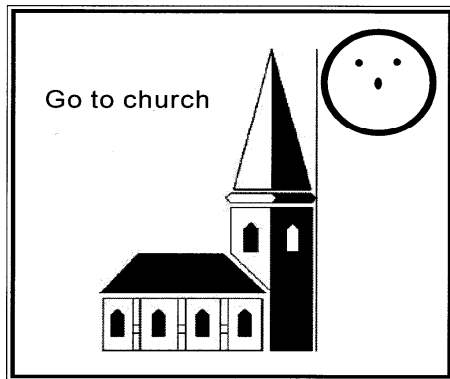
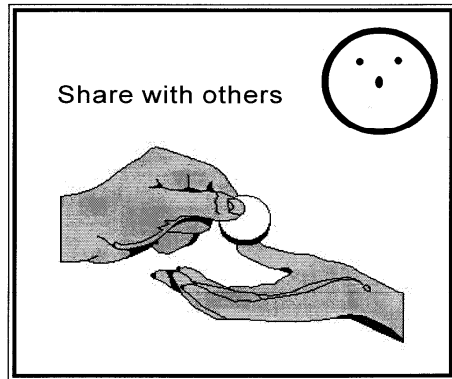
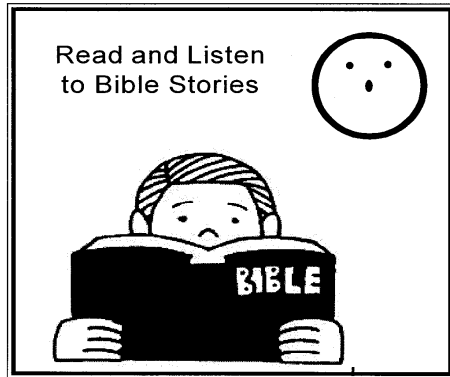




# Getting ready for Christmas

Do you think what's happening in the pictures will make Jesus Happy or Sad? Put a smile 😊 on what will make Jesus happy. Put a sad mouth 😞 on what will make Jesus sad.



Puzzle by Dorothy A. DeBisschop, [dottie@our-oxford.info](mailto:dottie@our-oxford.info)  
Prepared for FREE Distribution through [www.homiliesbyemail.com](http://www.homiliesbyemail.com)

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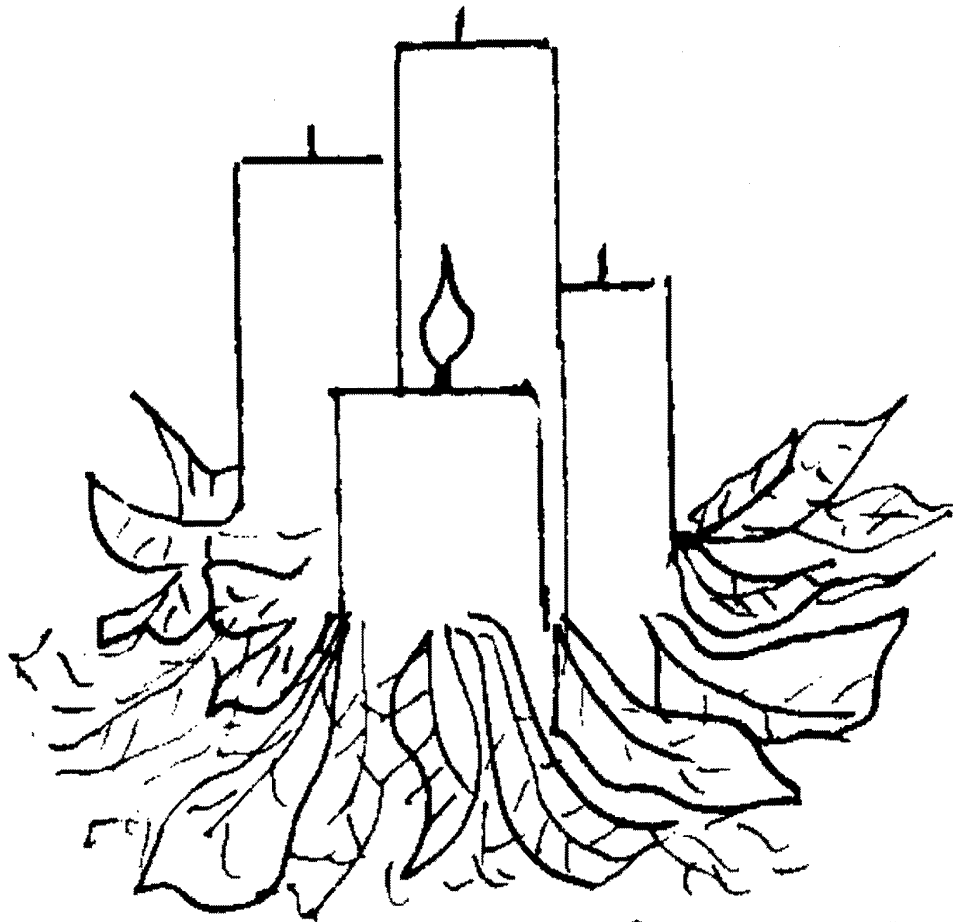


