

# Now You See It

## Materials

- ☐ White board
- ☐ Marker and eraser for white board

## Instructions

*Write the memory verse on the board. Recite the verse together. Choose a student to come up to the board and erase one or two words at a time. Have the class recite the entire verse each time another word is erased. Continue erasing words and reciting until all of the words are gone. Then ask students to try reciting the whole verse without any words left on the board.*

# Review Card Relay

## Materials

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

## Instructions

*Print the Memory Verse Poster. Write one or two words from the memory verse on index cards. Make one set of verse cards for each team.*

*Review the verse with the class using the Memory Verse Poster. Divide the class into teams. Randomly lay out each set of index cards facedown on the floor—one set for each team. Put a piece of poster putty or tape on each card.*

*Have teams line up away from the cards. When the relay begins, the first student in each line will race to the cards, pick one up, and put it on the wall or board. As the relay continues, students will put each card on the board in the proper order. They may need to rearrange the cards to fit others. Allow students to use the Memory Verse Poster for help.*

*When finished, have the class read the verse cards aloud together.*

# Christmas Bingo

## Materials

- ☐ Word cards (following page)
- ☐ Bingo sheets (following pages)
- ☐ Container for word cards
- ☐ Small wrapped candies, such as Hershey's® Kisses to use for markers (enough for a handful per student)

## Instructions

*Print enough Bingo sheets for each student to have one; use all four sheets for variety. Print and cut out three copies of the word cards and put into a container.*

*Pass out a handful of candies to each student. Draw word cards one at a time from the container and announce what it says. Students will use a candy to mark **one** matching picture on their Bingo sheet.*

*Continue playing as time allows or until someone gets a complete row filled in on their sheet and shouts "Merry Christmas!"*

## Suggested Discussion

Christmas is a wonderful time of year! There are many things we love about Christmas. Many of those things are on your Bingo sheets.

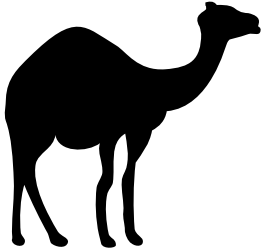
- ? Which pictures come from the Bible? *Allow discussion.*
- ? What about the pictures that aren't from the Bible? What do they remind us of at Christmastime? *Allow discussion.*



