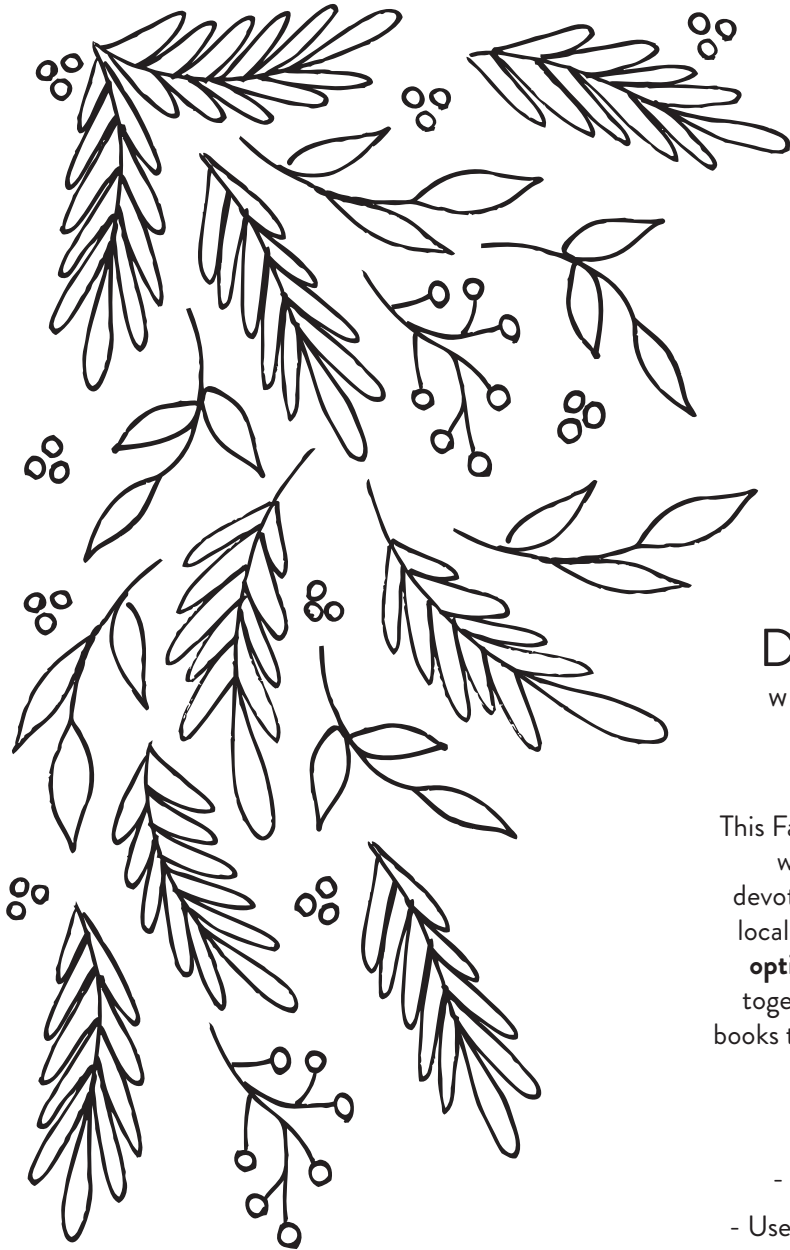




a  
family  
**ADVENT**  
devotional

by  
Dena Douglas Hobbs

Illustrated by Jennifer Tucker



# a family ADVENT devotional

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## HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL:

This Family Advent Devotional is designed to give your family a simple, fun, and intentional way to point your hearts to Christ every day of this Christmas season. To use this devotional, all you have to do is print each page on your home printer (or at your favorite local print shop) and enjoy! **(For best results: select “Fit to Printable Area” page scaling option in your printer dialog box)** Each day includes an illustration that you can color together as a family—or print a copy for each child and let them color their own Advent books throughout the month. The pages have also been designed with a 1” margin on the left side to use for binding the pages of your book together, if you choose to do so.

### Some ideas for binding:

- Simply staple the pages together down the left side for a quick and easy binding.
- Use a glue stick to bind the pages together. *(Put glue on the area to the left of the margin line on each page and stack the pages together)*
- Add a colorful binding to the left side of the book once you’ve attached the pages together, by cutting out a colorful 8.5” x 2.25” piece of scrapbook paper or fabric. Line up the paper or fabric along the left margin line on the front cover and glue it to the binding area on the front of your book, then fold it around the book and glue it to the back. *(You can also find lots of fun DIY book binding ideas on Pinterest!)*
- Quick tip: print the front cover on cardstock paper, then add a blank piece of cardstock as the back cover, to give your book a bit more stability.

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## DECEMBER 1

*John 1:1-4*

It starts with the Word.

The Word was with God.

When Word brought the planets and stars into life.

The Word made all things.

Brought order and life.

In the beginning the Word called it

# GOOD.

### DAILY ACTIVITY: STARGAZE

What must it have been like when God made the stars? What part of creation do you think God enjoyed making most?

## DECEMBER 2

*Genesis 2:4b-9; 18-23*

Then God made a boy  
from dust and from mud,  
then breathed in his nose to bring him to life.

Then Word spoke a girl  
to be-friend the boy.

