



EARLY CHILDHOOD GUIDE

CREATED BY
Kimberly Sorgius Jones

AND THE
NOT CONSUMED TEAM

CONTRIBUTORS:
JESSICA SCHAAL

CREATIVE DIRECTOR:
EMILY SHEEDER

DESIGNER:
SARAH SHEEDER

ILLUSTRATORS:
RAMONA KURTEN
SARA SALAMAT

EDITORS:
CRYSTAL MARCUM
SOPHIA STOUFFER
KRISTIANN KASHUBA
KIMRA BELL
RACHEL SHEEDER
CAMERON POLLOCK

COPYRIGHT © 2025
NOT CONSUMED MINISTRIES, LLC

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THIS BOOK CONTAINS MATERIAL PROTECTED UNDER
INTERNATIONAL AND FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAWS AND TREATIES.
ANY UNAUTHORIZED REPRINT OR USE OF THIS MATERIAL IS
PROHIBITED. NO PART OF THIS BOOK MAY BE REPRODUCED OR
TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR
MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY
INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM WITHOUT EXPRESS
WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER.

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS
ARE FROM THE HOLY BIBLE, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION® (ESV®),
COPYRIGHT © 2001 BY CROSSWAY, A PUBLISHING MINISTRY OF
GOOD NEWS PUBLISHERS. USED BY PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS
RESERVED. ALL SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS MARKED (KJV) ARE FROM
THE HOLY BIBLE, KING JAMES VERSION. PUBLIC DOMAIN.

THE PURCHASER OF THIS GROUP SITE LICENSE EBOOK
HAS PERMISSION TO PRINT EBOOK TEXT AND JOURNAL COPIES
FOR A GROUP OF UP TO 25 MEMBERS.



GIFTS AT THE *MANGER*

A Christmas Bible Study

NAME

WHAT'S IN THIS Study?

DAY 1: The Gift in the Manger

DAY 2: Mary's Gift

DAY 3: Joseph's Gift

DAY 4: From Angels to Shepherds

DAY 5: The Gifts of the Wise Men

DAY 6: Hope

DAY 7: Compassionate Mercy

DAY 8: Lasting Peace

DAY 9: Bursting Joy

DAY 10: Steadfast Love

DAY 11: True Rest

DAY 12: The Final Sacrifice

DAY 13: Our Salvation

DAY 14: His Word

DAY 15: His Spirit

DAY 16: Spiritual Gifts

DAY 17: Eternal Life With Him

DAY 18: Examples of Godliness

DAY 19: Our Hearts

DAY 20: Our Obedience

DAY 21: Our Worship

DAY 22: Our Trust

DAY 23: Our Love


DAY 24: Our Lives

DAY 25: Glory in the Christmas Story



The Gift in the Manger

Have you ever felt like someone gave you a gift because they wanted something? Maybe a sibling gave you some candy but later asked you to clean the bathroom for them.



When someone gives you a gift but expects something from you, it's not a true gift. A true **gift** is something given freely and willingly without wanting something in return. To learn about true gift giving, we need to look at the Christmas story!

Read **Luke 2:1-7**. What story do these verses tell about?

The birth of Jesus is the whole reason we celebrate Christmas! Jesus was actually the first and greatest Christmas gift ever given. John 3:16 tells us that God sent Jesus to this world willingly because He loves us!

Read KEY VERSE **»» John 1:14**. Who do you think this verse is talking about?

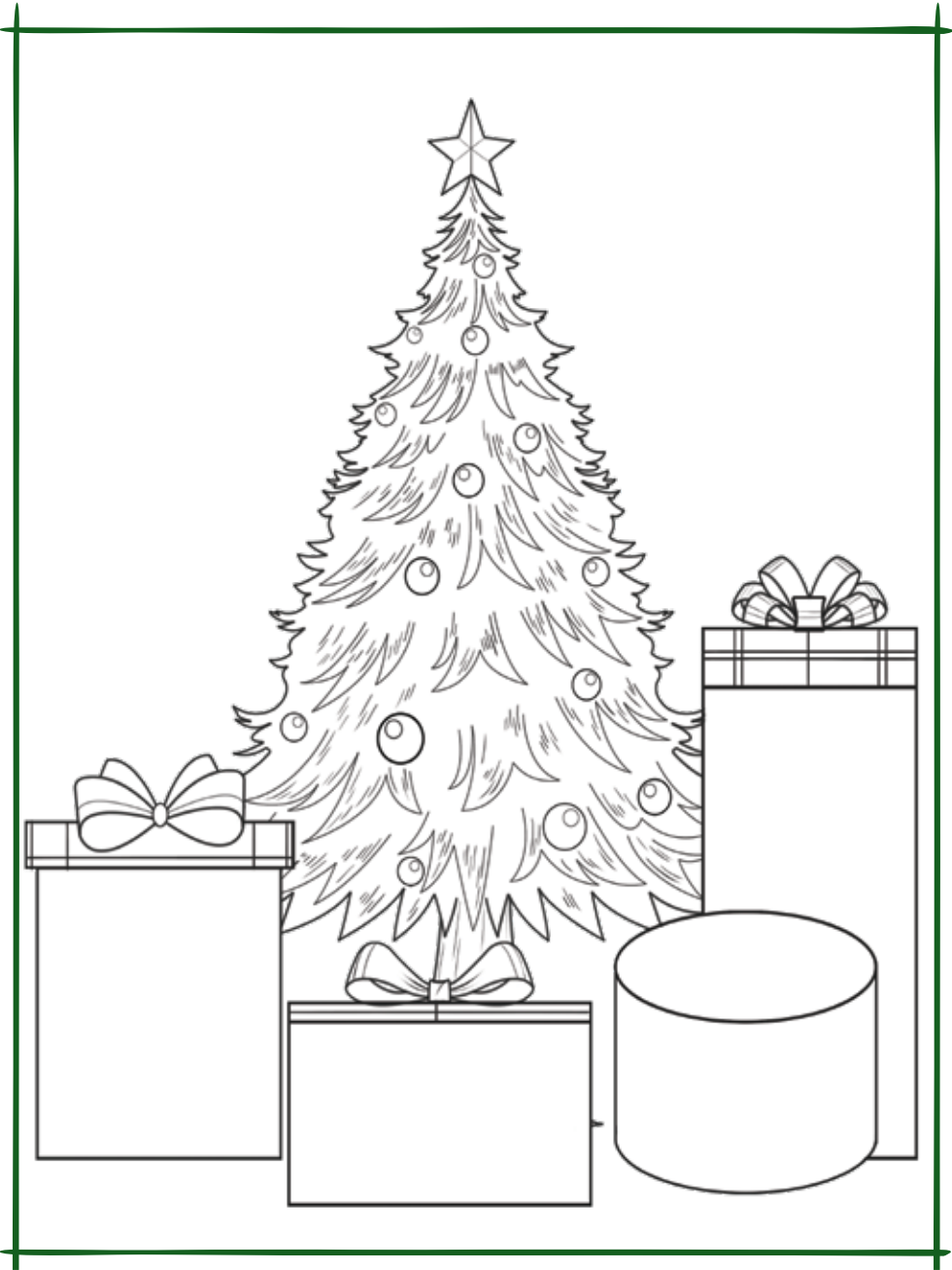
God's Word explains to us that Jesus (the Word) became flesh, which means He came to earth in a physical body as a little baby. Jesus, God's greatest gift to us, shined the brilliant light of grace and truth into the dark sinfulness of our world. Not only was Jesus the greatest gift ever given, but as John 1:16-17 tells us, it is through Him that we have received so many gifts of grace from God.

**God showed us His grace and
His goodness by giving us Jesus.**

The story of Christmas is FULL of examples of God's gracious gifts, and these gifts are what we'll be learning about every day of this study.

What are some gifts from the Christmas story that you can think of?

Draw pictures in the presents under the tree of some of the gifts God has given you and your family.



Take some time to pray now. Thank God for the gift of Jesus, and ask Him to help you learn more about Him as you work through this study.

*Find today's JESUS gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Mary's Gift

Have you ever felt like it was hard to obey your mom or dad? Today we'll get to see how one young girl's obedience in an unknown situation was a gift God used to bless the whole world!

Read **Luke 1:26-28**. What do you learn about Mary from these verses?

An angel named Gabriel was sent to speak to Mary.
When the angel talked to Mary, she was frightened!

Read **Luke 1:30-33**. What incredible news did Mary hear from Gabriel?

Mary's life was about to change in a big way! Through a miracle of God's Holy Spirit, she would have a baby. This son, who they would name Jesus, would be both God AND man. The Lord was making things happen that no one could have imagined!

Read ^{VERSE} **Luke 1:38**. What did Mary tell the angel?

Mary didn't understand all that God was doing through her obedience, but that didn't stop her from willingly giving it! God used Mary's gift of **obedience** to Him in His plan to bring our Savior into the world!

God was able to use Mary
in His plan to bring us salvation because
she gave Him her obedience.



Circle the picture of the children who are obeying God.



Today, praise God that Mary obeyed Him and was part of His perfect plan. Ask Him to help you obey just like Mary.

*Find today's OBEDIENCE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Joseph's Gift



We are told in Matthew 1:18-23 that Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant. Joseph and Mary were engaged and promised in marriage to each other, but they weren't married yet. Joseph wanted to do what was right and still be kind, so he decided to end their engagement privately. While Joseph was thinking about this situation, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. Mary's child was a miracle from the Holy Spirit, and He would be the Savior of the world!

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Matthew 1:24-25**. What did Joseph decide to do?

