

Large Group



## LESSON 1: LARGE GROUP

### Hope

#### MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of a king and savior, though he arrived in a humble and unexpected way. His life and mission were part of God's divine plan, and we should place all our hope in him because he is the only one who can truly save us.

#### BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:8-20
- Isaiah 7:14

#### MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.  
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.  
(25 minutes)

## Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.

### QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
- 2 wrapped boxes
- Candy canes or other holiday candy
- Chair
- Printout 1, copies for each character
- (Optional) Name tags for skit

## Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.  
(10-15 minutes)

### INTRODUCTION

Consider going through the “Who is Jesus” call and responses before the lesson.

**Today we are starting our four-week series on Advent. These are four lessons that will lead up to Christmas!**

**The word Advent means the arrival of a notable person or event. For Christmas, it is both because it’s about the birth of Jesus!**

**This week we will be focusing on the topic of hope, specifically the hope that Jesus gives us.**

Show children a large and beautifully wrapped box and a gift wrapped very simply. Explain that they will be able to open it and look inside. But first they will have to wait. Have children sit as still as possible for at least a minute (variable depending on age), without any movement or noise.

- **Is it hard to sit still, quietly waiting? Why?**

Discuss briefly the struggle of patience.

- **What kinds of things do we have to wait for?** (birthdays, visits from friends, special events, the bathroom, etc.) **Why is it hard to wait?**

Pick two students to unwrap the packages, revealing that both gifts are the same thing.

- **What is the difference between these two gifts?** (just the way they are wrapped)
- **Which one did you expect to be a better gift?** (most likely the gift wrapped with nicer wrapping paper) **Why?**

Pass out candy canes or other Christmas candy for all students.

Say, **As we talk about Christmas, the very first Christmas was the birth of Jesus. He was the chosen Messiah. The Messiah was supposed to be the King that would save God’s people and who would rule and reign forever.**

**People had been waiting for a long time for this King to come!**

**Is it hard to wait? (Yes!) Still, God’s people had hope that God would send the Messiah and King, but they had to wait a long time.**

### SKIT (BASED ON LUKE 2:8-20)

Ask for several volunteers to help with a skit.

Characters:

- Shepherd 1
- Shepherd 2
- Shepherd 3
- Angel
- Chorus of Angels (depending on group size, consider using the whole group of students)
- Mary
- Joseph

Printout 1 contains the script. Consider printing multiple copies for characters to read.

## HELPFUL HINT

Provide name tags with each character's name on it. As you assign students to roles you can have them place the name tag so that students in the audience know the characters.

**God's chosen people, the people of Israel, were waiting for the Messiah to come. The Messiah was supposed to rule and have a kingdom that would last forever! If you heard that a king was going to be born, where would you expect him to be born?** (a palace or castle)

Say, **When the Messiah was born, it wasn't what anyone expected, just like you experienced when you opened the wrapped box.**

**We can have expectations about how things look, but the way Jesus was born was not what the people expected. They expected a king to be born into royalty, to live in a castle or palace, and to fight against the enemies of the people.**

**More important than that, God's people had hope in God that he would keep his promise to send the Messiah who would rescue them and lead them. What does it mean to have hope in someone?** (Take answers.)

## OBJECT LESSON: COMMON HOPE

Place a chair in the front of the room.

Explain, **This chair serves as a symbol of support and stability. Chairs are something we use all the time, but each time we sit down, we are putting our hope in this chair to hold us up.**

**Just as a chair offers physical support, hope provides emotional, mental, and even spiritual support during challenging times.**

Ask for a volunteer to come forward and sit on the chair.

As they sit down, say, **Hope can give us a sense of grounding and strength, even when we feel overwhelmed or uncertain. What we place our hope in is important.**

**What are some other things that we place our hope in everyday?** (cars, fridge, food, water)

Say, **It's important to hold onto hope, even when faced with adversity. The people of Israel had hope that God would send the Messiah to save them and lead him. God did keep his promise!**

## WRAP IT UP

Ask students to have a seat.

Say, **The birth of the Messiah, the King, came in an unexpected way. It was special and beautiful!**

**We will discuss the hope that Jesus brings more in small groups.**

Pray and dismiss kids into small groups.

