



Pray n' Play Christmas

Pray n' play Christmas was designed to help families engage with the Nativity story using common holiday traditions. As our children wait eagerly for Christmas morning may we remember the way a weary world awaited that first Christmas.

This guide includes 6 devotions exploring the prophecies of the Old Testament that were fulfilled in Christ's birth. Each family devotion includes:

- A scripture reading from the Biblical Christmas story.
- A family-friendly meditation exploring prophecies fulfilled, historical and cultural context, and reflections on the hope of Christmas.
- Playful ways to meditate on the Christmas story using common traditions, such as baking cookies, singing Christmas carols, looking at Christmas lights, watching Christmas movies, and more.
- Printable activities (advent calendars, Christmas ornaments, coloring pages, and more).

Come pray n' play with us!





Pray n' Play Christmas

How to use this guide:

This guide is a tool, and tools are made to serve you. Make this tool serve you. Included are various play ideas, but you know your family best! Use what works for you and leave the rest. This guide should not add more stress to your holidays. Instead, I hope this tool shows you where you can talk about Jesus in the traditions you already celebrate. May we center our holiday around Jesus, and use every opportunity to point our littles to him.

Extra fun:

- Listen to Christmas Carols: Many Christmas Carols actually sing the Nativity story.
- Advent Calendars: A fun way to remember the anticipation of that first Christmas is to lean into the anticipation of the Christmas coming. An Advent Calendar is included with suggestions for each day, as well as a blank calendar so you can make one that better suits your family rhythms.
- Read-Alouds: Each book recommended in this guide links to a virtual storytime featuring the book.
- Ornaments: Each devotion features a coloring page and printable ornament that matches the scripture referenced.





Christmas Advent Calendar



1

Read
Isaiah 9:6.

Sing **2**

'O Come,
O Come
Emmanuel'.

Read a
Christmas
book.

3

4

Bake
Christmas
Cookies.



5

Read
Luke 1:26-38.

6

Deliver
cookies to a
neighbor.

Watch a
Christmas
Movie.

7

Read
Matthew
1:18-21.

8



Read
Luke 2:1-7.

9

10
Sing 'O Little
Town of
Bethlehem'.

11
Go
Christmas
Caroling.

Watch a
Christmas
Movie.

12



Read
Luke 2:8-20.

13

Sing 'Angels
We Have
Heard on
High'. **14**

15
Eat candy
canes.

16

Make a
Christmas
ornament.

17

Watch a
Christmas
Movie.

18

Read
Matthew
2:1-12.

Take a
sensory
bath.

19

20

Look at
Christmas
lights.



Read
1 John 1:9.

21

22
Sing 'O Holy
Night'.

Read a
Christmas
book.

23

24
Open a gift.





Navidad

Calendario de Adviento



1

Lee
Isaias
9:6.

2

Canta
'O Ven,
O Ven
Emanuel'.

3

Lee un libro
Navideño.

4

Hornea
galletas
Navideñas.



5

Lee
Lucas
1:26-38.

6

Entrega
galletas a un
vecino.

7

Lee
Mateo
1:18-21.

8

Ve una
película
Navideña.

9

Lee Lucas
2:1-7.

10

Canta 'Mi
Burrito
Sabanero'.

11

Ve a cantar
villancicos.

12

Ve una
película
Navideña.



13

Lee Lucas
2:8-20.

14

Canta 'Los
Pastores a
Belen'.

15

Come un
bastón de
caramelo.

16

Haz un
adorno
Navideño.

17

Ve una
película
Navideña.

18

Lee Mateo
2:1-12.

19

Toma un
baño
sensorial.

20

Mira las
luces
navideñas.



21

Lee
1 Juan 1:9.

22

Canta
'Santa la
Noche'.

23

Lee un libro
Navideño.

24

Abre un
regalo.





Christmas Advent Calendar



1

2

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Navidad Calendario de Adviento



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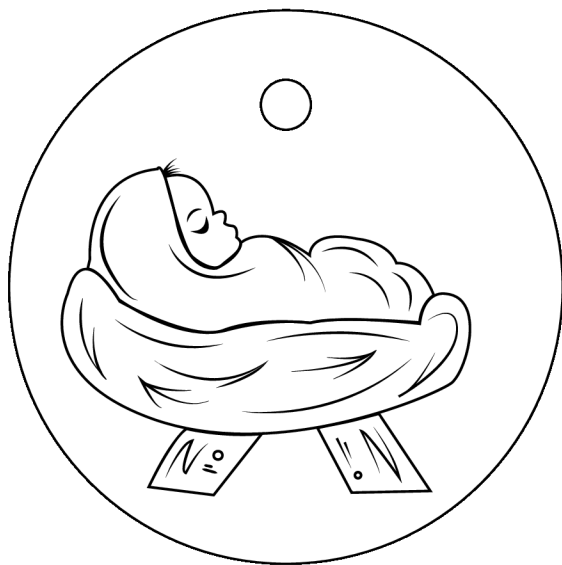
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23



