

# Family Advent Guide



Merry Christmas!

We know that the holiday season can get really busy, and it can be tough to find opportunities to celebrate with your kids the true meaning of Christmas. So we wanted to make it easy for you!

Inside this pack you will find 24 ornaments for your child to color. Each ornament corresponds to one day during the month of December. For each day you will find a Bible passage and a few things you can discuss, along with a family activity you can do together to spread joy to your family and to others. The family activity portion is specifically for families with elementary kids, but most can be done with preschoolers too. Whether you do one per day or a few here and there, we hope that you can use this resource to spend meaningful time with your kids sharing the true meaning of Christmas, and hopefully making some great memories along the way! Think of it as an interactive Advent calendar.

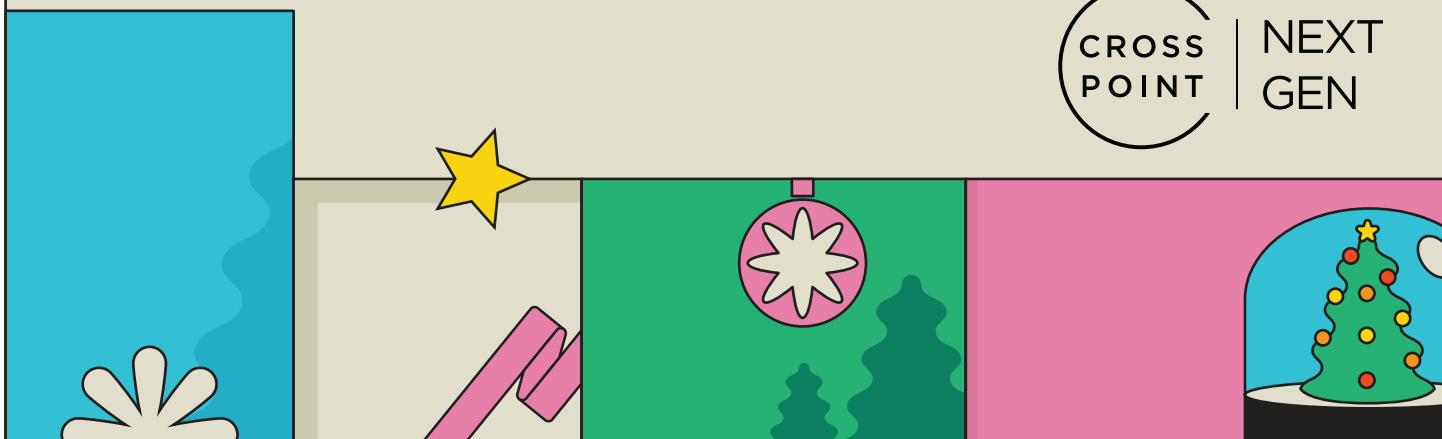
Included in the pack is:

- 24 ornaments to color and cut out
- Bible passages and discussions
- Suggested family activities for each day

Love,  
The CrossPoint NextGen Team



NEXT  
GEN

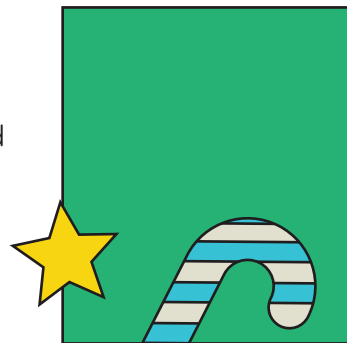


### Day 1: Candle [Isaiah 9:2-7]

Talk about this together:

Before Jesus was born there was darkness in the world. Not darkness like nighttime darkness, but darkness inside of hearts. The world was full of sin, fear, anger, selfishness. It's not fun to be in complete darkness. All that would change with the birth of the baby Jesus, He would bring a new light to earth. God has amazing things for us to do and He sent a light, the Light of the World, Jesus!

**Family Activity:** Light a candle at dinner time or bedtime. Share your favorite Christmas tradition that you don't want to miss doing together this year.

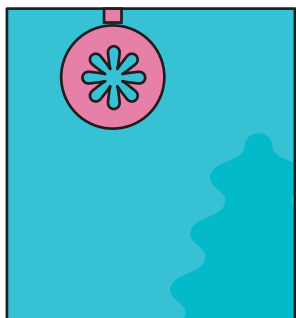


### Day 2: Kingdom [Isaiah 9:2-7]

Talk about this together:

Before Jesus was even born, God told the prophet Isaiah that Jesus didn't come to just be a baby, but that he would be a king forever. As you read the passage, look at the description of the king. Does that sound like a good king? What are some other names you can think of for Jesus?

**Family Activity:** Choose 1-3 relatives or family friends. Record a short selfie video Christmas greeting as a family and text it to them.

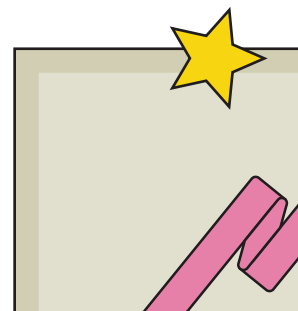


### Day 3: Zechariah [Luke 1:5-25]

Talk about this together:

An angel came to Zechariah and told him that his wife would have a baby, but Zechariah didn't believe him because he thought he and his wife was too old. What did the angel do because Zechariah didn't believe him? Zechariah helps us to remember that we can always believe what God says even if it seems unbelievable!

**Family Activity:** What's stressing you out right now? Share with each other. Then pray that God would give you His peace this season.



### Day 4: Gabriel [Luke 1:26-38]

Talk about this together:

Gabriel is here again. We read before that he gave a message to Zechariah and now he has a special message for Mary. He came to tell her that she would have a baby, too. What if Gabriel had a message for you; would you listen and do what he said? Would you believe like Mary, or would you not believe like Zechariah?

