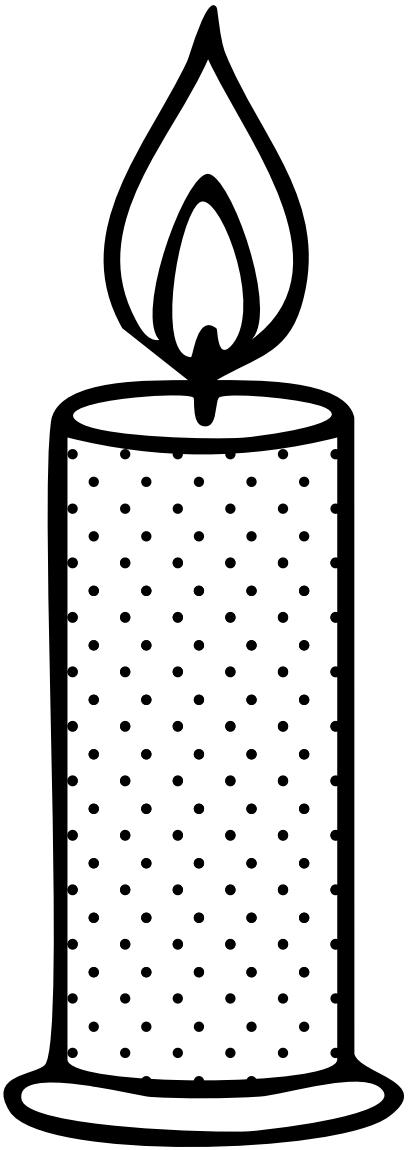
Cornerstone Bible Church Kids Ministry

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

Advent Devotional



The HOPE Candle



Color the candle and read today's devotional.

Day 1: 11/29/26

Read Psalm 130

Written by Miss Savannah

Christmas is almost here! One of the hardest things is waiting for Christmas to arrive. The lights, cookies, and Christmas celebrations are so fun, but what we're really waiting for is Christmas day. The Bible is full of examples of people who waited for a long time. These Bible verses talk about waiting for the Lord, and putting our hope in Him. The people in the Old Testament waited for hundreds of years for Jesus to come and rescue them, and now we wait for Jesus to return. As we wait for Christmas to arrive this year, we can trust that Jesus keeps His promises and will return one day to rescue us. We can also thank Jesus for His unfailing love for us, and celebrate His birth together this season.

Family discussion:

1. What are some things we have to wait for?
2. Why is it hard to wait for something good?
3. How can we celebrate Jesus's birthday this month?

Day 2: 11/30/26

Read Colossians 1:15-20

Read the scripture, then choose an act of kindness to complete as a family. Color the ornament once you've completed the activity.



Day 3: 12/1/26

Read Isaiah 40:9–11

Written by Miss Debbie

Do you shout when you hear good news? When you earned a place on a sports team, did you shout, "Woohoo!?" When you auditioned for a role in a show and received a part, did you yell, "Yay!?" When you worked hard at a project and were rewarded for your effort, did you shout, "Allll Right!?" God's people, the Israelites, had been waiting a long time for a promised King and they were reminded to not be afraid to lift up [their] voice with a shout as they were given good news — they would soon see this promise fulfilled. We too, as God's children, can shout in anticipation of Jesus' return as our promised King!

Family discussion:

1. What joyful expression can you lift up to God to celebrate Jesus' birth and His anticipated return?
2. How can you share the joy of knowing Jesus with a family member or friend during this season?

Day 4: 12/2/26

Read Isaiah 64:1-9

Read the scripture as a family, then complete the activity.

Advent Alphabet

Write words that you associate with Advent and Christmas on each line. Make sure the first letter of the word matches with the letter of the alphabet.

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 _____

Day 5: 12/3/26

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

Written by Mr. Mike & Miss Beth

God loves us more than we can possibly know, and He sent his Son to us as a newborn baby on Christmas Day so long ago. This perfect baby grew into a man who was without sin, and God spoke directly to us through Him and He gave us the Bible so we can learn about how much He loves us. If we believe in Him, He forgives us of our sins and becomes the one in charge of our life. He also gives us His Holy Spirit who comes and lives in our hearts. When we see the baby Jesus at Christmas time, we are looking at the pure light of God's Glory. When we give our gifts to our family members and friends at Christmas, let us always remember what a perfect gift Jesus was to us so long ago in Bethlehem. Hebrews 1 tells us that Jesus is eternal. He worked with God the Father in creating the universe, and how absolutely beautiful that creation is.

Family discussion:

1. What parts of this creation mean the most to you?
2. What special activities can you do with your family this Christmas that will make the celebration of the birth of Jesus a tradition for your family that will last for years and years?

Day 6: 12/4/26

Read Isaiah 42:1-9

Read the scripture and color in the coloring page.



