

WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

5+ LESSON PACK



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Introduction

This week we will begin our Christmas lessons. We will look at some of the Old Testament prophets and their foretelling of Jesus' coming. The people had been waiting for many years for the Messiah to arrive. Some of the key points we will look at are:

- God will do what He says in His own time.
- We need to be patient.
- God is outside of time. He can see the past and future.
- God has a plan.

Lesson Guide

Explain to the child that the future is something that will happen. Talk about things that will probably happen in the future (such as eating dinner or going to bed). Explain that sometimes what we think will happen, doesn't. Like maybe, we think we will have roast for dinner, but it burns, so we eat something else instead. Remind them that God's prophecies always happen.

Explain the role of a prophet. Show how a prophet is not someone who tells or predicts the future, but someone who delivers a message from God. Sometime this can be a message about the future. To help them understand this, you could write a letter to someone about an event later that day and ask the child to deliver it. For example, "Could you give this letter to your father saying we will have food at 6pm".

Make a list of events that you and your child are looking forward to doing. Many of these can relate to Christmas, but you can also list other activities like birthdays or a particular sweet treat. Ask the child if they enjoy waiting or if they wish they could speed up time. Talk about how the people of Israel had been told that a Messiah would come. If you have a relative coming for Christmas, you may point out how excited your child is for their arrival. Talk about how you are counting down the days until they come. Think about how hard it is to wait and then point out how many years and generations passed as Israel waited for the Messiah to arrive. Explain that they did not have a set time for the prophecy to happen like you do for your relative's arrival, only a promise that it would happen. Remind the child that Jesus came at the exact time that God had chosen.

To help the child understand, point out the times that they receive what they need at the right time. You may choose to do this for any length of time. For instance, when they sit down to eat dinner, hand them a toothbrush instead of a fork. When they are going to bed, offer them a jacket instead of pajamas. Offer them a spoon to brush their teeth. Explain that you are giving them the right thing but at the wrong time. Explain that God always knows what to give us and always at the right time.

Discuss why the people of Israel were excited for Jesus to come. Explain that unlike some of the things on the list we made, Jesus came to bring permanent help. Talk about how people were lost in sins and unhappy because they were separated from God. Talk about how Jesus came to bring peace between God and His people. You can create a visual for your child by standing on one side with another adult on the other side. Hold a blanket up to separate the two of you. Explain that just like the blanket, sin separates people from God. Tell the child that you and your helper are sad because the blanket is separating you from each other. Ask the child what he can do to help. Allow the child to pull the blanket down (if necessary, give the child hints of what

to do). Explain that just as your child removed the blanket, Jesus came to offer forgiveness for sins, which are separating us from God.

Talk about how sometimes it is hard to be patient. Select a particular activity or food item. Ask the child to sit and wait as long as possible for the treat. Use a stopwatch to track the length of time they are able to sit. Ask them how long they think they waited. Compare that to the time they actually waited.

Explain that Isaiah lived many hundreds of years before Jesus, but God told Isaiah that Jesus would come. Read Isaiah 9:6, 7:14, 53:5, and Micah 5:2. (If the child is older, you may seek out additional prophetic references to read). Talk about how each of these verses is a clue about Jesus' birth and why He came to the world. Ask the child if they can tell you what city Jesus would be born in or a clue about Jesus' mother. Ask the child if they know why Jesus came to the world.

If possible, buy or create a nativity set. Throughout the five weeks, you will add pieces. On this, the first week, set up the stable. Point out that the stable is empty and waiting. There is a printable template in this lesson you may use, along with a character card set. I'll explain more about this later, but you could print an additional copy and use for characters in your nativity scene.

Memorize Isaiah 9:6 together. Pray and thank God that He sent His Son into the world. Ask God to help you tell others about His coming.

NOTE: This is a special additional project you may choose to do. This will connect to the third week of the Christmas lessons. Explain to your child that you are going to create some predictions. Explain that you will write down things that will happen in the next weeks. Create predictions such as your child will be wearing a green shirt, or you will make carrots for dinner when you do the lesson on the third week. After you complete the list, seal it into an envelope, and place in a safe place to wait for week three of the Christmas lessons.