**Family Activity:** What would YOU do if a brilliant angel from God appeared in your home? Share how you would react.

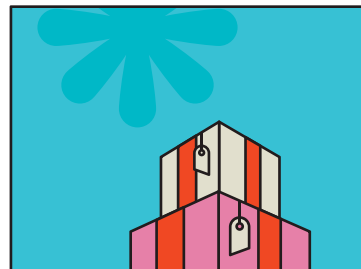


## Day 5: Mary [Luke 1:26-38]

Talk about this together:

Mary's life was going to change in a big way. How do you think she felt when the angel told her she would have a baby? I bet she was scared, but even though she was scared what did she do? She said that even though she was afraid, she wanted to serve God and that she trusted Him. What are some ways you can serve God and your family today?

**Family Activity:** God's plan for Christmas surprised everyone. If you could plan Christmas this year exactly the way you wanted, what would it look like?



## Day 6: Mary / Elizabeth [Luke 1:39-45]

Talk about this together:

Elizabeth and Mary were from the same family and both of them were going to have very special babies. When Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house what did Elizabeth's baby do? He jumped for joy! Mary and Elizabeth were very excited to see each other and talk about the amazing things that God was going to do through their sons!

**Family Activity:** Choose or make a special ornament for your Christmas tree that represents something good God has done for your family this year.

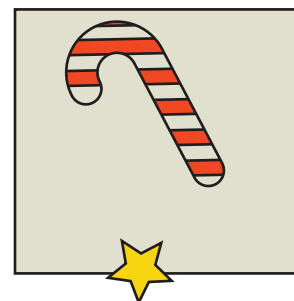


## Day 7: Song [Luke 1:46-56]

Talk about this together:

Mary was so happy after she visited Elizabeth, she couldn't help but praise God! She sang a beautiful song to Him! Read through the song again and find a few reasons why she worshiped God. Take some time with your family to sing a Christmas song of worship to God.

**Family Activity:** Create a playlist of everyone's favorite Christmas carols and worship songs. Play it while on the go all week-and don't be afraid to sing along!

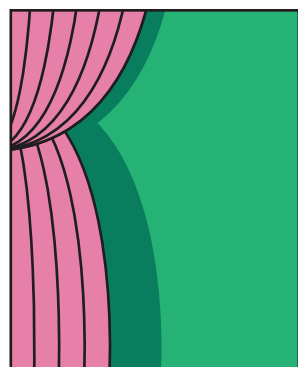


## Day 8: Sun [Luke 1:57-80]

Talk about this together:

When Elizabeth had her baby John, we learn that he would have a very important job: to tell everyone that Jesus was coming! Zechariah describes Jesus as a "rising sun" that will "shine on those living in darkness." That sounds like something we have heard before from Isaiah and our candle. Jesus is the Light of the World!

**Family Activity:** Bake a batch of Christmas cookies (no shame if you grab a tube from the grocery fridge section). Share a snack together and take some cookies to a neighbor.

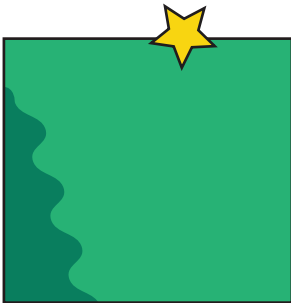


### Day 9: Joseph [Matthew 1:18-24]

Talk about this together:

The Bible tells us that Joseph was a righteous man. That means he loved God and obeyed what He said. God wanted Jesus to have two parents on earth who would be a good example for Him. How do you think Joseph felt when he found out he would be Jesus' earthly dad?

**Family Activity:** Break out a pack of glow sticks. Have a Christmas dance party with upbeat Christmas music.



### Day 10: Dream [Matthew 1:18-25]

Talk about this together:

Joseph wasn't sure what he should do when he found out Mary was going to have a baby, so God sent an angel to tell him what to do. God sent an angel in a dream. What two things did the angel tell him to do? (Don't be afraid to marry Mary and name the baby Jesus.) Just like Mary, Joseph obeyed right away!

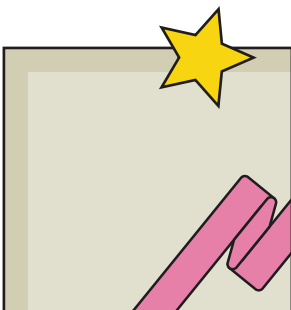
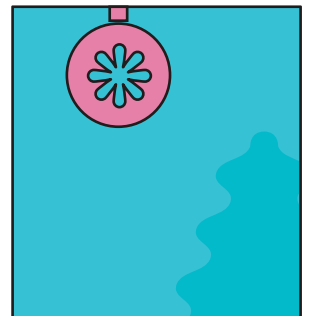
**Family Activity:** Grab a gingerbread man or other Christmas cookie for each member of the family to place on their forehead. Race to see who can shimmy the cookie down and bite it first before it drops. No hands!

### Day 11: Jesus' Name [Matthew 1:18-25]

Talk about this together:

The angel told Joseph just what to name the baby. Jesus would also have a special name, "Immanuel." These two names show us why Jesus came; Jesus means "God saves" and Immanuel means "God with us." Jesus came to be with us and to save us!

**Family Activity:** We learned what Jesus' name means. Share with each other what your name means. (Google is your friend for this.) Then share the story behind your name if you know it.



### Day 12: Census [Luke 2:1-5]

Talk about this together:

The government made a law that everyone had to travel to where they were born to be counted. The towns were filled with lots of people, but Mary and Joseph weren't just any people; God had a special plan for them. What do you think it was like for Mary and Joseph to be in a new town full of other people?

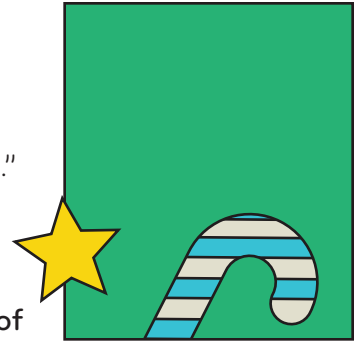
**Family Activity:** Take a trip around the neighborhood or other areas of your town or city to check out the amazing Christmas lights along the way.

