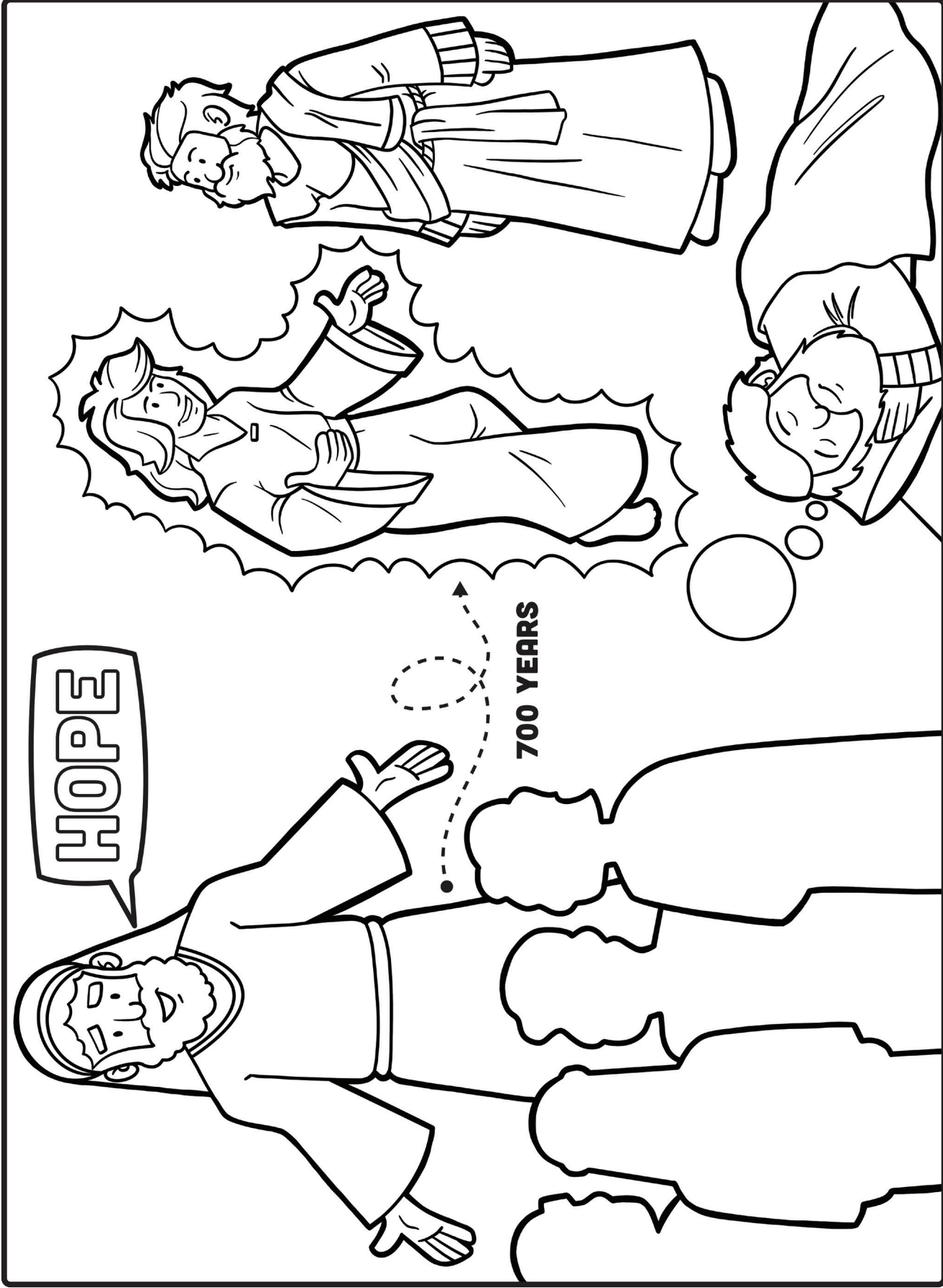




LESSON 1 HOPE EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

Actor: **I'm ready!**

Narrator: **Then let's start the show!** Open the notebook. **Many years before Jesus was born, God's people in the land of Judah were scared and discouraged.**

Slide 2 (Kids): **We're scared and discouraged!**

Narrator: **You don't look very scared! Show me scared!** Kids respond by making "scared" faces.

