

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Paul told the Romans to do two things.

To find out what he said, look at the number under the blank spaces in the words below. Each number range in the code represents a vowel.

Use the numbers in the words to find the letter to write in the blank.

To check your answer, read Romans 13:12 in your Bible. Then draw an arrow from each saying to the shape that explains what it means.

d = 40-49

i = 10-19

u = 30-39

e = 20-29

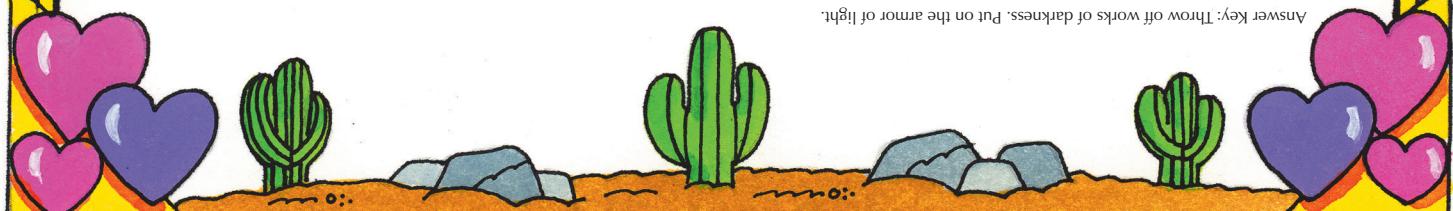
o = 50-59

Thrw
52
ff 57 wrks
55 f 54
drknss 43 24

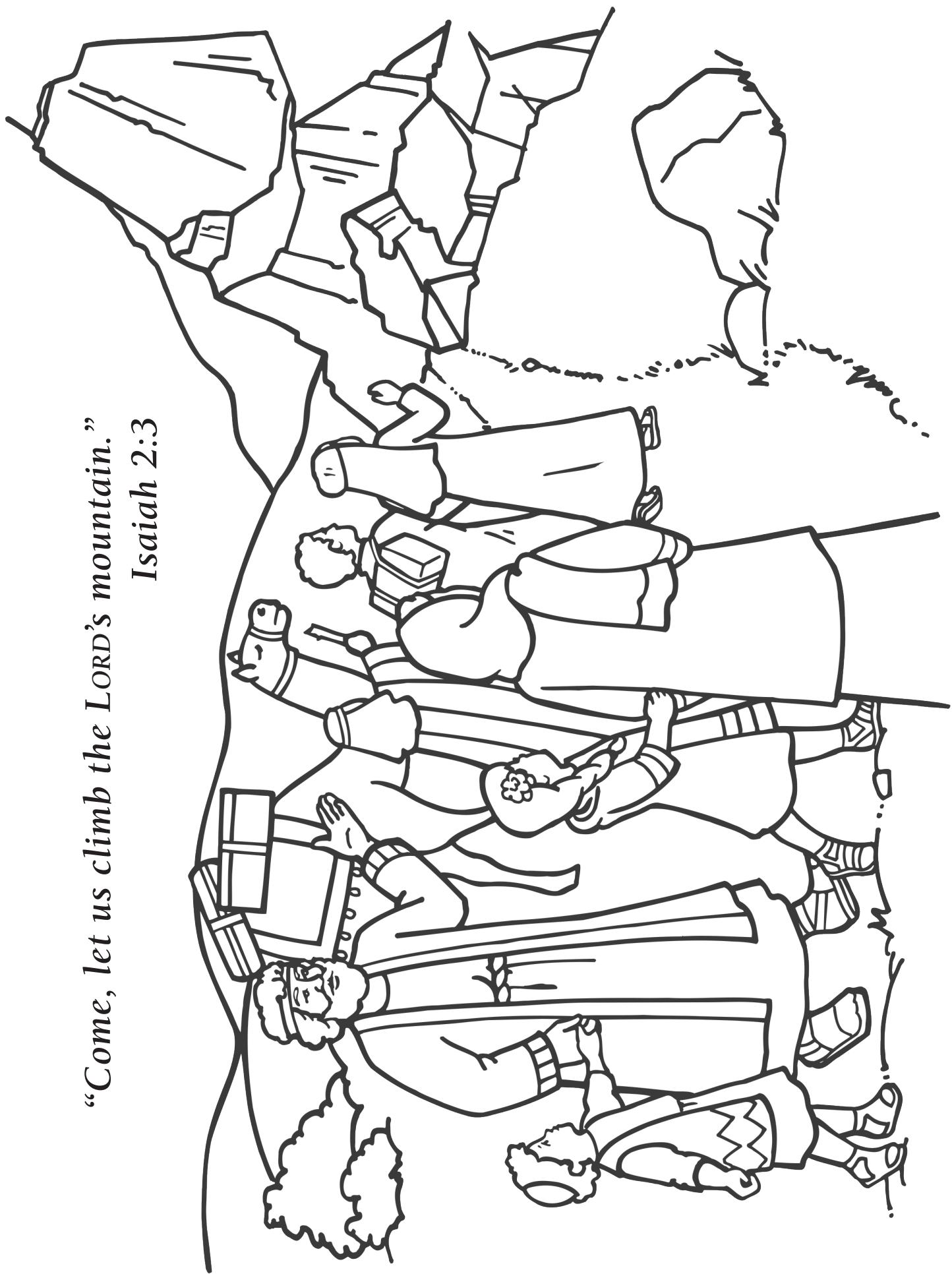
P+
36 50 n th
28 47 rm 56 f
12 lght

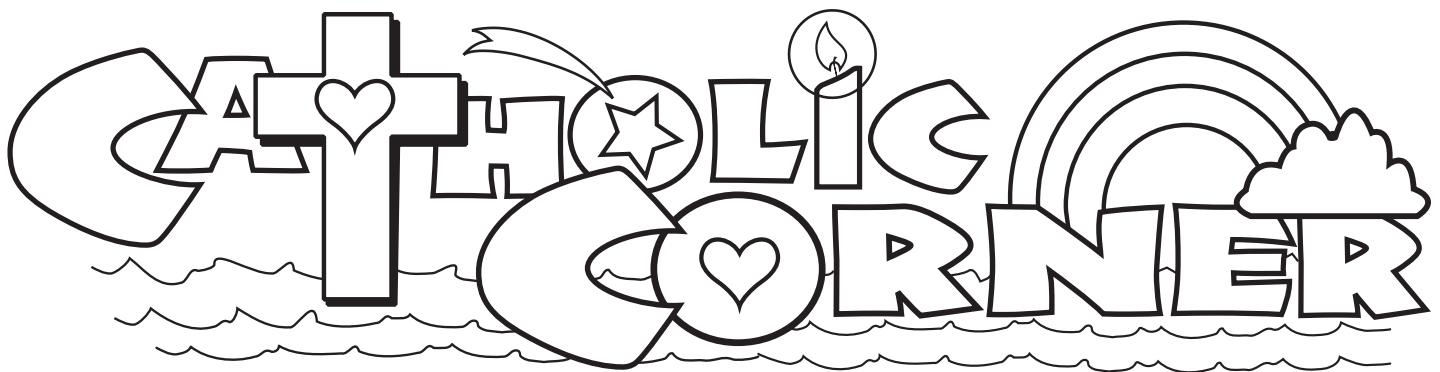


Answer Key: Throw off works of darkness. Put on the armor of light.



“Come, let us climb the LORD’s mountain.”
Isaiah 2:3





Preparing Our Hearts

Today we get to light the first candle on our Advent wreath! It has been a whole year since the last time we brought out our Advent wreaths and the first of four candles. Many of us look forward to this time of year. The joy and excitement of preparing for Christmas can be a lot of fun! But it can also seem like Christmas is really far away. It's only the first week of Advent, and we still have three more candles and three more weeks after this one until we get to celebrate Christmas.



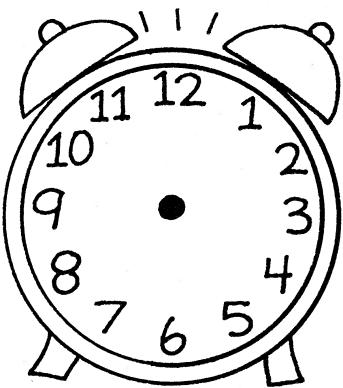
Our readings today remind us that we should always be ready. There is always a lot to do to get ready for Christmas. We often think about gifts we would like to give, Christmas parties at school, ways we can share gifts with others who do not have as much, and where we might travel to be with our loved ones or how to get our homes ready to receive visitors. There are often trees and decorations to put up around our homes. But we also need to think about how we are preparing our hearts to receive Jesus. Advent might be a time to hang up lights and decorate trees, but those things are there to remind us that Jesus, the Light of the World, came to bring light and goodness to shine in the darkness.

