Advent Countdown

25 DAYS OF SCRIPTURE & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Count down to Christmas by following the story of Jesus' birth, one verse and one family activity at a time.

How It Works

1. **Print the cards**
   Print pages 4–17 on cardstock, double-sided (flip on long edge), so each day's activity lands on the back of its verse card. Cut along the dashed lines.

2. **Print the activity pages**
   Print pages 18–34 on cardstock, single-sided. Cut them apart as needed and match each one to its day.

3. **Fill the bags**
   Number 25 brown paper bags from 1 to 25. Place each card in its bag, along with that day's printable, any supplies, and an optional treat (see page 3), then fold the top down and close it with a clothespin, sticker, or staple.

4. **Gather supplies**
   Use the supply list on page 2 to collect everything ahead of time, and pick up any treats you'd like to add from page 3.

5. **Open one bag a day**
   Starting December 1st, open one bag each day through December 25th. Read the verse together, then do the activity on the back.

Tip: A few days need a little planning ahead: Day 15 (bake cookies), Day 16 (tea lights for luminaries), and Day 23 (find a live nativity or lights display).

Merry Christmas!

Supply List

NUMBERS SHOW WHICH DAYS USE EACH ITEM · TAP A LINK TO SHOP

GETTING SET UP

- [ ] 25 brown paper lunch bags Shop ›
- [ ] Clothespins, stickers, or a stapler to close the bags
- [ ] Number stickers or a marker for the bags
- [ ] Cardstock and a printer Shop cardstock ›

CRAFT BASICS

- [ ] Scissors and tape (used throughout)
- [ ] Glue sticks and white glue (10, 19, 20, 24)
- [ ] Markers and crayons (3, 5, 8, 14, 16)
- [ ] Ribbon or string (3, 8)
- [ ] Hole punch (8)
- [ ] Glitter, glitter glue, and stickers (3, 5, 8)

FOOD

- [ ] Hot cocoa (12) Shop ›
- [ ] Cookie ingredients and plates (15) Shop cookie mix ›
- [ ] Birthday cake and candles (25) Cake mix › · Frosting › · Candles ›

GIVING & MAILING

- [ ] Note cards (15)
- [ ] Christmas cards, envelopes, stamps, pens (21) Shop cards ›

CRAFT EXTRAS

- [ ] Paper plates (9, 10) or coffee filters (9) Shop ›
- [ ] Pipe cleaners (9) Shop ›
- [ ] Green construction paper and red pom-poms (10) Shop paper ›
- [ ] Index cards (11) Shop ›
- [ ] Craft sticks (19, 24) Shop ›
- [ ] Shredded paper for hay (19)
- [ ] Cotton balls, googly eyes, black paper (20) Shop eyes ›
- [ ] Large paper and white paint (22) Shop paint ›
- [ ] Gold paint or glitter (24) Shop paint ›
- [ ] Paper bags or jars, battery tea lights, sand or rice (16) Shop tea lights ›
- [ ] Small boxes, optional (6)

AROUND THE HOUSE

- [ ] Candle or flashlight (2)
- [ ] Warm coats (4, 13, 20, 23)
- [ ] Nativity set (18)
- [ ] Bible or Christmas storybook (12)
- [ ] Song sheets or a carol playlist (13)
- [ ] Tape measure and camera (17)

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Optional Treats

LITTLE SURPRISES TO TUCK IN THE BAGS

How to use: Totally optional! On the days below, slip a small treat into the bag with the card. Each one ties to that day's verse or activity. A treat every few days keeps it special. Tap a link to shop at Walmart or Amazon, then check it off.

- [ ] **2 — Light in Darkness**
  A glow stick or small flashlight for the lights walk
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **3 — Immanuel Banner**
  A sheet of Christmas stickers to decorate the letters
  Shop on Amazon ›

- [ ] **4 — Stump Hunt Walk**
  Hand warmers, or a small trail-mix pouch for the walk
  Shop on Amazon ›

- [ ] **5 — Crowns for the King**
  Ring pops ("royal jewels"), or a sheet of gem stickers for the crowns
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **6 — House of Bread**
  A mini muffin, or a little bag of animal crackers or pretzels
  Mini muffins › · Animal crackers ›

- [ ] **8 — Wonderful Names**
  A small ornament hook or ribbon for each child's ornament
  Shop on Amazon ›

- [ ] **9 — Angel Visits Mary**
  Angel-shaped cookies or a pack of white sparkly pencils
  Shop on Amazon ›

- [ ] **11 — Nothing Is Impossible**
  A small puzzle, a Rubik's-style brain teaser, or a magic trick
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **12 — Joseph's Dream Night**
  A hot cocoa packet with mini marshmallows, or new fuzzy socks
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **13 — Mary's Song**
  Jingle bells for caroling
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **16 — Luminaries**
  Tea lights or star candy
  Shop on Amazon ›

- [ ] **18 — Journey to Bethlehem**
  Fruit snacks for the "trip"
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **20 — Shepherds' Night Out**
  Marshmallows (fluffy like sheep), or glow-in-the-dark stars for the ceiling
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **21 — Share the Good News**
  Fun pens or stamps for writing Christmas cards
  Shop on Amazon ›

- [ ] **22 — Angels Singing**
  Toy flutes to "make a joyful noise"
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **23 — Shepherds Hurry**
  Candy canes, shaped like a staff
  Shop on Amazon ›

- [ ] **24 — Wise Men's Gifts**
  Gold-wrapped chocolate coins
  Shop at Walmart ›

- [ ] **25 — Jesus' Birthday**
  Birthday candles or a party horn
  Party blowouts › · Candles ›

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1

December 1

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

GENESIS 3:15 ESV

2

December 2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

ISAIAH 9:2 ESV

3

December 3

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14 ESV

4

December 4

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

ISAIAH 11:1 ESV

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DAY 2 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Light in the Darkness

After dark, turn off every light and sit together in total darkness. Light one candle and notice how it fills the room. Then go for a drive or walk to see Christmas lights.

YOU'LL NEED

A candle or flashlight

DAY 1 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Promise Paper Chain

God made His first promise of a Savior in the garden. Make a 25-link paper chain and write a promise of God on each link. Tear off one link every day until Christmas.

YOU'LL NEED

Construction paper strips, tape, markers

DAY 4 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Stump Hunt Walk

Take a family walk and look for a tree stump. Is anything green growing from it? Talk about how God brought new life from an old stump, then bring home an evergreen sprig or pinecone for your table.

YOU'LL NEED

Just warm coats!

DAY 3 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

"Immanuel" Banner

Immanuel means "God with us." Give each person a few letters of IMMANUEL to decorate, then string them together and hang your banner where everyone will see it.

