

THE WILL TO DREAM



Advent Calendar





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—Illustrated Ministry

CONTRIBUTORS

Theme Concept: Heather Green and Rebekah Lowe

Contributors: Heather Green, Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, Corby Ortmann

Director of Product & Operations: Rebekah Lowe

Founder: Adam Walker Cleaveland

Illustrated Ministry, LLC.

829 Wisconsin Ave

Racine, Wisconsin 53403

illustratedministry.com

info@illustratedministry.com



In this time of upheaval, trust can feel fragile. Truth is often contested. And the distance between us—whether physical, relational, or spiritual—can seem harder to cross. Many of us are carrying quiet questions and deep weariness. We long for something more than certainty—we long for healing, understanding, and hope. This ache isn't a weakness; it's a holy longing. A sacred desire for a world made whole.

The Will to Dream was created with this longing in mind. Whether you're engaging this resource on your own, with your family, or as part of a wider church community, it's here to help you pause, reflect, and reconnect with the radical hope at the heart of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. You'll explore the wisdom of the prophets, name what's broken, and imagine what could be. Feel free to adapt the materials in whatever way works best for your household—this resource is here to support you.

ADVENT CALENDAR

Beginning December 1, each day offers a simple activity for your family to complete together. We understand that life can get busy, so these activities are short and meaningful, keeping the focus on quality family time. Display the calendar in a visible spot at home where everyone can see it each day. As it works with your schedule, take time with your family to do that day's suggested practice. These practices become part of our spiritual toolkit—resources we can draw on when we feel weary, overwhelmed, or unsure how to respond. If you notice they are repeated in other resources of *The Will to Dream*, you are right! That's intentional! By returning to them again and again, in different ways and settings, we begin to form sacred habits that shape how we live, love, and imagine. We hope this resource provides an easy, meaningful way to connect during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, creating lasting memories for your family.

This PDF contains two versions of our Advent Calendar: full-color and a black-and-white colorable version. You can print these out, cut along the edges and join the two sheets with tape to assemble your complete Advent Calendar. Use the full-color version for a fun and colorful Advent display in your home. Or print out the black-and-white version and color in the shapes as you complete each activity throughout Advent. If you have the ability to print an 11x17 version of this poster, you can download it below. The password for each of the files is **thewilltodream**

- Full-color 11x17 version: illustrtdm.in/TheWillToDreamAdventColor
- Black-and-white 11x17 version: illustrtdm.in/TheWillToDreamAdventBW

FEEDBACK

Your thoughts matter to us. If you found this resource helpful or meaningful, we'd love to hear from you! Any suggestions or ideas for improvement are always welcome. You can reach us at info@illustratedministry.com or connect with us on the following social networks:

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Threads: threads.net/@illustratedmin

Blue Sky: illustratedmin.bsky.social

TikTok: tiktok.com/@illustratedmin

YouTube: youtube.com/illustratedmin

Pinterest: pinterest.com/illustratedmin

Join our growing community on Facebook:

fb.com/groups/illustratedmin

We love seeing how you're using our resources! Share your stories and photos with us using the hashtag #illustratedministry or tagging us @illustratedmin, so we can be a part of your journey.

Looking for more inspiration? Check out the hashtag on social media to see how others are creatively using our materials.

–Illustrated Ministry

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25

Today, as you celebrate Christmas, take some time throughout your day to stop, pause, breathe, look around, and make a memory of small moments. May these memories carry, encourage, and help you dream of all that is and can be.

24

Place your fingers on your wrist to feel your pulse. Whether or not you can feel it, it's there. For each heartbeat, envision love reverberating in all the places you go.

23

Using a glue gun or glue dots, attach two candy canes together in the shape of a heart. Tie a string on each heart and give the candy cane hearts away.

22

It's almost Christmas. Baby Jesus is about to be born. If you could dream up a name for the new baby, what would it be?

21

Take a walk outside and collect small items—flowers, leaves, stones—that spark delight. Arrange them in a circle on the ground as a mandala of joy, then pause to give thanks.

20

Advent often brings joy and anticipation, but not always. Have each person write or draw on a blue card what can make joy difficult. Place the cards by a candle to remember God's light still shines even when joy feels hidden.