Christmas series

This lesson is part 1 of our 5-part Christmas series. It contains resources which will be used throughout the following 5 lessons. **To save yourself ink and paper**, choose the pages you need and print them out. There are different options included to match your preference.

Over the following weeks we will cover:

Week 2) The angel appears to Mary and Mary Visits Elizabeth

Week 3) The trip to Bethlehem – No room – Jesus born in a manger

Week 4) The Shepherds

Week 5) The Wise men and King Herod.

Games and Activities

Team Relay: Wait and Return

Divide the children into teams. At the other end of the room, set up a table with cards that each have a different number on them (representing seconds).

The first child on each team runs to the table, turns over a card, and must wait for the specified number of seconds before running back to tag the next teammate.

Each team member continues until everyone has returned. The first team with all players back wins!



Wait the Right Time

In this game, the leader will call out a specific time (like 5, 10, or 20 seconds). The children then close their eyes and count in their heads, aiming to reach the exact time given.

When they think they've reached the time, they do an action (like standing up or clapping).

The child or children closest to the correct time wins.

True or False Prophecy

The leader reads out statements about prophecies, and the kids must decide if each statement is a true Old Testament prophecy related to Jesus. They can indicate their answer by raising a hand for "true" or sitting down for "false."

Sample Statements:

"Jesus would be born in Bethlehem." (True, Micah 5:2)

"Jesus would be a fisherman." (False)

"A virgin would give birth to a son named Immanuel." (True, Isaiah 7:14)

"The Messiah would be a carpenter from Jericho." (False)

"The Messiah would bring peace to God's people." (True, Isaiah 9:6)



Prophecy Fill-in-the-Blank

Look up each Bible verse to find the missing word about the coming of Jesus. Fill in the blank with the correct word.

Jesus would
be born in

Micah 5:2

Jesus would
be called

-----,

meaning
"God with
us."

Isaiah 7:14

A Branch
from the line
of

would bear
fruit.