YOU'LL NEED

Cardstock, string, markers, glitter or stickers

5

December 5

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

JEREMIAH 23:5 ESV

6

December 6

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

MICAH 5:2 ESV

7

December 7

A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

ISAIAH 40:3 ESV

8

December 8

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6 ESV

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DAY 6 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Little Town of Bethlehem

Find Bethlehem on a map or globe and see how small it is. Build a tiny Bethlehem from boxes and paper to sit beside your nativity, then sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

YOU'LL NEED

Small boxes, paper, tape, markers, map or globe

DAY 5 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Crowns for the King

Jesus is the King who rules wisely and justly. Make paper crowns, then let each "royal" do one secret act of kindness for someone else before bedtime.

YOU'LL NEED

Cardstock or paper, scissors, tape, stickers

DAY 8 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

His Wonderful Names

Make four paper ornaments, one for each name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Talk about what each name tells us about Jesus.

YOU'LL NEED

Cardstock, ribbon, markers, glitter glue

DAY 7 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Prepare the Way

John prepared the way for Jesus. Tidy one room together and make it ready for Christmas, just as John helped people get their hearts ready for Jesus.

YOU'LL NEED

Just helping hands!

9

December 9

And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”

LUKE 1:30–31 ESV

10

December 10

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

LUKE 1:32–33 ESV

11

December 11

“For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

LUKE 1:37–38 ESV

12

December 12

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

LUKE 1:46–47 ESV

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DAY 10 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

A Wreath with No End

Jesus' kingdom will have no end, just like a circle. Trace and cut out everyone's handprints in green paper and glue them around a paper plate ring for a family wreath.

YOU'LL NEED

Paper plate, green paper, scissors, glue, red pom-poms

DAY 9 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Paper Plate Angels

The angel Gabriel told Mary, "Do not be afraid." Fold paper plates or coffee filters into angels, and write "Do not be afraid" on the wings.

YOU'LL NEED

Paper plates or coffee filters, pipe cleaners, markers

DAY 12 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Joseph's Dream Night

Joseph obeyed God's message in a dream. Put on pajamas, make hot cocoa, and read the Christmas story from Matthew 1 by the tree.

YOU'LL NEED

Pajamas, cocoa, a Bible or storybook

DAY 11 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

The Impossible Challenge

Hand everyone an index card and ask: can you step through it? (Fold it in half and cut alternating slits to make a giant loop.) Nothing is impossible with God!

YOU'LL NEED

Index cards, scissors

13

December 13

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

MATTHEW 1:20 ESV

14

December 14

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

MATTHEW 1:21 ESV

15

December 15

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

LUKE 1:68 ESV

16

December 16

Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

LUKE 1:78–79 ESV

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DAY 14 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

What's in a Name?

Jesus means "the Lord saves." Look up the meaning of each family member's name and make a decorated name card for everyone's spot at dinner.

YOU'LL NEED

Cardstock, markers, a phone or baby-name book

DAY 13 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Mary's Song

Mary sang when she heard the good news. Have a family carol night, or go caroling to a few neighbors. Let each person choose one song.

YOU'LL NEED

Song sheets or a playlist, warm coats

DAY 16 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Light the Way Luminaries

Jesus came to give light in the darkness and guide our feet into the way of peace. Decorate paper bags or jars, add a tea light, and line your walkway or porch to light the way tonight.

YOU'LL NEED

Paper lunch bags or jars, battery tea lights, markers, sand or rice

DAY 15 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Visit & Bless

God visited His people. Bake cookies together and deliver them to a neighbor, a friend, or a nursing home with a handmade note.

YOU'LL NEED

Cookie ingredients, plates, cards

17

December 17

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

LUKE 2:1 ESV

18

December 18

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

LUKE 2:4–5 ESV

19

December 19

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

LUKE 2:6–7 ESV

20

December 20

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

LUKE 2:8–9 ESV

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DAY 18 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Journey to Bethlehem

Hide Mary and Joseph from your nativity somewhere in the house. Leave clues for the kids to follow, then bring them to the stable. (Bethlehem was about 90 miles!)

YOU'LL NEED

Nativity figures, paper clues

DAY 17 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Family Census

Caesar counted everyone in the world. Take your own family census: draw a family tree, measure everyone's height, and snap a family photo.

YOU'LL NEED

Paper, pencils, tape measure, camera

DAY 20 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Shepherds' Night Out

Make cotton-ball sheep, then bundle up and go outside after dark. Look at the stars and imagine the shepherds watching over their flocks by night.

YOU'LL NEED

Cotton balls, black paper, glue, googly eyes

DAY 19 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

No Room in the Inn

There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn. Build a mini manger from craft sticks and shredded paper "hay," then keep it empty and waiting for Christmas morning, when we celebrate Jesus' birth!

YOU'LL NEED

Craft sticks, glue, shredded paper, the Day 19 printable

21

December 21

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

LUKE 2:10–11 ESV

22

December 22

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

LUKE 2:13–14 ESV

23

December 23

The shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

LUKE 2:15–16 ESV

24

December 24

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

MATTHEW 2:10–11 ESV

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DAY 22 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Angels We Have Heard on High

Make a choir of handprint angels on one big sheet of paper. Then sing "Angels We Have Heard on High" as loudly as you can. Gloria!

YOU'LL NEED

Large paper, white paint or paper, markers

DAY 21 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Share the Good News

The angel brought good news of great joy for all people! Write and mail Christmas cards to family, friends, a teacher, or someone serving far from home.

YOU'LL NEED

Cards, envelopes, stamps, pens

DAY 24 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Follow the Star

Make star ornaments from craft sticks or paper. On Christmas Eve, each person gives one small, handmade gift, just as the wise men brought gifts to Jesus.

YOU'LL NEED

Craft sticks, glue, gold paint or glitter

DAY 23 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Go and See!

The shepherds hurried to see Jesus. Visit a live nativity or Christmas lights display, or have a family race to the manger in your living room.

YOU'LL NEED

Warm coats, a local nativity or light show



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DAY 25 · TODAY'S ACTIVITY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

The Word became flesh! Celebrate with a birthday cake for Jesus. Have everyone share one thing they're thankful for.

