



ADVENT

kid's guide

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

I Corinthians 1:3-9



I Corinthians 1:3-9 • illustratedministry.com

INTRO

Share a story about a time when you had to wait or a time when you found waiting difficult.

QUESTIONS

- When have you had to wait for something or someone? What do you do while you wait?
- How does waiting make you feel, especially when you have been waiting for a long time?
- Why is it important to learn to wait when we would rather get what we want right away?

WRAP-UP

Wish the children a Happy New Year! Explain that although we typically celebrate New Year's Day on the first day of January, the new church year begins today, the first Sunday of the season of Advent. During this season, we wait as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Wonder with the children how we feel while we are waiting for Christmas. What might we do while we wait? Show the children today's illustration and read the words together, saying, "God is faithful." Tell them that those words came from the apostle Paul's letter to the ancient church at Corinth about two thousand years ago. Paul reminded the Corinthians that God had given them everything they needed to love God and love people while they waited for Jesus to be shown to them again. As we wait for Jesus to be shown to us again at Christmas as a baby born in Bethlehem, we can listen as Paul teaches the Corinthians how to wait. Share with the children how Paul reminds them that they know the stories of Jesus and can share those stories with others. We can do that, too! Most of all, Paul encourages the Corinthians by reminding them that God is faithful. Explain that the word "faithful" can be tricky to understand, but it describes someone who keeps the promises they make. Share with the children how we can wait for Jesus and work together to share the stories of Jesus because we know that God keeps God's promise to be with us. Advent is a season of waiting for the Christmas story to unfold again. During Advent, we wait with excitement and joy because God's promise to be born into our world is a promise that God keeps.

PRAYER

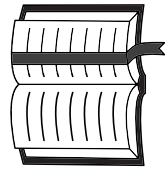
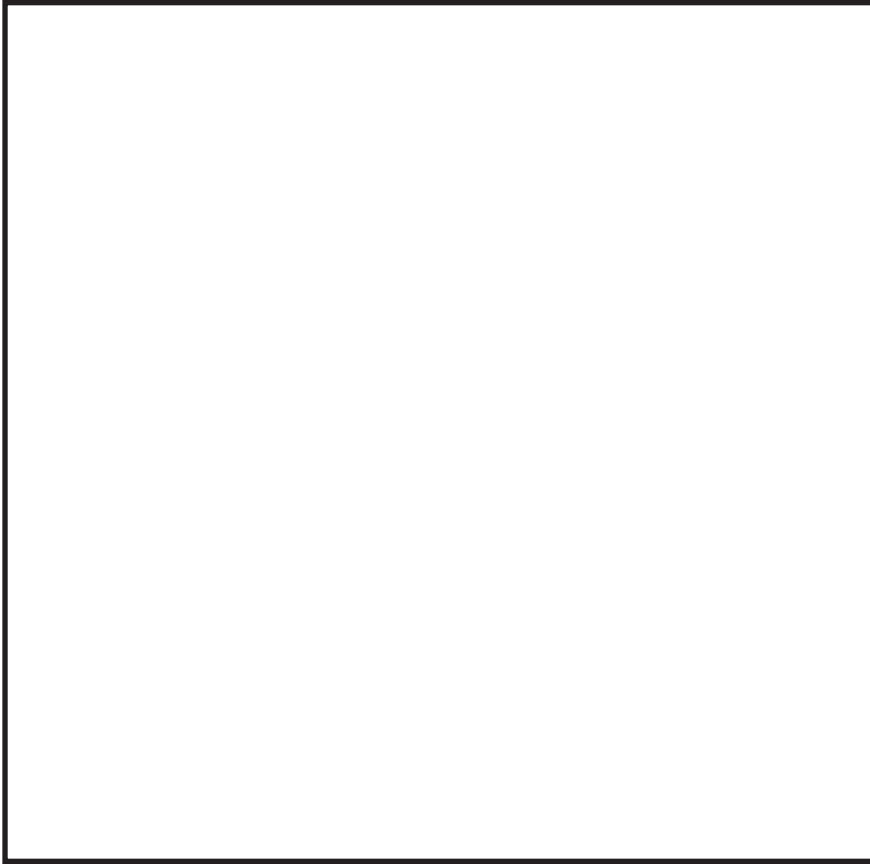
Dear God, help us to wait for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Remind us that you keep your promises to us, and encourage us to tell the stories of Jesus. **Amen.**





DRAW IT

In 1 Corinthians, we are promised God will strengthen us our whole lives because God is faithful. Draw a picture of how God gives you strength! Or draw a picture of you asking God for new strength.

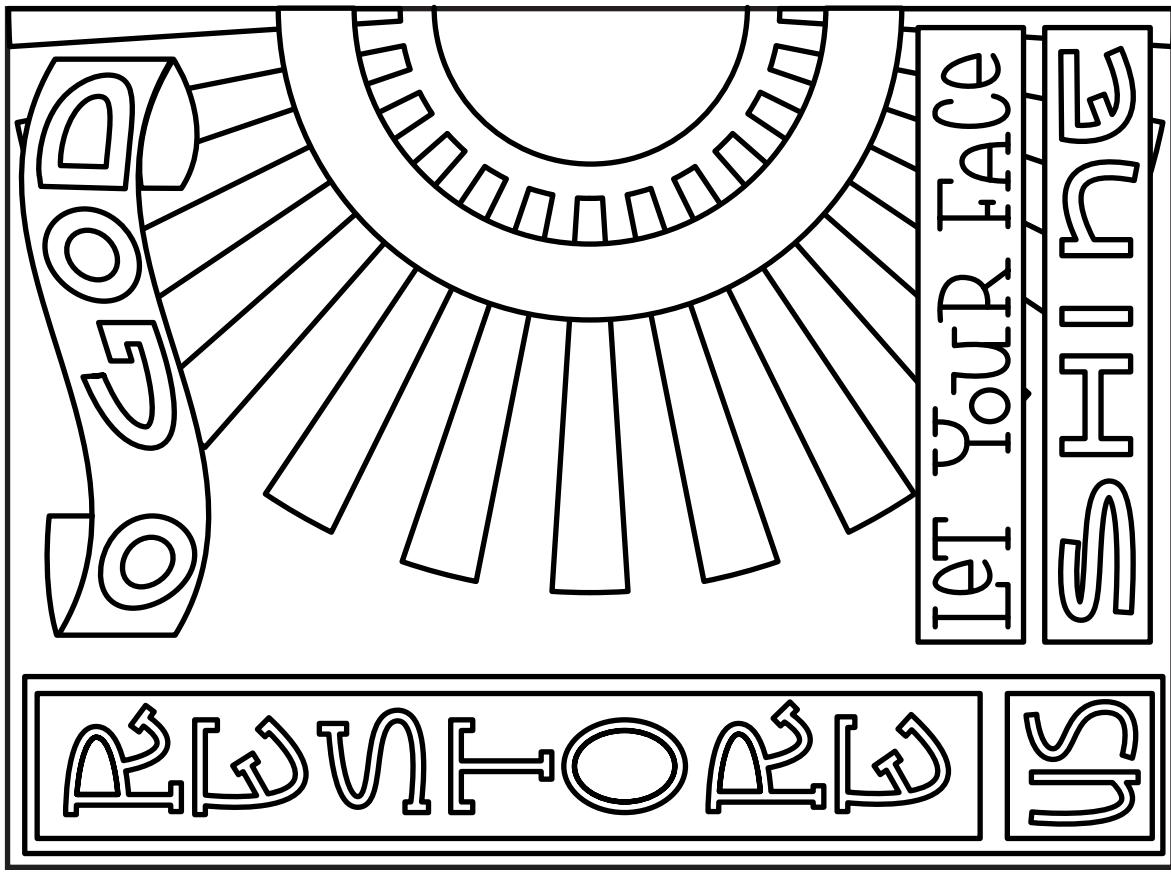


illustrated
—MINISTRY—

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 1 Corinthians 13:4-37.



WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Mark 13 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

Y	O	W	J	B	K	P	P	Z	A	R	K	H	M	K
K	A	U	S	U	A	L	E	R	T	O	T	S	B	U
D	A	Y	B	J	G	B	N	E	A	R	F	J	E	
D	I	D	S	E	Y	U	L	I	K	A	A	V	S	Y
J	T	A	A	V	L	I	G	H	T	T	R	L	R	Q
N	B	R	S	I	W	Q	D	S	H	G	Y	O	I	Z
R	K	K	U	W	R	L	W	E	V	I	L	L	F	K
T	K	P	K	E	O	E	R	Y	Z	G	N	A	C	G
N	E	L	K	P	B	T	W	L	C	B	X	C	L	L
E	S	A	A	K	H	K	S	O	E	W	Y	R	O	B
V	W	N	K	O	A	L	G	X	P	S	A	C	U	E
A	N	O	Q	V	E	R	A	D	R	N	S	W	D	A
E	J	O	Q	G	U	P	F	U	N	U	F	O	S	R
H	W	M	N	O	Q	N	K	T	A	S	J	U	N	T
P	B	A	H	F	Z	I	S	A	O	A	I	Z	E	H

SUN

DARK

MOON

LIGHT

STARS

CLOUDS

HEAVEN

POWER

GLORY

LESSON

NEAR

EARTH

DAY

HOOR

FATHER

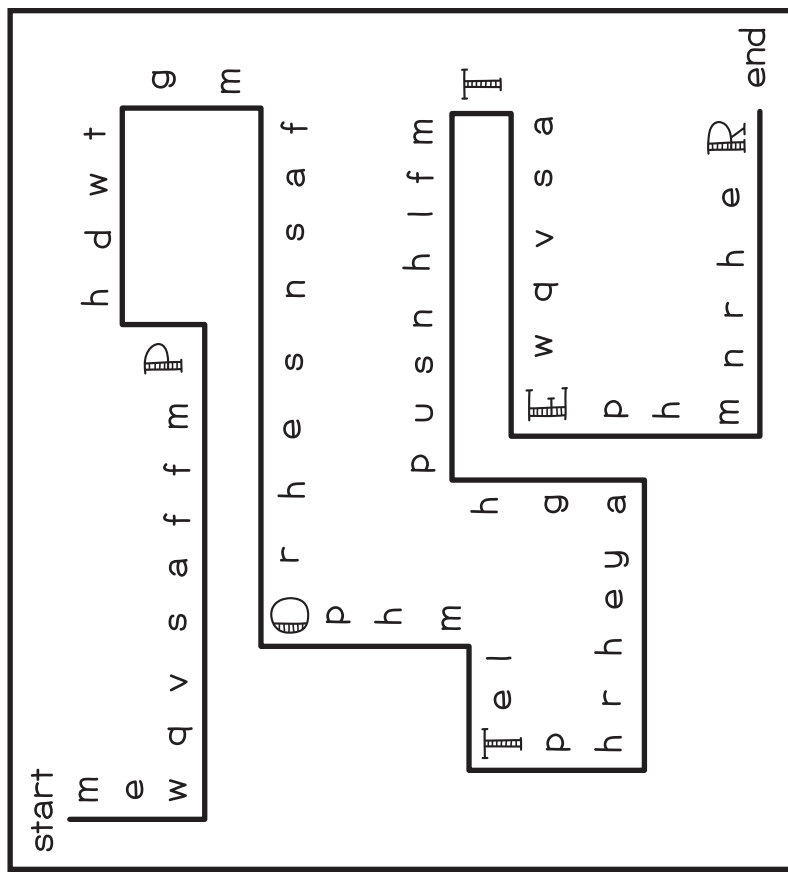
ANGELS

ALERT

AWAKE

FOLLOW the PATH

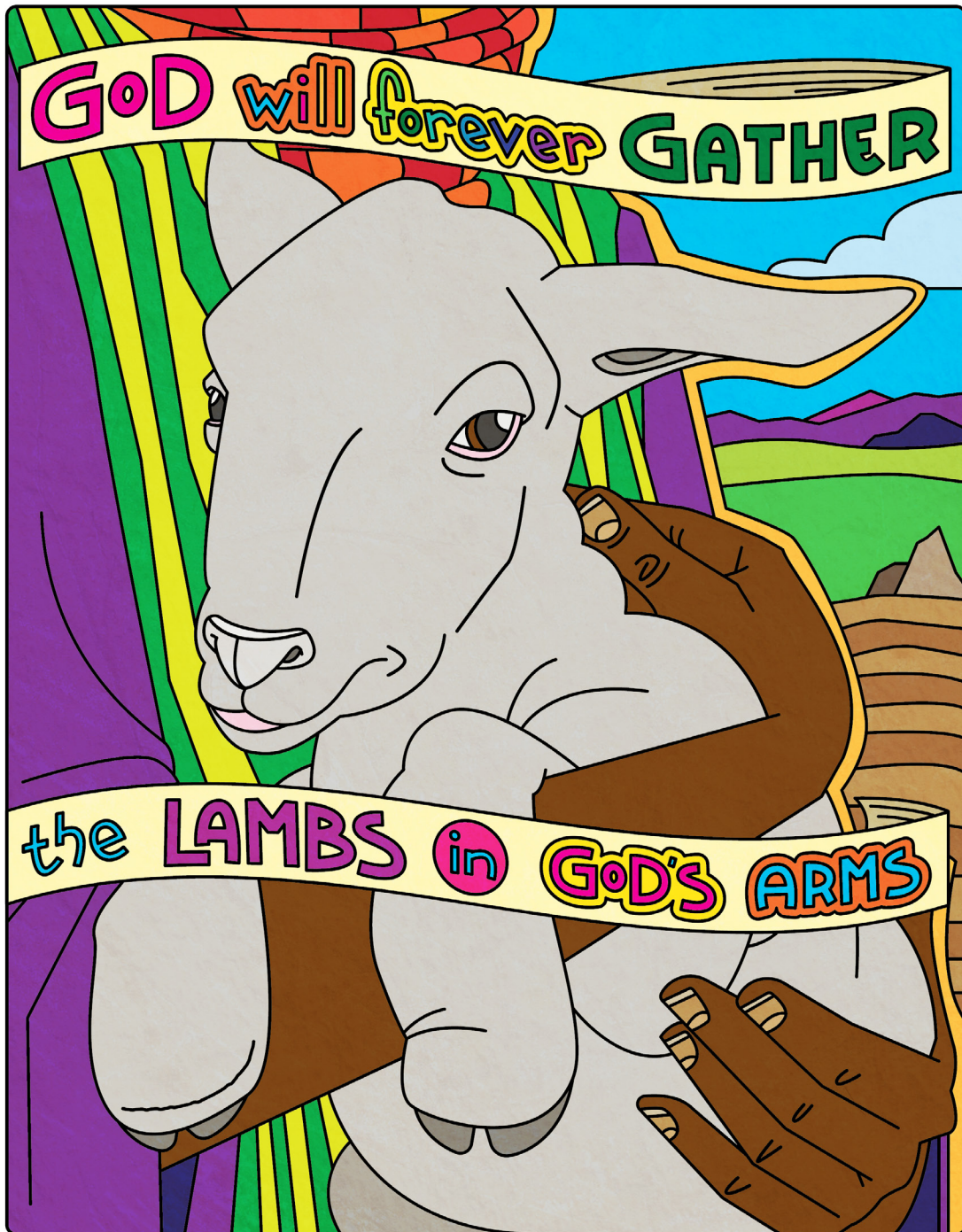
In Isaiah 64, we are described as clay in God's hand. How is God described? Follow the path of letters, and each time you come to a capital letter, write that letter down at the bottom of the page. When you get to the end of the path, see the name for God spelled out below.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2020