## Games



Play large group games.  
(25 minutes)

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Large tic-tac-toe boards
- Markers
- Christmas music
- 5+ soft dodgeballs (see game notes)
- Pad of sticky notes

### LARGE GROUP GAME: CHRISTMAS RELAY TIC-TAC-TOE

**Materials:** Large tic-tac-toe boards (create several large tic-tac-toe boards using poster boards or large sheets of paper; you can decorate them with Christmas-themed designs); markers; Christmas music (a playlist of upbeat Christmas songs to play during the relay).

**Space:** An open area where participants can run back and forth between the starting line and the tic-tac-toe boards.

**Object of game:** As a team, get three marks in a row.

**How to play:** Divide participants into two teams. Each team should have an equal number of players. Designate a starting line where all players will begin. Place the tic-tac-toe boards a distance away from the starting line. You can have multiple boards for larger groups.

Teams line up behind the starting line. The first player of each team holds a marker (or their Christmas-themed item). When the music starts or a signal is given, the first player from each team runs to their tic-tac-toe board. The player marks their chosen spot on the board (either X or O) and runs back to tag the next teammate. The next player repeats the process, marking the board with their team's symbol and running back to tag the next player. The game continues until one team gets three of their marks in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally). Once a team wins, the game is reset, and the relay continues with a new round.

Optionally, after each game, teams can switch markers (e.g., team with X now uses O) to keep it fair and interesting.

**Variations:**

- **Obstacle Course:** Add Christmas-themed obstacles (e.g., hopping over presents, crawling under tinsel) between the starting line and the boards
- **Timed Rounds:** Play in timed rounds (e.g., 5 minutes) and see which team wins the most games within that period.
- **Holiday Challenges:** Incorporate small holiday-themed challenges players must complete before marking the board (e.g., sing a Christmas carol, answer a Christmas trivia question).

### LARGE GROUP GAME: WARRIOR DODGEBALL

**Materials:** Five or six soft dodgeballs (more dodgeballs may be needed depending on your group size)

**Object of game:** Be the last player in the game

**How to play:** Place the dodgeballs in the center of the room. Have all the players start by touching one of the four walls in the room. When you call "battle!" all the players run for the balls. They try to throw them at someone

else to get them out. If they hit another person from the shoulders down, that person is out and sits down right where they are. If the person catches the ball, the one who threw it is out and sits down. No one may walk or run while holding a ball. To move the ball, a player must roll it on the floor. Anyone who walks or runs while carrying a ball is out. Play continues until only one player is left, and then another round begins.

### LARGE GROUP GAME: WHO AM I?

**Materials:** Prepare a self-adhesive label or sticky note for each person in your group.

**Object of game:** Figure out who you are

**How to play:** Write the name of a well-known or famous person on the sticky note. This can be a historical character or current athlete, musician, TV personality, celebrity, or even superhero, etc. Keeping the names hidden, stick the sticky notes on the foreheads of everyone in the group. They must then ask yes or no questions of the others to find out their identity.

Each person takes a turn to ask questions and figure out who they are. For example, "Am I alive?", "Am I female?", or "Am I in a band?" Only yes or no questions can be asked. If the answer is no, their turn is over and the other person gets to ask questions. If the answer is yes, they can ask another question and keep going until they get a no or guess who they are. Keep playing until everyone has guessed, or if time is short, stop after the first few correct answers.



## LESSON 1: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

### Hope

#### MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of a king and savior, though he arrived in a humble and unexpected way. His life and mission were part of God's divine plan, and we should place all our hope in him because he is the only one who can truly save us.

#### BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:8-20
- Isaiah 7:14

#### MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

## Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.

## QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Printout 2A-2D, 1 set per small group
- Printout 3, several copies per small group
- Large sheet of paper or poster board
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- (Optional) Popsicle sticks



## Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.  
(15 minutes)

## Small Group Session 1

### ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

### PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

### INTRODUCTION

Ask,

- **What are the best parts about Christmas?**
- **Why do we get excited about Christmas?**
- **Why do we celebrate Christmas?** (It's celebrating the birth of Jesus.)
- **Do you like the wait for Christmas day to come?**
- **What do you think people were awaiting in Jesus' time?**

Say, **For many years, God's people suffered, experiencing trials, oppression, slavery and fear. God sent prophets to give hope that a messiah was on the way.**

**God promised that he would one day send a King, the Messiah to save God's people and rule forever.**

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13 for students.

