



12 WAYS  
TO KEEP  
CHRIST IN  
CHRISTMAS

*For kids and families*

## JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

Christmas is a busy time of year and with all that we have to or want to do at Christmas we can easily forget that the birth of Jesus, God's precious gift to mankind, the real reason for the season! And so to help prepare your heart and family for this coming season here is a list of 12 ways to help you take focus off of the worldly expressions of the Christmas season and focus on Jesus...

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16



South Pacific Division  
Discipleship Ministries - Children

## 1. FILL YOUR HOME WITH CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Its amazing how much music can change the mood of a home. Here is a list of some Christian Christmas songs you can search for and download to make your own Christ themed Christmas playlist.

1. The Perfect Gift– By JJ Heller
2. The Heart of Christmas– By Matthew West
3. It's Christmas– By Mandisa
4. Maybe This Christmas– By Leigh Nash
5. Real– By Nichole Nordeman
6. Christmastime– By Michael W. Smith
7. When Love Was Born– By Mark Schultz
8. Joseph's Lullaby– By Mercy Me
9. Mary's Lullaby– The Brilliance
10. Child of Love– Sara Groves
11. Adore Him– By Kari Jobe
12. Do You Have Room– By Shawna Edwards
13. The Earth Stood Still– By Future of Forestry
14. What a Glorious Night– By Sidewalk Prophets
15. Asleep in the Hay– By Jonny Diaz
16. Christmas Offering– Casting Crowns
17. Precious Promise– By Steven Curtis Chapmam
18. A Baby Changes Everything– By Faith Hill
19. A Strange Way to Save the World– By 4 Him
20. The Night Before Christmas– By Brandon Heath
21. O Come, O Come Emmanuel– By Enya



## 2. VOLUNTEER AND DONATE

Many charities collect items for children and prepare food and hampers for families particular over the christmas period.

- Talk to your local government or council and find out whats happening near you.
- Contact ADRA - adra.org to find out what they need help with.
- Purchase extra food when you shop and donate this food to charity
- Gift wrap over christmas to help raise money for a charity.
- Be a delivery driver for donated goods.
- Contact your local nursing home, hospital or even animal shelter and see what you can do as a family to help those in need

Also think about continuing to volunteer as a family after Christmas.



## 3. DECORATE YOUR HOME WITH CHRIST-CENTRED DECOR AND CRAFTS

Finding Christ-centred decorations can be hard. Check out our Pinterest page SPD Childrens Ministries for ideas and printable decorations and craft ideas for a great way to get a more Christ focused home and Sabbath School this Christmas time- all you have to do is print, cut and hang!