YOU'LL NEED

Cake and candles

Promise Paper Chain

ADVENT DAY 1 · PRINTABLE

1	*I am with you always, to the end of the age.* MATTHEW 28:20	GLUE
2	*I will never leave you nor forsake you.* HEBREWS 13:5	GLUE
3	*Fear not, for I am with you.* ISAIAH 41:10	GLUE
4	*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* PSALM 23:1	GLUE
5	*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* PSALM 46:1	GLUE
6	*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* MATTHEW 11:28	GLUE
7	*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find.* MATTHEW 7:7	GLUE
8	*I have loved you with an everlasting love.* JEREMIAH 31:3	GLUE
9	*The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.* EXODUS 14:14	GLUE
10	*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son.* JOHN 3:16	GLUE
11	*My God will supply every need of yours.* PHILIPPIANS 4:19	GLUE
12	*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.* JOHN 14:27	GLUE

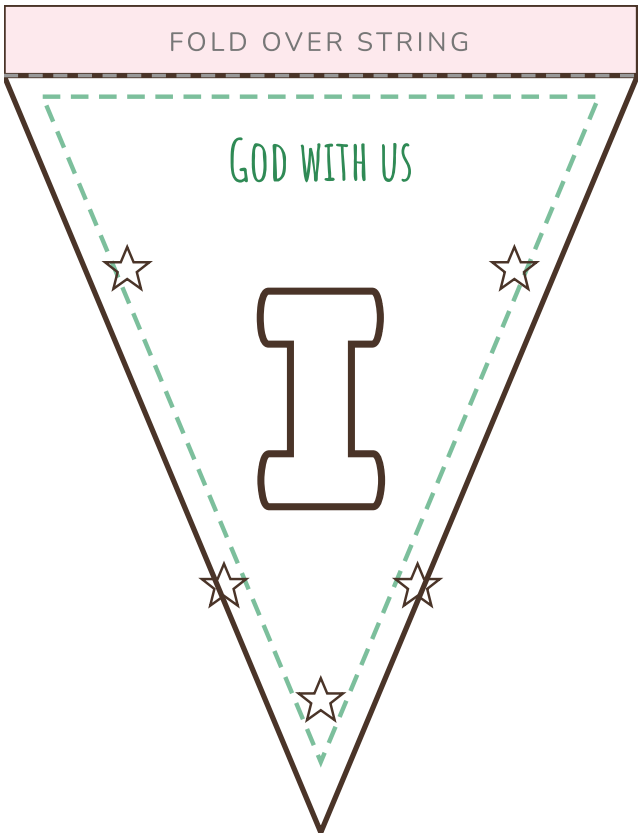
13	*They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength.* ISAIAH 40:31	GLUE
14	*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted.* PSALM 34:18	GLUE
15	*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.* 1 JOHN 1:9	GLUE
16	*I am the light of the world.* JOHN 8:12	GLUE
17	*His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.* LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23	GLUE
18	*Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.* 1 PETER 5:7	GLUE
19	*Nothing will be impossible with God.* LUKE 1:37	GLUE
20	*The LORD bless you and keep you.* NUMBERS 6:24	GLUE
21	*I go to prepare a place for you.* JOHN 14:2	GLUE
22	*Behold, I am making all things new.* REVELATION 21:5	GLUE
23	*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* PSALM 119:105	GLUE
24	*Be strong and courageous… for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.* JOSHUA 1:9	GLUE
25	*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.* ISAIAH 9:6	GLUE

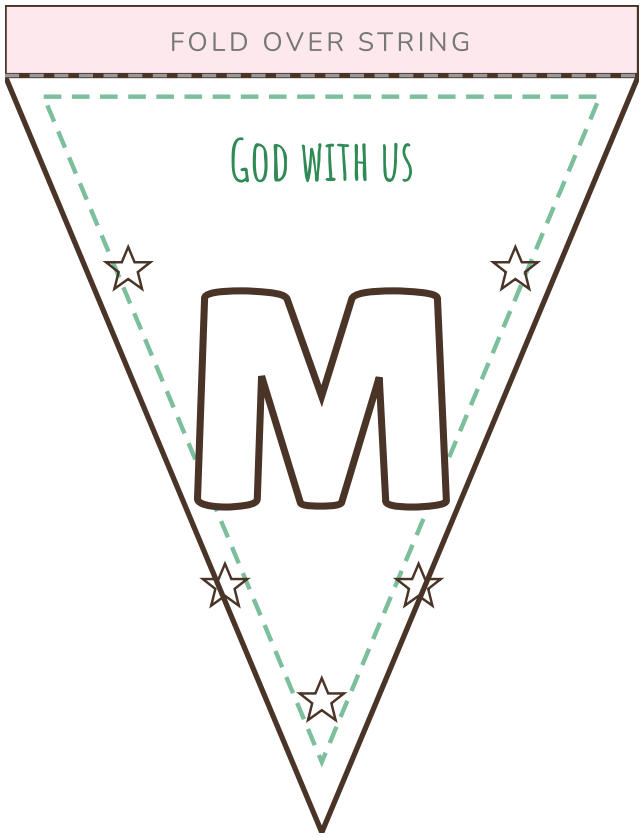
How to use: Cut out the 25 strips. Loop strip 25 into a ring and glue the end, then thread each strip through the last ring in order, ending with strip 1. Hang your chain and each day tear off the lowest link and read God's promise together.

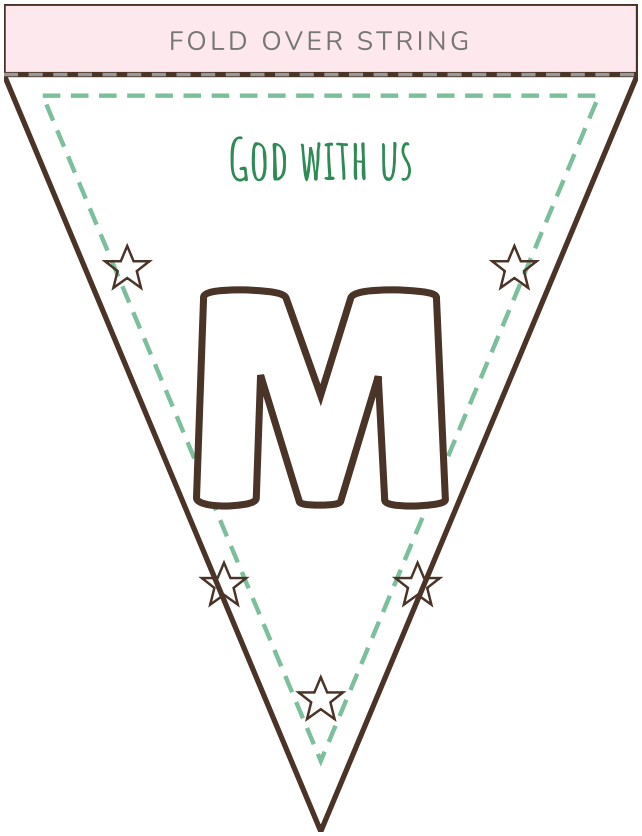
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"Immanuel" Banner