## The First Sunday of Advent 3 December, 2023

Mark 13:28

Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer's just around the corner. And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door.

Heavenly Father, as we spend time in this waiting place, we look forward with great joy to the celebration of Jesus' birth and to the day when he comes again. **Amen**



♥ Advent ♥  
♥ ♥



## Word Search: Mark 13:24-37 (CEV)

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

- |          |        |        |         |          |
|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| AFTER    | DARK   | STARS  | SHAKEN  | SON      |
| POWER    | CHOSEN | EARTH  | LESSON  | SUMMER   |
| THESE    | TIME   | PEOPLE | ALIVE   | FOREVER  |
| KNOWS    | HEAVEN | FATHER | LIKE    | MAN      |
| SERVANTS | GUARD  | MASTER | EVENING | MIDNIGHT |
| SUDDENLY | ALERT  |        |         |          |

Puzzle by Dorothy A. DeBisschop, [dottie@our-oxford.info](mailto:dottie@our-oxford.info)  
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## COMING TO THE RESCUE

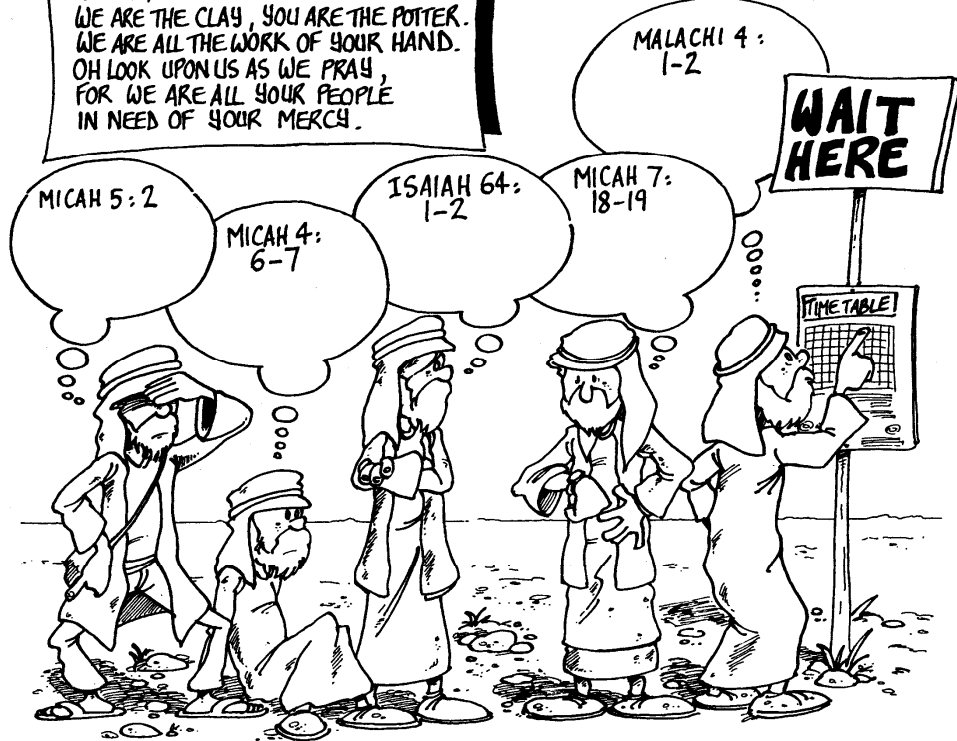
**WHO NEEDS TO BE RESCUED ?**  
 Anyone who sins against the God of love.

