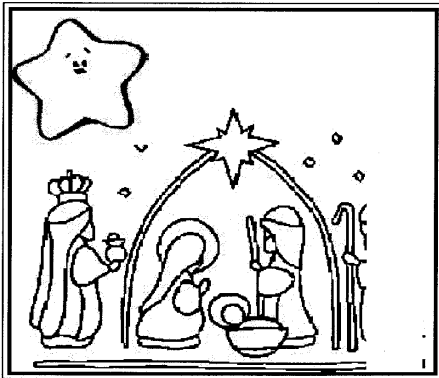
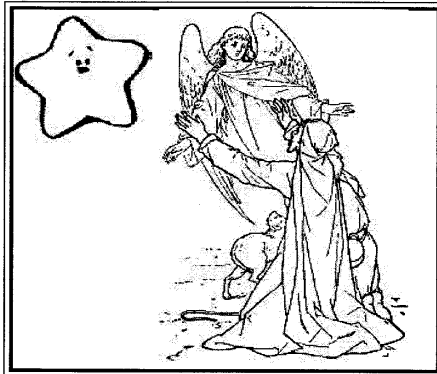




Getting ready for Christmas



Can you tell which pictures are part of the story of the first Christmas? Put a smile ☺ on the stars in the boxes which tell about Jesus' birthday.



Puzzle by Dorothy A. DeBisschop, dottie@our-oxford.info
Prepared for FREE Distribution through www.homiliesbyemail.com

Prepared and freely distributed by
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The Fourth Sunday of Advent 24 December, 2023

Luke 1:30-32

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Dear Father, we thank you for this story about how you sent the angel Gabriel to take your message to Mary. We also thank you that you have given us the task of taking the message of Jesus and his love to all the world. Amen.



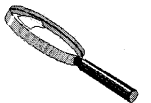
An Angel Visits Mary

Word Search: (CEV)

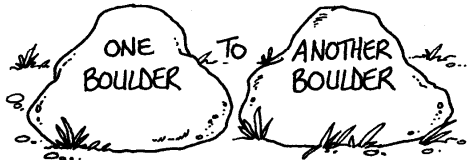


- | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|--------|
| GABRIEL | NAZARETH | MARY | JOSEPH |
| ANGEL | LORD | CONFUSED | MEANT |
| PLEASED | NAME | JESUS | SON |
| DAVID | ISRAEL | KINGDOM | ASKED |
| NOT | SPIRIT | POWER | CHILD |
| HOLY | EVEN | THOUGHT | THREE |
| IMPOSSIBLE | SERVANT | HAPPEN | |

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DRAMA



- 1st Rock Gets cold when the sun's off your back, doesn't it?
 2nd Rock Yeah – look, the lights are being lit down there in Bethlehem already.
 1st Rock Do you remember that shepherd boy who used to sit on me and play his harp in the evenings?
 2nd Rock How could I forget! King David, they made him in the end. What a fine young man he was!
 1st Rock You know what I heard?
 2nd Rock No – what?
 1st Rock There's going to be another shepherd king born soon in Bethlehem – a descendant of our shepherd king, David.
 2nd Rock A son of David! Isn't that the one who's supposed to reign over the whole world for ever?
 1st Rock That's what they've been saying for the last thousand years.
 2nd Rock I wonder if he'll come up here and sit on us?
 1st Rock Mmm, that's a thought. Who knows – if we stick around here for another couple of thousand years...
 2nd Rock ... which we will ...
 1st Rock ... we might become famous, telling our story to other fine young men ...
 2nd Rock ... and women ...
 1st Rock ... all over the world!
 Both What a thought!

ONE DAY A SON OF DAVID WILL REIGN

WHY WERE THE PEOPLE SO KEEN ON THEIR GREAT MESSIAH BEING FROM KING DAVID'S FAMILY?

Well, they looked back to David, the shepherd king, as the best king ever – a close friend of God, a good leader, and in touch with ordinary people.

SO THEY HOPED THE MESSIAH WOULD BE AS GOOD?