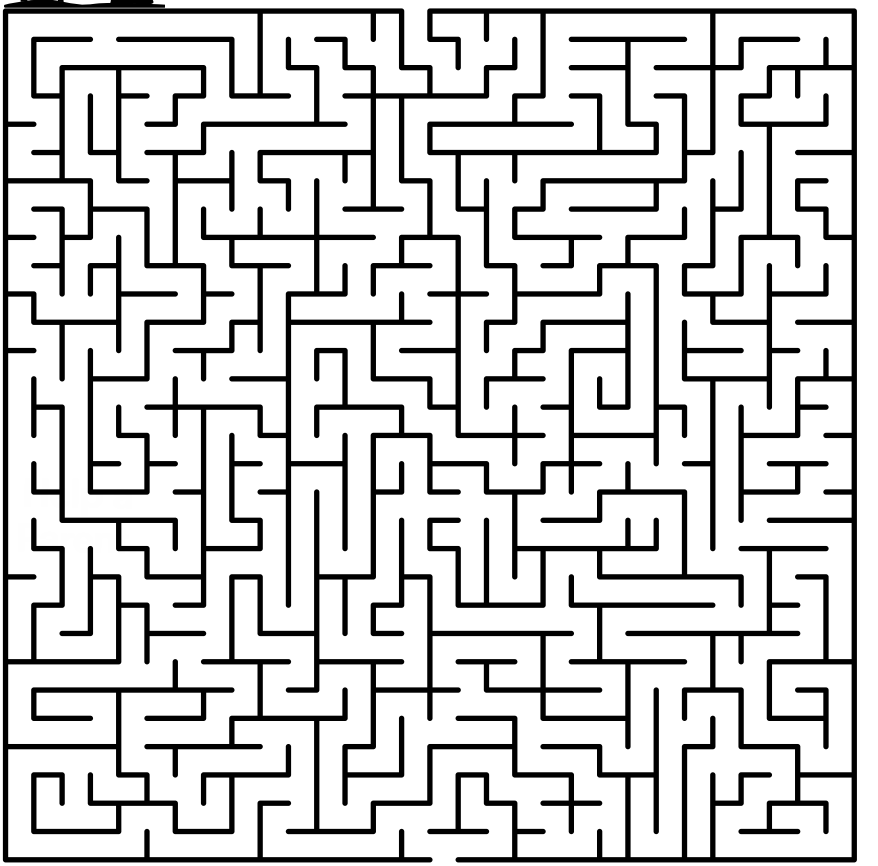
Day 7: 12/5/26

Read Romans 15:1-13

Read the scripture and complete the maze.



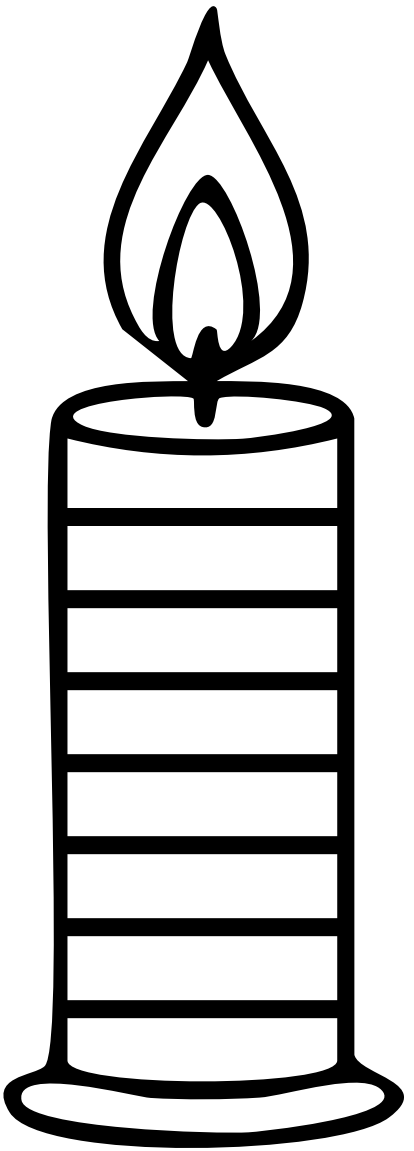
Start



End



The PEACE Candle



Color the candle and read today's devotional.

Day 8: 12/6/26

Read Psalm 19

Written by Miss Rebekah

One of my favorite things to do is go outside and look up to the big, beautiful sky and remember how powerful and creative our God is! Every day we see the bright yellow sun which keeps us warm and gives us light to work and play. Then, at night the sun goes down in a beautiful display to welcome the sparkly stars and planets and the moon to shine bright against the dark blue sky. Without using any words, God has placed it all above us to show His glory and remind us how much He loves us.

Even more special than the beauty of the sky and His creation, God gave us His Word... the Bible! In Psalm 19 we learn that God's Word is always good, trustworthy, and helps us know how to live. It also tells us about God's greatest ever gift to us: JESUS! The same God who created the sun and stars loved us so much that He sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus came to give us forgiveness, hope, and the promise of life with God. Remember God made this world, speaks through His Word, and sent Jesus because He loves us!

