FUN & FACTS & FAITH

A supplement of activity pages for young hands, minds, and souls! These extra printable pages are for further engagement on topics from the magazine issue.

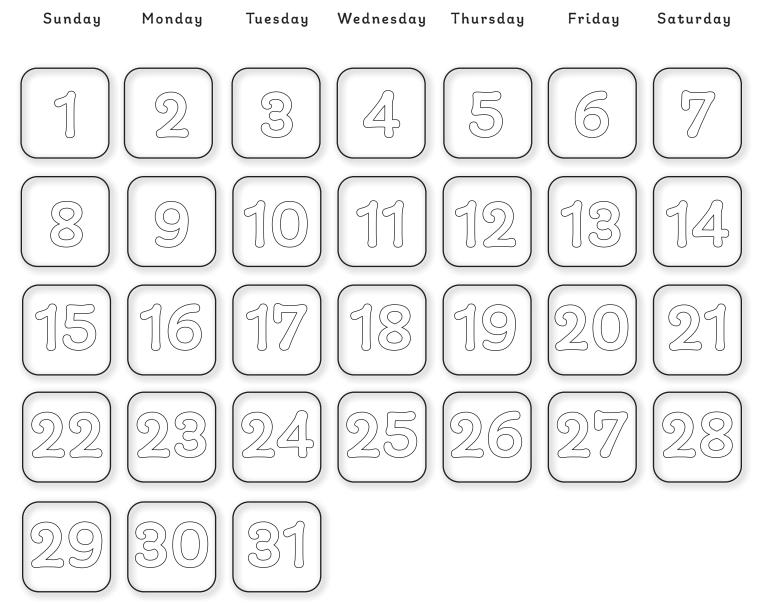
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It is our pleasure and privilege to share our joy for shining God's truth through children's literature. We endeavor to enhance and encourage young people's faith through our quarterly magazine and printables publications.



DECEMBER

Reading Habit Tracker



Duote of the Month

December Prayer Page

What a friend we have in Jesus–He's always by our side. When we're feeling happy or when we want to hide.

We can talk to Him in prayer and share what's on our heart. He'll listen with His love and care, no matter where we start.

Write a prayer to your friend Jesus today! Tell Him what makes you smile or what feels in your way. Ask Him for His help and peace, and thank Him for His care, He's always ready to listen—anytime, anywhere.

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Christmastime List

Picture Books

Title	Author	Read
The Christmas Visitors	Karel Hayes	
Great Joy	Kate DiCamillo	
Pick a Tree	Patricia Toht	
Holly and Ivy	Rumer Godden	
The Big Big Big Christmas	Mei Shan Dibble	
Merry Christmas Little Lamb	Michelle Freeman	
The Siamese Kittens and the Christmas Hedgehog	Michael A G Haykin	
The King and the Shepherd Boy	Sam Brewster	
Unexpected Gift	Annie Kratzsch	
If I Were in Charge of Christmas	Helen Buckley	
The First Christmas Song	Alison Brewis	
The Very Noisy Christmas	Tim Thornborough	
Sounding Joy	Ellie Holcomb	
The Littlest Watchman	Scott James	
The King of Christmas	Todd R. Hains	
Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect	Richard H. Schneider	
The Christmas Light	Claudia Cangilla McAdam	
Jesus Came for Me	Jared Kennedy	
The Best News of All	Sally Michael	
Home by Another Way	Barbara Brown Taylor	
A Gingerbread House	Julie Lavender	
The Christmas Tree Ship	Carol Crane	
Too Many Tamales	Gary Soto	

Christmastime List

Board Books

Title	Author	Read
Dachshund through the Snow	Michelle Medlock Adams	
One Night in Bethlehem	Jill Roman Lord	
The Silent Noisy Night	Jill Roman Lord	
That Grand Christmas Day!	Jill Roman Lord	
Happy Birthday, Christmas Child	Laura Sassi	
Good Night Manger	Laura Sassi	
A Very Fiona Christmas	Richard Cowdry, Illustrator	
My First Story of Christmas	Tim Dowley	
'Twas the Evening of Christmas	Glenys Nellist	
Room for a Little One	Martin Waddell	

My Picks

Title	Author	Read

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Watch Me Write

"A Christmas Wish"

Christmas is a time filled with hopes, dreams, and love. It's when we think about the special moments that make our hearts feel warm and bright.

Think about these things: a sparkling Christmas tree, the kindness of a friend, or a starry night reminding you of Jesus' love.

Writing Prompt: Write a story about a Christmas memory or hope that fills your heart with joy. Maybe it's about a time you gave a gift, helped someone, or felt extra loved. For younger children, use the Watch Me Draw page to create a picture instead!

Outline Questions to Get Started:

Who is with you in your story?

Where does this take place?

What happens that makes this Christmas special?

How does your story end?

