Dear FBC Family,

Welcome to the 2026 Advent season!

The word Advent comes from the Latin adventus, meaning "coming" or "arrival." For thousands of years, God's people waited with longing and hope for the promised Messiah. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."—Jeremiah 33:14–15

And then, one quiet night in the small town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), that promise was kept! Jesus came into the world, forever changing the course of human history and bringing salvation to everyone who believes in Him. Over the next four weeks, we get to celebrate that incredible truth while eagerly anticipating the day He returns.

To help your household experience the joy of this season together, we have put together a special Advent packet containing four weekly envelopes with readings, conversation starters, and activities. We invite you to set aside a dedicated moment each week to gather, open that week's envelope, and walk through the activity as a family. Every Sunday, our worship service theme and message will connect directly to what you are exploring at home.

To fully enjoy this Advent experience, consider gathering a candle or small LED light to place in your lantern as a reminder that Christ is the Light of the World. If you would like to complete the hands-on activities, you may also want to have glue, markers, paints, and other decorating supplies available.

Our prayer is that your home is filled with peace, wonder, and excitement as we celebrate our Savior's arrival. May God fill your hearts with joyful anticipation this Advent season!

With joy,

Hunter Mayo

Hunter Mayo
Pastor of Family Life



My Beloved,

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued and will continue to show My faithfulness to you. I will commit Myself to you forever; I will commit Myself to you in righteousness and justice, in steadfast love and tender compassion.

I promised Abraham that Sarah would have a baby even when she was old, and she did.
I promised to bring My people out of Egypt, and I did.
I promised to bring My people into the Promised Land, and I did.
I promised a Messiah to rescue you from your sins, and He came. His name is Jesus.
I can be trusted to keep every promise I make.

Don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I have called you by name; now you belong to me. Just like a woman can never forget her baby, so I can never forget you! I have even carved your name into the palms of My hand. I never, ever change!

With My everlasting love,

The One Who Keeps Every Promise

Talk About It!

1. What do these words mean? Faithfulness, Promise, Sins, Messiah
2. Have you ever broken a promise? Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How is God different? How do we know that He is different?
3. Can you think of any more promises from the Bible that God kept?
4. Are there any promises that we are still waiting for God to keep?
5. How does Jesus' birth at Christmas show us that God keeps His promises?
6. Look up these scriptures that tell us more about the faithful heart of God: Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 136, Deuteronomy 31:8, Psalm 103:17, Lamentations 3:22-23, Hebrews 13:8.

Write It!

Write a letter back to God. Thank Him for what He has done. Give examples of how you see His faithfulness in your life, the life of your family and the life of our church.

Create It!

God promised Abraham that his descendants would be more than the stars in the sky. Make a popsicle stick star for your tree to remind you that God keeps His promises!



Step 1:

For each ornament glue two popsicle sticks together to start a triangle.



Step 2:

Glue a third popsicle stick so it crosses one of the other first popsicle sticks.



Step 3:

Glue the fourth popsicle stick to form the start of another triangle.



Step 4:

Glue the fifth popsicle stick so the two ends meet. Your star is complete!



Step 5:

Turn the star over and form a loop with a small piece of ribbon or twine. Glue the loop to the back of the star.

Optional: Decorate your popsicle stick star with glitter, stickers, etc.



Light It!

Each week of Advent we will be hearing from the heart of God. This week it is the faithful heart of God. Decorate one side of your lantern to represent that faithful heart. Maybe draw some stars to remind you that God kept His promise to Abraham and will keep his promises to you!

Turn the light on to see your stars and pray this prayer!

Dear God,

We know that we can trust you because you are faithful! You kept your promise to Abraham and Sarah. You promised to send a Messiah and you did! Jesus came to save us. You have promised that one day there will be a new Heaven and Earth where we will get to live with you for ever. We know we can trust you and it will happen! We cannot wait! Thank you for being faithful from generation to generation even until there are a thousand generations!

Amen.

Enjoy It!

CHRISTMAS WORD FIND

Find and circle all 16 hidden words. Words may run forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally.

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

FAITHFUL	LANTERN	MESSIAH	RESCUE
PROMISE	STARS	CHURCH	SAVE
GOD	BELOVED	HEAVEN	EGYPT
CHRISTMAS	ABRAHAM	JESUS	BIBLE

SECRET CODE: THE FAITHFUL GOD

Decode the Bible verse

Use the code key to decode the verse.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

11 14 15 23 20 8 5 18 5 6 15 18 5 20 8 1 20 20 8 5 12 15 18 4

25 15 21 18 7 15 4 , 8 5 9 19 7 15 4 ,

20 8 5 6 1 9 20 8 6 21 12 7 15 4 ,

23 8 15 11 5 5 16 19 8 9 19 3 15 22 5 14 1 14 20 1 14 4 8 9 19

12 15 22 9 14 7 11 9 14 4 14 5 19 19 20 15 1

20 8 15 21 19 1 14 4 20 8 7 5 14 5 18 1 20 9 15 14

Decoded Answer:



My Beloved,

I want you to know Me. I want you to have a relationship with Me. I publically proclaim bold promises. I speak openly and plainly. I do not whisper secrets in dark corners. I even show who I am through the beauty, majesty, and vastness of heaven and earth.