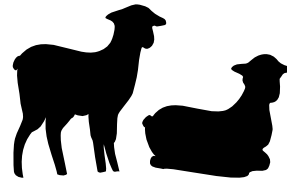
*Mary  
and  
Joseph*



*Wrapped  
present*



*Camel*



*Sheep*



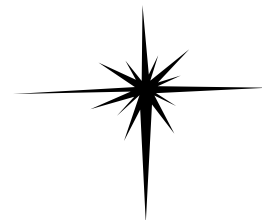
*Candle*



*Shepherd*



*Candy  
cane*



*Star*

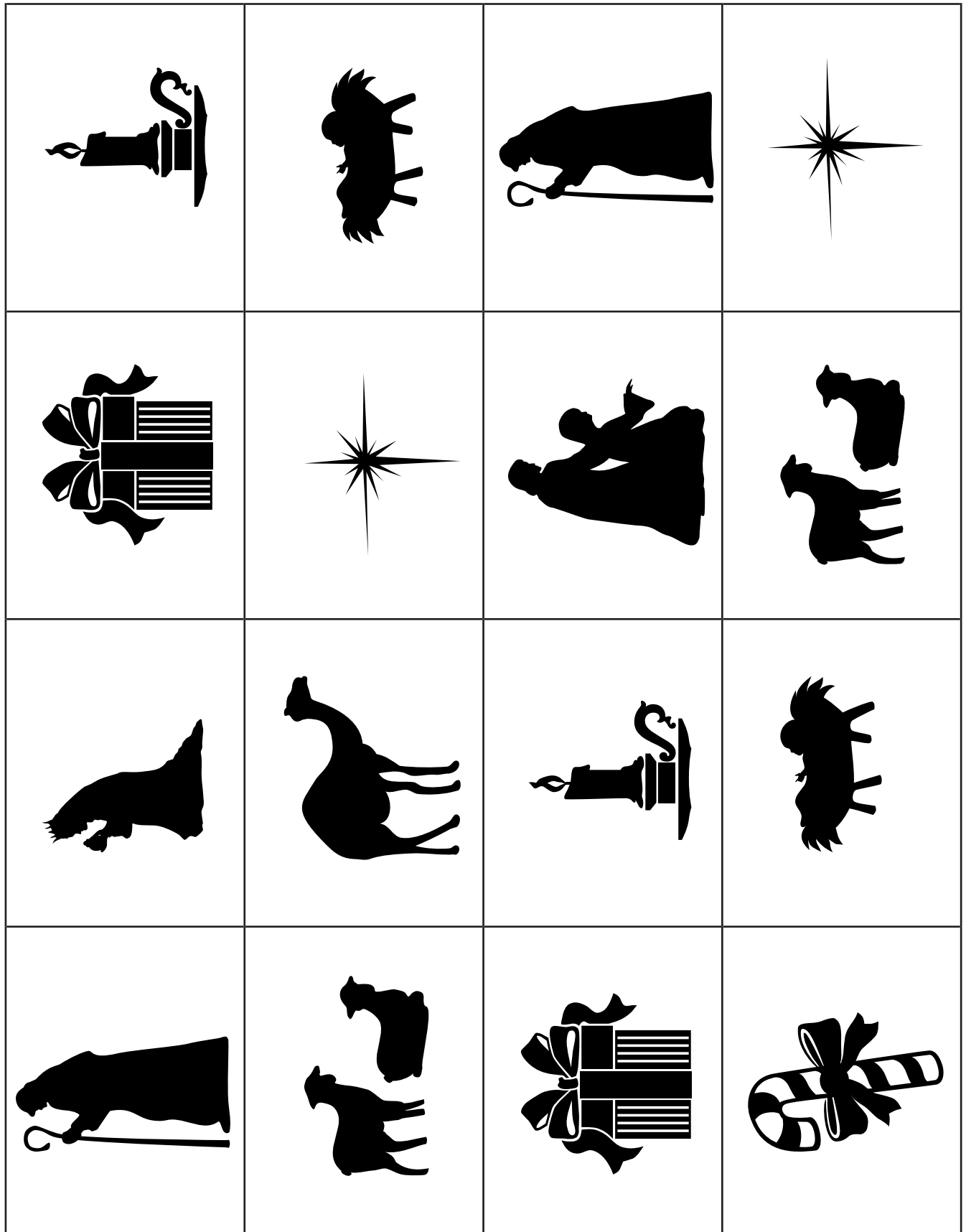


*Baby  
Jesus in a  
manger*

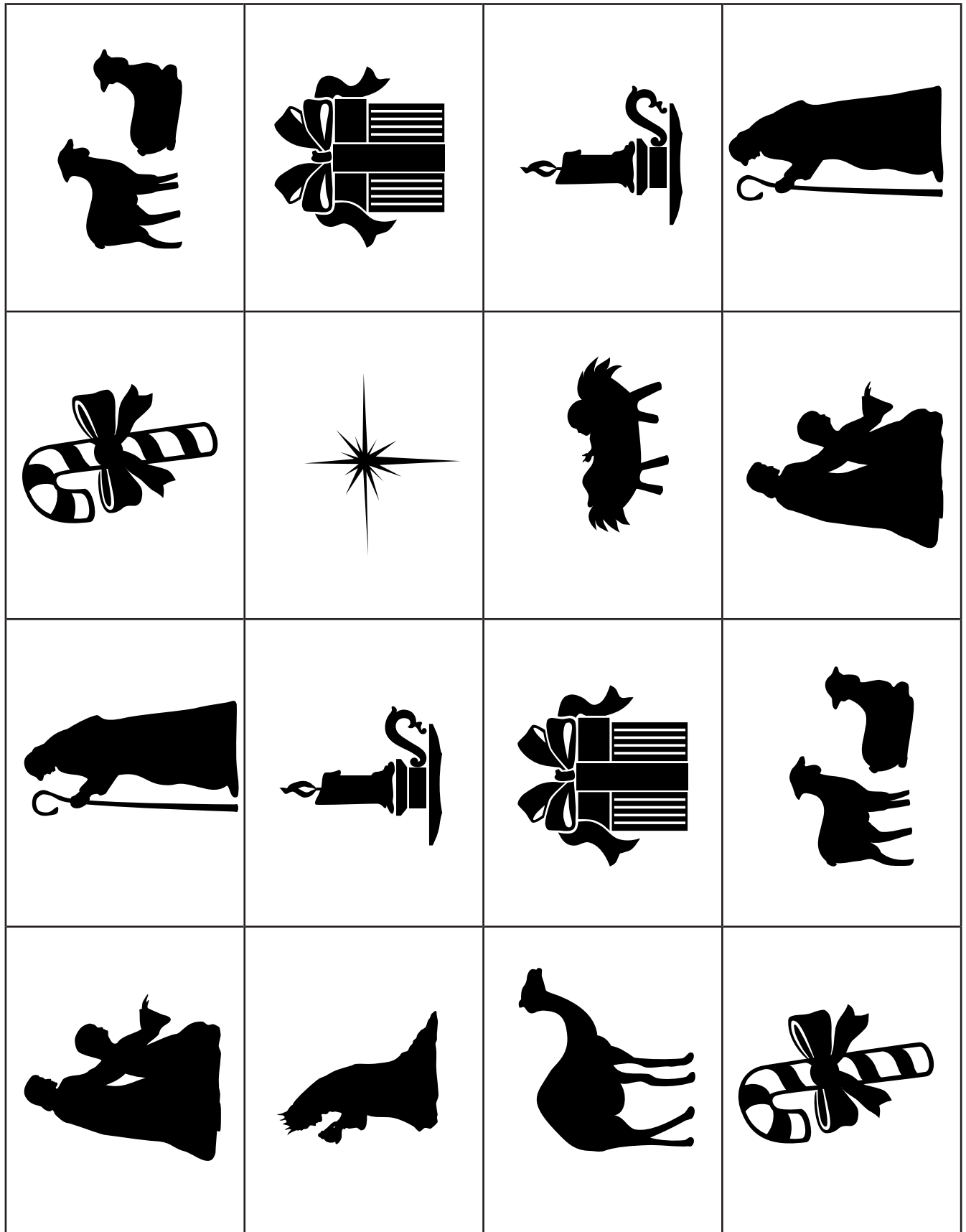


*Wise man*

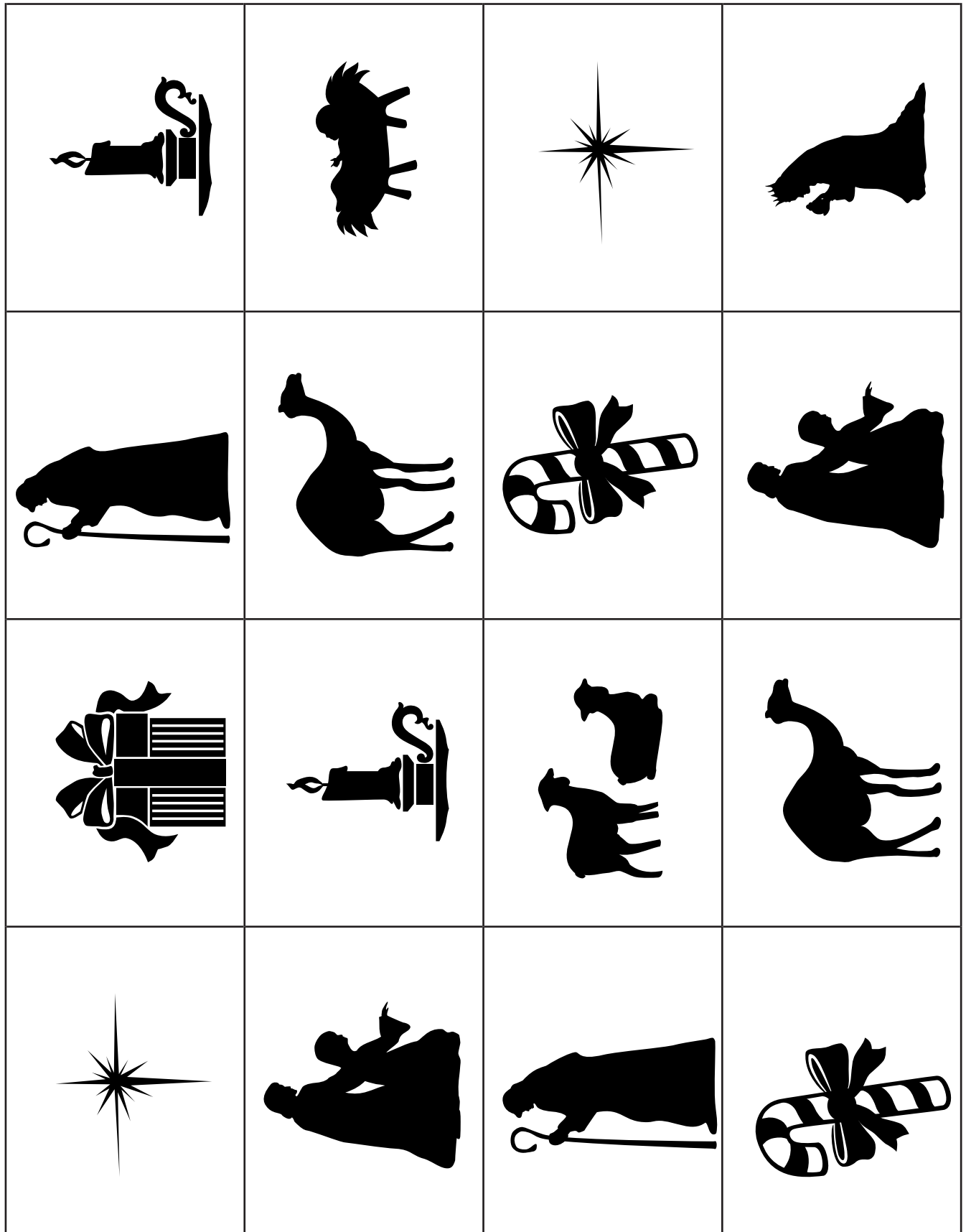