Isaiah 11:1

Jesus would
be called a

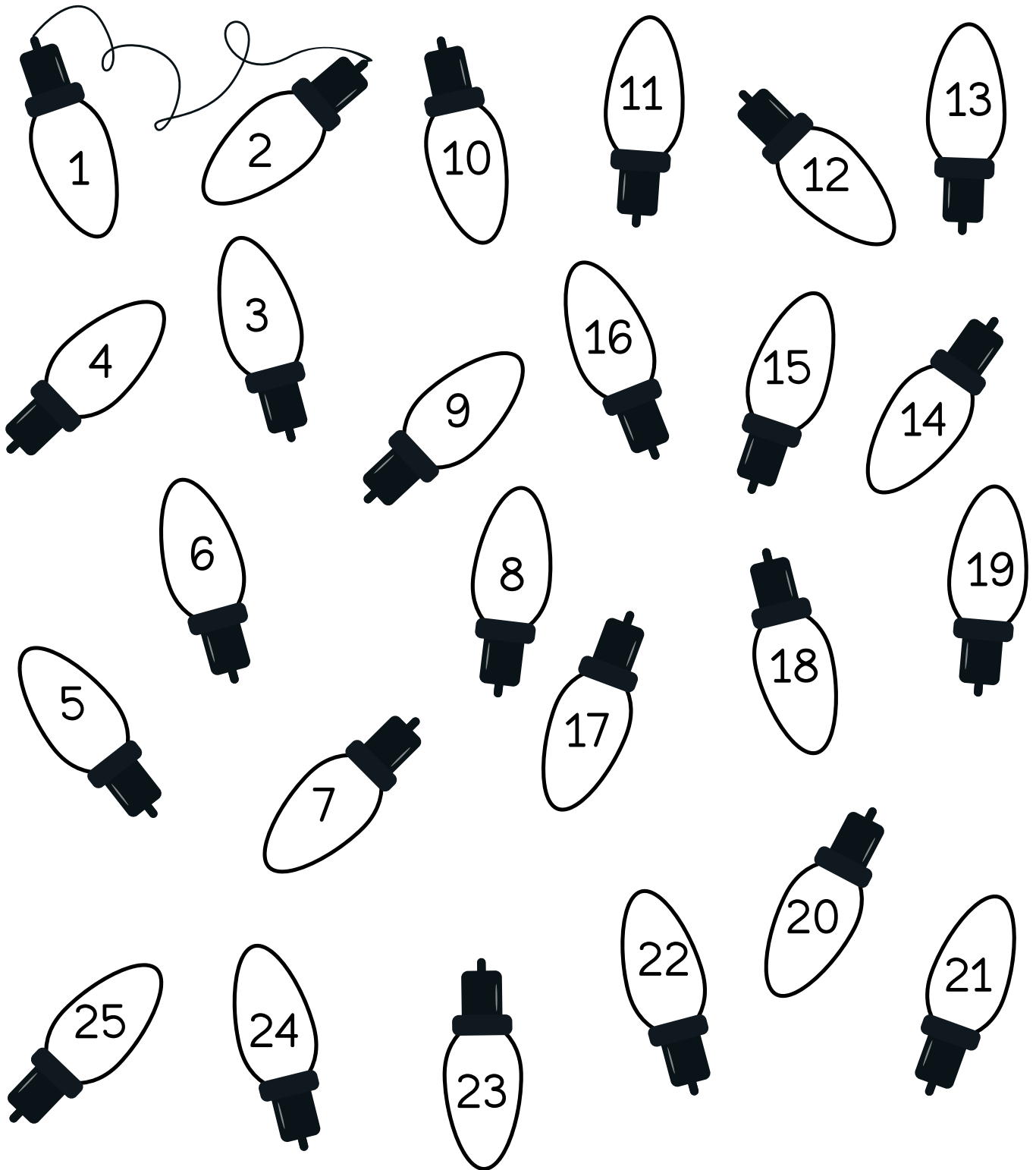
Jeremiah
23:5

Jesus would
be a light to
the

Isaiah 42:6

Create Your Own Advent Calendar

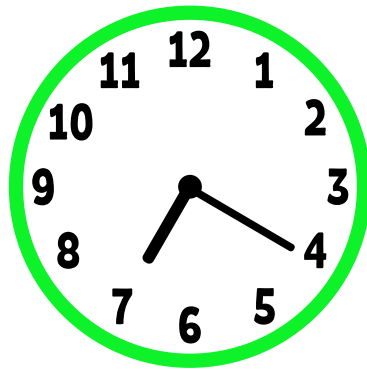
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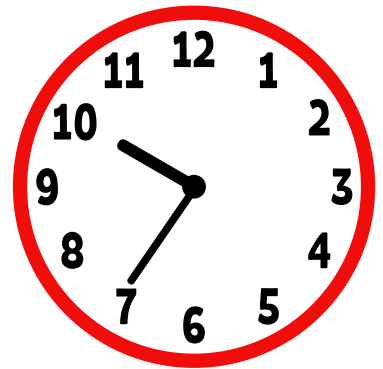


Colour all the lights

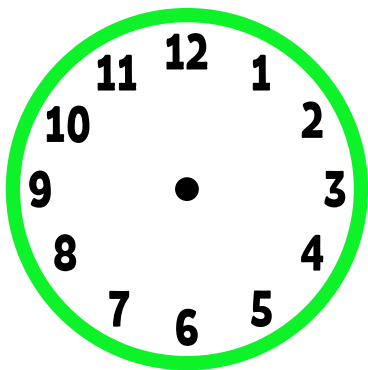
What time is it?