I would not have told the people of Israel to seek me if I could not be found. I have given you My Word to be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

Because of My tender mercy toward you, I sent another greater gift to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide you to the path of peace. I sent my Son, Jesus into the world at exactly the right time to do those things. He is the Word made flesh. He is also the Light of the World. You can follow Him and not walk in darkness.

I am not a far-away God whom you can never know. I wanted to show you who I am, so I became human and lived among you. Jesus is an exact reflection of My own glory and expresses my very character. If you know and understand who Jesus is then you know and understand who I am. No one has ever seen Me, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is at the Father's side —He has revealed Me to you.

I have done these things to show you who I am.
I have called you friend.

With my everlasting love,

The One Who Wants To Be Known

Talk About It!

1. How do you get to know new people?
2. What are ways that God has shown that He wants to know us?
3. Would you rather be in a light room or a dark room? Why?
4. Are there some things that you can do to get to know God better?
5. Jesus came into the world as a baby at Christmas. What does Jesus show us about what God is like?
6. God says, "I have called you friend." How does it make you feel to know that God wants a relationship with you?

Write It!

Write a letter back to God. Thank Him that He gives you the Bible and Jesus so that you can know Him better. Tell Him your favorite Bible verse and why it is important to you.

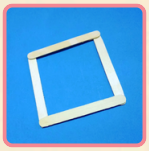
Create It!

God gave His word to us as a light for our path and He sent Jesus to be the Light of the World. Try making this lamp from popsicle sticks as a reminder of who Jesus is.

Step 1: Collect Supplies

- 16 Popsicle Sticks
- Parchment Paper
- 1 battery tealight
- Pencils/Pens
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Hot glue

Step 2: Making the Sides



Take your popsicle sticks and arrange them in a square. Use hot glue to stick them in place. Repeat four times, so that you have four squares.



Step 3: Cutting the paper

Use the parchment paper to cut four squares. These should be the same size as your popsicle stick squares. Decorate the parchment paper squares using pens or pencils.

Step 4: Assemble the pieces

Glue the parchment paper to the popsicle stick squares. Then, using hot glue, hold two of your assembled squares at a 90^0 angle and glue the edges together. Repeat for the remaining two sides.

Step 5: Light It!



Now that you have assembled the box shape, turn your tealight candle on, and place it inside your lampshade.



Light It!

Each week of Advent we will be hearing from the heart of God.
This week God shows us that He wants to get to know us better. Decorate one side of your lantern to represent that revealing heart. Maybe draw a flashlight or lamp to remind you that God brought Light into the world of darkness.
Turn the light on to see your lantern and pray this prayer!

Dear God,
You have been kind and gracious to show us who You are. You have even created nature to show everyone Your glory. Thank You that You do not hide from us, but when we want to know You, and talk to You, You are always right there beside us. Give us the desire to spend more and more time reading Your word and getting to know Jesus, who He is and what He has done. The more we know You, the more we trust You. The more we know You, the more we love You. The more we know You, the more we want to follow You. Help us to always be growing in those areas.
Amen.

Enjoy It!