Isaiah 40:1-11



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INTRO

Share a story about when you were sad, scared, or hurt and needed to be comforted, or about a time when you comforted someone else.

QUESTIONS

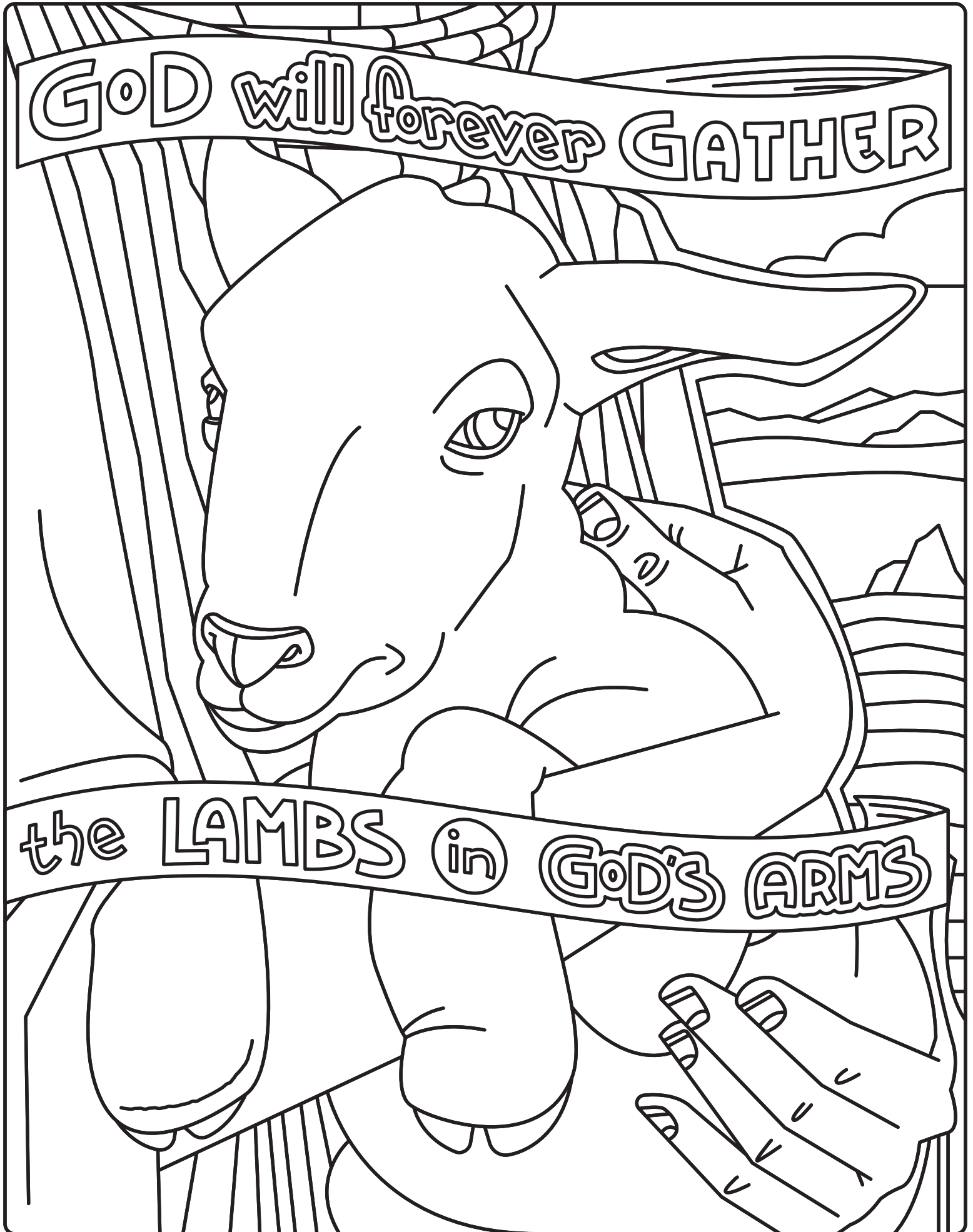
- When have you needed to be comforted? When have you comforted someone else?
- What makes you feel comforted? (Kind words, a song, a hug, getting help when you need it, etc.)
- How can words or promises be comforting? What comforting words would you say to someone who is upset or worried?

WRAP-UP

Show the children today's illustration and read the words printed there together: "God will gather the lambs in God's arms." Tell the children that these words come from the book of Isaiah. At the beginning of this story, an army attacks the Israelites, defeats them in battle, and takes them away from their home in Jerusalem to live and work in a different place called Babylon. God tells the prophet, Isaiah, to comfort the Israelites because they are homesick and sad. The people are so unhappy that they even wonder whether God still loves them. Explain to the children how Isaiah promises the people God loves them. God will take care of them just as a shepherd takes care of a lamb by feeding it nourishing food and holding it close to keep it safe. Isaiah also comforts the people by reminding them that God's promises last forever—far longer than the times when they are sad, afraid, or worried. Share with the children that we read this scripture during the season of Advent because this is a time of waiting and preparing. Sometimes this season of waiting for Christmas feels joyful and exciting. Other times, especially if we have experienced a big change in our lives, such as a move or the loss of a loved one, this season can bring sadness and loneliness. Share how important it is to remember that it is okay to feel sad. God honors our sadness and comforts us when we need it. As we wait for Jesus to be born, we also remember that God's promise to love and care for us lasts forever.

