
GOOD NEWS

Advent, December 2022

Sketches of Salvation

THE ADVENT SEASON IS UPON US!



Find Sojourn Kids on Spotify!

Scan the QR code to find this year's
Christmas playlist!



I am thrilled to have this Advent Kit in your hands. I pray it is a resource that brings your family much joy this season.

When writing this guide, we chose to write to the median age of a Sojourn Kid, which is lower elementary. You may need to adjust or add to it as you move along. That is ok! Take what you are learning in worship on Sunday mornings and use it with your family. Gather around the table or get comfortable in your living room. Make it work for you! Find a time that works best for your family. There is no certain day this must be done, but I do encourage you to make a plan.

In the kit you will find a weekly devotional guide that walks you through a story and time of questions with your kids. A countdown chain is also included. The activities on the chain go with each week's story. There are also other Christmas activities scattered throughout. The kit contains some of the supplies you will need!

I am praying for you and your family this Christmas season!

Merry Christmas,
Maggie Tait
Sojourn Kids Director

ABRAHAM



Week 1, The Promise of Faith Genesis 15

God tells Abram that he would have so many children that they would be like the dust of the earth. But time went by and still Abram did not have a son to fulfill the promise God gave to him. But the Lord did not forget Abram. God told Abram to look up in the sky and count the stars. He told him that that is how many children he would have some day. Abram believed what God told him. The Lord saw Abram's faith and "counted it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6). Abram was a sinner like us, but he put his faith in God's plan.

God told Abram to bring some animals to make a sacrifice. When the sacrifice was all ready, according to the Lord's directions, Abram fell into a deep sleep. Then the Lord told Abram what would happen in the future: Abram's family would end up in another land as slaves and suffer for four hundred years. After that, the Lord would bring them back to Canaan with many possessions. Later, when the sun was completely down and it was dark, a smoking pot and a flaming torch appeared out of nowhere. They passed down in the middle of Abram's offering as it was lying on the ground. The flaming torch was a sign of God's promise to Abram. Again, God promised to give Abram's children all the land around them. God called his promise a covenant, like the promise he made to Noah about the rainbow. And since God always keeps his promises, Abram could be sure he would one day have a son.

Do you know that part of this story is especially for us? The apostle Paul tells us that the words God spoke about Abram's faith- "counted it to him as righteousness" - were written for us (Romans 4:22-24). If we believe that Jesus died for our sins and that God raised Jesus from the dead, our faith will be counted to us as righteousness just like Abram's was. That is God's promise to us. We are not saved by the good things we do. Like Abram, we are saved when we trust in what Jesus did for us. Since God always keeps his promises, we can be sure that if we believe God, we will be saved and spend eternity with God in heaven. Then one day we will even get to talk to Abram!

Christmas Connection

God always keeps his promises! We see that in this week's story and we also see it in the story of Jesus being born! God promised to send a redeemer to the world. Jesus is our redeemer!

Family Discussion

How many stars can you count?
What did God promise Abram?
How are you and I like the stars
in the sky?

RAHAB



Christmas Connection

Did you know that God had a special plan for Rahab? She became King David's far-off grandmother. That means she also became the great, far-off grandmother of Jesus! One day her far-off grandson Jesus would die on the cross. His scarlet blood covers our sins so that we too can be saved from the judgement of God!

Family Discussion

How does Rahab help the spies from Israel?

What does she hang from the window?

Why does she put it there?

Week 2, The Promise of Adoption Joshua 1-2

Moses was a very special servant of the Lord. The Bible says there was no one else like him. He even spoke to God face-to-face, yet he was not allowed to take the people into the Promised Land because of his sin. Though he could not enter the land, God allowed him to see that the promise was about to come true. God chose Joshua to take Moses' place. He was one of the spies who had believed God's promise forty years before. The Lord told Joshua to cross the Jordan River and conquer the land. "Everywhere you put your foot, I will give that land just as I promised." God said. "I will be with you just like I was with Moses. I will never leave you or forsake you."

Like Moses, Joshua sent spies into the land. But this time only two spies were sent. Joshua told them to spy on the city of Jericho. The men entered the city and spent the night at the house of a woman named Rahab. But the king of Jericho had his own spies, who discovered that Joshua's men were at her house. When Rahab heard that the men from Israel were in danger, she took them up to the roof and covered them with stalks of flax to hide them. When the king's men came, she told them, "The men have already left, I don't know where they went, but if you hurry, you might still catch them." So the king's men hurried away, searching for the spies all the way to the Jordan River. But they closed the gate of the city behind them, shutting the men of Israel in.