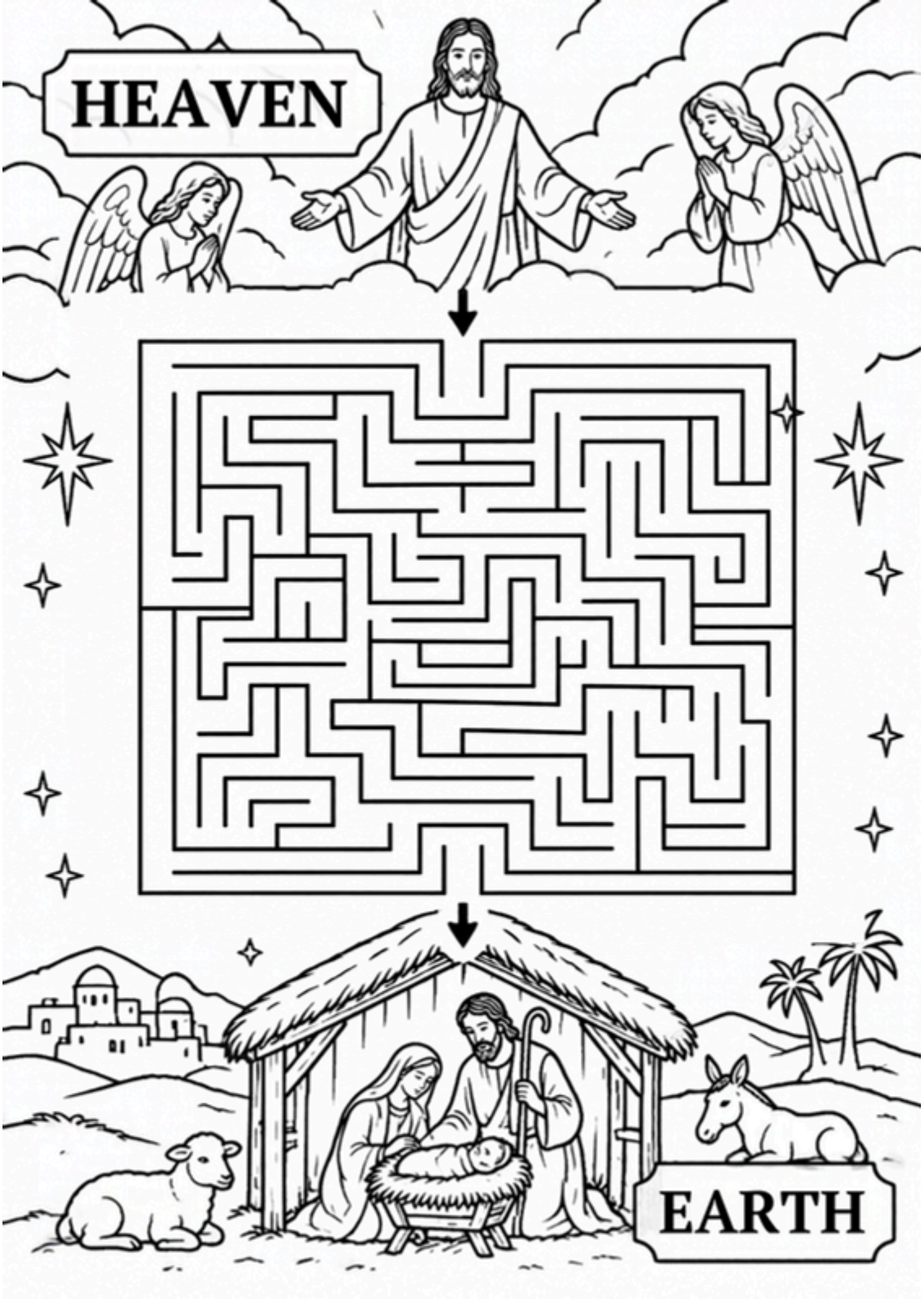
Unscramble the Words!