### DEFINITION

**Messiah:** Jesus is the deliverer or savior who came to save people from their sins. The Messiah was to be the chosen King who would have a kingdom that would last forever.

### ACTIVITY: MATCHING FOR A KING

Explain to students that they will be playing a matching game. Pass out Printouts 2A-2D, and have students choose which pictures represent a king best.

Have students use the pictures to choose what objects they would expect with the coming of a king, the Messiah.

**If you heard that a king was going to be born, what do you expect him to look like?** (Take answers.)

As we look at the birth of Jesus, we will see that he was not born in the way you might expect as the Messiah and King, but he was born in a special way.

# Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.  
(20-25 minutes)

## Small Group Session 2

### LEADER NOTE

### INTRODUCTION

Ask,

**Have you ever been excited for a gift, but you got something different?**

**Have you ever gotten a gift that was better than you expected?**

Say, **Sometimes we think we will get a gift, but it isn't what we expected. Sometimes it's even better than we expected!**

**As we get ready for Christmas, we can get excited with the anticipation of fun, gifts, and celebration. There will be times when it's different than we expect, but that can be a good thing.**

**As we look at Jesus, the Messiah being born as the King of the Jews, his birth was different than anyone expected, but it was a special birth. The birth of Jesus was the promise God kept to his people. Jesus was the person the people could put their hope in to save them.**

Consider sharing a personal example of receiving an unexpected gift or a gift that was better than you expected.

## ACTIVITY OPTION 1: HOPE TREE

Ask, **What does it mean to hope in Jesus?**

**Hope in Jesus is the confidence that he is always with us, guiding us, and that we can trust in his promises.** Read out loud Hebrews 10:23, NLT.

Ask, **What are some examples of things you hope for, like hoping for a sunny day, a good grade, or something fun you would like to do?**

Draw a large tree trunk and branches on the poster board or paper. Make sure it's big enough to hold many leaves. Hand out the construction paper and scissors. Help the students cut out leaf shapes if they need assistance. Consider coming with pre-cut leaves or using sticky notes as an alternative.

Give each child several paper leaves or sticky notes.

Ask the children to think about things they hope for in Jesus. Encourage them to write or draw one hope on each leaf. Younger children can draw pictures representing their hopes if they can't write yet.

Have the children come up one by one to share their hopes and then glue or tape their leaves onto the tree branches.

As each child places their leaf, say, **Our hope in Jesus means that we are trusting in him. Just like we trust a chair to hold us up, or a car to get us from one place to another.**

Once all the leaves are on the tree, step back and admire the Hope in Jesus Tree.

Say, **Look now that it's full of hopes. Just like the tree has grown and become more beautiful with our hopes, our lives can be filled with growth through hope in Jesus.**

**Whenever we feel down or uncertain, we can think about the Hope in Jesus Tree and remember all the things we are looking forward to through Jesus.**

Optionally, take a picture of the Hope in Jesus Tree to share with parents or to keep as a reminder.

## ACTIVITY OPTION 2: HOPE STABLE

First, take 5 popsicle sticks and glue them together, making a house or stable shape. Next, take a white piece of card stock and trace around the outside. Cut it out just inside of the tracing. Allow students to color or draw the nativity on the paper. This could include Jesus in a manger, Mary, Joseph, animals, and a star.

Have students write the word "Hope" on their paper or on the stable. For the final part, glue the paper on the back.

Say, **Today is a day to celebrate hope. Because of Jesus, we have hope, because Jesus is the King and Messiah who entered our world to be able to experience life and all that we go through. Jesus came to die for our salvation despite our own sin. We have hope.**

## ILLUSTRATION

Talk to the students about having something to look forward to, like a vacation, Christmas break, gifts, etc. and how it gives us hope.