ADVENT DAY 3 · PRINTABLE









FOLD OVER STRING

GOD WITH US

N

FOLD OVER STRING

GOD WITH US

U

FOLD OVER STRING

GOD WITH US

E

FOLD OVER STRING

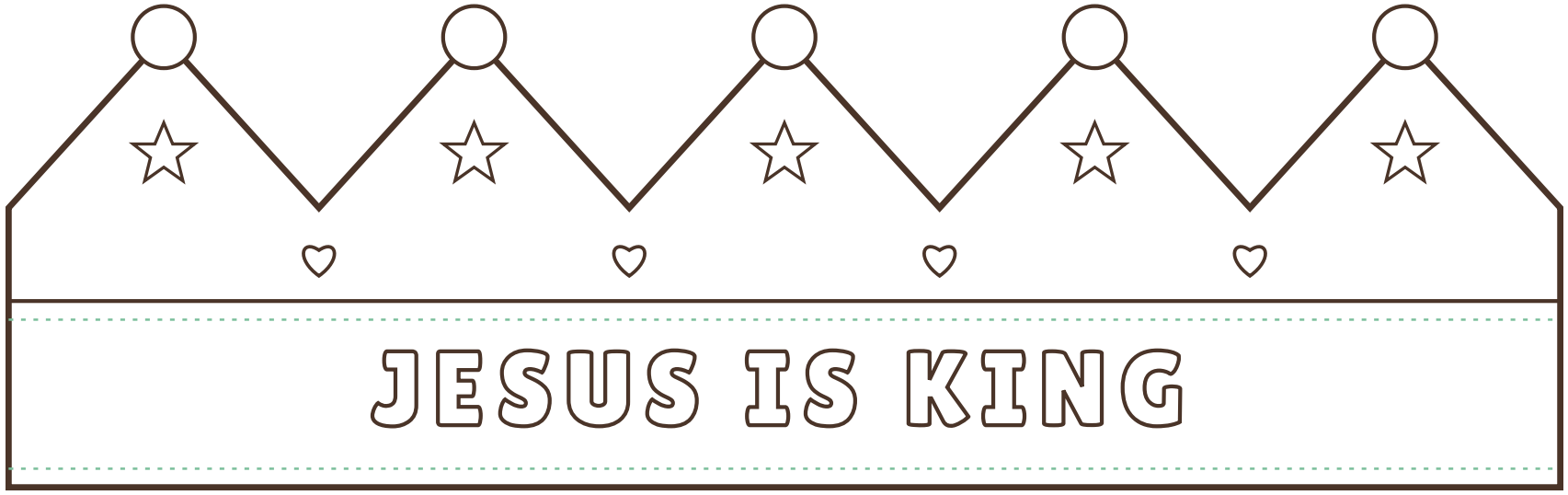
GOD WITH US

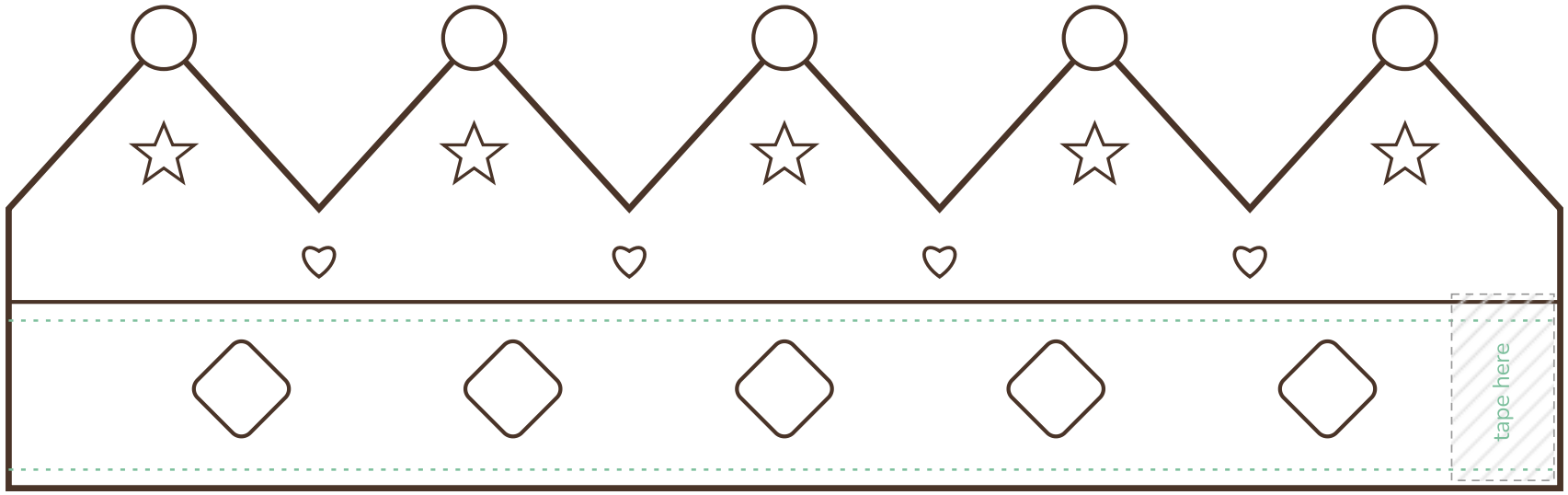
L

How to use: Color and decorate each letter with markers, glitter, or stickers. Cut out the pennants, fold the top flap over a long string, and tape it down. Immanuel means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

Crowns for the King

ADVENT DAY 5 · PRINTABLE · COLOR ME · PRINT IN LANDSCAPE





How to make: Color your crown with markers or crayons, then add stickers and glitter. Cut out both pieces. Tape the left end of the “Jesus is King” piece onto the “tape here” tab, then fit the crown around your head and tape the other end.

Royal Secret Kindness Cards

ADVENT DAY 5 · PRINTABLE

Make someone's bed *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Write a kind note and hide it *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Share a toy or a treat *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*
Help set the table *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Give someone a big hug *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Do a chore without being asked *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*
Say three nice things about someone *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Pick up a mess that isn't yours *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Let someone else go first *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*
Draw a picture for someone *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Bring someone a glass of water *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*	Pray for someone by name *A secret kindness from Your Royal Highness*

How to use: Cut apart the cards and put them in a bowl. Each royal draws one card and does that kindness in secret before bedtime. Jesus is the King who "deals wisely" and does what is right, and we can follow Him!

The Little Town of Bethlehem

ADVENT DAY 6 · MAP



Find it! Put your finger on the gold star. That's Bethlehem!

How big? Micah called Bethlehem "too little to be among the clans of Judah," yet God chose it for the birth of the King.

Look closer: Bethlehem is only about 6 miles from Jerusalem. Can you find the big city nearby?