**THAT'S MOST OF US, ISN'T IT ?**  
 Afraid so, yes. The good we mean to do we end up not doing, and the evil we don't plan to do we end up doing.

**WHAT CAN WE DO TO BREAK FREE ?**  
 On our own we can't save ourselves. But Jesus is God coming to rescue us and do for us what needs doing and what only he can do.

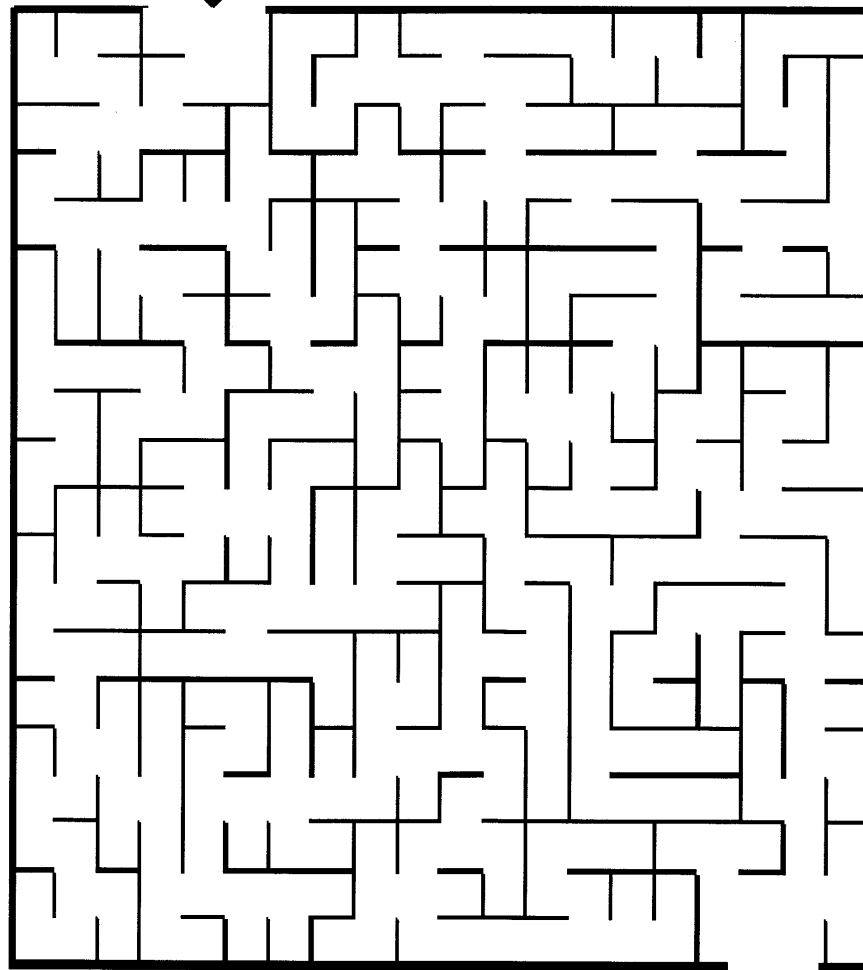
**WHY DOES HE BOTHER ?**  
 He loves us.

O LORD, YOU ARE OUR FATHER.  
 WE ARE THE CLAY, YOU ARE THE POTTER.  
 WE ARE ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HAND.  
 OH LOOK UPON US AS WE PRAY,  
 FOR WE ARE ALL YOUR PEOPLE  
 IN NEED OF YOUR MERCY.