Rahab went back up to the roof and told the men what had happened. She told them that everyone in her city had heard about the powerful God of the Israelites, who had dried up the Red Sea and conquered the Egyptians. The people of Jericho were so afraid that their hearts were melting with fear. But Rahab felt differently. She said, "I know the Lord has given this land to you. Your God is the true God of heaven and earth. Please be kind to me and my family as I have been kind to you. Please spare our lives when your people come to Jericho." The spies promised that Rahab and her family would be safe if she helped them get away, and here is what they did. Rahab's home was on the wall of the city, so her window opened outside the city wall. It was the perfect way to escape. Rahab lowered a rope out her window and the two spies climbed down, landing safely outside the city. They told Rahab to hang a scarlet cord outside her house. When Israel came back to conquer Jericho, she and her family should stay inside her home and they would be safe. After hiding in the hills for three days, the spies returned to Joshua. They told him, "The Lord has surely given the land into our hands, because the people are filled with fear because of us!"

RUTH



Week 3, The Promise of Redemption Ruth 1-4

A man named Elimelech moved his family to the pagan land of Moab because there was a famine in the land of Israel. He took his wife Naomi and their two sons. In time, Elimelech died and his sons married women from Moab, but it wasn't long before the sons died too. This left Naomi all alone with her sons' widows, Ruth and Orpah.

After awhile, Naomi received word that the famine in Israel was over. There was food again in Judah. So Naomi decided to travel back to home. She urged Ruth and Orpah to return to their families and gods. Orpah left, but Ruth refused. She said, "Where you go I will go, and where you live I will live. Your people will be my people and your God my God." So Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem together. Since they had no food or money, Ruth went to the fields to gather the leftovers the harvesters missed. God led her to the field of Boaz, a relative of Naomi, just as he came to visit the men. When Boaz saw Ruth, he welcomed her and kindly invited her to eat with him. He told the men to leave plenty of grain behind for her to gather.

When Ruth told Naomi about Boaz and his kindness, Naomi explained that Boaz was a close relative. This meant he was one of their "redeemers," who could marry Ruth and care for her since her husband had died. In those days, there were special rules about those things. Naomi was happy that Boaz had showed Ruth such favor. She sent Ruth back to him, hoping he would marry her. And that is just what Boaz did! He went to the elders of the city and promised to "redeem" and take care for the two widows, by marrying Ruth and buying back Naomi's land to give her a place to live and grow food. Later, when Ruth and Boaz had a son, the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer!" (Ruth 4:14) They named the boy Obed. When he grew up, Obed became the father of Jesse, who became the father of David, who became king of Israel!

Did you know we have a Redeemer too? A redeemer in Naomi's day would buy back the land a widow had lost when her husband died. He would pledge to care for her. Jesus is our Redeemer in an even greater way. By dying on the cross for our sins, Jesus paid the price to redeem us from the curse of our sin. Now all those who trust in the Lord are redeemed. They will live with God in heaven and he will take care of them. In Galatians, Paul tells us that God sent his Son "to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:5)

Christmas Connection

The story of Ruth points to a future salvation that took place around 1200 years later when our Lord Jesus, a direct descendant of Ruth, was born bringing an even greater redemption to fallen humanity through his life, death, and resurrection.

Family Discussion

What does Boaz do to help Ruth and Naomi?

Who is Ruth and Boaz's special great-grandson?

DAVID



Christmas Connection

We learn an important principle in the story: the Lord cares for our heart over mere appearances; thus, choosing David to be king over his brothers. We see this same thing in the story of Jesus who was born in a manger, but is anointed by the Holy Spirit and chosen by God to be the Savior of the World and King of Kings.

Family Discussion

Which one of Jesse's sons does God choose?

Why doesn't Jesse think David can be a king?

Why does God choose David?

Week 4, The Promise of the Good King 1 Samuel 16:1-13

God instructed Samuel to find a new king. God said to Samuel, "Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons" (1 Samuel 16:1). But Samuel was afraid. "How can I go?" he asked the Lord. "If Saul hears, he will kill me." The Lord told Samuel to plan a sacrifice and invite Jesse and his sons to come. That way, no one would know he was traveling to anoint a new king. God promised to show Samuel which son was the one.

