

## Jesse Tree Chat, Colour & Cut Snow Globes

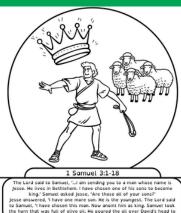






Chat about the first time you met your best friend. Do you remember what you were doing and when did you realised you were BFFs?







Being a Christian means we believe in God and follow His teachings. But just like everyone else, we all face tough times and happy moments. What makes being a Christian special is knowing that God is always with us, no matter what happens. Whenever you're feeling happy or even when things get hard, you can talk to God. Chat with God and say thank Him for being there, for understanding

> how you feel, and for promising to stick by you through everything. Remember, you're never



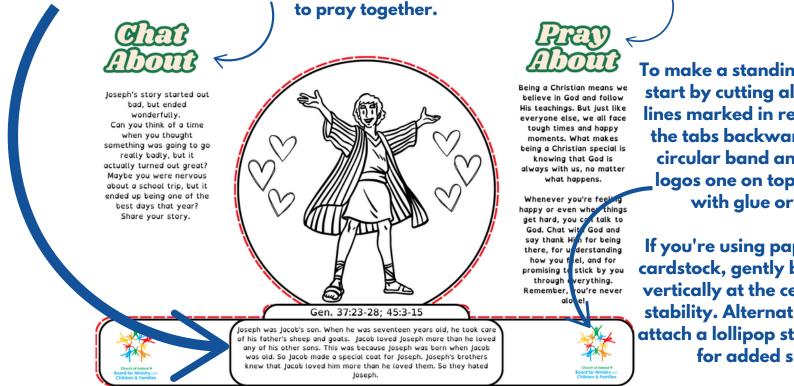


## **Jesse Tree** Chat, Colour & Cut **Snow Globes**



The Jesse Tree has served as a meaningful tradition for many years, allowing us to delve into God's Big Story from Creation to the birth of Jesus. We've designed 24 unique snow globes as an innovative way to engage with the Jesse Tree, perfect for families at home, or for use in schools and churches. You can create globes that serve as windowsill/table displays, or cut them out without tabs, adding a hole at the top to hang them from a tree in the traditional Jesse Tree style.

Each globe features an edited verse from the story, a simple guestion for discussion, and a brief reflection that encourages the group



To make a standing snow globe, start by cutting along the outer lines marked in red. Next, bend the tabs backward to shape a circular band and secure the logos one on top of the other with glue or staples.

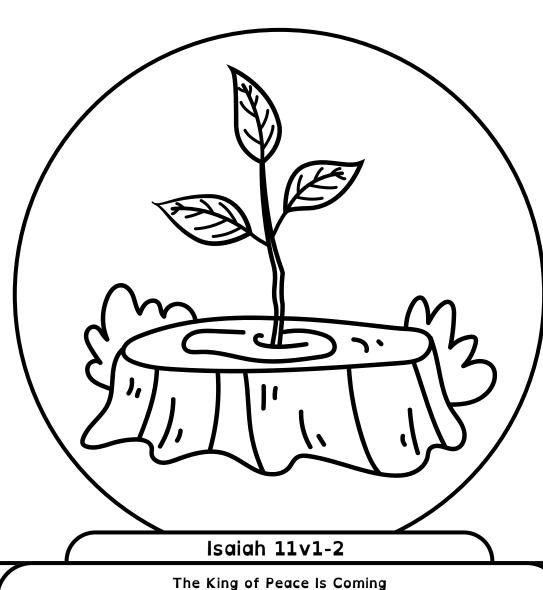
If you're using paper instead of cardstock, gently bend the globe vertically at the center to give it stability. Alternatively, you can attach a lollipop stick to the back for added support.



Have you ever seen a butterfly come out of its cocoon? It's such a magical moment!

There are many other examples in nature of new life coming from something old.

Can you think of any?





These verses tell a special story about Jesus and his family, going all the way back to his great-greatgreat-great-grandparents and beyond! They show us that even when things seem lost or forgotten, God can do amazing things.