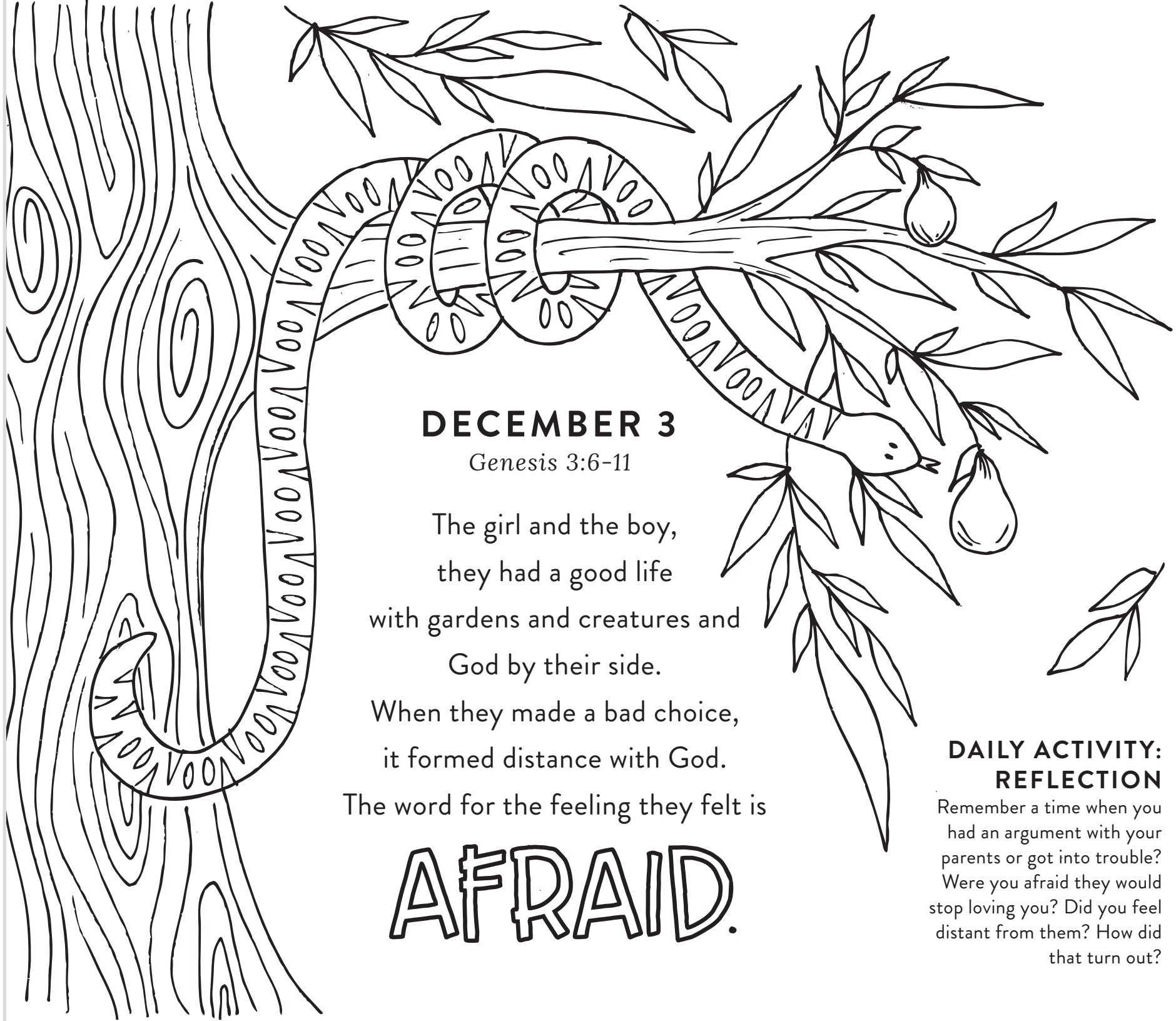
The word spoken over God's children  
was

MINE.

### DAILY ACTIVITY: PLAY WITH CLAY OR MUD

Find some clay, play-doh or even good old mud to play with. Make your own creations as you mold and shape the clay. As you carefully and joyfully make your creations, imagine the care and joy that God put into making us!





## DECEMBER 3

*Genesis 3:6-11*

The girl and the boy,  
they had a good life  
with gardens and creatures and  
God by their side.

When they made a bad choice,  
it formed distance with God.

The word for the feeling they felt is

# A\$RAID.

### DAILY ACTIVITY: REFLECTION

Remember a time when you  
had an argument with your  
parents or got into trouble?  
Were you afraid they would  
stop loving you? Did you feel  
distant from them? How did  
that turn out?

# DECEMBER 4

*Genesis 17:3-8*

Despite the bad choices  
God loved people still.  
God wanted to show them just how much somehow.  
God picked one human  
to show to the rest  
the words God was saying were still,



## DAILY ACTIVITY: CHRISTMAS VALENTINES

Send a Christmas Valentine to someone you love (Grandparent, friend, etc.). Let them know that you want them to "Be Mine."

**DECEMBER 5**

*Psalm 137:1-6*

Throughout many years  
more bad choices came.

God's people chose fighting and fear over love.

God's people lost wars,  
were moved far from home.