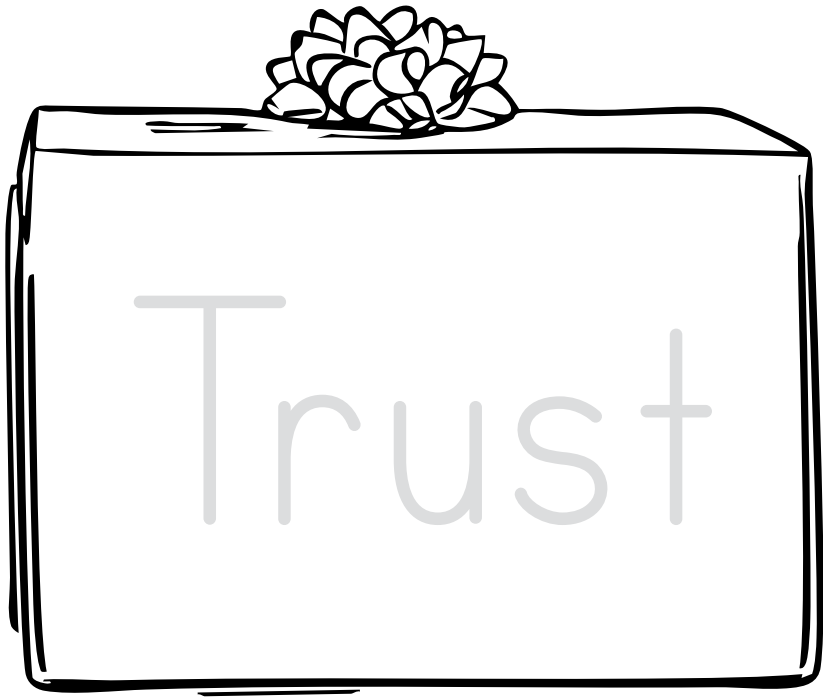
Joseph didn't wait around, second-guess, or throw a fit. He obeyed God like Mary had and took her to be his wife so he could love her and care for her throughout her pregnancy. He didn't act in fear of what others would think of him, but instead gave the Lord his **trust** as he moved forward.

**Joseph gave his trust to God
by accepting His plan.**

In your life, you will also have to choose if you will trust God or not, just like Joseph did. Knowing that God loves you can help you remember to trust Him. You get to trust the same God today that Joseph trusted many years ago, and He is still just as trustworthy!

What is one thing that you can trust God with today?

Trace the word “Trust” and decorate the page.



As you pray today, tell God what you want to trust Him with. Thank Him for being a good God who we CAN trust with our whole lives.

*Find today's TRUST gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

From Angels to Shepherds

Each of the gifts in the Christmas story are beautiful and a special part of God's plan. Today, we are going to learn about a part of the Christmas story that is a favorite for many people!

In Luke 2, we learn that from the beginning of Jesus' life, He was humbled in coming to this earth. Jesus was the **Messiah**! Yet He was born where the animals were kept and fed.

Messiah:
anointed One—
set apart
by God

Read **Luke 2:8-12**. What was happening on the hillsides outside of Bethlehem?

The angel told the shepherds not to be afraid: the Savior had been born! This **good news** is the first gift we see in our lesson today.

Read **KEY VERSES** **Luke 2:16-20**. What did the shepherds do next?

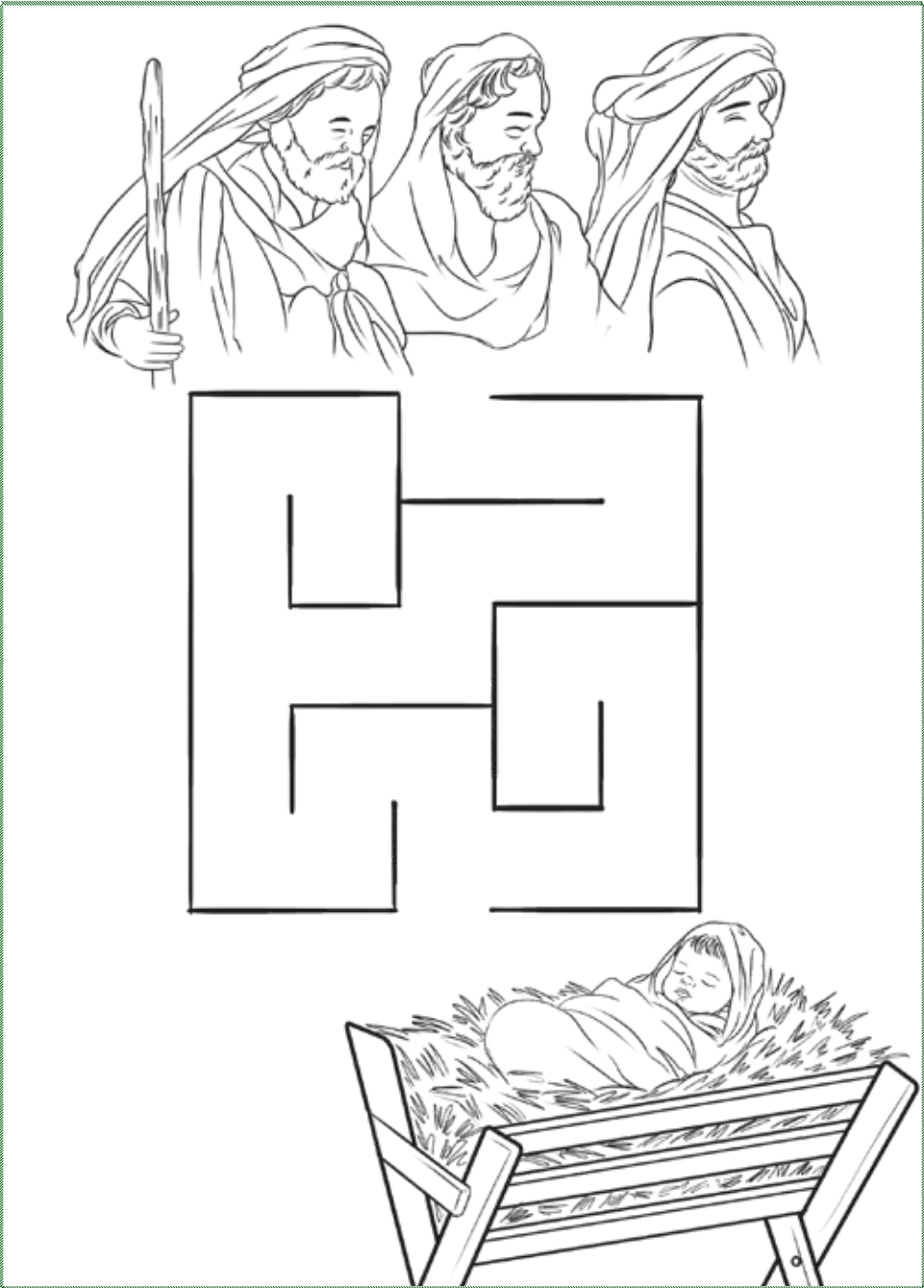


The shepherds understood that Jesus was the Messiah they had been praying and waiting for! The shepherds left to begin spreading the news of what they had heard and seen that night in Bethlehem. As they went, they gave the second gift we see in this lesson: **praise and worship** to God for what He had done.

After receiving the angel's gift of good news, the shepherds gave the gift of praise and worship to God.

How can you give Jesus the gift of your worship today?

Help the shepherds get to baby Jesus!



Today, worship God by thanking Him for who He is. Ask Him to make your heart tender like the shepherds' hearts.

*Find today's WORSHIP gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

The Gifts of the Wise Men

Have you ever given or received a really special gift? What was it?

Today we are going to learn about three gifts that were given to Jesus.



Wise men, or magi, from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the One who had been born to be King in Israel (Matthew 2). They were from very far away, but they saw the beautiful star that God had placed in the sky over where Jesus was. They followed it all the way to Him.

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Matthew 2:9-11**. What did the wise men give Jesus?

When they found Jesus in Bethlehem, the wise men were so excited that they fell down in front of Jesus and worshiped Him. Then, they opened the gifts they had brought for this King—**gold, frankincense, and myrrh**.

Gold is a precious metal used by kings and royalty. Frankincense is an incense that the priests would burn in the temple as a sign of God's presence. Myrrh is a perfume that was used when burying those who had died. These gifts remind us of Jesus' royalty, the fact that He is God, and the truth that He would die for our sins.

The wise men gave gifts
that symbolized the truth
about who Jesus is.

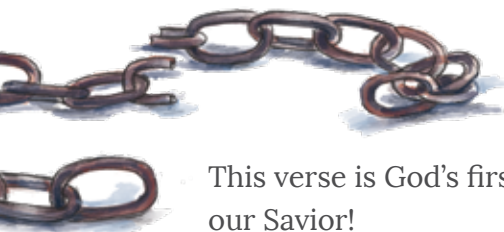
Use the stickers to show the gifts the wise men gave Jesus.



Ask God to help you love the truth about Jesus. Thank Him for giving you His Word so you can understand and know the truth for yourself.

*Find today's TRUTH gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

The Christmas story began long before the angel told Mary she would have a baby and continued many years after the wise men gave their gifts to Jesus. Let's learn how God has been giving us good gifts and teaching us the Christmas story since the beginning of time! When God created this world, He made it perfect and good. Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and because of that everyone in the world is born a sinner.



Read **Genesis 3:15**. What did God say to the serpent?

This verse is God's first recorded promise to send Jesus to be our Savior!

Read ^{NEW VERSE} **Isaiah 7:14**. What does God say the Messiah's name will be?

