

## It's not Christmas yet!

During the four weeks leading up to Christmas we celebrate the season of Advent, and it is important that we don't skip Advent!

Christmas doesn't start until Christmas Day, despite what you might see in stores.

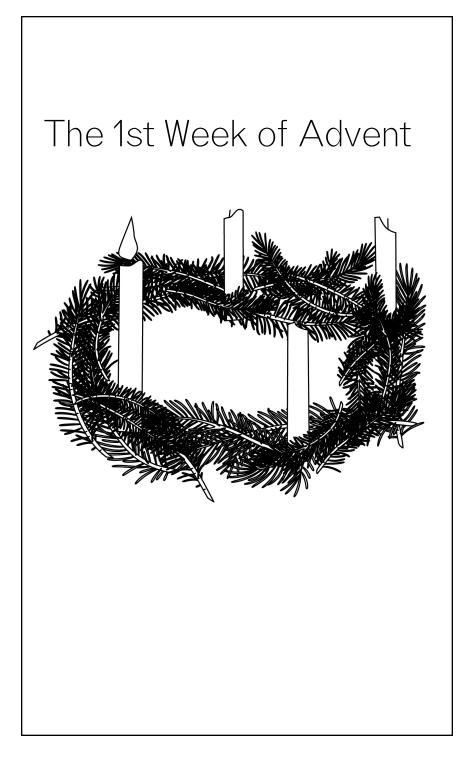
Advent is a special time that we need to prepare for Christmas. Just as the Israelites in the Bible were asked to wait hunderds upon hundreds of years for their Savior, it is important that we wait was well, and allow God to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus, the Savoir of the World.

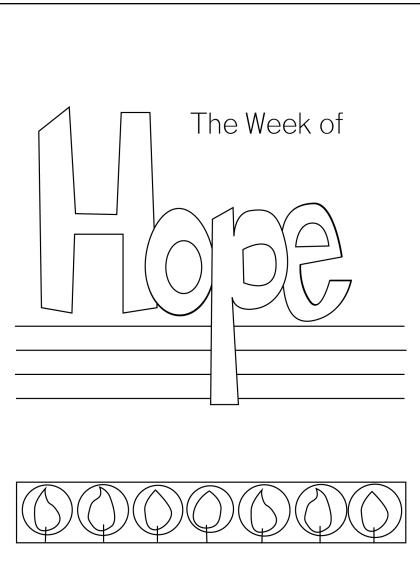
We are called to HOPEFUL WAITING during this season!

Advent is also a unique time of year when we are called to spend time getting to know God the Father, In this booklet, the four weeks of Advent have each been given a virute to reflect on: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

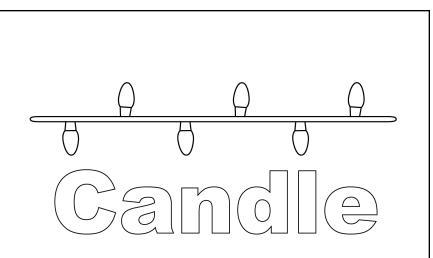
Each of these vitures are gifts from God that will help us prepare to recieve Him on Christmas Day.

Spend time coloring and making your booklet beautiful this Advent Season. Resist jumping into Christmas just yet. Instead, wait with God, and make your waiting and beautiful gift to Jesus when He enters the world on Christmas.





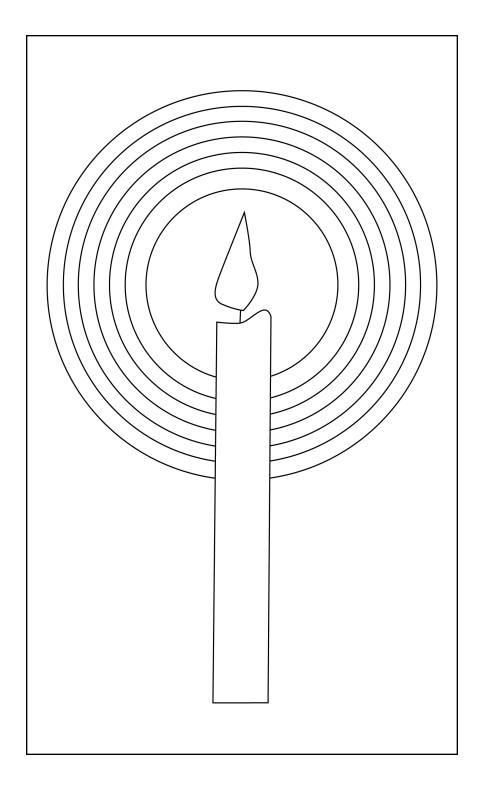
Despite the darkness of our own sin, we place our hope in the Lord, know that He will save us.