That's better! Several years before, God promised King David that his children and grandchildren would rule forever as kings. And God promised that His chosen Messiah king would be David's descendent, or future family member, from the tribe of Judah. But as the king and the people looked around many years later—
Pauses. **Um, I said, as the king and people looked around—**

Actor: **Oh, yeah!** Puts on the crown and looks around.

Narrator: **—they didn't know if they would even survive much longer!**

Slide 3 (Kids): **Will we even survive much longer?**

Narrator: **The Assyrian army was moving toward them, and Judah's two neighboring countries had formed an alliance, or a team, and planned on killing Judah's leader, King Ahaz.**

Actor: **That doesn't sound so good.**

Narrator: **The people's hope was fading, and their hearts trembled.**

Slide 4 (Kids): **Our hope is fading, and our hearts are trembling!**

Narrator: **But God didn't want the people of Judah to be in despair. He wanted them to be confident and have a hopeful expectation that He would come through for them. So, God spoke through a prophet named Isaiah.**

Actor: Takes off the crown and gets the megaphone/paper towel tube. Shouts through it. **Yeah, it's me—Isaiah! I'm going to speak God's words to all of you because that's what prophets do!**

Narrator: **Still, King Ahaz was afraid.**

Actor: Puts down the megaphone and puts on the crown. **You can say that again!**

Narrator: **Oh, OK. Still, King Ahaz was afraid. God wanted Ahaz to trust Him and to ask for a sign that God would keep His promise. God spoke through Isaiah and gave His people a sign that His promise was trustworthy.**

Actor: Puts down crown and gets out the megaphone/paper towel tube. Shouts through it. **Listen up, people! This is the sign from God: a young, unmarried woman will give birth to a son and name Him Immanuel.**

Narrator: **Immanuel means “God is with us.” This child who hadn’t even been born yet would show God’s people that He was with them and that He hadn’t forgotten His promises. He would be Immanuel. And just as Isaiah predicted, the people of Judah were saved and not destroyed by their enemies.**

Slide 5 (Kids): **Hip, hip, hooray!**

Narrator: **Let’s fast forward about 700 years. God’s people were being threatened once again.**

Slide 6 (Kids): **Not again?!?**

Narrator: **... and wondering whether God would save them. The people were being ruled as part of the Roman Empire and were often mistreated. It seemed like there would never be another king like God had promised to David. Still, some hoped that a Messiah would be born who could restore all the things in the world that seemed broken For many, hope was fading. Yet they had not forgotten the way that God had kept His word in the past, even when it seemed impossible.**

In a small village called Nazareth lived a carpenter named Joseph.

Actor: Puts down the megaphone and picks up the hammer. Says the next line in a “rap” rhythm. **My name is Joseph, and I build nice things. I’m even related to David, the king.**

Narrator: **Joseph was a good Jewish man and, yes, he was a descendant of King David.**

Actor: **True and true!**

Narrator: **Joseph was engaged to be married to a young woman named Mary, who was expecting a baby.**

Actor: Puts down the hammer and wraps the scarf around head. **Not just any baby—God’s Son!**

Narrator: **Joseph didn’t understand that the baby Mary was carrying was from God.**

Actor: Takes off the headscarf and picks up the hammer. **I mean—it was a bit confusing.**

Narrator: **Then one night, an angel from God appeared to Joseph in a dream.**

Actor: Puts down the hammer and puts on glow stick necklace. **Yo, Jo! I'm an angel from God! Listen up, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She's tellin' you the truth! The baby is from the Holy Spirit!**