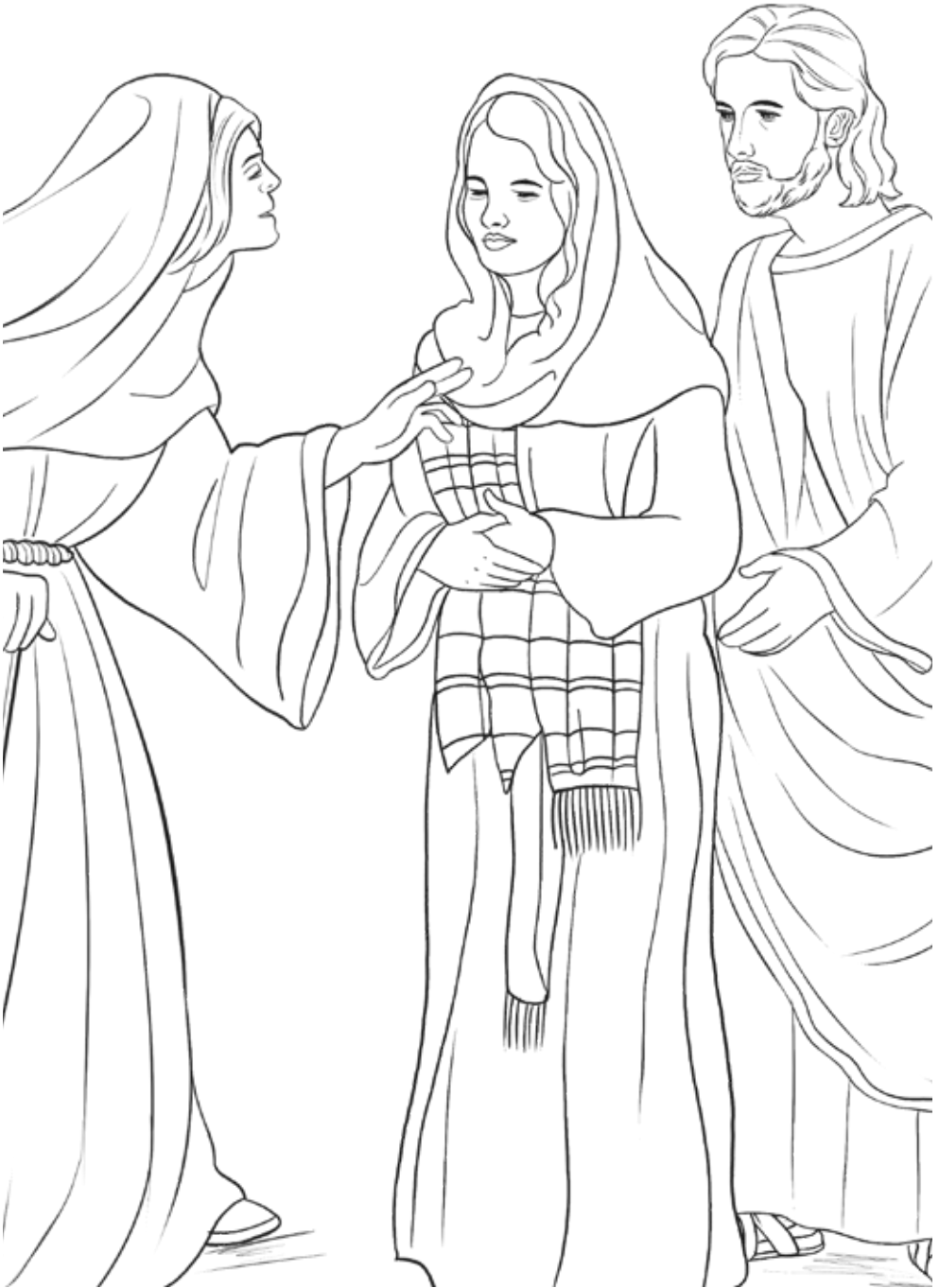
A virgin would have a child whose name would be called "Immanuel." This means "God with us."

God used prophets to speak to His people about the Messiah. When He stopped speaking through prophets, many of God's people lost hope. Simeon and Anna did not lose hope. They were two faithful people who held onto the promises of God their entire lives (Luke 2:25-38). Simeon and Anna both believed that God would keep His promise and they saw it with their own eyes. Like the shepherds, Anna went out to share the good news with those who were waiting for the Messiah. God had kept His promise!

God gives us hope because
He ALWAYS keeps His promises.

What is one promise of God that you are thankful for today?

Color the picture of Anna sharing hope with others!



Today, take time to thank God for always keeping His promises.

*Find today's HOPE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Compassionate Mercy

Before Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin, He spent about three years teaching the truth, healing sick and disabled people, and keeping God's promises. Today, we'll learn about one of God's gifts that Jesus taught about!

Read **Matthew 9:10**. What two types of people was Jesus eating with?

Tax collectors often kept money meant for others all to themselves. There were also people at the table who were known sinners. Matthew 9:11 says that during the dinner, the Pharisees asked the disciples why Jesus would eat with these people. The Pharisees were known in Israel for carefully keeping the Law of God. They even made up extra rules to keep from disobeying the Law.

Read **Matthew 9:12**. What do you think Jesus' response to the Pharisees meant?

Just like sick people are the ones who need a doctor, it was sinful people who needed Jesus to save them.

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **Matthew 9:13**. What else did Jesus say He desired?

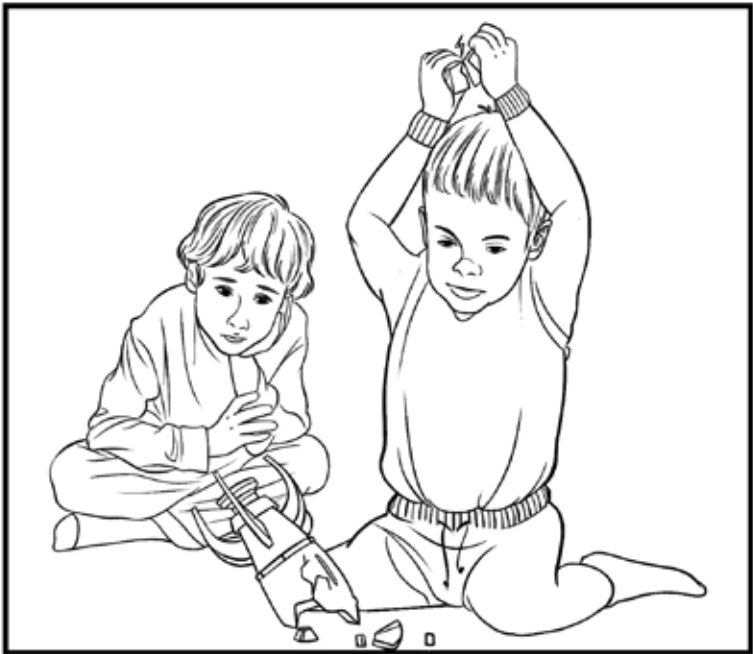
While the Pharisees thought their careful living and regular sacrifices were making them right with God, these things hadn't changed their hearts! Jesus wanted the Pharisees to show **mercy** because HE wanted to show mercy to sinners who came to Him for salvation.



Mercy:
holding back
punishment that
is deserved

Through Jesus, God gives us
mercy despite our sin.

Color the picture of a sibling showing mercy.



Today, thank God for the mercy He gives us through Jesus. Ask Him to help you have a merciful heart towards those around you.

*Find today's COMPASSIONATE MERCY gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Lasting Peace

On Day 4, we read that one thing the angels announced to the shepherds was peace on earth (Luke 2:14). When we look around us though, we don't see much peace, do we?

People fight, and scary things happen in the world all the time. Our lives do not always feel very peaceful! The shepherds weren't living in peaceful times. Their land was being controlled by an enemy nation.

Read **Isaiah 9:6**. What is the fourth name of Jesus in this verse?

Isaiah told Israel that one day, their Prince of Peace would come to save them. Jesus was the Prince of Peace God had promised to send!

Read KEY VERSES **Romans 5:1-2**. What kind of peace did Jesus bring?

Jesus brought peace that is greater than any peace ever known—**peace** with God. Through the salvation Jesus brought, we can have a right relationship with God! Only then can we have peace that lasts.

Jesus **reconciles** us to God,
giving us lasting peace that
nothing can take away.

What makes you feel unpeaceful?

Isaiah 26:3 says that we can have peace by knowing what is true about God and thinking about that truth.

What is one truth about God you can remember this week in order to trust Him and have His peace?



Reconcile:
to restore peace
in our relationship
with God

Spot the three differences in the two pictures below.



Today, thank God for sending Jesus to give you the gift of peace with Him. Ask God to help you remember He is with you, even when things are scary, confusing, or unpeaceful.

*Find today's LASTING PEACE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Bursting Joy

Have you ever felt so happy that you thought you might explode? Maybe you got the Christmas gift at the top of your wishlist, or your grandparents surprised you for your birthday.



When have you felt so much happiness that your heart felt like it might explode?

Things on earth can make us really happy for a while, but they won't last forever. The happy feelings always go away when the toy breaks, your grandparents leave, or something bad happens.

Read **Isaiah 55:6**. Instead of looking for things to satisfy us, what does Isaiah tell us to do?

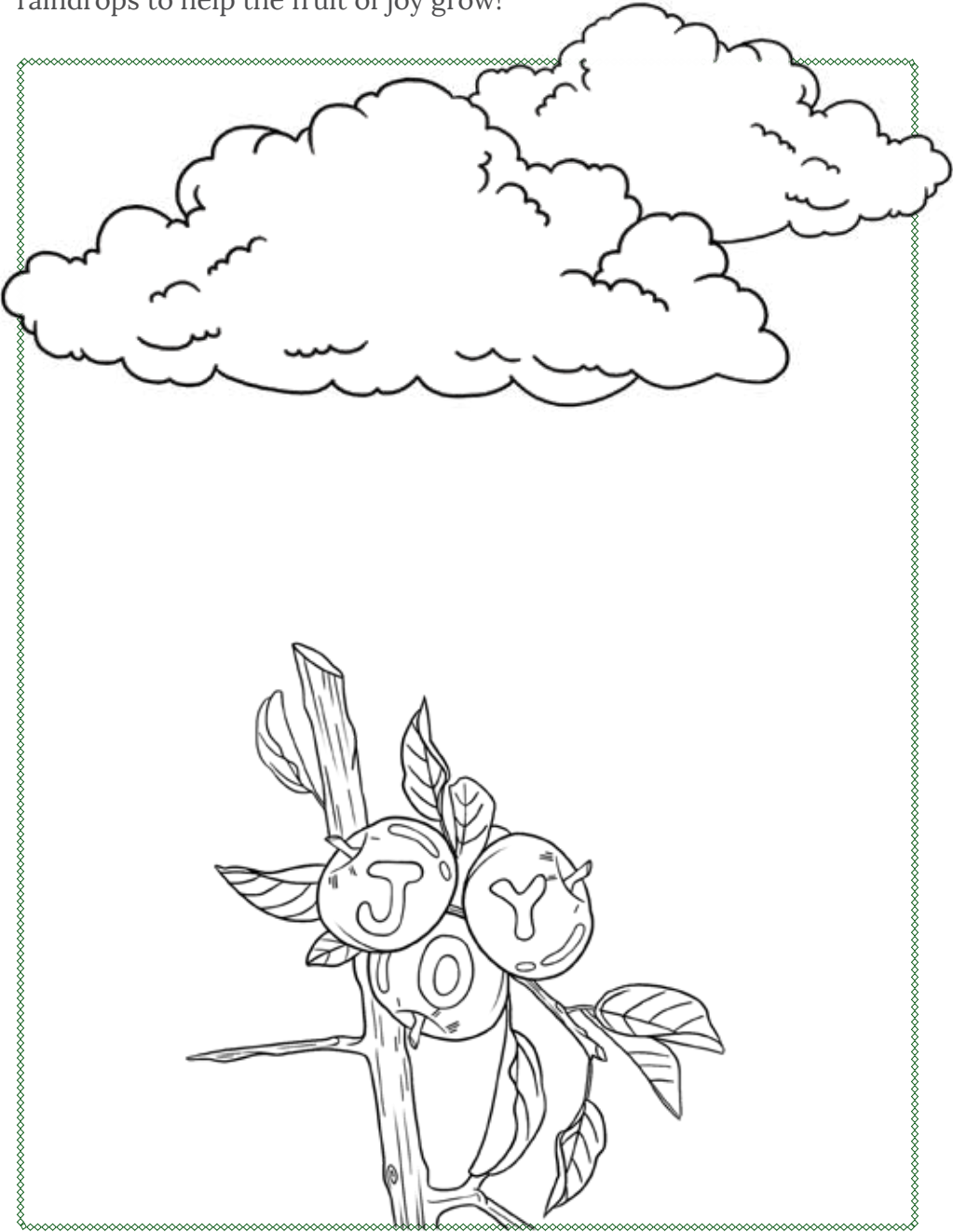
We must repent of our sins and seek after God! He is wiser than us, and He knows more than we ever could. In the same way that rain helps food grow, God's Word comes into our lives and helps us be more like Jesus!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **Isaiah 55:12** and imagine what it would be like if mountains sang and trees clapped their hands.