As the weeks of Advent go on, we continue to light more candles. The more candles we light, the brighter the light shines in the darkness—just like Jesus in our lives. At the beginning it seems like just a little light, but it will grow brighter. While Christmas seems like it will take a while to get here, it might come faster than you think! We can listen, as Jesus and the readings remind us, and work to be ready for Jesus as he comes into the world.

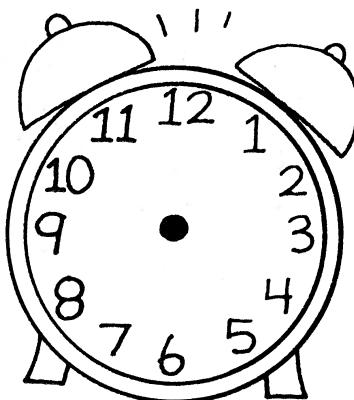
What are some ways you and your family can be ready for Jesus? How can you help make Jesus shine brighter each week as the Light of the World? Write down some ideas in the candles. You can talk with your family about things you can do together to be ready for Jesus at Christmas.

Jesus told us to “be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come” (Matthew 24:44).

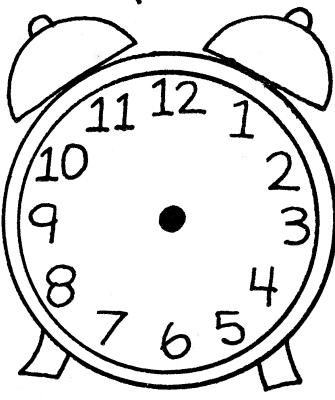
Draw hands on the clocks to show
the time written below each one.



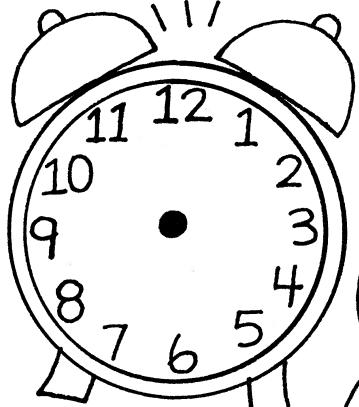
two o'clock



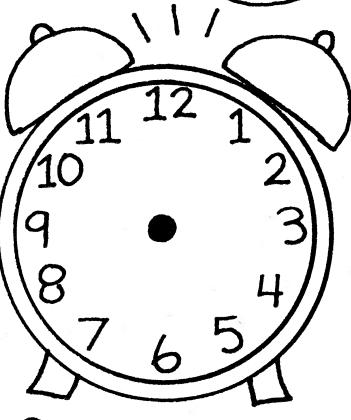
seven o'clock



ten o'clock



midnight



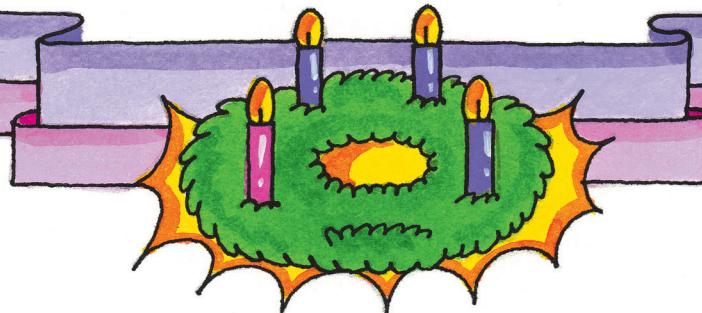
four-thirty



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December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

How much do you know about John the Baptist?

Get ready to test your knowledge!

Read the start of each sentence.

Then circle the letter that you think will complete it correctly.

You can check your answers below.

John the Baptist
lived...

- a. in mountains.
- b. in the desert.
- c. on a boat.
- d. in a big city.

He ate...

- a. hamburgers.
- b. cereal.
- c. grasshoppers.
- d. salads.

Men and women
came to him to...

- a. be baptized.
- b. buy things.
- c. get directions.
- d. fix jewelry.

John preached to
people about...

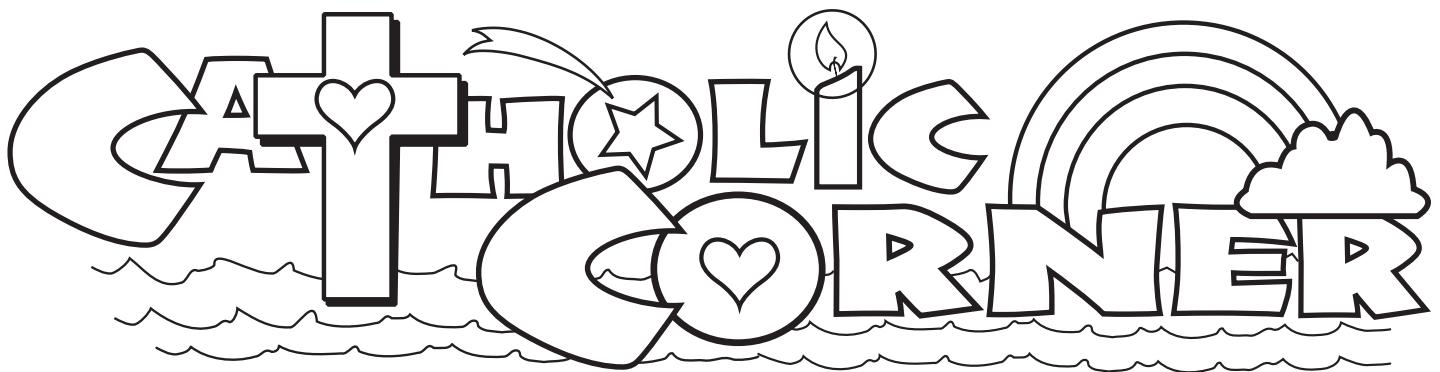
- a. how to fish.
- b. a pet he had.
- c. the weather.
- d. Jesus.

Answer Key: John the Baptist lived (b) in the desert. He ate (c) grasshoppers. Men and women came to him to (a) be baptized. John preached to people about (d) Jesus.



Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.
Isaiah 11:6





Evergreen

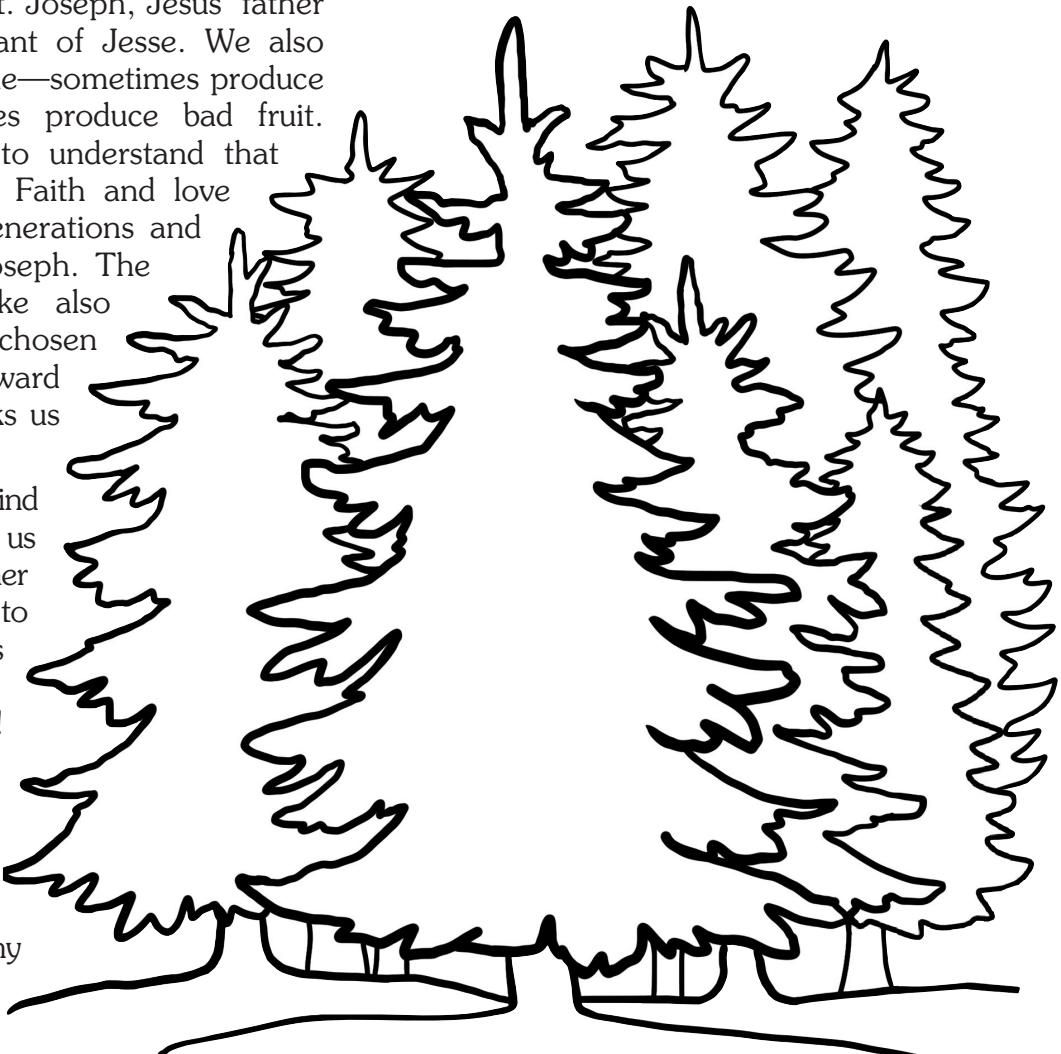
Not a lot of plants grow well in the winter. There is not a lot of sun, and it can get very cold. We use evergreen trees as Christmas trees because they are always green—they live well in the winter and are not daunted by cold and snow. They still keep their needles even during these long, dark days.