<https://au.pinterest.com/childrensministries/boards/>



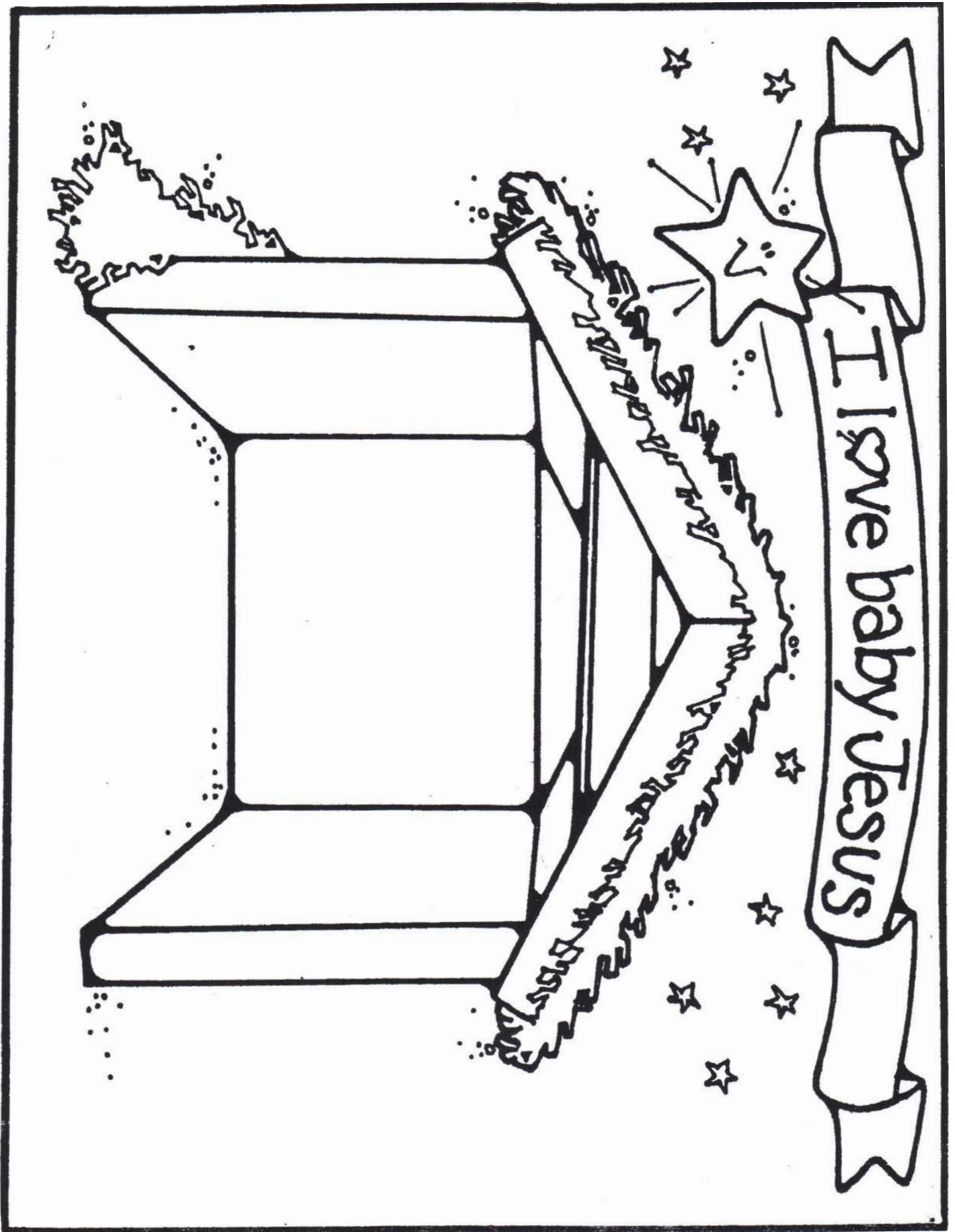
## 4. READ CHRIST-CENTRED CHRISTMAS STORIES

Start a Christmas tradition by reading a different Christmas story together before bed at Christmas time. Why not read by the lights of the Christmas tree? Each year try to find a new story to add to your collection. Here is a list of some popular Christ-centred Christmas stories and books.