Narrator: **Then the angel said, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins."**

Actor: Takes off the necklace and picks up the hammer. **I was getting to that part!**

Narrator: **Oh, sorry.**

Actor: Puts down the hammer and puts on the glow stick necklace. **So, here's the dealio, Jo. You are to name God's Son Jesus because He's gonna save people from their sins.**

Narrator: **Joseph knew the words that God had spoken through Isaiah so many years before. That a young, unmarried woman would give birth to a son, and He would be called Immanuel.**

Actor: Takes off necklace and picks up the hammer. **Yeah, what he/she said.**

Narrator: **Now Joseph understood!**

Actor: **It's all starting to make sense!**

Narrator: **That's right! The baby living inside Mary was the hope for all of Judah! Jesus was the Messiah, the One who would save them all! So, when Joseph woke up, he took Mary home as his wife.**

The promise of Jesus was for more than just God's people who lived long ago. Jesus is our hope too! When we choose to follow Jesus, we can know confidently that we will live with God forever as His kids!

Even when life is hard, when we are scared or disappointed, we can remember that ...

Slide 7 (Kids): **God is with us!**

Narrator: **That God ...**

Slide 8 (Kids): **knows us!**

Narrator: **That God ...**

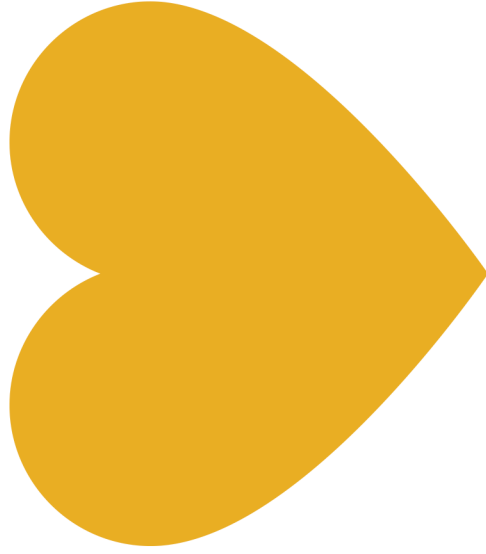
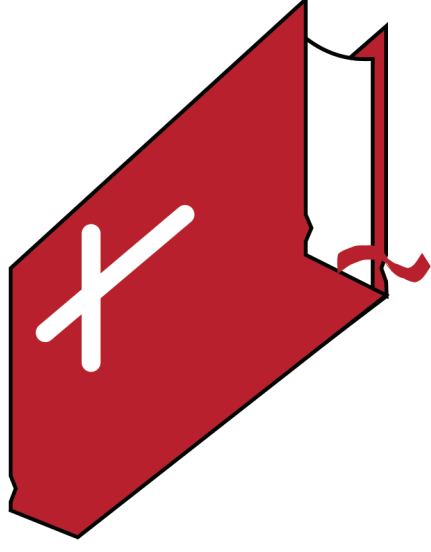
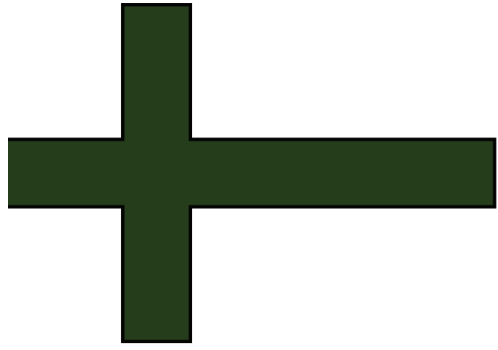
Slide 9 (Kids): **loves us!**

