



ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

30 November

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY IN CONNECTION

‘The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High ...”’

Read Luke 1.26-28,46-50



Challenge

At first, Mary is ‘deeply troubled’ by the angel’s message that she will bear God’s Son. She may have felt very alone, and frightened of what others might think of her. When the angel leaves, Mary goes straight to connect with her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant. Elizabeth is delighted to see Mary, and soon Mary is sharing her joy and amazement at what God has done for her.

This week, think about how Mary went from being alone and afraid to finding joy in connecting with God and with family. Where you might find joy in **connection**?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, light of the world, thank you for Mary’s song of praise and her example of connecting with you, which brought the world a joyous gift. Amen.

For more ways to prepare for The Joy of Christmas – including the *The Grumpy Owl* and the *Joy of Christmas* – visit cofe.io/TheJoyOfChristmas





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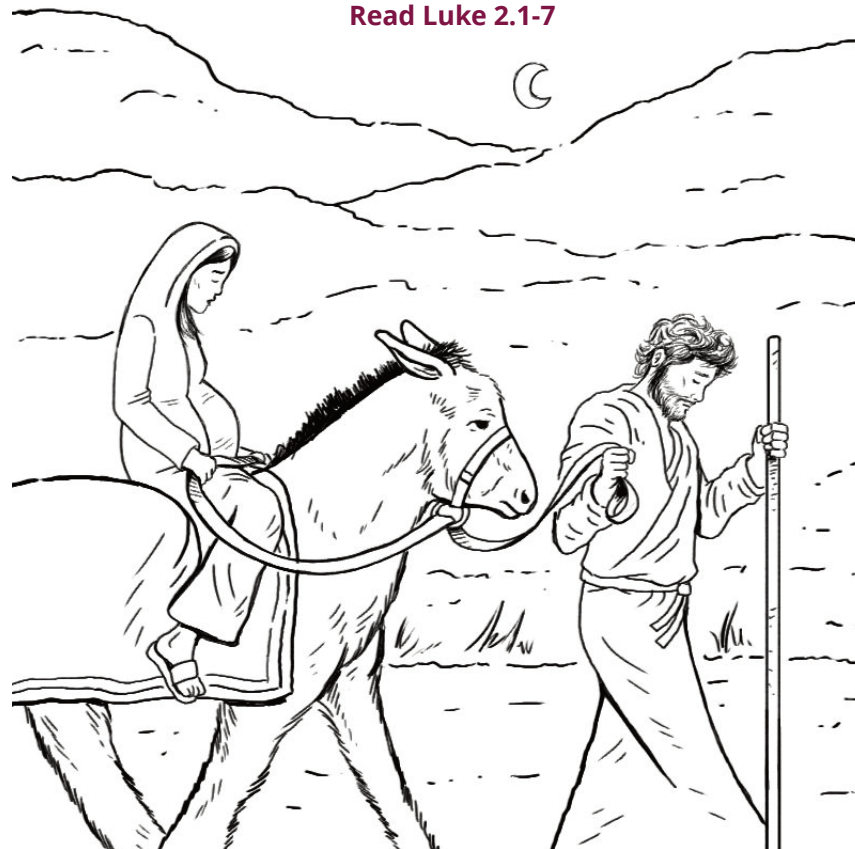
6 December

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY IN TRUSTING

'Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth ... to the city of David called Bethlehem ... with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.'

Read Luke 2.1-7



Challenge

It can't have been easy for Mary and Joseph to get their heads around the fact that Mary was carrying the Son of God, but they chose to trust that God would be with them. To add to their difficulties, they then had to travel to Bethlehem, with Mary heavily pregnant. When they got there and couldn't find anywhere to stay, they had to trust God that things would work out. But then a miracle happens: Jesus is born.