### Day 13: Bethlehem [Luke 2:1-5]

Talk about this together:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The word Bethlehem means "house of bread." Did you know that Jesus would actually call himself, "the bread of life" in John 6:35? How is Jesus like bread in our lives?

**Family Activity:** Using Google Maps, take a look at the modern-day streets of Bethlehem. What do you think Bethlehem was like when Jesus was born?



### Day 14: Stable [Luke 2:1-7]

Talk about this together:

It doesn't actually say in the Bible that Jesus was born in a stable, does it? But the Bible does say that Jesus was placed into a manger, a feeding box for animals. Where would you find one of those? In stables or barns. The stable could have been made of wood or it could have even looked like a cave. No matter what it looked like, it wasn't a normal place for a baby to be born, but there was no other place for Mary and Joseph to stay. Do you think that if the people in Bethlehem knew that Jesus was going to be born, they would have found another place for Mary and Joseph to stay? What do you think it was like in the stable? What animals do you think were there?

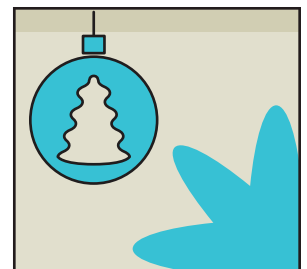
**Family Activity:** Use a Nativity Set or stuffed animals to act out the Christmas story as a family member reads it from Luke 2.

### Day 15: Manger [Luke 2:1-7]

Talk about this together:

Do you remember what you slept in when you were a baby? Was it warm and comfortable? The only thing for Jesus to sleep in was an animal feeding trough. What do you think it felt like for Jesus? How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about it?

**Family Activity:** Have a "baby food" picnic or snack by the Christmas tree with Baby Bel cheese, baby carrots, mini pigs in a blanket, mini muffins, or other mini snack foods.



### Day 16: Cloths [Luke 2:6-7]

Talk about this together:

After Jesus was born Mary wrapped the baby in some cloths. This would be very important as we will soon find out. (It would be how the shepherds would know it was Jesus.)

**Family Activity:** Taking care of a new baby is a big challenge! Take a meal to a family you know with a new baby, or pick up diapers to donate to a local shelter or food bank.



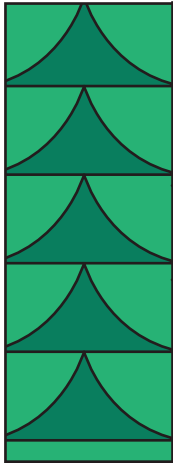
## Day 17: Sheep [Luke 2:8-14]

Talk about this together:

Out in the fields the shepherds were doing what they always do: watching their sheep. The Bible says that when the angels appeared the shepherds were terrified. Do you think the sheep were scared too? When Jesus grows up he calls himself a shepherd of people. It's pretty cool that the first people to visit baby Jesus show us a lot about who Jesus would become and how he would care for us!



**Family Activity:** Make Christmas cards for anyone in your life who might need a little joy today, from the mail person to the crosswalk guard. You could even add a small gift card or small treat.



## Day 18: Angels [Luke 2:8-14]

Talk about this together:

The Bible tells us that when the shepherds saw the angels they were terrified. We don't know exactly what they looked like, but we do know what they said. After one angel announced that Jesus was born many more angels came and praised God! What do you think it sounded like? Were they singing? Was it loud?

**Family Activity:** Tell your child how you shared the good news of their birth (or arrival in your family) with others.

## Day 19: Shepherds [Luke 2:15-20]

Talk about this together:

After seeing Jesus, the shepherds didn't go back to their sheep. It says they praised God and told everyone what they had seen. Think of something new you have learned about Jesus' birth, and go tell someone about it! Then find one way to praise God, just like the shepherds did.

**Family Activity:** Roast marshmallows for s'mores while looking up at the stars-the same ones the shepherds saw! (Or make them in the oven and eat them by candlelight.)

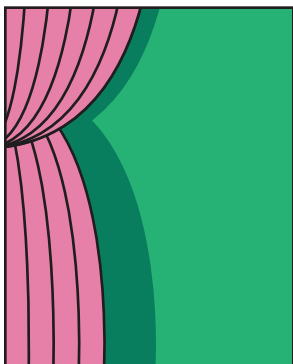


## Day 20: Temple [Luke 2:21-40]

Talk about this together:

When Jesus was only 8 days old, his parents took him to the temple to dedicate Him to the Lord. While they were there two people recognized Jesus for who He was. Anna and Simeon listened to God's voice and then praised God for keeping His promise to rescue them. Read Simeon's prayer in verses 29-32 again. Do you notice the part about the light? What else have we learned about Jesus being the light?

**Family Activity:** Try making "real" hot cocoa with cocoa powder, melted chocolate, sugar, and milk of your choice. While the cocoa heats, share with each other something big you are waiting for right now.



### Day 21: Star [Matthew 2:1-12]

Talk about this together:

Not only did God send angels to tell of Jesus' birth, He also sent a star! It was a huge and bright star that shone right above the place where Jesus lived. The wise men were able to follow the star to find Jesus. They wanted to worship this new King of Kings! When they saw the star, the Bible says they were filled with joy!

**Family Activity:** Parents, share about a particularly special or unique Christmas that you experienced as a child.

### Day 22: Wise Men [Matthew 2:1-12]

Talk about this together:

The Bible doesn't actually say there were only three wise men—just that there were three gifts given to Jesus. No matter how many there were, we do know that they went on a long journey just to find Jesus. Imagine that you were one of the wise men; you don't know where you are going you're just following a star in the sky. How would you feel? It is amazing that they were so determined to find and worship Jesus!