# CHRISTMAS BINGO



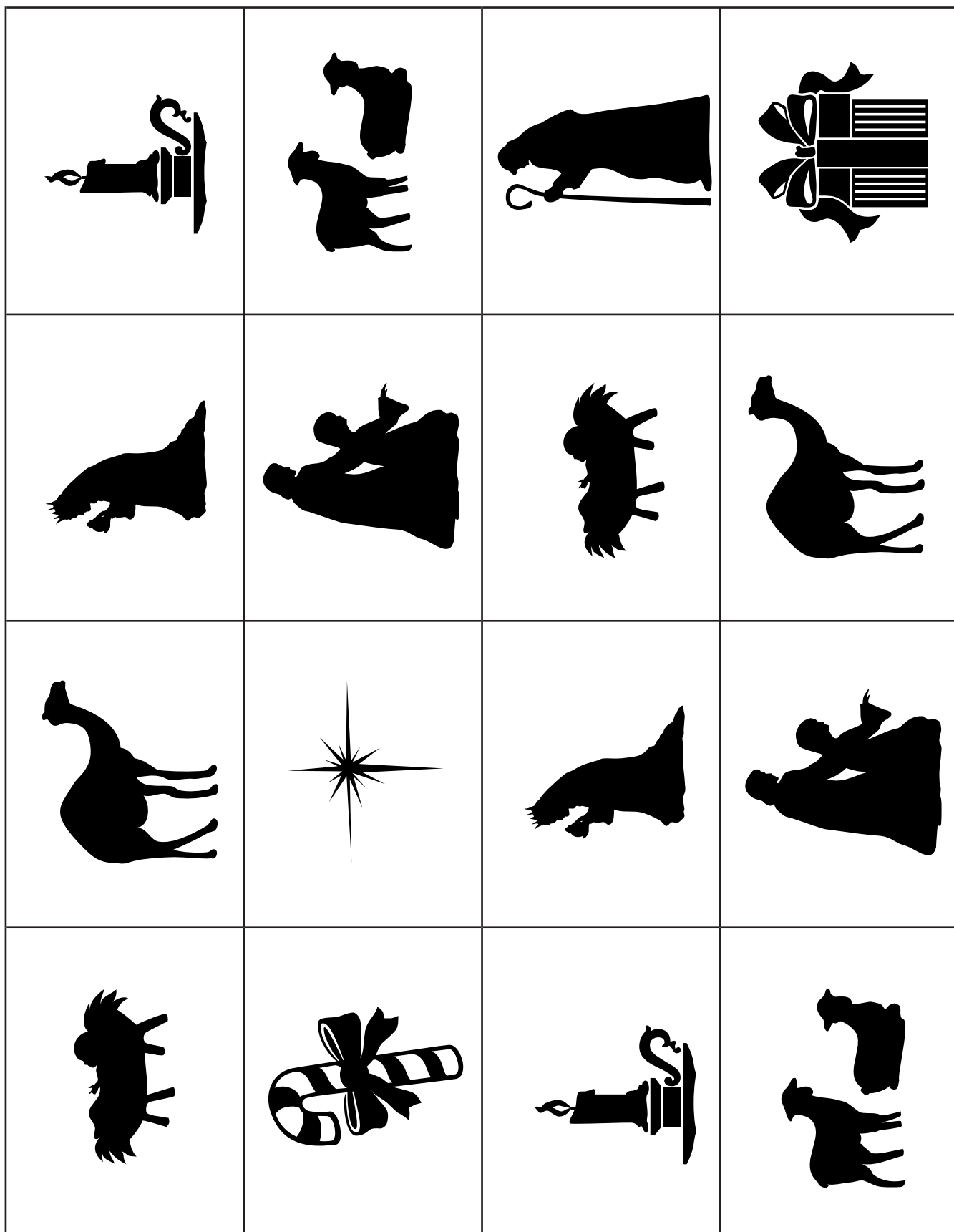
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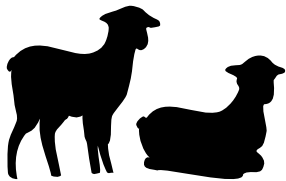


