

ADVENT

The Christmas Journey





Dear Parents,

I love Christmas. From the Christmas decorations at the mall, to the Christmas music playing all over town, to the Starbucks holiday beverages and “red cups,” you can feel the excitement building towards December 25. It’s easy to get caught up in the spirit of celebration and joy that is everywhere in our culture during this season.

For parents, the Christmas season provides great opportunity for us to help our children grow in excitement for the true reason for all the celebration - the birth of Jesus. There are many ways in which this could be done, but one way is through celebrating the season of Advent.

The word “advent” comes from the Latin word “adventus,” which means “coming.” The purpose of the Advent season is to help us focus on the coming of Christ to be with His people, and to seek and save that which was lost. Advent traditionally begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts through December 25. This year, the Advent season begins on Sunday, December 1.

Our KIDS ministry is excited to provide you with this booklet resource as an option for you to celebrate Advent with your family. In this booklet, there is a picture for your children to color each day from December 1 through December 25, along with a Bible story for you to read together. Our hope is that in reading stories from the entirety of the Bible, your family will see together that the coming of Jesus was prophesied and anticipated long before His arrival, and that the Christmas story doesn’t begin with Mary and Joseph, but begins in Genesis 3. Every story can be read from your family Bible using the Scripture references provided. Most days also have an option to read a story from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones, which is an excellent resource for younger children, and helps connect each Bible story to the coming of Jesus.





I recommend picking a time of the day that seems best for your family. Whatever time you choose, leading your children through this Advent season is as simple as reading the Bible passage, letting your children color the picture (or coloring with them!), discussing the story with them, and praying with them each day.

Feel free to add to this simple pattern to make it fun for your family. You could make hot chocolate or Christmas cookies to make the time more enjoyable. You could play your favorite Christmas album, or sing a Christmas hymn together. You could also incorporate the historical Advent tradition of lighting candles. This involves getting 5 candles, and lighting them each night. For every day of the first week, you just light one candle. For every day of the second week, you light two candles, and so on. As the light grows over time, it reminds us of the coming of Jesus, the true light of the world. The fifth candle is lit on Christmas day.

It is also up to you to decide what to do with the pictures once your children finish them. You could display them on your refrigerator or on your wall. In my family, we are planning on putting paper clips through them and hanging them on our Christmas tree each evening along with our other ornaments. You could also get a smaller, separate tree for these pictures and create a "Jesse Tree." This is a tradition based on Isaiah 11:1 *"A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots."* All ornaments placed on a traditional Jesse Tree are to connect the Old Testament history to the birth of Christ, making the pictures in this booklet a perfect fit.

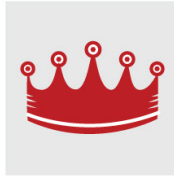
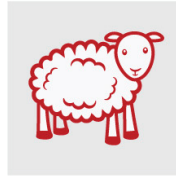
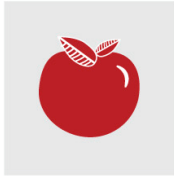
We pray that this booklet is a helpful resource for you as you disciple your kids to love and follow Jesus Christ this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

John Murchison
Director of Children's Ministry
The Austin Stone Community Church



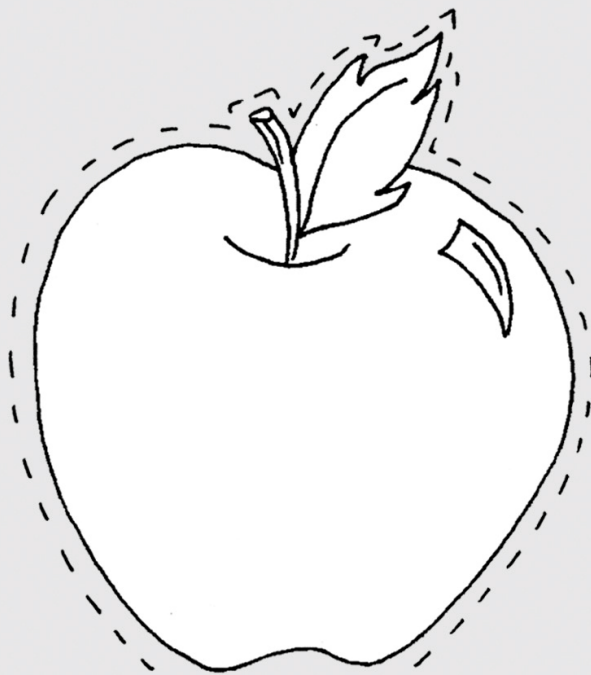
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the coming of the Rescuer