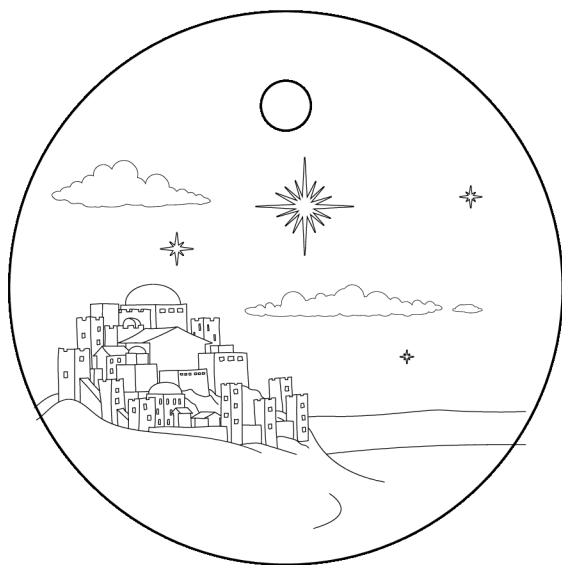


Prophecy

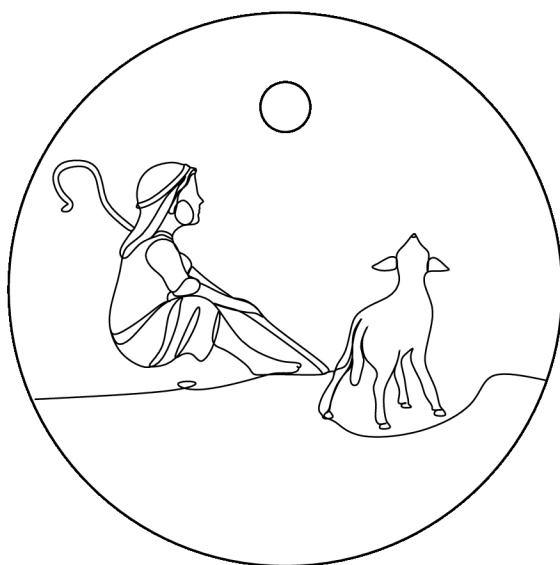
Christmas ornaments



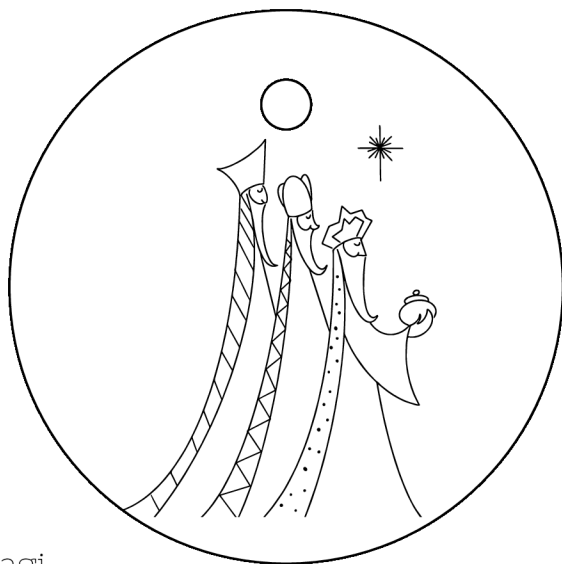
Mary and Joseph



Bethlehem



Shepherds



Magi



Jesus

1

Prophecy

Read:

Isaiah 9:6

Pray:

At the beginning of the world, God made a promise.

A promise to rescue the world from everything that could go wrong.

He promised to get rid of sadness. To get rid of pain.

Everyone who was lonely would have a family.

Those who were always picked last, would be picked first.

And this promise wasn't just for a few people, but for the whole wide world!

Everyone was waiting...

Watching....

Then....

A baby was born.

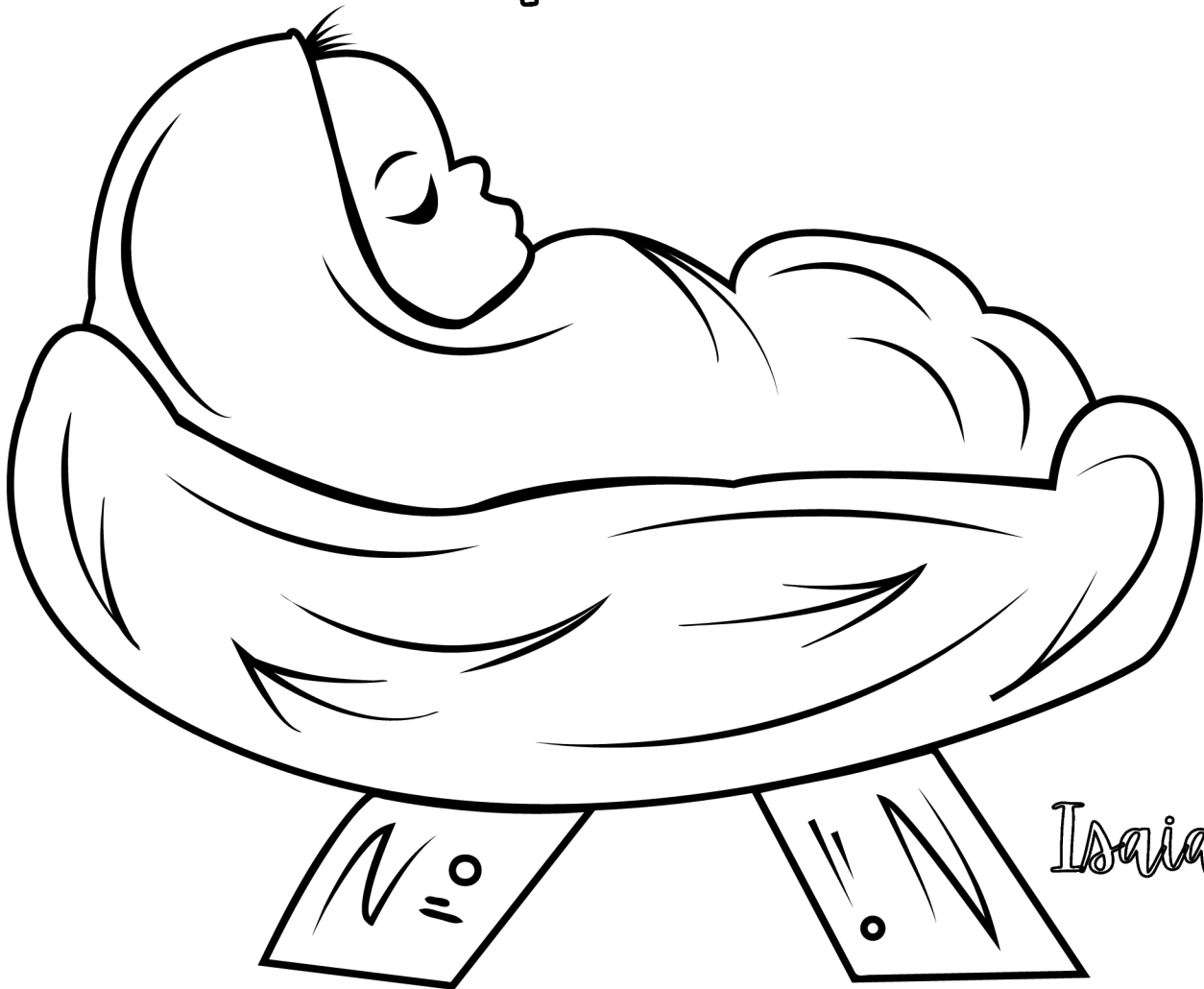
This special baby was named Jesus, because he was God coming to rescue the whole world.

The wait was over!

Play:

- Sing '[O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#).'
- Canta: '[O Ven, O Ven Emanuel](#)'
- Start an Advent Calendar/ Christmas Countdown.
- Shout 'Christmas is Coming!' Think of all the excitement of the first Christmas.
- Grita '¡Ya viene Navidad!'
- Read: '[From Eden to Bethlehem](#)' by [Danielle Hitchen](#) Ages 0+
- Read: [The Jesus Storybook Bible: Operation No More Tears](#) Ages 4+
- Lee: [Historias Bíblicas de Jesús para Niños: Operación, No Más Lágrimas](#) Ages 4+

Consejero
Maravilloso.
Dios Poderoso.
Padre Eterno.
Príncipe de Paz.