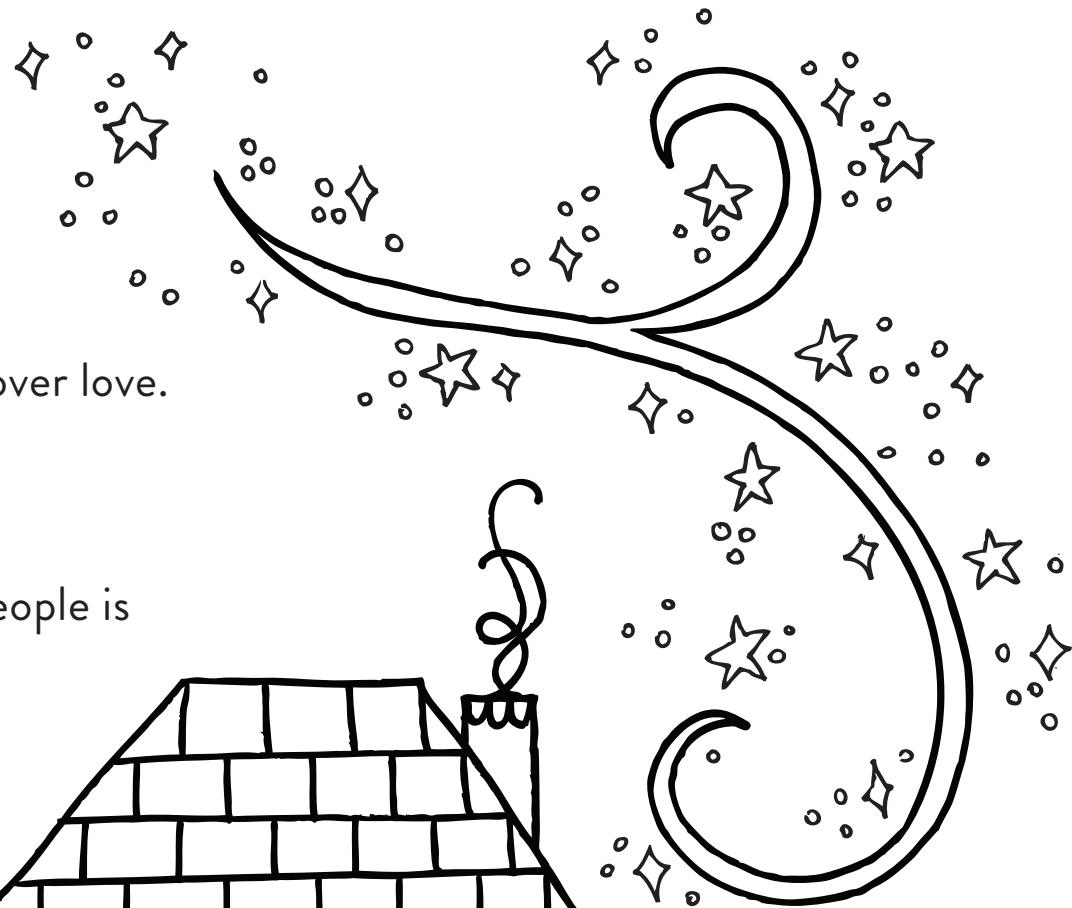
The word for God's lost homesick people is