Say, **When we feel tired or bored with school, having something exciting to look forward to can give us the energy to push through difficult times.**

**Similarly, God's people were struggling under the control of another nation that dictated their actions. They were frustrated with their situation but held onto the hope that God would keep His promise to send the Messiah to save them and be the King they needed.**

**The promised King did come, though in an unexpected way. It was different, but it was a better way—God's way.**

## Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.  
(5-10 minutes)

## Small Group Session 2

### LEADER NOTE

### WRAP IT UP

Say, **Jesus is the chosen Messiah, sent by God to bring hope to the world. Jesus' birth was simple and unexpected, but it was still wonderful and part of God's plan to bring the King who was to bring hope to God's people.**

Ask,

- **What are some things that you put your hope in every week?** (chairs, cars, people like parents or teachers)
- **When we put our hope in a teacher, what are we hoping or trusting them for?** (We are trusting they are teaching something important and true.)
- **Why can we put our hope in Jesus?**
- **What are we putting in our hope in Jesus for?** (Jesus saves us from our sins.)

This is a great place to pull out the Gospel Hand and talk about the salvation we have through faith in Jesus. Consider focusing on the hope that we have because everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved from their sins.

### RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

On the back side of the card, encourage students to draw a picture of the first Christmas. Ask them to bring the card back next week to share their picture with the small group. Give an incentive if they bring it back next week (i.e., a ticket).



## LESSON 1: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

### Hope

#### MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of a king and savior, though he arrived in a humble and unexpected way. His life and mission were part of God's divine plan, and we should place all our hope in him because he is the only one who can truly save us.

#### BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:8-20
- Isaiah 7:14

#### MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

## Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.

### QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Printout 2A-2D, 1 set per small group
- Printout 3, several copies per small group
- Large sheet of paper or poster board
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- (Optional) Popsicle sticks



## Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.  
(15 minutes)

## Small Group Session 1

### ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

### PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

### INTRODUCTION

Ask,

- **What are the best parts about Christmas?**
- **Why do we get excited about Christmas?**
- **Why do we celebrate Christmas?** (It's celebrating the birth of Jesus.)
- **Do you like the wait for Christmas day to come?**
- **What do you think people were awaiting in Jesus' time since there was no Christmas yet?**

Say, **For many years, God's people suffered, experiencing trials, oppression, slavery and fear. God sent prophets to give hope that a messiah was on the way.**

**Do you know what a prophet is?** (a person chosen to speak for God and to guide the people of Israel)

**A prophet called Samuel came to one of the kings of Israel, King David, and told him this:**

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13 for students.

### DEFINITION

**Messiah:** Jesus is the deliverer or savior who came to save people from their sins. The Messiah was to be the chosen King who would have a kingdom that would last forever.

### ACTIVITY: MATCHING FOR A KING

Explain to students that they will be playing a matching game. Pass out Printouts 2A-2D, and have students choose which pictures represent a king best.

Have students use the pictures to choose what objects they would expect with the coming of a king, the Messiah.

**If you heard that a king was going to be born, what do you expect him to look like?** (Take answers.)

As we look at the birth of Jesus, we will see that he was not born in the way you might expect as the Messiah and King, but he was born in a special way.

## Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.  
(20-25 minutes)

## Small Group Session 2

LEADER NOTE

### INTRODUCTION

Ask,

**Have you ever been excited for a gift, but you got something different?**

**Have you ever gotten a gift that was better than you expected?**

Say, **Sometimes we think we will get a gift, but it isn't what we expected. Sometimes it's even better than we expected!**

**As we get ready for Christmas, we can get excited with the anticipation of fun, gifts, and celebration. There will be times when gifts are different than we expect, but that can be a good thing.**

**As we look at Jesus, the Messiah, born as the King of the Jews, his birth was different than anyone expected, but it was a special birth. The birth of Jesus was the promise God kept to his people. Jesus was the person the people could put their hope in to save them.**

Consider sharing a personal example of receiving an unexpected gift or a gift that was better than you expected.

## ACTIVITY OPTION 1: HOPE TREE

Ask, **What does it mean to hope in Jesus?**

**Hope in Jesus is the confidence that he is always with us, guiding us, and that we can trust in his promises.** Read out loud Hebrews 10:23, NLT.

Ask, **What are some examples of things you hope for, like hoping for a sunny day, a good grade, or something fun you would like to do?**

Draw a large tree trunk and branches on the poster board or paper. Make sure it's big enough to hold many leaves. Hand out the construction paper and scissors. Help the students cut out leaf shapes if they need assistance. Consider coming with pre-cut leaves or using sticky notes as an alternative.