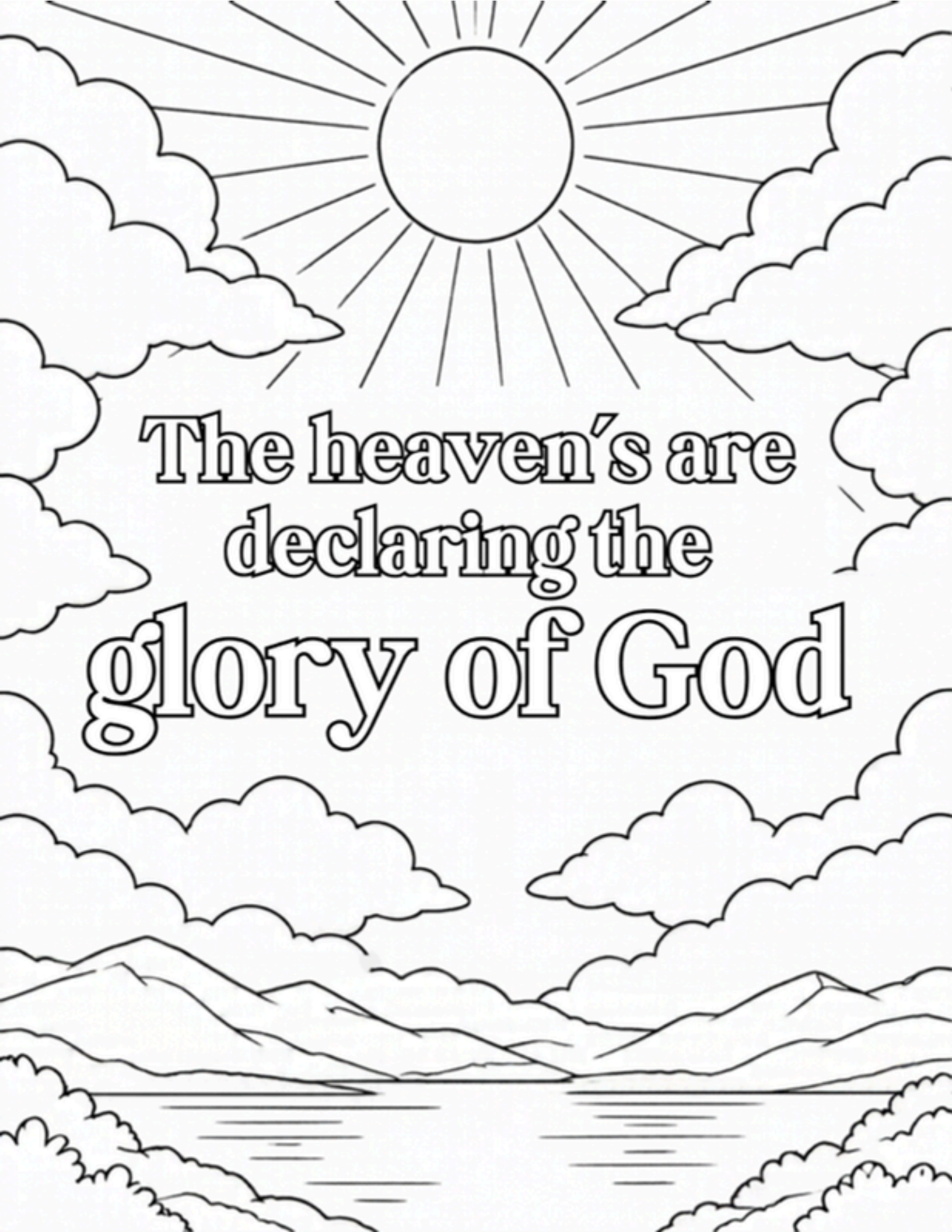
1. FREDNI	God has called you His _____.
2. LITHG	Jesus came to bring _____ to those in darkness.
3. WONK	God wants you to ____ Him.
4. ACPEE	Jesus guides us into the path of _____.
5. ROYLG	Jesus reflects God's _____.
6. AHRACCTER	Jesus expresses God's very _____.
7. LANSTIOPRHIE	God wants a _____ with you.
8. EVAELR	Jesus came to _____ God to us.

Bonus Challenge

Unscramble the words:

1. ECDYTRMEREN _____
2. CRAOMLIP _____
3. SAKNDESR _____
4. EIENCRTFOL _____
5. LVETRASEIGN _____


HEAVEN
EARTH


The heaven's are
declaring the
glory of God

My Beloved,

Just as you want to give gifts to others, particularly your children, so do I desire to give good gifts to you. I give not in the same way that the world gives - as a hollow and reversible wish. I give permanently, sincerely, and with the power to make the gifts real.

If you come to me with your burdens, I will give you rest. If you realize that you need wisdom and ask, I will give it to you without hesitation and with generosity. I have living water that I will freely give to anyone who is thirsty.

I gave you the most precious gift of My Son, because I love you and want to be with you forever.

He did not come just to serve you, but also to give His life as a ransom for many. Because He came and willingly gave up His life for you, you can have the free gift of eternal life when you believe.

Someday, you will receive the gift of being part of My kingdom and even wear a crown to help celebrate it.

I love pouring out blessings on you, not just in a little trickle, but overflowing like a huge rainstorm.

With my everlasting love,

The One Who Gives Freely and Abundantly

Talk About It!

1. What do these words mean: ransom, hollow, generosity?
2. What is your favorite gift you have ever received? What is your favorite one you have given?
3. Can you think of any other gifts that God gives?
4. How is Jesus being born as a baby a gift? (Hint: Hebrews 4:15)
5. Why did we need Jesus to come and rescue us?
6. Look up these scriptures and make a list of the things that God gives away for free! Ephesians 2:8-9, Luke 12:31; 1 Corinthians 1:4; John 17:22.

Write It!

Write a letter back to God. Thank Him for what He has given you! Think about the gifts from the letter and the Bible, but also think about some of the gifts that you know are from Him. (For example: your family, your home, your friends, and other things that you could not get by yourself.)

Create It!

God loves to give good gifts to His children! This Christmas season, we are thankful for and celebrate the gift He gave when He sent Jesus! It is the best gift of all!

Step 1: Collect Supplies

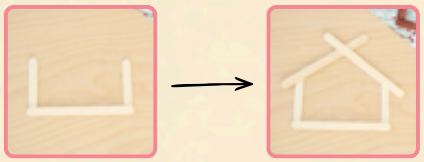
- Popsicle Sticks
- Hot Glue
- Markers
- Gold Star Sticker or Paper



Cut your popsicle sticks like this!

Step 2: Creating the Stable

Arrange your popsicle sticks in this stable shape and use hot glue to secure them.



Step 3: Add Color!