Samuel did as the Lord instructed and traveled to Bethlehem. When he arrived, he announced a sacrifice and invited Jesse and his sons. When it was time for the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Jesse's sons to see which one he thought would be anointed king. When Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son Eliab, he was impressed with how tall and strong he was. Samuel thought that for sure Eliab was the one! But the Lord told Samuel that Eliab was not the one. He told Samuel not to be fooled by outward appearances. He explained that the Lord sees things differently than people do. He said, "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

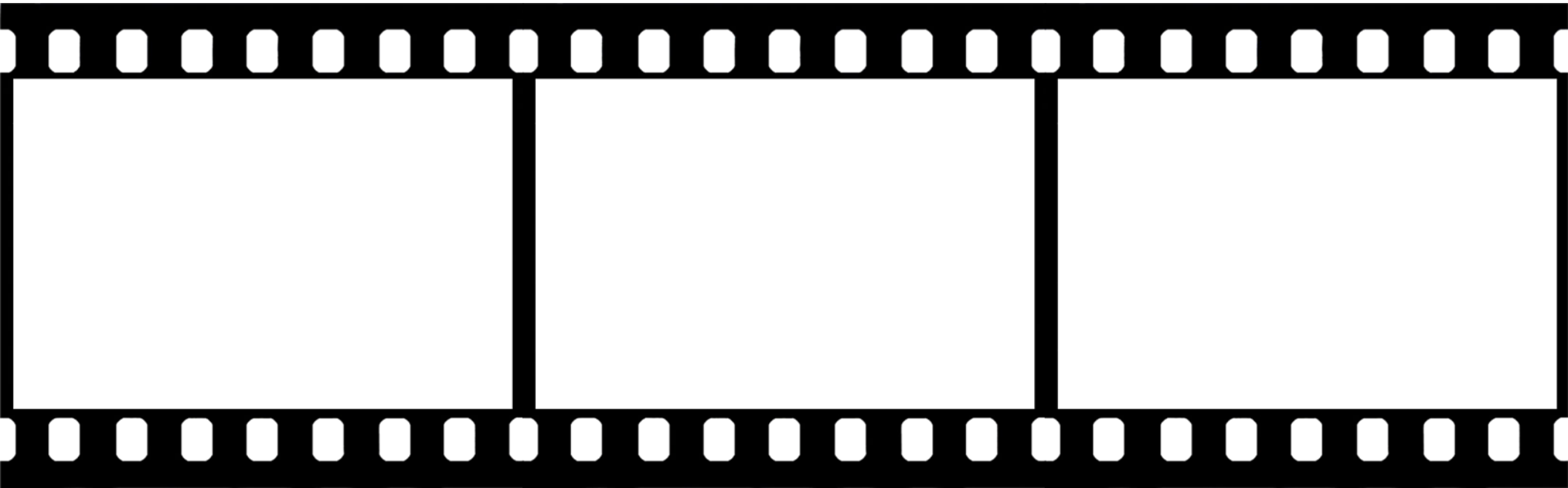
One by one, Jesse brought his sons to Samuel. Each time Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one." From the oldest to the youngest, the sons stood before Samuel, but one of them were chosen by the Lord. Finally, Samuel asked Jesse if all his sons had come. Jesse replied, "There is only one left. He is the youngest, and he stayed home to care for the sheep." Samuel said, "Send and get him. We won't sit down until he comes." When David, the youngest son, arrived, God told Samuel to anoint him. God chose David that day as the next king of Israel! As soon as Samuel poured the horn of oil on David, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him and remained with him for the rest of his life.

Do you know how this story points forward to Jesus? David was the youngest son and probably the smallest, but the Lord chose him because he was the man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Like David, Jesus was a man after God his Father's own heart. Jesus obeyed his Father perfectly, and by his death he delivered God's people from their greatest enemies. Jesus came as a baby, born in a humble stable in the same town of Bethlehem that David came from. Jesus was born in the family line of David. That means Jesus was great, far-off grandson of David.

ACTIVITY 1

Create a comic strip based on this week's story! Share your drawings with your family or a friend!