Our days might be long and dark right now, but our readings today talk about plants and growing trees! We hear about the root of Jesse and how a sprout grew out of the root. Joseph, Jesus' father on earth, was a descendant of Jesse. We also hear how trees—like people—sometimes produce good fruit and sometimes produce bad fruit. The Bible is helping us to understand that people can be like trees. Faith and love for God can last many generations and bear good fruit, like in Joseph. The choices that people make also show how much they have chosen to be faithful and loving toward others, the ways Jesus asks us to treat one another.

Our Christmas trees remind us that God will be with us through every season. Other plants might not be able to grow, but Christmas trees are still green. God is even better than Christmas trees! God doesn't need water or sunlight because God is always there. God knows that we can also be like evergreen trees and show signs of life and love at any time of the year. We can especially be signs of light when days are dark or signs

of love when people are having a hard time. We can use God's unending and evergreen love to help us to be good trees who can bear good fruit in the world. Whether it's winter or summer, no matter the weather, God wants us to share our good fruit with others.

Are there good fruits you would like to share with others this Advent? How can you help other people to know how much God loves them?



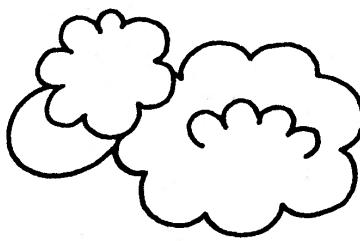
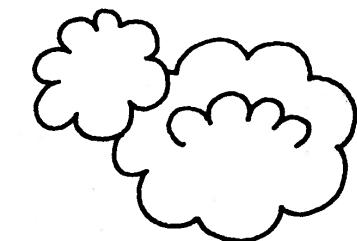


God loves it when we are at peace with each other!

Scripture tells us that someday even wolves and lambs will get along.

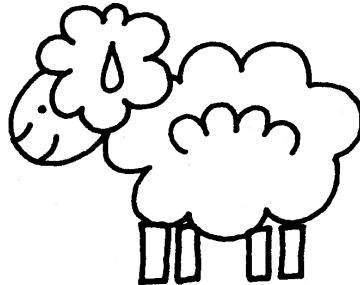
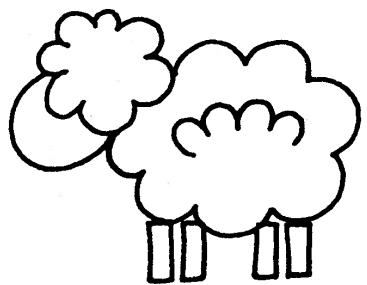
Follow the steps below to draw a lamb on the bottom of this page.

Then read about this time of peace at Isaiah 11:6-9 in your Bible.



Draw a small cloud
touching a big cloud.
Draw a bumpy line for wool.

Draw the letter "C"
onto the small cloud
for a head.



Add four rectangles
under the big cloud
to make legs.

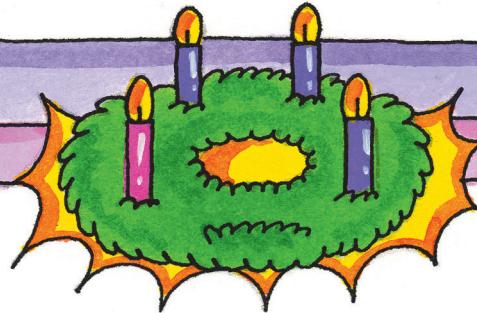
Draw a teardrop shape
onto the small cloud for an ear.
Add a dot for an eye and curved lines
to make a nose and mouth.



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December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Some people thought John was the Messiah, but he was not. To find out what John was, read the word on each envelope and notice which letter appears twice.

Circle that letter below the envelope and then write the circled letters in order on the lines below.

