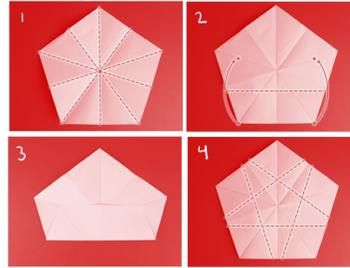


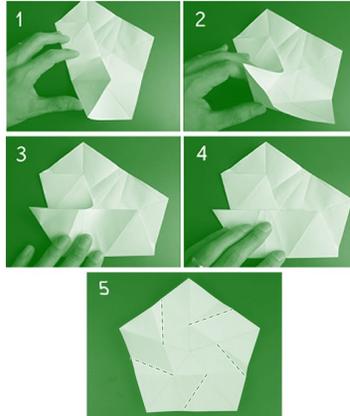
### Step One:

Turn hexagon after each fold, unfold, and repeat with each side.



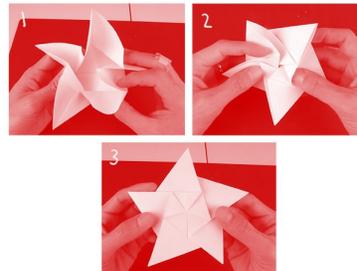
### Step Two:

Turn hexagon after each fold, unfold, and repeat with each side.



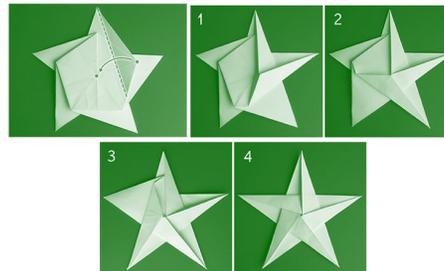
### Step Three:

Pinch corners together and then toward center, massage into star shape.



### Step Four:

Turn star over. Fold right edge to center line. Repeat with each edge.



*... and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

- MATTHEW 2:9-10



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## Dear Neighbour,



*"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."*

This Christmas, especially during the challenge of Covid-19, the experience of the magi would be most welcome - but why did they "rejoice exceedingly with great joy" at the sight of a star?

These magi (or wisemen) lived in an era of divisive government and socioeconomic battles resulting in the marginalization of the weak and poor. Those in power clung to it, those without felt hopeless. In this dark situation a star appeared to announce the dawning of a new era. A king was born who would rescue his people, shining light in the darkness and giving hope to the helpless. The king's name was Jesus and his birth threatened prevailing power structures. Upon hearing the wisemen's report King Herod implemented horrendous laws in an attempt to maintain control. As an adult Jesus was labelled a heretic and psycho by the religious establishment as he cared for and loved those they marginalized. Even his family maintained a distance in fear of being associated with him. But those who listened to and followed him, rejoiced exceedingly with great joy for Jesus' was light in the darkness:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.  
(Luke 4:18-19)*

Nearing the end of his life the biblical writer John experienced a vision of what was yet to come. Like the wisemen anticipating what they would see as they followed the star, we too can rejoice exceedingly with great joy in anticipation of what we will see as we learn to follow Jesus:

*Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain... (Revelation 21:3-4)*

Although the church has not always gotten it right, Jesus, whom we proclaim, did. The wisemen followed a star and encountered Jesus, the light of the world. Jesus invites each of us to follow him and allow his light to reach into the darkest part of our lives in order that we might begin to encounter life in its fullest, hope in its truest, and, when we one day see him face to face, rejoice exceedingly with great joy.

- ☆ *Where and in whom are you finding joy this Christmas season?*
- ☆ *In the midst of economic difficulties, an ongoing pandemic, and divisiveness amongst too many people, where is your hope found?*

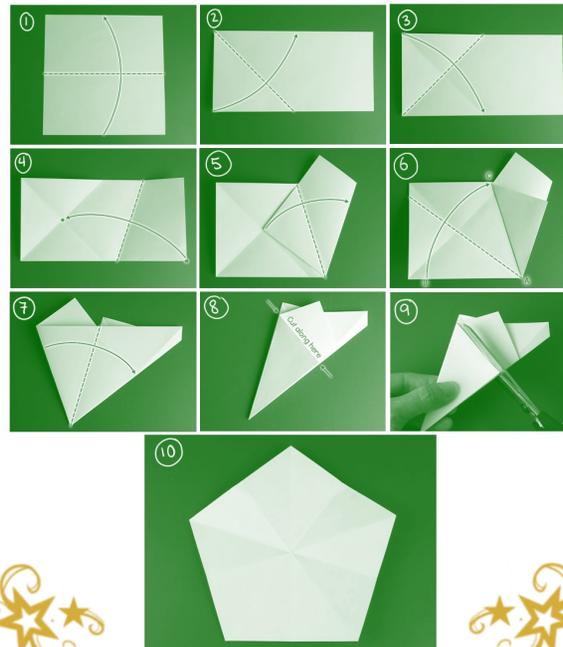
## Origami 5-point Christmas Stars

Make the star (a reminder of the hope of Christmas) with the supplies included and use as a gift tag, ornament, or any way to bless others.



Scan QR code for video tutorial.

Start by creating a pentagon as follows:



Instructions continued on next page.