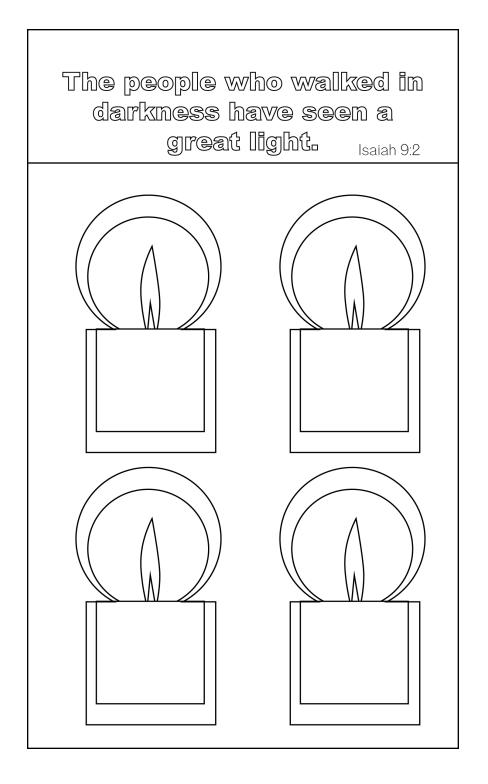


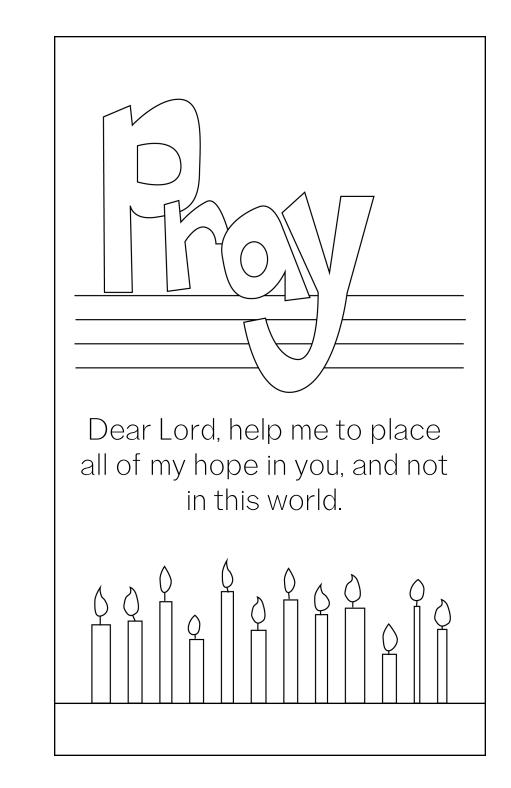
The candle is a symbol of our HOPE in God. As sinners we live in the darkness, and things can seem hopeless, but nothing is hopeless with God!

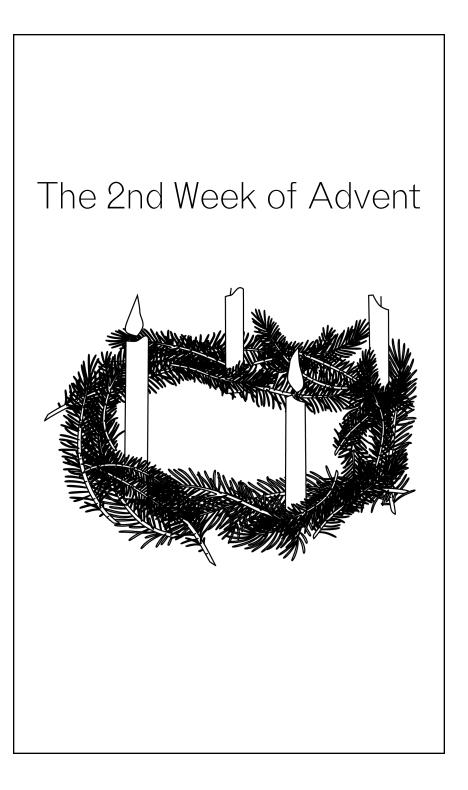
Just as a single candle can bring light to the darkness, we know that God will save us and bring us out of the darkness of sin.

