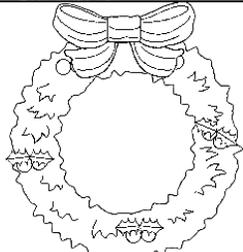
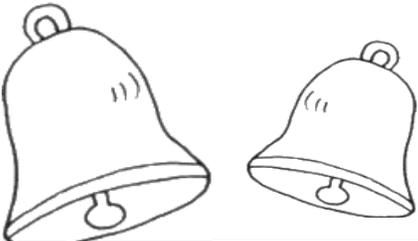
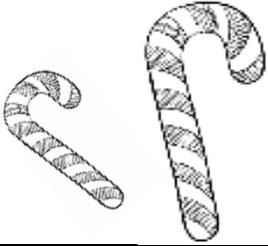
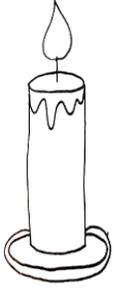


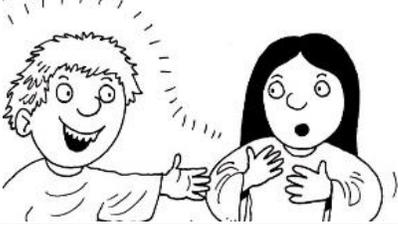
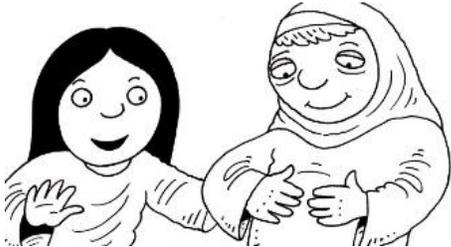
December Advent Calendar

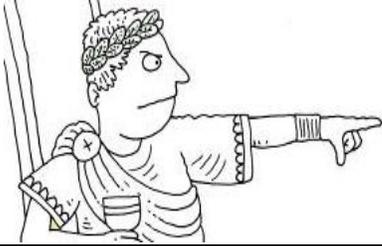
To remember the true meaning of Christmas, read different Bible verses each day in December, and think about the different parts of the Christmas story.

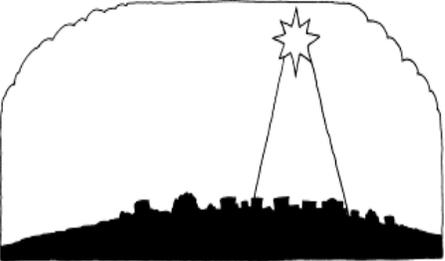
The Rescuer has been born!

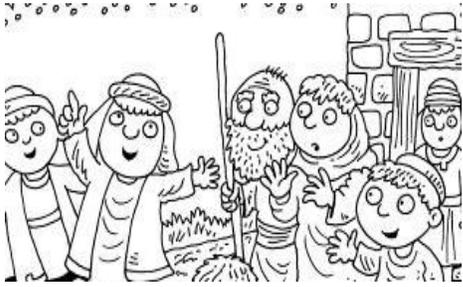
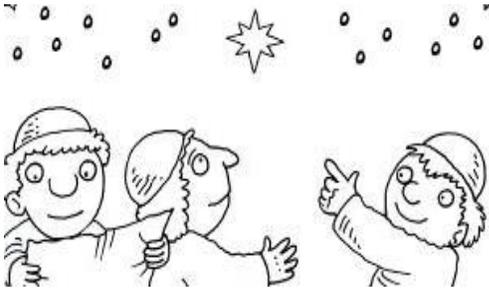
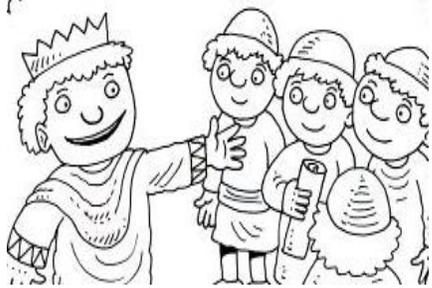
Let's celebrate His birth!