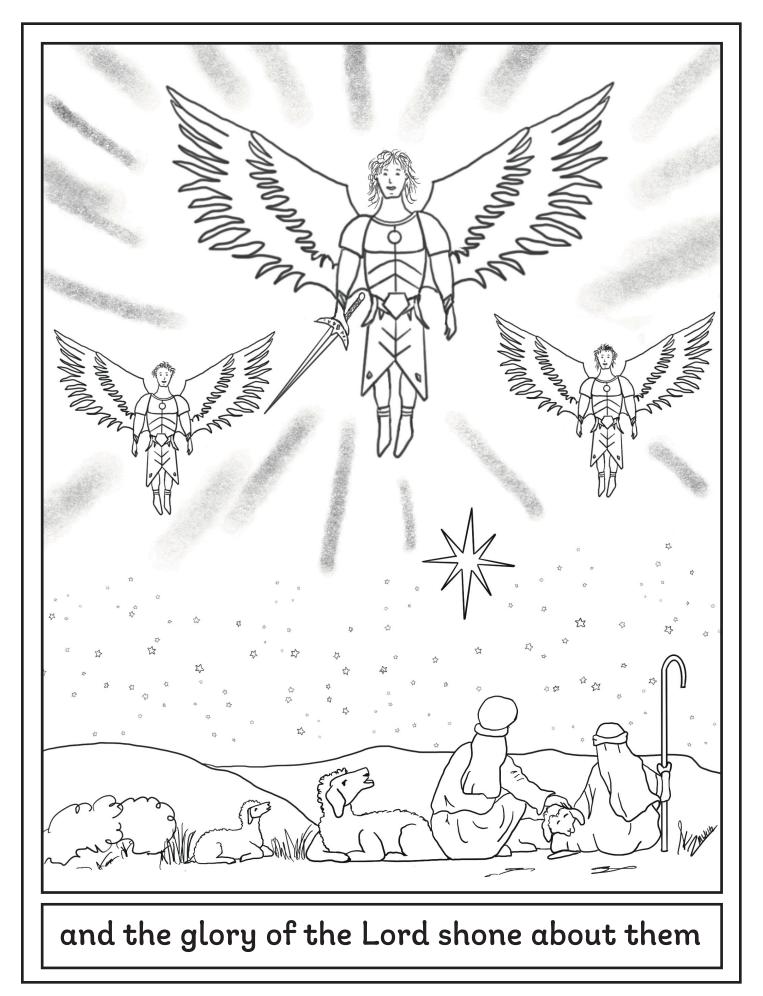
Watch Me Write

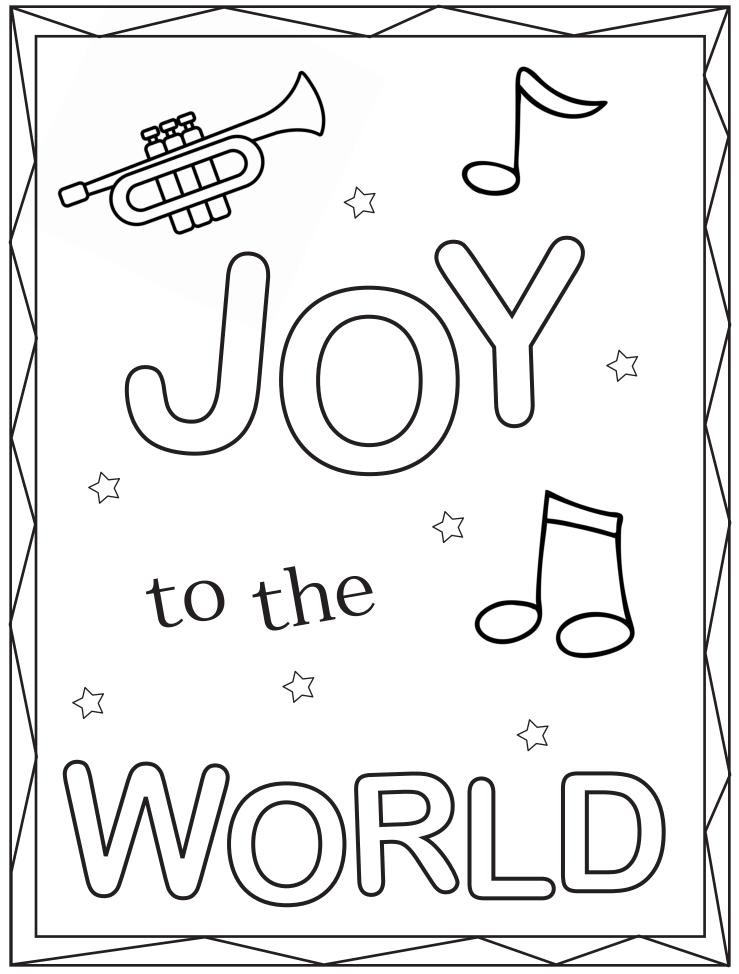
"A Christmas Wish"

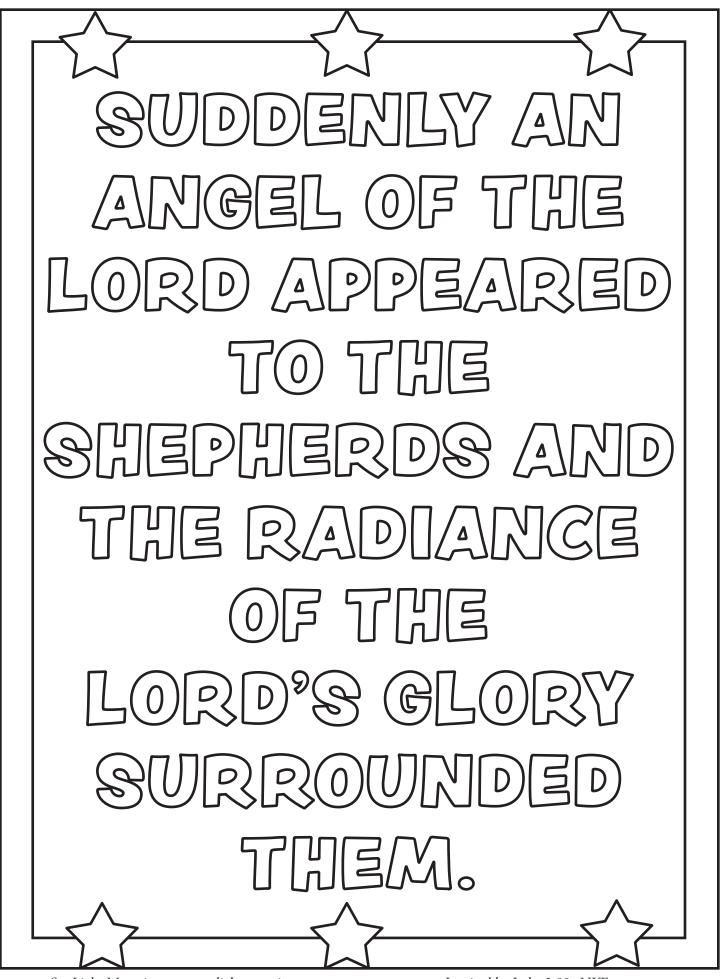
Watch Me Draw

"A Christmas Wish"