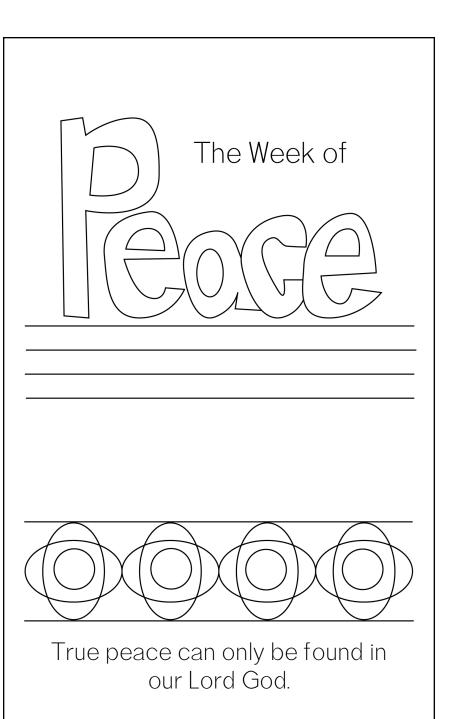
In the end, God's light with flood the darkness of sin and conquer it completely!











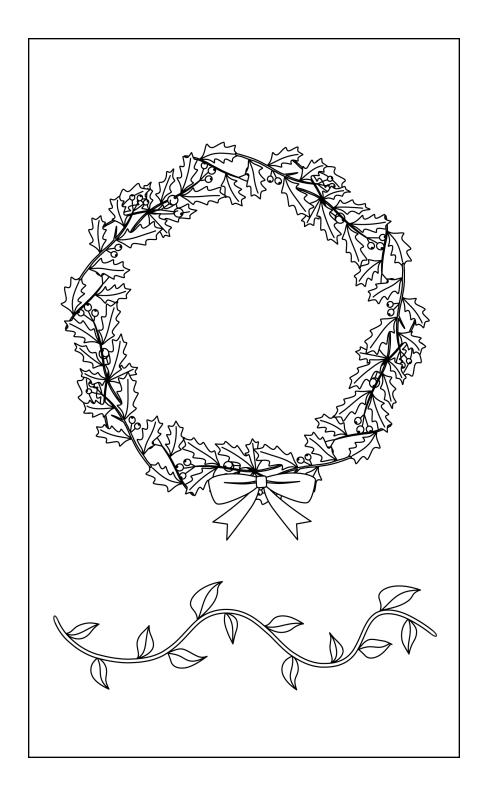


The wreath is a symbol of peace because, like God, it has no beginning and no end.

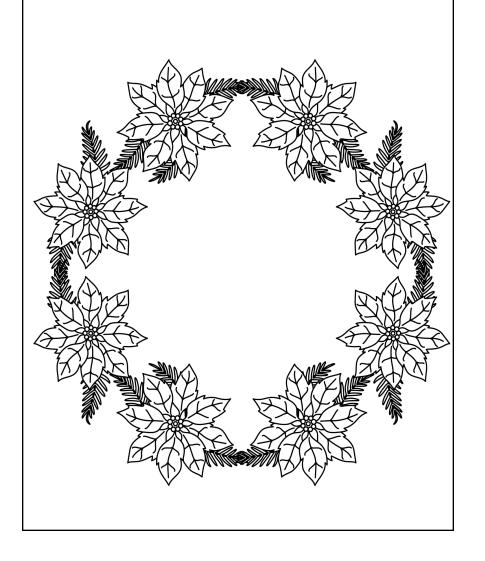
Where does a circle begin--and where does it end? Nowhere. Like all circles, it goes on and on.