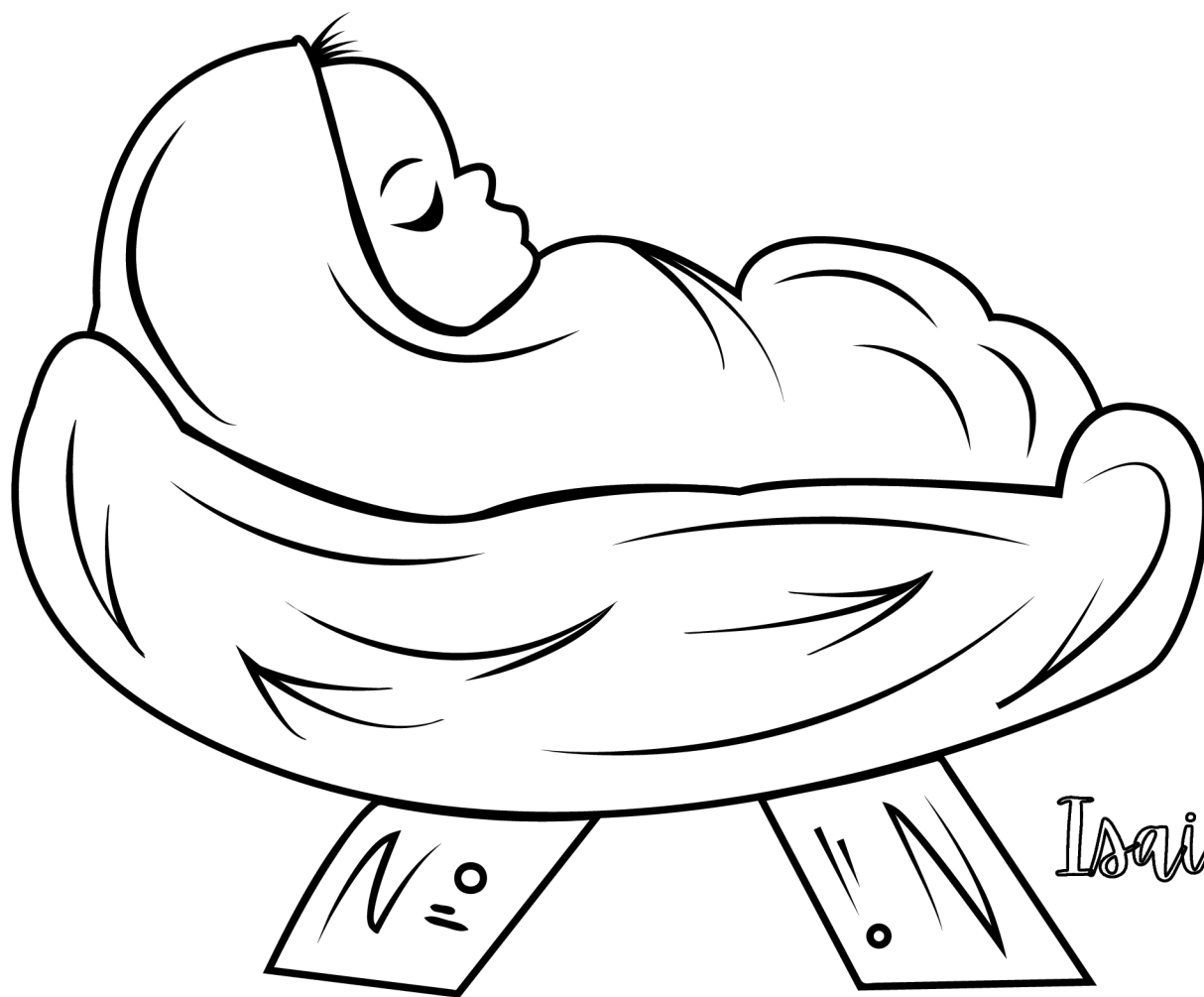
Isaias 9:6

Wonderful Counselor.

Mighty God.

Everlasting Father.

Prince of Peace.



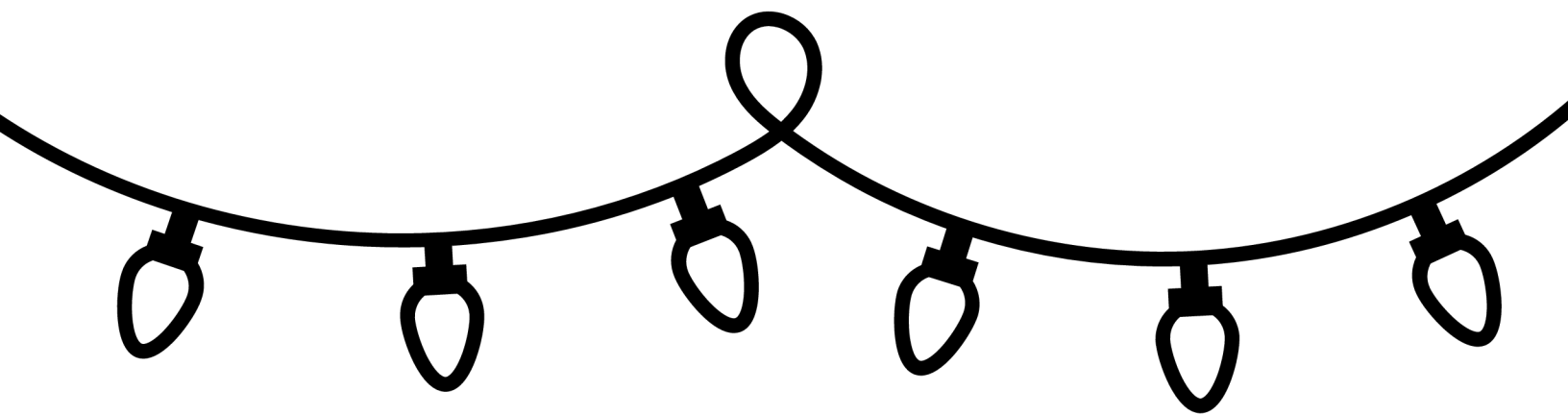
Isaiah 9:6



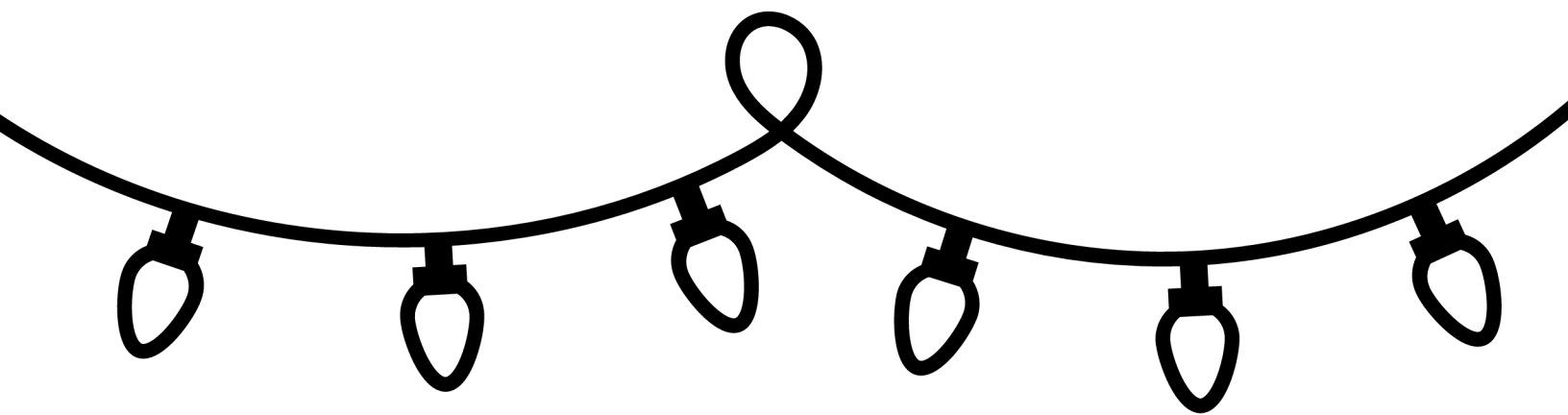
Christmas is coming!