Saturday December 1		Matthew 2:1-2 Stars: Stars remind us of how the Wise Men followed the star to find Jesus. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can you follow Jesus?
Sunday December 2		Jeremiah 31:3 Wreaths: A wreath is an unbroken circle. It reminds us that God's love has no beginning and no end. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How have you seen God's love today?
Monday December 3		Luke 15:1-7 Bells: Shepherds put bells around a sheep's neck so that their sheep can be found. Bells remind us that the good shepherd (Jesus) has come to find the lost. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do you think Jesus is like a good shepherd?
Tuesday December 4		Isaiah 1:18 Candy Canes: Candy canes remind us of the shepherd's staffs on the night Jesus was born. The red on the candy reminds us of Jesus' blood and the white reminds us of how Jesus' blood cleans our hearts, making us white as snow. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can a candy cane help remind us of Christmas?
Wednesday December 5		1 John 1:5 Candles: Candles remind us that after waiting for a savior to come, one night in Bethlehem Jesus was born. A little baby was born on a dark night, and that baby became the light of the world. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can you be a light to others?
Thursday December 6		John 3:16 Gifts: At Christmas time, we give and receive gifts. Gifts are meant to remind us of the very first Christmas, where God gave us the best gift ever, Jesus Christ. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the best gift you have ever given to someone and the best gift you have ever received?

Friday December 7		<p>Isaiah 9:6 Hundreds of years before Jesus was born; God's messenger Isaiah wrote that one day a baby would be born. The baby would be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. We often call him Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What names do you like to call Jesus?
Saturday December 8		<p>Luke 1:26-30 An angel appeared to a girl named Mary. At first Mary was very scared, but the angel told her not to worry because God has a plan!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was one time you felt afraid?
Sunday December 9		<p>Luke 1:30-38 The angel tells Mary that she is going to have God's son. She is to name him Jesus. Mary says that she is ready to do what God is asking her to do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is something someone has asked you to do that is hard for you?
Monday December 10		<p>Luke 1:39-45 Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was going to have a baby too. Her baby would be named John the Baptist. When Mary walked into the room, Elizabeth's baby jumped inside her. The baby knew the presence of God was near, in Mary's belly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you see the Holy Spirit in this story?
Tuesday December 11		<p>Matthew 1:18-19 When Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, he did not know what to do! He decided it would not be good to be married to Mary. He knew the baby inside Mary was not his baby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever had a hard time knowing what to do? Give an example.
Wednesday December 12		<p>Matthew 1:20-22 Joseph was sleeping one night when an angel showed up in his dream! The angel told Joseph that the baby was God's son. The angel also said that Joseph should marry Mary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other stories from the Bible have angels?

<p>Thursday December 13</p>		<p>Matthew 1:24 Joseph obeyed what God asked him to do. Joseph married Mary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is one time you have obeyed someone that you trusted?
<p>Friday December 14</p>		<p>Luke 2:1-3 One of the leaders of the land named Caesar Augustus, wanted to count the number of people so he made everyone go back to the town where their families were from.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where have you traveled to see your family?
<p>Saturday December 15</p>		<p>Luke 2:4-5 It took Mary and Joseph at least 4-6 days to get to the town where Joseph's family was from. Many people believe that Mary rode a donkey to get to the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to imagine how uncomfortable it would be to ride a donkey with a baby in your belly. How do you think Mary felt?
<p>Sunday December 16</p>		<p>Micah 5:2 The town where Mary and Joseph went was called Bethlehem. In the Bible, one of the writers wrote that out of Bethlehem a ruler would come. Another name for Bethlehem is the City of David.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think Bethlehem was called the City of David?
<p>Monday December 17</p>		<p>Luke 2:7 When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they had a problem. They went from place to place, trying to find Mary a bed but there was no room for her!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think Mary and Joseph felt?
<p>Tuesday December 18</p>		<p>Luke 2:7 Instead of a beautiful nice hotel room, Mary and Joseph spent the night in a smelly stable. All sorts of animals live in stables, animals like loud cows, smelly donkeys, and dirty sheep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think God didn't give Mary and Joseph a nice room to sleep?