19

Before Jesus was born, Mary sang a song to God. Pick an easy song your family knows and rewrite the lyrics to describe the joy you feel in your family.

18

With those in your home, encourage everyone to share something that brings them joy. After each response, give a fist bump or high five!

17

Time for a dance party! Turn on your favorite music and be as silly as you want. Dancing releases endorphins, elevating your mood. Let loose and bring on the joy!

16

When Mary sings to God, she says, "God has filled the hungry with good things." Gather each family member's favorite snack and have a feast of favorites!

15

Many people in the Bible, including those we read about during Advent, have dreamed of a better future. What are your dreams, both big and small?

14

If you have access to water nearby, spend time near it or collect containers of water to play in, swirling, splashing, or transferring the water. We meet God in the water.

13

Explore peaceful protests through videos or books. Even if there are no protests nearby, let the conversation spark ideas for future advocacy.

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12

Make a visual reminder of the peace we dream and work for. On a paper plate, tape one long line through the center and two shorter angled lines from the middle to the edge (making a peace sign). Color or paint over the plate. Remove the tape to reveal a peace sign and hang it in your space.

10

Peace is often felt deeply in our souls. Music can foster that feeling. Create a playlist that sets the tone for peace and listen to it at dinner or before bedtime.

9

John the Baptist appears in our Advent stories. He eats locusts and wild honey. Try some local honey from your community on toast.

7

Walk around your yard or neighborhood with your family. Dream about how you could transform your outdoor space to encourage community and connection.

11

Practice Box Breathing. Inhale for 5 seconds, hold for 5 seconds, exhale for 5 seconds, and hold again for 5 seconds. Repeat.

3

Using plain paper and scissors, create one or more paper snowflakes and hang them around your space to fill it with joy!

4

Our bodies are part of how we live God's dream. Make a fist, squeeze, and hold tightly for ten seconds. Slowly release the tension, paying attention to the pace of your breath. Repeat.

6

Spend time writing letters to political leaders about something you care about—your voice can help make change happen!

5

We meet God in all places, from mangers to mountaintops. Spend time in sand or dirt outside, creating either a manger or a mountaintop with those materials.

1

During this season, we will explore what it means to dream in our faith. What do you imagine God dreams for you, your family, and your community?

2

Our theme, *The Will to Dream*, encourages imagination. Look in your fridge or pantry and dream up a new recipe with your family.

WE WILL TO DREAM

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Christmas, take some time throughout your day to stop, pause, breathe, look around, and make a memory of small moments. May these memories carry, encourage, and help you dream of all that is and can be.