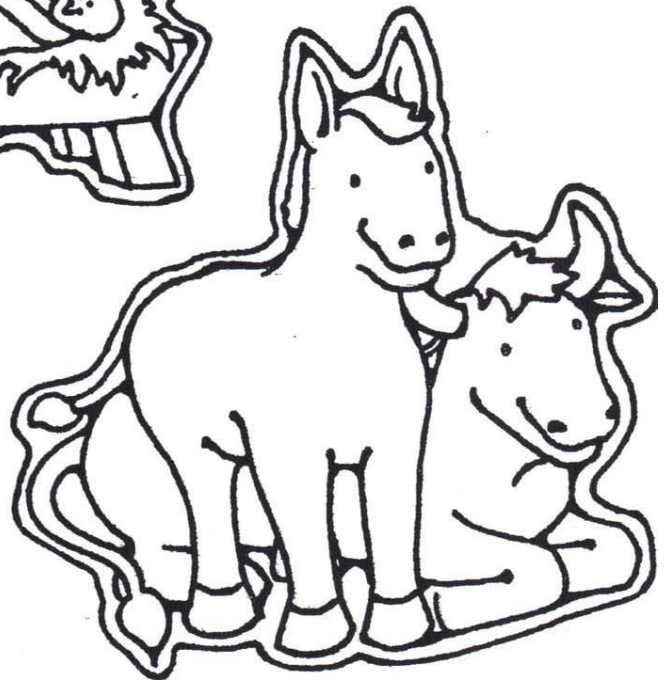
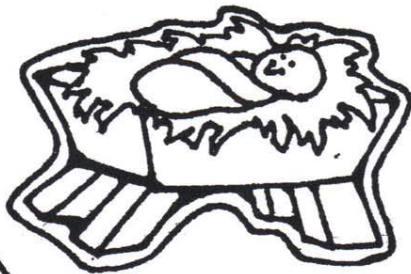
1. **God Gave Us Christmas** by Lisa Tawn Bergren - When a little cub asks his mama who invented Christmas, he finds out the real reason for the season.
2. **Baby Blessings Christmas** by Standard Publishing Editorial Staff - A fun board book for babies that tells the story of Christmas in rhyme.
3. **One Shining Star: A Christmas Counting Book** by Anne Vittur Kennedy - A nativity counting book for kids.
4. **Humphrey's First Christmas** by Carol Heyer - We've all heard the story of the wisemen, but what about the camels who carried them?
5. **The Legend of the Candy Cane** by Pat Matuszak - Find out how a simple candy cane symbolizes the real reason for the Christmas season.
6. **What Is Christmas?** by Michelle Medlock Adams - This cute book lists all of the fun things that Christmas might be about, and finally concludes that it is truly about celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Savior.
7. **A Christmas Goodnight** by Nola Buck - A beautiful going to bed Christmas Eve book for Christians.
8. **The Small One** by Alex Walsh - A young boy from Nazareth sells his beloved donkey, Small One, to a man who needs one to carry his wife, Mary, to Bethlehem.
9. **Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale** by Martin Waddell - Kind Ox invites one visitor after another into the shelter of his stable on a cold winter night.
10. **A Donkey's Little Tale** by R. Mitchell Scott - A beautiful re-telling of the Christmas story, told through the eyes of the little donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem.
11. **Come and See: A Christmas Story** by Monica Mayer - Readers follow the shepherds, townsfolk, and animals as they make their way to the manger to see the newborn baby Jesus.
12. **J Is for Jesus: The Sweetest Story Ever Told** by Crystal Bowman - A sweet story to remind little ones that the candy cane represents Jesus' birth and His gospel message too.
13. **Stable Where Jesus Was Born** by Rhonda Gowler Greene - This sweet story uses repeating rhyme to portray the excitement of those who witnessed Christ's birth - from Mary and Joseph to the barn cats and mice.
14. **Jesus and the Very Best Birthday** by Landoll - A fun story to introduce the birthday aspect of Christmas to children.
15. **The Christmas Story** by Jane Werner Watson - This classic Little Golden Book retells the Christmas story with poetic text.



5. CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS COLORING PAGES AND CUT OUTS  
Print and cut out this nativity scene.