Using a marker or paint, color in the stable. Then, use your markers to draw Mary, Joseph, and Jesus on the remaining popsicle sticks.





Step 4: Assemble the Nativity

Hot glue Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the middle of the stable. Add the manger on top. Finally, add the star to the top of the stable.





Light It!

Each week of Advent we will be hearing from the heart of God.
This week it is the giving heart of God. Decorate one side of your lantern to represent that giving heart. Maybe draw a picture of baby Jesus to remind you that God loved you so much He gave His son.
Turn the light on to see the baby and pray this prayer!

Dear God,
Thank You for Your giving heart. You gave Your son to die for our sins so that You can give us eternal life. You promise that You will give us Your Kingdom someday and we cannot wait. Thank You for giving more and more blessings to us, even pouring them down not in little raindrop sprinkles, but in showers of blessings!
Amen.

Enjoy It!

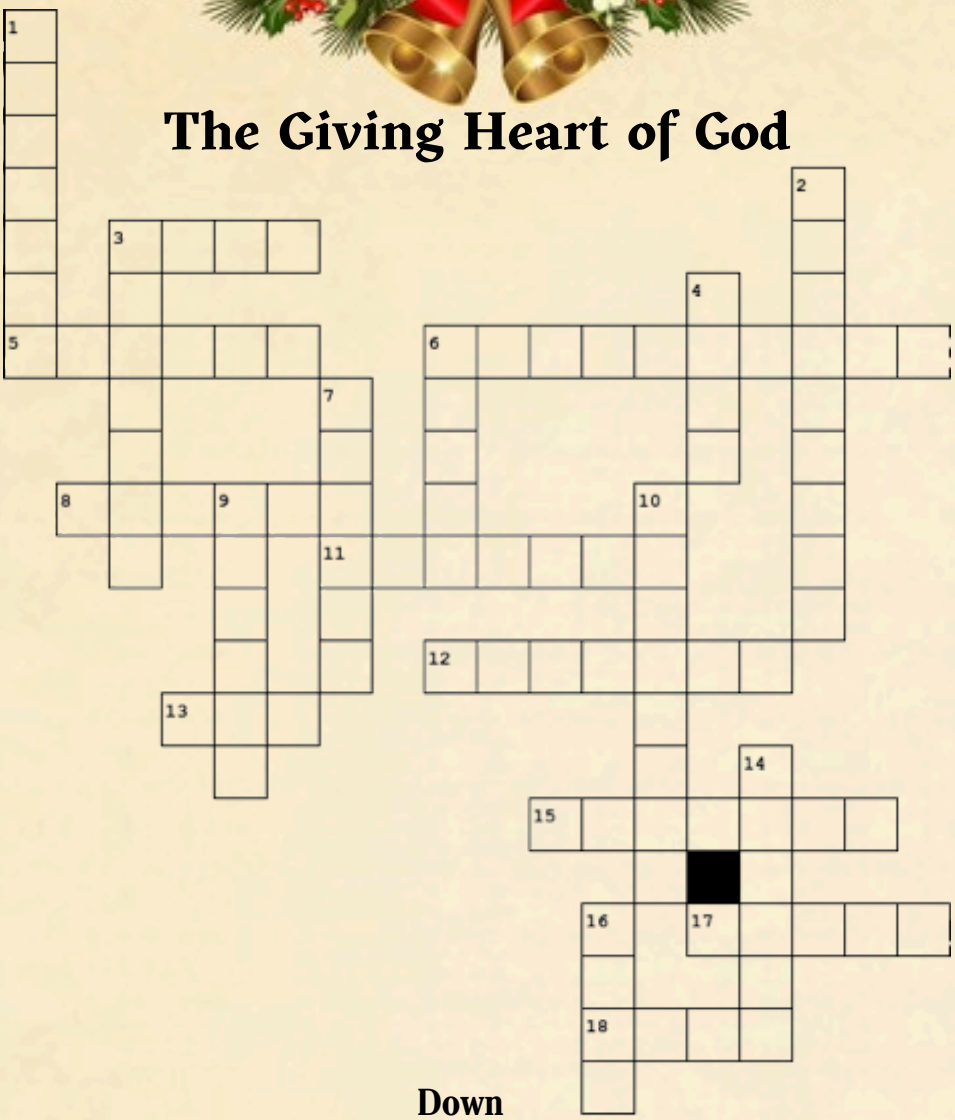
The Giving Heart of God

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

SON
BELIEVE
WILLINGLY
POWER
EVERLASTING
FREELY
BLESSINGS
CROWN
GENEROUS
CELEBRATE
PERMANENTLY
GIVE
BURDENS
WATER
POURING
HOLLOW
WISDOM
THIRSTY
RECEIVE
GIFT
ETERNAL
RANSOM
GOD
REST