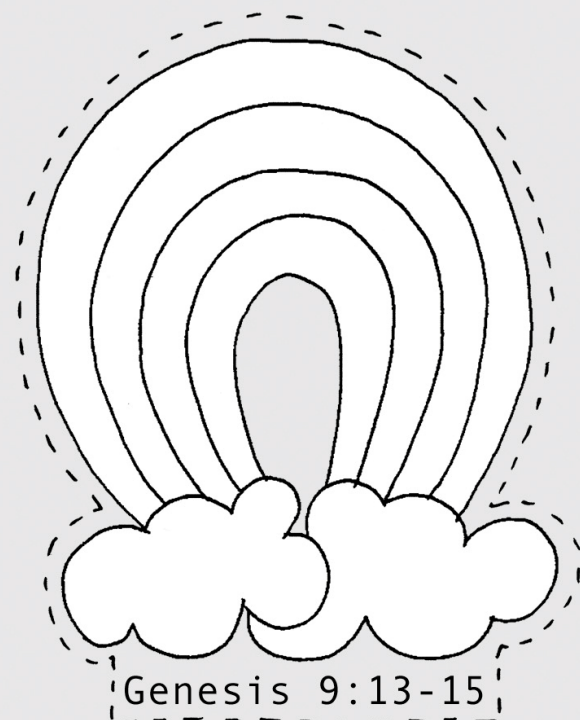


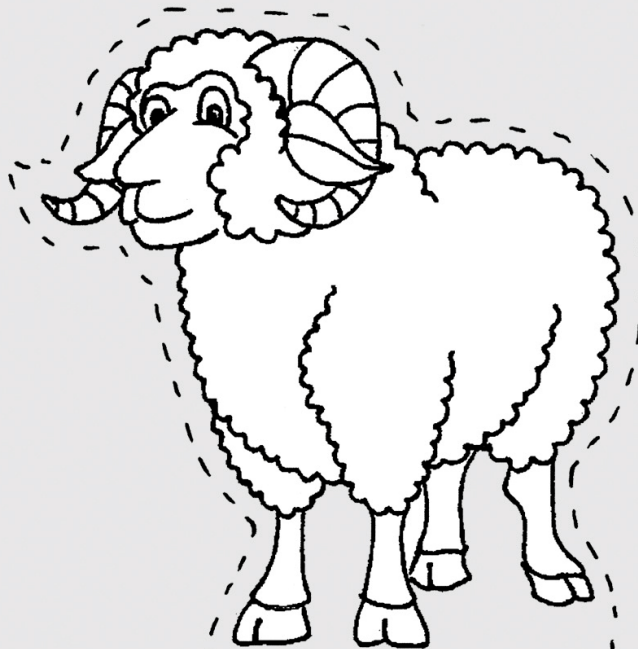
Suggested Family Readings and Ornaments

Dec. 1	The Fall	Genesis 3:1-6, 8-15 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 28-37	Apple
Dec. 2	The Flood	Genesis 6:9-8:22 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 38 - 47	Ark
Dec. 3	The Promise	Genesis 9 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 38 - 47	Rainbow
Dec. 4	The Offering	Genesis 22:1-19 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 56 - 69	Ram
Dec. 5	The Choice	Genesis 29 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 70 - 75	Two Girls
Dec. 6	The Dreamer	Genesis 37,41,50:15-21 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 76 - 83	Coat
Dec. 7	The Plagues	Exodus 3-5:9 Exodus 7:14-10:29 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 84 - 88	Frog