**START HERE**  
 ↓

This Sunday is the start of Advent - a time to get ready for Jesus' coming. Help the children find the baby Jesus in the manger.



**END HERE** →





## Crossword: Mark 13:24-37 (CEV)

Listen CAREFULLY to the Reading and fill in the blank spaces.  
Afterwards you will be able to complete the crossword puzzle below.

8 down) In those days, right \_\_\_\_\_ that time of suffering,

25 across) The sun will become \_\_\_\_\_, and the moon will no

20 down) longer shine. The \_\_\_\_\_ will fall, and the powers

19 down) in the sky will be \_\_\_\_\_.

12 across) Then the \_\_\_\_\_ of Man will be seen coming in the

14 across) clouds with great \_\_\_\_\_ and glory. He will send

10 across) his angels to gather his \_\_\_\_\_ ones from all

15 down) over the \_\_\_\_\_.

6 down) Learn a \_\_\_\_\_ from a fig tree. When its branches

19 across) sprout and start putting out leaves, you know \_\_\_\_\_

3 down) is near. So when you see all \_\_\_\_\_ things happening,

16 down) you will know that the \_\_\_\_\_ has almost come. You can

24 across) be sure that some of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this generation

21 across) will still be \_\_\_\_\_ when all this happens. The sky

9 down) and the earth will not last \_\_\_\_\_, but my words will.

11 down) No one \_\_\_\_\_ the day or the time. The angels in

22 across) \_\_\_\_\_ don't know, and the Son himself doesn't know.

23 across) Only the \_\_\_\_\_ knows. So watch out and be ready! You

1 down) don't know when the time will come. It is \_\_\_\_\_ what

7 across) happens when a \_\_\_\_\_ goes away for a while and places

13 across) his \_\_\_\_\_ in charge of everything. He tells each

18 down) of them what to do, and he orders the \_\_\_\_\_ to keep

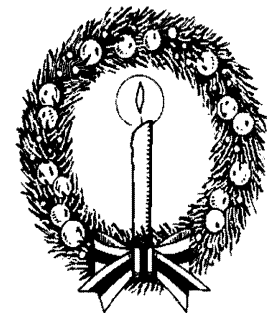
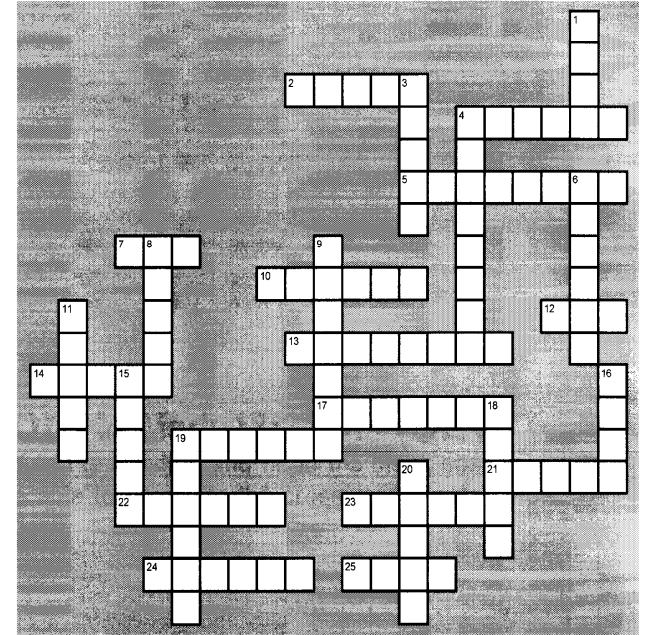
4 across) alert. So be alert! You don't know when the \_\_\_\_\_ of

17 across) the house will come back. It could be in the \_\_\_\_\_

4 down) or at \_\_\_\_\_ or before dawn or in the morning. But

5 across) if he comes \_\_\_\_\_ don't let him find you asleep.

2 across) I tell everyone just what I have told you. Be \_\_\_\_\_!



**1st Sunday**  
*in Advent*