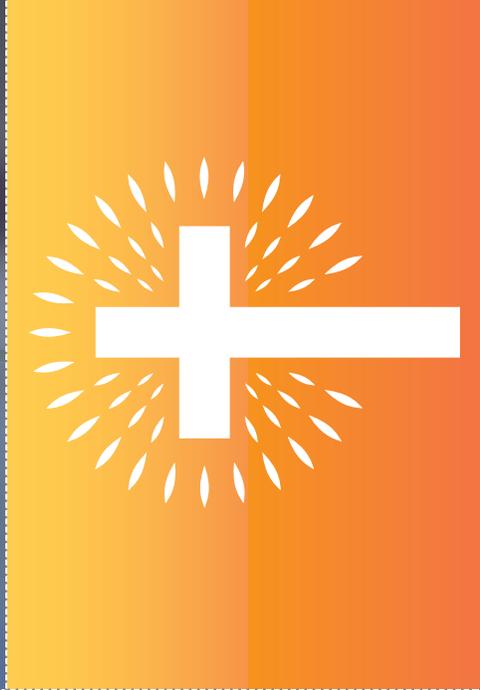
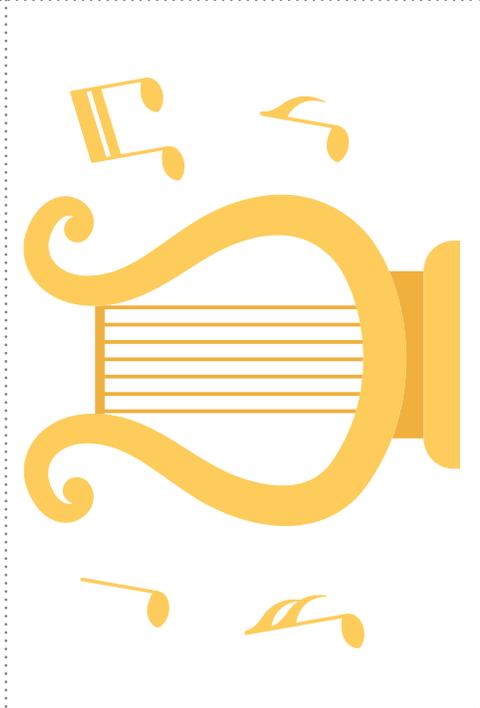
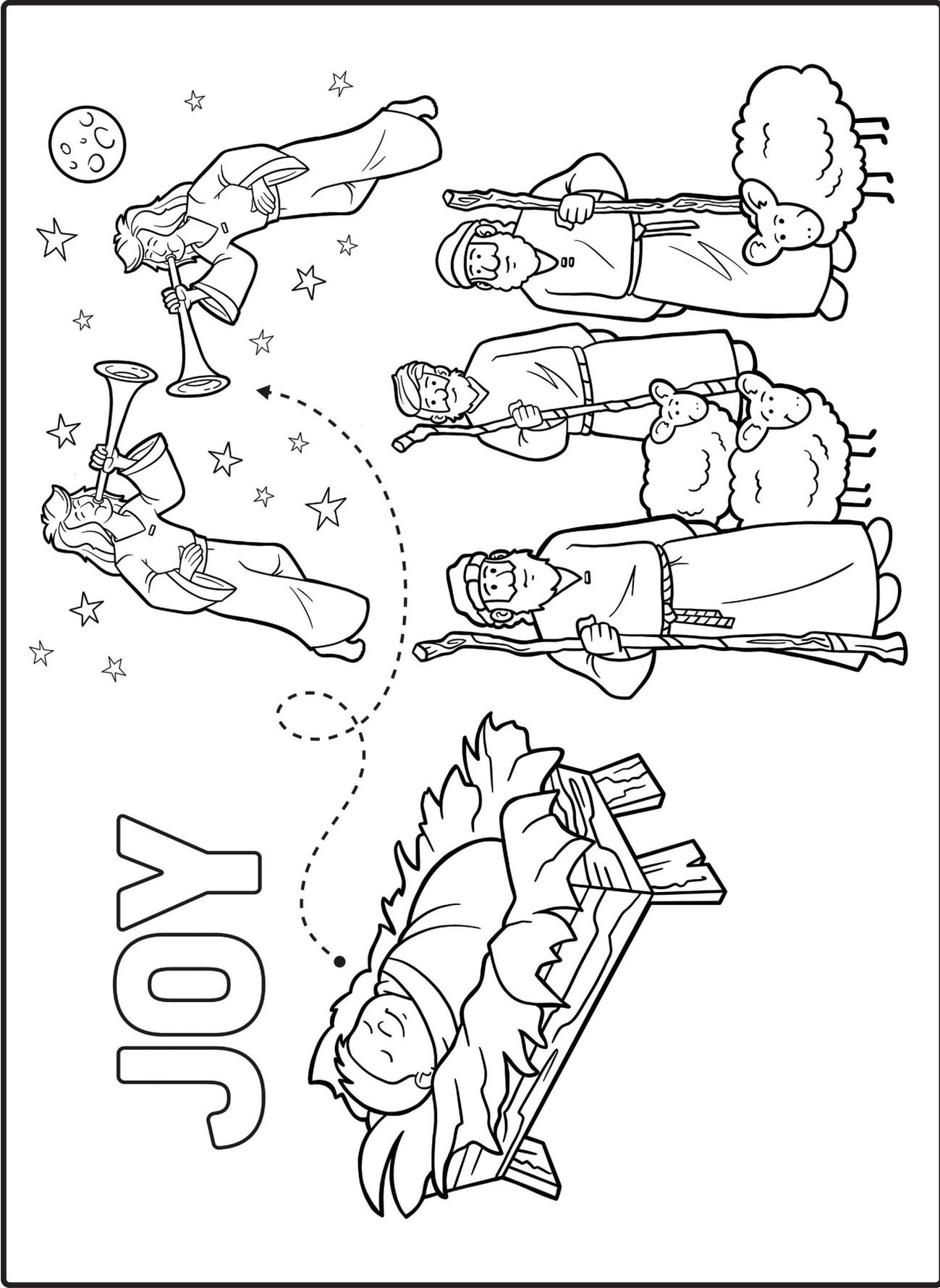
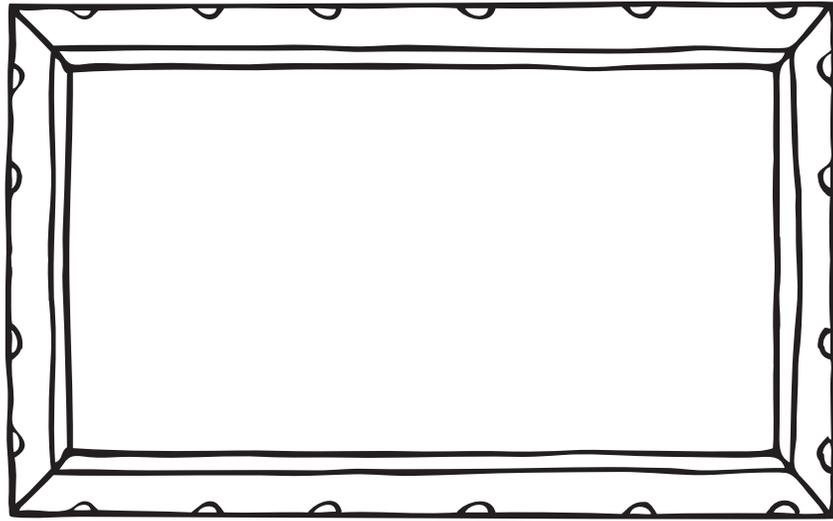