Genesis 3:15



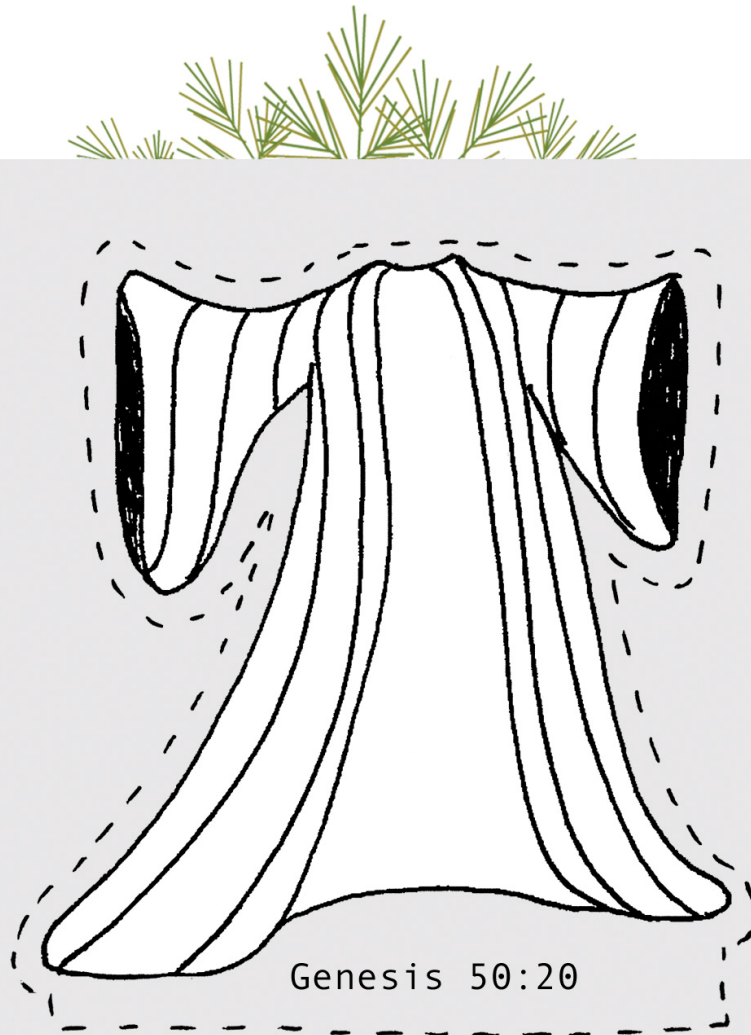


Genesis 22:16,17

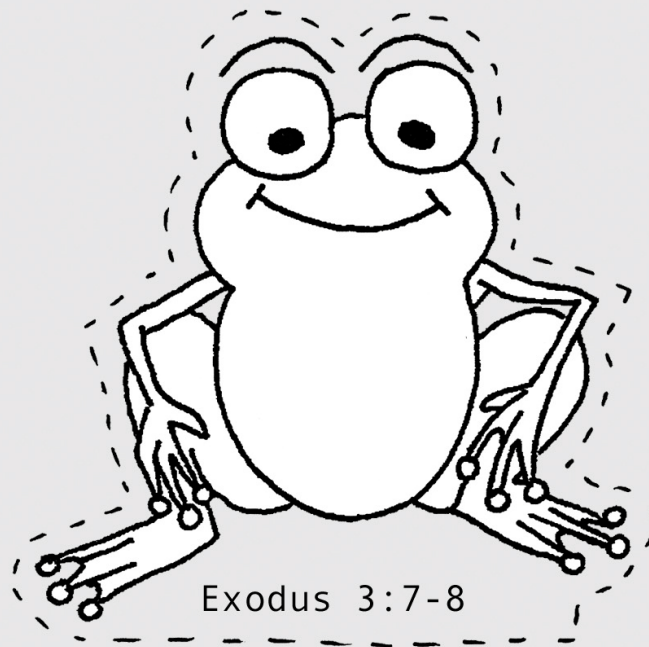


Genesis 29:35





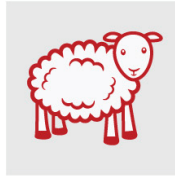
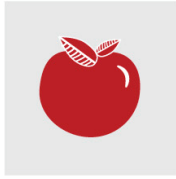
Genesis 50:20