These verses say that God blesses us with joy when we look for ways to know Him better. The joy that comes from God is powerful, deep, and lasting. When we look for joy in the things around us, we will always be frustrated and disappointed. God gives us **joy** that is overflowing! We will not only be satisfied, but we will burst with joy!

God gives us joy that
could never come from ourselves.

Just like rain helps plants grow, God’s Word helps us grow! Draw raindrops to help the fruit of joy grow!



Today, thank God for the joy HE gives you. Thank Him for saving you and for anything else He has done that makes you joyful.

*Find today’s BURSTING JOY gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Around the holidays, when many people gather together with family and friends to celebrate, some people might feel lonely and sad. Everyone needs the gift we're looking at today!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **Lamentations 3:22**. Will God's love ever end?

No matter how we feel or what is going on in our lives, we have hope because the Lord's steadfast love NEVER ends. This gift of **steadfast love** is backed up by God's perfect faithfulness.

Read **John 3:16**. Why did God send Jesus, His one and only Son?

It is because our God is always faithful and loving that He sent Jesus to this earth as a baby who would grow into a man and die for our sins. Our God has given us His eternal, steadfast love in Jesus and continues to prove His love every day of our lives.

But there's more to the story. Jesus came from the family of Abraham, and since He died for our sins, everyone in the world who believes in Him is saved and blessed just as God had promised Abraham!



**God gives us His steadfast love to help us
in times that we feel alone or forgotten.**

When you feel unloved or lonely, what can you think about to help you remember that God loves you?

If you look closely, you can see God's love in every Bible story and every part of your life! Find all five of the hearts in this picture.



Today, praise God in prayer for His steadfast love. Ask God to help you remember that God loves you when you feel alone or unloved.

*Find today's STEADFAST LOVE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Remember the Pharisees from Day 7? We learned that the Pharisees were always working to keep God's Law. This was a good goal to have, but they were doing it for the wrong reasons.

The Law was meant to show the Israelites their need for God's mercy, but the Pharisees viewed the Law as a list to follow in order to perfectly please God on their own. They made it a heavy burden.

Read **Matthew 12:1–2**. Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus and His disciples at this time?

The Pharisees changed the Sabbath to a day of following many rules that did not allow people to truly rest. In Matthew 12:6–8, Jesus explained that the Pharisees were saying He and His disciples were doing wrong, but that was impossible! Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. Instead of enjoying the blessing of rest that God created, the Pharisees were making their rules for the Sabbath a burden to everyone.

Read **Matthew 11:28–30**. Who does true rest come from?

Jesus says that to have rest from our heavy burdens, we have to come to Him! The Pharisees really needed to repent of their pride and come to Jesus. Then He would give them what they could never get by themselves—**rest**.

**In Jesus, God has given us
true rest.**



Put a check mark sticker on the faces that look like they are at rest and an x sticker on the ones that look like they are not at rest.



Today, tell God about anything in your life you are not happy about. Thank Him for giving you true rest when you come to Him.

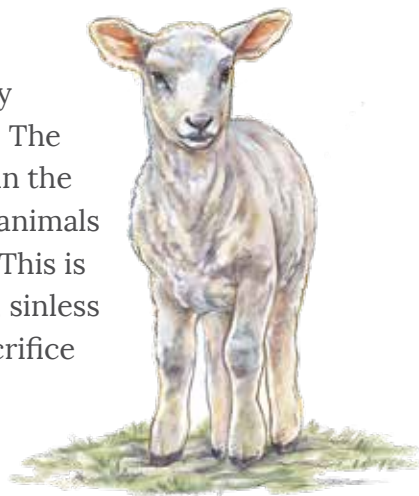
*Find today's TRUE REST gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

The Final Sacrifice

God's promise to send a Messiah looked very different from what many people in Israel thought their salvation would look like. Let's learn about this today.

Read **Hebrews 10:1-4**. What was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to do?

God's Law said that when people sinned, they needed to offer animal sacrifices for that sin. The Law made people offer sacrifices of animals in the temple to pay for sin. But the blood of these animals never actually paid for the sin of the people! This is why God sent Jesus to earth to live a perfect, sinless life in our place. Jesus' body would be the sacrifice that COULD pay for sin.



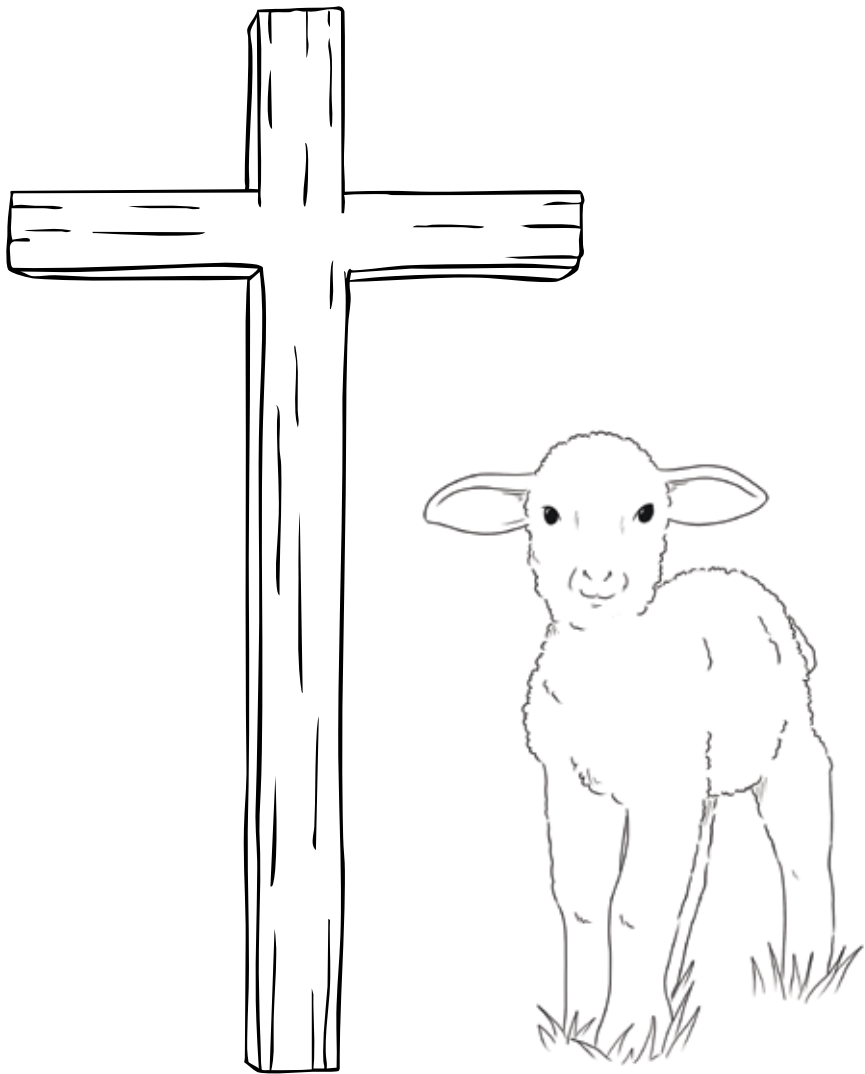
Do we still offer animal sacrifices to God?

Read ^{VERSE} **Hebrews 10:12**. How many times did Jesus have to sacrifice in order to forgive our sins?

Jesus made one sacrifice that put an end to sacrifices forever! After Jesus gave His life as the **final sacrifice**, no more sacrifices were needed because Jesus completely paid our sin debt in full. We are now under a new covenant or promise of grace. Jesus' blood covers our sin when we place our faith in Him for salvation. Now, we should look for ways to share this amazing gift with others.

**Jesus' sacrifice was the
final sacrifice given for our sin.**

Circle the sacrifice that saves us from our sins.



Today, thank God for giving Jesus as the perfect sacrifice to take away our sin. Ask Him to help you encourage others with the hope you have in Jesus.

*Find today's SACRIFICE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Our Salvation

There are many things in life that you can get if you work hard enough. What is something you would love to do or have one day?

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Ephesians 2:8-9**. What gift could we never work hard enough to earn?

You can get almost anything in this world if you have enough money or time, but **salvation** can only be ours through the grace of God. It can't be bought or earned, and yet it is a gift offered freely to those who place their faith in Jesus.

Why do you think God would want to give us a gift like this when we have sinned against Him? Can you think of a way you have sinned?

The penalty for our sin is death and separation from God. Because He is holy and just, God cannot ignore our sin or let our penalty go unpaid. God sent Jesus to live a perfect life without sin and to die in our place. Since Jesus paid for our sin, God can offer us salvation!