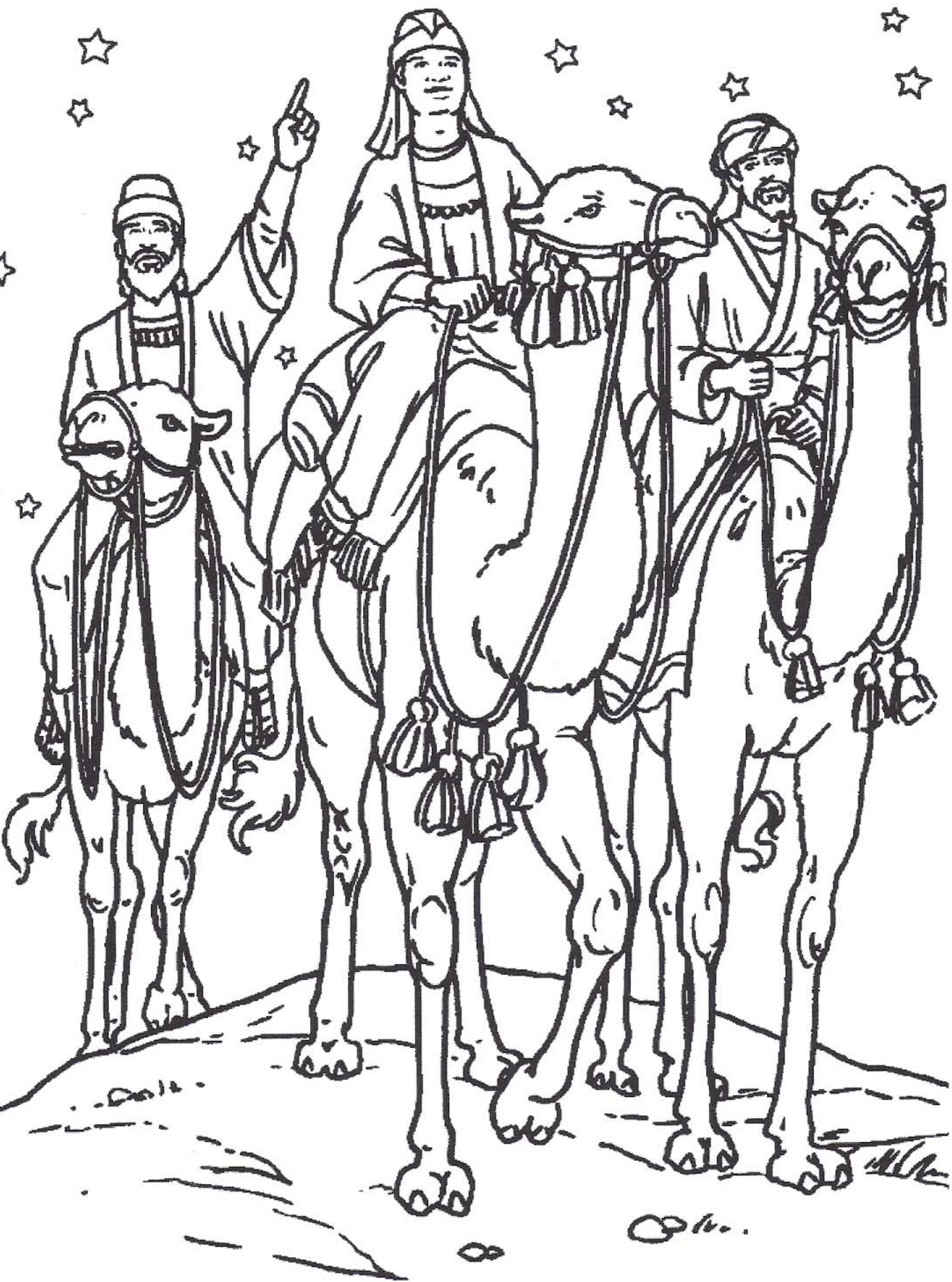














## 6. EACH NIGHT IN DECEMBER READ A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE BY CANDLELIGHT

- Dec 1 John 1:1-5
- Dec 2 Isaiah 9:2-7
- Dec 3 Isaiah 11:1-10
- Dec 4 Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Dec 5 Luke 1:5-10
- Dec 6 Luke 1:11-17
- Dec 7 Luke 1:18-25
- Dec 8 Luke 1:26-38
- Dec 9 Matthew 1:18-21
- Dec 10 Matthew 1:22-26
- Dec 11 Luke 1:39-45
- Dec 12 Luke 1:46-56
- Dec 13 Luke 2:1-5
- Dec 14 Luke 2:6-7
- Dec 15 Luke 2:8-12
- Dec 16 Luke 2:13-14
- Dec 17 Luke 2:15-18
- Dec 18 Luke 2:19-20
- Dec 19 Micah 5:2-5
- Dec 20 Matthew 2:1-2
- Dec 21 Matthew 2:3-6
- Dec 22 Matthew 2:7-8
- Dec 23 Matthew 2:9-12
- Dec 24 John 1:14
- Dec 25 John 3:16

## 7. WRITE A CHRISTMAS LETTER TO A MISSIONARY OR VOLUNTEER

Many Missionaries and Volunteers are unable to travel home for the holidays, so Christmas can be a very lonely time for them.

Sit down with your family or Sabbath School class and write a special letter to a Missionary or Volunteer of your choice and thank them for giving their life and time in service to the Lord.

Contact the South Pacific Division to find out how you can get in touch with a Missionary or a Volunteer who is away from home at Christmas.

### Volunteers

volunteers@adventist.org.au  
+61 2 9847 3275

### Missionaries

kayhumble@adventist.org.au  
+61 2 9847 3279

## 8. CHRIST-CENTERED TREATS

Bake some crossed or star shaped cookies and share them with friends and neighbours.

### Ingredients

- 1 Cup unsalted butter
- 1 Cup granulated white sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3 cups all purpose flour



### Directions

Preheat oven to 180° C.

Cream butter and sugar until smooth.