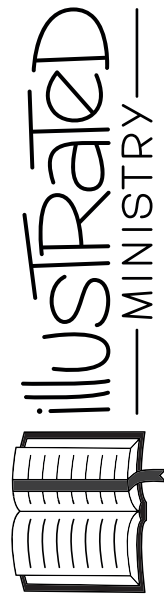
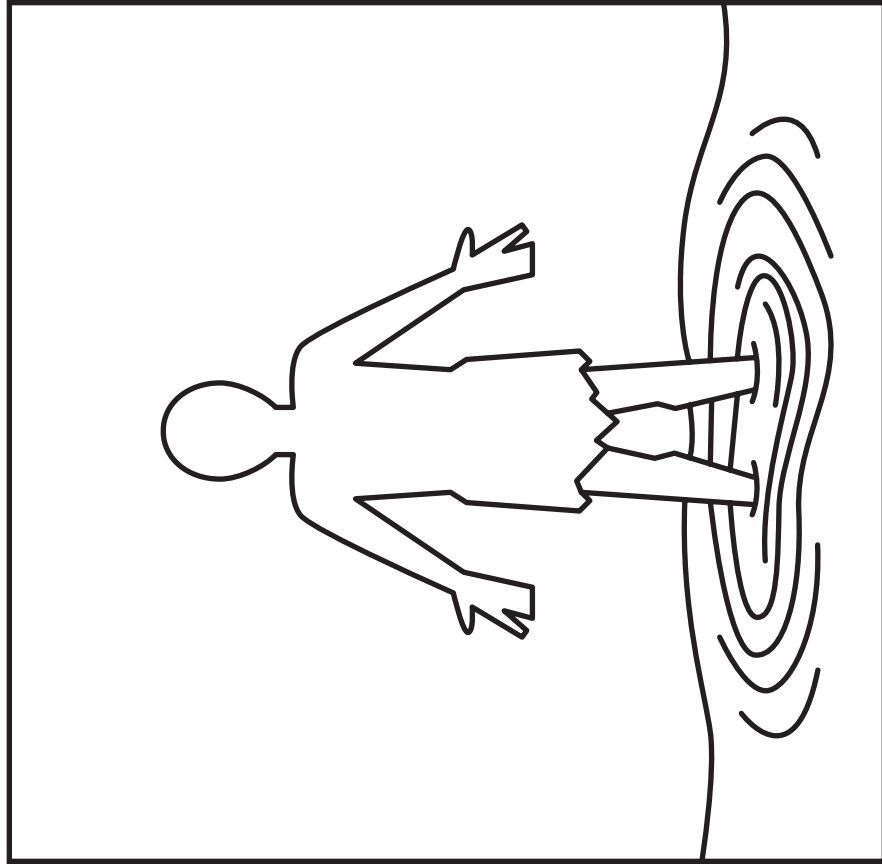
PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for taking care of us like a shepherd takes care of their sheep. When we feel afraid, sad, or worried, help us remember your promises last forever. Teach us to comfort one another. **Amen.**



FINISH the DRAWING

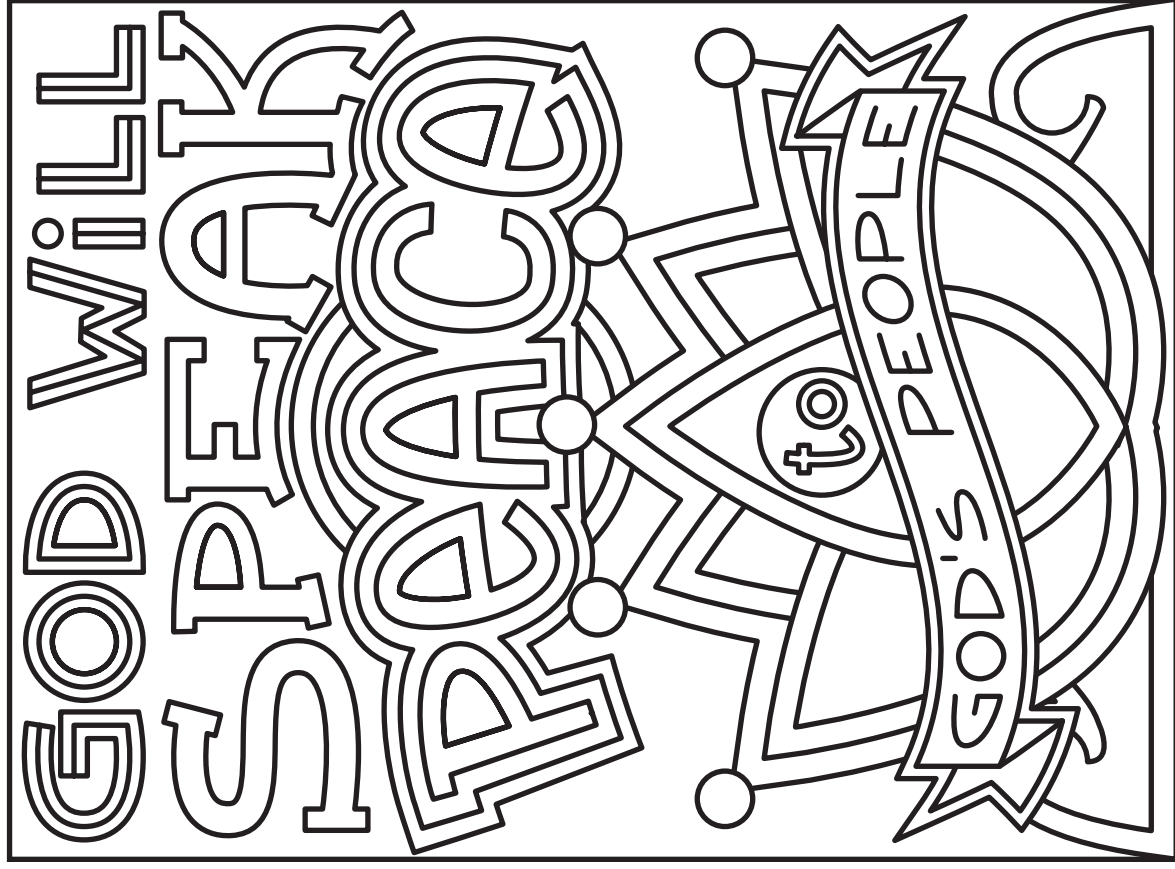
In Mark 1, we meet John the Baptist who prepares the way for Jesus' coming. He lived in the wilderness, wore camel's hair, and ate bugs and honey! Finish the drawing of John and how you picture him.



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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