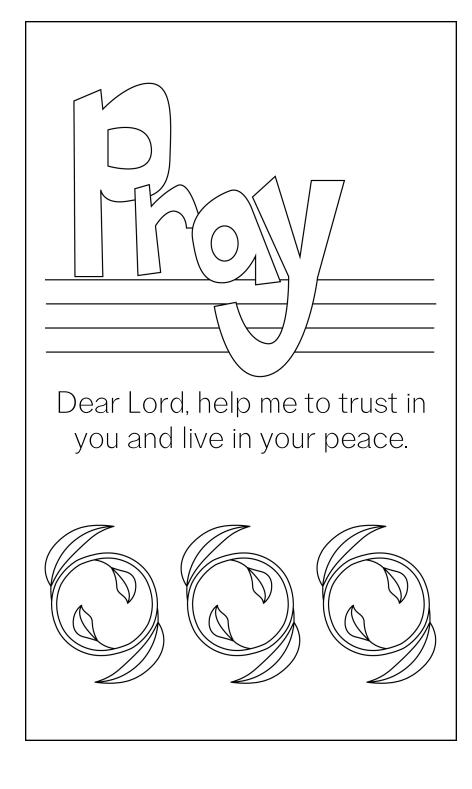
Like the wreath, God, our Almighty Father, is without end. He is might and powerful.

When we rest in Him we can have complete peace because we know that God, the Lord of all the universe, will protect us from all evil and harm.

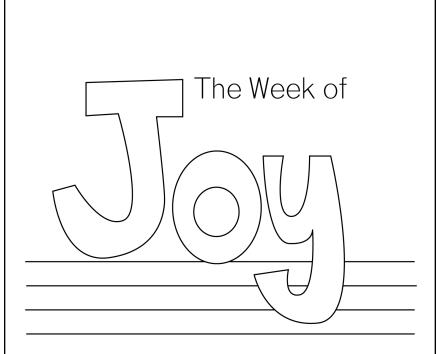


Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His loving kindness is everlasting. Psalm 106:1



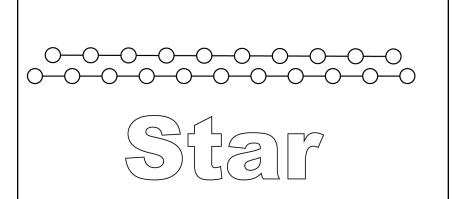






We rejoice because God loves us and had a beautiful plan for us!