Exodus 3:7-8

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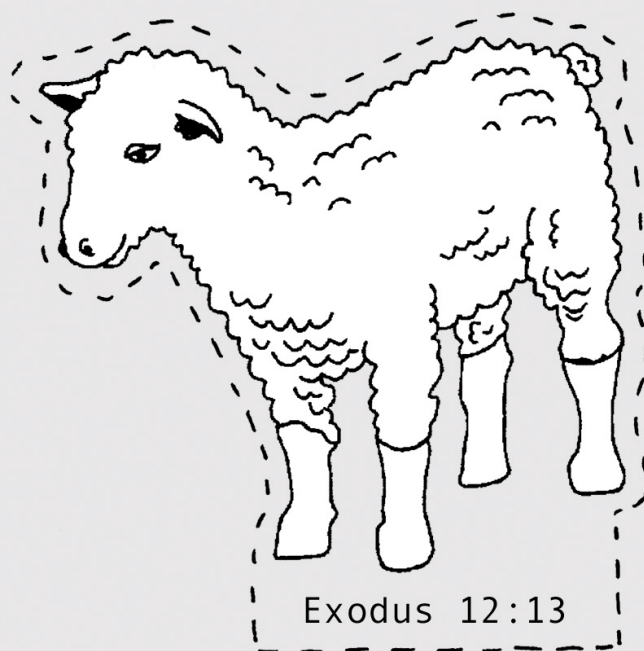


Suggested Family Readings and Ornaments



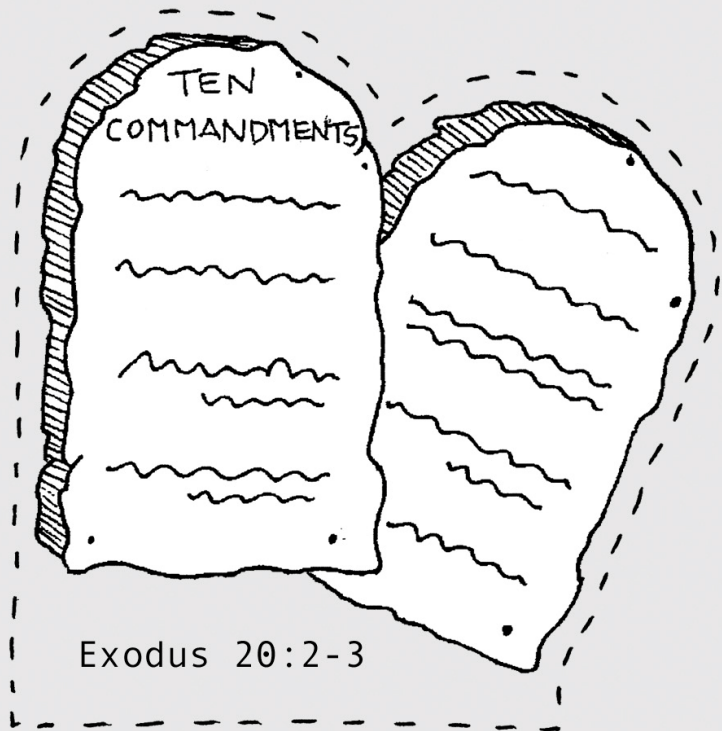
Dec. 8	The Passover	Exodus 12:2-7, 12:12-13 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 84-91	Lamb
Dec. 9	The Journey	Exodus 14-15 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 92-99	Staff
Dec. 10	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-21 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 100-107	Two Tablets
Dec. 11	The Wall	Joshua 3 & 6 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 108-115	Simple Horn
Dec. 12	The Shepherd King	1 Samuel 16 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 116-121	Little Boy
Dec. 13	The Giant	1 Samuel 17:1-50 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 122-129	Slingshot
Dec. 14	The Healing	2 Kings 5 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 136-143	River