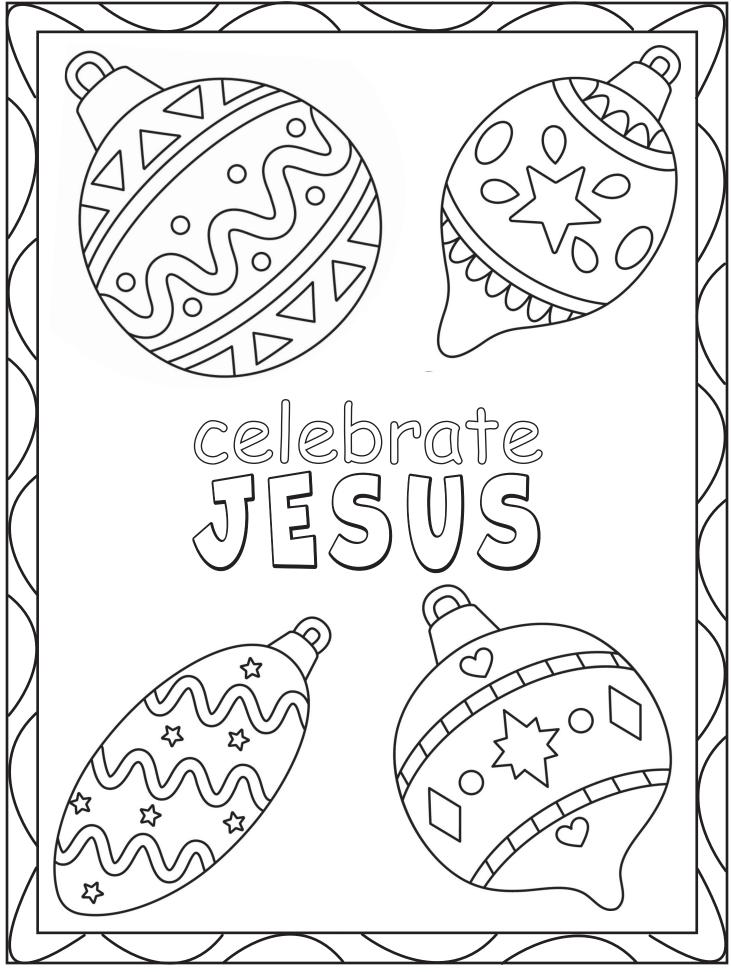






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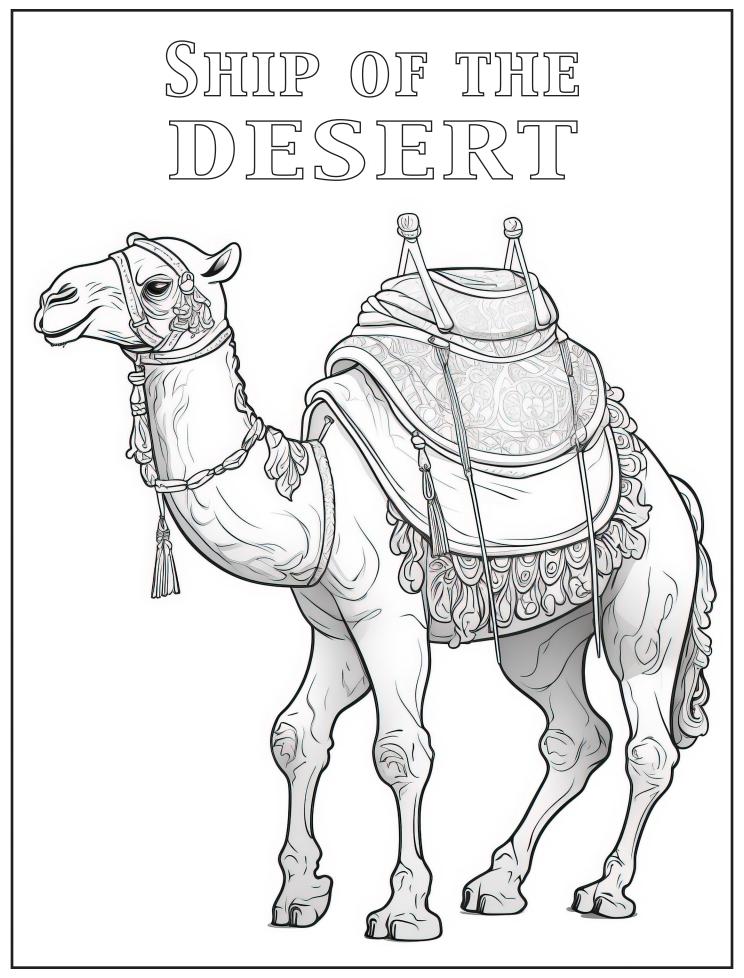


