, or a treat.

☐

I did it!

What I gave: _____

Pray together

Dear God, thank you for all the good things you have given me. Help me to share them gladly, and without expecting anything in return, the way Saint Nicholas did, always giving from a heart full of love. Amen.

Saint Nicholas Shoes: leader's guide

A Saint Nicholas Day activity for children aged 4 to 9. Each child makes a paper shoe, finds it filled on Saint Nicholas Day (December 6), and takes home three ways to give like him.

You'll need

For each child: the shoe page and the bags of gold page. Crayons, scissors, a stapler or glue sticks, and tape to hang the shoes. One small surprise per shoe: a chocolate coin, or a sticker, a holy card or a gold paper star. Check allergies and your school's rules before using food. Make a few spare shoes for absent children and newcomers.

Tell his story

Nicholas lived more than 1,600 years ago in Myra, a town by the sea in what is now Turkey, where he became the bishop. The story told about him is of a poor father with three daughters. Nicholas dropped a bag of gold through their window at night and hurried away before anyone could thank him, and he came back until each daughter had one. He gave because God had given him so much, and he wanted nothing back.

Saint Nicholas and Santa Claus

Some children in your class may believe in Santa Claus. Nothing here needs to change that. Tell them that Santa's story began with Saint Nicholas, a real man who gave out of love for God. It gives the gifts a deeper meaning.

Pray before you make the shoes

Pray the book's prayer together before the children start. In it they ask God to help them give gladly, the way Saint Nicholas did, and the bags of gold are their chance to do it:

Dear God, thank you for all the good things you have given me. Help me to share them gladly, and without expecting anything in return, the way Saint Nicholas did, always giving from a heart full of love. Amen.

Two ways to run it

- **Over two sessions (best):** in the last class before December 6, read the story, pray, make the shoes, and hang them on the door or wall with their names showing. After the children leave, fill every shoe. At the next class, the children find their shoes and take home the bags of gold page.
- **In one session (30 to 40 minutes):** story (10 minutes), pray together (2), make the shoes (15), hang them up. While the children wash hands or line up, a helper fills the shoes (3). Hand out the bags of gold page as they go.

The bags of gold page stays at home. There's no need to bring it back, so no child is marked out for forgetting it. At the next class you might ask, "Did anyone give like Saint Nicholas this week?" and let those who want to, tell the class.

Every shoe filled

- Fill every shoe yourself, with the same surprise in each, so no child is left out and no shoe looks emptier than another. Fill a spare shoe for anyone who was away. The children's own giving is the bags of gold.
- Little ones can color the shoe while a helper cuts, folds and staples it.
- To go further, run a class collection through Advent: mittens, hats or books for a local charity, given without expecting anything in return. Page 4 is a ready-made letter to families: type in your details before printing, or fill them in by hand.

More ideas for Saint Nicholas Day, and the book *Saint Nicholas and the Secret Gifts*, are at littlesaintsbighearts.com/saint-nicholas-day



A Saint Nicholas Collection



Dear families,

This Advent our class is learning about Saint Nicholas, the kind bishop who gave to people in need and wanted nothing back. To give the way he did, we are collecting gifts for:

If you are able, please send in one item, such as those listed below, with your child, in a bag with your child's name on it, by:

If you can, let your child help choose it, or choose something of their own in good condition. Children understand Saint Nicholas best when they give something themselves.

☆ Warm hats

☆ Mittens or gloves

☆ Scarves

☆ Socks (new)

☆ Children's books

☆ Toys (new, unwrapped)

☆ Toiletries (new)

☆ Diapers or wipes

☆ Also welcome:

Every child can take part. If you would rather not send an item, your child is very welcome to bring a drawing or a card for the people who will receive the gifts.

Charities differ in what they can accept, so this list is a guide. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you for helping our children give like Saint Nicholas, from a heart full of love.

With thanks,

Name

Class or group

Contact