hammer

a m s

tree

e q t

dress

d k s

stars

s a z

green

u g e

nine

e f n

foggy

g v y

even

n e x

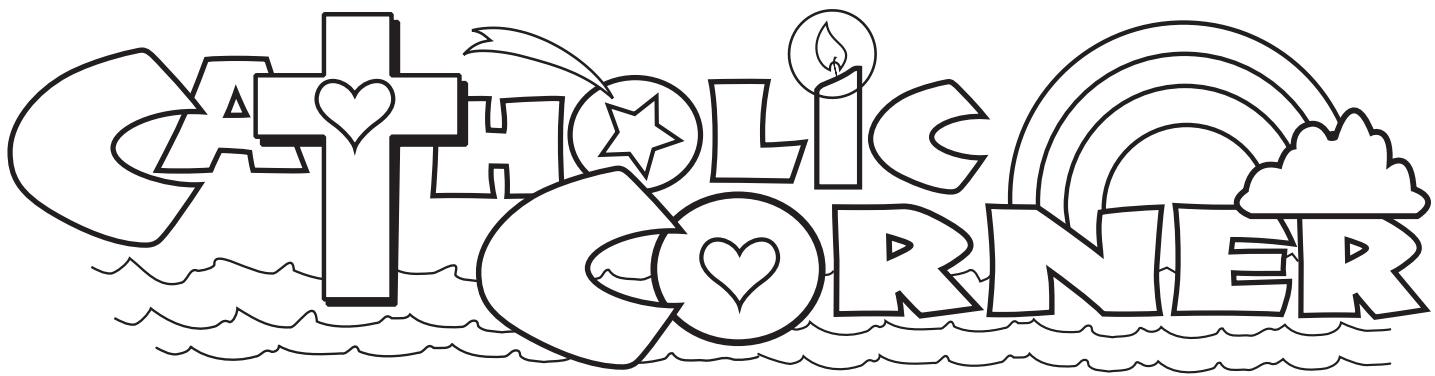
berry

r b c

Answer key: messenger



**They will meet
with joy and gladness
Isaiah 35:10**

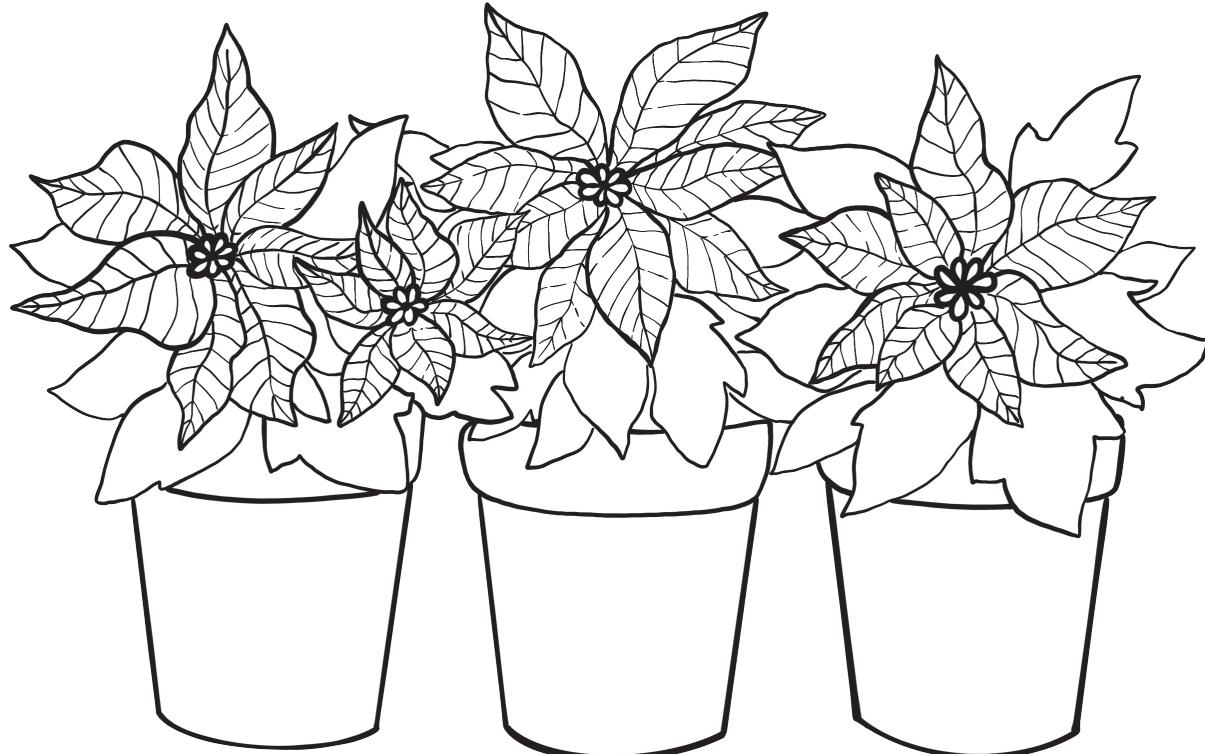


Watch and Wait

Have you planted seeds before? In spring, many people plant tiny little seeds and hope that they will grow into something much bigger. Some plants you put in the ground in the fall, like tulip bulbs, and then they sprout and grow in spring into beautiful flowers. When seeds or bulbs are planted, you have to keep an eye on them. You might have some idea how long it will take for the plant to sprout, but you can't really know for sure. Sometimes, when a plant sprouts, you can't always tell if it's the seed you planted or maybe a weed that has taken root nearby. Once they get a little bigger it can be easier to recognize the plants that had started as a seed. For people who garden or spend a lot of time with plants, they've had a lot of practice at recognizing what is the plant they want to grow and what might be a weed that isn't supposed to be there. It takes time and patience to see what happens to the things that we plant in the ground.

In Jesus' time, lots of people were waiting for a Messiah. But they weren't necessarily sure what to look for or how they would recognize the Messiah. They were trying to follow and love God and be ready—but they didn't really know when the Messiah would come. Just as we wait during Advent for the Christmas celebration of Jesus coming into the world, they were waiting for their Messiah—and they had been waiting a long time. They thought that maybe it was John the Baptist! Even after Jesus was born, it took people a while to figure out who he really was. Even today, we are always learning not just who Jesus was then, but who Jesus can be for us now. Advent is a time where we can think about the ways we look for the love of Jesus in the world and the ways we can help others to recognize the love of God.

What are some ways you recognize the love of Jesus? During Advent, how can you help others know Jesus' love? Write your ideas in the pots below.

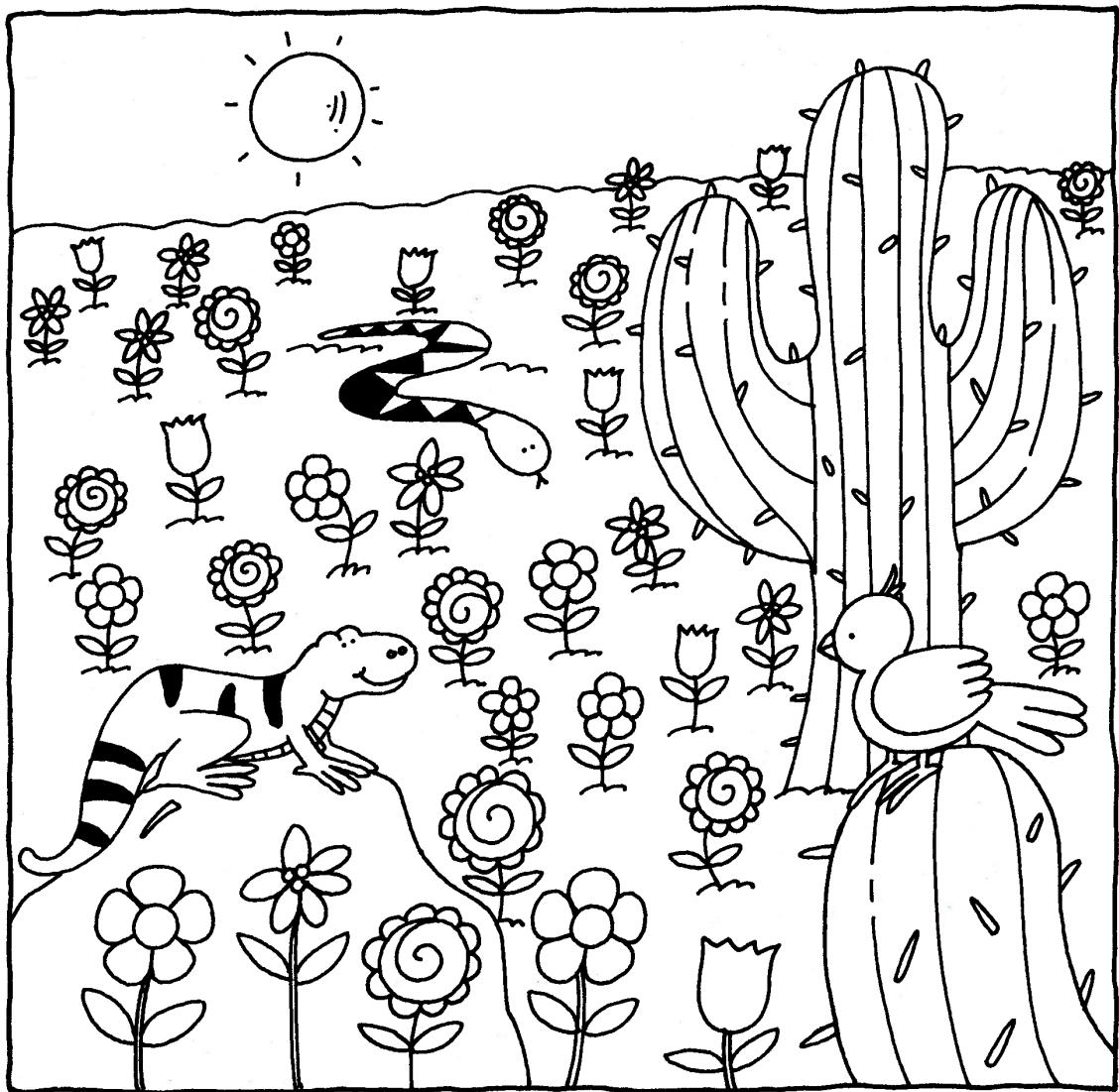
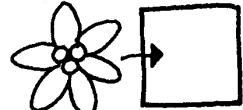
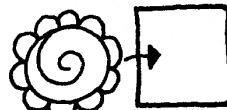
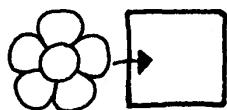


The prophet Isaiah talks about flowers blooming in the desert and dry land someday (Isaiah 35:1–2).

Look at the different flowers shown.

Count how many of each type there are.

Write the numbers inside the boxes.



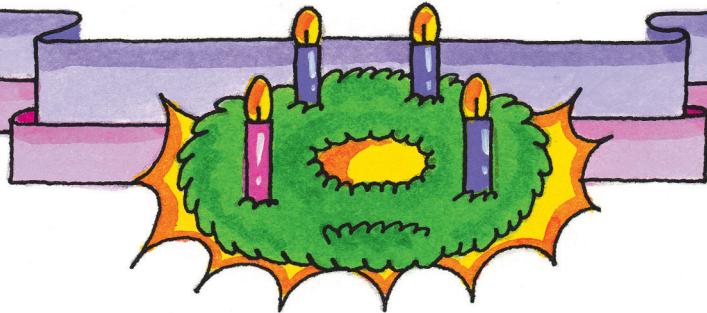
Answer Key: 9, 7, 10, 8



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December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:18–24 tells the story of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus.