Pray together:

Dear God, thank You for making such a beautiful world and giving us Your Word. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to see your glory, be thankful and obey, and praise You every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Do together:

Look outside or think about something beautiful or awesome God has made. Take turns naming one thing in creation that reminds you of God's greatness.

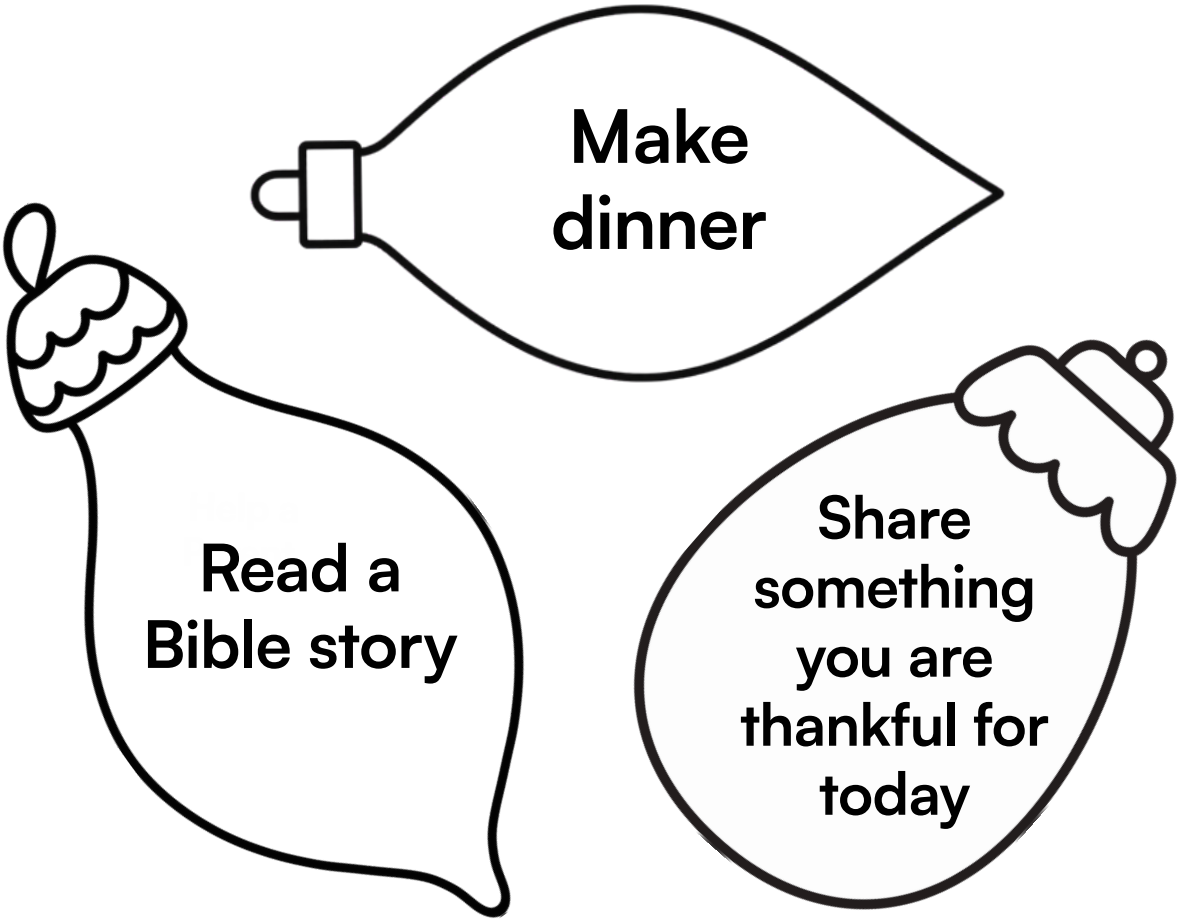
Ask:

“What does this tell us about the God who made it?”

Day 9: 12/7/26

Read Psalm 67

Complete the activities together as a family. Color the ornament once you've completed the activity.



Day 10: 12/8/26

Read John 1:29-31

Written by Mr. Craig

As we anticipate Christmas day and the celebrations to come, we go back in time to the start of Jesus ministry on earth. In God's perfect plan He sent a man by the name of John the Baptist to prepare the people's hearts and get them ready for a royal visit of the promised Messiah, God's son, Jesus Christ. Day after day crowds came out and gathered beside the Jordan River to hear John speak. John baptized the people in water as a sign that they wanted to turn from sin and follow God.
But then, one day, Jesus appeared. The scene was a large crowd of people gathered at the Jordan River. John was down in the water baptizing people. Out of the crowd, walking towards John, was Jesus the Messiah. John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Jesus stepped into the cool waters of the Jordan River. John carefully lowered Jesus beneath the water and then raised him up. Immediately a miracle occurred! The heavens opened. The spirit of God descended like a dove and rested upon Jesus. Then a powerful voice came from heaven, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." The people standing nearby were amazed! It was a holy moment that showed God's great plan to the world.