¡Ya viene Navidad!



¡Ya viene Navidad!



Christmas is coming!

2

Mary & Joseph

Read:

Luke 1:26-38
Matthew 1:18-21

Pray:

God had promised Joseph's great-great-great-great grandfather that one of his descendants would rescue the whole world (2 Samuel 7:12-16). So when Joseph was chosen it was a sign that God was keeping his promise.

Joseph was waiting to be married to Mary. They weren't married yet, and that's important. God said the baby's mother would be a girl who had never been married. (Isaiah 7:14). Just like Mary!

God was keeping his promise. He was coming into the world to be with us.

Play:

- Sing: 'What Child Is This'
- Canta: 'Los Peces en el Rio'
- Deliver treats to your neighbors to remind them Christmas is coming. Remember the angel, Gabriel, who delivered a special message to Mary and Joseph. Easy Christmas treats to makes with toddlers.
- Watch: 'Journey to Bethlehem' (2023) This movie uses song, drama, and laughter to highlight the story of Mary and Joseph. Ages 6+
- Read or listen to 'Mary's Song' (Luke 1:46-55).



Emmanuel
God with us



Emanuel

Dios está con nosotros

Gift tags



*Christmas is
coming!*



Merry Christmas!



Made with love.



*Christmas is
coming!*



Merry Christmas!



Made with love.



*Christmas is
coming!*



Merry Christmas!



Made with love.

Gift tags



*¡Ya viene
Navidad!*



¡Feliz Navidad!



Hecho con amor.



*¡Ya viene
Navidad!*



¡Feliz Navidad!



Hecho con amor.



*¡Ya viene
Navidad!*



¡Feliz Navidad!



Hecho con amor.

3

Bethlehem

Read:

Luke 2:1-7

Pray:

Long ago, God promised the special baby would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

But Mary and Joseph didn't even live in Bethlehem!

In that time the King of the land ordered everybody to go to their hometown.

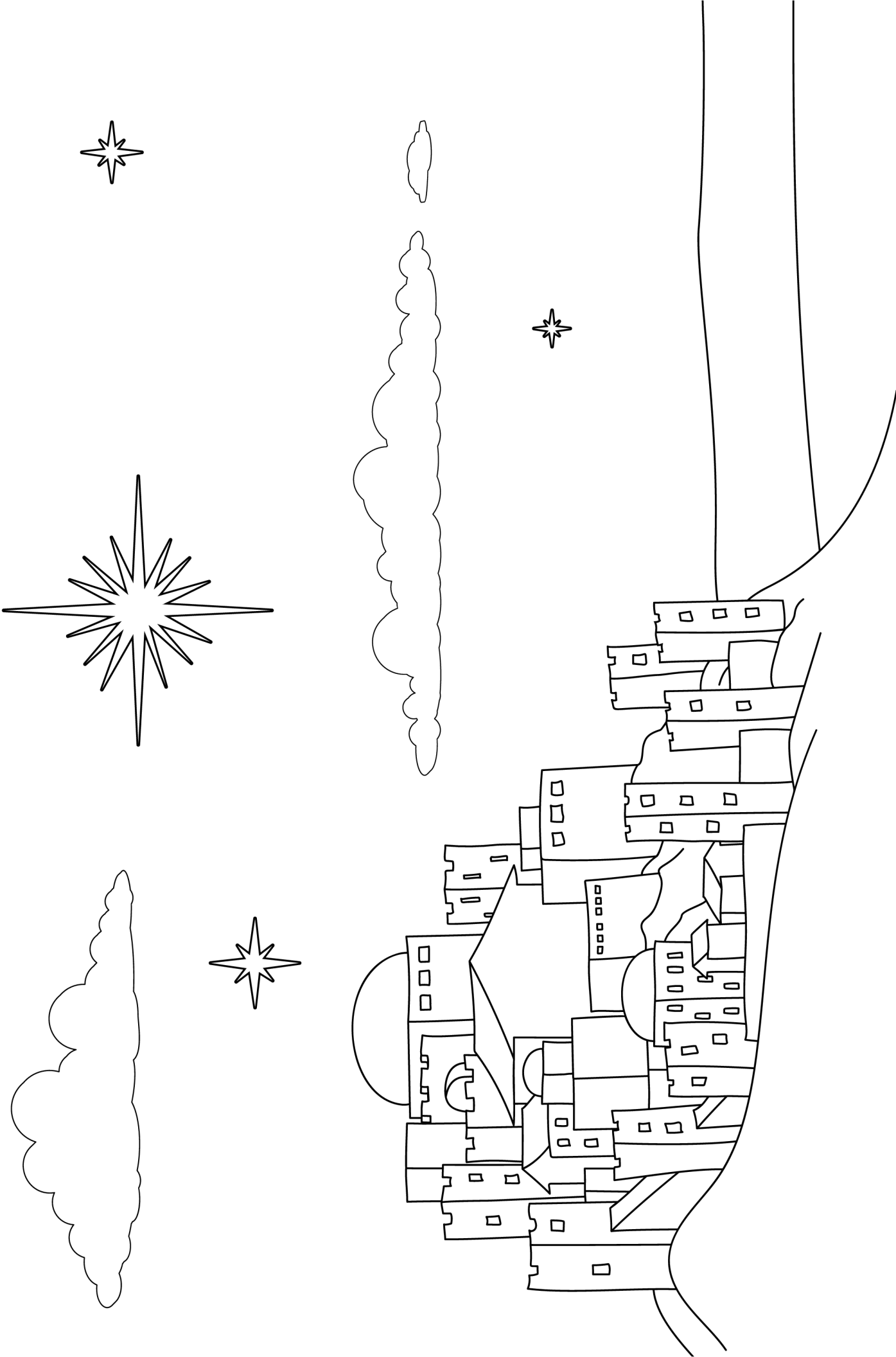
Joseph's hometown just happened to be Bethlehem. So Joseph and a very pregnant Mary made the journey to Bethlehem. That's where baby Jesus was born!

At first glance, it seems the King was in charge.