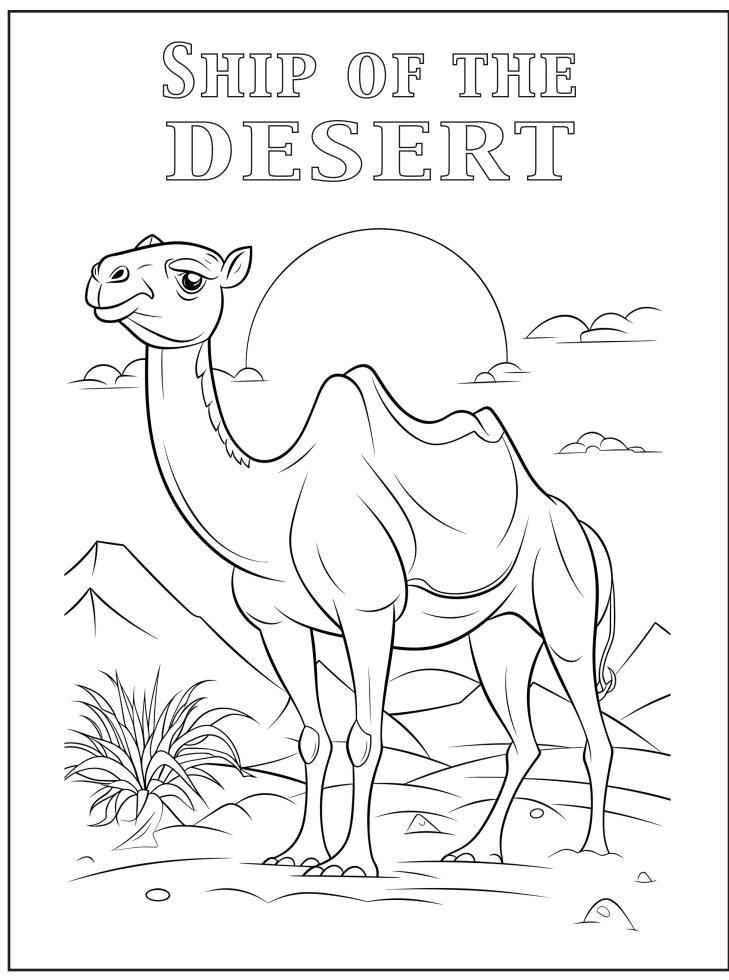


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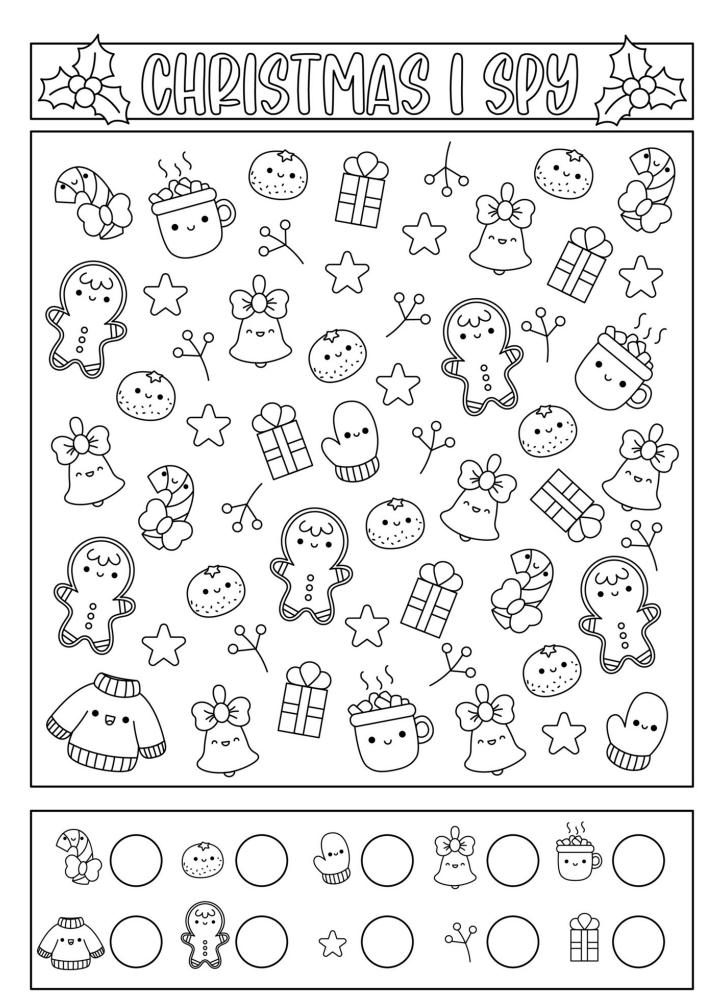