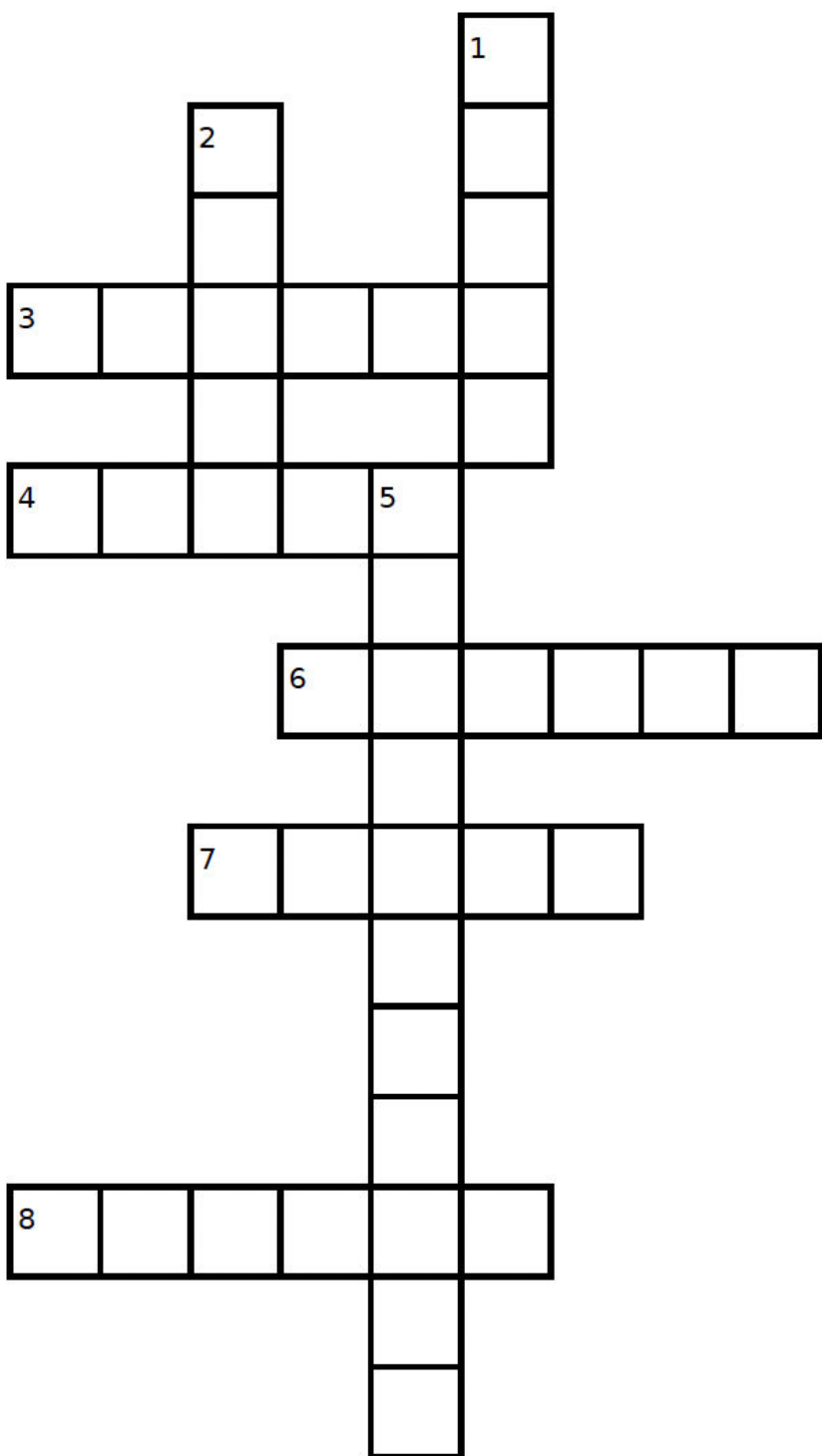
Comic Strip



ACTIVITY 2

Think back to this week's story and read Joshua 1-2 in your Bible to help you complete the crossword puzzle.

Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. Who helped the spies escape the king of Jericho?
2. Rehab was the great, far-off grandmother to who?
5. What did Rahab hang in her window?

Across:

3. Who sent spies into the land?
4. Who was not allowed in the promised land?
6. What did the spies promise to Rahab in return for her help?
7. Where did the spies hid after leaving Rahab's house?
8. How did the spies escape Rahab's house?

ACTIVITY 3

Find the words below from this week's story to complete the word search!