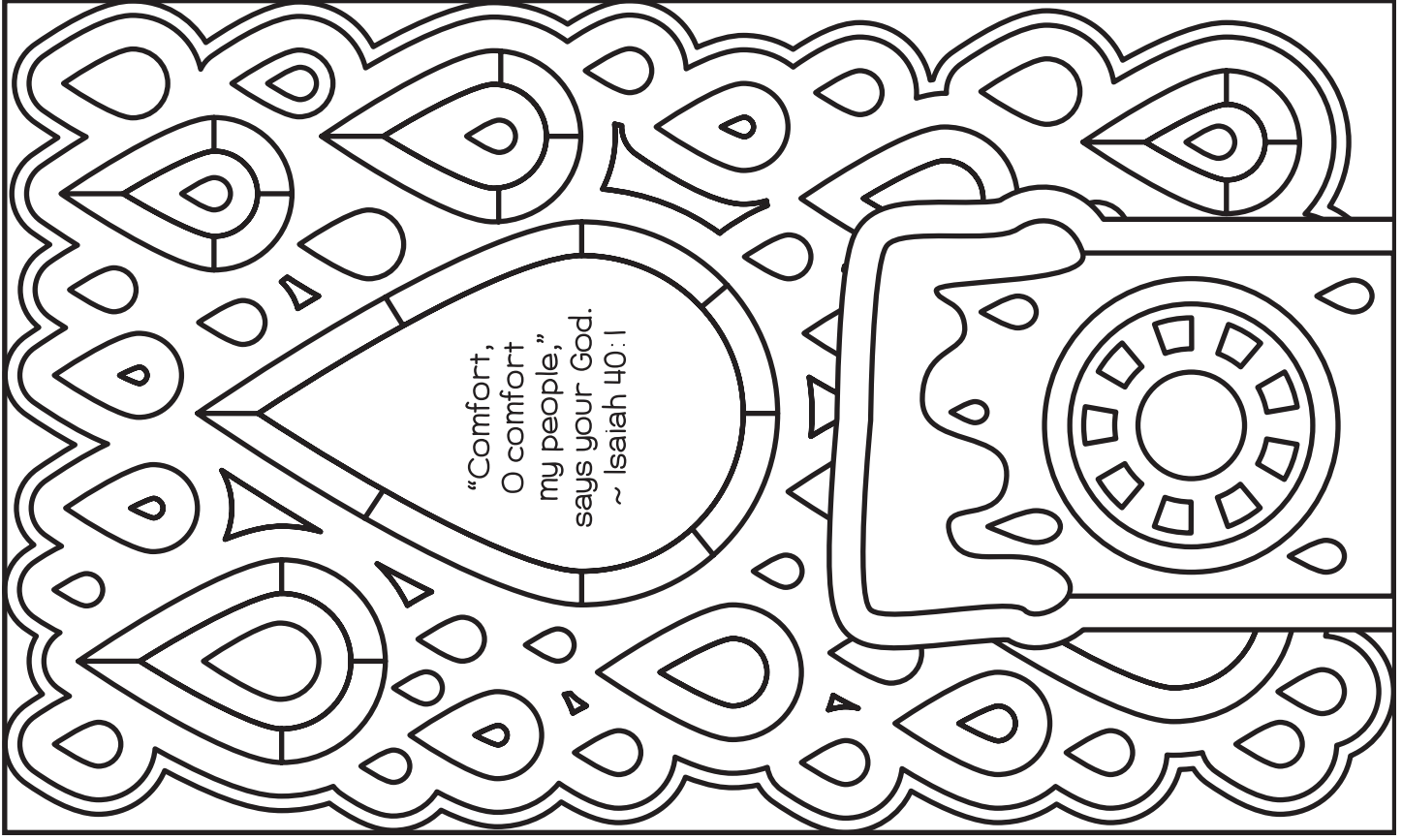
Activities based on Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, Mark 1:1-8.





DRAW IT

Isaiah 40 gives us a beautiful vision of the earth and all people coming together in justice and equality. "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low..." Justice is part of Jesus' coming. Draw what you think of when you think of justice.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

Psalm 126



Psalm 126 • illustratedministry.com

INTRO

Share a story about having a bad day.

QUESTIONS

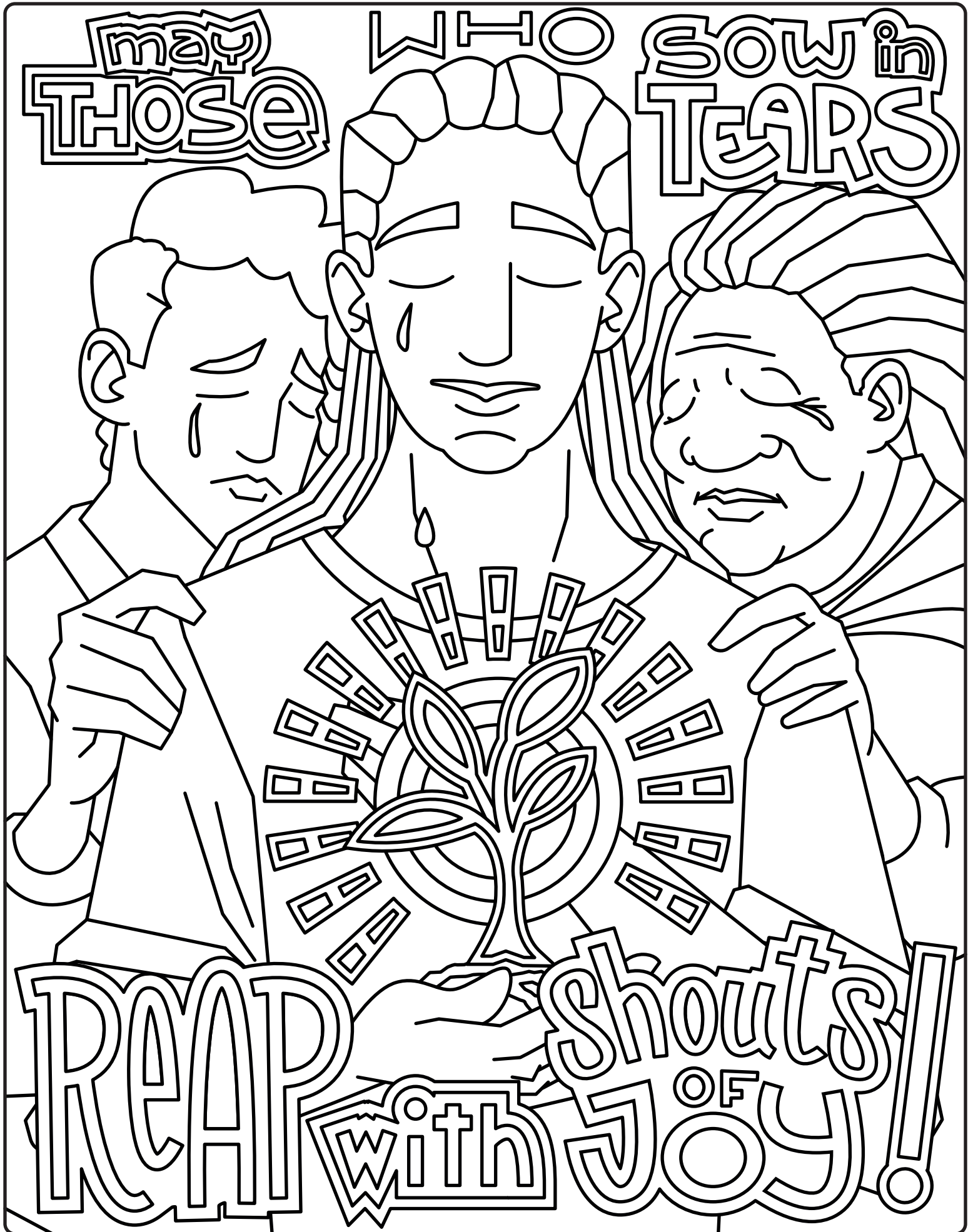
- Have you ever had a bad day?
- What makes a day good or bad? Describe what kinds of things happen on a good day. Describe what kinds of things happen on a bad day.
- When you are experiencing a bad day, how do you feel?