Give each child several paper leaves or sticky notes.

Ask the children to think about things they hope for in Jesus. Encourage them to write or draw one hope on each leaf. Younger children can draw pictures representing their hopes if they can't write yet.

Have the children come up one by one to share their hopes and then glue or tape their leaves onto the tree branches.

As each child places their leaf, say, **Our hope in Jesus means that we are trusting in him. Just like we trust a chair to hold us up, or a car to get us from one place to another.**

Once all the leaves are on the tree, step back and admire the Hope in Jesus Tree.

Say, **Look now that it's full of hopes. Just like the tree has grown and become more beautiful with our hopes, our lives can be filled with growth through hope in Jesus.**

**Whenever we feel down or uncertain, we can think about the Hope in Jesus Tree and remember all the things we are looking forward to through Jesus.**

For older students, discuss the difference between general hope and hope in Jesus, emphasizing the importance of faith and trust in him. Optionally, take a picture of the Hope in Jesus Tree to share with parents or to keep as a reminder.

## ACTIVITY OPTION 2: HOPE STABLE

First, take 5 popsicle sticks and glue them together, making a house or stable shape. Next, take a white piece of card stock and trace around the outside. Cut it out just inside of the tracing. Allow students to color or draw the nativity on the paper. This could include Jesus in a manger, Mary, Joseph, animals, and a star. Have students write the word "Hope" on their paper or on the stable. For the final part, glue the paper on the back.

Say, **Today is a day to celebrate hope. Because of Jesus, we have hope, because Jesus is the King and Messiah who entered our world to be able to experience life and all that we go through. Jesus came to die for our salvation despite our own sin. We have hope.**

## ILLUSTRATION

Talk to the students about having something to look forward to, like a vacation, Christmas break, gifts, etc. and how it gives us hope.

Say, **When we feel tired or bored with school, having something exciting to look forward to can give us the energy to push through difficult times.**

**Similarly, God's people were struggling under the control of another nation that dictated their actions. They were frustrated with their situation but held onto the hope that God would keep His promise to send the Messiah to save them and be the King they needed.**

**The promised King did come, though in an unexpected way. It was different, but it was a better way—God's way.**

## Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.  
(5-10 minutes)

## Small Group Session 2

### LEADER NOTE

### WRAP IT UP

Say, **Jesus is the chosen Messiah, sent by God to bring hope to the world. Jesus' birth was simple and unexpected, but it was still wonderful and part of God's plan to bring the King who was to bring hope to God's people.**

Ask,

- **What are some things that you put your hope in every week?** (chairs, cars, people like parents or teachers)
- **When we put our hope in a teacher, what are we hoping or trusting them for?** (We are trusting they are teaching something important and true.)
- **Why can we put our hope in Jesus?**
- **What are we putting in our hope in Jesus for?** (Jesus saves us from our sins.)

This is a great place to pull out the Gospel Hand and talk about the salvation we have through faith in Jesus. Consider focusing on the hope that we have because everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved from their sins.

### RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

On the back side of the card, encourage students to draw a picture of the first Christmas. Ask them to bring the card back next week to share their picture with the small group. Give an incentive if they bring it back next week (i.e., a ticket).

## Printout 1A

### CHARACTERS

- Shepherd 1
- Shepherd 2
- Shepherd 3
- Angel
- Chorus of Angels (depending on group size, consider using the whole group of students)
- Mary
- Joseph

### SCENE 1

**Narrator:** Imagine a field near a small town called Bethlehem at night. The shepherds are sitting around a small fire, tending to their flocks.

**Shepherd 1:** *(feeding the fire)* It's a quiet night. Not much happening around here.

**Shepherd 2:** *(looking up at the sky)* The stars are particularly bright tonight.

**Shepherd 3:** *(petting a lamb)* I'm glad for the calm. It's been a long day.

*(Suddenly, a bright light surrounds them, and an Angel appears. The shepherds are terrified.)*

**Angel:** *(raising a hand reassuringly)* Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.

*(The sky is filled with a multitude of heavenly hosts, praising God.)*

**Chorus of Angels:** Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

**Shepherd 1:** *(awed and excited)* Did you see that? We must go to Bethlehem!

**Shepherd 2:** Yes, let's go and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

**Shepherd 3:** Hurry, let's gather the flock and head there right away!

*(They quickly gather their things and head towards Bethlehem.)*

## Printout 1B

### SCENE 2: THE MANGER IN BETHLEHEM

**Narrator:** In a stable in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph are there with the newborn Jesus, who is lying in a manger.