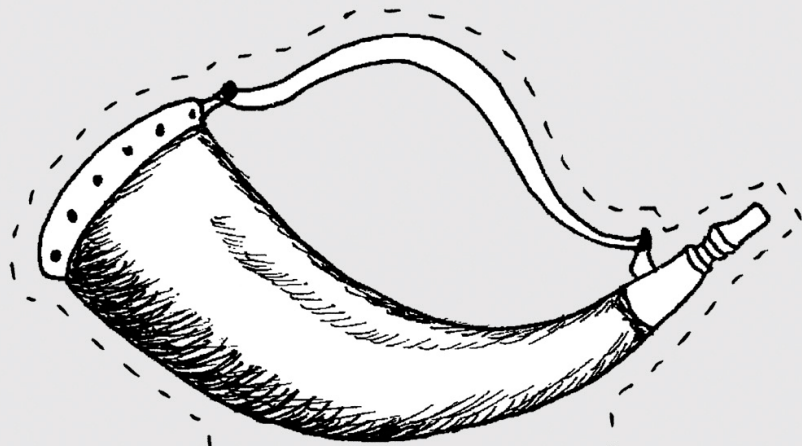


Exodus 14:4



Exodus 20:2-3

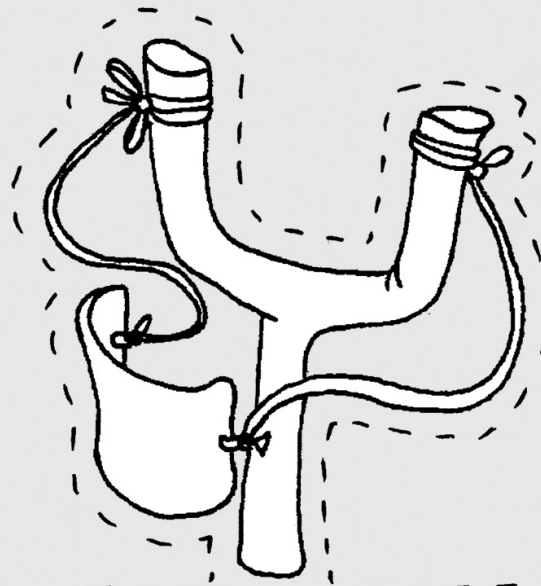




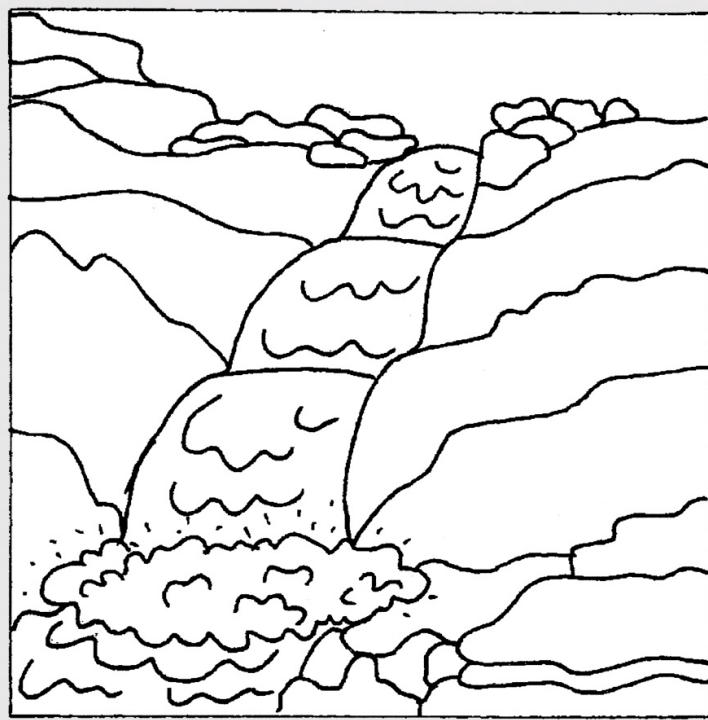
Joshua 6:2



1 Samuel 16:12-13



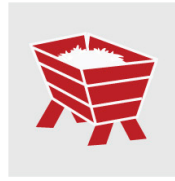
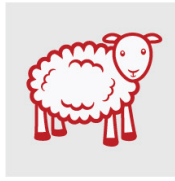
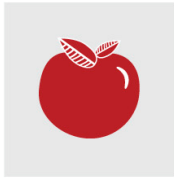
1 Samuel 17:37-40,49