WRAP-UP

Remind the children that Advent is a season of waiting for the joy of Jesus' birth. Even so, as we look forward to Christmas, we may not always feel joyful. Sometimes, bad things happen. Sometimes, we have a bad day. Sometimes, we feel sad about what is going on in the world or our own lives. Show the children today's illustration and read the words printed there together, "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!" Tell the children that these words come from the Psalms—prayers and poems in the Bible that people have prayed for thousands of years. Then define or show what it means to "sow." Tell the children farmers sow seeds they hope will someday grow into plants. In the same way a farmer scatters or sows carrot seeds, hoping they will grow into more carrots, we sow things we hope will grow into more of what we have sown. We sow kindness by doing something kind for someone, and we hope our kindness will inspire more kindness. We sow love to help people feel loved. Wonder with the children about what they think it means to sow in tears. That sounds strange! We don't usually want more tears or more sadness to grow! Why do you think the psalmist says those who sow in tears will make joy grow? Explain to the children that God knows we do not always feel joy. God promises when we sow in tears—when we are honest about the sadness we feel—we help sow seeds of hope and joy. Like a farmer who sows seeds and waits for plants to grow, we wait during Advent for Jesus to be born. Even on our bad days, knowing Jesus is with us can bring us comfort and joy.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring for us when we have a bad day, a tough week, or a difficult season. When we sow in tears, make joy grow as we wait for the birth of Jesus.
Amen.



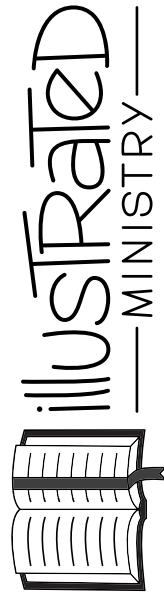
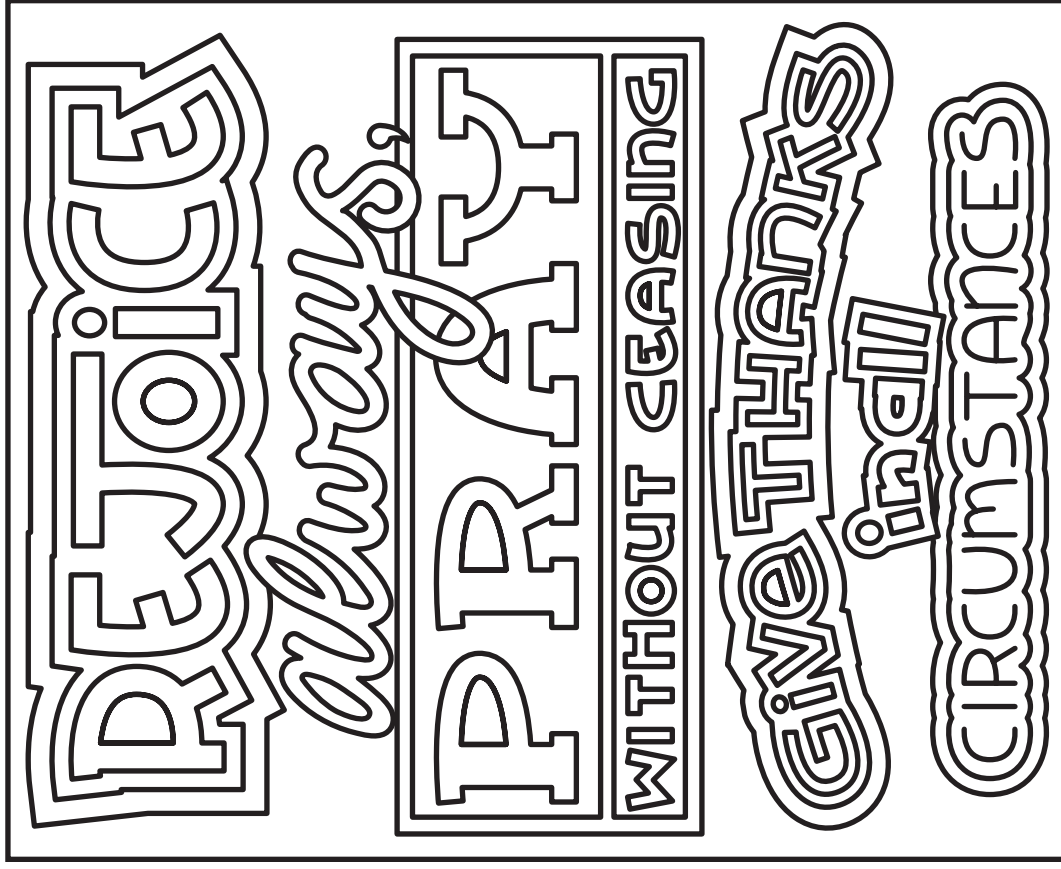
may
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shouts
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JOY!

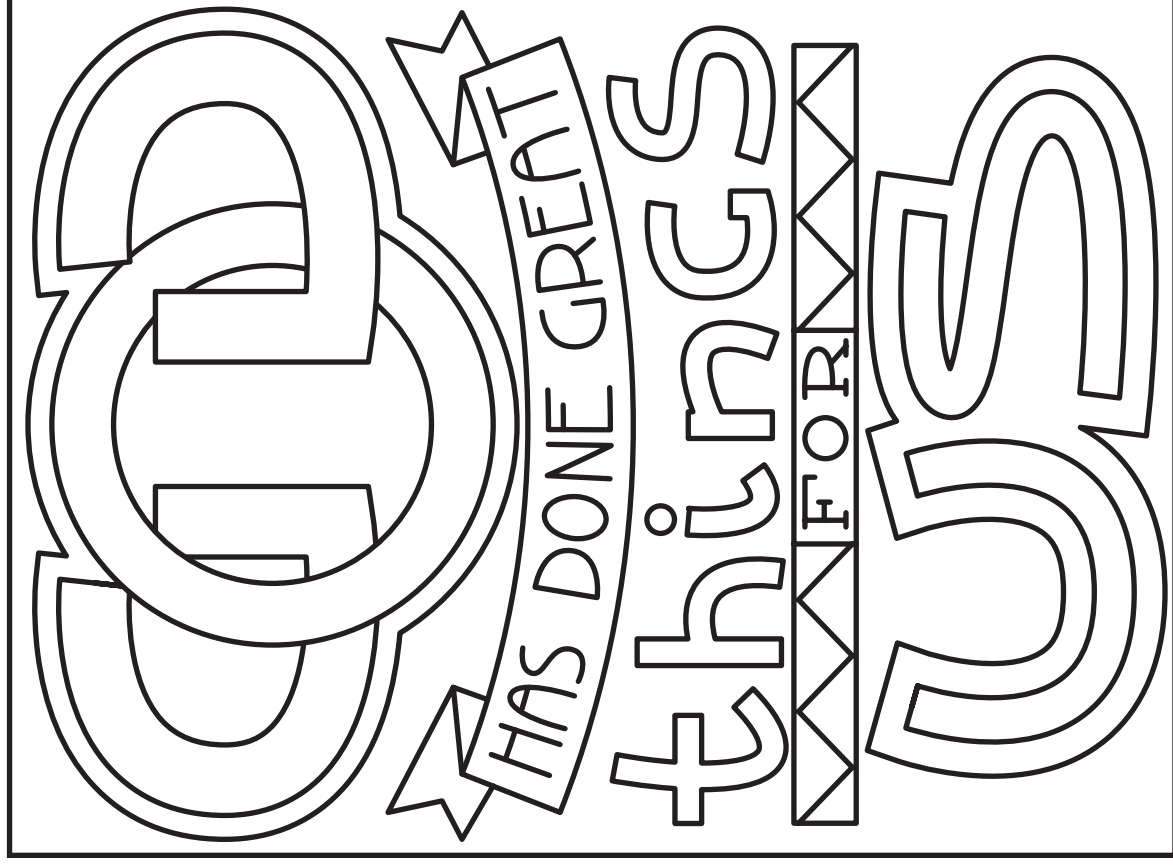
COLOR IN THE WORDS



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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24,
John 1:6-8, 19-28.