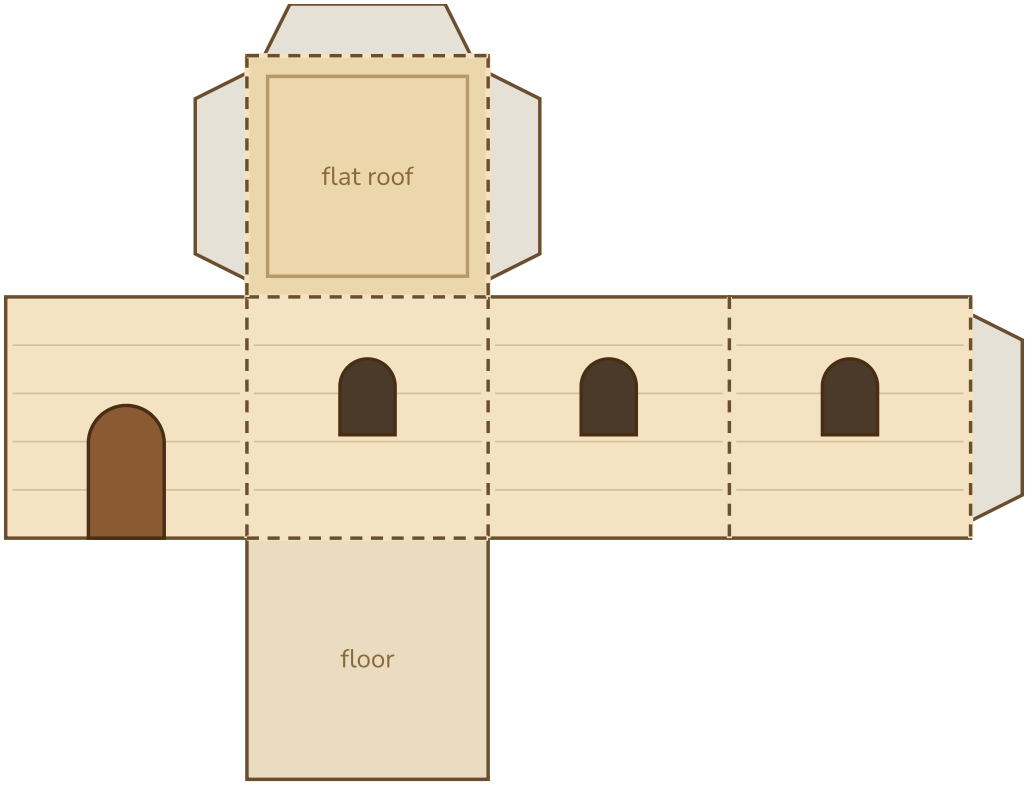
Name means: Bethlehem means "house of bread." Jesus later said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35).

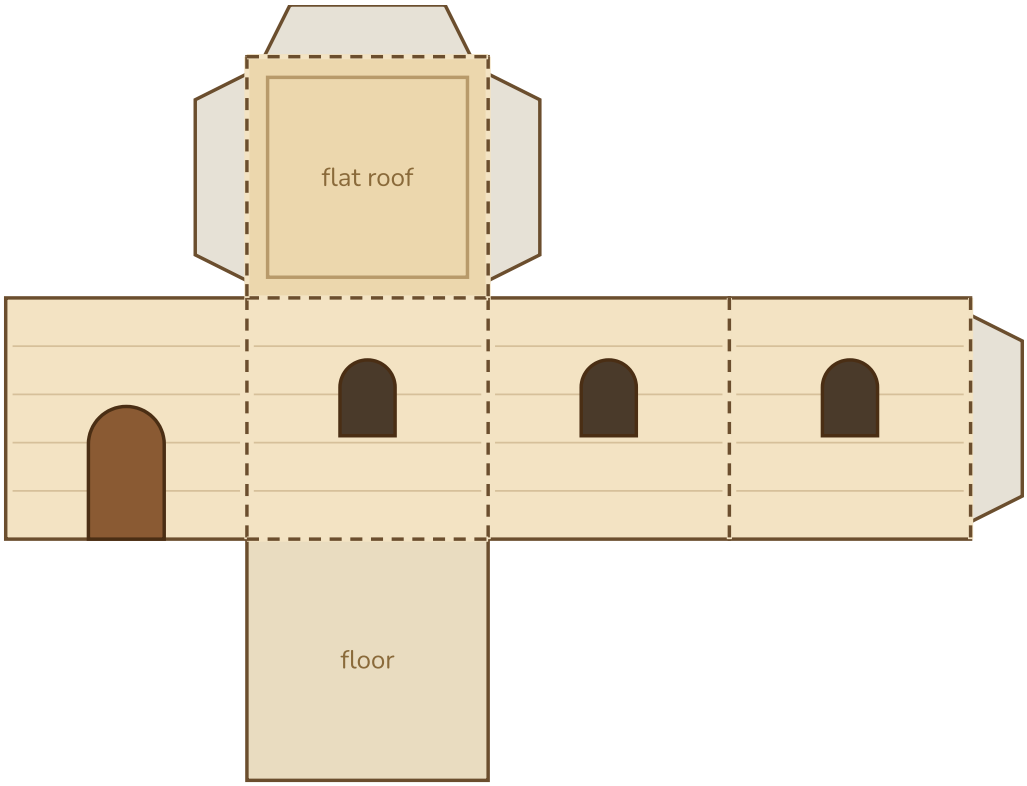
King David grew up in Bethlehem as a shepherd boy, which is why it's called "the city of David."

Find more: Can you spot Nazareth, where Mary and Joseph lived? Which sea is closest to Bethlehem?

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Build Your Little Town





How to use: Color the houses, then cut along the solid lines. Fold on every dashed line, glue the gray tabs inside, and fold the roof down last. Houses in Bethlehem had flat roofs where families often sat in the evening. Print extra pages to build a whole town beside your nativity!

His Wonderful Names

ADVENT DAY 8 · ORNAMENT CRAFT

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given… and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)



Wonderful Counselor Jesus is wise. He guides us and always gives good advice.
Talk about it: When do you need help knowing what to do?



Mighty God Jesus is God, strong enough to do anything. Nothing is too hard for Him.
Talk about it: What feels too big for you right now?



Everlasting Father Jesus loves and cares for us like a perfect father, forever and ever.
Talk about it: How does a good father take care of his family?



Prince of Peace Jesus brings peace between us and God, and calm to worried hearts.
Talk about it: Where could you bring peace this week?

How to use: Print on cardstock. Cut out each ornament along the outline, punch the white circle on the cap, and loop a ribbon through to hang on your Christmas tree.

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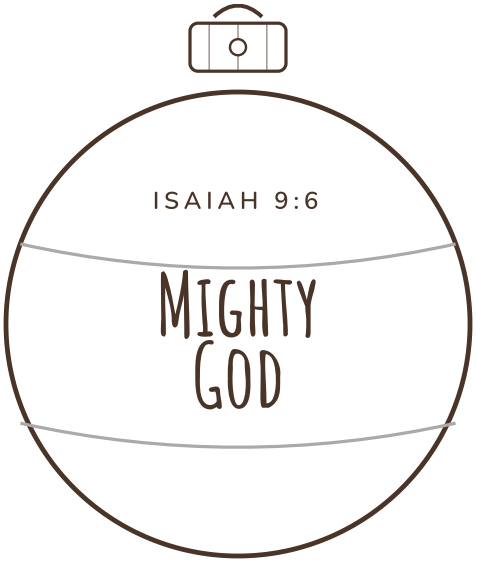
His Wonderful Names · Color Your Own

ADVENT DAY 8 · ORNAMENT CRAFT

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given… and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)



Wonderful Counselor Jesus is wise. He guides us and always gives good advice.
Talk about it: When do you need help knowing what to do?