The Giving Heart of God



Across

3. The reason that God gives us gifts
5. Give something free to someone else
6. What you are showing when you give gifts
8. What we will wear someday
11. The kind of life that God gives us
12. God gives water to solve this problem
13. The One who gives us free gifts
15. A future gift that we are promised
17. The name of God's Son
18. If you bring burdens to God, this is what He gives

Down

1. How long will life be with God
2. December 25
3. The thing that we are decorating this Advent season
4. A word that describes God's gifts to us
6. A free gift given by God
7. The man who married Mary
9. If you notice you need this, just ask God
10. Another word for the gift God gives us
14. The season that we are celebrating now
16. The mother of Jesus



My Beloved,

Every human being born into this world has sinned. Your sin separates you from Me. I am holy and just, and sin cannot simply be overlooked. The debt must be paid. There is no way to cover your sin except by blood.

But My heart has always desired relationship with you. I will not leave you separated from Me. I will provide a Lamb. He will be the offering, the sacrifice that will pay the debt for the sins you have committed.

Even though you are like a sheep who has gone astray, each one turning to your own way, I will still provide the Sacrifice. He will be pierced for your transgressions and crushed for your iniquities. He will endure the pain of being beaten and whipped, and through His wounds you will be healed.
Mary will give birth to a Son, and His name will be Jesus. He will save His people from their sins. He is the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sin of the world. Even while you were still a sinner, even while you were My enemy, Jesus died for you. He willingly sacrificed Himself and bore your sins on the cross.

I loved you so much that I sent My Son to lay down His life for you. No one took His life from Him. He willingly laid it down. This was not a sacrifice forced upon Him, but one He embraced because of His great love for you. The Father and the Son, united in love, made the way for you to be reconciled to Me.

But do not be afraid! Death could not hold Him. I raised Him from the grave! The grave was not the end of the story. Because He lives, you can live. Because of His sacrifice, the way into My presence has been opened.
His perfect, innocent blood, shed on the cross, was the atoning sacrifice needed to reconcile you to Me. Through Him, you can live with Me forever.
I have forgiven your iniquity, and I remember your sin no more!

This is how far My love would go to bring you back to Me. This is the sacrifice I willingly made because I desire you to be Mine.

With My everlasting love,

The One Who Sacrifices Joyfully



Talk About It!

1. What does it mean to sacrifice something?
2. Have you ever given up something important to you for the good of someone else?
3. Romans 5:8 tells us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. What does this teach us about the nature of God's love? How is this different from the way we often experience love in the world?
4. When you picture the baby in the manger, how does knowing that He came with the purpose of going to the cross change the way you celebrate Christmas?
5. Why did we need Jesus to come and rescue us?
6. God loved the world so much that He sent His only beloved Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life! Do you believe that this is true?

Write It!

Write a letter back to God. Thank Him for making a great sacrifice by sending His Son. Let Him know if you believe what Jesus did, was truly done for You!

Create It!

God loves us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His only Son, so that we can have a relationship with Him. Let's celebrate what Jesus did on the cross, ending our separation from God, and allowing us to be adopted into His family!

Step 1: Collect Supplies

- 2 Popsicle Sticks
- Old book pages
- Mod Podge
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Fresh or faux greenery
- glue stick
- Twine



Step 2:

Trace your popsicle sticks on the old book page (or paper of your choice), and then cut the shapes out.

Step 3:

Add a thin layer of glue on one side of the popsicle stick, and attach the paper cutouts, smoothing out any airbubbles or wrinkles.



Step 4:

Cut the ends off of one of the sticks to create the beam across the top of the cross. Add some glue to the back of this piece, and attach it to the other stick.



Step 5:

On the back, add a generous amount of glue and attach the greenery and the twine for hanging.

Step 6:

Enjoy your beautiful cross ornament!



Light It!

Each week of Advent we will be hearing from the heart of God.

This week it is the sacrificial heart of God. Decorate one side of your lantern to represent that sacrificial heart. Maybe draw a picture of the cross to remind you that He loved You so much that He died on a cross for you. **Turn the light on to see your cross and pray this prayer!**