Name \_\_\_\_\_

# What's Missing?

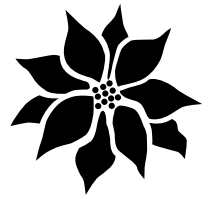
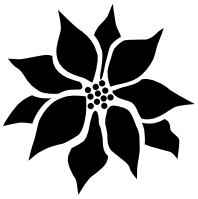
Some of the vowels (A, E, I, O, and U) are missing in the memory verse. Write them in the correct blanks to read the memory verse.

And the \_\_ngel said to them, “Fe\_\_r not,  
for beh\_\_ld, I bring you good news of great  
j\_\_y that will be for all the p\_\_ople. For  
\_\_nto you is b\_\_rn this d\_\_y in the city of  
David a Savior, who is Chr\_\_st the L\_\_rd.”



**Luke 2:10–11 (ESV)**





# Scripture Sheet

## ***2 Samuel 7:12–13***

<sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

## ***Zechariah 9:9***

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

## ***Isaiah 7:14***

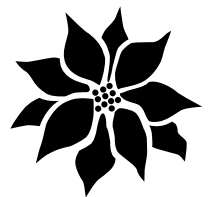
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

## ***Luke 1:26–33***

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."



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# Review Questions

1. What word in the Bible means to expect something with confidence? *Hope.*
2. What entered God's perfect creation when Adam and Eve disobeyed in the garden of Eden? *Sin and separation from God.*
3. Why do we need a Savior? *To save us from sin and separation from God.*
4. What did God promise that the descendant of Eve would do to Satan? *Bruise his head; defeat/destroy him.*
5. What does descendant, or offspring, mean? *Children that will be born in the future.*
6. Who did God promise would have a special descendant who would bless all families of the earth? *Abraham.*
7. When Jesus grew up, how did he bless all people? *By dying on the cross for our sins and rising again to conquer death.*
8. God promised which king that one of his descendants would be the Savior? *King David.*
9. What kind of kingdom would David's special descendant have? *An eternal kingdom.*
10. How long would an eternal kingdom last? *Forever.*
11. Name one of the two prophets in the Old Testament we read today that God used to write prophecies about Jesus. *Zechariah, Isaiah.*
12. Zechariah prophesied that a \_\_\_\_\_ was coming to Israel. *King.*
13. This coming king would be righteous and humble, riding on a what? *Donkey.*
14. Zechariah wrote that the coming king would bring salvation. The Israelites thought this meant he would save them by doing what? *Fighting their enemies.*
15. What does Jesus' salvation save us from? *Our sins. The punishment of sin.*
16. What sign, or miracle, did God tell Isaiah that he would give to Israel? *A virgin would bear a son.*
17. What name did God say this special son would be called? It means "God with us." *Immanuel.*
18. Who did God choose to be the earthly parents of Jesus? *Mary and Joseph.*
19. Who told Mary she would have a special son by the power of the Holy Spirit even though she was a virgin (not married)? *The angel Gabriel.*
20. Mary was told to name her baby Jesus, and he would be called the Son of the \_\_\_\_\_. *Most High.*