**Family Activity:** Share your favorite Christmas movies with each other. Then pick one (or two!), make some popcorn, and settle down in Christmas PJs for a Christmas movie marathon.

### Day 23: Gifts [Matthew 2:1-12]

Talk about this together:

The wise men brought precious gifts for Jesus. Each one reminds us of some special things about Jesus. One gift was gold; that reminds us that Jesus is King. The second gift, frankincense, was a beautiful smelling and healing incense; it reminds us that Jesus is our High Priest that would be perfect before God. The third gift was myrrh, a spice used after someone had died. This reminds us of the sacrifice that Jesus would make for us. Talk about what kind of gift you could give to Jesus this Christmas. Obeying your parents? Giving to someone in need? Sharing your toys?

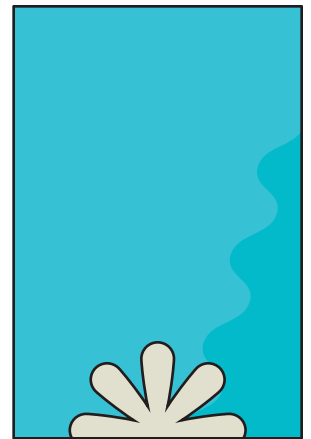
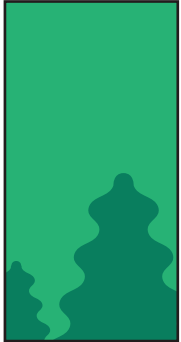
**Family Activity:** Choose a few small gifts to unwrap early. Celebrate together that God gave us such an amazing and unexpected gift as Jesus!

### Day 24: Cross [Philippians 2:5-8]

Talk about this together:

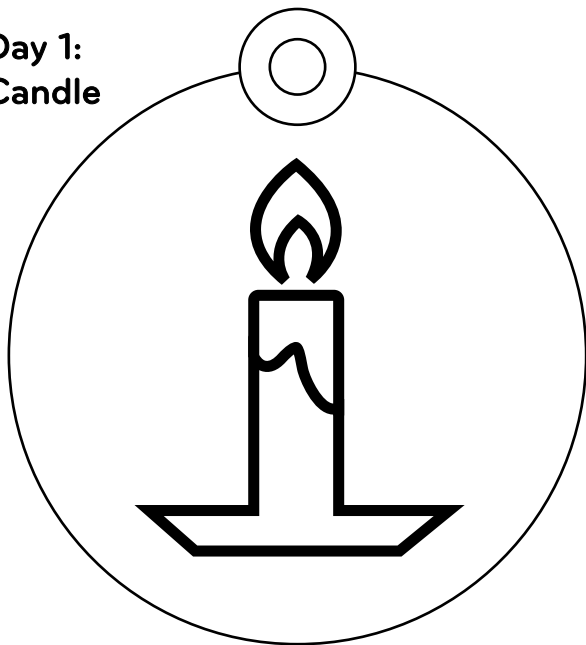
After Jesus was born he grew into a man and one day he would die on a cross. The Bible tells us in this verse the Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death on the cross. Why did he have to die on the cross? For our sin. Sin is all the things we do wrong. The Bible says he took all of our sins with Him on the cross, so that we wouldn't have to carry them anymore. We could be perfect in the eyes of God and have a relationship with Him. After Jesus died he came back to life, defeating death! That is what Christmas is all about—that Jesus would love us enough to come to earth in order to die in our place. Jesus' birth is a celebration and reminder of what He would do for us on the cross.

**Family Activity:** What is the biggest thing you want to thank God for right now? (In addition to Jesus!) Share with each other and give God a giant round of applause.