DRAW IT

In John 1, we meet John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus. He described himself as a “voice crying out in the wilderness, ‘make straight the way of the Lord!’” Draw a picture of what you think it looks like to “prepare the way” for Jesus.

UNSCRAMBLE IT

What does Isaiah say he has been called by God to do? These same words will later be repeated by Jesus! Unscramble the words to find out!

--- --- --- --- ---
DGO SHA TENS EM OT NRBGI

--- --- --- --- ---
OGOD SWNE OT HET SREEDPOPS

-- --- --- ---
OT DNBI PU EHT

--- --- --- --- ---
ROKTENHEABRDE' TO

--- --- --- --- ---
CLIPRAMO BERTYIL OT

--- --- --- --- ---
TEH SCAPVETI DAN OT

--- --- --- --- ---
SEALREE SONPRISRE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020

Luke 1:46-55



Luke 1:46-55 • illustratedministry.com

INTRO

Share a story or song that has been passed down in your family or among your friends.

QUESTIONS

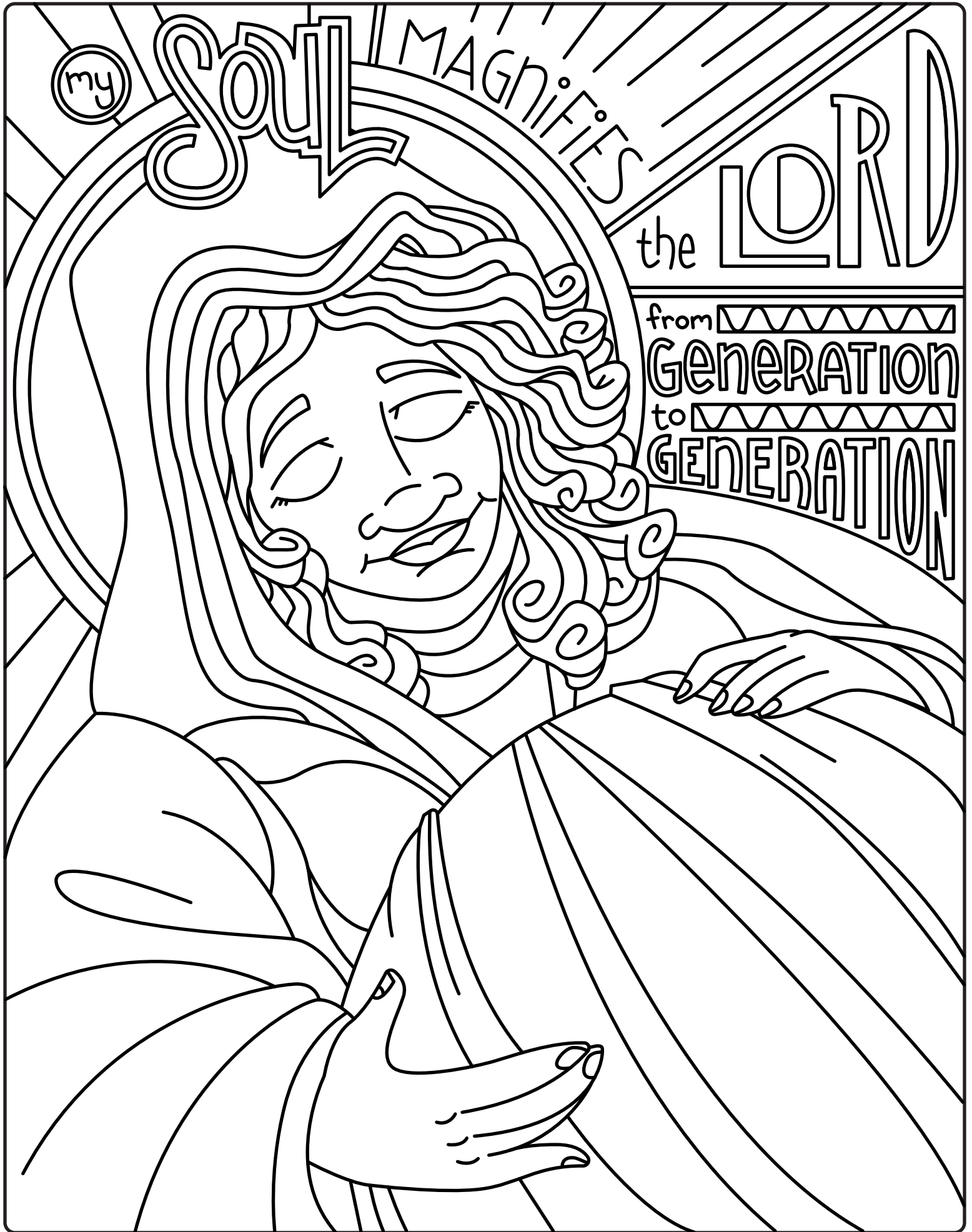
- Are there any stories or songs that have been passed down or shared with you?
- Why do you think we share stories with one another?
- Stories and songs can help us remember what is important to our families or friends. What is something important you learned by listening to a song or hearing a story?

WRAP-UP

Explain to the children that today's scripture comes from the Gospel of Luke. It is a song Mary sings after she learns she will be Jesus' mother. Mary's song is similar to another song she had heard before. Her parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on, taught her the song of Hannah, a woman who lived in ancient Israel. Like Hannah, Mary sang her thanks and praise to God. Show the children today's illustration and point out the words, "My soul magnifies the Lord...from generation to generation." Parents taught Hannah's song to their children, who then passed the song on to their children until Mary heard it and sang a similar song. Mary's song has now been passed down all the way to us today! Ask the children why it is important for us to keep singing these songs. Both Hannah's song and Mary's song praise God for bringing down the rich and lifting up the poor, feeding the hungry and sending the rich away empty. Explain how these songs tell us that some rich people were greedy, taking more food and resources than they needed, while other people were starving and poor, not getting enough of what they needed to live. But these songs also celebrate God's justice. Tell the children that while justice is a big word, it simply means God is fixing the problem! God's justice makes sure that no one has too much, and no one has too little. Everyone will have what they need to live and grow. While we wait for Jesus this Advent, it's important we help bring justice into the world, too. One way to do this is by sharing what we have and receiving what others give to us, so everyone can have what they need.