Now, let's take a little time to chat to God. You can say thank you for new life, for all the fresh chances we get, and for the wonderful promise of starting anew. It's like getting a brand-new day filled with hope and possibilities!

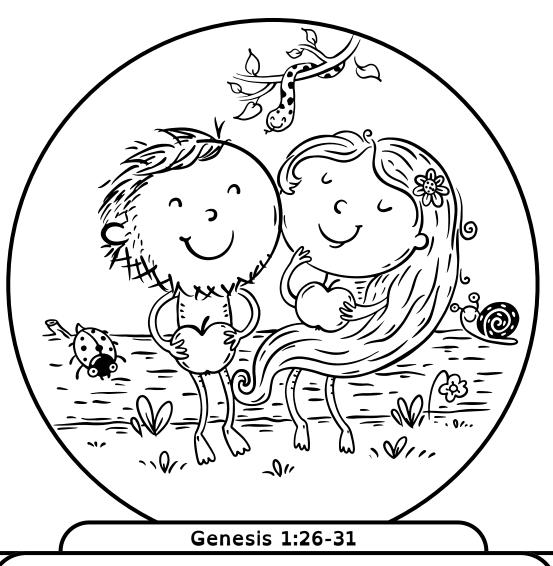


Church of Ireland Board for Ministry with Children & Families A branch will grow from a stump of a tree that was cut down. So a new king will come from the family of Jesse. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon that king. The Spirit gives him wisdom, understanding, guidance and power. And the Spirit teaches him to know and respect the Lord.





What is your favourite animal, bird, fish or insect? If you could be any creature what would you be and why?





When God made the world, it was like painting a beautiful picture! He filled it with amazing animals and plants for us to see and enjoy.

Chat with God and say thank you for all the wonderful things around you. Thank Him for the big elephants and the tiny ants, for the colourful birds and the gentle trees. Ask Him to help you take care of everything He has created, so we can all live happily together!



Church of Ireland Board for Ministry with Children & Families  Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky.
Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."
So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.



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Is it always easy to do what you are told? Do you think rules are important - what would happen if we didn't have them?





Adam and Eve had everything they needed, but the snake put the idea in Eve's mind that maybe they were missing out on something. Eve and Adam had the freedom to choose God's way or their own way, just like us.

Chat with God about the times when you find it hard to do the right thing. Ask for His help to make good choices even when it's tricky.



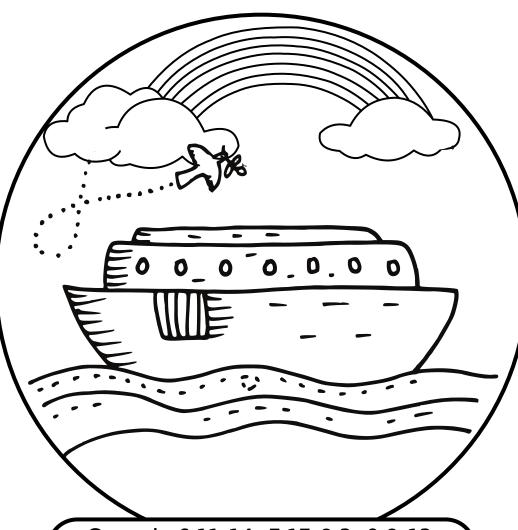
Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Now the snake was the most clever of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day the snake spoke to the woman. He said, "Did God really say that you must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" The woman answered the snake, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God told us, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden.





What would it be like to be stuck in a big boat with the people who live in your home and a load of animals for a whole month?

What would annoy you most - people or animals?!





Noah and his family were stuck on the boat with all the animals for 40 days. Can you imagine how crowded and stinky it must have been? Sometimes, when we live with others, it can be a little tricky. Chat with God and ask Him to help you be patient when things get tough, to show kindness to those around you, and to fill your heart with joy and love. Remember to seek peace when things feel wild and to be generous, sharing your things and your time with others.