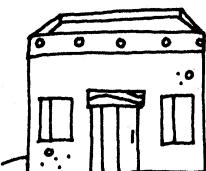
Read the sentences below and number them 1 to 4 according to the order in which they happened.



When Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, he decided to call off the wedding.



While Mary was engaged to Joseph, she learned that she would have a child through the power of the Holy Spirit.

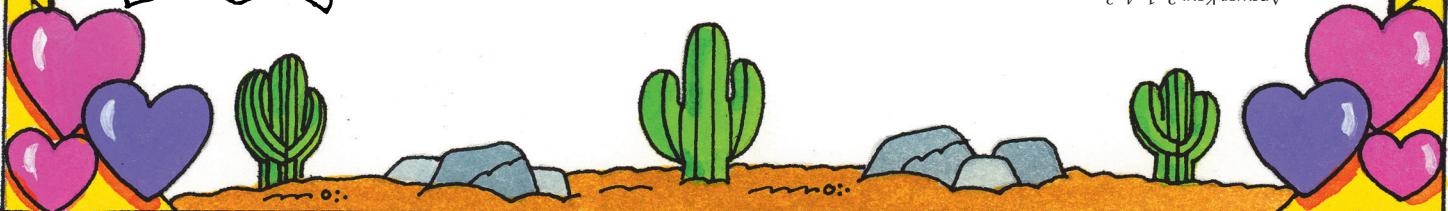


Out of obedience to the Lord, Joseph took Mary into his home as his wife.

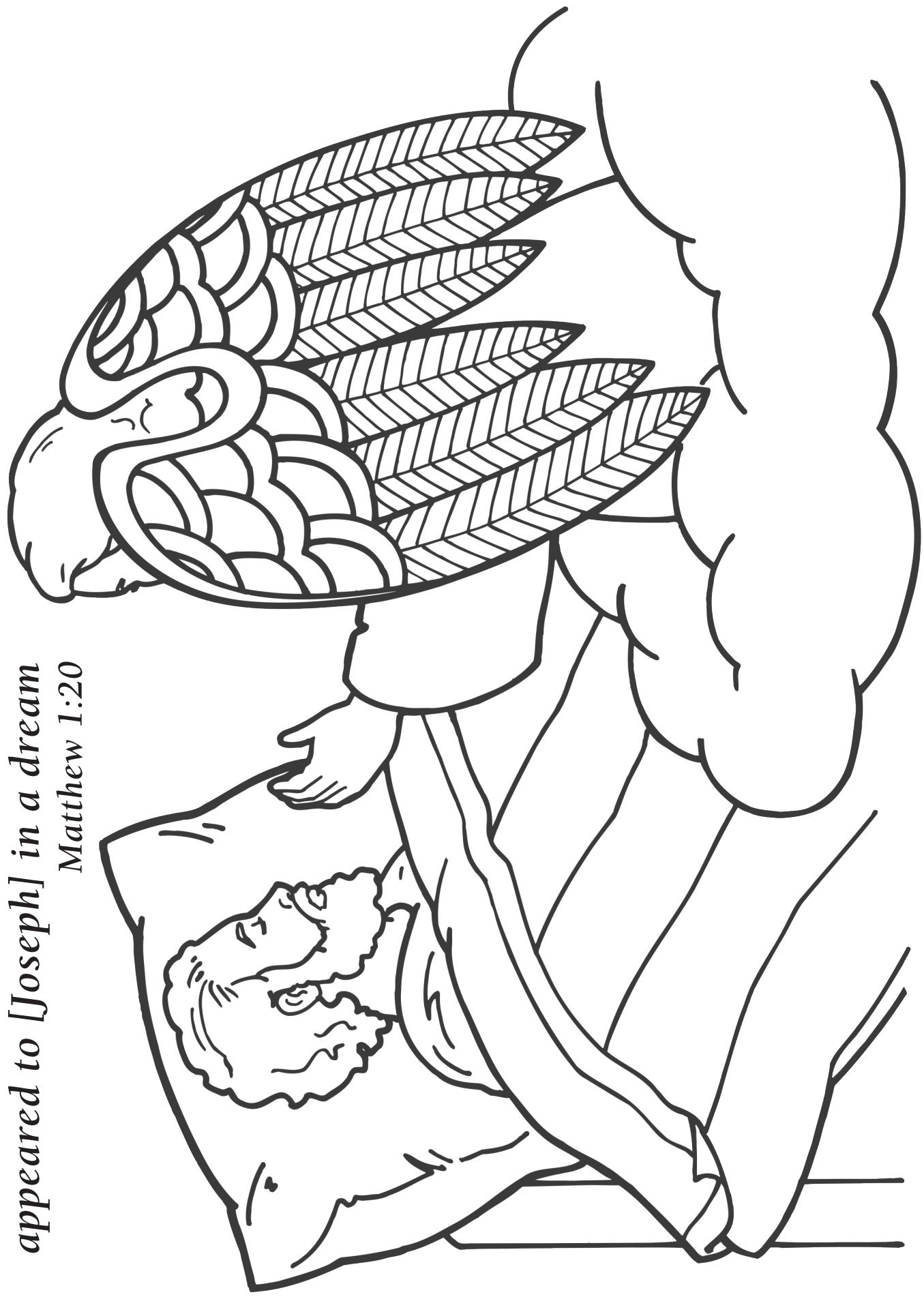


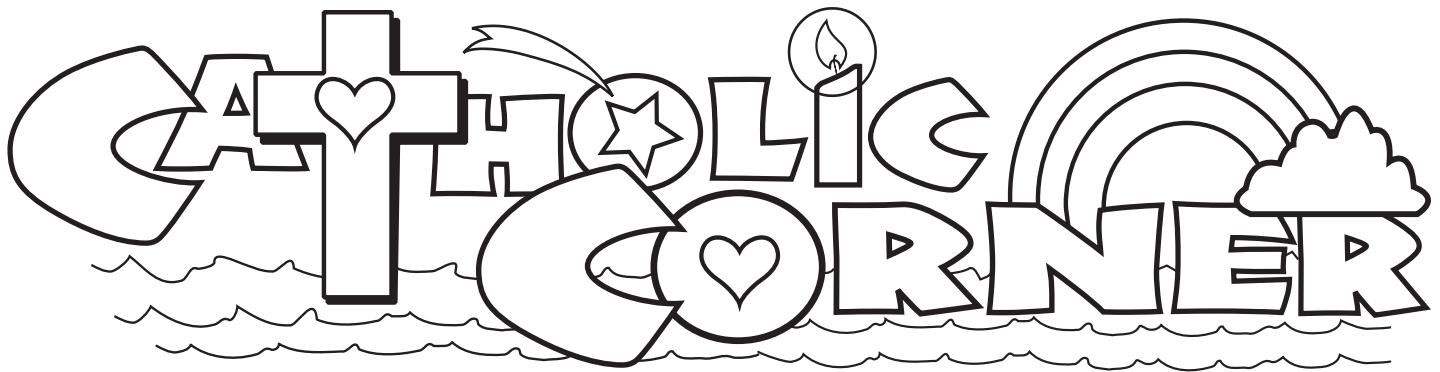
An angel told Joseph not to be afraid to make Mary his bride. Mary's baby was God's son. Joseph was to name the boy Jesus.

Answer Key: 2, 1, 4, 3



*The angel of the Lord
appeared to [Joseph] in a dream
Matthew 1:20*





Messages from God

Do you remember your dreams? Are they a little tricky to remember once you wake up? People have all sorts of dreams. Sometimes they can be really fun or silly. Sometimes they can also be a little scary. It's pretty common to want to know if the things we dream about mean something. There are different ideas about what dreams might mean and if they tell us something about our life.

In today's gospel, God talks to Joseph through a dream. How wild is that! What must it have been like for Joseph to encounter an angel of the Lord in his dream? Joseph was scared because they had learned Mary was going to have a baby through the Holy Spirit. He wasn't sure what to do. But God knew that Joseph was going to need some help and encouragement. So God sent an angel to talk to Joseph in his dream and assure him that everything would be okay for him, Mary, and the baby.