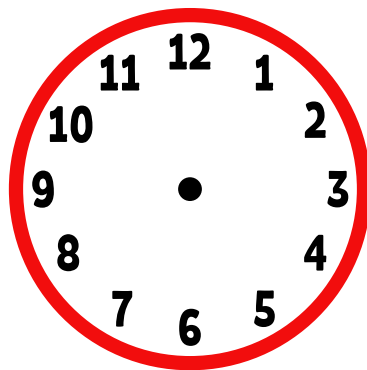




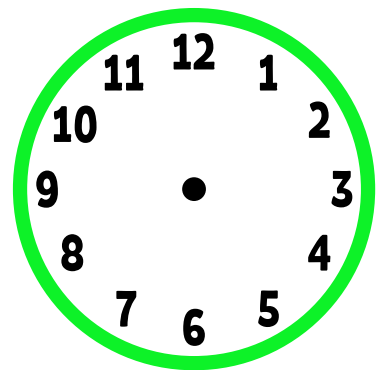
Draw the hands on the clock



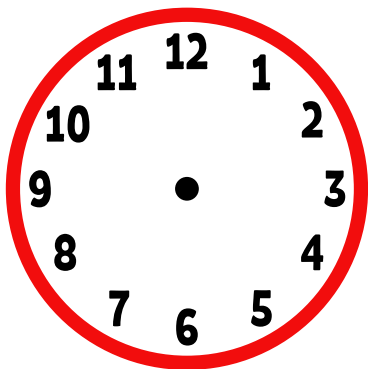
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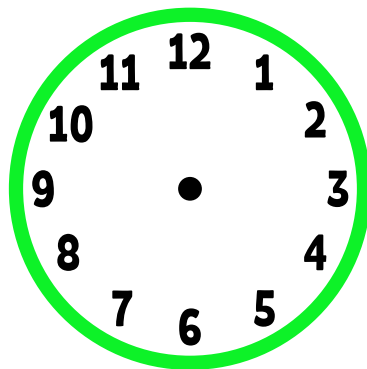
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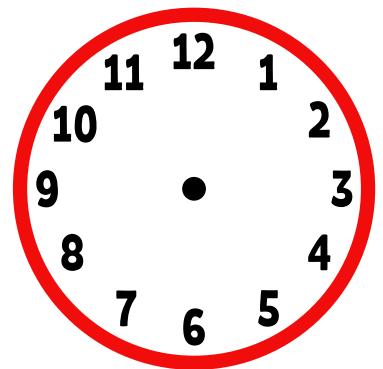
8:10



9:55



5:20



1:35

5 Ways to use the Christmas Character Cards

Advent Calendar Hide and Seek

There are 25 cards included in the lesson. Hide one card in a new place around your home each day. Each day, your child can find a new character card and add it to their collection.

Story visual aids

Use the cards as visual aids while reading the Christmas passages from your Bible. Ask your child to point or hold up the matching item whenever it is mentioned in the passage. You could also use the cards to act out the story.

Matching pairs game

Print two copies of the character cards. For best results, glue some coloured paper onto the back before cutting so that you cannot see through the card / paper. Turn cards upside down. Take turns to turn two cards over at a time. If the cards match, the player gets to keep them.

Snap

Print at least two copies of the character cards. Shuffle the cards and share out between players. Take turns to turn over the top card and add it face up to a central pile. If picture match, the player calls snap and wins all the cards in the pile.