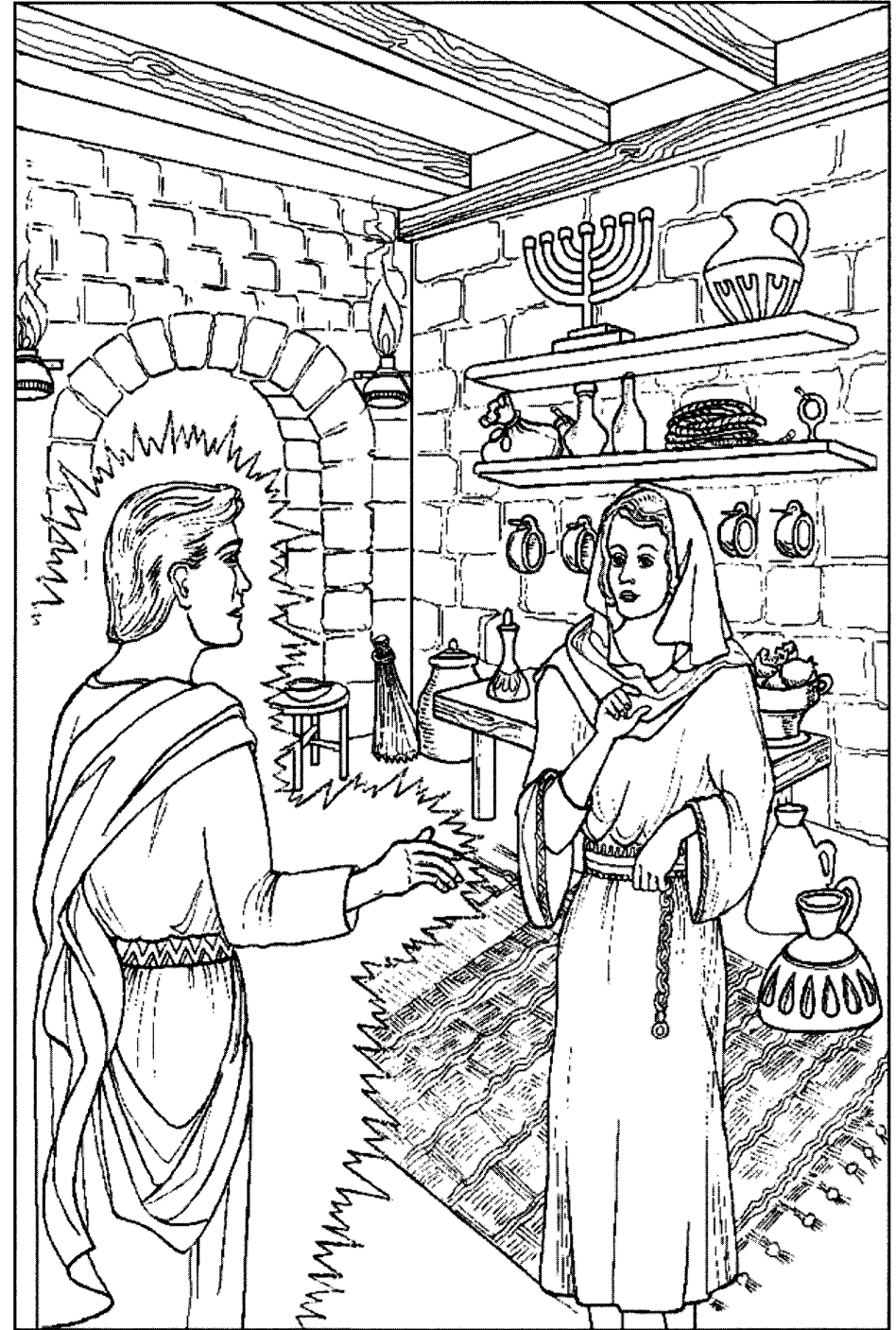
Better! They hoped God's chosen one would be like a perfect, priestly King David, who would reign for ever.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE JESUS, TO ME?

Yes, God's promise to David was repeated to Mary as she conceived Jesus!

? MESSIAH ?

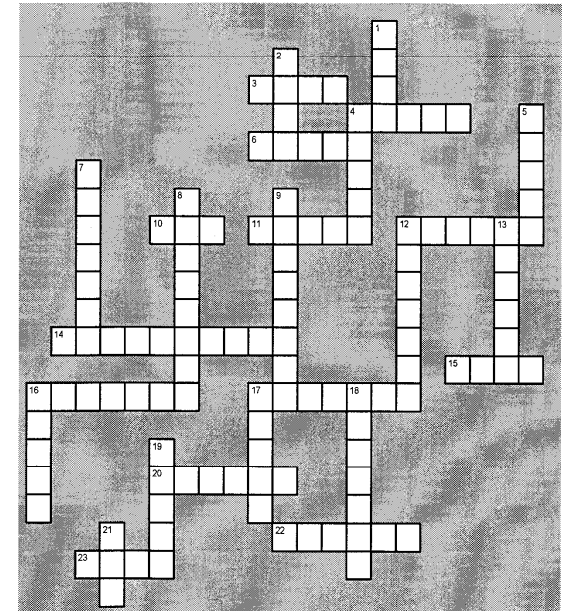
O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL,
 AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL,
 THAT MOURNS IN LONELY EXILE HERE,
 UNTIL THE SON OF GOD APPEAR.
 REJOICE, REJOICE!
 EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,
 O ISRAEL.



Crossword: Luke 1:26-38 (CEV)

Listen CAREFULLY to the Reading and fill in the blank spaces.

Afterwards you will be able to complete the crossword puzzle below.



- 18 down) One month later God sent the angel _____
- 9 down) to the town of _____ in Galilee with a
- 3 across) message for a virgin named _____. She was _____
- 22 across) engaged to _____ from the family of King _____
- 4 across) David. The _____ greeted Mary and said,
- 23 across) "You are truly blessed! The _____ is with you."
- 8 down) Mary was _____ by the angel's words and _____
- 5 down) wondered what they _____. Then the angel told _____
- 16 across) Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is _____ with _____
- 2 down) you, and you will have a son. His _____ will _____
- 6 across) be _____. He will be great and will be called _____
- 21 down) the _____ of God Most High. The Lord God will _____
- 11 across) make him king, as his ancestor _____ was. He _____
- 13 down) will rule the people of _____ forever, and _____
- 7 down) his _____ will never end."
- 4 down) Mary _____ the angel, "How can this happen?"
- 10 across) I am _____ married!"
- 12 across) The angel answered, "The Holy _____ will _____
- 16 down) come down to you, and God's _____ will come _____
- 19 down) over you. So your _____ will be called the _____
- 15 across) _____ Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth is _____
- 1 down) also going to have a son, _____ though she is _____
- 17 across) old. No one _____ she could ever have a _____
- 17 down) baby, but in _____ months she will have a son.
- 14 across) Nothing is _____ for God!"
- 12 down) Mary said, "I am the Lord's _____! Let it _____
- 20 across) _____ as you have said." And the angel left her.