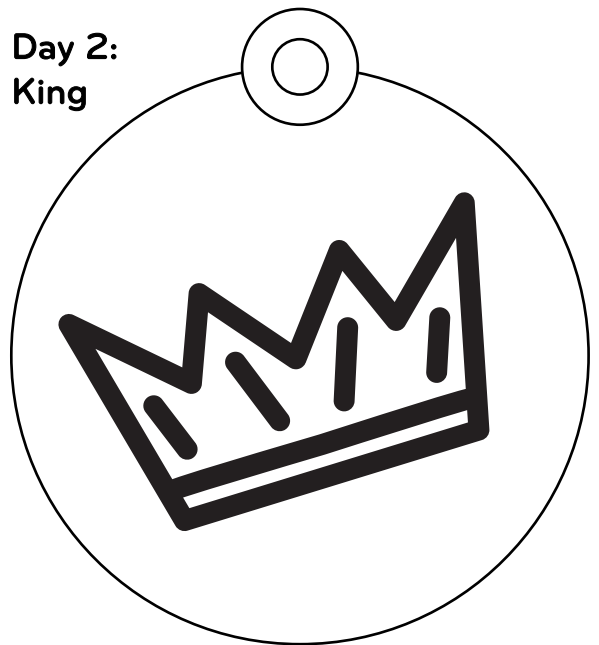




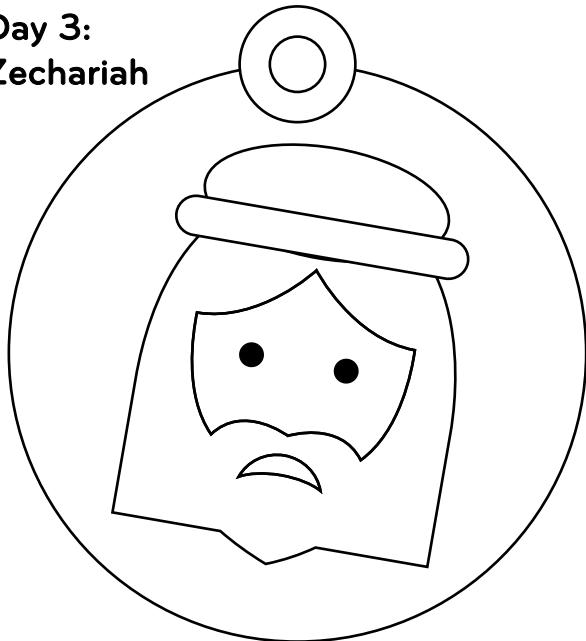
**Day 1:  
Candle**



**Day 2:  
King**



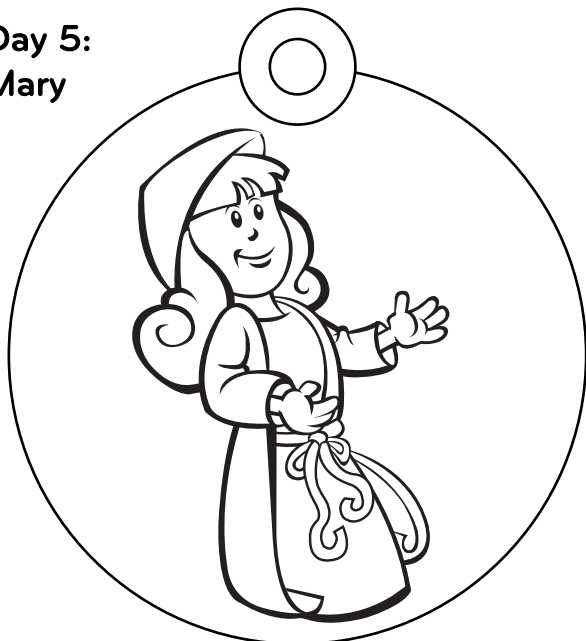
**Day 3:  
Zechariah**



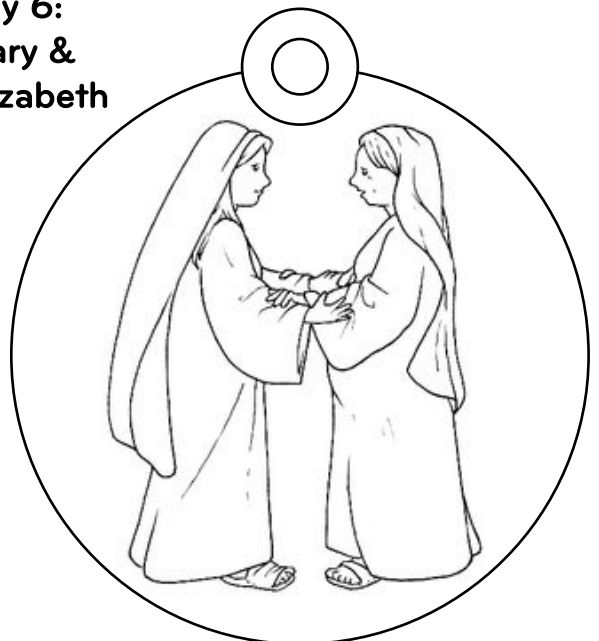
**Day 4:  
Angel**



**Day 5:  
Mary**

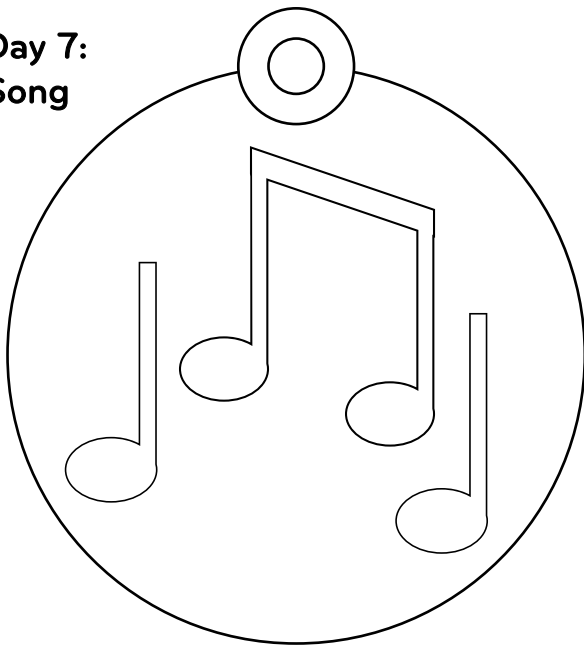


**Day 6:  
Mary &  
Elizabeth**