Family discussion:

1. How hard was it for the people to wait so long for God's promise?
2. What can we give God thanks for today?

Day 11: 12/9/26

Read Isaiah 2:1-5

Read the scripture. Then draw a line from the word(s) in the first column to the word(s) it goes with in the second column.

Connect the Words

Baby	Sheep
Shepherd	World
Away in a	Gifts
Prince of	God with us
Immanuel	Peace
Joy to the	Gabriel
Silent	Night
Wise men	Herod
Angel	Bethlehem
King	Manger
Star of	Jesus

Day 12: 12/10/26

Read Micah 5:2–5a

Written by Miss Sue

God told His people long before it actually happened that a special little baby would be born in a small little town known as Bethlehem. This baby would come from an ordinary family, not rich or famous, and he would have a very important job to do when he grew up--He will lead the people of Israel and protect them from those trying to harm their families, take away their land and deny their God doesn't exist. He will shepherd His people with care and love, and He can be trusted completely! God wanted to make sure Micah shared this prophecy with the Jewish people so they would not lose hope that Yahweh was with them despite the tough times they were experiencing. Something good was coming...

What Micah shared with the people was true! Many years later, a very special little baby was born in a small town to two ordinary, not rich or famous, parents. He grew up to be a mighty leader who guided and protected the Jewish people and anyone else who believed in Him and looked to Him for hope.

Something good is coming in your future. Trust God knowing that He will guide you and protect you. He cares for you and loves you very much. Remember that when you are going through a tough time. He is your hope!

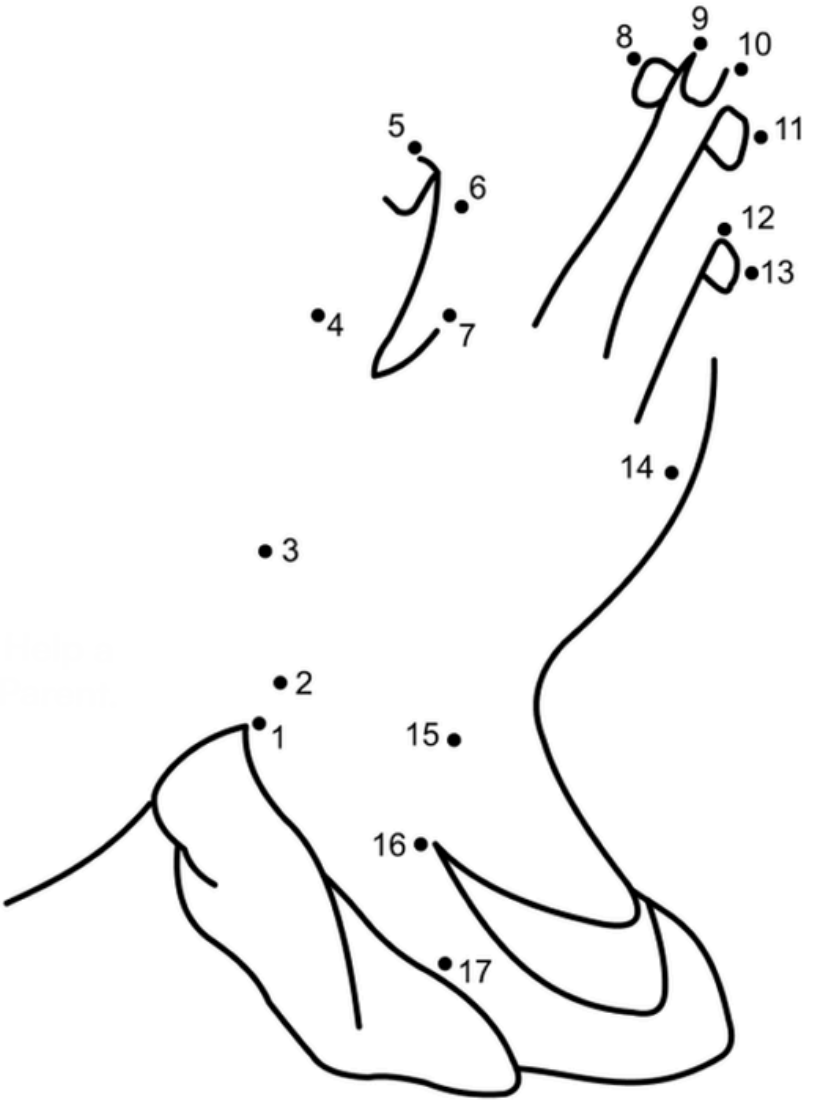
Pray together:

"Jesus, thank You for guiding, protecting, and bringing peace to my life. Help me to trust you in the tough times and the good times. Teach me to listen to your voice and to follow where you lead. I am so grateful for the hope I have in you no matter what's happening around me. In Jesus Name, Amen."

Day 13: 12/11/26

Read Philippians 4:4–9

Read the scripture then connect the dots in number order.