NO
JOY!





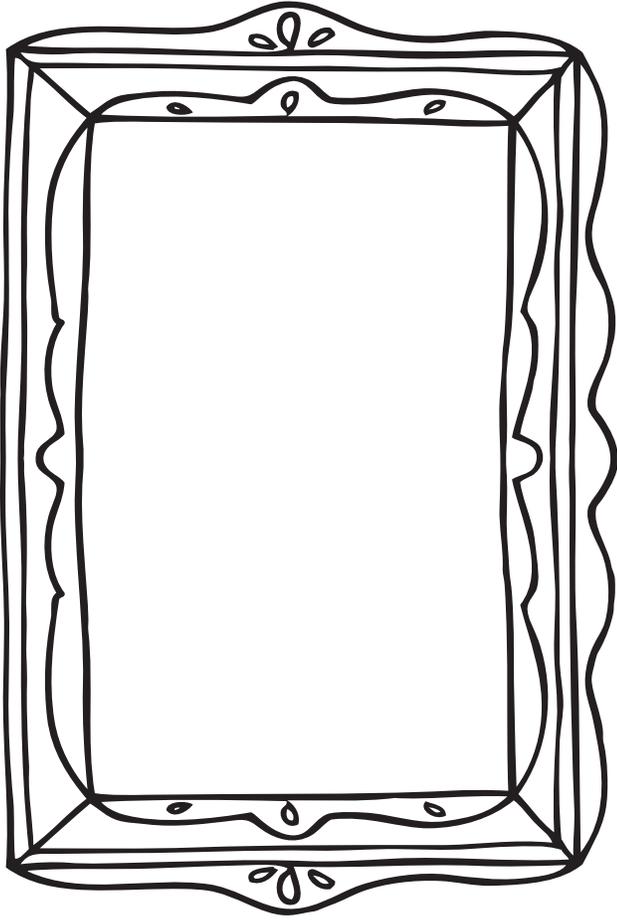


Jesus
is our
joy!