Genesis 6:11-14; 7:17-8:3; 9:8-13

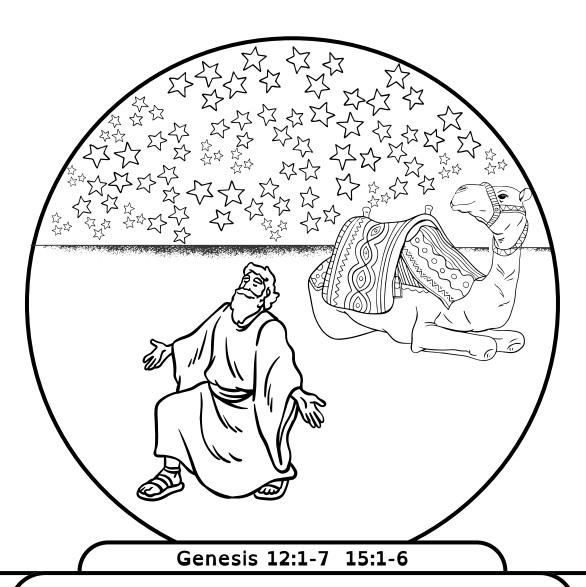


Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Noah was a good man. He walked with God...Violence was everywhere. And God saw this evil. So God said to Noah "Build a boat of cypress wood" I will bring a flood of water on the earth. But I will make an agreement with you. You, your sons, your wife and your sons' wives will all go into the boat. Also, you must bring into the boat two of every living thing. They will come to you to be kept alive.





Have you ever had to move to a new place or join a new group? What was it like at first, and what helped you feel more comfortable and make new friends?





Abram, who later became known as Abraham in the Bible, had to pack his things, leave his home, and go to a brand new place. Back then, there were no Sat Navs or Google to help him find the way to go!

Chat with God about the different changes that you have been through. Thank Him for new friends and adventures. Ask for His help if you are about to move or are just settling in to a new place or new school and know that, just like Abraham, God is with you wherever you go.



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Then the Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation... I will defend you. And I will give you a great reward." But Abram said, "Lord God, what can you give me? I have no son. Then God led Abram outside. God said, "Look at the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. And your descendants will be too many to count."





Can you remember a time when you had to do something that felt a bit scary, like talking in front of your class or taking a test? What did you do to help yourself get through it? How did you feel when it was all done?





Abraham had a tough choice to make. He needed to decide whether to obey what God had asked him to do, or to do what he personally wanted. His son, Isaac, believed completely in his dad, showing how much he trusted him. At the same time, Abraham showed he really trusted Father God, too.

If you're feeling scared or worried about something, chat to God about it. Just take a moment to share what's on your mind, and remember that God is always there to listen and support you!

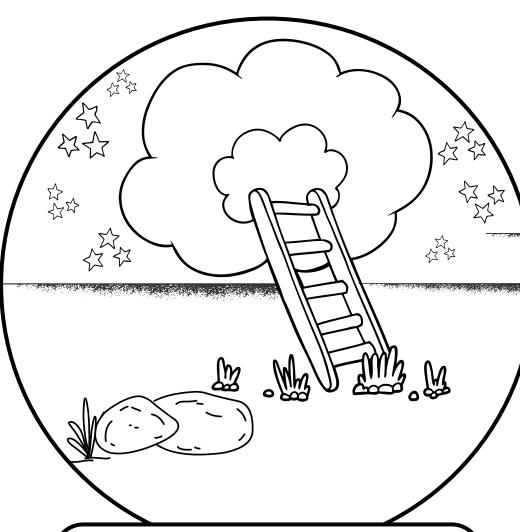


Church of Ireland & Board for Ministry with Children & Families After these things God tested Abraham's faith. Early in the morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took Isaac and two servants with him. He cut the wood for the sacrifice. Then they went to the place God had told them to go. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" Abraham answered, "Yes, my son." Isaac said, "We have the fire and the wood. But where is the lamb we will burn as a sacrifice?"Abraham answered, "God will give us the lamb for the sacrifice, my son."





Do you remember your dreams when you wake up? What was the craziest funniest dream you've ever had?