Day 14: 12/12/26

Read Psalm 85

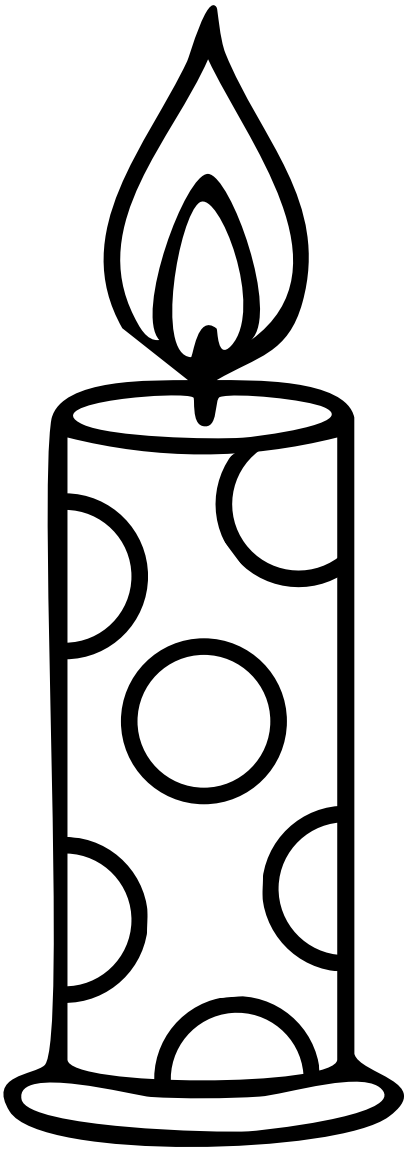
Written by Miss Karina

Have you ever looked at some Christmas lights and noticed a few bulbs that went out? That one little light was meant to bring warmth and light to a space, but cannot do that because of its brokenness. We were made to bring warmth and light, but the brokenness of our sin sometimes keeps us from shining as we were made to. In this Psalm, the psalmist asks the Lord to restore God's people from their sin. People thousands of years ago noticed the brokenness of our world, and God had a plan even then to restore us all. This season, when you pull out the old string of lights and notice that a bulb is out, may you pause to remember that Christ left His throne in heaven to come down to repair the brokenness of this fallen world.

Family Discussion:

1. Are there any times that are more difficult for you to let your light shine?
2. What would help you remember that Christ helps you be a light?
3. What is something you are excited for Christ to restore?

The JOY Candle



Color the candle and read today's devotional.

Day 15: 12/13/26

Read Isaiah 12:1-6

Written by Miss Besty

Were you at VBS this summer? Do you remember our theme song, *Sing Wherever I Go*? I love that song! The part where we sing, "I will call on the name of the Lord," is my favorite part in the song. Verse 4 (ESV) says this! Way before the VBS song was written, the prophet Isaiah foretold that when the Savior came into the world people would say, "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name." What is the Savior's name? Jesus! When the angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that Mary was going to be the mom of the Savior of the world, he told Joseph to name the baby, Jesus. The name Jesus means "the Lord saves." When you call on Jesus' name to save you from the punishment for your sins — He will! When you call on Jesus' name to save you when you need help — He will! AND THEN we get to sing to Him! He wants you to sing to Him! Wait?! That's also in the VBS song! That's the name of it — "Sing Wherever I Go"!

Family Discussion:

1. Have you asked Jesus to save you from the punishment for your sins?
2. Have you asked Him for help in any way? How did He answer that prayer?

Now sing a song of praise to Jesus. (Maybe a Christmas song!)

Day 16: 12/14/26

Read Psalm 96

Read the scripture, then complete the acts of kindness as a family!
Color the ornaments once you've completed the activities.



Day 17: 12/15/26

Read Isaiah 35

Written by Miss Lisa Estep

When you think about being in a desert, you often think about being hot, thirsty, and not having any shade to rest. If you got stuck in the desert, you would probably feel pretty miserable and want nothing more than to get out of it. Because of sin, living on earth can feel like being stuck in the desert. Thankfully God has promised that He will bring His people out of the desert and bring them to live in a beautiful and perfect place . We know that if God makes a promise, He keeps His promise. If it feels like you are stuck in the desert right now, you can praise God because He is going to bring you to a beautiful place where there is only gladness and joy.

Family Discussion:

1. What is something hard that you have had to do that felt like being stuck in the desert?
2. When you look around, what are some of God's beautiful creations you see that you can enjoy and praise God for now?

Day 18: 12/16/26

Read Psalm 126

Read the scripture and color in the picture.