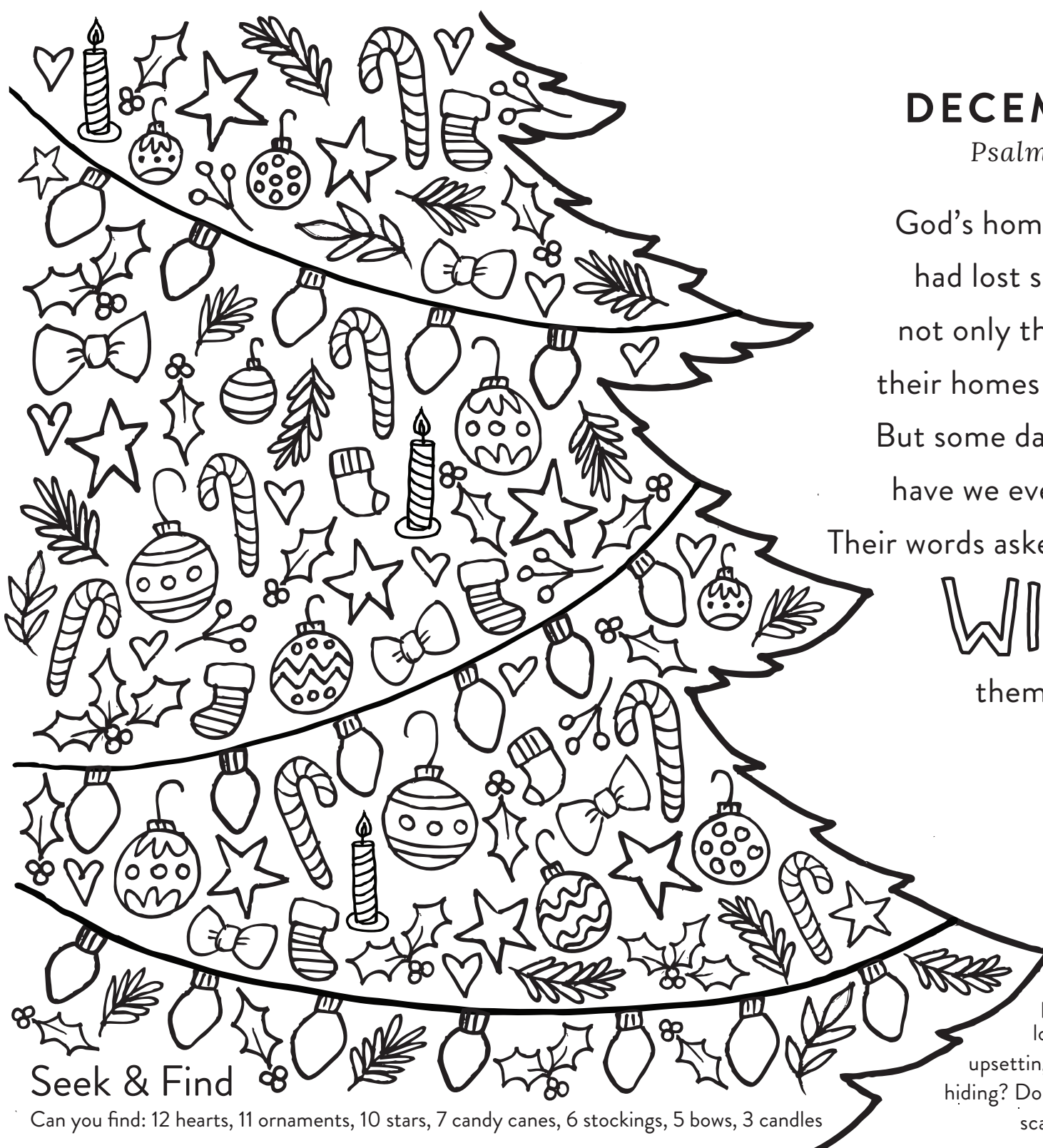
**SAD.**



**DAILY ACTIVITY:  
REFLECTION**

Have you ever been homesick?  
What did you miss most? Was it  
your room, your things, your  
Mom or Dad?





## Seek & Find

Can you find: 12 hearts, 11 ornaments, 10 stars, 7 candy canes, 6 stockings, 5 bows, 3 candles

## DECEMBER 6

*Psalms 22:1-2*

God's homesick people  
had lost so so much;  
not only their land and  
their homes and their kin.

But some days they asked  
have we even lost God?

Their words asked if God was still

# WITH

them at all.

### DAILY ACTIVITY: HIDE AND SEEK

Play a game of hide and seek.

How does it feel to hide?

How does it feel to find the  
hidden one? Have you ever

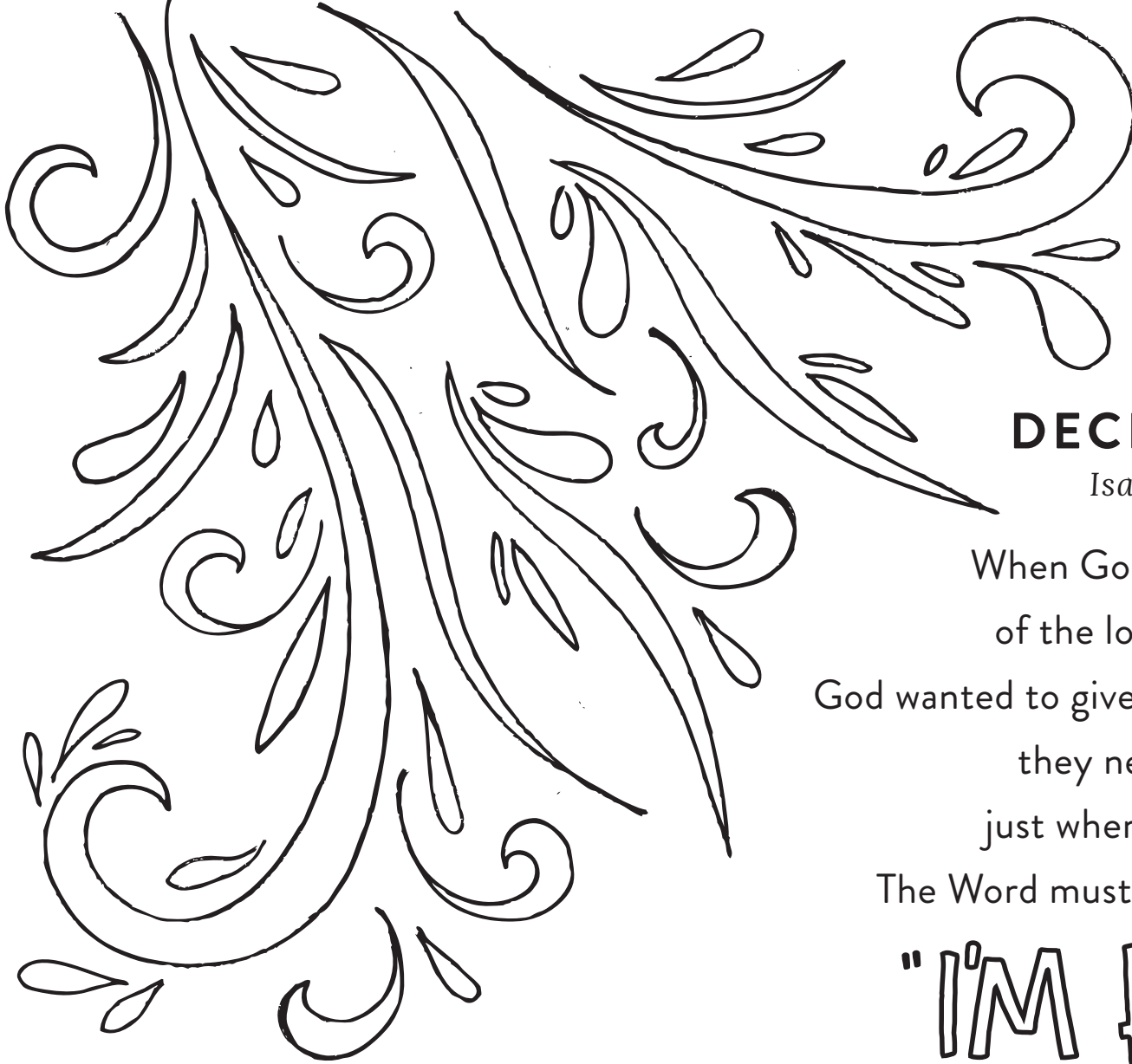
played this game and it took too  
long to be found? Was it scary or

upsetting? Does it ever seem like God is

hiding? Do you think sometimes it can feel

scary when we can't find God too?