*(The shepherds enter quietly, awed by the sight.)*

**Shepherd 1:** *(whispering)* Look, it's just as the angel said, the baby in the manger.

**Mary:** *(smiling warmly)* Welcome, shepherds. The Lord has blessed us with his son.

**Shepherd 2:** We were in the fields when an angel appeared and told us the good news.

**Shepherd 3:** And then the sky was filled with angels, praising God! It was the most glorious sight.

**Joseph:** *(nodding)* The Lord's works are truly wondrous.

**Shepherd 1:** *(kneeling by the manger)* We must spread the word of what we have seen and heard.

**Shepherd 2:** Yes, let everyone know the Savior has been born.

**Shepherd 3:** Praise be to God for this miraculous night.

**Narrator:** The shepherds leave, filled with joy and spreading the word about the miraculous birth.

**Shepherd 1:** *(exiting the stable)* Praise be to God!

**Shepherd 2:** Glory to the highest!

**Shepherd 3:** Peace on earth, and goodwill to all!

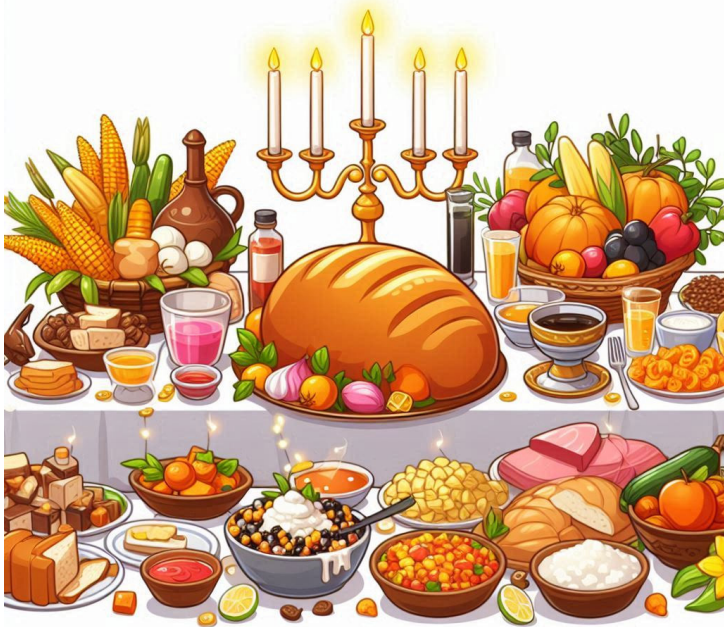
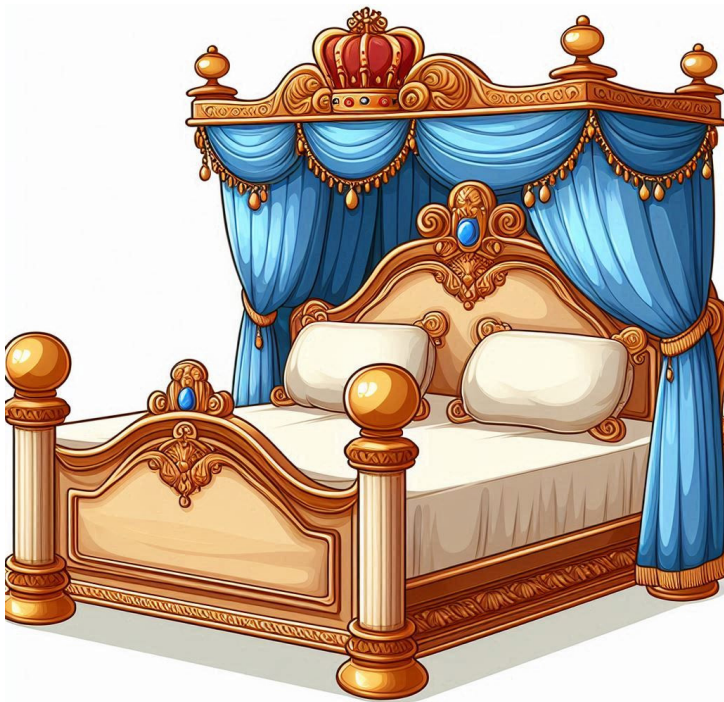
**Narrator:** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. And Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.