Day 19: 12/17/26

Read Psalm 16

Written by Mr. Brandon

Think about how exciting it is to wake up on Christmas morning and open your presents! That excitement might last for a while, but after a few months, even your favorite presents don't seem quite as special as they did on Christmas morning. There is one gift, though, that is different from all the rest. Jesus gave us the gift of forgiveness for our sins and eternal life with Him. That's a gift that will never get old, lose its value, or stop being wonderful! In Psalm 16:2, David says to God, “Apart from you I have no good thing.” David understood that nothing in this world could ever compare to knowing God. As we celebrate Christmas this year, let's remember that our greatest joy isn't found in the presents under the tree, but in the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ!
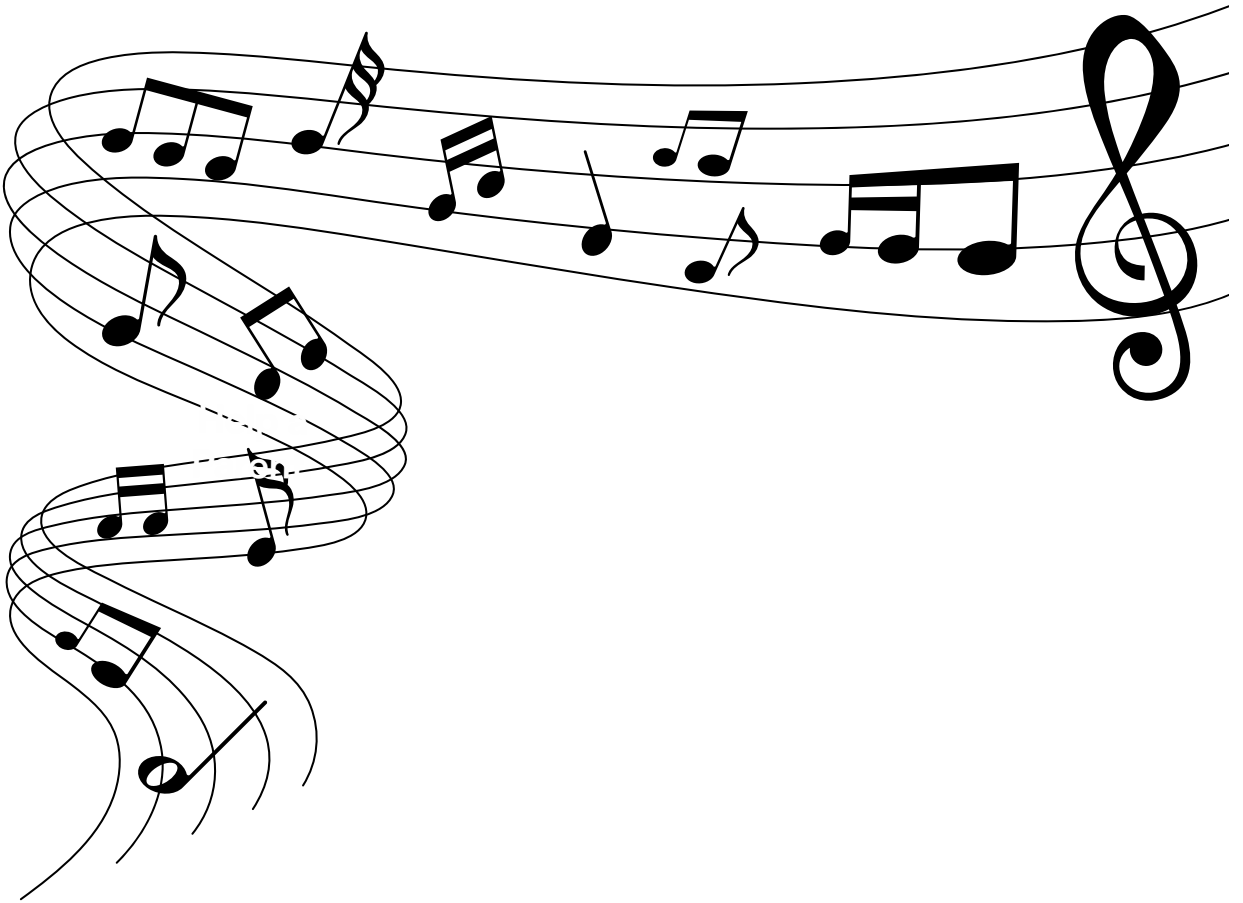
Family Discussion:

1. Why do you think the excitement of getting a new toy or present eventually wears off?
2. What makes the joy we have in Jesus different from the happiness we get from presents or other things?