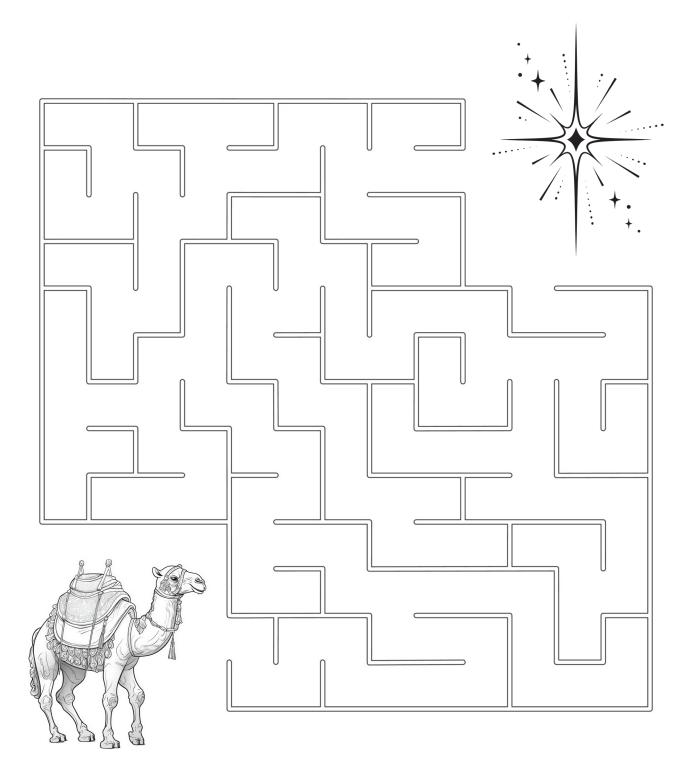


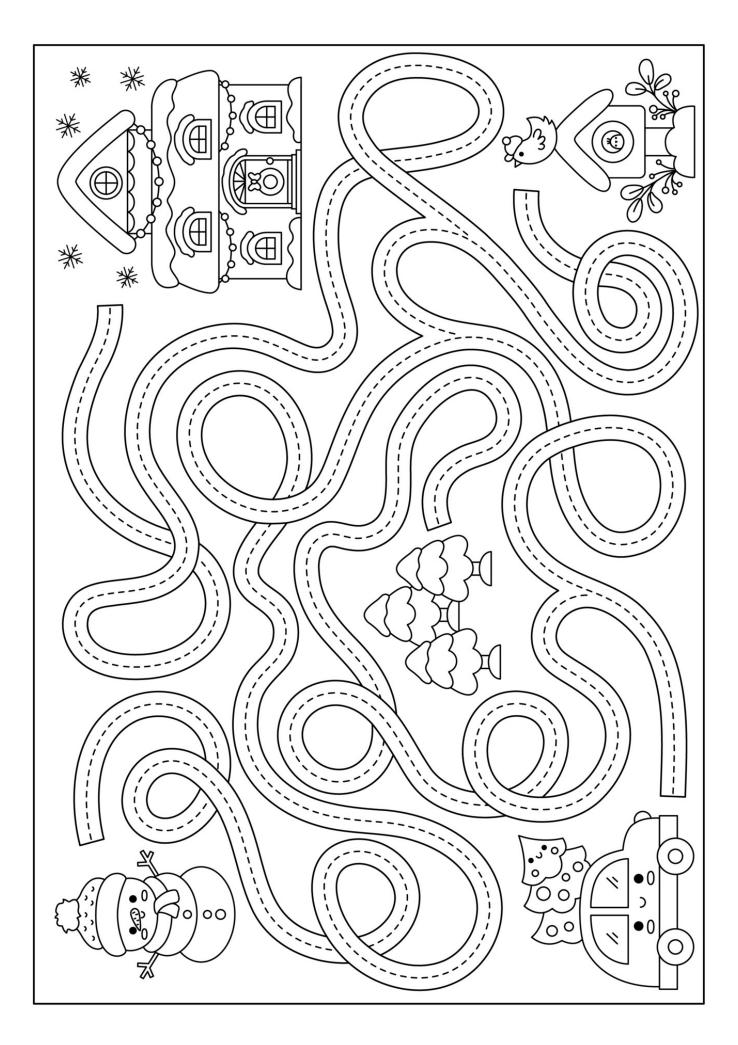




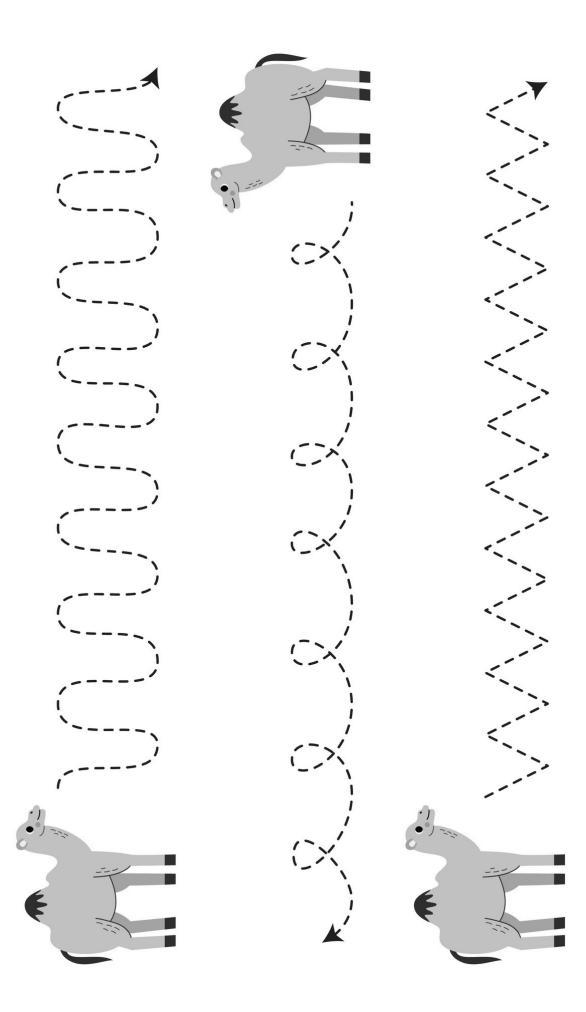


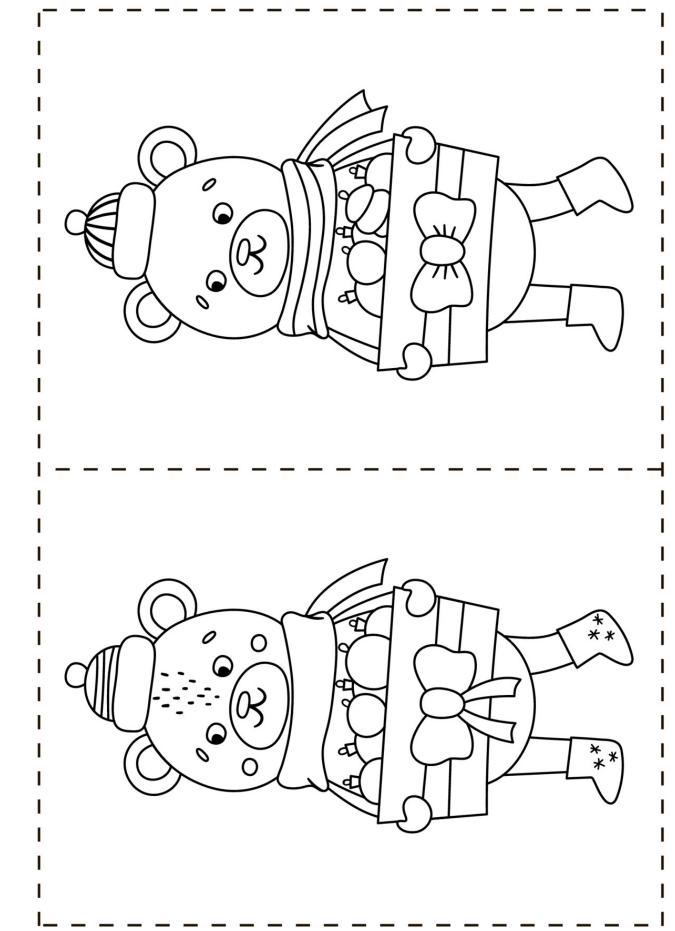
Help our Camel friend find the star!







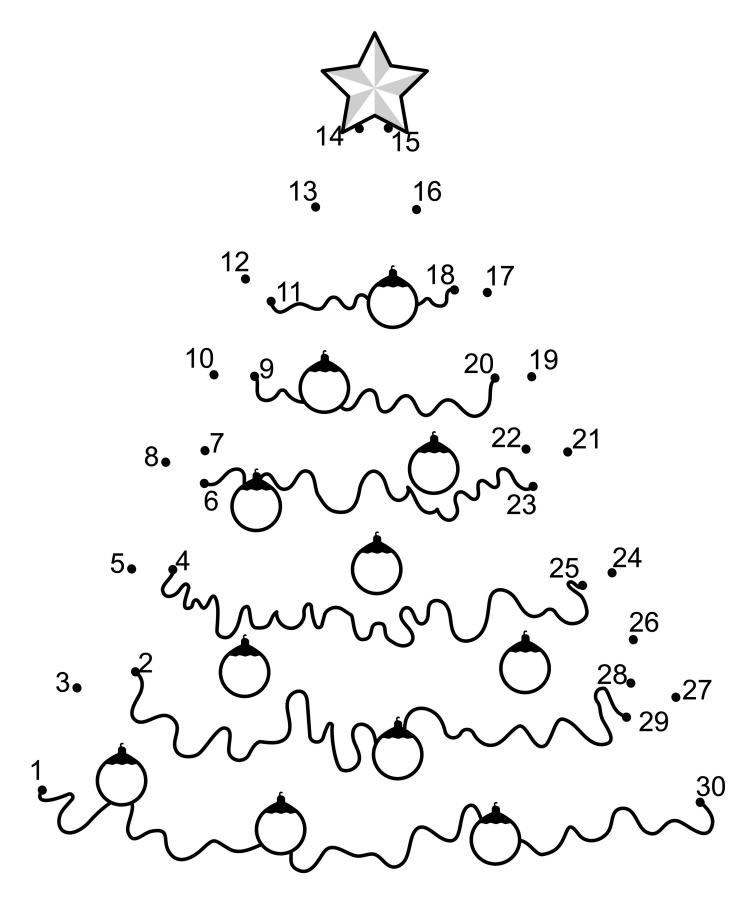




Find the ten differences!

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Connect the Dots



A Christmas Carol

by Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

The Shepherds had an Angel, The Wise Men had a star, But what have I, a little child, To guide me home from far, Where glad stars sing together And singing angels are?

Those Shepherds through the lonely night Sat watching by their sheep, Until they saw the heavenly host Who neither tire nor sleep, All singing "Glory, glory," In festival they keep.

The Wise Men left their country To journey morn by morn, With gold and frankincense and myrrh, Because the Lord was born: God sent a star to guide them And sent a dream to warn.

My life is like their journey, Their star is like God's book; I must be like those good Wise Men With heavenward heart and look: But shall I give no gifts to God?-What precious gifts they took!

A Christmas Carol Activities

The following activity sheets are a resource for group settings or for individual use.

The Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus–myrrh, gold, and frankincense– because they wanted to worship and honor Him. In her poem, Christina Rossetti asks, "What gifts can I give to God?" Now it's your turn to think about the special gifts you have to give! Here is a list of the activity pages to help answer that question. Be creative. Be you!

Reflect and Imagine

Think about the gifts that come from your heart. These might not be things you can hold, like gold or frankincense, but they can be just as precious if not more so. There's a sheet for you to write and one to draw your ideas. Your ideas could turn into smiles!

Create a Starry Keepsake

Cut out a star shape from paper or use the star template provided. On your star, write a word or phrase that describes your gift. Maybe "kindness," "helping a friend," or "prayers". Make it your own. Make it shine!