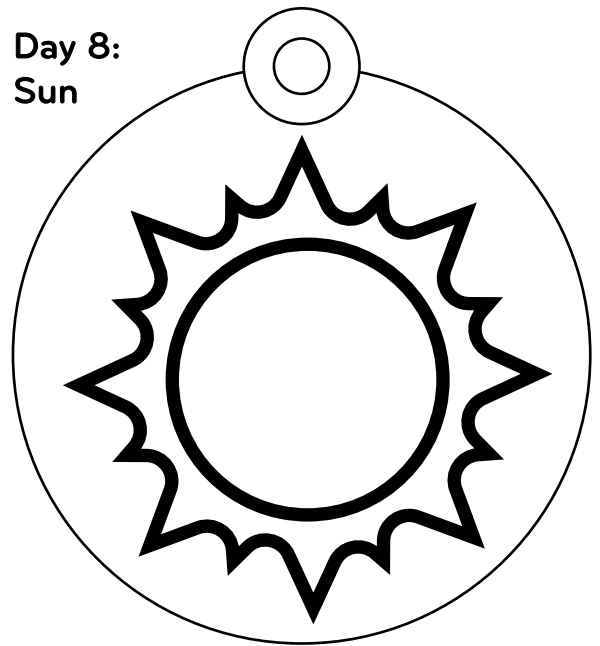




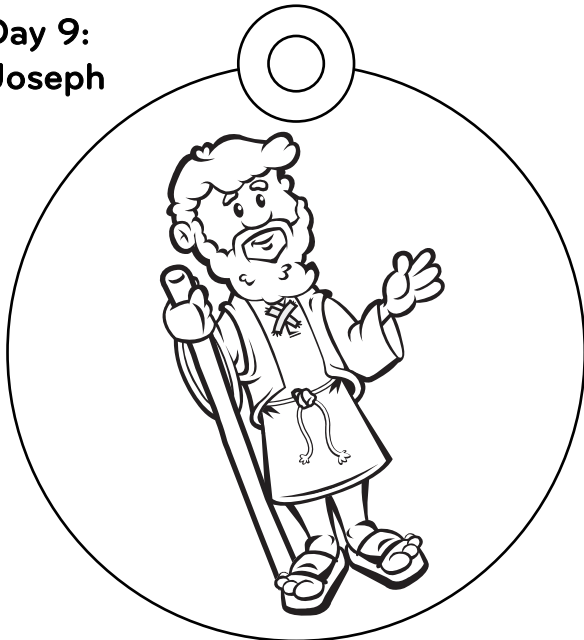
**Day 7:  
Song**



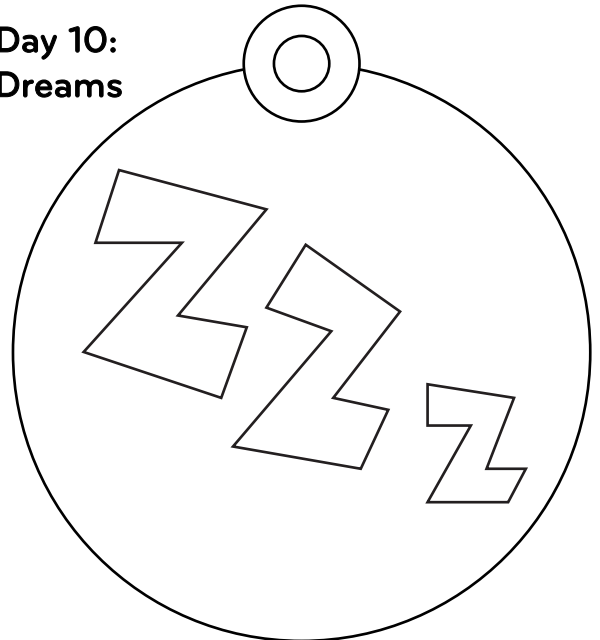
**Day 8:  
Sun**



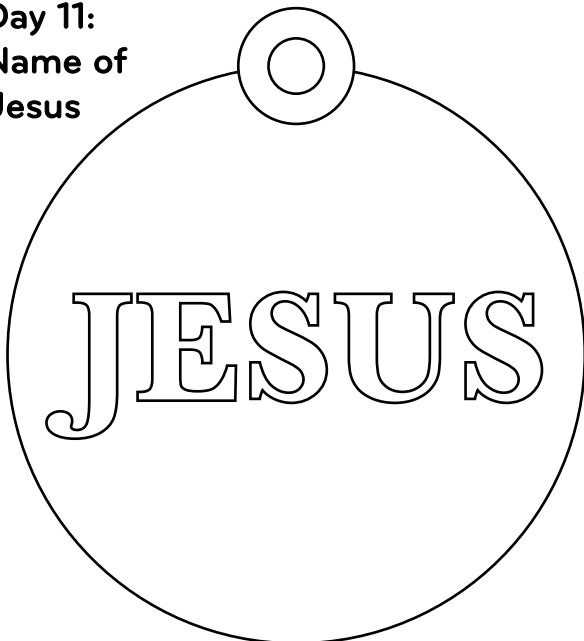
**Day 9:  
Joseph**



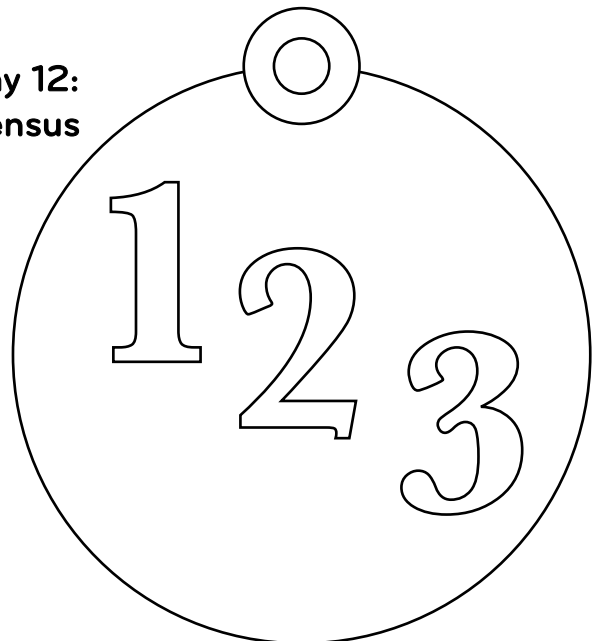
**Day 10:  
Dreams**



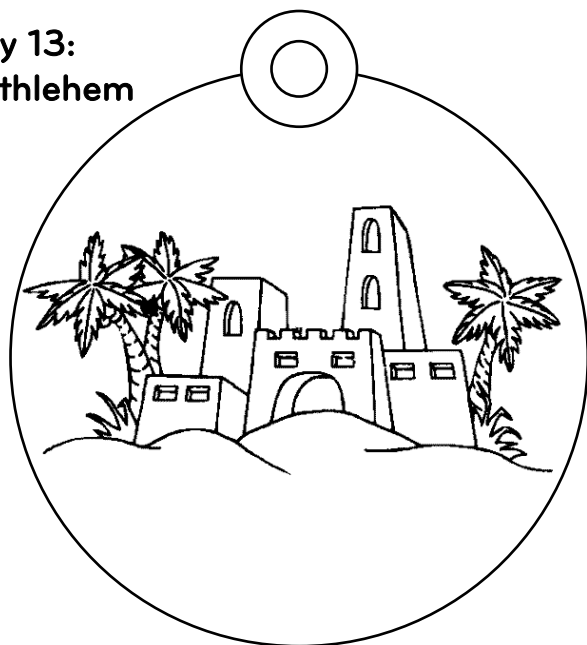
**Day 11:  
Name of  