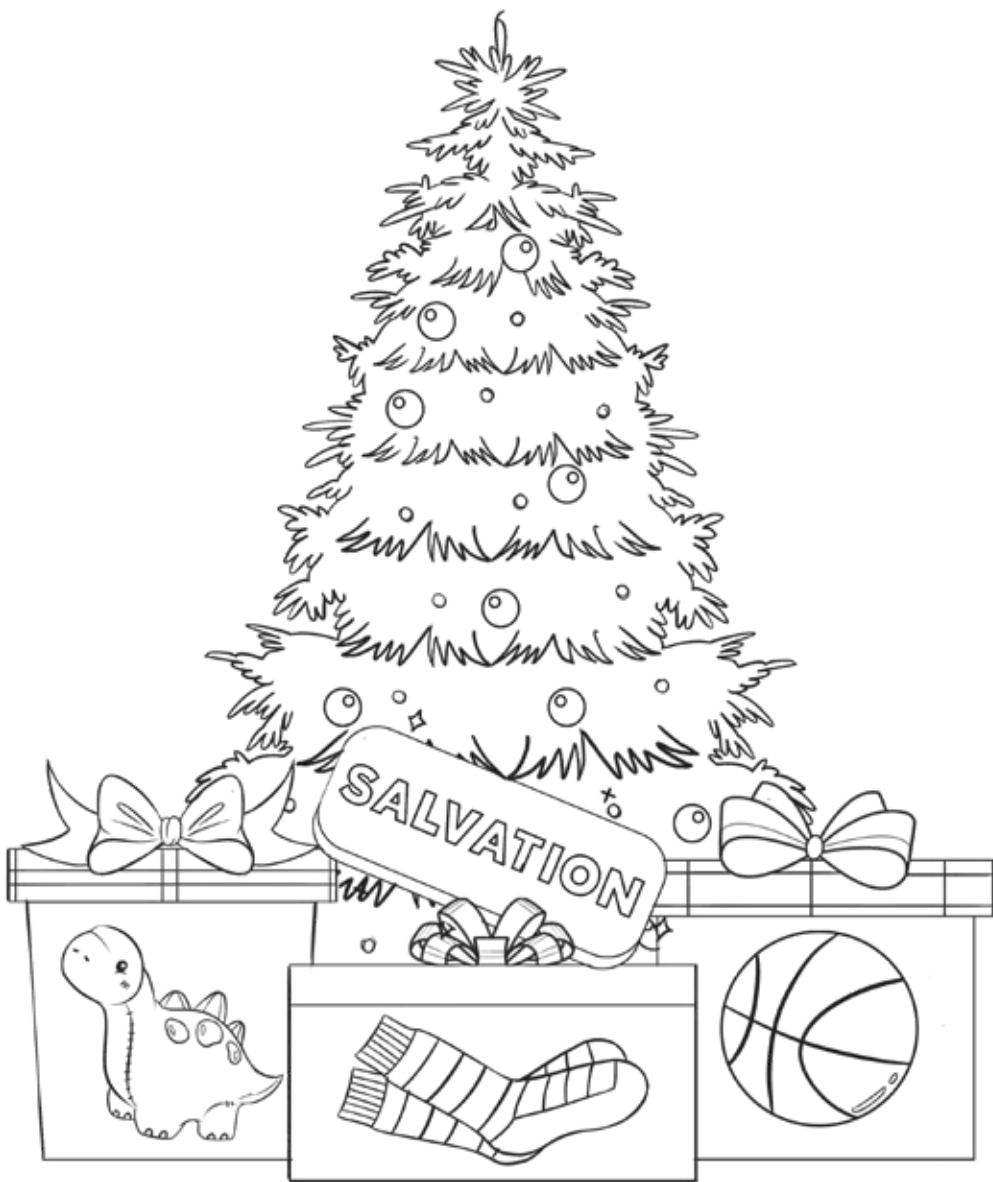
**Salvation is the free gift of God to us
that we accept through faith.**

Read **Romans 5:8-10**. Why did God do all of this?

God made a way for us to be saved from sin because He loves us! Jesus died for you, knowing you would sin against Him. God offers you salvation, knowing you could never deserve it. What a wonderful gift of grace!

Romans 10:9-13 says that if you confess Jesus is Lord and believe in Him as your Savior from sin, you will be saved.

The gift of salvation is the greatest gift you could ever receive! Use the stickers to put the gifts under the tree.



Today, thank God for offering salvation to you as a gift. Ask Him to help you remember His love for you.

*Find today's SALVATION gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

We have talked about so many gifts God has given us through Jesus! Can you name one of the gifts God has given us through the Christmas story?

Read **Hebrews 1:1–2**. Who did God speak through? (*Hint: There are two answers!*)

For a while, God used prophets to speak to His people, but they were pointing God's people to an even better Word to come. Verse 2 tells us that now God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus!

What did Jesus do while He was here on earth?

Jesus preached the truth to all who would listen. He also worked miracles to show who God is and what He is like. Jesus taught His disciples the truth and then sent them out to teach others. This is how God spoke through Him!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **John 17:17**. What did Jesus say is truth?

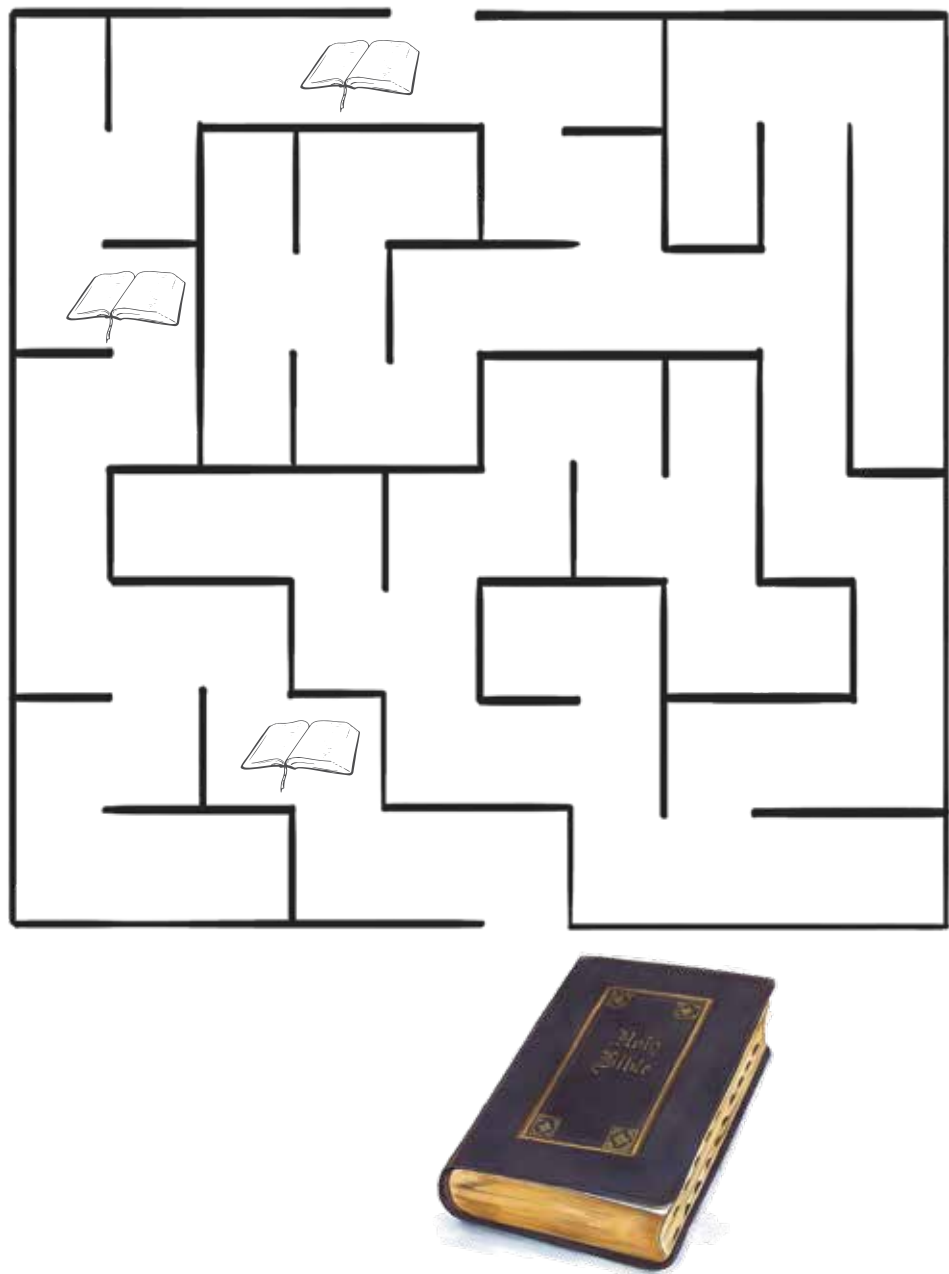
God's Word is the truth where we learn how to become more like Him!

**God has given us His Word to help us grow
and become more like Jesus.**

2 Timothy 3:16–17 tells us that ALL Scripture is valuable and important in our growth! There is not one verse in the Bible that is unimportant or unnecessary. **God's Word** is an extremely valuable gift because it shows us who God is and why He matters to us.

What is one reason you are thankful for the gift of God's Word?

God's Word helps us find the right path! Follow the Bibles to reach the end of the maze.



Today, ask God to help you remember that the Bible is one of His gifts to you. Thank Him for showing you who He is through His Word.

*Find today's HIS WORD gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Have you ever forgotten that you had something, like a favorite toy or shirt, until you found it in the bottom of the drawer or under the bed? What was it? God has given us wonderful gifts, but sometimes we forget we have them. If we forget that we have His love, joy, and peace, we can't live like Jesus!

Romans 8:1-4 says that one of God's gifts to us is the **Spirit of God** in our hearts. We call Him the Holy Spirit! He is the One who writes God's Law on our hearts by helping us know what is true, what is right, and what is wrong.



Has the Holy Spirit ever helped you make the right decision about something?

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Romans 8:15-17**. What else does the Spirit do in our hearts?