Mighty God Jesus is God, strong enough to do anything. Nothing is too hard for Him.
Talk about it: What feels too big for you right now?



Everlasting Father Jesus loves and cares for us like a perfect father, forever and ever.
Talk about it: How does a good father take care of his family?



Prince of Peace Jesus brings peace between us and God, and calm to worried hearts.
Talk about it: Where could you bring peace this week?

How to use: Print on cardstock, then color and add glitter or stickers. Cut out each ornament along the outline, punch the white circle on the cap, and loop a ribbon through to hang on your Christmas tree.

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Our Family Census

ADVENT DAY 17 · PRINTABLE

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered."
(Luke 2:1)
This Christmas, it's time to count our family!

Official Census of the _____ Family · Year 2026

Name	Age	Height	Birthday	Favorite Christmas Tradition

Family Photo

TAPE OR GLUE HERE

Total people counted: _____

Census taken on: _____

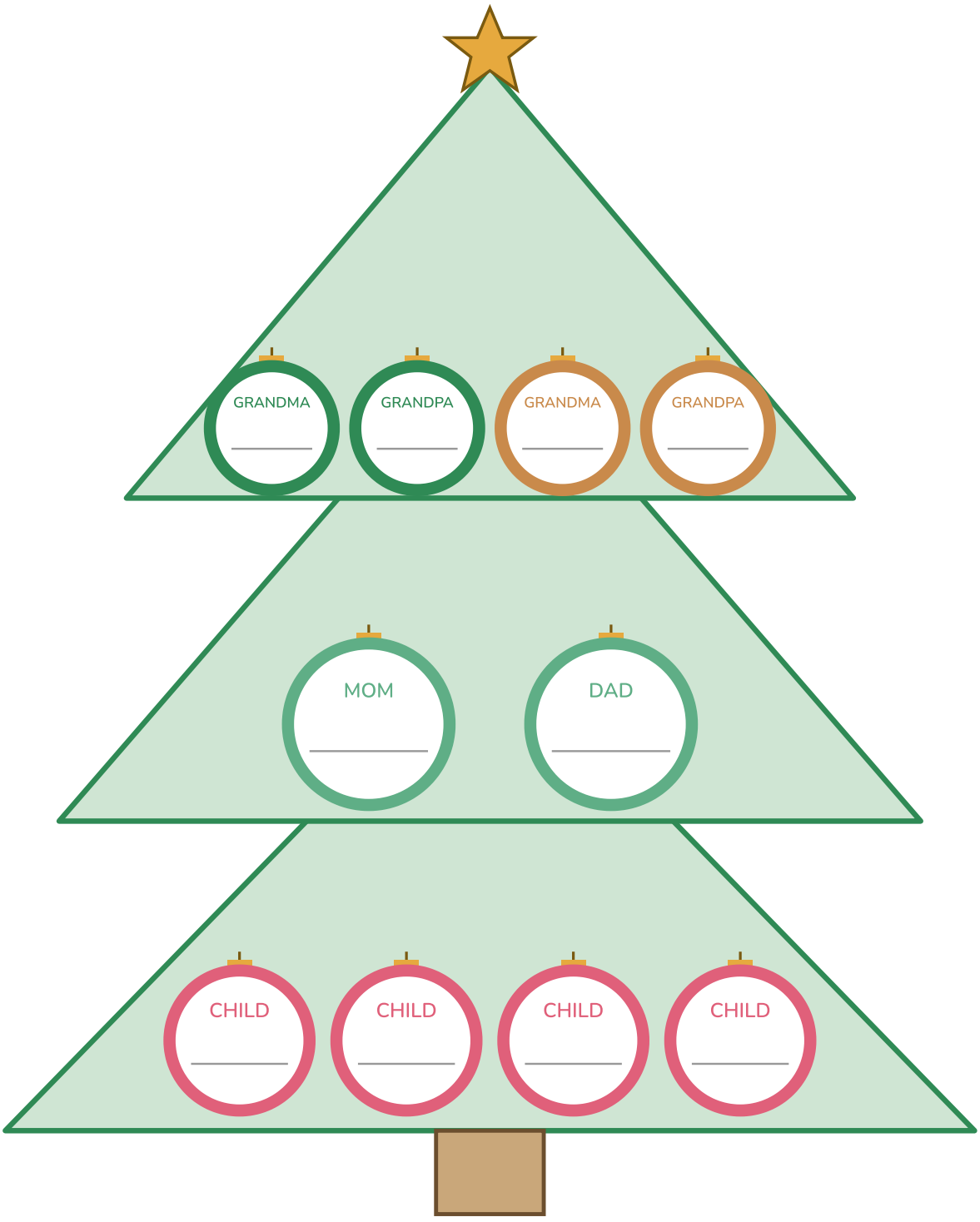
Census taker: _____

OFFICIAL SEAL

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Our Family Tree