## DECEMBER 7

*Isaiah 9:2b-7*

When God heard the tears  
of the lost chosen ones,  
God wanted to give them an answer so strong  
they never would ask  
just where God could be.  
The Word must express to the people,

**"I'M HERE!"**



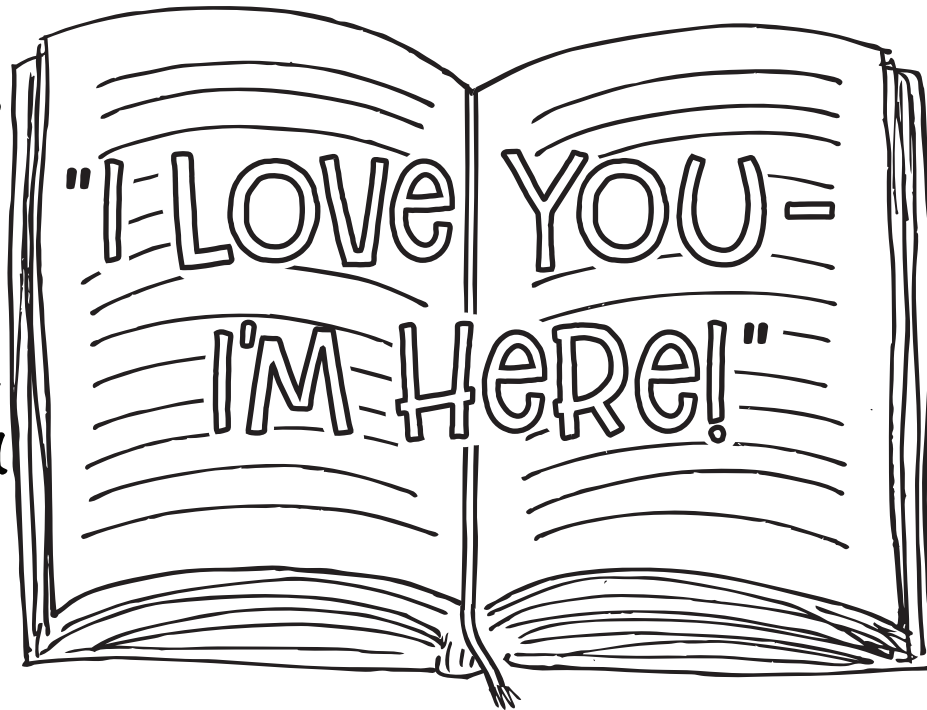
### DAILY ACTIVITY: BE PRESENT

What do you do when you want to let someone know, "I'm here!"? Do you give a hug, or share a smile, or tell a joke? Share that gift to let someone know you are there for them today.

## DECEMBER 8

*Isaiah 43:1-4*

So God hatched a plan  
to show to the world  
God was right with them come rain or come shine.  
God sent to the world  
messengers to tell  
all who would listen



### DAILY ACTIVITY: SCRIPTURE NOTES

One way God sent The Word was through the Bible. Inside are love messages that remind us of God's truth when we get scared or confused. Write some of your favorite love notes from today's Scripture or others on notecards. Tuck them somewhere you will see them when you need to be reminded of these words. Even better, write them in a note to send to someone else who needs to be reassured of God's love and care.



## DECEMBER 9

*Isaiah 11:1-9*

The first messengers  
were prophets of old,  
like Isaiah who came  
and who told of the way  
that God would come forth.

He shared this good news,  
a word to the lost lonely people of

# HOPE.

**DAILY ACTIVITY:  
SHARE THE GOOD NEWS**

Call (or text) someone and share some good news today.



**DECEMBER 10**

*Luke 1:26-38*

The next messenger  
came to a girl.  
Gabriel brought tidings of  
joy for us all.  
News of a baby  
born for the world.

Mary responded with words,

**"LET IT BE"**



**DAILY ACTIVITY:  
CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Share the glad tidings of Mary's baby by  
sending a Christmas card to someone today.



**DECEMBER 11**

*Matthew 1:18-23*

An angel told Joseph.  
He came in a dream  
to share Joseph's part in this gift to the world.

Take care of Mary  
and help raise God's Son.  
The word for this baby shall be



**EMMANUEL**

**DAILY ACTIVITY:  
THE STORY BEHIND YOUR NAME**

How did your parents pick your name? If you don't know, have them tell you.




**DECEMBER 12**

*Luke 2:39-45*

It wasn't just Mary  
expecting back then.  
When Elizabeth saw Mary  
her child leapt with joy.  
Cousins and partners  
even in the womb.

The words they told Mary were



**"BLESSED  
ARE YOU."**

**DAILY ACTIVITY:  
NAMING**

Take turns naming each other with names such as smart, funny, kind, etc.



## DECEMBER 13

*Luke 3:1-6*

Elizabeth was bearing  
a messenger named John.

He came to the people and said "Make a way."

A Savior is coming.

All things will be new.

The word that John shared was

**PREPARE** **FOR** **THE LORD.**

### DAILY ACTIVITY: PREPARATION

How do you prepare for Christmas coming?  
Enjoy a favorite preparation ritual today.

**DECEMBER 14**

Luke 1:46-56

Mary responded,

“My soul magnifies.

My spirit rejoices as God does great things.”