Dear God,

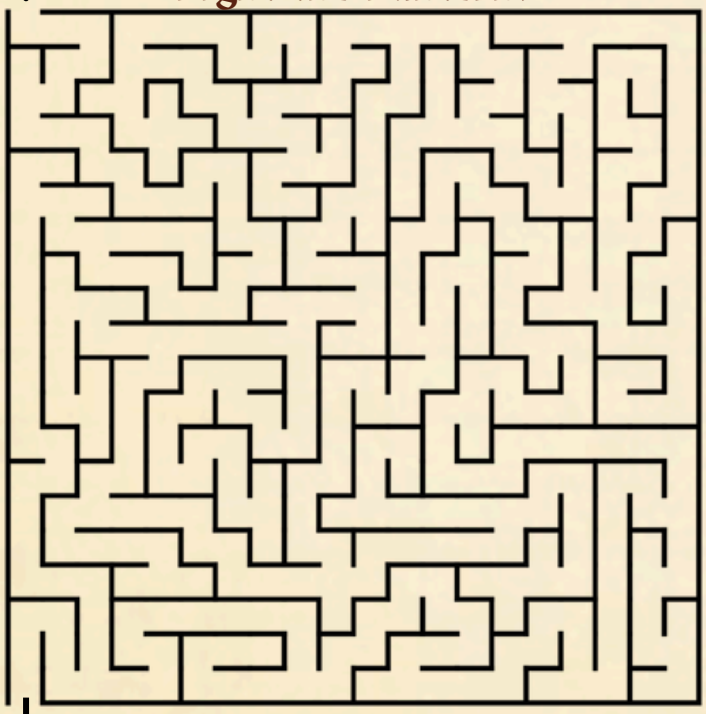
Thank You for being willing to send Jesus to Earth to save us. Thank you that you made Him willing to leave heaven, to humble Himself, and come to Earth. Thank You that He sacrificed being equal with You in order to humble Himself even unto death for the good of all the people of the world. Help me never forget the seriousness and importance of that sacrifice.

Amen.

Enjoy It!



Light the Lantern!

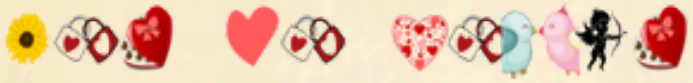






Solve the Riddle!

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p
q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x
y	z						



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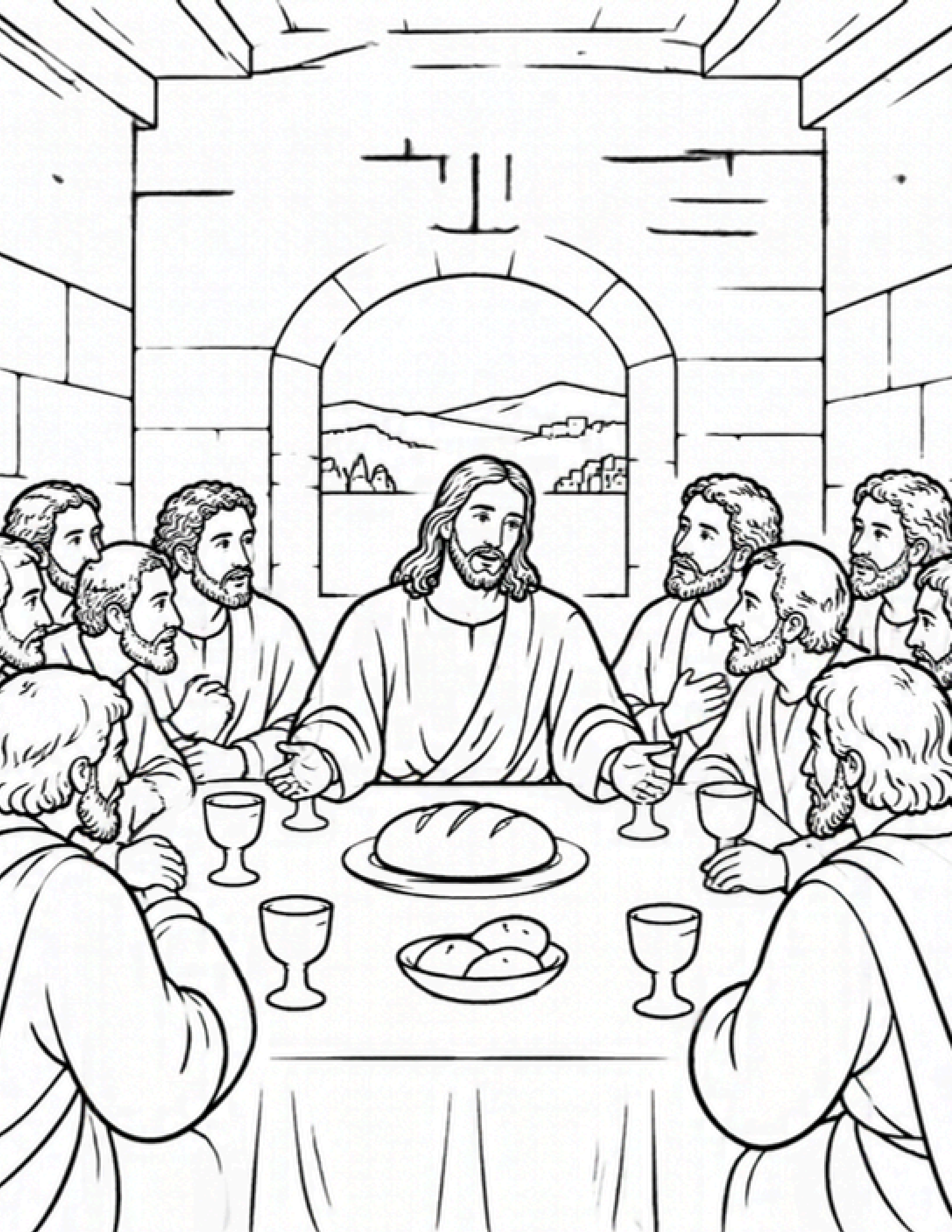