Day 20: 12/18/26

Read Psalm 98

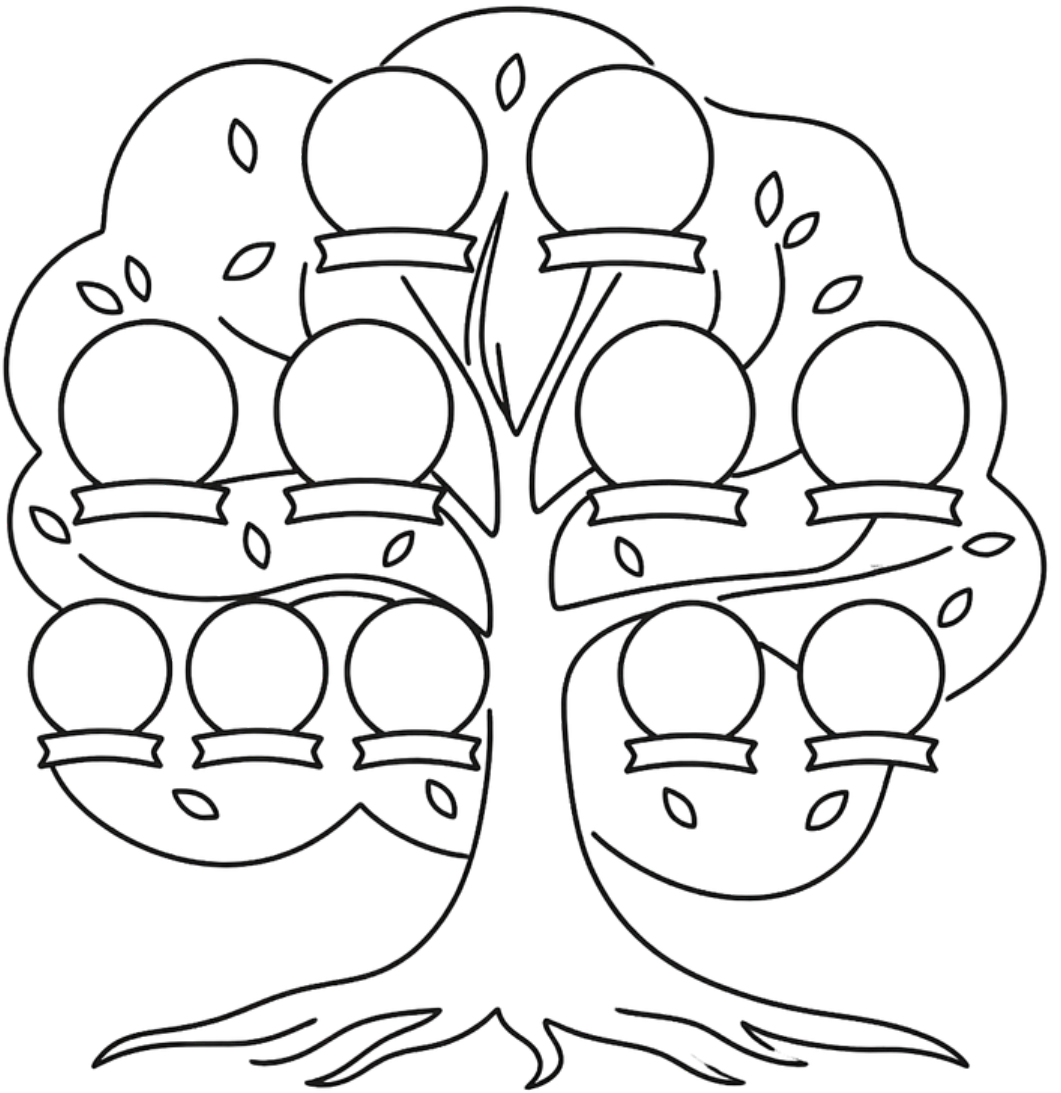
Have a praise party with your family. Grab some instruments or noisemakers, pick a worship playlist, and spend time dancing and singing praise to God just as the psalmist said.



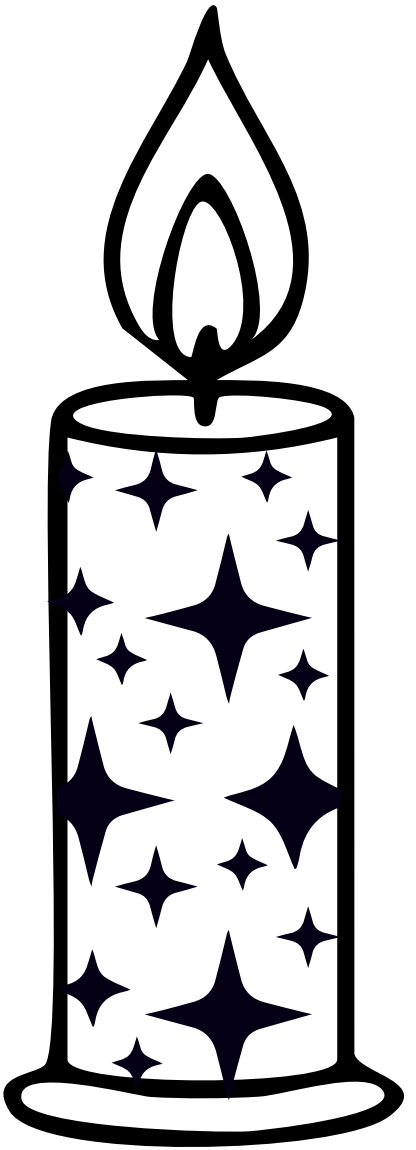
Day 21: 12/19/26

Read Psalm 145

Read the scripture then fill in the family tree below with your family members.



The LOVE Candle



Color the candle and read today's devotional.

Day 22: 12/20/26

Read Psalm 89:1-18

Written by Mr. Collin & Miss Paige

As you read today's Bible passage, pay attention to how many times the writer mentions God's love or faithfulness.