2 Kings 5:14

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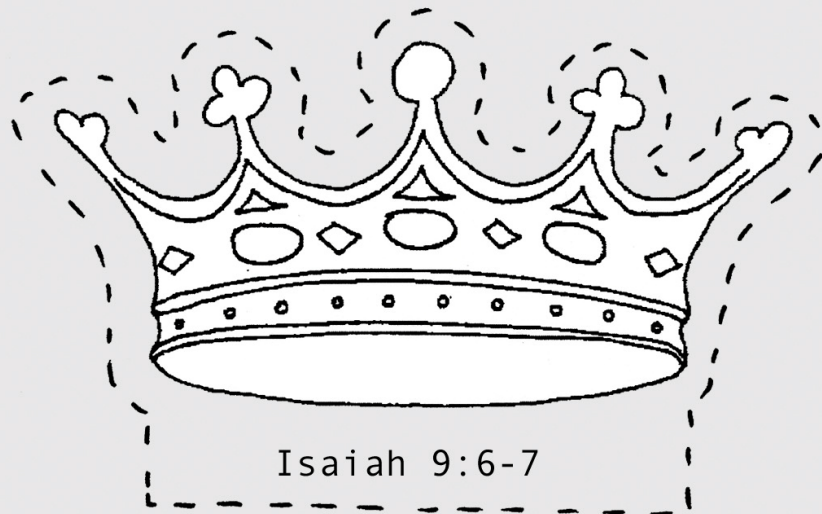


Suggested Family Readings and Ornaments



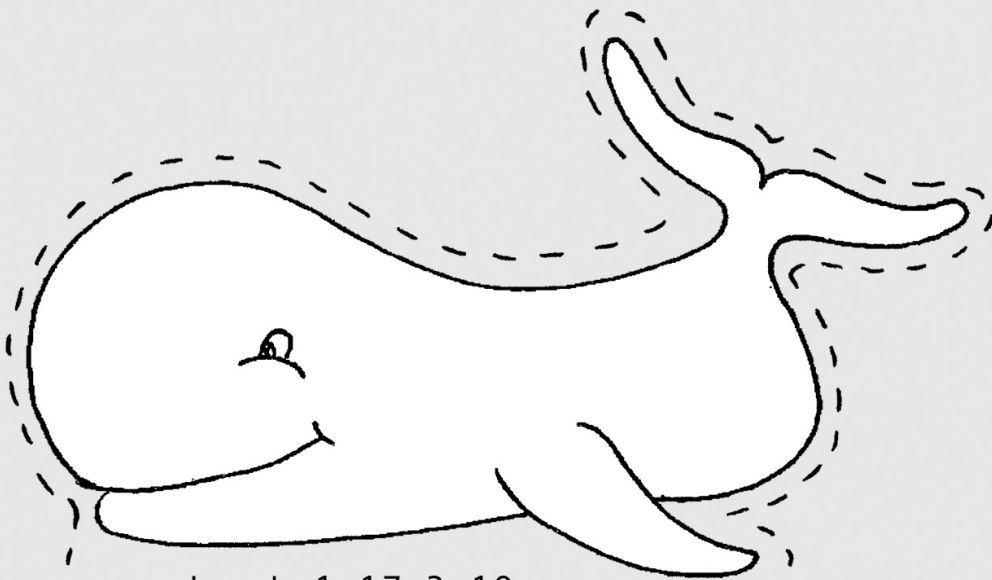
Dec. 15	The Prophecies	Isaiah 9:6-7 53:1-12 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 144-151	Crown
Dec. 16	The Protector	Daniel 6 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 160-169	Lion
Dec. 17	The Messenger	Jonah 1 - 4 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 160-169	Big Fish
Dec. 18	The History	Nehemiah 8 - 10 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 170-175	Scroll
Dec. 19	A Shepherd's Song	Psalms 23 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 130-135	Harp
Dec. 20	The Waiting	Habakkuk 1:12 - 2:3	Watch Tower
Dec. 21	John the Baptist	Luke 1:5-25 & Luke 1: 57 - 80	Rising Sun