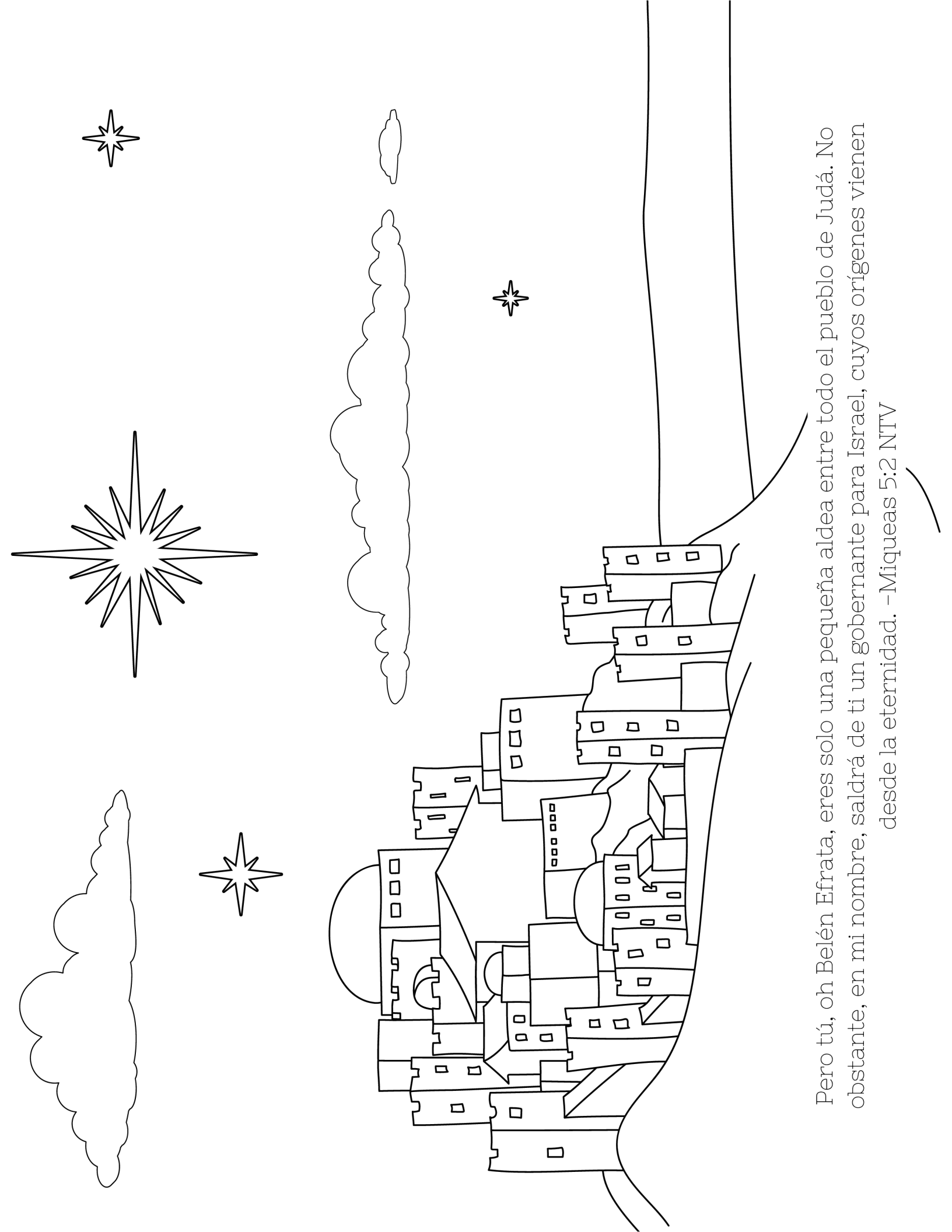
But really, God was in charge. He was giving one more sign that baby Jesus was the one the world had been waiting for.

Play:

- Sing: 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'
- Canta: 'Mi Burrito Sabanero'
- Watch: 'The Star' (2017) This animated movie shows the Nativity story through the eyes of the animals, specifically a donkey who carried Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Ages 4+
- Go Christmas caroling around your neighborhood. As you travel from house to house, remember the trip Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem.
- If you have a nativity, have the pieces 'travel' around your house to the manger in Bethlehem.



But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. -Micah 5:2 NLT



Pero tú, oh Belén Efrata, eres solo una pequeña aldea entre todo el pueblo de Judá. No obstante, en mi nombre, saldrá de ti un gobernante para Israel, cuyos orígenes vienen desde la eternidad. -Miqueas 5:2 NTV

4

Shepherds

Read:

Luke 2:8-20

Pray:

Nobody liked shepherds.
They were weird.
They hung out with sheep all day. They smelled like sheep, and were dirty. They were the last person you'd call to come visit a new baby.
Nobody liked shepherds.

But when baby Jesus was born, God picked the shepherds to be the first visitors.

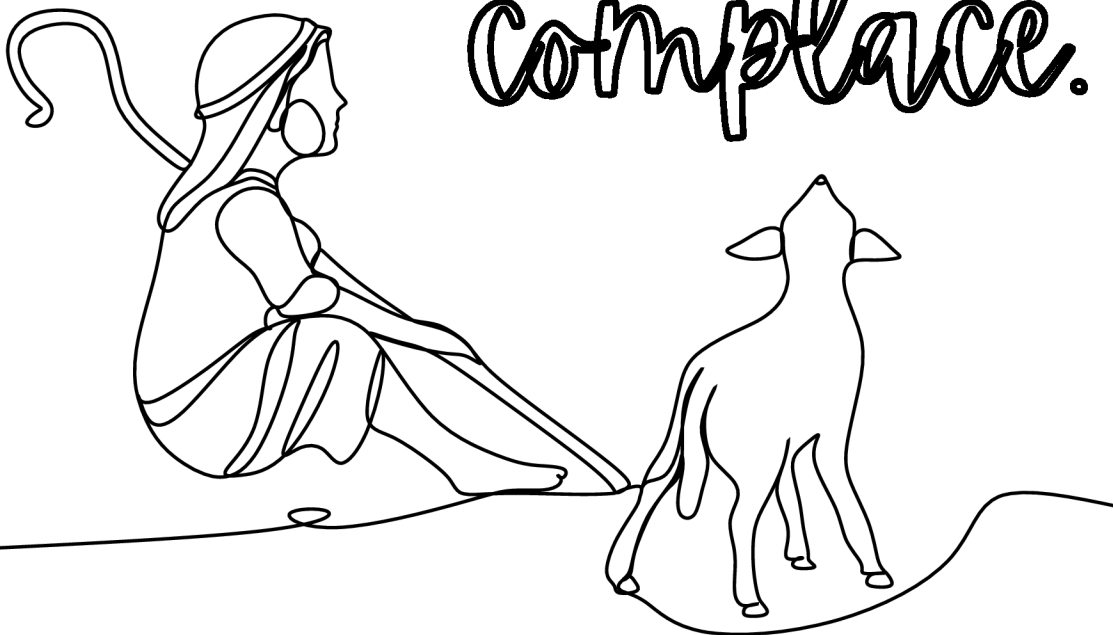
God loves those no one else does. He sees them, and they're his first pick.

God choosing the shepherds was a sign God's rescue plan had begun.