God lifts up the lowly

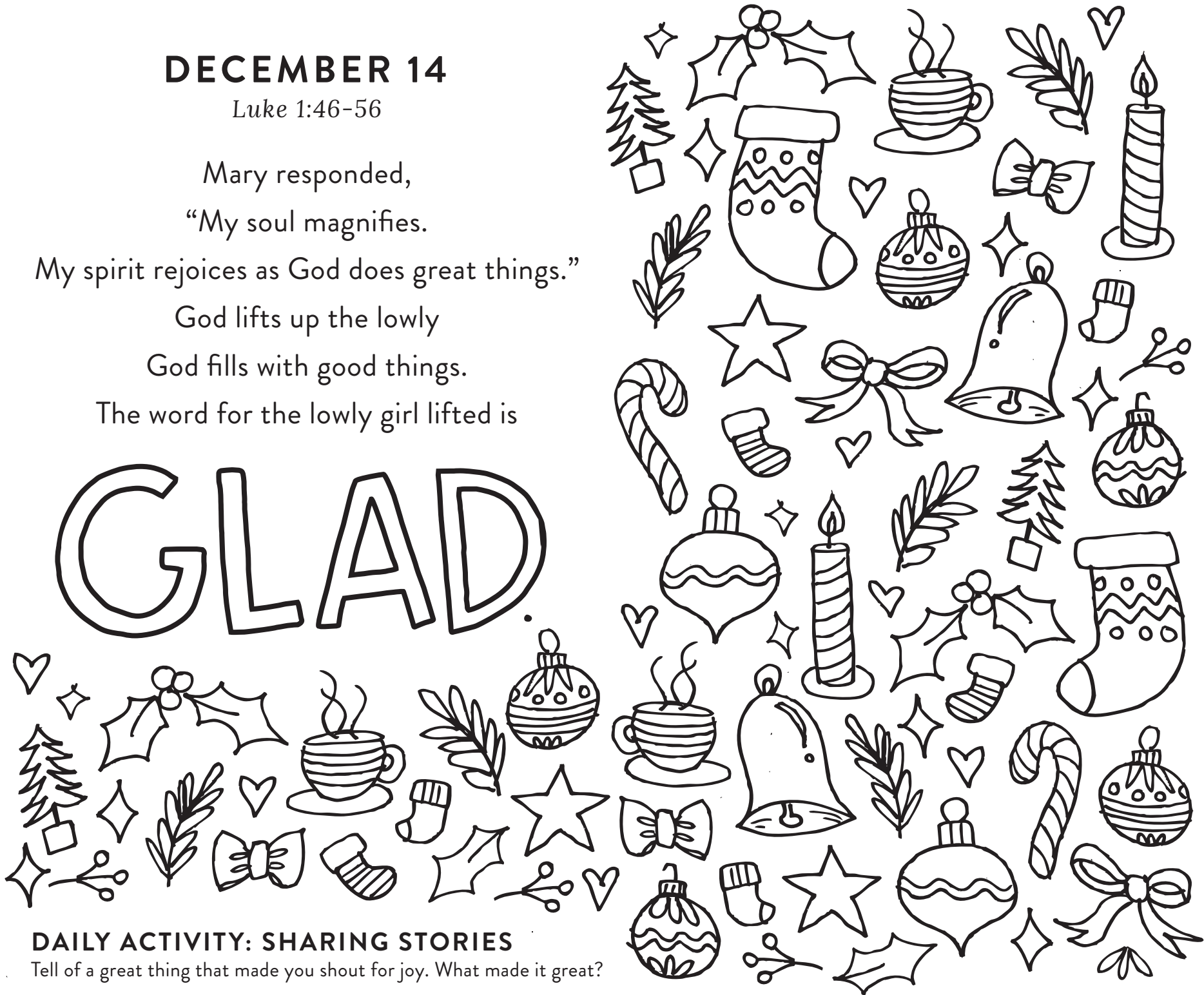
God fills with good things.

The word for the lowly girl lifted is

# GLAD.

## DAILY ACTIVITY: SHARING STORIES

Tell of a great thing that made you shout for joy. What made it great?







**DECEMBER 15**

*Luke 2:6*

Along many months  
the Word in womb grew.

This innermost secret that only few knew.

In fullness of time  
the moment drew near.

The word for the coming of God  
was now

**SOON.**

**DAILY ACTIVITY: NESTING**

It is a common occurrence that in the days right before a baby's birth the mother begins to nest in preparation. She'll wash baby clothes or get the nursery just right for her coming child. How could we nest for Christ coming among us? What should we do to host Christ this Christmas?



**DECEMBER 16**

*Luke 2: 1-5*

A call from the emperor,  
a journey began.

On foot and on donkey to  
Bethlehem they went.

Joseph's hometown.

From David he came.

The word for this city of shepherds is

**ROYAL.**

**DAILY ACTIVITY: SCRIPTURE READING**

Read 1 Kings 16:4-13 about David. Ponder how God chose the smallest, unlikeliest son to do big things. How can God use your smallness for big things?

**DECEMBER 17**

*Luke 2:6-7*

They tried many inns.  
No room to be had.

The only space left was one stable out back.

"I know it's not much,  
but take what I have."

The word for the innkeeper's heart was

**OPEN.**



**DAILY ACTIVITY:  
LAS POSADAS**

There is a Latin American tradition called Las Posadas where people reenact the journey of Mary and Joseph to find a place to rest and bring Jesus into the world. A pretend Mary and Joseph go from door to door knocking and asking if there's any room. At each stop, Mary and Joseph are welcomed and received into the home. You could try your own Las Posadas with a pretend Mary knocking on your house, or even each room in your house, and being welcomed in.

DECEMBER 18

*Luke 2:6-7*

They set up a space  
in dirt and in hay  
for Mary to bring forth this Gift to the world.  
Midst cattle soft breath  
and swishing horse tails,  
the word for the manger turned cradle is

LOWLY.