Jesus**



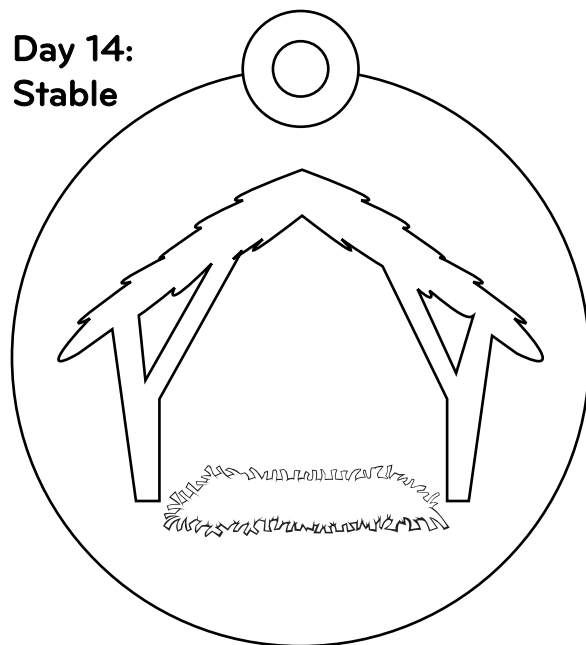
**Day 12:  
Census**



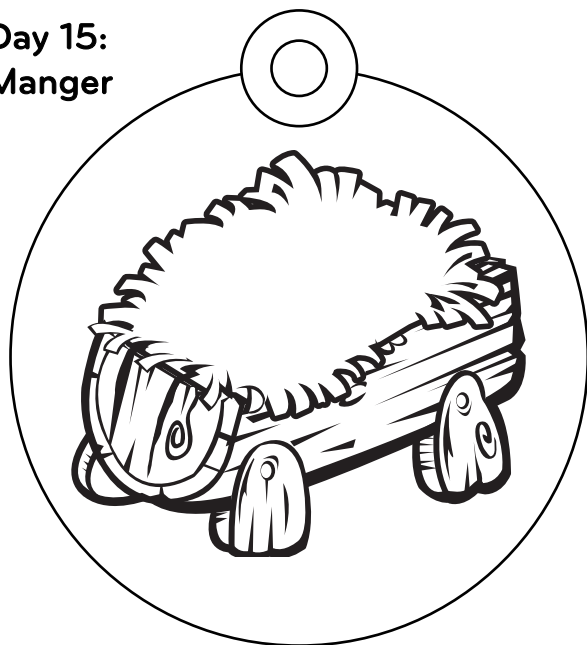
**Day 13:  
Bethlehem**



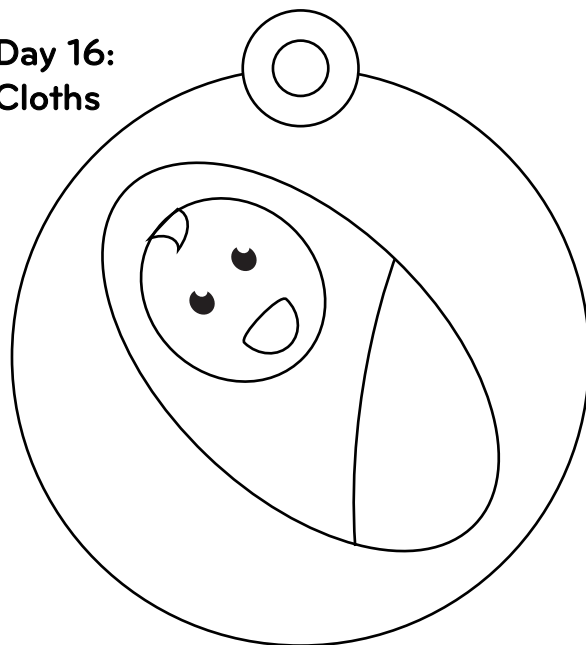
**Day 14:  
Stable**



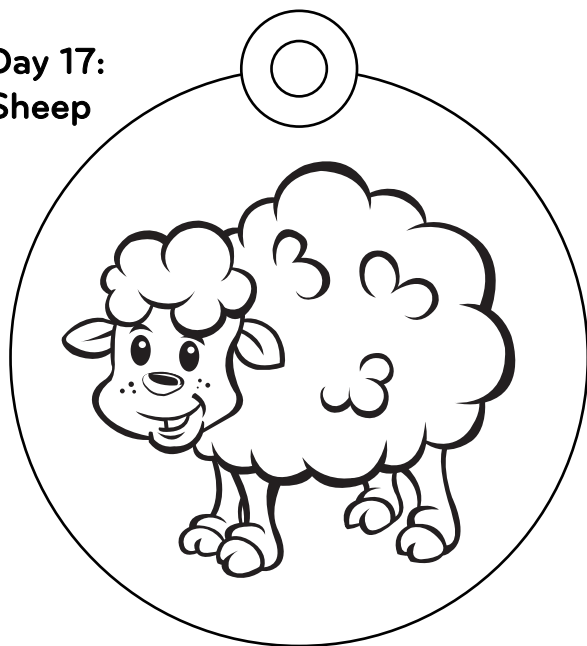
**Day 15:  
Manger**



**Day 16:  
Cloths**



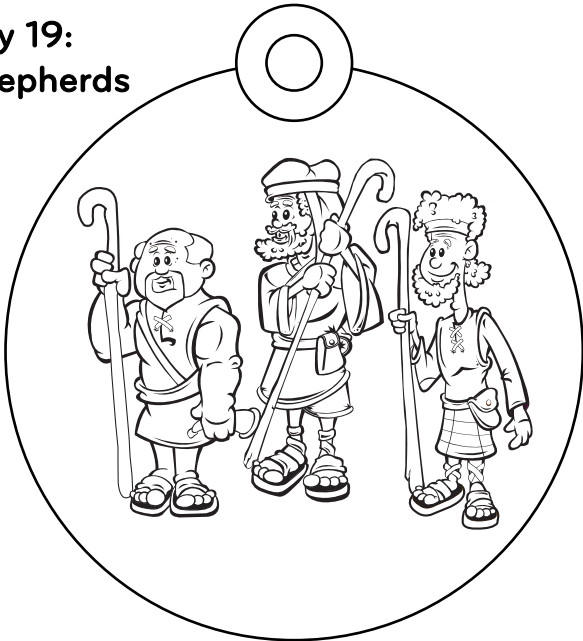
**Day 17:  
Sheep**