Play:

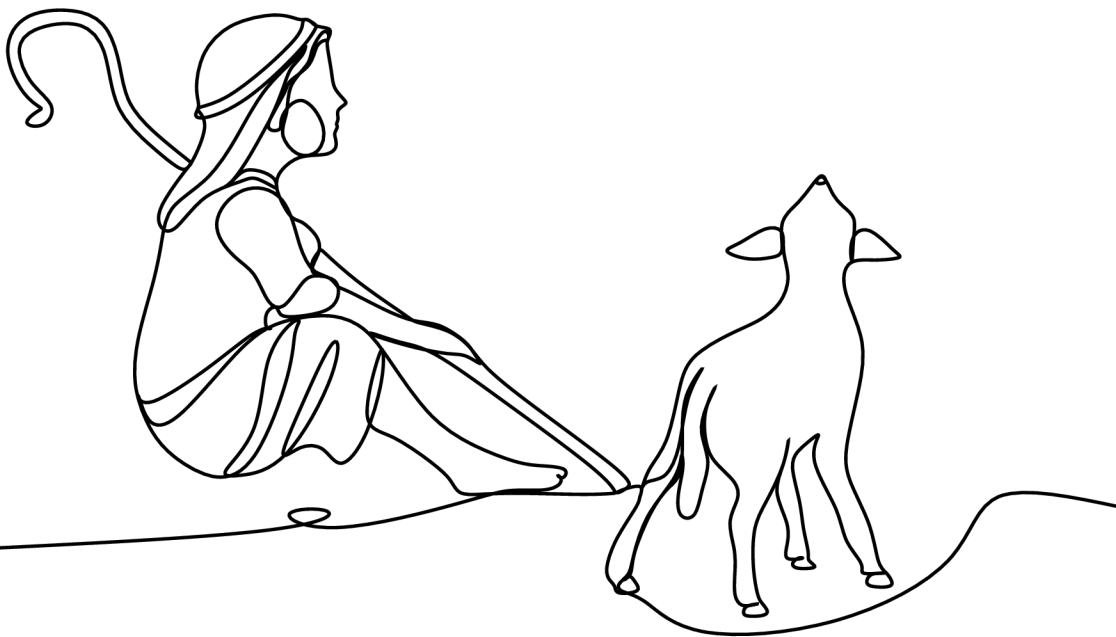
- Sing: 'Angels We Have Heard on High'
- Canta: 'Los Pastores a Belen'
- Eat candy canes. The candy's shape is a shepherds staff, reminding us of the shepherds that visited baby Jesus.
- Watch: 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' (1965) This classic Christmas movie shows that the good news of Christmas is Jesus came for those who are picked last. Linus even recites Luke 2, highlighting the Gospel. Ages 2+
- Make a sheep Christmas tree ornament. [Simple Christmas Ornament Crafts.](#)

gloria a Dios en el
cielo más alto y
paz en la tierra
para aquellos en
quienes Dios se
complace.



Lucas 2:14

glory to God in
highest heaven, and
peace on earth to
those with whom God
is pleased.



Luke 2:14

5

Magi

Read:

Matthew 2:1-12

Pray:

When baby Jesus was born, God put a bright star in the sky. It was a sign that God's rescue plan wasn't just for a few people, but for the whole world.

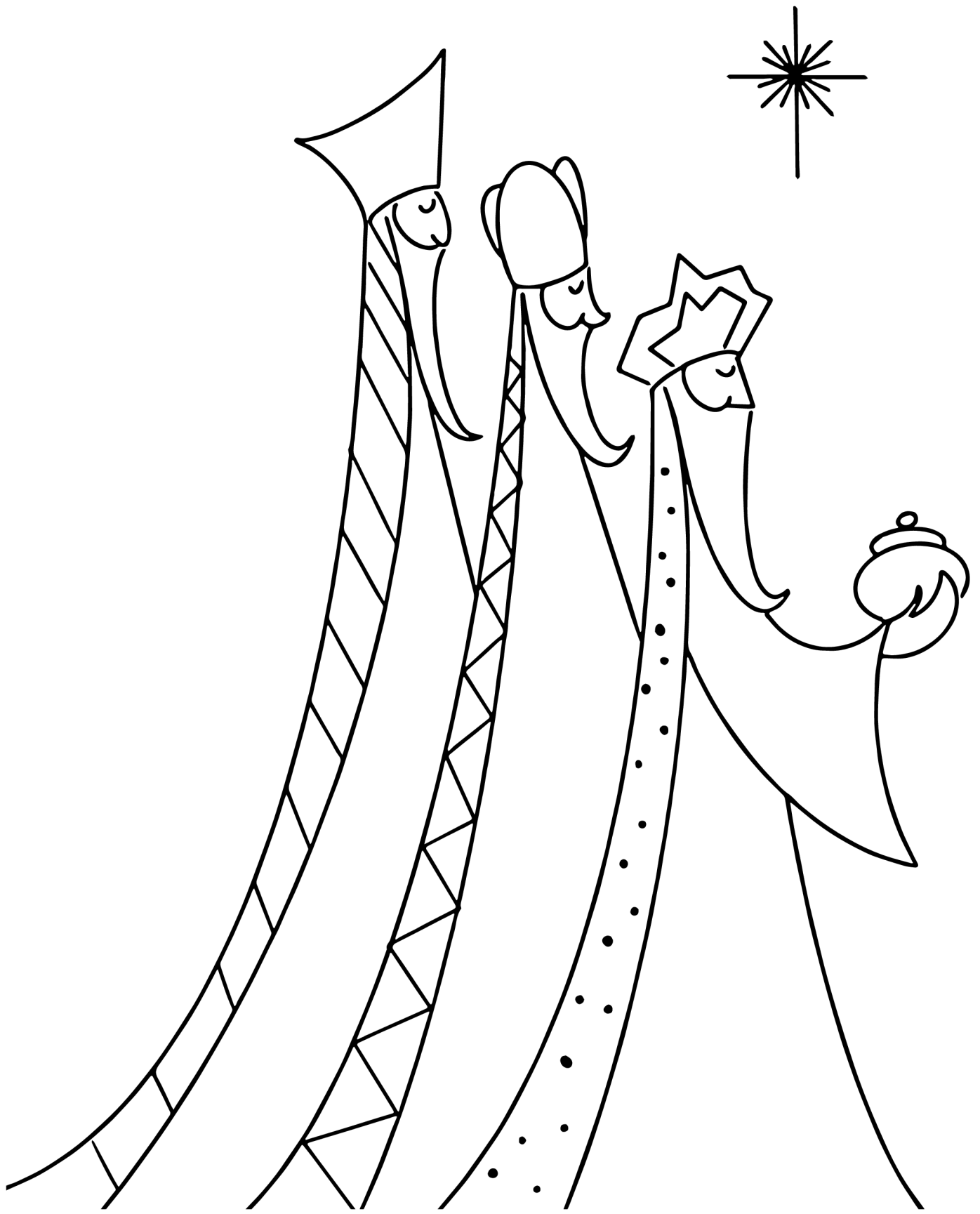
The magi loved God and were waiting for the great rescuer. When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy! (Matthew 2:10) They knew the rescuer had finally come.

They packed their bags and made a long trip to visit baby Jesus. Upon arriving, they offered him the most expensive gifts money could buy: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. No gift was enough to express their worship.