# Gift Go-Round

## Materials

- ☐ Several boxes from small to large that will fit inside each other
- ☐ Gift wrap
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Candies/small prizes
- ☐ Christmas music

## Instructions

*Put enough candies or prizes for each student into the smallest box. Wrap the box and set it inside the next larger box then wrap that box and set it inside the next larger box. Continue until the largest box is wrapped with the others nested inside of it.*

*Have students sit in a circle. Turn on the music and have students pass the gift around. Pause the music. Whoever is holding the gift when the music stops will open only the outside box. Continue randomly playing and stopping the music and having students unwrap each box until the box with the candies/prizes is unwrapped. Have students share the contents while you move on to the Suggested Discussion.*

## Suggested Discussion

- ?** How many of you were really hoping there was something special inside all those boxes? *Show of hands.*

It took a long time to get there, but we finally received the real gift in the last box. Sometimes people say they hope for something, but they don't necessarily think it will happen. But the kind of hope that comes from God is different. We can hope and trust that what he says will really happen because God always keeps his promises. God gave people the hope of a Savior. It took many years for the right time to come, but God kept his word and the Savior was born as promised.

# Hope Wreath Ornament

## Materials

- ☐ Hope Circle cards (following page) printed on colored card stock
- ☐ Wide-mouth canning jar lids (not rings)
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Green, red, and white ¾-inch pom-poms
- ☐ Narrow ribbon cut in 8-inch lengths
- ☐ Optional: small Christmas decorations (i.e., berries, beads, holly leaves, mini pinecones, etc.)

## Instructions

*Print the Hope Circle cards on colored card stock and cut out one card for each student. Have students trim around their circle and glue it onto the jar lid.*

*Next, make a loop with the ribbon and glue the two ends together at the top edge on the front of the lid (the ribbon ends won't show). Lay the loop out of the way.*

*Decorate around the edges of the lid with pom-poms to look like a wreath. Add other small decorations if available. Allow to dry.*



## Suggested Discussion

**?** What is the message on these wreath ornaments? *Jesus is our hope!*

When you hang up your ornament at home, think about what we learned in our lesson today. God is eternal, so he has always known that Jesus would be the Savior who would come to earth, live a perfect life, then die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin.

God first told his plan to Adam and Eve way back in Genesis and continued to pass this promise of hope down through thousands of years. Those who are God's children and have put their trust in Jesus have the hope of living with him in heaven forever. That is a great gift!

Jesus  
is our  
Hope!

Jesus  
is our  
Hope!

Jesus  
is our  
Hope!

Jesus  
is our  
Hope!

Jesus  
is our  
Hope!

Jesus  
is our  
Hope!