Word Search

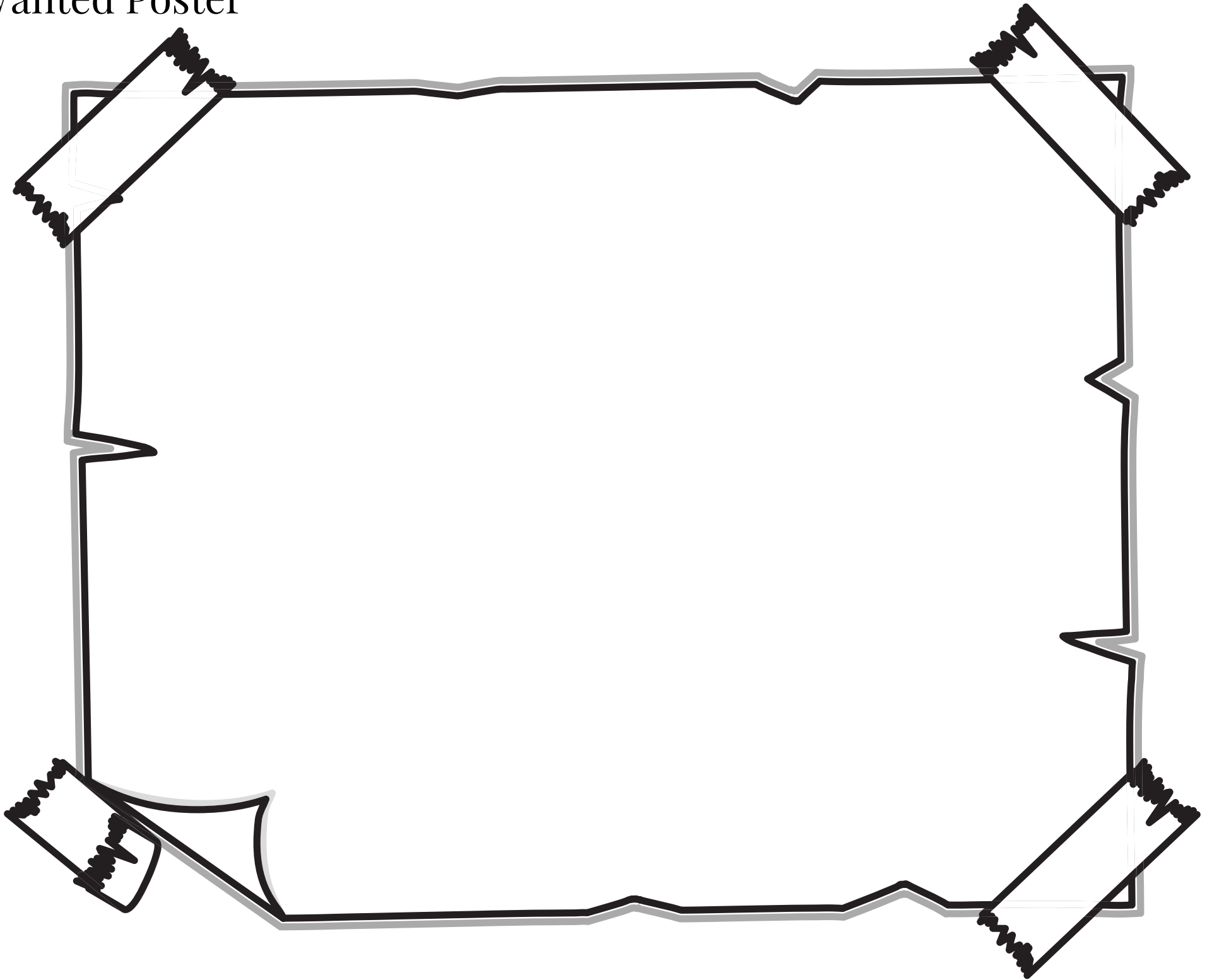
- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| Barley | Marry |
| Bethlehem | Moab |
| Boaz | Naomi |
| Elimelech | Ruth |
| Fields | Harvest |
| Grain | Food |
| Grain | |

I T N I A T B H F S M O D
H A R V E S T G O A M V E
L A I Q U N O N O E C T B
T U E D E R E D D L I Q O
Z B E T H L E H E M T V A
L A O R E M I R S I T E Z
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D R I V E L E B A R L E Y

ACTIVITY 4

God told Samuel to anoint a new king. Pretend you are searching for a king and create a wanted poster!