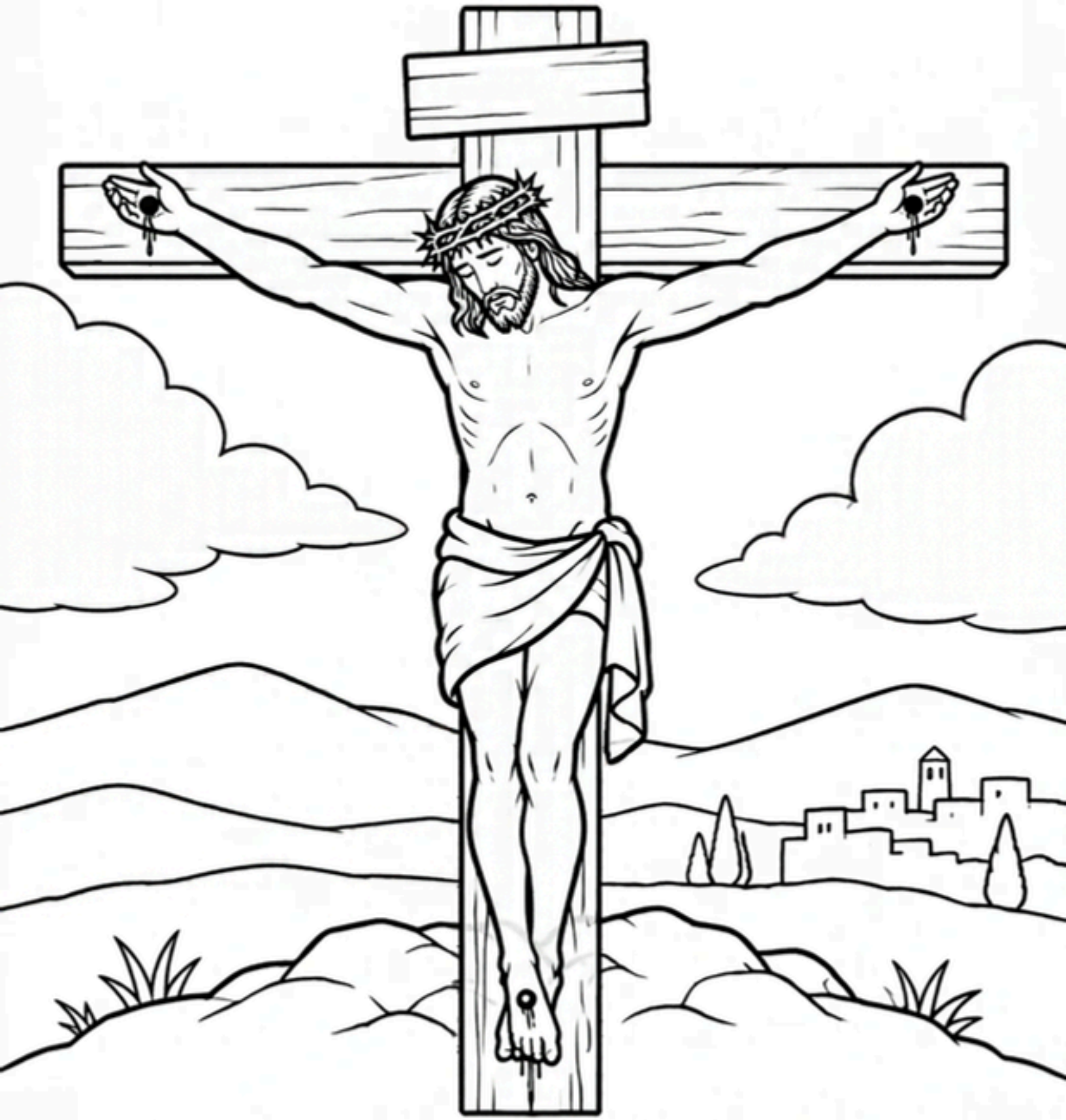

If you are unable to attend one of our Christmas Eve services, scan the QR code below on December 24th to read the final letter!

https://tinyurl.com/2zc2zzh8

Merry Christmas!