There are lots of ways for God to connect and communicate with us. For Joseph, that meant sending an angel in his dream. For other people, it might be something different. And not every dream we have means that God wants to tell us something. But God does want to talk to us. God wants us to know that we do not need to be afraid. There are many things in life that will be new—like having a baby!—that may seem scary. We may not always be sure of the right thing to do or the best way to follow and love God. Joseph's dream reminds us that God loves us and wants to be with us. And don't forget that in Joseph's dream, he finds out that they will name the baby Emmanuel, which means "God with us." When we aren't sure about something or are scared, God will always be with us. It might be in a dream, it might be through readings at Church, or through the love of our family and friends. But God is always finding ways to remind us that we are not alone.

What are some things you would like God to say to you? If an angel came to talk to you in a dream, what would that look like? Draw your ideas below.



Joseph had a dream.

In his dream an angel told him that
Mary would have a baby — God's own Son!
Look at both of the angels below.
Circle five things that make Angel #1
different from Angel #2.



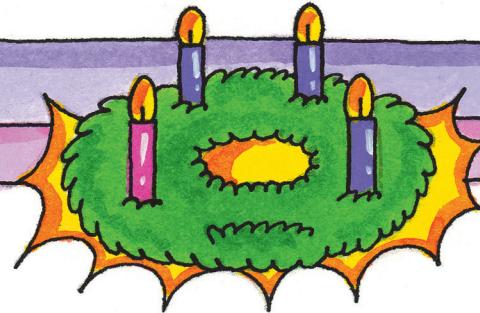
Answer Key: halo, wing, eye, mouth, foot



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December 25, 2025

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Jesus was a wonderful gift God sent to us.

The Christmas story words have been mixed up in the presents below.

See if you can unscramble them
and write each one on the line provided.

ImehBehte

ryMa

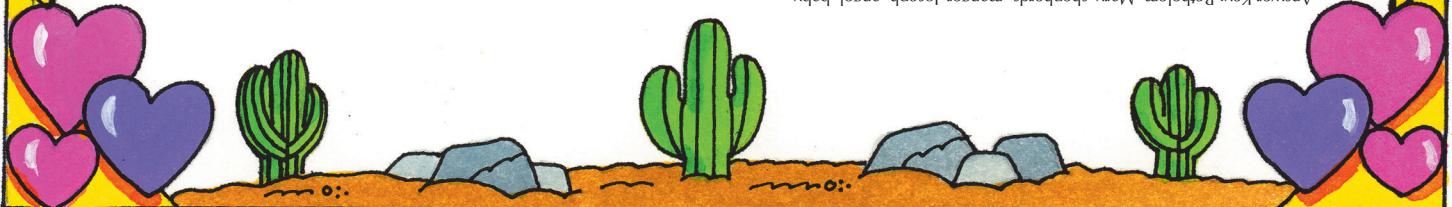
edresshph

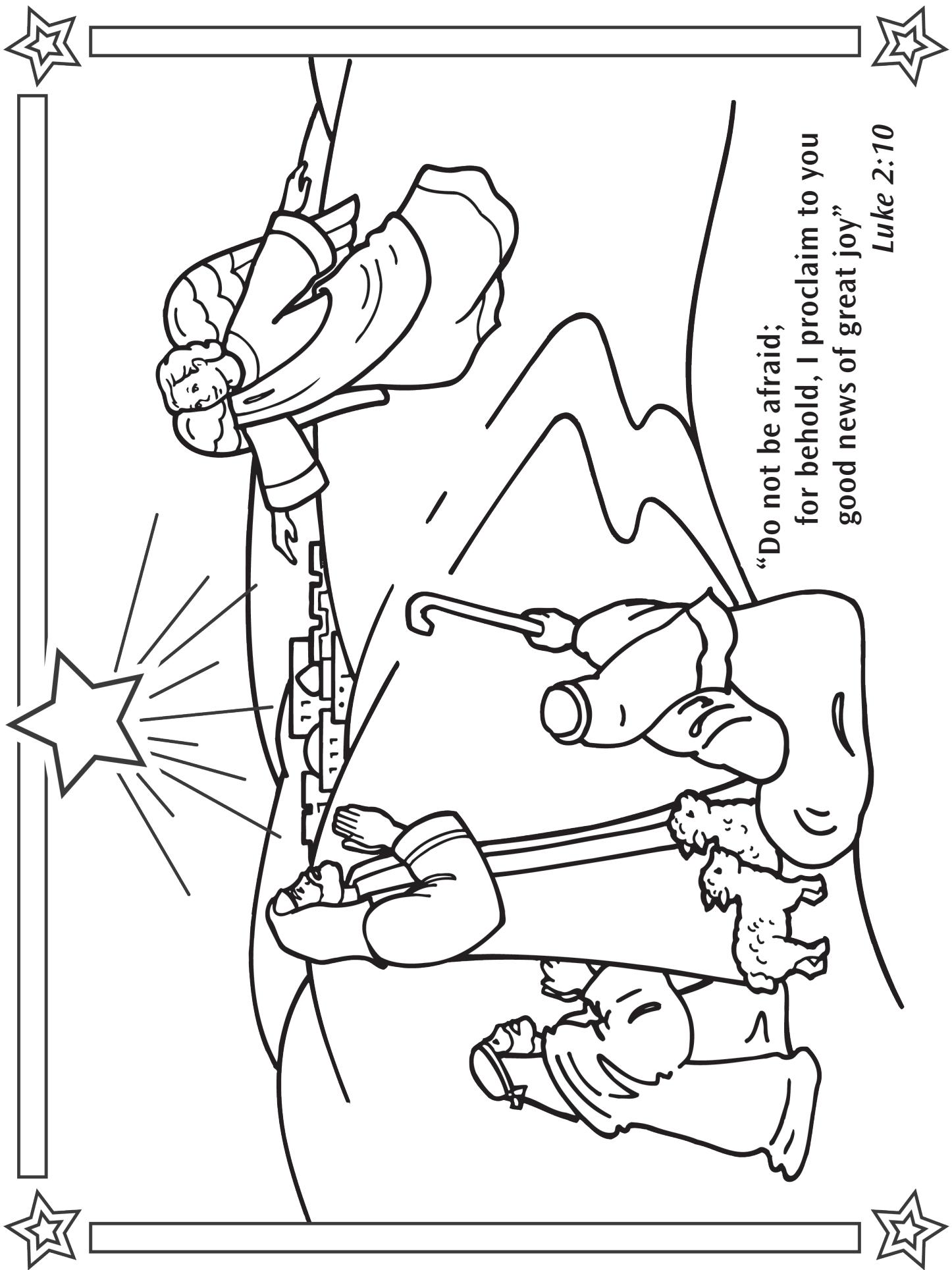
hseoJp

eagnl

bbya

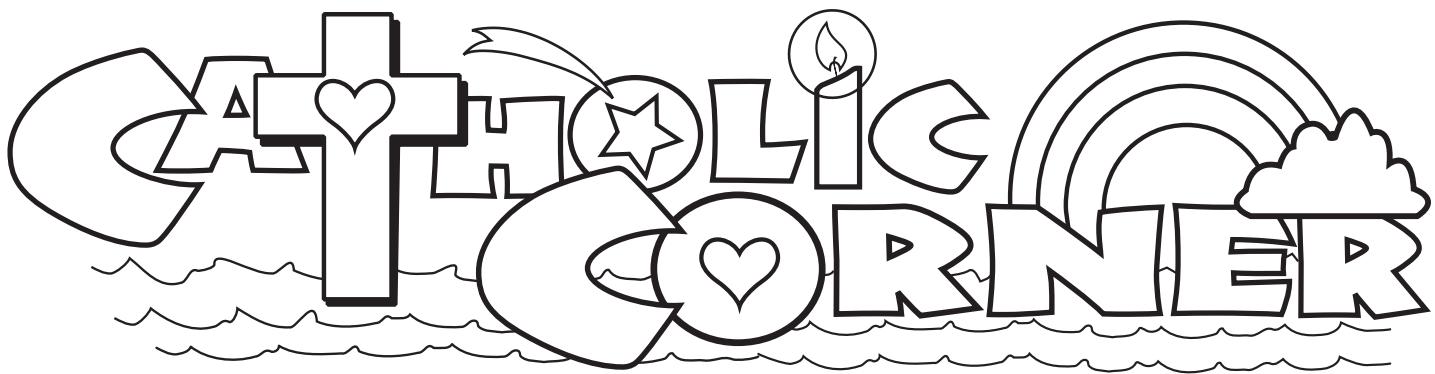
Answer Key: Bethlehem, Mary, shepherds, manger, Joseph, angel, baby





“Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you
good news of great joy”

Luke 2:10



Every Little Light

Have you ever been in a room that was completely dark? Not even the teeniest, tiniest bit of light, and if you put your hand right in front of your face you still couldn't see it? Try and imagine being in a room like that. Now, what would it look like if you lit just one tiny match or a candle? It would not be totally dark anymore. Even if there was still a lot of darkness, you would be able to see a bit around you. Even the smallest bit of light can help us to see so that we aren't lost and we know where we need to go.