# Printout 2A



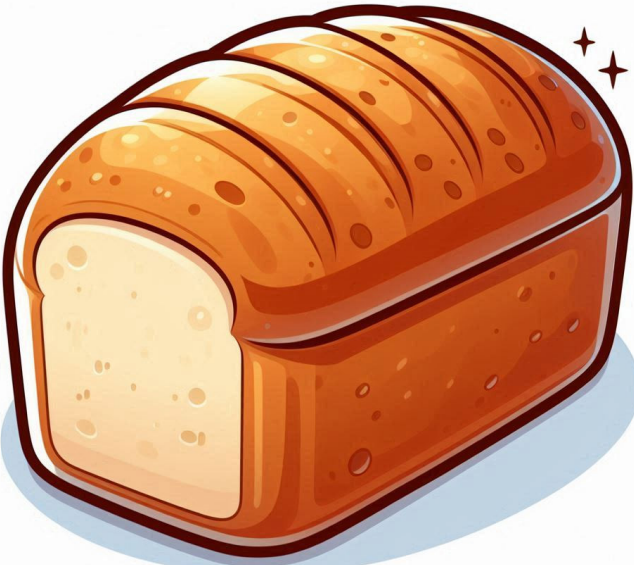
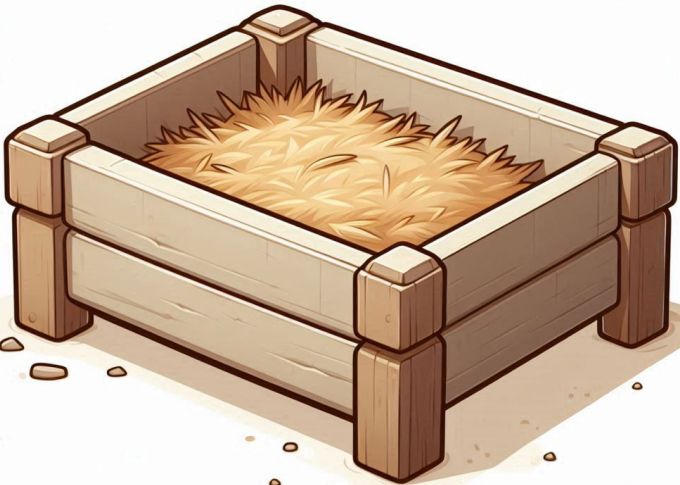
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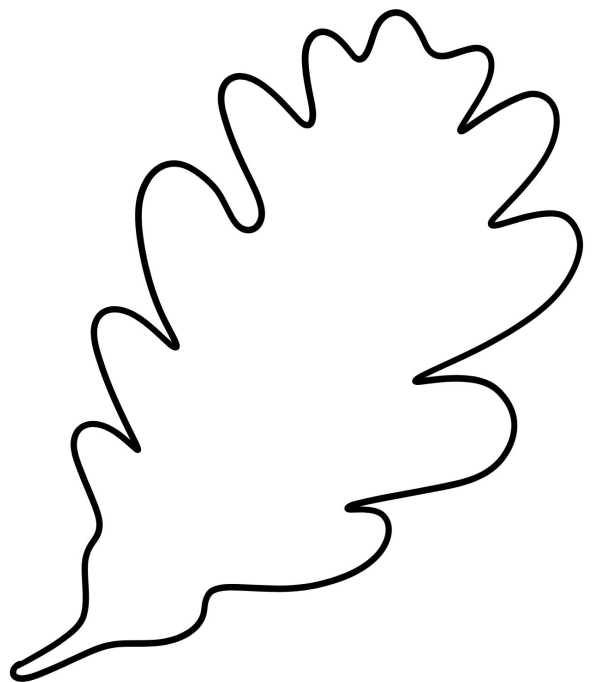
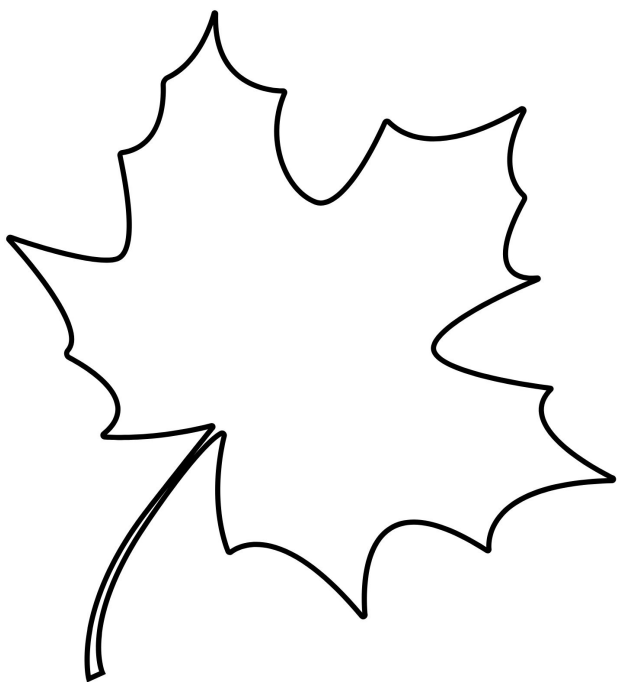