This week, think about how Mary and Joseph faced difficulties but found joy in trusting in God's plans for their lives. Where you might find joy in **trusting**?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for Mary and Joseph's example of following and trusting you. Help us to make space in our hearts to trust you when we feel uncertain. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

13 December

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY IN SHARING

‘The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”’

Read Luke 2.8-20



Challenge

Imagine being a shepherd, tired from working all day and now staying up all night to protect your sheep. You're cold, maybe grumpy, and probably lonely. Then suddenly, the sky lights up and an angel appears, telling you that a Saviour has been born! You rush to Bethlehem, find Jesus lying in a manger, and worship him. Even though you were a poor shepherd, God chose you to share the good news. You tell everyone what you saw, praising and glorifying God with joy!

This week, think about how the shepherds found joy on that hillside and ended up sharing the good news of Jesus with all they met. Where you might find joy in **sharing**?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the message of the shepherds, that in you we do not need to be afraid, but instead can find strength and courage. Amen.

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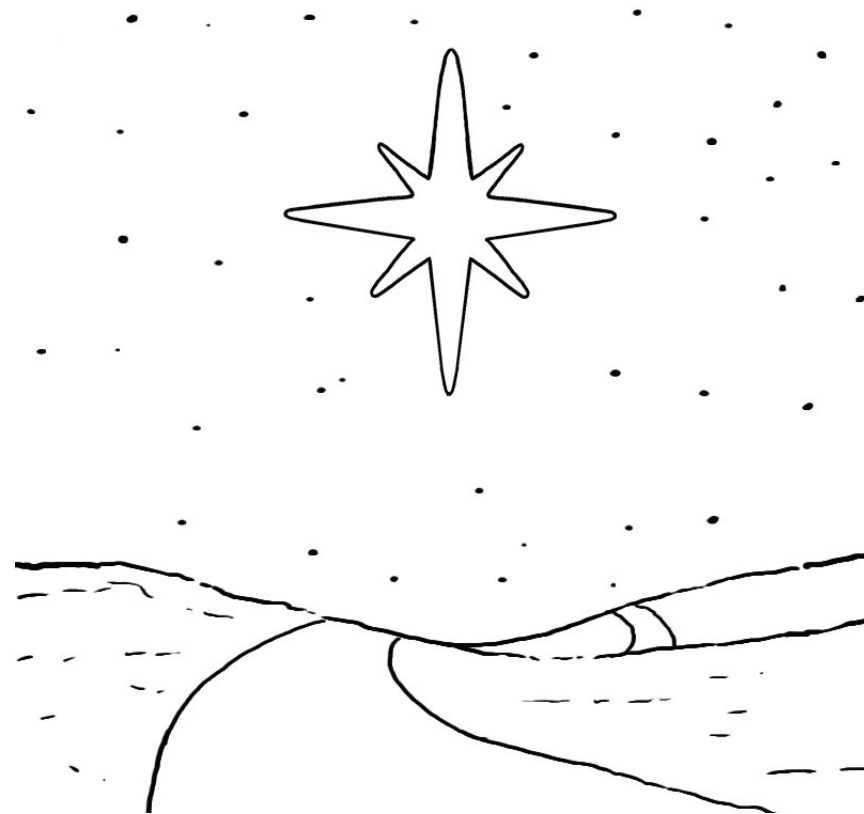
20 December

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY IN FOLLOWING

‘Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage”

Read Matthew 2.1-12



Challenge

The Wise Men saw a new star and chose to follow it. After a long journey, it led them to Jesus. They were filled with joy and gave him gifts. Before leaving, they had a dream warning them not to tell King Herod about Jesus. They listened to God and went home a different way. Today, we often “follow” people online, but the Wise Men followed with action and trust. They didn’t just watch – they believed and obeyed, even when they couldn’t see everything clearly. Their journey shows us how to follow God with faith and joy.

This week, think about how the wise men went from wandering and wondering to finding joy and peace as they worshipped Jesus. I wonder where you might find joy in **following**?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for the example of the wise men who risked so much to find Jesus. Help us to follow them by making Jesus special in our lives, too. Amen.

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