John tells us in today's gospel that Jesus is like this little bit of light. No matter how much darkness there is—even if it's the very middle of the night and there aren't a lot of lights—it only takes a tiny bit of light to break it up. Jesus is like this light in our world. No matter how dark or difficult things might be, Jesus will always be a light for us. Sometimes Jesus is like a Christmas tree—full of lights! Shining! Glorious! But Jesus can also be for us like this little light. Because no matter how dark it is, the dark can't actually make the light go away. This is why Christmas is full of lights—our Advent candles, Christmas tree lights, and lights outside all over the place! The darkness can even help us notice how brightly the lights can shine in the dark. The winter

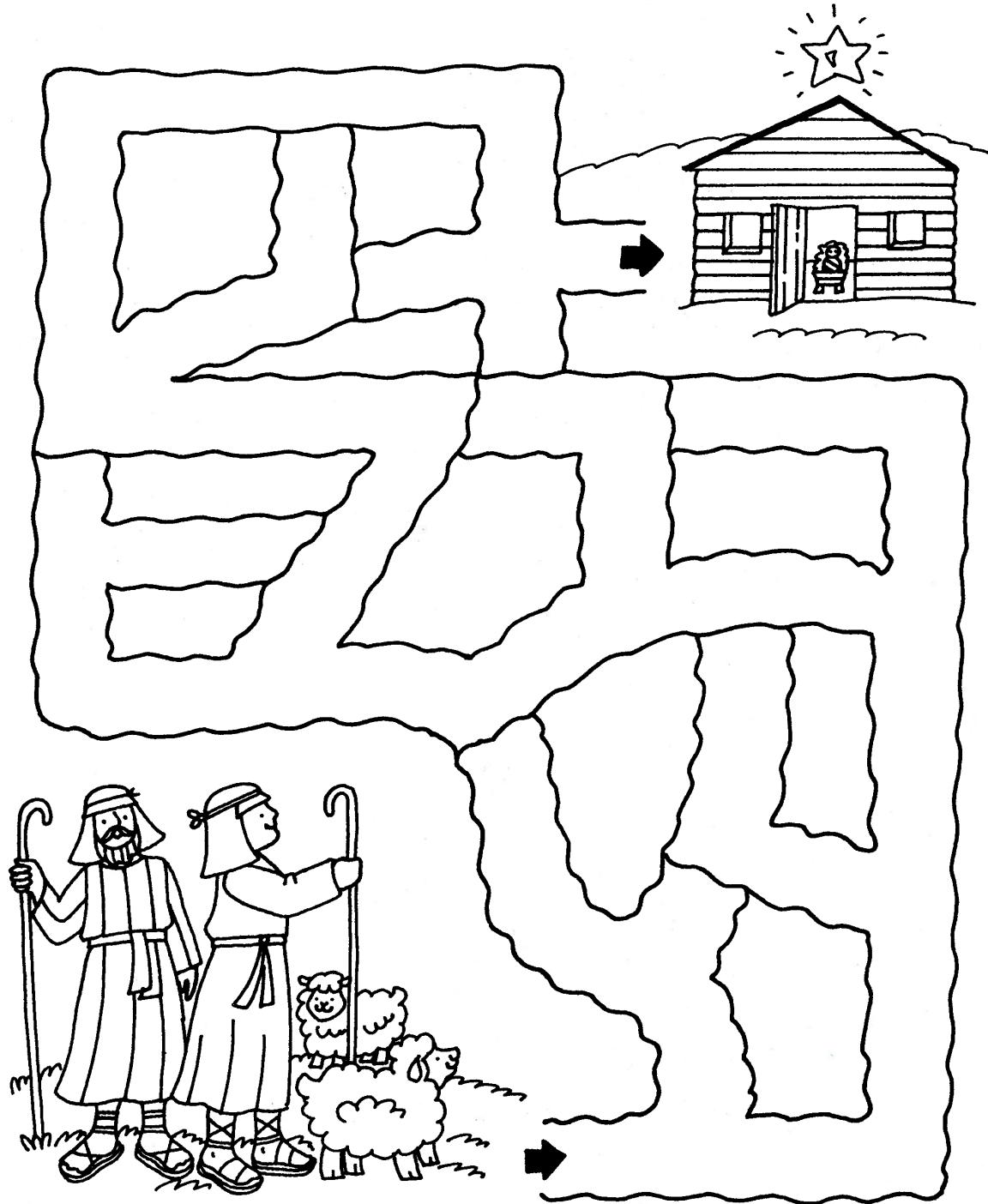
is a good reminder to us how important it is to have light when it's dark.

What are some 'lights' that you notice in the dark? Maybe it's your favorite Christmas decorations. Maybe it's your favorite Christmas tradition that you celebrate with your family, or people that you visit. Maybe it's as simple as someone smiling at you or



giving you a compliment when you're having a bad day. What are the things that help make your life brighter? What are ways you can make other's lives brighter? Write or draw them in the lights.

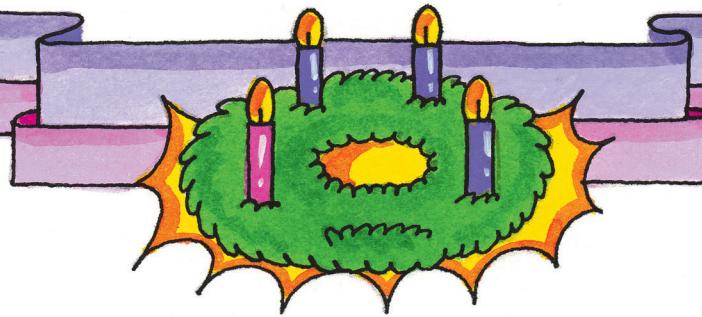
Help the shepherds find their way
to the stable to see Baby Jesus.



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December 28, 2025

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

In his letter to the Colossians (3:12-15),

Paul names eight qualities God wants us to have.

To find out what they are, write *only* the capital letters in the order they appear on the blanks below.

dCtzOMpPAbSkSIaON

pkRKstINvgDyNEoSS

bgtHrUzMIvwLcITxY

aGEhNbTmLENqES+S

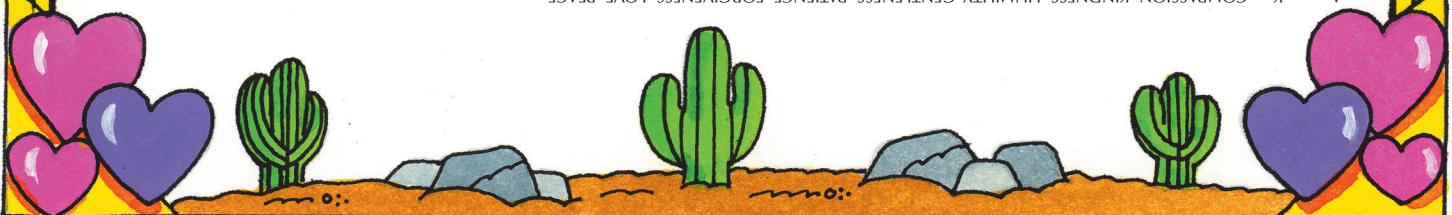
PlncATsIrdEokNCxE

mtFjORpGIxVENyESS

gbmxLbgObacVxeEy

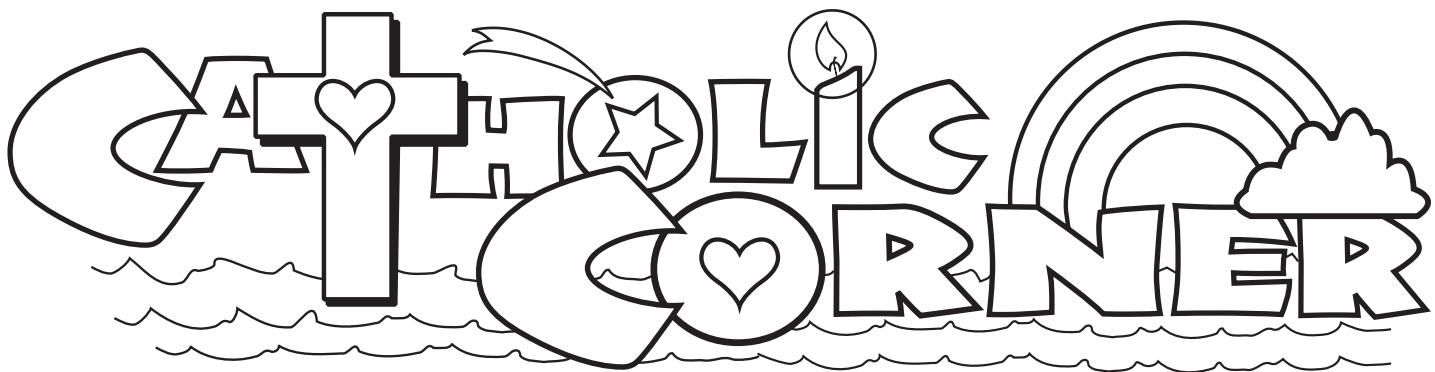
uibhPvaEAncCxcE

Answer key: COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, PATIENCE, FORGIVENESS, LOVE, PEACE