Beat in vanilla extract and egg.

In a separate bowl combine baking powder with flour and add a little at a time to the wet ingredients. The dough will be very stiff. If it becomes too stiff for your mixer turn out the dough onto a countertop surface. Wet your hands and finish off kneading the dough by hand.

**DO NOT CHILL THE DOUGH.** Divide into workable batches, roll out onto a floured surface and cut. You want these cookies to be on the thicker side.

Bake at 180° for 6-8 minutes. Let cool on the cookie sheet until firm enough to transfer to a cooling rack.

## 9. KINDNESS ELVES

Create a new tradition for Christmas with the Kindness Elves, an alternative to the popular Elf on the Shelf idea, and place the focus instead on positive, character-building activities for kids.

With this tradition aim to teach love, kindness and gratitude with a hope to raise kids who move away from the "entitlement" attitude which pervades our modern generation.

To read more about what you can do with Kindness Elves visit [imaginationtree.com](http://imaginationtree.com)



**10. AS A FAMILY MAKE THE WORDS TO YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS CAROL.**

Sing it to your neighbours when you bring them treats or gifts. Why not make it funny, people will love it!

*Jesus is the reason for the season you best be believin...*



**11. SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS THAT CONVEY A SPIRITUAL MESSAGE.**

Purchase Christian focused Christmas cards or don't worry if you have already bought the Reindeer card just add a Bible verse to your personal message!

For example: Luke 2:14 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' or the best John 3:16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his own only son, so that whoever believes in him will not die but have eternal life.'

Also think about buying your Christmas cards from a charity so the money you spend can go towards helping people.



## 12. CHRIST CENTRED DVDs AND VIDEOS

1. **Veggie Tales: The Ultimate Christmas Collection**– The entire VeggieTales gang put on a Christmas movie marathon that also teaches Christian values. The collection includes: It's a Meaningful Life, Saint Nicholas: A Story of Joyful Giving, The Little Drummer Boy, The Toy that Saved Christmas, and The Star of Christmas.
2. **What's In The Bible? Buck Denver Asks...Why Do We Call it Christmas?**– Join Buck Denver and his friends for a fun and unusual Christmas party. Everyone loves Christmas, but have you ever wondered why we celebrate the birth of Jesus by putting tress in our houses? Or hanging stockings by the fire? And how did Santa Clause become a big part of Jesus' birthday party anyway?
3. **Joy To The World**– This movie is filled with wonderful scenes of Jesus Christ's birth, life, and ministry, and accompanied by beautiful music performed by the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir.
4. **Mr. Krueger's Christmas**– Mr.Kruger is a lonely widower, played by Jimmy Stewart, who finds comfort through a group of carolers singing outside his window. Him interaction with them places him in a fantasy where he imagines himself in the stable on the very first Christmas.
5. **Silent Night**– A touching re-telling of the true story behind one of the most popular Christmas carols of all time. Set in 1818 in a small Austrian town near Salzburg, it tells the story of Joseph Mohr, the new assistant priest who organizes a church choir- including outcasts from the local tavern.
6. **The Perfect Gift**– Max is a young girl who just happens to have her birthday on Christmas- and she does not like it. She also does not like her school assignment to write about Christmas. But Jes helps Max to see how important God's perfect gift to us was.
7. **Christmas with a Capital C**– The mayor and citizens of Trapper Falls, a small Alaskan town, are in a legal battle to keep the spirit and traditions of Christmas alive. The movie explores the culture wars between secularism and Christianity and is a reminder of the real spirit of Christmas- peace on earth and good will to all. Even to this whose hearts seemed closed to Him.
8. **The Fourth Wise Man**– Based on the classic book, "The Other Wise Man," this fictional story is set in Biblical times. It tells of a Magi named Artaban who sees the sign in the heavens and starts his journey to find the Messiah. With three precious gifts in hand he seeks Jesus- only to keep missing him. After 33 years he finally finds him, on Easter Sunday.







**Lists and ideas adapted from:**

<http://www.thedatingdivas.com/12-ways-to-keep-christ-in-christmas/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/ways-to-keep-christ-in-christmas-700764>

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<http://theimaginationtree.com/2013/11/alternative-elf-on-shelf-tradition-kindness-elf-kindness-elves.html>