Gen. 25:1-34; 28:10-15



God talks to us in many different ways! He shares His messages through the stories in the Bible, through the people who love and care for us, through the beautiful things we see in nature, and sometimes even in our dreams.

You can talk to God about anything that's happening in your life. If you ever feel confused or unsure, you can ask Him to help you understand what He wants to say to you.



Church of Ireland Board for Ministry with Children & Families Jacob found a stone there and laid his head on it to go to sleep. Jacob dreamed that there was a ladder resting on the earth and reaching up into heaven. And he saw angels of God going up and coming down the ladder. The Lord said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham, your grandfather...I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are now sleeping. Your descendants will be as many as the dust of the earth. They will spread west and east, north and south.





Joseph's story started out bad, but ended wonderfully.

Can you think of a time when you thought something was going to go really badly, but it actually turned out great? Maybe you were nervous about a school trip, but it ended up being one of the best days that year?



Gen. 37:23-28; 45:3-15



Being a Christian means we believe in God and follow His teachings. But just like everyone else, we all face tough times as well as happy moments. What makes being a Christian special is knowing that God is always with us, no matter what happens.

Whenever you're feeling happy or even when things get hard, you can talk to God. Chat with God and thank Him for being there, for understanding how you feel, and for promising to stick by you through everything. Remember, you're never alone!



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Joseph was Jacob's son. When he was seventeen years old, he took care of his father's sheep and goats. Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved any of his other sons. This was because Joseph was born when Jacob was old. So Jacob made a special coat for Joseph. Joseph's brothers knew that Jacob loved him more than he loved them. So they hated Joseph.



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Have you ever played hide and seek? What's the best place you've ever hidden?





Moses was just a tiny baby, and even though he was so little, he faced a lot of danger from Pharaoh, who was the king of Egypt. But God made sure that Moses was surrounded by people who loved him and kept him safe.

Now, let's think about the people in your life who care for you, just like those who cared for Moses. Maybe it's your family, friends, or even teachers. Take a moment to talk to God and thank Him for each of these special people.

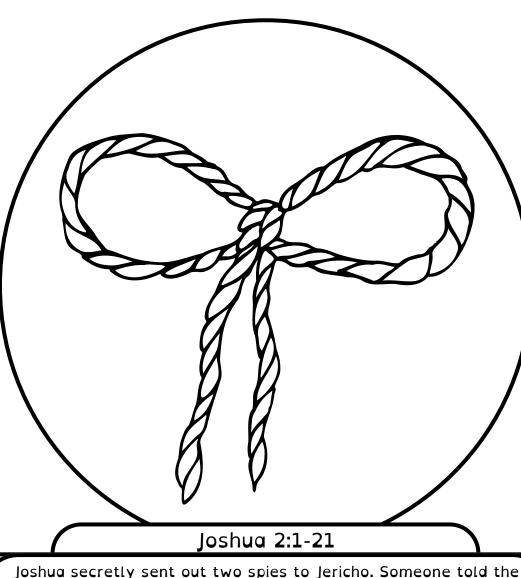


Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families At this time, there was an Israelite man from the family of Levi. He married a woman and she gave birth to a son. She hid him for 3 months. Then she could not continue to hide him. She put her baby in a basket. She put the basket at the edge of the river. Pharaoh's daughter came to wash herself in the river. When she opened the basket, she saw the baby boy...When the baby was older, his mother took him to Pharaoh's daughter. He now became her son. She gave him the name 'Moses'.





If you could be invisible for a day, where would you go and what would you do? Would you like to be a secret spy - who would you spy on?





Rahab is an interesting character from the Bible! She was someone who didn't seem like a typical hero, but God saw something special in her. Just like Rahab, we might not always feel like we're the best choice for important tasks, but God has a unique plan for each of us.

Chat with God about what you think your purpose might be or how you can help others. Remember, no matter who you are or what you think of yourself, God loves you and has a special job just for you!