# 2,000 YEARS

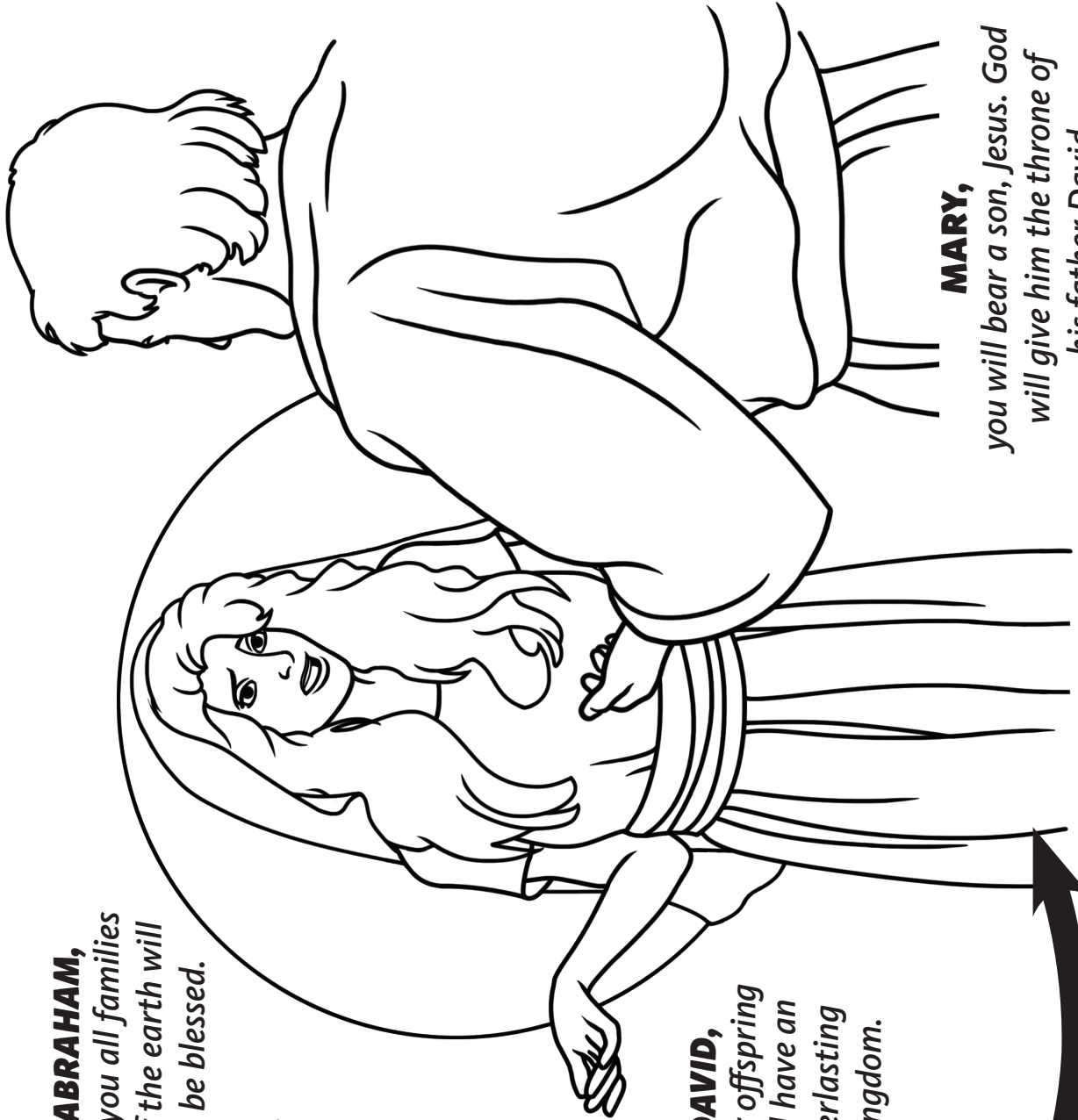
from Abraham's promise to the Savior, Jesus.



**ABRAHAM,**  
in you all families  
of the earth will  
be blessed.



**DAVID,**  
your offspring  
will have an  
everlasting  
kingdom.



**MARY,**  
you will bear a son, Jesus. God  
will give him the throne of  
his father David.



# Ellie's Christmas Hope

"We're here!" said Justin's dad as he parked the van. "Let's go find us a tree." Justin, his two-year-old sister, Ellie, and their parents hurried into the Christmas Tree Barn excited to find the best Christmas tree.

"I want pink!" shouted Ellie as she pulled Justin through the front door.

"No, Ellie," Justin said with a scowl, "we don't want a pink tree. Yuck!"

Justin's parents chuckled at their kids. Ellie's favorite color changed a lot. Lately, she wanted everything to be pink. But Justin did not agree—not one bit!

"Let's look over there, Ellie," Justin suggested. "Those look like real trees."

Ellie let her big brother lead her by the hand as they walked past all the fancy-colored fake trees: blue, purple, white. And there it was—the most spectacular tree Ellie had ever seen. It was tall and full, but best of all, it was completely pink! Sparkly decorations hung all over it and glossy ribbons curled in and out of the pink branches. Ellie reached out and touched the ribbon. The whole tree wavered. The ornaments swayed back and forth. Justin jumped forward and grabbed Ellie's hand. He was afraid the whole tree would tip over!

"Whoa! Be careful, Ellie. No touching, remember?" Justin reminded her.

Ellie looked up, up, up and saw a beautiful pink star perched on the tippy-top of the tree! Ellie couldn't believe her eyes. "Look, Jussin!" she exclaimed. "Da pink star is sooo pretty!"

"Come on, Ellie," Justin said as he tugged on her hand. "Mom and Dad are over there, let's go." Justin pulled Ellie along, but Ellie stared back at the pink tree unable to take her eyes off of it.

"Hey, Ellie," said Dad, "how about this tree? It's just your size."