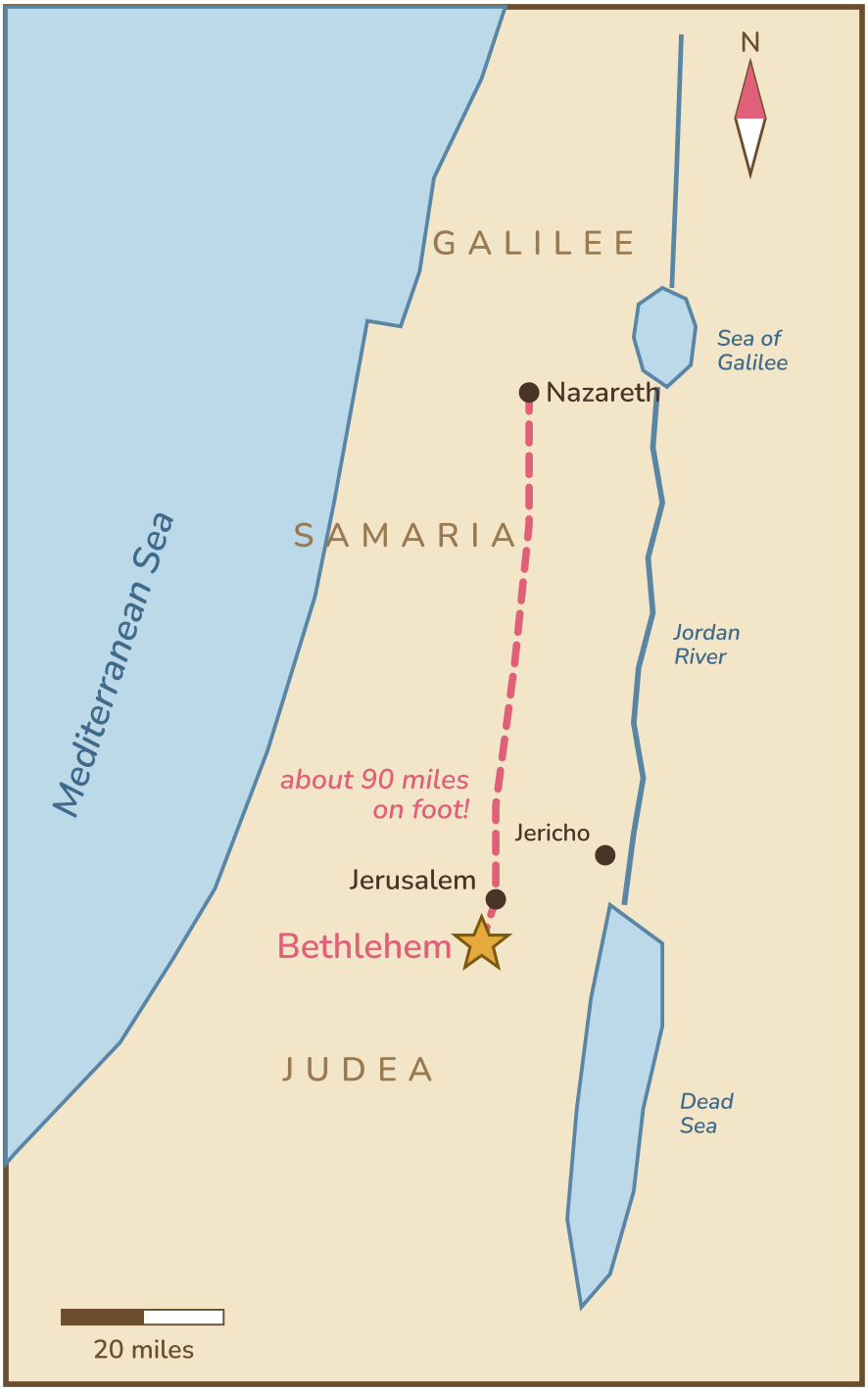
ADVENT DAY 17 · PRINTABLE



How to use: Write a name in each ornament, grandparents at the top, then Mom and Dad, then the kids. Add more ornaments for extra children or cousins. Then color the tree! Joseph's family tree went all the way back to King David, so he went to David's town, Bethlehem.

Journey to Bethlehem

ADVENT DAY 18 · MAP



The trip: Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, about 90 miles, to be registered (Luke 2:4–5).

How long? Walking about 15–20 miles a day, the trip probably took close to a week.

Try it: How long would it take your family to walk 90 miles? (Hint: most people walk about 3 miles an hour.)

Trace it: Follow the red path with your finger from Nazareth all the way to the gold star.

Talk about it: What would you pack for a week-long walk? What would be the hardest part?

Bethlehem Treasure Hunt

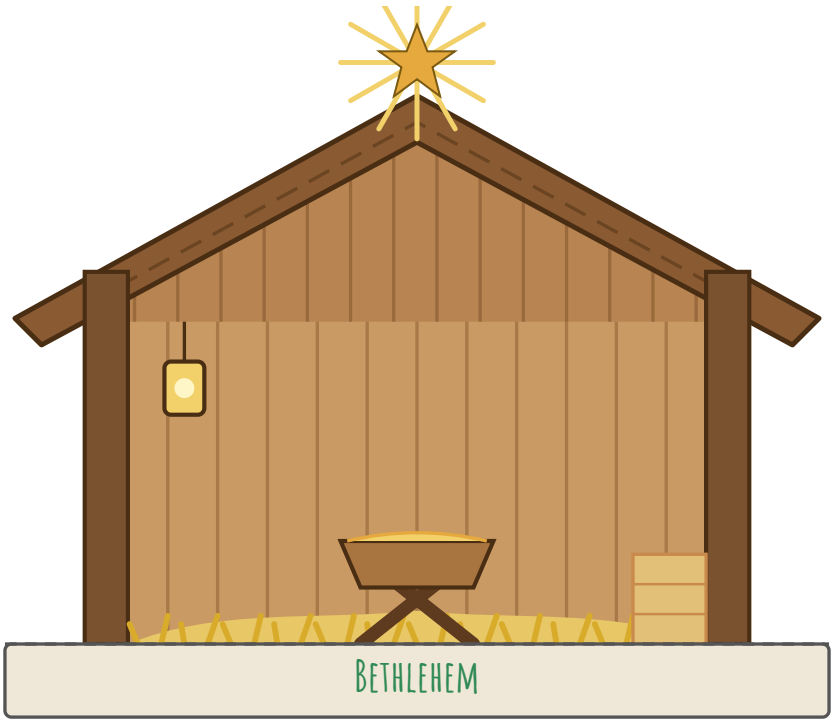
ADVENT DAY 18 · CUTOUTS



Mary



Joseph



Bethlehem

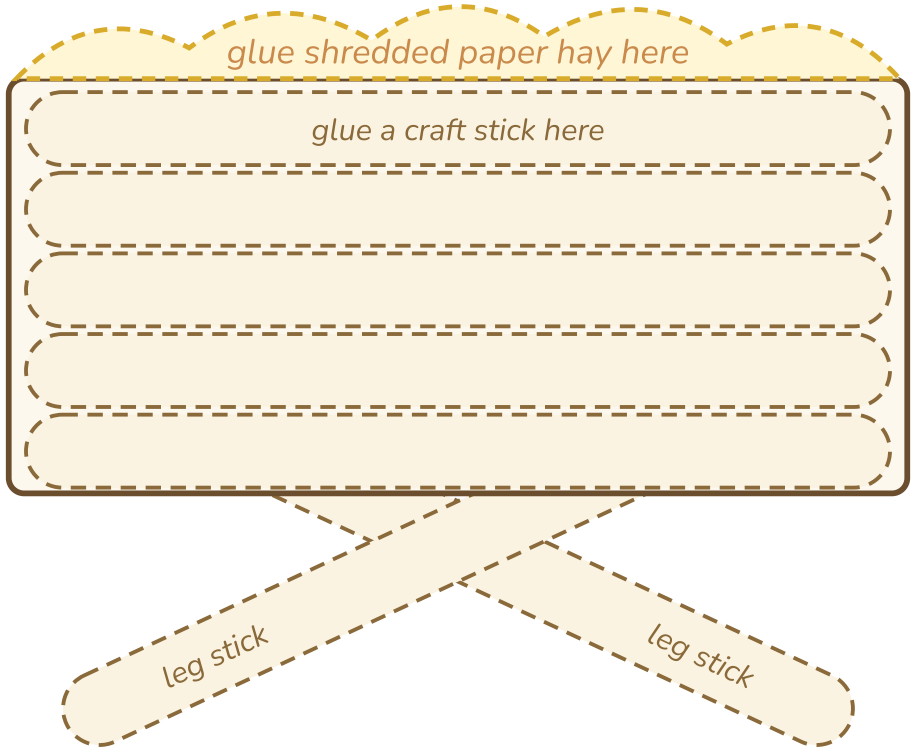
Tip: Keep the manger in the stable empty until Christmas morning, then add baby Jesus from your nativity!