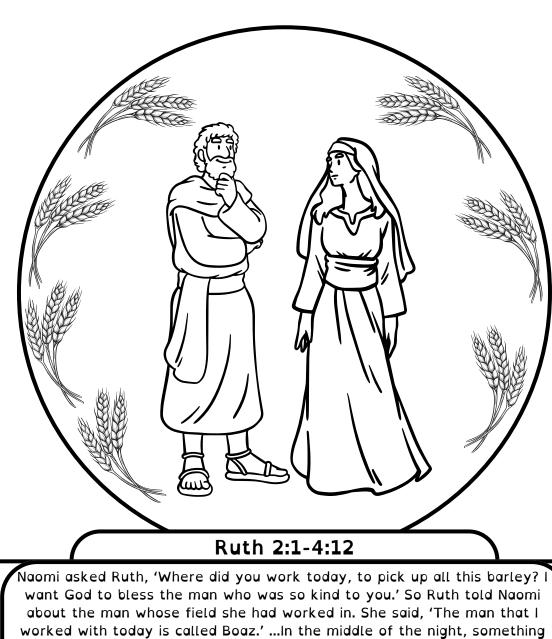


Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Joshua secretly sent out two spies to Jericho. Someone told the king of Jericho. A woman called Rahab hid the men. The house Rahab lived in was built on the city wall. So she used a rope to let the men down through a window. "You are using a red rope to help us escape. When we return to this land, you must tie it in the window. We can keep everyone safe who stays in this house."





Chat about the first time you met your best friend. Do you remember what you were doing and when did you realised you were BFFs?





Ruth and her Mother in law Naomi had lost everything and had to move to a new place where they knew no one. But God was with them.

Chat with God and thank Him that wherever we go and whatever happens in our lives, He is with us and we can trust Him with all our needs.



**Board for Ministry** wit Children & Families caused Boaz to wake up suddenly. When he turned over, he saw a woman who was lying there at his feet He asked, 'Who are you?' Ruth replied, 'I am your servant, Ruth. You are our family-redeemer...





Are you a morning person or a night time person? Do you prefer going to bed at night or getting up in the morning? Why?





Samuel was woken up many times because God was calling him. At first, because he lived in the Temple he thought it was Eli, the Priest who was calling him. Eli helped Samuel understand that it was actually God speaking to him and taught him how to listen to God.

If you're not sure if God is talking to you, that's okay! Just take a little time to chat with God and ask Him to help you understand what He wants you to learn.



Church of Ireland Board for Ministry with Children & Families The boy Samuel continued to serve the Lord. Ell the priest taught him what to do. Samuel was lying down to sleep. The lamp of God was still burning...the Lord called out to Samuel. Samuel ran to Eli and he said, 'You called my name. Here I am.' Eli answered, 'My son, I did not call your name. Go back and lie down again.' The Lord came and he stood near to Samuel. He called Samuel's name again, as he had done before. He said, 'Samuel, Samuel'. Samuel said, 'Speak. I am your servant and I am listening





Can you wiggle your ears, or do a funny eyebrow dance? What's your "party piece" - the most unusual talent you have or trick you can do?!





David was the youngest son in his family, and people might not have thought he was the best choice to be a king. But God saw something special in David that others didn't see.

This shows us that God knows each one us very well, better than anyone else. He knows all the good things we can do, even if others haven't noticed them yet. Chat with God and ask for His help to discover and grow your special talents and strengths.