Narrator: **And that God ...**

Slide 10 (Kids): **leads us!**

Narrator: **And we can always remember that Jesus is our ...**

Slide 11 (Kids): **hope!**





700 YEARS



Jesus is Our Hope

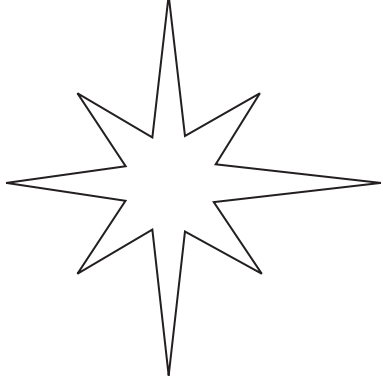
Waiting for Jesus

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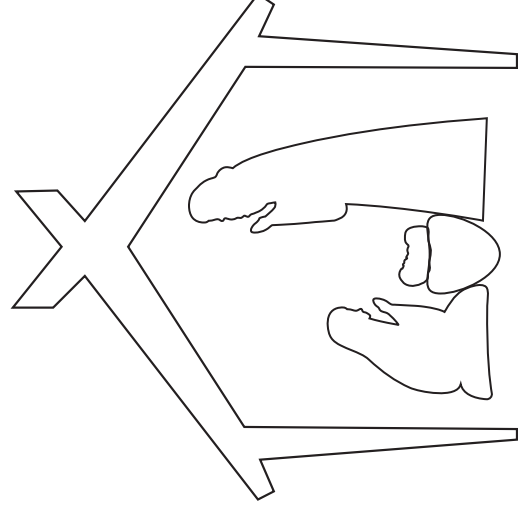
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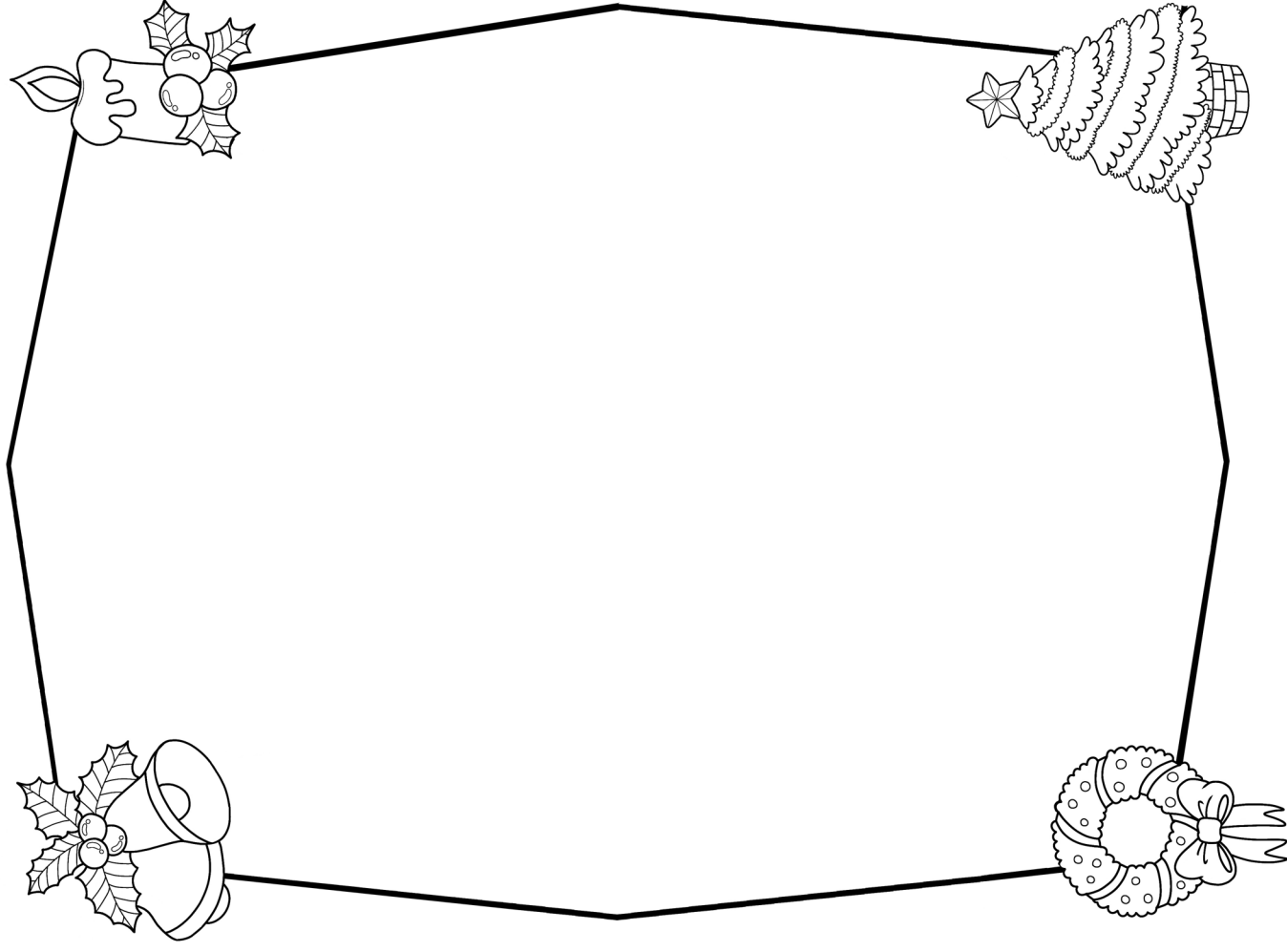
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Jesus is our
HOPE