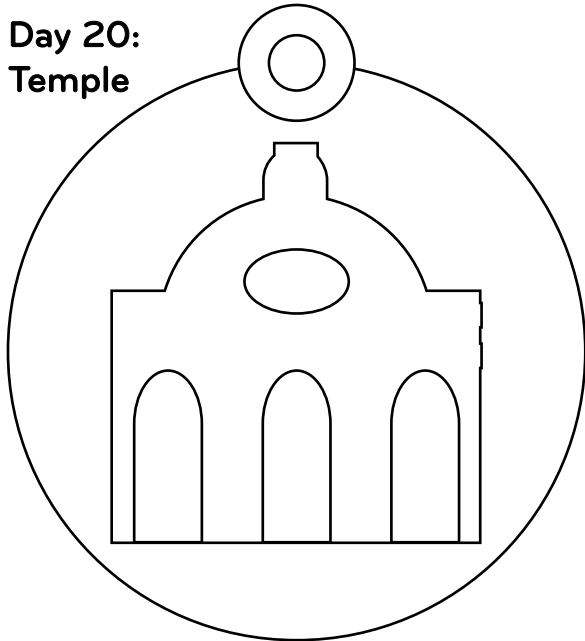
**Day 18:  
Angels**



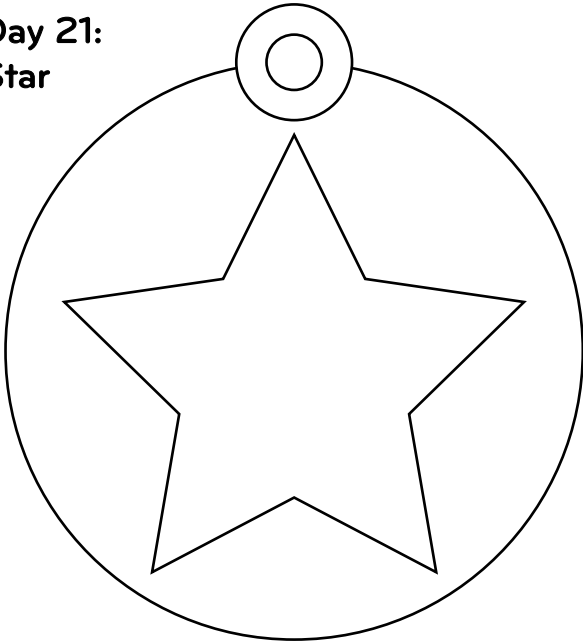
**Day 19:**  
**Shepherds**



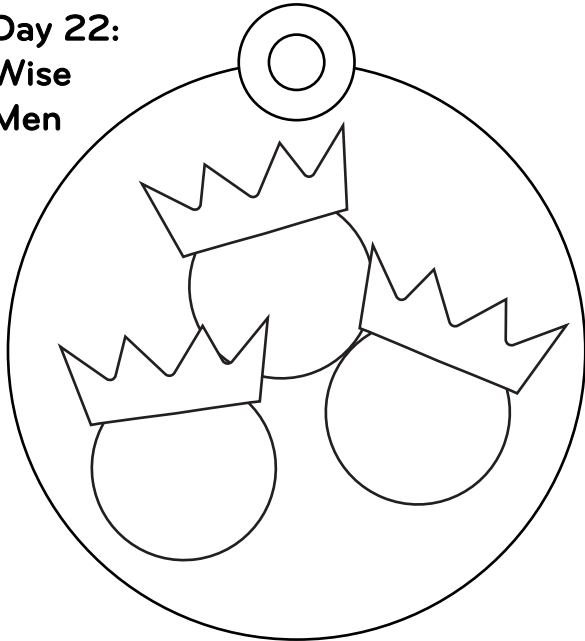
**Day 20:**  
**Temple**



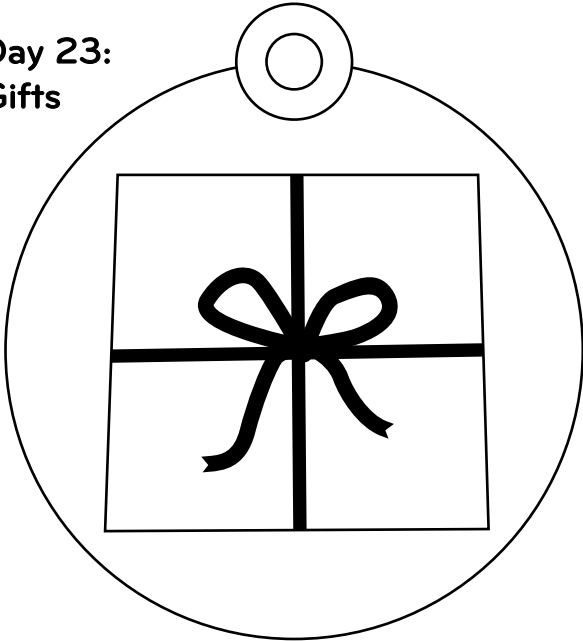
**Day 21:**  
**Star**



**Day 22:**  
**Wise Men**



**Day 23:**  
**Gifts**



**Day 24:**  
**Cross**