**DAILY ACTIVITY: BEING WITH THE POOR**

Jesus came in poverty to bless and be with the poor. What does it mean to be rich? Poor? What can you do today to be with the poor?



# DECEMBER 19

Luke 2: 8-14

Elsewhere that same night  
shepherds and their sheep  
were startled by angels who brought them good news.

"Do not be afraid.

A Savior is born!"

The word for the wonderful message is

# JOY.



## DAILY ACTIVITY: SING CAROLS

We read that the angels' great joy led them to sing songs.  
Sing a couple of your most joyful Christmas carols today.



**DECEMBER 20**

*Luke 2:8-14*

Not to the great kings  
or scholars or priests  
were tidings of great joy  
delivered that night.

But to old men and boys,  
dirty and tired.

The word for God's message is

**GIVEN  
FOR ALL.**

**DAILY ACTIVITY: INCLUDING**

Find a way to include someone unlikely or someone who would normally be left  
out in your Christmas celebration today.



**DECEMBER 21**

*Luke 2:12-18*

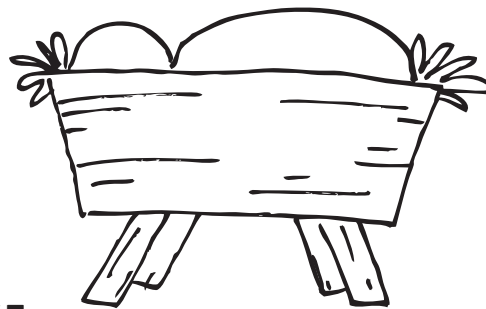
“Glory to our God,”  
sang heavenly hosts.

The light of the angels, it lit up the night.

The shepherds went forth  
to seek out the child.

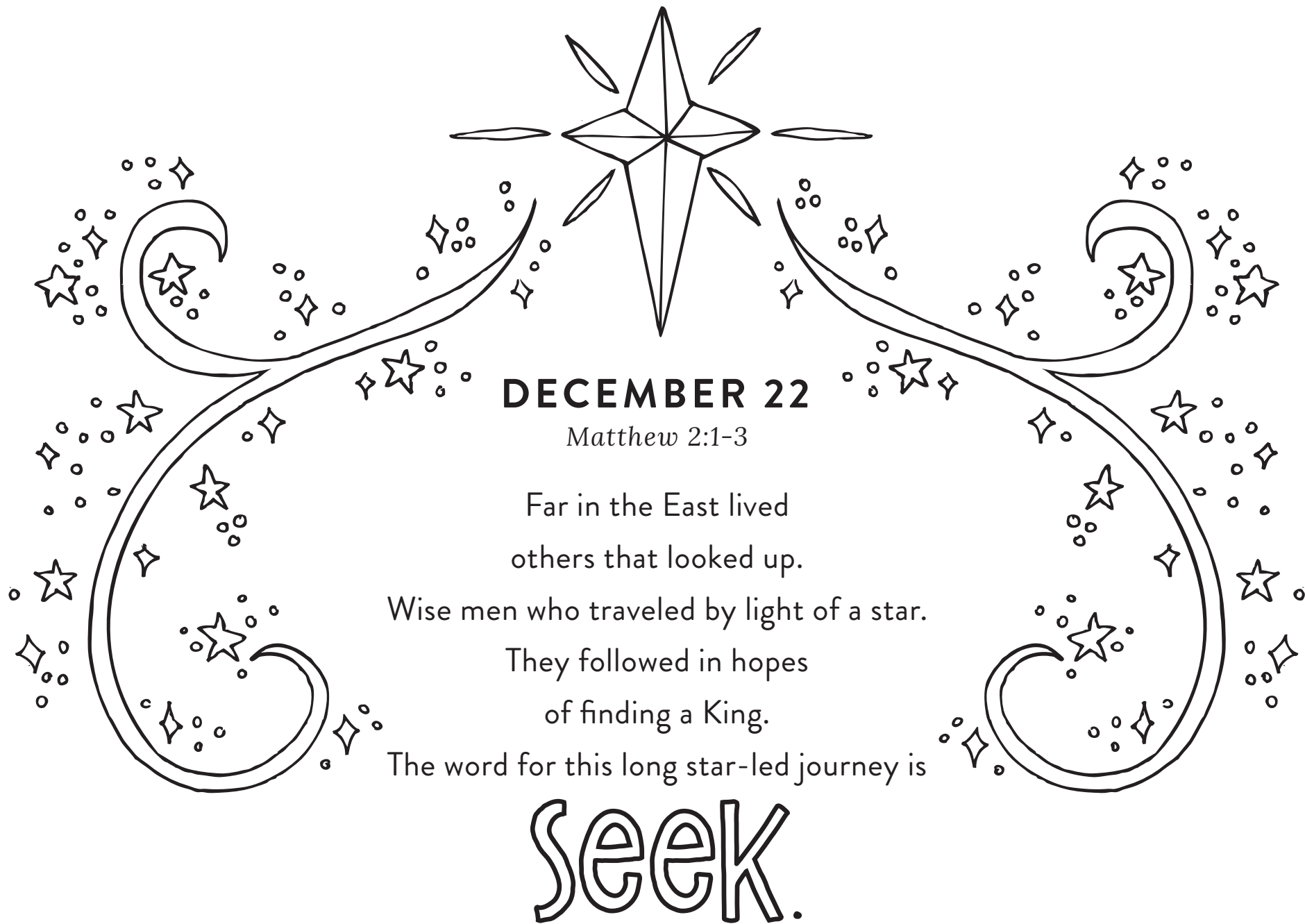
The word for those glory-filled shepherds is