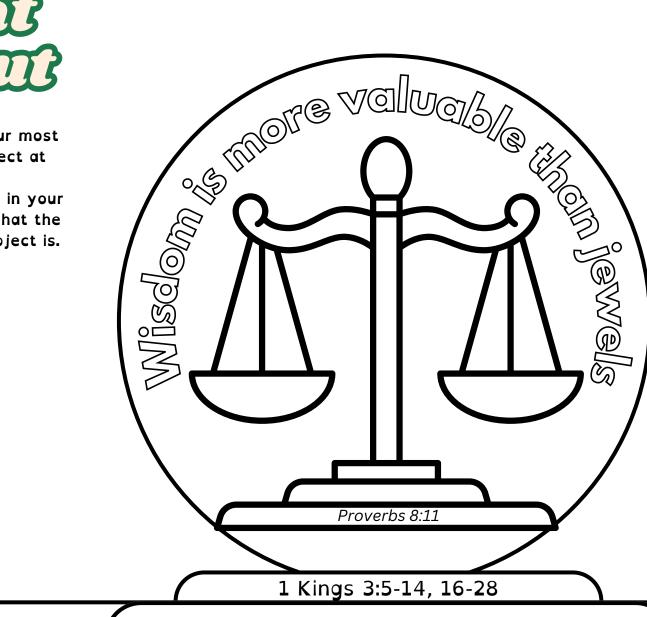
Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Jesse. He lives in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to become king.' Samuel asked Jesse, 'Are those all of your sons?' Jesse answered, 'I have one more son. He is the youngest. The Lord said to Samuel, 'I have chosen this man. Now anoint him as king. Samuel took the horn that was full of olive oil. He poured the oil over David's head to anoint him.



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What is/was your most favourite subject at school? Chat with others in your group and see what the most popular subject is.





Solomon was a young king in the Bible known for his amazing wisdom. But guess what? He didn't always feel wise! When he first became king, he was a bit unsure of himself. Instead of trying to do everything on his own, Solomon prayed to God and asked for help to be a good leader.

Sometimes, when you look at your friends or classmates, you might think they are better at things like school or sports. But remember, God made you special, just the way you are! Chat with God and ask Him to help you be the best you can be. Just like Solomon, it's okay to ask for guidance!



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families One night, the Lord showed himself to Solomon in a dream. God said, 'Ask me to give you whatever you want.' Solomon answered, "Lord my God, I am only a young man. I have not learned how to rule well. So please give me a wise mind that understands things well. Then I will be able to rule your people properly. I will know the difference between right things and wrong things. I will only be able to rule this great nation of your people if you do that for me.'





If you could create your "perfect day" what would it look like?





Esther was chosen by the King to be a special Queen! Before she became Queen, she spent a whole year getting ready, almost like going to a super fancy spa for a year! But God had a bigger plan for Esther than just having fun in the palace. Because of her bravery and faith, she helped save her whole nation, Israel.

Instead of just enjoying her new life, Esther listened to God and used her special position to help others. You can do the same! Take a moment to chat with God and ask Him how you can use your own special gifts or situation to help the people around you.

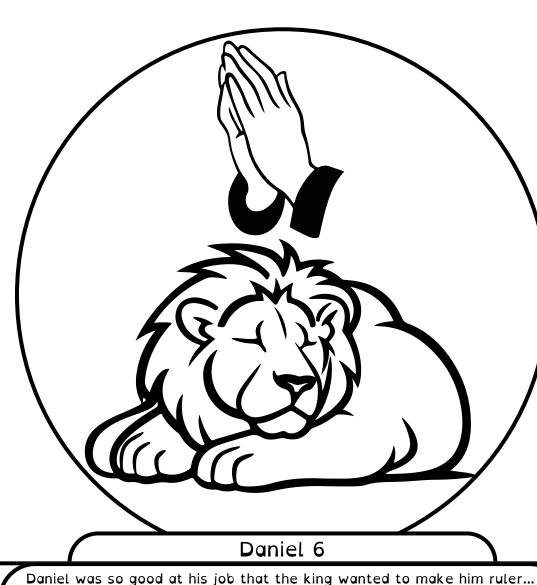


Church of Ireland Board for Ministry with Children & Families A Jewish man called Mordecal lived in Susa. He was the son of Jair. Jair was the son of Shimei. Shimei was the son of Kish. Kish was a descendant of Benjamin. Mordecai was looking after a cousin called Esther. When her parents died, Mordecai took care of her, as if she was his own daughter. Esther was very beautiful. The king loved Esther...he was more pleased with her than all the other young women. He put the royal crown on her head. He chose Esther to be queen





If you could spend a day as an animal, what animal would you choose to be?





Daniel loved God, but he also loved the King whom he served. Others around him were jealous and made Daniel chose between praying to God and obeying the King's new law.