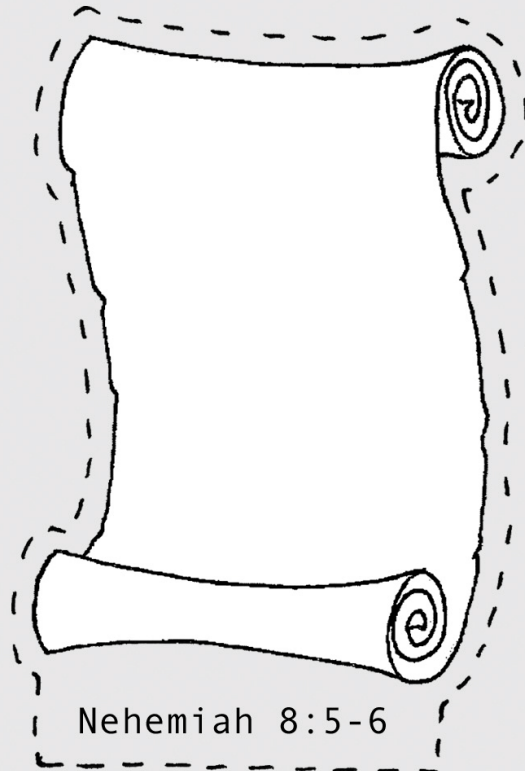


Daniel 6:22

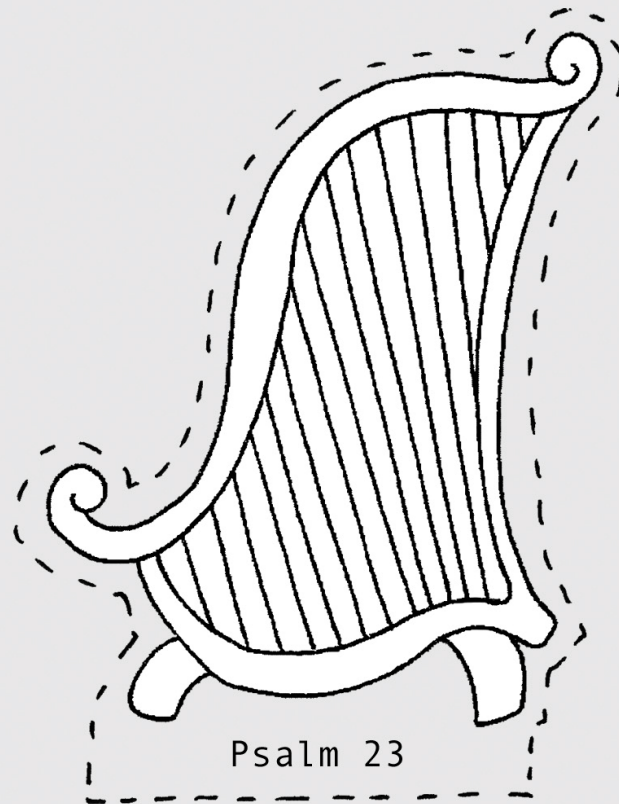


Jonah 1:17-2:10



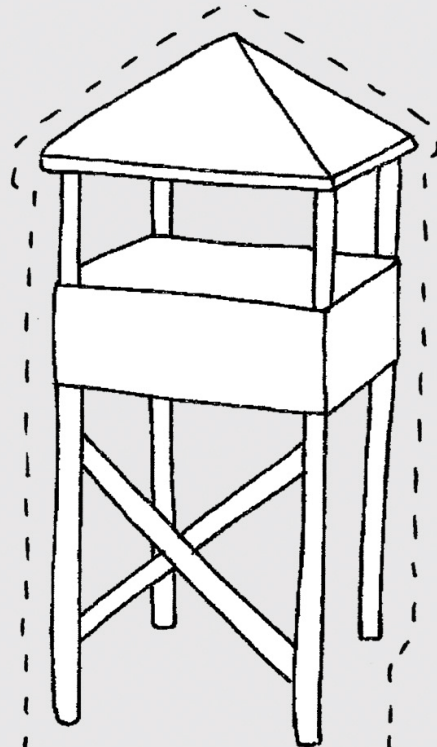


Nehemiah 8:5-6

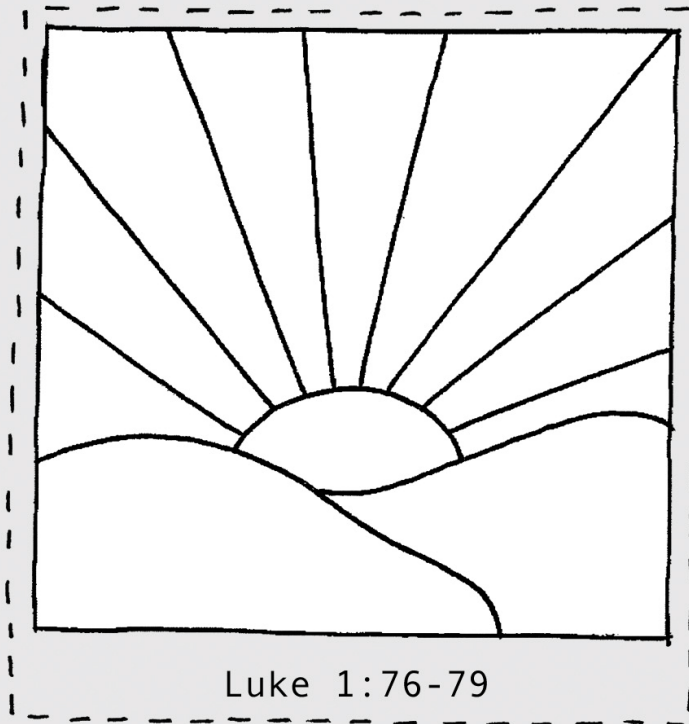


Psalms 23





Habakkuk 2:1-3

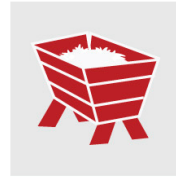
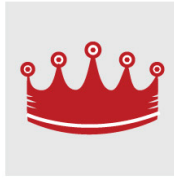
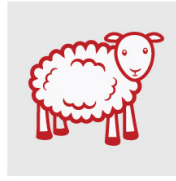
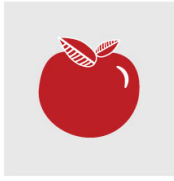


Luke 1:76-79