<p>Wednesday December 19</p>		<p>Luke 2:4-7 In that smelly, dirty stable a baby was born. The baby was given the name Jesus. Jesus was the son of God. Since the beginning of time, God had promised to send someone to rescue His people and on that night in Bethlehem, the rescuer was born.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was it so important that Jesus was born?
<p>Thursday December 20</p>		<p>Luke 2:8 Near the stable, there were shepherds watching their sheep. Shepherds have a big job; they watch sheep to make sure they don't run off or get eaten by other animals. Jesus was born to be a shepherd to us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes someone a good shepherd?
<p>Friday December 21</p>		<p>Luke 2:8-10 In the dark night, all of a sudden something bright and amazing surprised the shepherds! They were afraid! An angel stood before them. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid because I have great news for you!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sort of good surprises have you experienced?
<p>Saturday December 22</p>		<p>Luke 2:8-15 The angel told the shepherds that a baby had been born in Bethlehem. The angel told them the baby had come to rescue them. Then lots of angels appeared! They all sang a beautiful song to God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a song you like to sing to God?
<p>Sunday December 23</p>		<p>Luke 2:15 After the angels left, the shepherds talked to one another. They were amazed and so excited. They wanted to go and see this baby Jesus that had been born.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever really wanted to see someone? Who was it? Why did you want to see him/her?
<p>Monday December 24</p>		<p>Luke 2:16 What the angels had told the shepherds was true. They found a baby lying in a manger wrapped in cloth. The shepherds were some of the first to welcome the little rescuer to the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw the baby?

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tuesday December 25</p>		<p>Luke 2:17-19 The shepherds were so excited about baby Jesus that they shared their story with others. Those who heard the story were surprised. Mary remembered everything and loved thinking about what God had done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think the people were surprised?
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Wednesday December 26</p>		<p>Matthew 2:1-2 Three Wise Men saw a huge star in the sky. They knew a king had been born. They wanted to find him and worship him!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can someone worship a baby king?
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Thursday December 27</p>		<p>Matthew 2: 1-7 The Wise Men asked a king named Herod if he knew anything about the new king. Herod did not like that a new king had been born. Herod told the men to go find the new king and then to come back to tell him where he was. Herod wanted to find the baby so he could kill him and be the only king.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think Herod did not like that the baby had been born?
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Friday December 28</p>		<p>Matthew 2:9-10 The three Wise Men continued following the star. It stopped right over top of the place where Jesus and his family were. The Wise Men were amazed at what they saw. Finally, they were going to see the true king.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does it feel when something you have been waiting for finally happens?
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Saturday December 29</p>		<p>Matthew 2:11 The three Wise Men went into the house where Jesus and his mother, Mary, were. They bowed down to the child. The Wise Men knew that Jesus was the one they had been looking for, the new king.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other than bowing down, how can you show someone respect?

<p>Sunday December 30</p>		<p>Matthew 2:11 Not only did the Wise Men bow to Jesus, they gave the child three gifts. They gave him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were not normal types of gifts to give a child; these were gifts for a king. Their gifts were a way for them to worship him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sort of gifts have you given someone to make them feel special?
<p>Monday December 31</p>		<p>Matthew 2:12 Remember how Herod wanted to find Jesus so that he could hurt him? God had a plan to keep Jesus safe so he sent an angel to tell the Wise Men not to go back to Herod. God protected His son. Just like Herod had sinned and wanted bad things to happen, we have made mistakes too. We need a rescuer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of one thing you have done that you need rescuing from. • Ask God to rescue you from your sins. • Thank God for sending Jesus to rescue you!

The Rescuer has been born.