This story teaches us that sometimes it can be hard to stay true to what we believe, especially if our friends or family don't believe the same things. But if we stay loyal to God, like Daniel did, we will see that God is always there for us, helping us in difficult times.

Chat with God and ask Him to help you to be brave and follow Him even when it is really hard.



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Daniel was so good at his job that the king wanted to make him ruler... The other officers and rulers were jealous. So they went to the king and said "We think that the king should make a strong law. For 30 days, people must pray only to you, the king. If they pray to any other person or god, you must punish them."... They saw that Daniel was praying to God and he was asking God for help. Then they threw Daniel into the cave where the lions lived. God sent his angel, and he shut the lions' mouths.





Do you find it easy to be patient and wait for something? What do you find it most difficult to wait for? What things do you do to help you be patient?





Zechariah and Elizabeth had

prayed for a baby for many years, but now they were old they thought that the time had passed, but God had other plans and they had a baby boy! This baby became John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin. Sometimes, when we ask God for something, we might feel sad if we don't see an answer right away. But it's important to remember that God always hears our prayers. His answers might not come when we expect them or in the way we want, but we can trust that He knows what's best for us. Chat with God about the things on your heart. Be patient, and remember that He has a perfect plan for you!



Church of Ireland & Board for Ministry with Children & Families There was a man whose name was Zechariah, he had a wife called Elizabeth. Zechariah and Elizabeth obeyed God's commands and rules. But they had no children and they were both getting old. One day, Zechariah was working at the temple, when one of God's angels appeared and said 'Zechariah, do not be afraid. God has heard what you prayed. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to a baby boy. You will give him the name "John". He will be very important to the Lord God.





What's the best meal you've ever eaten? What do you think had to be done to prepare that meal before you could eat it?





John the Baptist had a special job to get people ready for Jesus. John told the people that they needed to change their hearts and say sorry for the things they had done wrong. He also invited them to get baptized in water, which was a way of showing they wanted to start fresh and follow God's way.

If you ever feel like you've made mistakes or didn't listen to what God wants for you, it's okay to talk to Him. If you feel sorry for those things, chat with God and ask for His forgiveness. The good news is that God always loves us and is ready to forgive when we truly mean it!

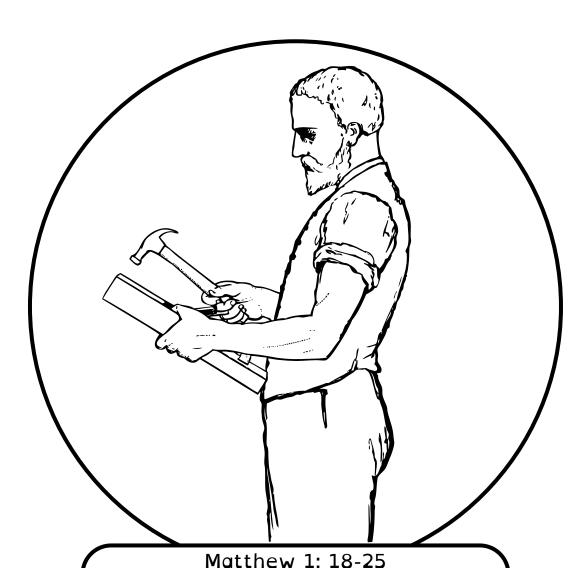


Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert, "Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!""





If you had to choose between eating loads of your favourite treats or spending a day in your favourite place what would you choose?





Joseph had a tough choice to make. People in his town loved to talk, and he knew that whatever he decided might lead to some unkind words. But even though it was hard, he decided to trust God and do what he believed was right.

Sometimes, doing the right thing can feel really tough. It might mean standing up for a friend who is being picked on or saying no when your friends want you to do something wrong. They might call you names or say you are weak. Chat with God and ask Him for help to make the right choices, even when it's hard.



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Joseph was a man who always did what was right. An angel came from the Lord God to see him. The angel came to Joseph while he was dreaming. The angel said, 'Joseph, you who are from the family of King David, take Mary home as your wife. Do not be afraid to do that. The baby that is growing inside her is from the Holy Spirit. Mary's baby will be a boy. He will save his people from their sins. Because of that, you must give him the name "Jesus".'