How to use: Print on cardstock, color if you like, and cut out Mary, Joseph, and the stable. Fold each bottom tab back so they stand up. Set the stable somewhere special: that's Bethlehem! Then hide Mary and Joseph around the house and send the kids on a journey to find them and bring them safely to the stable.

No Room in the Inn

ADVENT DAY 19 · PRINTABLE · PRINT IN LANDSCAPE

BUILD YOUR CRAFT-STICK MANGER



CUT OUT



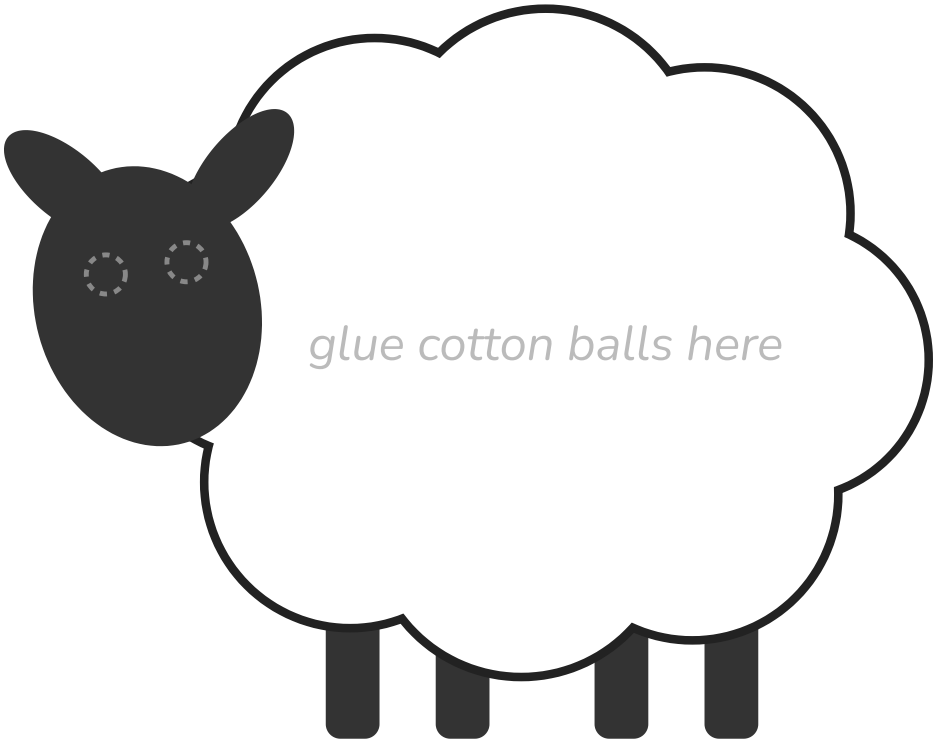
Sized to fit: Each dashed stick is drawn at the actual size of a standard craft stick (4½ × ⅜ inch). You'll need 7 sticks.

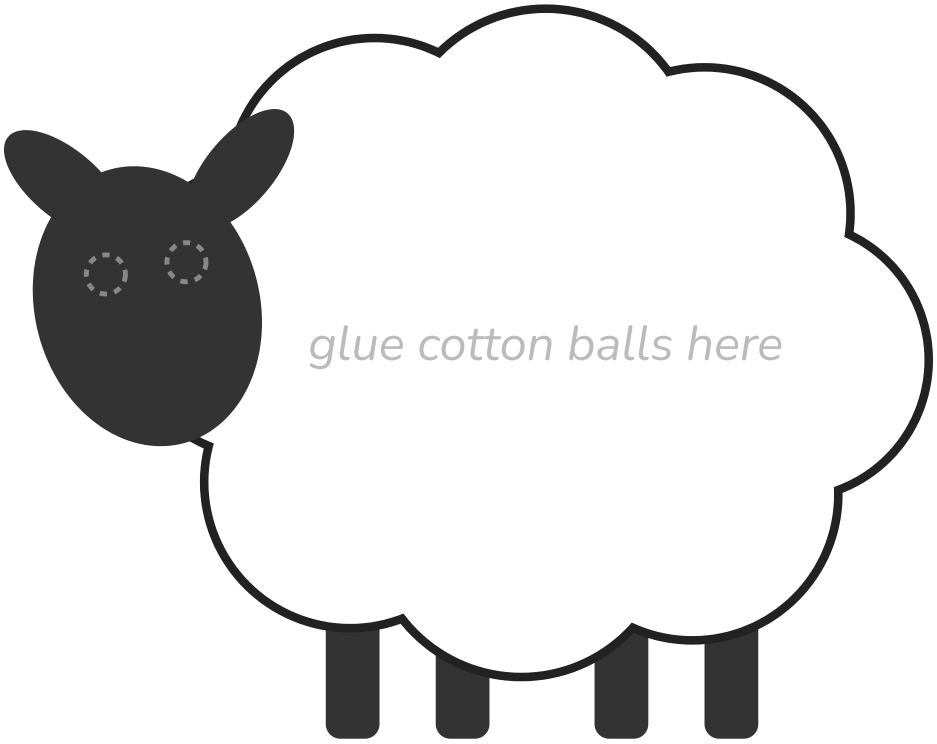
How to use: Glue the two leg sticks in an X first, then glue five craft sticks across the manger, one on each dashed stick. Fill the top with shredded-paper hay and set the star and inn sign beside it. Keep the manger empty until Christmas morning! Mary "laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

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Shepherds' Night Out

ADVENT DAY 20 · SHEEP CRAFT





How to use: Cut out each sheep. Glue cotton balls all over the fluffy body, and stick googly eyes on the dotted circles. Glue your sheep onto black paper and add a star or two in the night sky.

Night Sky Watch

ADVENT DAY 20 · CHECKLIST

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." (Luke 2:8)

- [ ] **The moon**
  What shape is it tonight?
- [ ] **Orion's Belt**
  Three bright stars in a straight row, rising in the east
- [ ] **A blinking airplane**
  Stars twinkle, but planes blink!
- [ ] **Listen**
  What night sounds do you hear? Owls? Wind?
- [ ] **The brightest star you can see**
  Make a wish... no, say a prayer!
- [ ] **Cassiopeia**
  A big "W" of stars high in the north
- [ ] **Count 10 stars**
  Can you count to 100?
- [ ] **Imagine**
  What did the shepherds see when the sky filled with angels?

Draw what you saw in the night sky!

Talk about it: God told the good news to shepherds first, ordinary people doing ordinary work. What does that tell us about who Jesus came for?

How to use: Bundle up and head outside after dark. Let your eyes adjust for a few minutes, then check off everything you find!

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