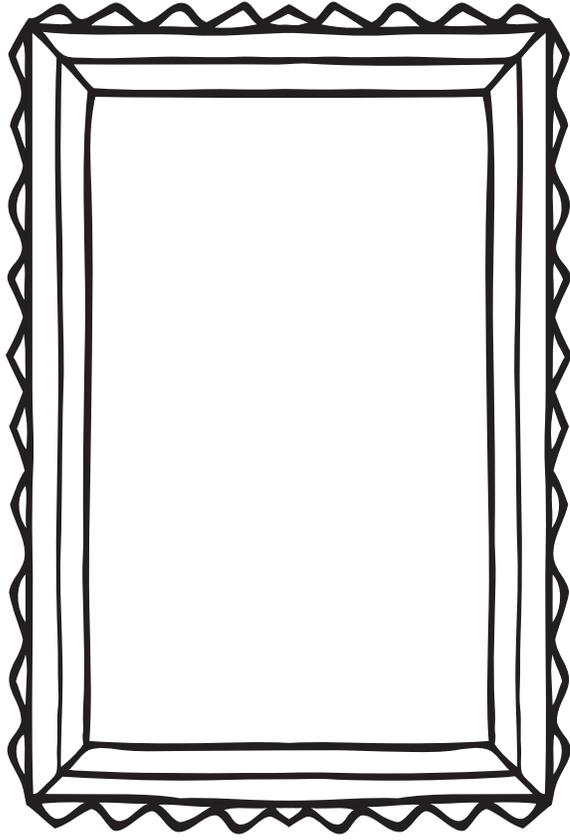
Name _____

Those the Lord has
saved will return to their
land ... Joy that lasts forever will
be like beautiful crowns on their
heads. They will be filled with
gladness and joy. Sorrow and
sighing will be gone.
—Isaiah 35:10

The desert and the dry ground will be glad. The dry places will be full of joy. Flowers will grow there. Like the first crocus in the spring, the desert will bloom with flowers. It will be very glad and shout for joy. —Isaiah 35:1-2



Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened. The ears of those who can't hear will be unplugged. Those who can't walk will leap like a deer. And those who can't speak will shout for joy. Water will pour out in dry places. Streams will flow in the desert. —Isaiah 35:5-6



12/14/25



In God's Big Story

After many years of waiting, the Savior is born. His name is Jesus, and He brings joy to the world!

Wonder Truth: Jesus Is Our Joy
Scripture: Isaiah 35; Luke 2

✚ HANDS ON Something Unexpected

God's people waited hundreds of years for the Savior to come. When He came, it was not in a way most people expected! God sent Jesus—the King of all Kings—as a helpless baby and announced His arrival to ordinary shepherds. As a family, explore the idea that sometimes the greatest gifts come in unexpected packages!

Without your child knowing, wrap two presents—one in a large box and one in a small one. The large present should contain one small coin with little value. It should be beautifully wrapped. The small present should contain something simple that will bring your family joy. For example, a gift card for a favorite ice cream shop or a homemade gift certificate for one family Christmas movie night. The small gift can be sloppily wrapped.

Gather to open these two gifts. After opening both gifts, talk together about the experience: **What did you think would be in each gift? Which were you more excited to open? Now, which are you more excited about? How was the smaller gift like the gift of Jesus being born?**

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MOVE IT Waiting for Jesus Charades

Because of Jesus, we can be with God now and forever—Jesus is our joy! There's no better reason to celebrate and have a fun time! Spend time laughing as a family as you play a goofy game of charades together.

Write the following words from this week's Bible story on slips of paper: Jesus, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Isaiah, angel, manger, joy. Have family members take turns pulling slips from a hat and silently acting out their word for the others to guess. (You may need to help younger kids read their slips and conveniently "forget" what you read.) For older kids, add challenge by inviting them to communicate their words by pantomiming, drawing on paper, or molding them out of play dough or modeling clay. Also consider including these more challenging words from Isaiah 35 and Luke 2: Bethlehem, stable, God, peace.

As family members guess words correctly, talk together about how that word ties into the true story of Jesus' birth. And remember to laugh! After all, Jesus brings lasting joy to all who know Him!

FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

- In your own words, describe joy. What does it mean? (true joy is deep gladness because of Jesus that lasts forever!)
- Think back on the past year. What are some times when you experienced joy?
- Do you think it's possible to have joy even when you feel sad? Why or why not?
- Who is someone you can share the joy of Jesus with this week? What can you do for/with this person to share joy?

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Jesus is Our Joy!