Wanted Poster



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

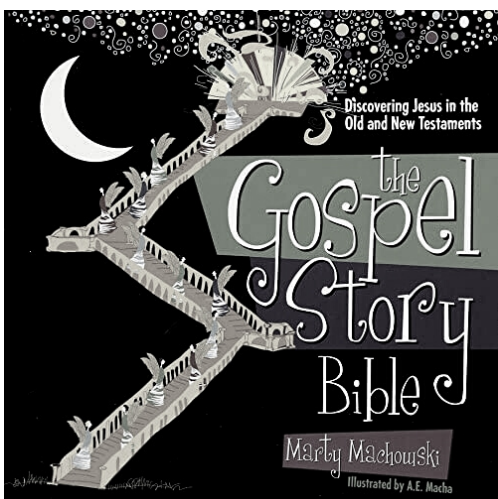
I hope this season was full of joy for you and your family! It is our desire to come alongside you with gospel centered resources that create discipleship moments with your kids. If you loved and used this kit let us know! You can send an email to mtait@sojourneast.com.

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS!



The Kid's Advent Guide was a glimpse into what we do on Sunday mornings in Sojourn Kids. We gather for large teaching, discussion questions, and activities each week as we see how every story in the Bible points us to Jesus. Continue making an impact by serving with us! You can find the application at sojourneast.com/kids or scan the QR code below.

RESOURCES



This year's Advent stories come from Marty Machowski's, *The Gospel Story Bible*. Scan the QR code to purchase the book.





Christmas Countdown Chain

Cut and staple the slips of paper to create your chain!

Tear off and complete one activity each night!

The countdown starts on Sunday, November 27 and ends on Christmas Eve!



DAY 28

Read Genesis 15 as a family!



DAY 27

Go outside at night and see
if you can count the stars!



DAY 26

Answer this week's family
discussion questions!



DAY 25

What is a promise?
Who always keeps their promises?



DAY 24

Complete the comic strip activity in your newspaper!



DAY 23

Listen to a Christmas song!



DAY 22

Decorate your paper gingerbread house!



DAY 21

Read Joshua 2 as a family!



DAY 20

Read a favorite Christmas story at dinner!



DAY 19

What can the life of Rahab teach us?



DAY 18

Bake the cookies found in your kit and share them with a neighbor!



DAY 17

Answer this week's family discussion questions!



DAY 16

Complete the crossword puzzle in your newspaper!



DAY 15

Watch a Christmas movie with your family!



DAY 14

Read Ruth 1 with your family!



DAY 13

Ruth helped Naomi with the grain.
How do you help your family?



DAY 12

Make the hot chocolate found in your kit and enjoy it with your family!



DAY 11

Answer this week's family discussion questions!



DAY 10

Complete the word search activity in your newspaper!



DAY 9

Read and discuss Galatians 4:5!



DAY 8

What is a redeemer?



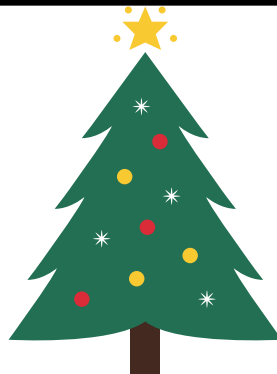
DAY 7

Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13 with
your family!



DAY 6

Answer this week's family
discussion questions!



DAY 5

Listen to a Christmas song!



DAY 4

How does the story of David
point to Jesus?



DAY 3

Take a drive around town and
look at Christmas lights!