In God's Big Story

Isaiah reminds God's people of God's promise to send a Messiah, and Jesus—Immanuel—fulfills the promise!

Wonder Truth: Jesus Is Our Hope
Scripture: Isaiah 7; Matthew 1

WORD OF WONDER

Work together this week to memorizing our series verse!

ELEMENTARY:

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. —Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

PRESCHOOL:

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and sure of what we do not see. —from Hebrews 11:1

FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

- What does it mean to hope for something? What do you think it means to hope in Jesus? (Hope is a confident expectation that God will do what He said He will do. Hope is more than wishful thinking—it's being certain that God will come through.)
- Do you think that waiting is easy or hard? Why do you think that?
- How do you feel when something you've hoped for happens?
- Is Jesus worth waiting for? How do you know?



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CREATE IT! Paper Snowflake Surprise

God's people didn't know when Jesus would arrive, but they trusted that God's promise would come true. In this activity, your family will make paper snowflakes. Even though you don't know how the snowflakes will turn out, you can be sure something fun and creative will be the result.

To start, fold a sheet of paper or tissue paper diagonally to make a triangle. (It helps to begin with paper squares rather than rectangles.) Fold that triangle into a smaller triangle. Continue to fold each triangle into an even smaller triangle until each side is about 3"-4" long. Cut a variety of designs along all sides. Unfold the paper to reveal your snowflake. Discuss these questions together: **How did you hope your snowflake would turn out as you were cutting it? What did you think once you opened the snowflake? How do you think God's people felt as they waited for Jesus to come?**

INTERACTIVE PRAYER I Say, You Say

Jesus is our hope! Yet sometimes on hard days we can forget this. Sometimes we need a reminder that we can trust God's promises. As a family, practice repeating truth from Scripture in a call-and-response format. Divide into two groups and go back and forth with each group shouting out the following words based on Psalm 27:14:

Group 1: *Wait for the Lord!*

Group 2: *Be strong and don't lose hope!*

Group 1: *Wait for the Lord!*

Repeat the lines several times. Invite groups to go to different parts of the home and to shout back and forth as loudly as they can! Or make the chant into a song by singing in your best rock star or opera voices! To reinforce the idea of waiting, encourage groups to pause for a few moments before answering each other. When you're done, talk about what it means that Jesus is our hope and ways you can share this message with others.

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