What is your earliest memory? How old do you think you were? Chat about it with those in your group.





Mary was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. She was not famous, super clever or rich, she was an ordinary girl from an ordinary town, chosen to do an extraordinary thing. Jesus could have come as a fully grown man, but he came as a helpless baby who needed care, love and safety just like you and me.

Chat with God and thank Him for the people who care for you and who help you to stay safe and grow stronger.

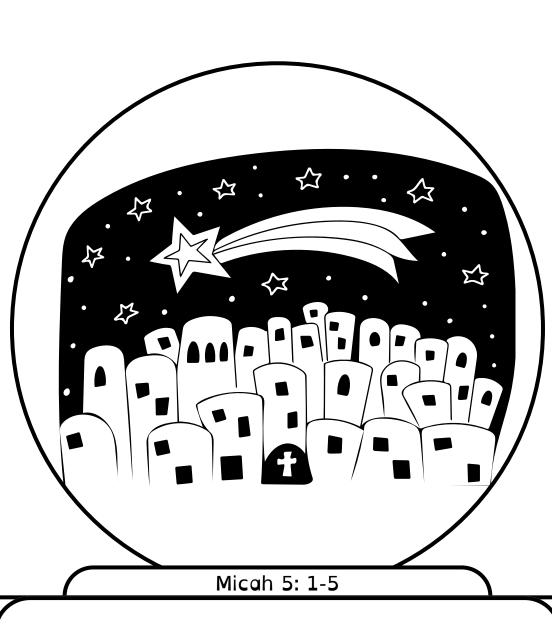


Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth. Gabriel went there to visit a young ' woman. Her name was Mary. She had promised to marry a man called Joseph. He belonged to the family of King David. Gabriel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary. God has been kind to you. Listen! A baby boy will grow inside you. When he is born, you will call him Jesus. He will be great. The Lord God will make him king. He will be king for all time, without end.'





If you could click your fingers and travel to any place in the world right now, where would you go?





In a tiny little town called Bethlehem, something very special happened—Jesus was born! This wasn't an accident; it was something that God had planned for a long time, long before even Mary and Joseph were around.

Bethlehem reminds us that it doesn't matter where we come from or what our family is like; God can do amazing things in our lives.

Take a moment to chat with God, share your thoughts and ask Him how you might help others, starting right where you are. Remember, even small actions can make a big difference!



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families The Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times."





If you could have dinner with any famous person who has ever lived, who would you choose?





Mary and Joseph were young and very ordinary, they were in the smallest town, and not only that they had to sleep in the same place as the animals! No grand palace or fancy clothes for the King of Kings!

God has never been impressed by riches or fame or strength. He looks for hearts that are honest and those who care for others.

Chat with God and thank Him that, because Jesus lived a normal humble life we know he understands the challenges we face.



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families Joseph went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger there was no room for them to stay in the inn.





Have you ever been the first person to find out something really exciting that you couldn't wait to tell your friends or family? What was it? Who did you tell first?





Imagine a time long before the internet, when people shared big news in different ways. Instead of posting online, they would tell important people who could spread the word. But guess what? God loves to surprise us! Instead of telling kings or fancy people that the King of Kings had come to earth, He sent a whole choir of angels to some shepherds who were just taking care of their sheep in a quiet field.

Chat with God and thank Him that He is God of the amazing and the unexpected! Ask God to help you to see His amazing work even in the ordinary things of life.



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.



Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families



What was the best gift you have ever been given?





As we wait in anticipation for Christmas day take time to remember the journey we have taken. The people we have heard about, and the ways that God has worked through the ordinary, the smallest and even the weakest to bring about the best news we could ever hear, that Jesus Christ is King!

When you see pictures of the nativity, with Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds, take time to thank God that the small baby became our Mighty King Jesus, who understands all that we go through, who understands and sees our laughter and our tears. And who will return again in glory.



Church of Ireland & Board for Ministry with Children & Families A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace." His royal power will continue to grow; His kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time.