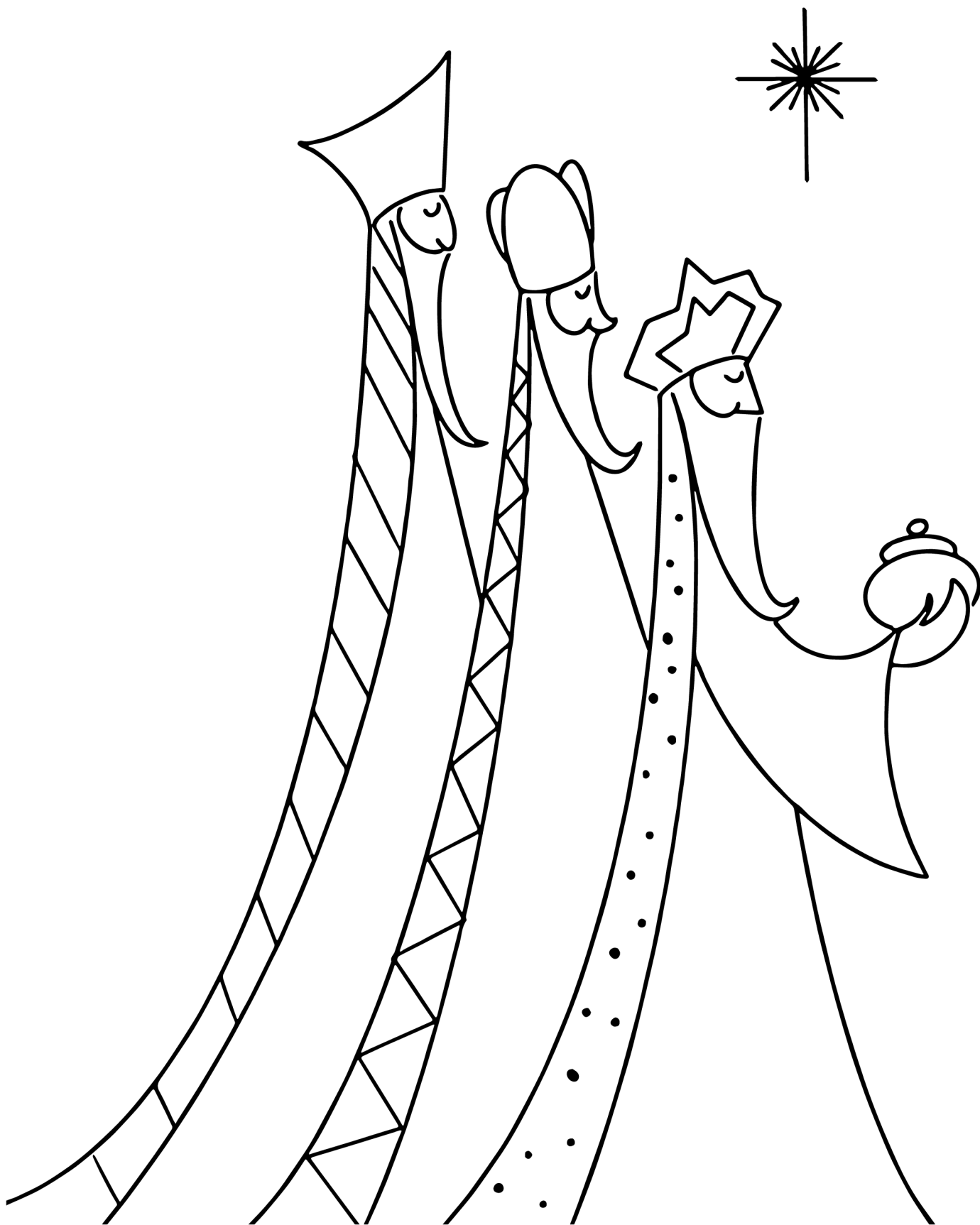
They knew baby Jesus was the greatest gift the world had ever known.

Play:

- Sing: 'We Three Kings'
- Canta: 'Ya Vienen Los Reyes'
- Watch: 'The Three Wisemen' (2020) This animated Christmas movie follows the wisemen on their search for the newborn king. Ages 2+
- Three Kings Sensory Bath
- Drive around your neighborhood, looking at Christmas lights. As you follow the lights from house to house, remember the magi who followed the star.
- Make a star Christmas tree ornament. Simple Christmas Ornament Crafts.



When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! -Matthew 2:10



Cuando vieron la estrella, ¡se llenaron de alegría! -Mateo 2:10

Christmas Light

BINGO



Lights set to music



Wreath



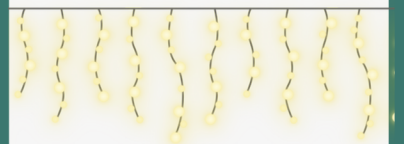
Star



Candy Cane



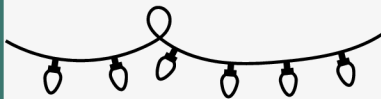
Snowman



Icicle lights



Angel



White lights



Penguin



Colorful lights



Nativity Scene



Christmas tree

Luces de Navidad

Lotería



**Luces puestas
con música**



Corona



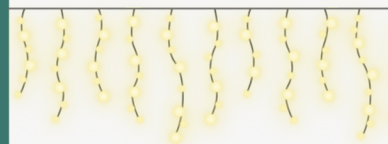
Estrella



Bastón de caramelo



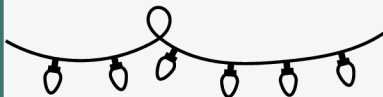
Muñeco de nieve



Luces de carámbano



Ángel



Luces blancas



Pingüino



Luces de colores



Nacimiento



Árbol de Navidad

6

Jesus

Read:

1 John 4:9

Pray:

Jesus is the greatest gift the world has ever known. He is God who came down to be with us. God who came to rescue us from everything wrong in the world. He is making everything the way it should be: very good.