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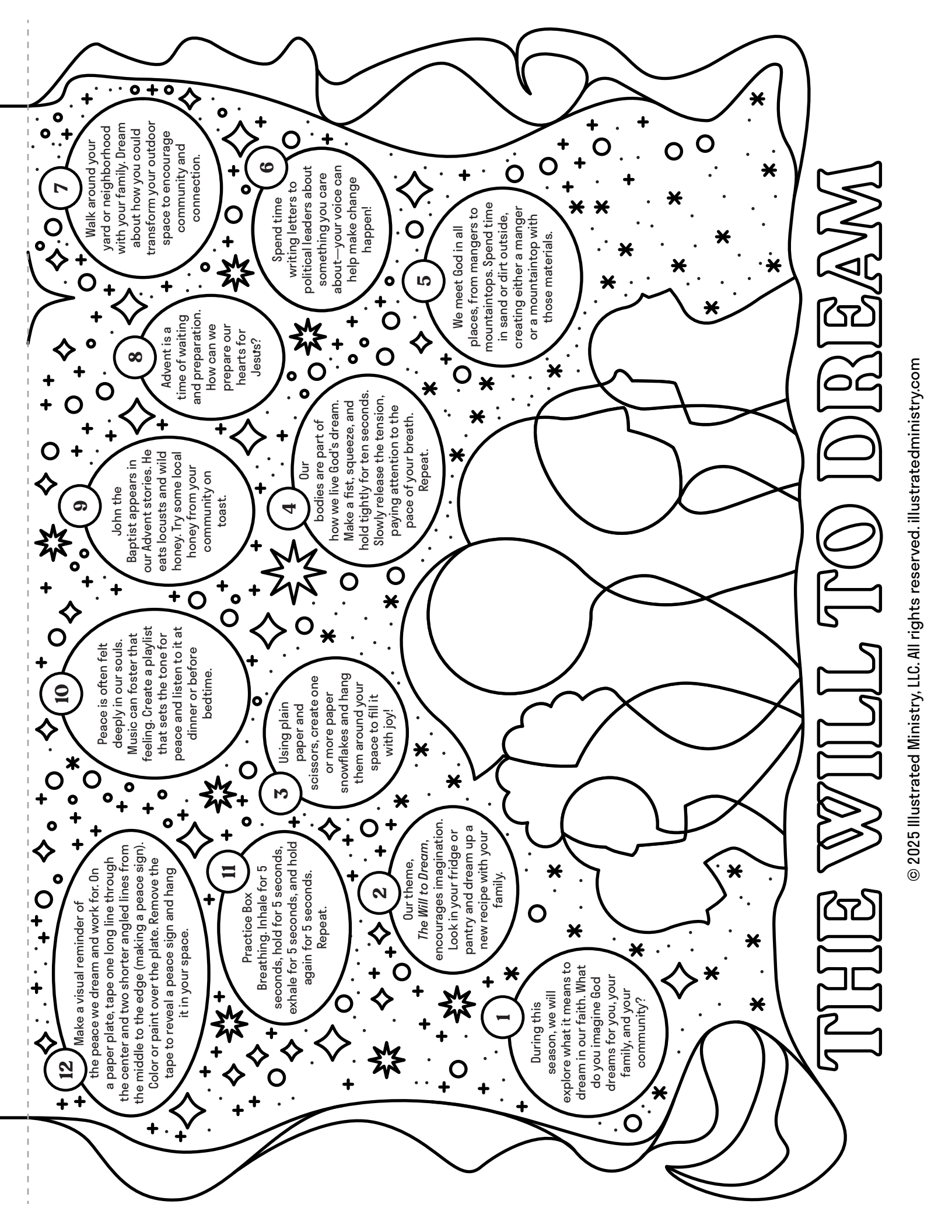
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9 John the Baptist appears in our Advent stories. He eats locusts and wild honey. Try some local honey from your community on toast.

8 Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. How can we prepare our hearts for Jesus?

7 Walk around your yard or neighborhood with your family. Dream about how you could transform your outdoor space to encourage community and connection.

6 Spend time writing letters to political leaders about something you care about—your voice can help make change happen!

5 We meet God in all places, from manglers to mountaintops. Spend time in sand or dirt outside, creating either a manger or a mountaintop with those materials.

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CONTRIBUTORS

writing
project manager

HEATHER GREEN is passionate about spiritual formation in children and youth and sharing the inclusive love of God with all. She holds an MDiv from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a BA and Teaching Certificate from Schreiner University. She served nine years at University UMC in Austin, Texas as the Associate Pastor to Children and Families, Youth Director, and Justice Associate. She and her husband have three young children.

editing

ARIANNE BRAITHWAITE LEHN is a mother, one half of a clergy couple, writer, and ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church (USA). She and her family live in Wilmette, Illinois. Arianne is the author of *Ash and Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos and Grace of Daily Life*. You can connect with Arianne and her writing at ariannebraithwaitelehrn.com.

illustration
illustrator &
graphic designer

CORBY ORTMANN is a digital illustrator and animator whose work includes caricatures, graphic design, children's books, and animated commercials/music videos. He currently lives in St. Paul, Minnesota with his wife and daughter, who help him to step away from the art table every so often. You can find more of his work at corbyortmann.com.

director of product &
operations

REBEKAH LOWE develops and cultivates Illustrated Ministry's ever-growing library of resources. She earned a BA in Biblical Studies from Azusa Pacific University and served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Brentwood Presbyterian Church (USA) in Los Angeles, California. She resides in Austin, Texas with her husband and their two children.

founder

ADAM WALKER CLEVELAND is an artist, pastor, pastor's spouse, and father of four (two living). Adam is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and after doing youth ministry for over 15 years, he founded Illustrated Ministry, LLC in 2015. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin with his wife and their two children.