Share the Light

Hang your star in your room or on your Christmas tree to remind you of your gift to Jesus. When you have the opportunity, share your gift by doing 'that something' for someone in your family or community. Go and shine!

Dig Deeper

You already know the Wise Men brought three amazing gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These weren't ordinary presents-they each told us something special about Jesus! Dig in to the deep symbolism and more!

Reflect, Imagine, and Write!

Think about the gifts that come from your heart. These might not be things you can hold, like gold or frankincense, but they can be just as precious if not more so.

Think about kindness to others, helping someone in need, or saying prayers for those you care about. These are examples of gifts that come from the heart.

Imagine ways you can give from your heart. Write your idea and ask God for an opportunity to make it happen!

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Reflect, Imagine, and Draw!

Think about the gifts that come from your heart. These might not be things you can hold, like gold or frankincense, but they can be just as precious if not more so.

Think about kindness to others, helping someone in need, or saying prayers for those you care about. These are examples of gifts that come from the heart.

Imagine ways you can give from your heart. Draw your idea and ask God for an opportunity to make it happen!

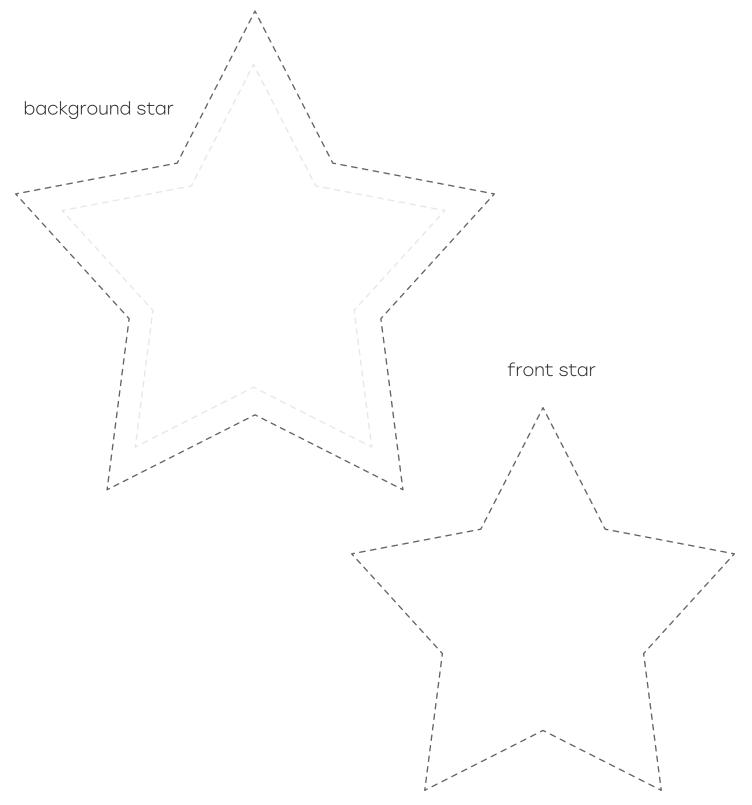
Name: ____

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Create a Starry Keepsake template. Color. Write. Cut. Glue.

Instructions: Color 'background star' shape. Practice what you want to write on a separate sheet; then write it on the 'front star' in a dark colored marker. Lightly color the front star, decorate with glitter etc. Cut out both stars. Paste the front star on the background star. Additionally, glue tinsel to the back of the background star. For a lasting ornament, consider enforcing with card stock and or laminating. Punch hole in top point for a ribbon for hanging.



Dig Deeper: The Gifts of the Wise Men: What Do They Mean?

When the Wise Men visited Jesus, they brought three amazing gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These weren't ordinary presents-they each told us something special about Jesus!

What They Are and Their Symbolic Meaning: These weren't random gifts, they had a deeper meaning about who Jesus is and what He would do!

Myrrh:

- Another resin, used to make oils for healing and burial.
- Myrrh points to Jesus as a **Prophet** and a sacrifice, showing His love and the promise of His death and resurrection.

Frankincense:

- A fragrant resin from tree sap, used in worship and prayer.
- Frankincense reminds us that Jesus is our **Priest**, helping us connect to God.

Gold:

- A shiny, precious metal often given to kings.
- Gold shows that Jesus is our King.

Challenge for Curious Kids

- Did you know that frankincense and myrrh come from tree sap? They were dried and turned into something called "resin" that smelled amazing when burned!
- Ask someone to help you research how frankincense or myrrh was used in Bible times. Write or draw what you discover!

Reflection Activity: Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King.

- Draw three crowns, or use template provided and label each with one role of Prophet, Priest, and King.
- Inside each crown, write or draw something that shows how Jesus is each of these things in your life.

Watch Me Write

Dig Deeper: Explore the Meaning of Myrrh

Myrrh is for healing and burial. It reminds us of how much Jesus sacrificed for us. Write about something you could do to show love to someone who is hurting or feeling down, just like Jesus shows His love to us.