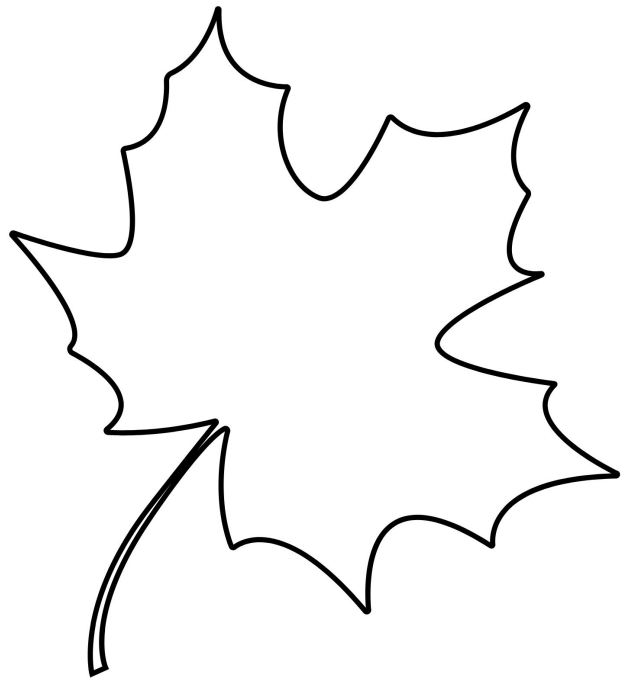
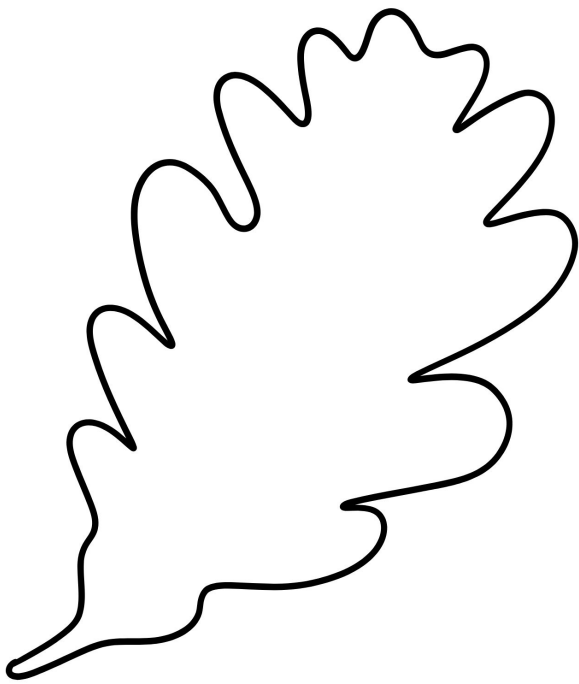
# Printout 2C



# Printout 2D



### Printout 3



## Memory Verse Cards

### MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT

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