DAY 2

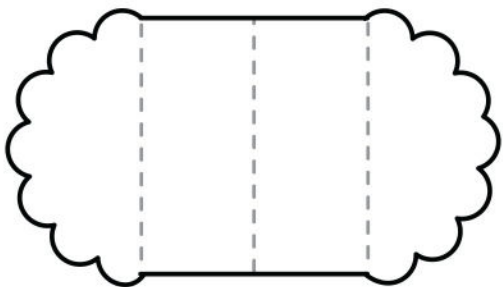
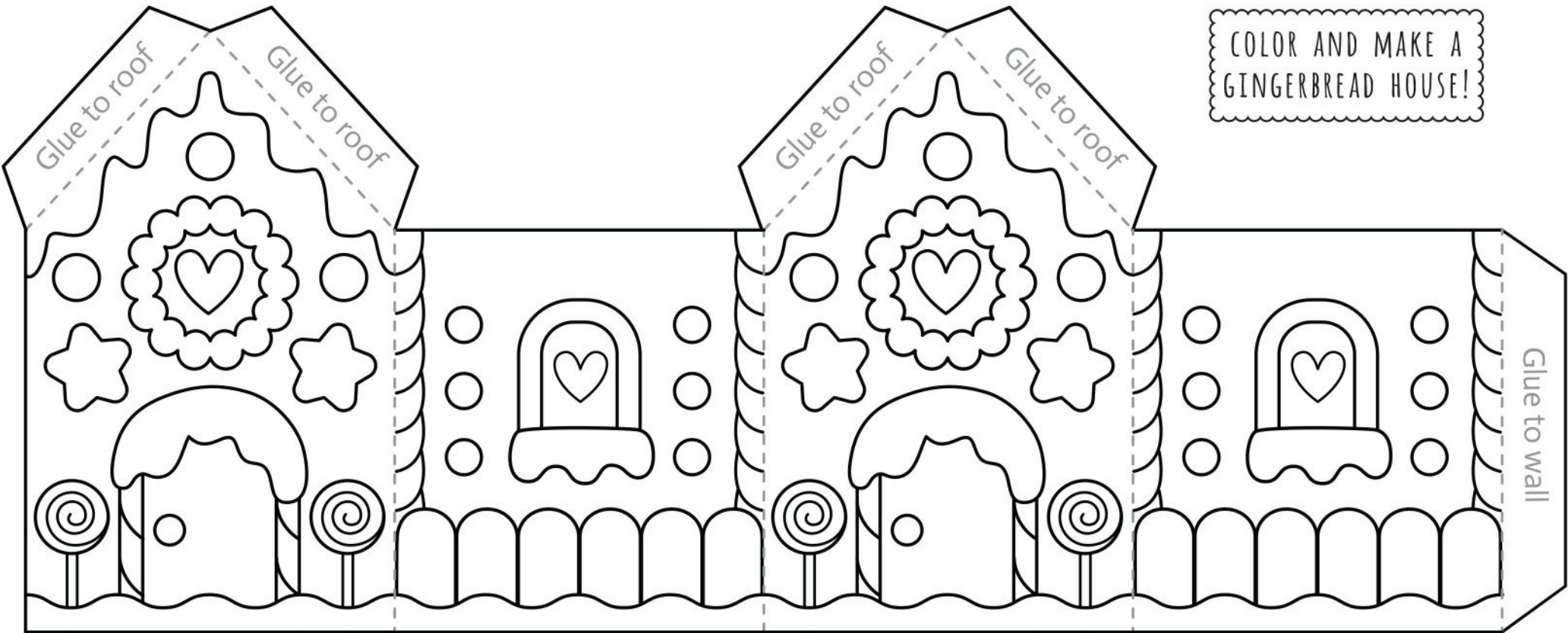
Complete the wanted poster
activity in your newspaper!



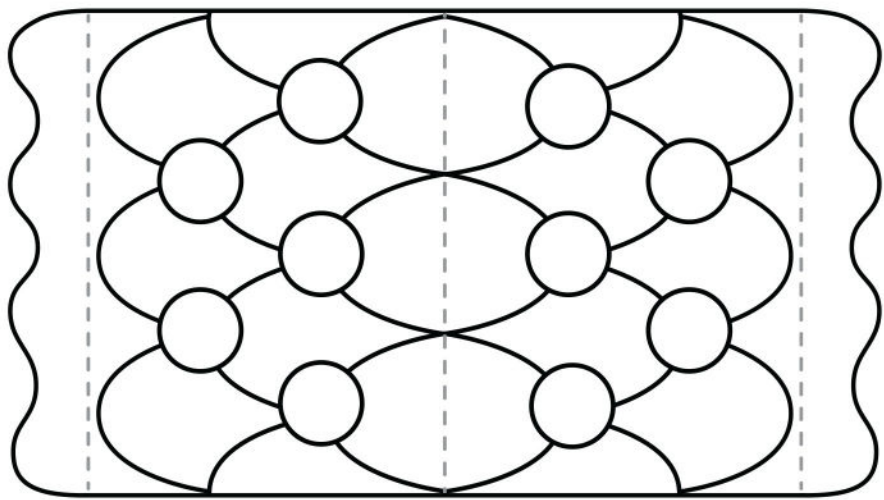
DAY 1

Tomorrow is Christmas!! Gather as a
family to read the Christmas story.

COLOR AND MAKE A
GINGERBREAD HOUSE!



Hanger



Roof

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