Watch Me Write

Dig Deeper: Explore the Meaning of Frankincense

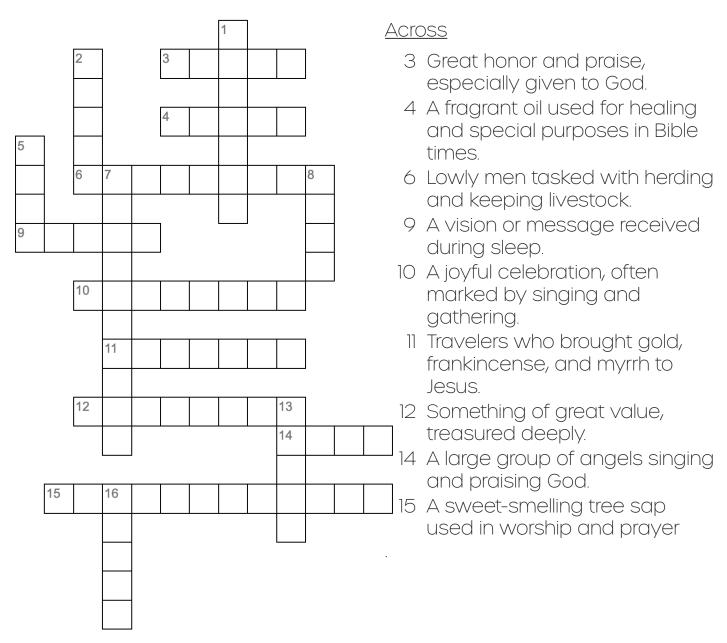
Frankincense is used in prayer and worship. Write a prayer or poem thanking Jesus for being your connection to God.

Watch Me Write

Dig Deeper: Explore the Meaning of Gold

Gold is for kings. Imagine Jesus as your King. What does it mean to have Him guide your life? Write a short story about something Jesus, as your King, might ask you to do.

A Christmas Carol Crossword Puzzle



<u>Down</u>

- 1 A long trip, often taken to reach a sacred or special place.
- 2 Special presents given as signs of love or honor.
- 5 A shiny, valuable metal fit for a king.
- 7 Toward the skies, or in the direction of God's home.
- 8 A bright light in the night sky, often used for guidance.
- 13 Animals cared for by shepherds in the fields.
- 16 A heavenly being who brings messages from God.

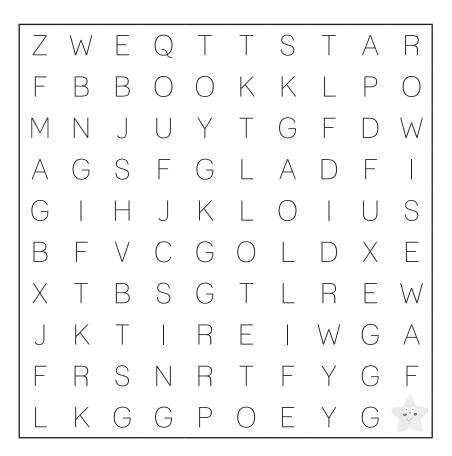
A Christmas Carol Word Search #1 Words can be found in **any** direction and can share letters as they cross over each other. STAR **FESTIVAL** ANGEL SHEPHERDS GLORY DREAM JOURNEY HEAVENWARD GIFTS GOLD FRANKINCENSE SHEEP HOST WISE MEN **MYRRH** PRECIOUS R К \vdash К \vdash А ()Κ S $\backslash /$ S R К Я А |V|Y S G А \square W Κ |) Κ S R -Μ F R F Y $(\dot{})$ \mathbb{N} \vdash \mathbb{M} S S Κ Р Р \vdash А V (S S Κ J E E Ν \bigcirc F) Λ M Ζ Ζ R ()F F F (\mathbf{z}) Y S S S Κ F Р F R Κ \mathbb{Q} ()S G R G M Ν Ν Ν W (V S F Ζ R \mathbb{N} Ν F \bigvee А А А R F А Ζ R R R \setminus \vdash В W () (\mathcal{Q}) \mathbb{Q} R В Р F $(\dot{})$ Κ $(\dot{})$ \bigcirc S F Y $(\dot{})$ $(\dot{})$ -Κ \mathbb{N} Х Я \vdash \mathbb{N} W Х () Ρ R R R А \bigcirc $\backslash \Lambda /$.~)

A Christmas Carol Word Search #2

Words can be found in either <u>left to right</u> or <u>top going down</u>.



BOOK	STAR
GIFT	GOLD
GLAD	LIFE
SING	WISE







RIDDLEI

I'm the ship of the desert, steady and grand, Through scorching heat and endless sand. With just one hump, I'm built to roam, What am I, who calls the dunes my home?

What am I?

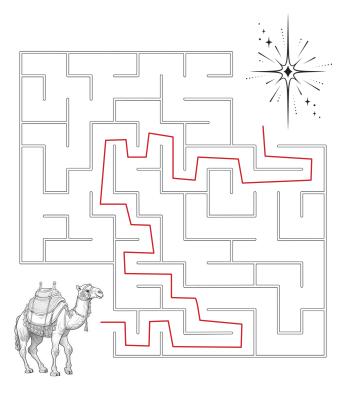
E ELDDLE

It's an event so rare, so bright, so divine, Unnatural and wondrous, a heavenly sign. With power from God, it makes hearts soar, What do we call this, that leaves us in awe and more?

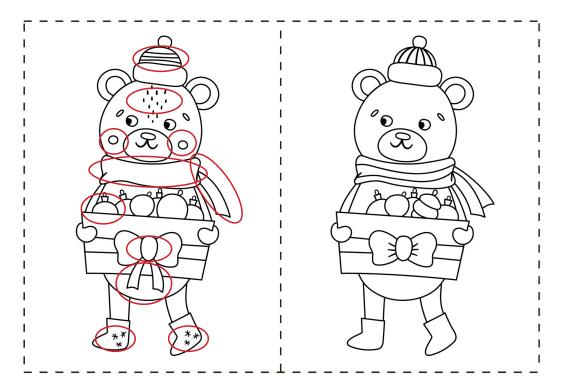
What am I?

Puzzle Solutions

Help our Camel friend find the star!



Find the ten differences!



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Puzzle Solutions

A Christmas Carol Word Search #1