**AWE.**



**DAILY ACTIVITY: EXPERIENCE AWE**

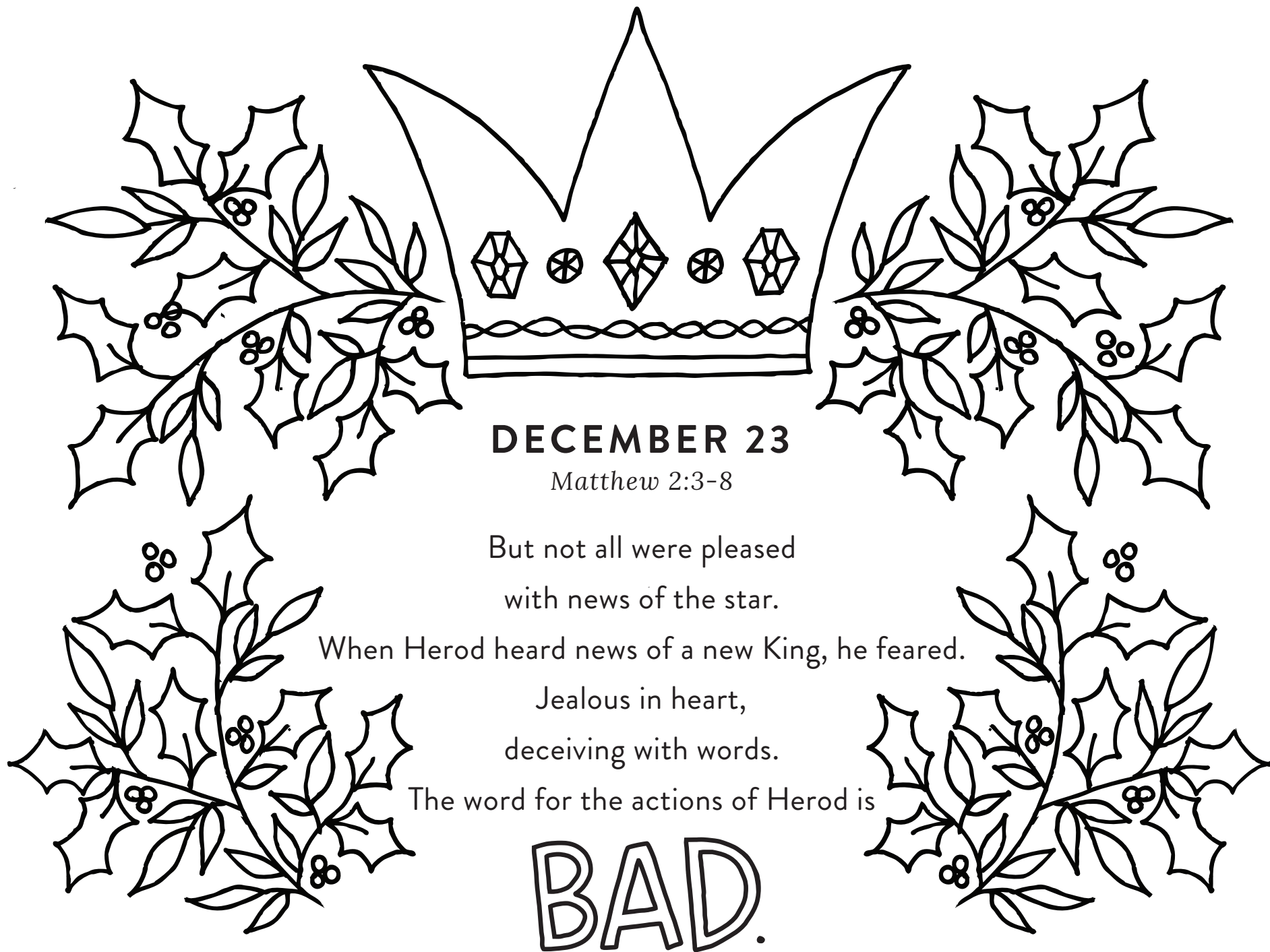
What brings you awe? Christmas lights? Listening to beautiful Christmas music? Participate in a family tradition that brings awe.



### DAILY ACTIVITY: TRAVELING WISE MEN

If you have a nativity set, take the wise men and move them around the room as if they are on a journey to see Christ.  
Feel free to let them rest in different spots around the room on their way to the manger.





**DECEMBER 23**

*Matthew 2:3-8*

But not all were pleased  
with news of the star.

When Herod heard news of a new King, he feared.

Jealous in heart,  
deceiving with words.

The word for the actions of Herod is

**BAD.**

**DAILY ACTIVITY: MOVIE NIGHT**

Watch *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* together.  
What might it have been like if Herod's heart had changed?

**DECEMBER 24**

*Matthew 2:3-8*

The wise men went on  
to seek out the Child  
carrying their gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh.

They came to a place  
where the star pointed down.

The word for the gift of the Magi is

**PRAISE.**



**DAILY ACTIVITY:  
GIFT GIVING**

Think of a gift you have to offer the  
Christ child. Remember the best  
gift you could offer is your love.



**DECEMBER 25**

*John 1:14-16*

Finally that night  
the big moment came.  
Mary delivered the Word to the world.  
Soft infant voice.  
The Word was now heard.  
The word God was saying is

**YOU ARE SO  
LOVED!**

**DAILY ACTIVITY: SHARE THE LOVE**

Find a way to say "I love you" to someone today.