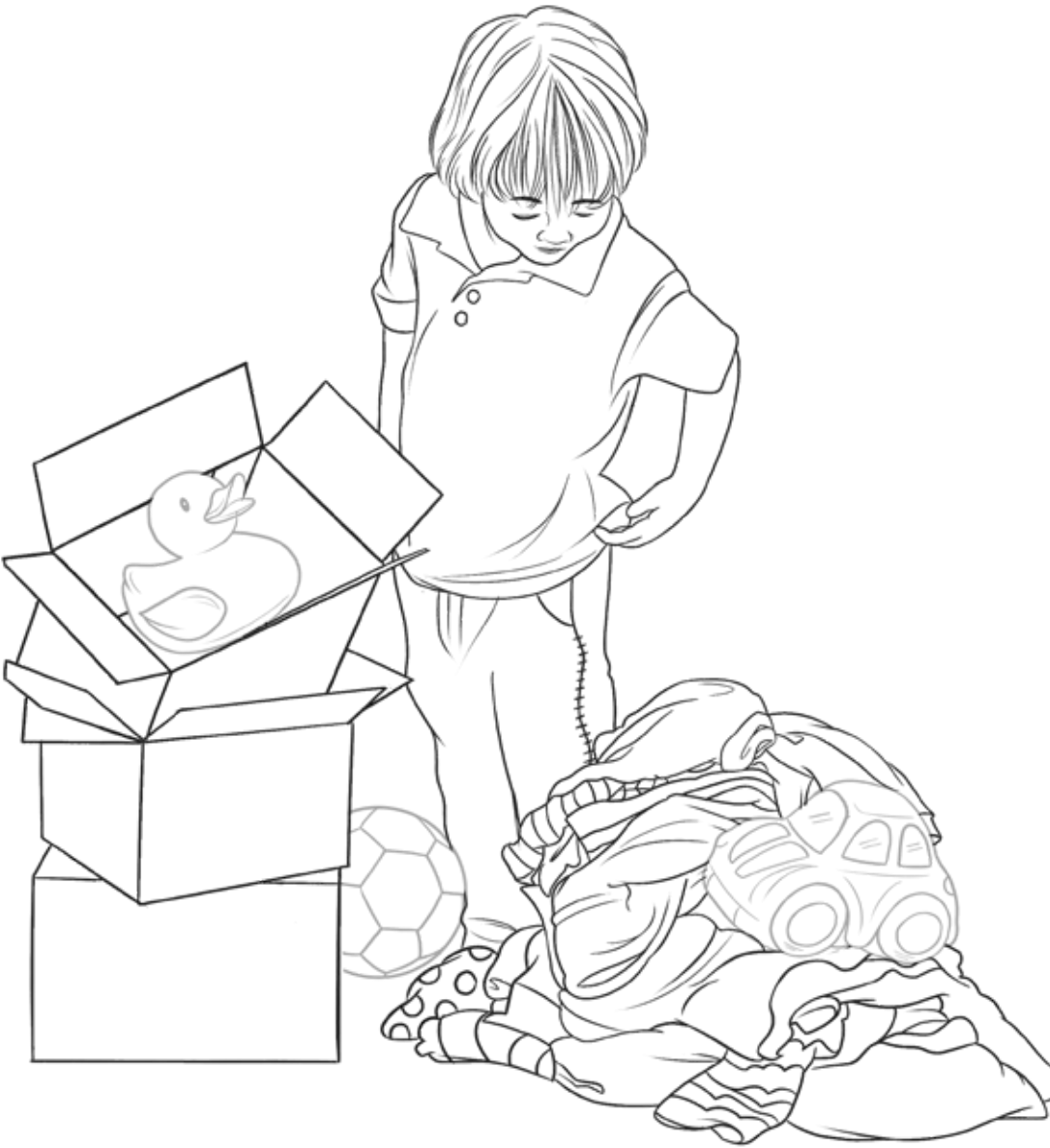
The Holy Spirit reminds us that we are LOVED!

In John 14, Jesus tells us that when we aren't sure what is true, the Spirit helps us know. At times when obeying God is hard, the Spirit gives us strength to do right.

When we are afraid or worried, the Spirit reminds us that God loves us. It's easy to forget that God loves you and wants to give you His peace. That's why you need the Holy Spirit! He will remind you of all the gifts God gives you.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us
to assure us of His love and strengthen us
to live for Christ.

Use the stickers to find the hidden things that the child forgot he had!



Today, thank God for the gift of His Holy spirit. Ask Him to help your heart remember what you know to be true.

*Find today's HIS SPIRIT gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Imagine it's Christmas morning, and you're finally opening gifts you've been staring at for days and weeks. There's one particular present you're confused about because it's not the shape of anything you asked for. When you rip off the wrapping paper, you are surprised to find a vacuum cleaner! How would you feel if you were given a vacuum cleaner for Christmas?



A vacuum cleaner is probably not something you would enjoy as much as a bike or a swing set. It's more of a gift to those around you who enjoy the floors you cleaned!

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Romans 12:5-8**. What does this passage say Christians have?

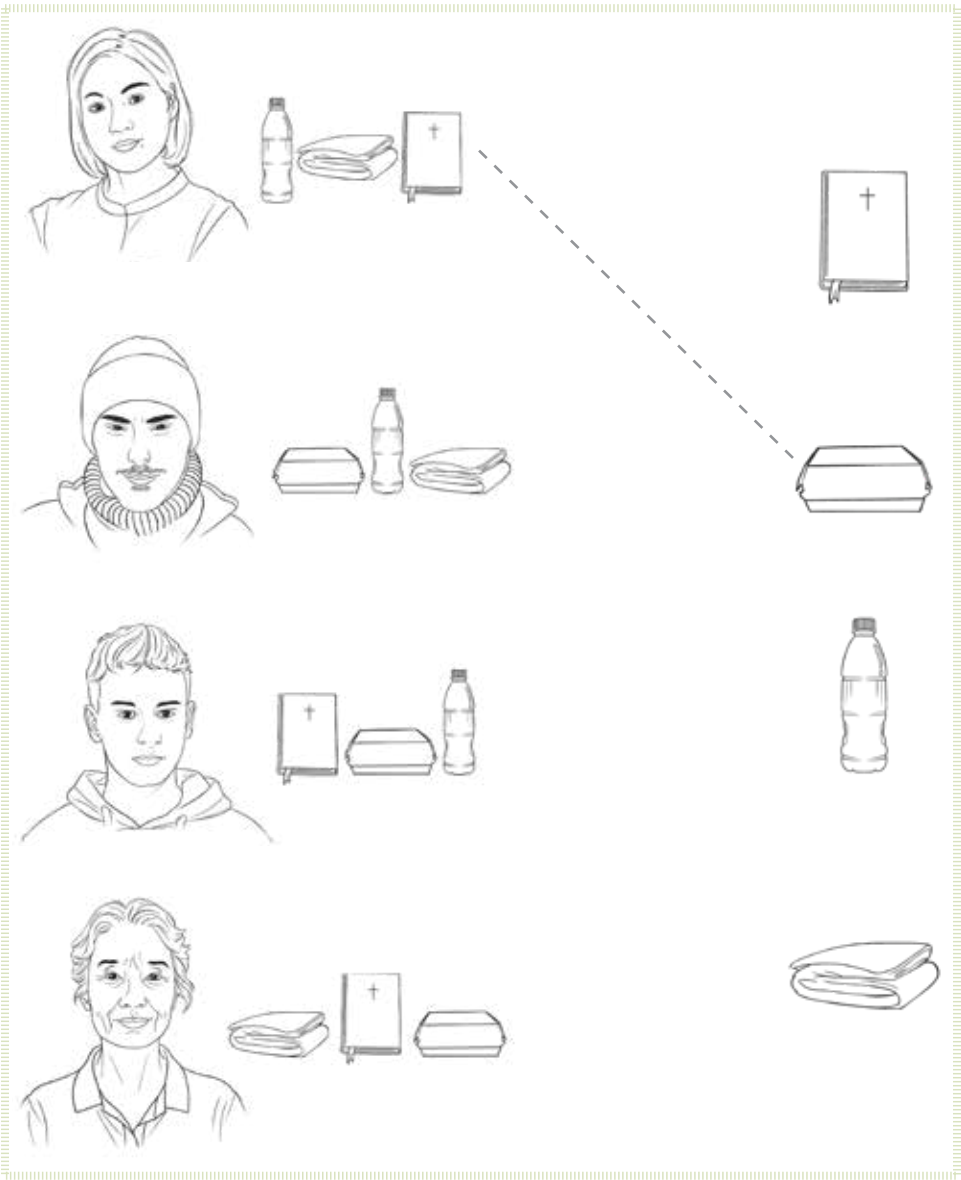
God has given each of us gifts to use for the body of Christ. That means each one of us has a special skill that can be used to love or encourage other believers!

Just like a body has many different parts that serve a specific purpose—eyes for seeing, noses for smelling, feet for walking, and so on—God's family is made up of many different people with different gifts. These **spiritual gifts** have been given to us, not for our own uses, but to **SERVE** others!

God has given us spiritual gifts
which we get to use to bless others
and encourage them to grow.

Can you think of a way that people serve in your church? What ways can you serve others in your home or at your church?

One of the spiritual gifts God gives to some people is mercy, or kindness towards others. A merciful person will try to make sure other people have the things they need. Look carefully at what each person already has. Draw a line to give each item to the person who needs it.



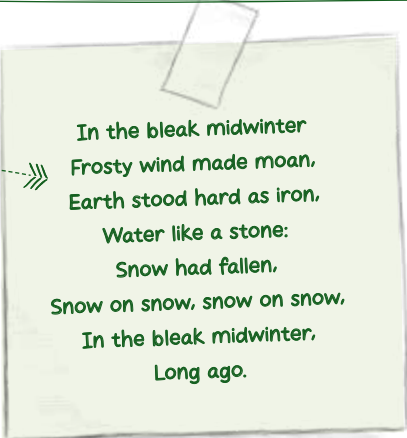
Today, thank God for giving you spiritual gifts to serve and love others with. Ask Him to give you a servant's heart like Jesus.

*Find today's SPIRITUAL GIFTS gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Eternal Life With Him

One of my favorite Christmas carols is “In the Bleak Midwinter.” Take a look at the lyrics of this beautiful song.

This song describes the way it often looks and feels outside around Christmas time. In winter, many plants freeze and dry up, the darkness lasts longer than the light, and even our Christmas trees drop browned needles all over the floor.



In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen,
Snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Death and darkness came into the world after Adam and Eve sinned.

Read **Romans 5:20–21**. If sin leads to death, what does grace lead to? (Hint: Look closely at the end of verse 21.)

Christmas is a time when believers remember how Jesus defeated death! We don’t have to pay that penalty for our sin because of God’s free gift of forgiveness to us through Jesus. He can lead us to **eternal LIFE!**

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **1 Corinthians 15:22**. What happens to those who are in Christ?

Through Jesus,
God gives us life with Him
that will never end.

What do you think eternity with Jesus will be like?

Christmas lights can help us remember that Jesus brings light into the darkness. Use the stickers to hang Christmas lights on this house.



Today, thank God for the gift of eternal life through Jesus. Ask Him to help you remember this when you are tempted to be fearful of death.

*Find today's ETERNAL LIFE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

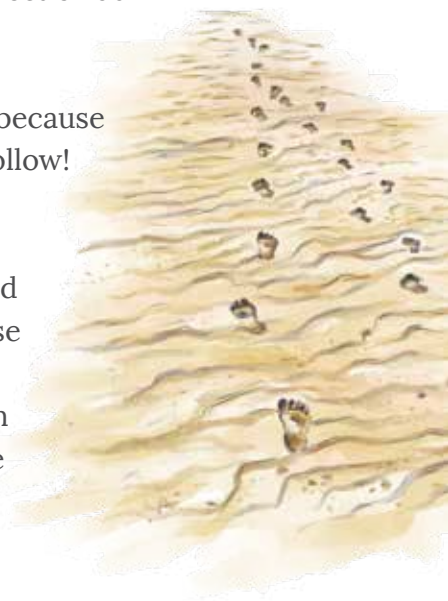
Does your family make crafts at Christmas? What is a Christmas craft you have made?