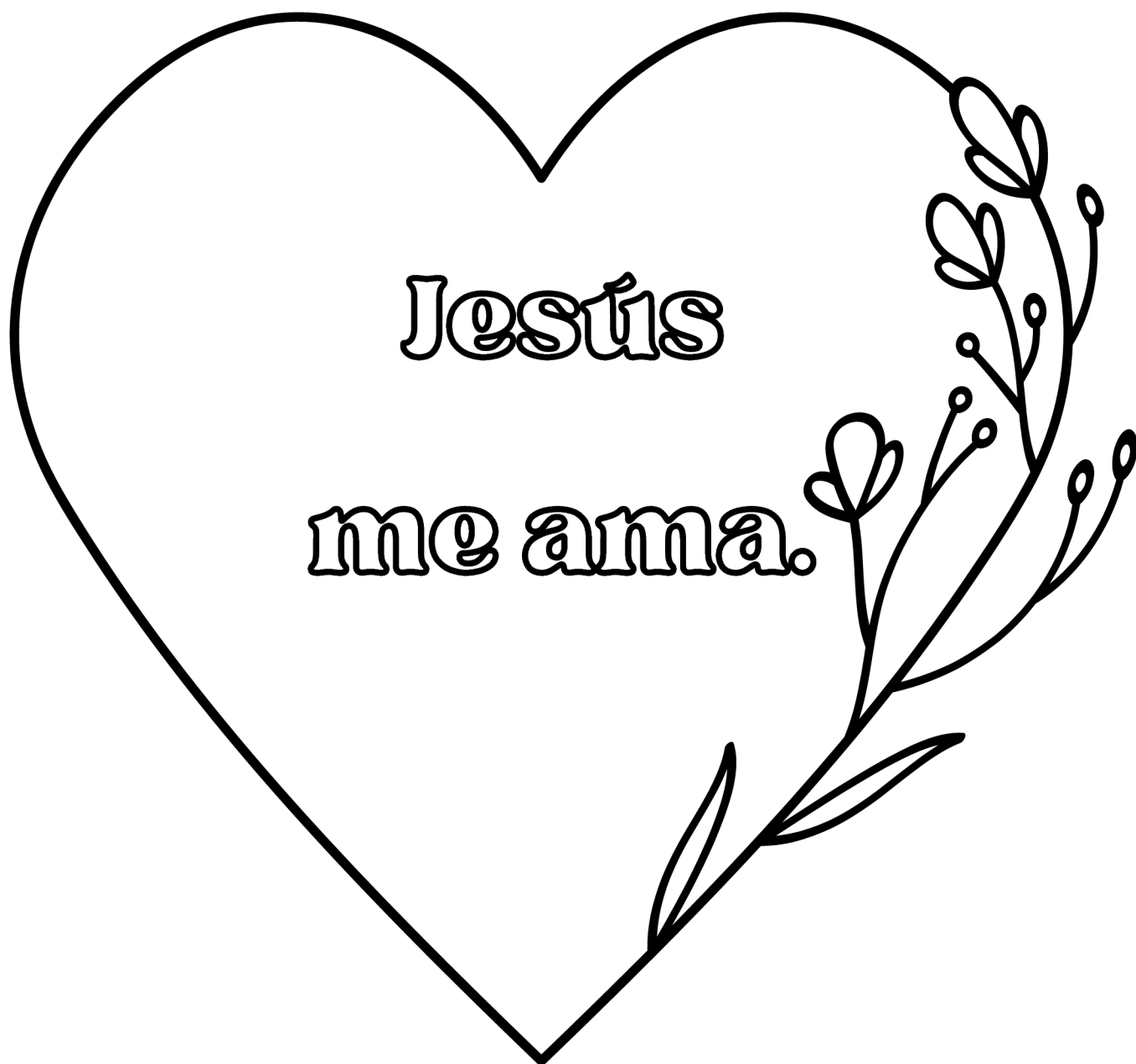
He loved those no one else loved. He sat with people no one else would. He turned sadness into joy. He made a way for everyone in the whole world to be apart of God's family.

When we say Jesus is the king of the whole world, and believe he is making all things right, we get to be apart of God's family.

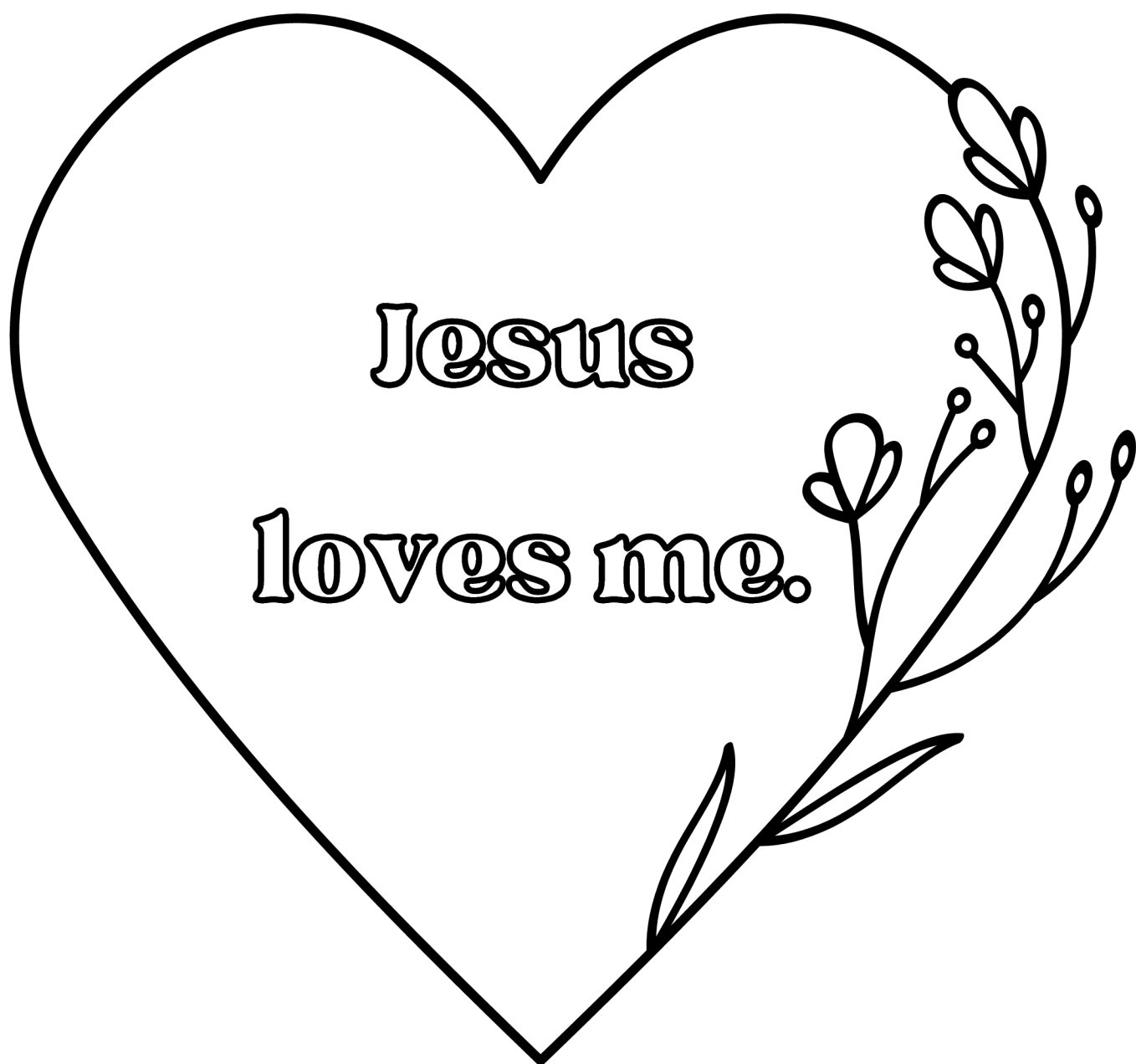
A family that shares God's peace, hope, joy, and love with the whole wide world. We can love, because God first loved us.

Play:

- Sing: O Holy Night
- Canta: Santa la Noche
- Watch 'Veggie Tales: The Best Christmas Gift' (2019) This is a fun retelling of the Christmas story with an emphasis on Jesus as the gift. Ages 2+
- Read: 'The Christmas Promise' by Alison Mitchell. Ages 3+
- Lee: 'El Rey Prometido' por Alison Mitchell. Ages 3+
- Read: 'The Give-away' by Ray Buckley. Ages 6+
- Read: 'Holy Night and Little Star' by Mitali Perkins. Ages 4+
- Read: 'A Very Noisy Christmas' by Tim Thornborough. Ages 2+
- Open a Christmas present. Remember Jesus is the greatest gift.



Dios mostró cuánto nos ama al enviar a su
único Hijo al mundo, para que tengamos
vida eterna por medio de él. - 1 Juan 4:9



God showed how much he loved us by sending his
one and only Son into the world so that we might
have eternal life through him. - 1 John 4:9