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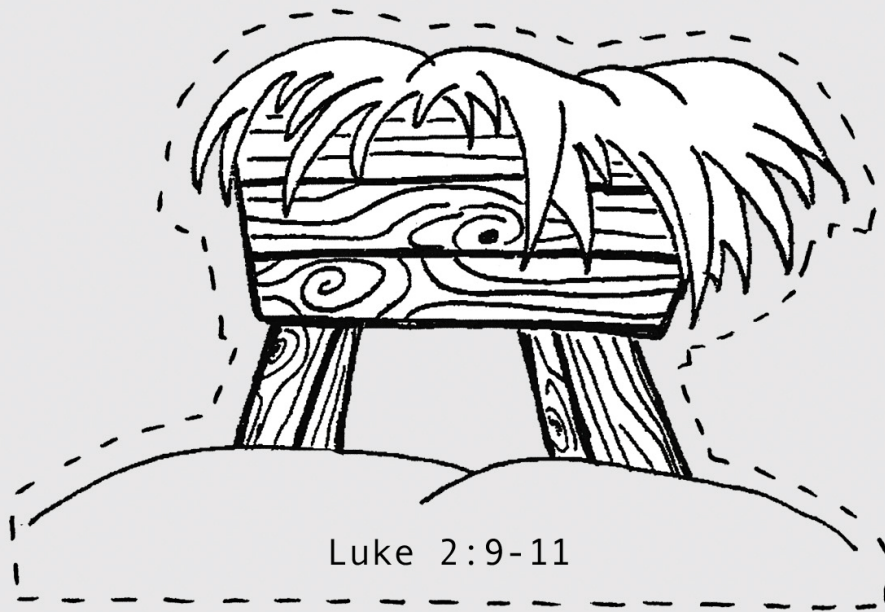
Suggested Family Readings and Ornaments



Dec. 22	The Good News	Luke 2:8-20 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 184-191	Manger
Dec. 23	The Savior	Luke 1:26-38 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 176-179	Angel
Dec. 24	Mary's Song	Luke 1:46-56	Mary
Dec. 25	The Stable	Luke 2:1-7 Jesus Storybook Bible p. 180-182	Nativity Scene

Merry Christmas!







Luke 1:31-33



Luke 1:46-50