PRAYER

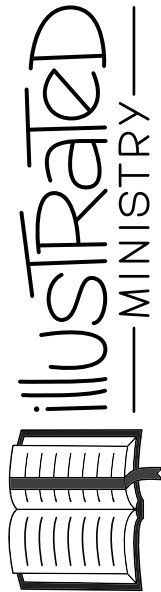
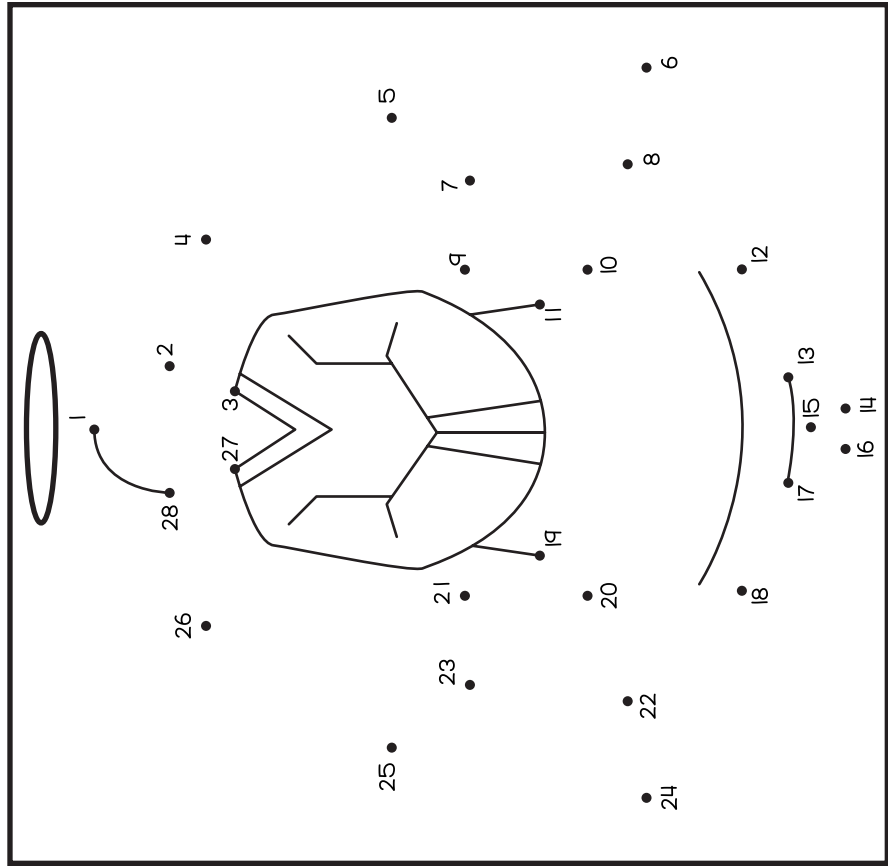
Dear God, thank you for the stories and songs we hear when we read from the Bible. Thank you for Mary's song that helps us remember you are a God who wants justice. **Amen.**



CONNECT the DOTS

Connect the dots to form an angel - the one who told Mary that nothing is impossible with God.

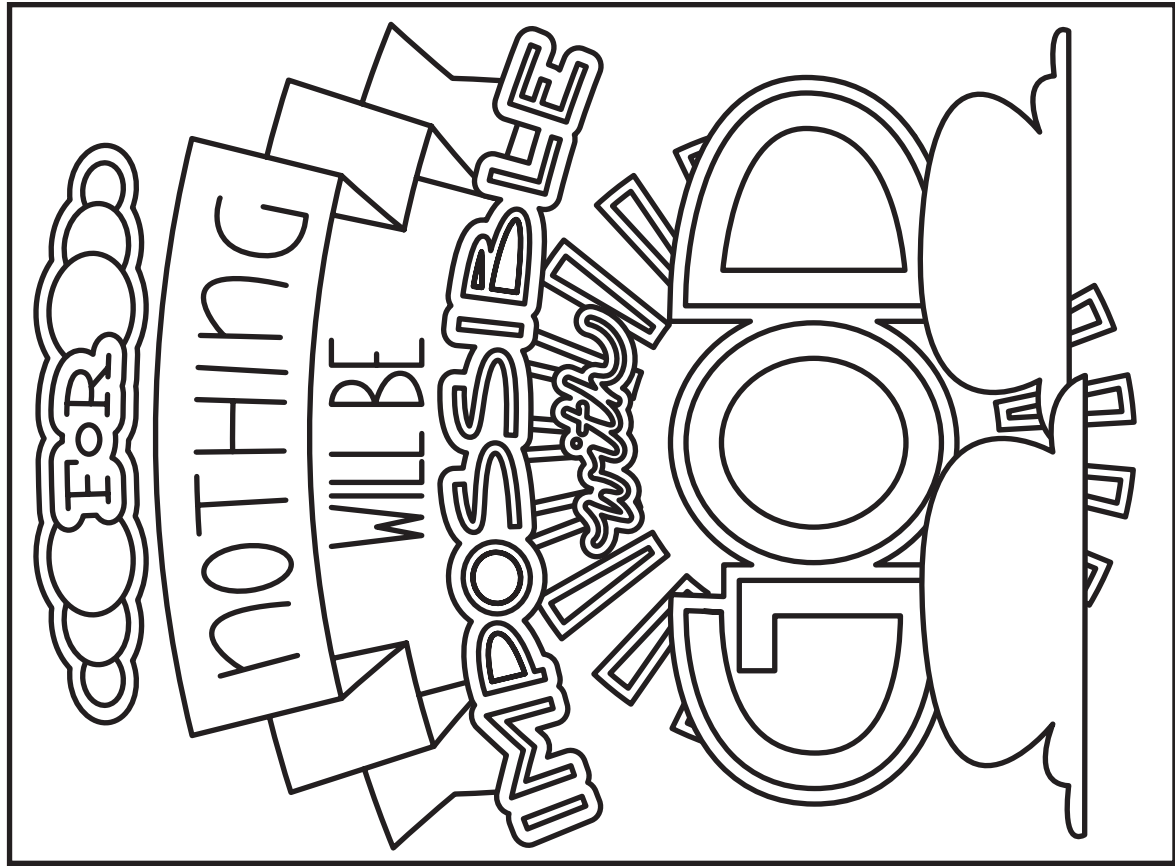
Around the angel, write or draw some amazing things God has done.



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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:26-38.





DRAW IT

Luke 1:26-38 shares the amazing experience Mary had when the angel, Gabriel, came to tell her she would be Jesus' mother! Draw what you imagine this looked like.

WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from 2 Samuel 7 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

D	D	H	O	U	S	E	V	M	A	I	J	D	P	J
J	D	X	W	S	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	Z	D	M
T	R	R	A	J	E	V	D	T	E	N	O	R	H	T
L	E	T	O	C	F	R	N	J	U	Z	M	K	O	Z
N	O	Q	R	L	H	E	V	L	F	M	F	Y	U	O
D	A	C	I	B	T	V	Z	A	U	T	K	I	X	A
N	L	X	S	P	P	E	F	J	N	S	F	S	A	B
F	K	W	R	L	E	R	L	B	S	T	G	E	H	D
A	H	G	A	V	H	O	U	I	T	A	N	M	R	A
O	P	Y	E	X	K	F	P	N	A	H	T	A	N	V
Q	L	M	L	I	Q	P	A	L	F	E	J	N	H	I
F	A	C	N	Q	H	L	Q	A	E	B	G	V	B	D
M	C	G	O	Z	P	U	G	R	E	A	T	D	G	K
M	E	E	Q	R	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	U	R
V	H	K	R	O	U	I	F	E	A	K	U	X	P	J

KING

HOUSE

LORD

NATHAN

DAVID

TENT

SHEPHERD

PEOPLE

ISRAEL

SERVANT

GREAT

NAME

PLANT

PLACE

JUDGE

KINGDOM

FOREVER

THRONE