Ellie didn't even look at the little tree her dad was talking about. She just pointed back to the glorious pink tree. "Pink?" she asked hopefully.

Dad grinned. "Well, I guess we know what her choice is," he said to Mom. "Let's go this way and see what else they've got." Dad led the way zig-zagging between the trees inside the barn. Then he went right out the back door where there were even more trees still in the ground!

Justin stopped and stared. "Wow! That's a lot of trees."

"Those haven't been cut yet," Dad explained. "But if we find one we like, the store owner will cut it down for us."

"The path is a little muddy," said Dad as he lifted Ellie up onto his shoulders.

"This tree is nice," said Mom as she and Dad started down the first row.

Justin tromped along the path in his rain boots, looking at the trees as he followed his parents. It was a little dark in between the trees, so Justin didn't notice the squishy mud hole until he stepped right into it. *Goosh!* His left foot sank into the gloppy mud. Justin tried to wriggle his foot free, but it was stuck. Then Justin felt the cold, wet mud ooze into his sock and remembered the hole in his left boot. "Dad, I'm stuck!" Justin shouted.

"Justin, where are you?" Dad called.

"Over here!" Justin's voice quavered with fear. He could only hear his dad's voice, but he couldn't see him anywhere in the shadows.

Suddenly he heard Ellie shout, "I see Jussin!" Justin looked up. To his surprise, he saw his little sister's eyes peeking at him through the tree



tops. Justin's family was in the next row, and Ellie was still up on Dad's shoulders, so she was tall enough to see through the tops of the trees.

"Good job, Ellie," said Mom.

"We'll be right there, Justin!" Dad shouted out.

Justin's parents hurried back and helped him get unstuck from the squishy mud. Then they all continued *carefully* together down the path in search of their perfect Christmas tree.

"How about this one?" asked Mom as she pointed to a large tree.

"That's too fat for our living room," Dad commented.

"Hey, here's a good one!" Justin said. "It's kinda skinny, so we can walk around it in the living room."

"Hmm," Mom said as she looked the tree over. "You know what? I think this is the perfect tree."

"Hey! Good find, Justin," said Dad.

Soon Dad was tying their new tree onto the roof of their van while Mom buckled Ellie into her car seat. But instead of getting into the car, Mom went back into the tree barn, leaving Dad with the kids.

"What's Mom doing?" asked Justin.

"She's grabbing a little something she saw in the tree store," Dad explained with a wink.

Justin turned to Ellie. "You like the tree we got, Ellie? It's tall and skinny. And it has nice, soft branches."

Ellie looked at Justin. "Is it pink?"

"No, it's green 'cause it's a real tree."

Ellie looked sad. Justin tried to cheer her up. "Maybe Mom and Dad will get you something pink for Christmas." Ellie smiled at that thought. She sure hoped she would get something pink.

Once they got home and set up the tree in their living room, Mom opened the boxes of

decorations. There were shiny balls and glittery snowflakes. Justin handed a gold ornament to Ellie. "Here, you can hang this one up," he said.

"Aww," Ellie sighed. "It's not pink."

"Wow! She sure is hoping for something pink this Christmas," said Justin.

"Yes. She is hopeful," Mom agreed.

"But just because ya hope for something, does that mean it will happen?" asked Justin.

"No, not always," Mom replied. "The kind of hoping she's doing is more like wishing for something."

"Our Sunday school teacher said we can always hope in God, though," Justin pointed out.

"She's right," said Dad. "That kind of hope is different. It's more like knowing for sure that God will do what he says. And at Christmastime, we think about the hope God gave to all people when he promised to send Jesus as our Savior."

"So is the hope all done now? I mean since Jesus was already born?"

"No. Now those who trust in Jesus have the hope of living with him in heaven forever," said Mom. "We never have to give up hope in God."

"And speaking of never giving up hope, Mom bought something for you, Ellie," said Dad as he held his hands behind his back.

Ellie jumped up. "Lemme see, Daddy!"

Dad slowly brought out the beautiful pink star that Ellie had seen earlier that evening on the pink tree. "It's pink!" Ellie squealed in delight. Dad lifted Ellie up and helped her place the star on the top of the tree where it glittered and shined.

"Well, she got what she was hoping for," said Mom. "How about you, Justin. What are you hoping for this Christmas?"

Justin thought for a minute, then looked down at his feet. "I know," he said with a grin, "I hope I get some new boots without any holes."