“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt” Matthew 2:13

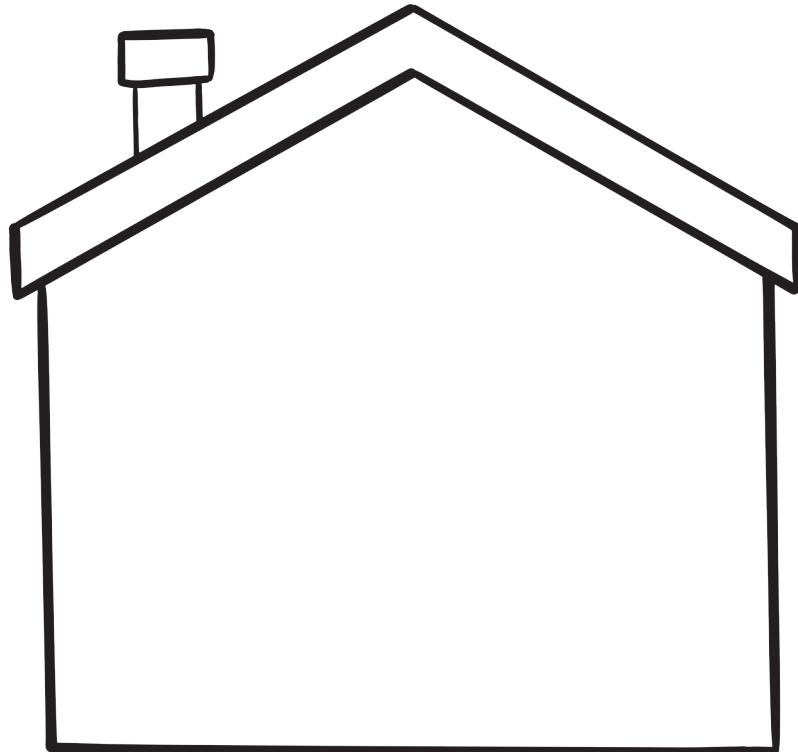


Together as a Family

Do you remember last week's readings? All the way back before Christmas, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent? Joseph had a dream where the angel of the Lord came to tell him everything was going to be okay and that he should still marry Mary. This week, Joseph keeps having dreams! Joseph learned pretty quickly that when God talks to him in a dream, he probably ought to listen.

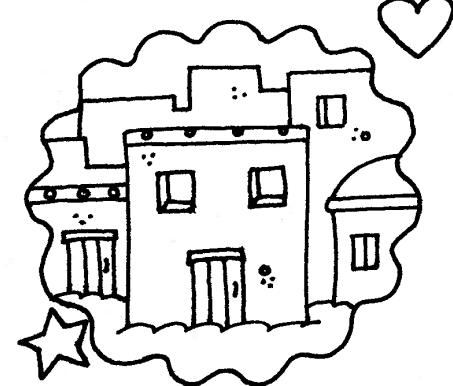
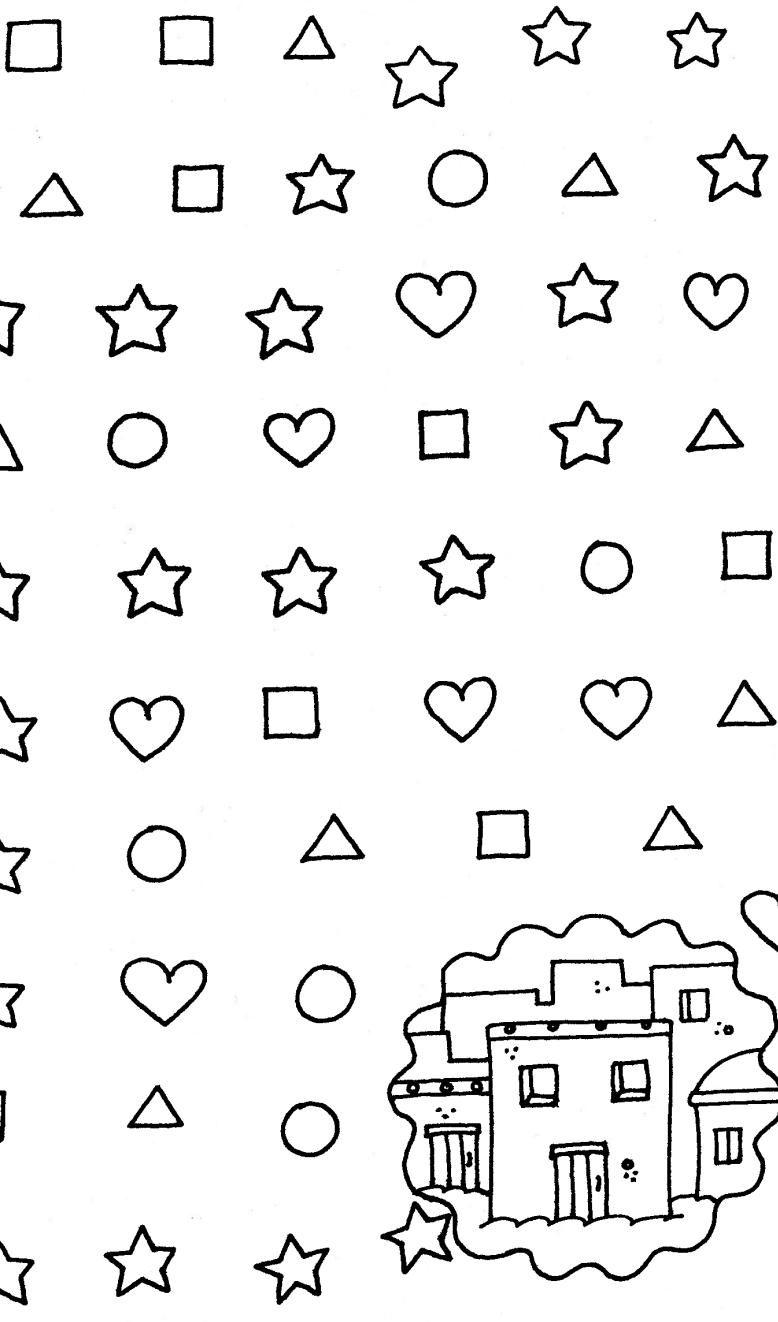
In this gospel, Jesus has been born, but King Herod is looking for him. King Herod thinks that the baby Jesus will be the new king, and he doesn't want anyone else to be king. So in Joseph's dream, God tells him that he needs to take Jesus and Mary and leave. They have to go to a totally different place to live for a while. And even though Joseph was probably scared like he was in last Sunday's gospel, God is there to help take care of their family during a difficult time. God made sure that Joseph and Mary knew what they needed to do to make sure everyone was safe, happy and healthy.

Families face all kinds of hard things. Some families, like Joseph, Jesus, and Mary, have to leave their home because they aren't safe. It can be tricky—especially for moms and dads—to figure out what is the best thing for their family. Maybe it's something little—like what to cook for dinner that everyone likes. Or maybe it's something bigger—like moving somewhere new. Families have to figure out all kinds of decisions. But we can see from the Holy Family that two things remain really important no matter what—God is always there for us when we aren't sure what to do, and the most important thing about a family is that you are a family. Whether they were in Bethlehem, Egypt, or Nazareth, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were still a family. And no matter where they want, God was always going to be with them. No matter what our family looks like or where our family might live, God will be with our families.



What does your family look like? Where has your family lived? Draw your family in the house.
You can also draw around the house so that it looks like your home.

Color and follow the trail of stars
to take Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus to Egypt.
They'll be safe from King Herod there!



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