When you make a craft, it's helpful to have a good example! Instructions are important, but an example to look at is even better!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **Philippians 4:9**. What did the Apostle Paul want the Christians in Philippi to do?

Paul had been following Jesus faithfully, and because of this, he was a great example for them to follow!

Did you know that God gives us examples in Scripture to follow too? It's true! You can read about some of them in Hebrews 11. Now, these people were not perfect—they lied, cheated, stole, forgot to trust God, and disobeyed Him at times. Yet they are **examples** to us because they repented of their sin and had faith to obey God's commands.

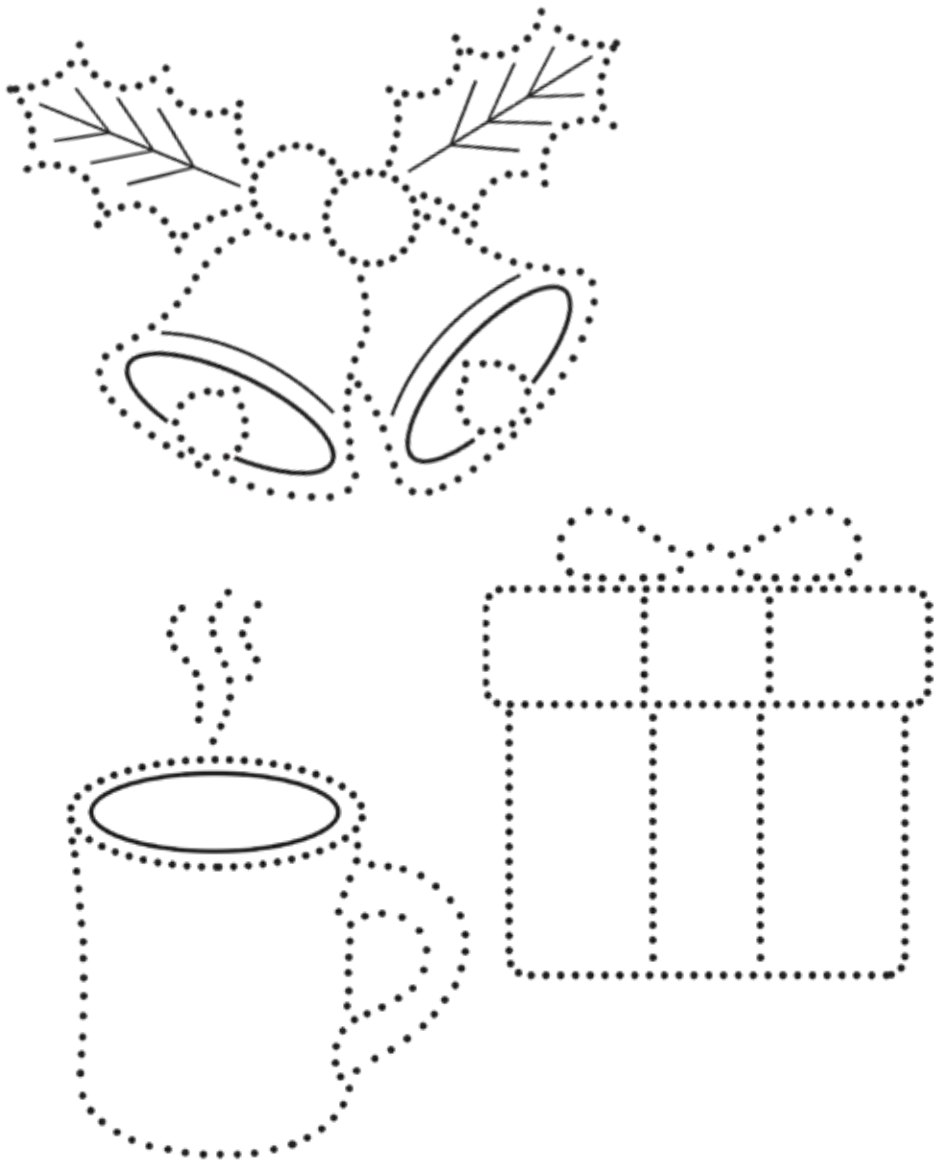


**God has given us examples of godliness
to encourage us as we live for Him.**

Read **Hebrews 12:1-2**. Who is the greatest example we follow?

The greatest example of faithfulness and obedience God ever gave to us was Jesus Himself! Jesus obeyed God the Father in coming to earth to die for our sins. This is why we look to JESUS as we do our best to live for God's glory.

It is much easier to draw something when you have an example to trace! Trace these Christmas items and then color them.



Today, thank God for the godly examples He has gifted us with. Ask Him to help you be faithful to Him in your life.

*Find today's GODLY EXAMPLES gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

As we have already learned, giving a true gift is a very kind thing to do. Maybe your parents have taught you that after opening a gift, you should thank the person who gave it to you. What do you do to thank someone who gave you a gift? We have learned so much about the gracious gifts God has given us, so let's talk about how we can thank Him.

Read ^{4 VERSES} **Colossians 3:15-17**. What should rule our hearts? What should we be?

For Christ to rule in our hearts, we must give Him our **hearts** and trust that He will lead us. We give Him our hearts by choosing to listen to God and obey Him.

So why should we give our hearts to Christ's leadership and protection? Let's find out.

Read **1 Samuel 12:24**. Why did Samuel encourage the people to serve God with their hearts?



Samuel told them to stop following sin and start following God since He had done so many great things for them. When you see how many great things God has done for you, it makes you want to follow Him with all your heart!

What great things has God done for you? (*Hint: Think back through the gifts He has given you!*)

**One gift we can give to God is our hearts—
the center of who we are.**

Draw a heart in the gift to give to Jesus.



Today, thank God for all the great things He has done for you. Ask Him to help you show gratitude through your commitment to Him in your heart and life.

*Find today's OUR HEARTS gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Have you ever tried to train an animal to obey commands? Maybe you've tried to teach your dog to come when you call or to lay down when you point to the floor. As your pet learns to trust and be loyal to you, they also learn to obey! This is like the way our hearts work. When our hearts are loyal to something, our actions will show it.

Read **Matthew 7:24-27**. What two types of men are in this story?



We can be like the wise man and obey God's commands, or we can be like the foolish man who ignores God's commands.

Which one do you want to be?

When we love God and give Him our hearts, we will also give Him our **obedience**.

Read ^{VERSE} **James 1:22**. What command does this verse give us?

When we hear God's truth, we need to obey it!

What might be different about your actions and attitude when you obey from a heart that wants to please God?

When we give our
hearts to God, our obedience
naturally follows.

Color the pictures of children obeying God.



Today, thank God for offering you a firm foundation for your life in His Word. Ask Him to help you be an obedient doer and not just a hearer.

*Find today's OUR OBEDIENCE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

What do you think the word “worship” means?

Read ^{LEV VERSES} **John 4:23-24**. What did Jesus describe as true worship?

True **worship** is directed to God in spirit and truth. All of us have a soul which the Bible also refers to as our spirit.



This idea of worshiping God “in spirit” involves our hearts and souls! It’s not just words or singing that are worship—it’s honoring and respecting God in our attitude, loves, desires, and thoughts as well. What attitudes can you think of that show honor and respect for God?

Jesus also said that we must worship God in truth! What do you think it means to worship God in truth?

In order to worship God in truth, we have to agree with what God has said about Himself in His Word. If we’re worshiping a version of God that is false, we’re not worshiping God in truth. We must give acceptable worship—worship that comes from our hearts and agrees with what God has said about who He is! This is true worship that honors God.

**Giving our worship to God means honoring Him
in our hearts as well as our lives.**

What are some things you can do today to worship God?

Circle the Christmas decorations that remind us that worshipping God is the most important part of Christmas.



Today, thank God for telling us the truth about Himself in His Word. Ask Him to help you worship Him by having the right attitude and obeying Him.

*Find today's OUR WORSHIP gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Have you ever felt like you couldn't trust someone? Maybe you heard them talking about something that wasn't true or sharing a secret you told them. It doesn't feel good to know someone is not worthy of our trust. Who is someone that you trust?

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Proverbs 3:5-6**. How much can we trust God?

We should give all of our **trust** to God. He is completely trustworthy! What kinds of things do you think we need to trust God with?

Read **Hebrews 13:8**. What is one big reason we can trust God?

Jesus never changes! He is faithful when others hurt us, never lies, and is always with us in every minute of our day.

Romans 8:28 tells us that God works ALL things together for the good of those who are His children! This means that even in difficult or confusing times, we can trust that God is good and in control.

**When we give our trust to God,
we acknowledge His goodness and
control in our lives.**

What can you trust God about today?



Finish the dot-to-dot to see who trusted God in the Christmas story.



Today, thank God for His goodness and love. Ask Him to help you trust in these truths and depend on Him in every part of your life.

*Find today's OUR TRUST gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Who are the people you love? Who are the people that love you? Maybe those two groups share many of the same names. This is a wonderful example of what love should look like in our lives. We can give AND receive love!

Read **Matthew 22:37-40**. What are the two greatest commandments?

Did you realize that we are commanded by God to first love Him and then also love others? **Love** is not an option, it's obeying God!

1 John 4:7-8 says that love is not something we create in ourselves. Love comes from God because God IS love.

Read KEY VERSES **1 John 4:19-21**. Who must we love if we love God?