In this passage, the writer of the psalm is excited to praise God for His love and faithfulness. Just like God's love for us is eternal, the author of the psalm says that he will sing and praise God "forever." When you think about it, forever is a really long time! God promised that David's family would be king for generations, and this was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, our King. In Verse 14, the writer says that "love and faithfulness go before you." Have you ever had someone go before you to get things set up and ready? Maybe an adult helps set the table before dinner or puts up decorations for a birthday party. That's what God's love and righteous rule does for us. Long before Jesus was born, God had a plan to rescue His people, and through God's promises, God was preparing the way for Jesus! Advent is a time for us to reflect and get ready too. When we let God's love wash over us and onto the people around us, we are preparing our own hearts for Jesus to return one day!

Family Discussion

1. Who in your life goes ahead to get things ready for you? How does this show love?
2. In verse 1, the writer says "I will make your faithfulness known". What are some ways we can make God's faithfulness known to others?
3. How does it feel to know that God keeps His promises for forever?

Day 23: 12/21/26

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Read the scripture then complete the acts of kindness as a family! Color the ornaments once you've completed the activities.







Day 24: 12/22/26

Read John 3:16-21

Written by Miss Jane

God's love is bigger than the sky or ocean. That's pretty big, right? He cares for everyone. God sent Jesus as a gift for everyone. This is why we celebrate Christmas. We can pray and accept Him into our hearts. It is like receiving a present that will change your life forever. It will help you do what is right and honest and shine the light of Jesus to others.

Family Discussion

1. Have you prayed to invite Jesus into your heart?
2. What is one way that you can show someone that you love them?
3. Who will you show love and kindness to this week?

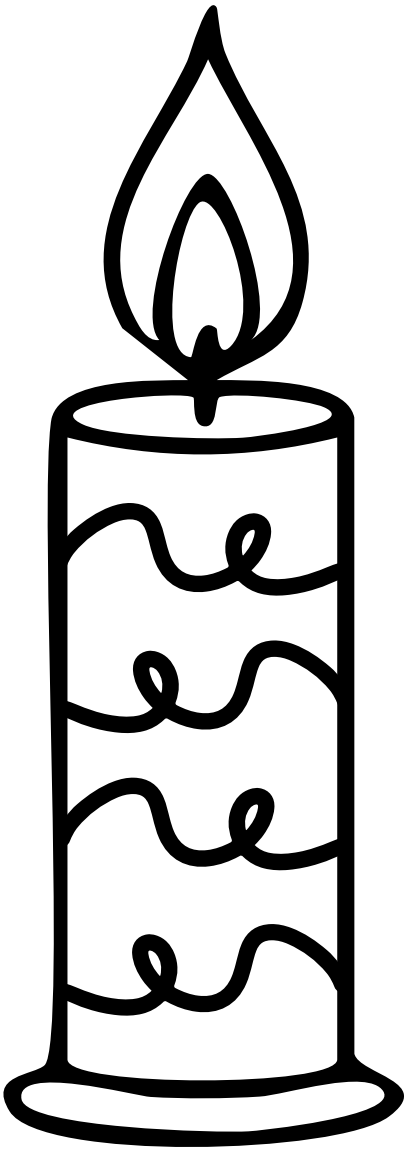
Day 25: 12/23/26

Read Psalm 86:5-13

Read the scripture then color in the Nativity Scene.



The CHRIST Candle



Color the candle and read today's devotional.

Day 26: 12/24 - 12/25

Read Luke 2:1-20

Read Luke's account of Jesus's birth. Celebrate Christmas as a family, remembering and praising God for the amazing gift we have in Christ Jesus! Merry Christmas, Cornerstone Kids!

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be
taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took
place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their
own town to register.
4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to Bethlehem the town of David, because He belonged to the house and
line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to
be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there,
the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her
firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger,
because there was no guest room available for them.
8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch
over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and
the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news
that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a
Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a
sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a
manger.”13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with
the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”
15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds
said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has
happened, which the Lord has told us about.”
16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who
was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen Him, they spread the
word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who
heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary
treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The
shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they
had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Bonus Devotional: 12/26/26

Galatians 5:22-23

Written by Miss Lousin

Now that Christmas is done, read the passage and devotional below and talk as a family about how you can continue to show the love of Jesus all year long.

Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate God's greatest gift to us — Jesus! When we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us grow something beautiful in our hearts called the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These aren't fruits we can eat, but special ways we can show God's love to others! Just like Christmas lights brighten our homes, we can brighten someone's day by sharing, helping, forgiving, or speaking kind words. This Christmas, let's remember that the greatest gift we can give others doesn't come wrapped in a box — it comes from a heart filled with God's love!

Family Discussion

1. Which Fruit of the Spirit can you share with someone today?
2. How can we show Jesus' love to someone who is sad or lonely?
3. Why do you think God wants this beautiful fruit to grow in our hearts?