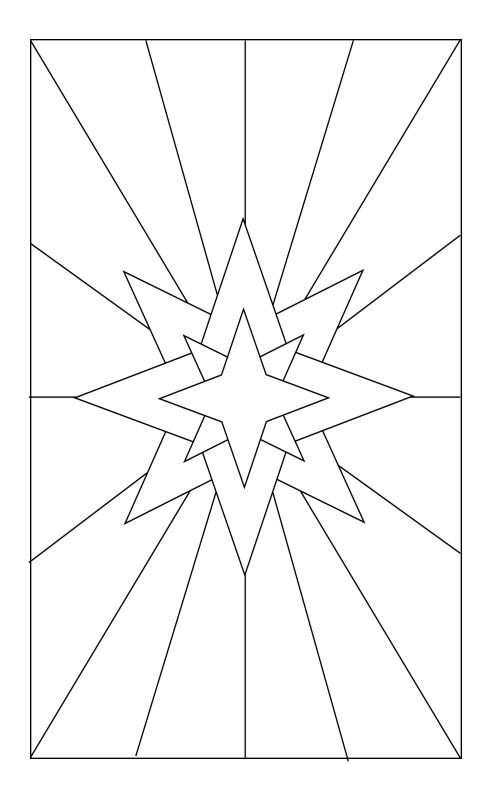


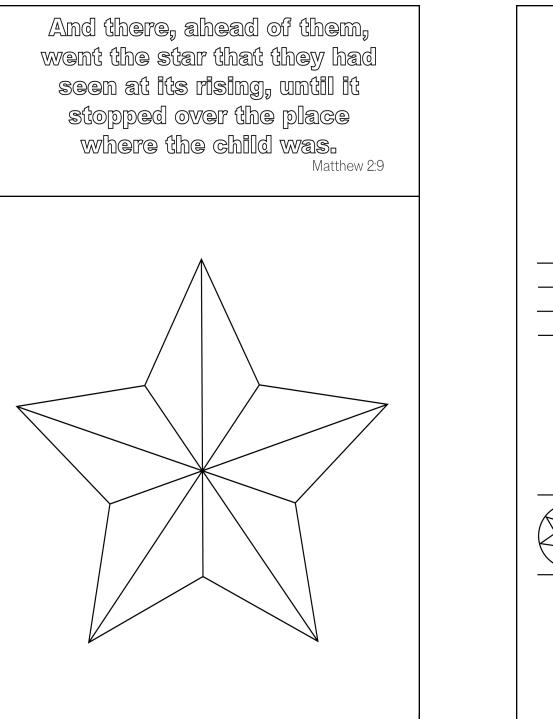


The star is a symbol of Joy because it was a star that announced the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After centuries of waiting, God had not forgotten his promise! He had a beautiful plan to save us from our sin: He would send a Savior into the world.

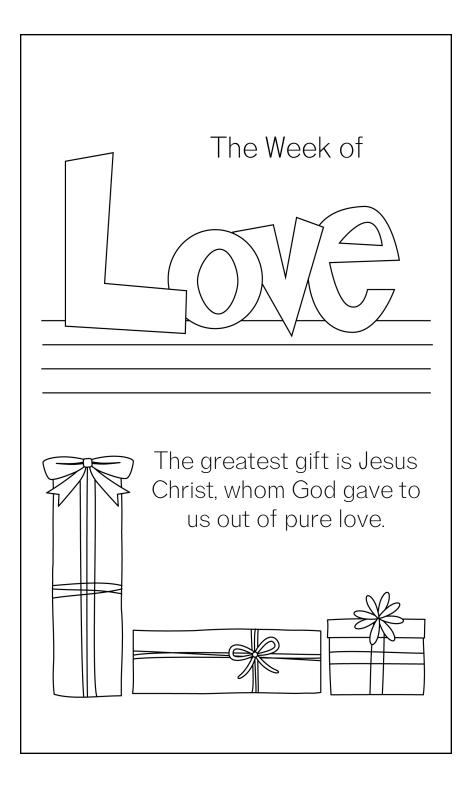
It was finally time for the Savior to come, and even the heavens rejoiced, as the star shown down upon the place were Jesus would be born.

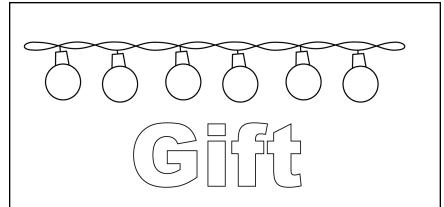










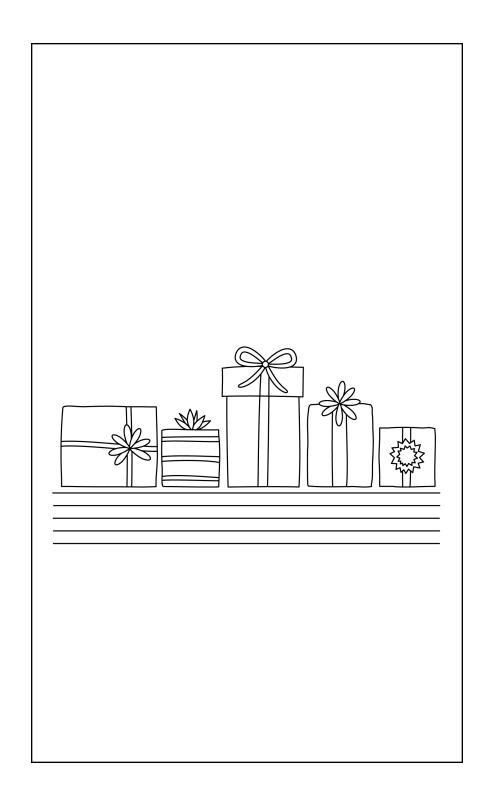


Gifts are a symbol of the love that God had for us when He sent His son into the world to be our Savior.

The practice of giving and recieving gifts on Christmas should remind us of the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Christmas is not about getting what we want. It's about remembering that we already have all that we need in Jesus Christ.

We are called to generously love others, just as God generously loved us.



for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Matthew 2:11