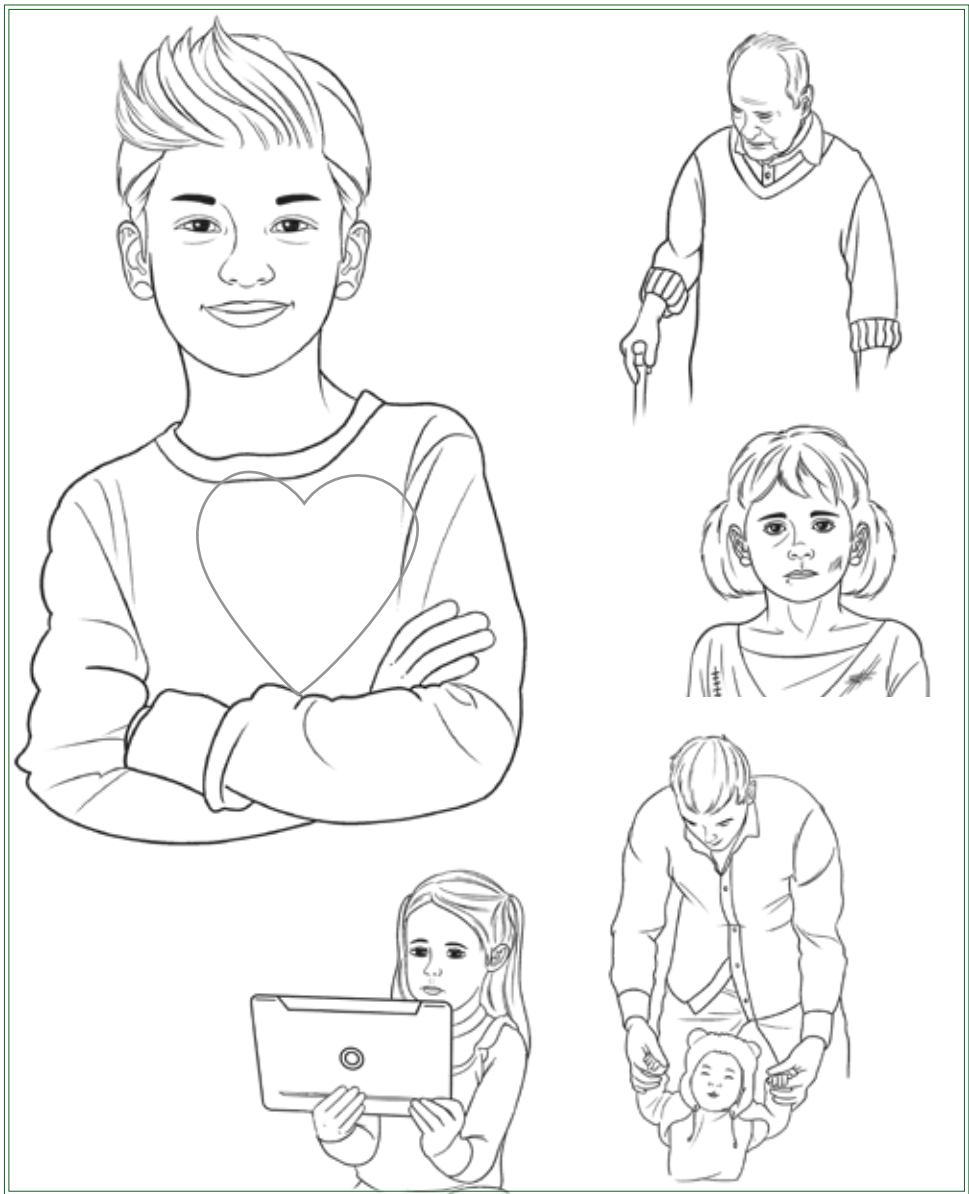
When we love God, we will love other people. It's just the way it works.

What are some ways that you, with God's help, can selflessly love others today?

We give our love to God
and others as a grateful response
to the love He showed us.



We love because God loved us! Use your sticker to put God’s love in the child’s heart. Then, draw a line from the child to the people they can show love to because they have God’s love in their heart!



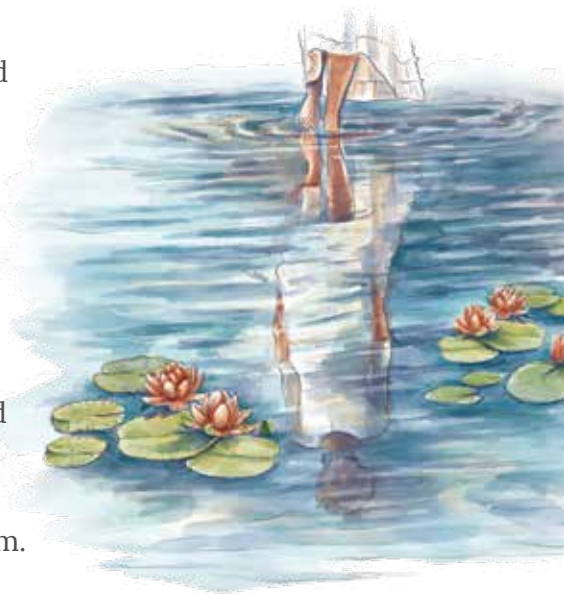
Today, ask God to forgive you for the ways you have been unloving to specific people. Thank Him for His gift of love to you and for helping you give that gift of love to Him and others in return.

*Find today’s OUR LOVE gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

We learned in our last lesson that selfless love means sacrifice. While we discussed what that might look like when we're loving the people around us, it's harder to imagine what sacrifices God could possibly want from us. He doesn't need anything!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **Romans 12:1**. What kind of sacrifice does this verse say we should make?

The author of Romans, the Apostle Paul, strongly encourages us to give our bodies, and therefore, our **lives**, to God as a living sacrifice! Since Jesus died for us, we are called to LIVE for Him. Living for Jesus includes how we act, what we learn, and how much we give thanks to Him.



The gift of our physical bodies
in service to God is an appropriate and
right sacrifice for us.

Read **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**.

What does this verse say about your body?

Jesus saved and bought us with His blood. This is why what we do with our lives and bodies matters! We should please God in our bodies by remembering to do what He says.

What are some ways you can use your body to honor and serve God?

Draw yourself and then use the sticker to show that you have been bought by Jesus!



Today, thank God for redeeming your soul AND body through Jesus' sacrifice. Ask Him to help you live for and honor Him in your body.

*Find today's OUR LIVES gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.



Merry Christmas! You have faithfully worked through this study, and now it's time to celebrate all that you have learned. Explain in your own words what a gift is.



What are
2 of the
gifts God
gives us?



What is
one gift
can we give
to God?



Who is the
greatest
gift?

Let's look at one more truth to help you live for God, not only at Christmas but also during the rest of the year.

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Romans 11:33–36**. What do these verses say about God?

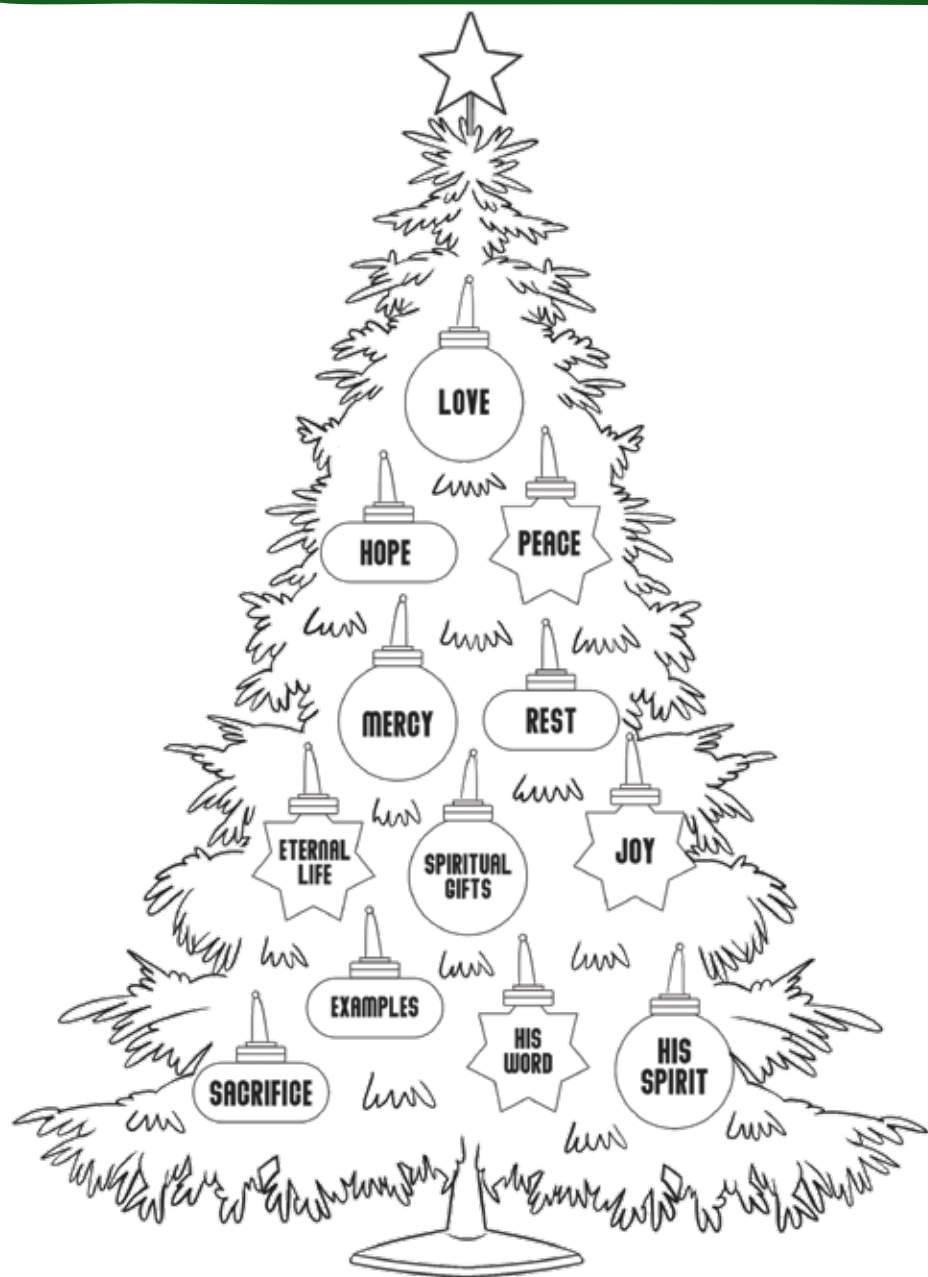
The story of our salvation shows us how wise our God is—He knows everything! He has been so gracious and kind that no one could ever give Him a gift great enough to “repay” Him.

There is no gift great enough
to repay God's overwhelmingly
kind and good gifts to us.

We can serve God with our lives and share the good news of the free gift of salvation with others! What can you do to spread this good news right now and in the coming year?

As you celebrate Christmas, I hope you rejoice in the Christmas story—a picture of God's infinite love for us.

Use the stickers to decorate the tree for Christmas and review the gifts we learned that God gives us through Jesus.



Today, thank God for His kindness and grace to you. Ask Him to help you serve Him with your life and always be thankful for the gifts He has given you.