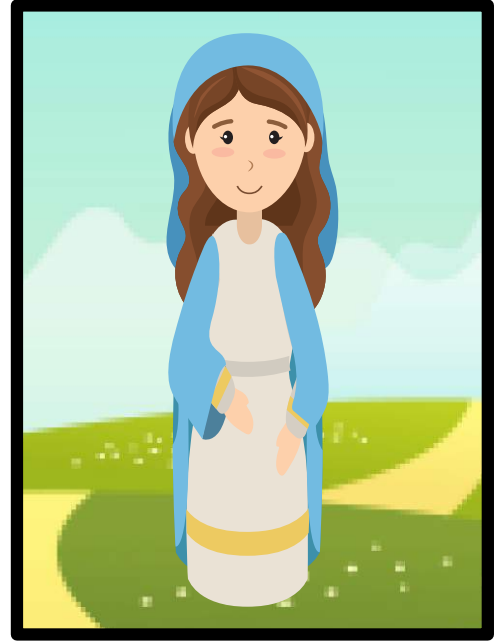
Who am I? Yes or No

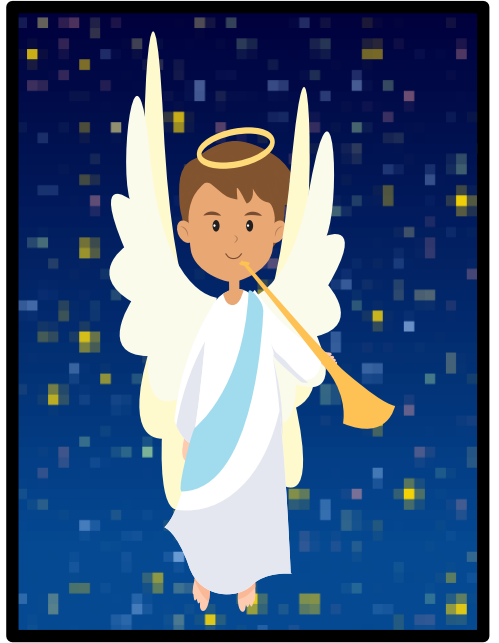
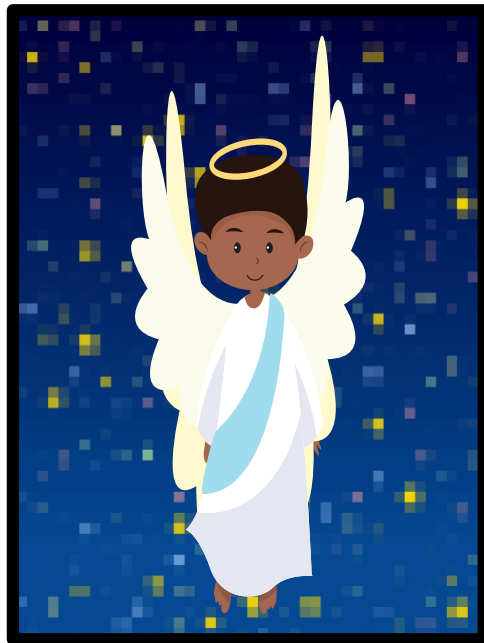
Player picks one card from the pile. The other players must ask questions to guess what is on the picture. The player with the card may only answer yes or no. The first person to correct correctly wins.

Have any other ideas of how to use them?

Send us a message, we'd love to share your ideas with others.

Christmas Character Cards



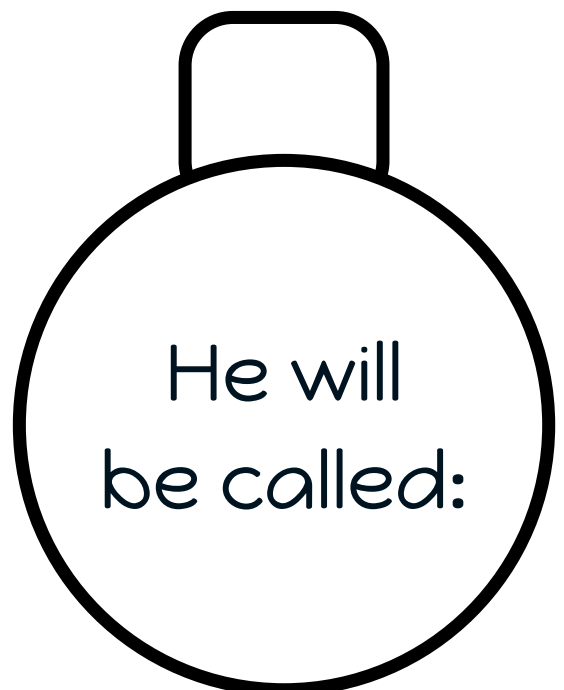
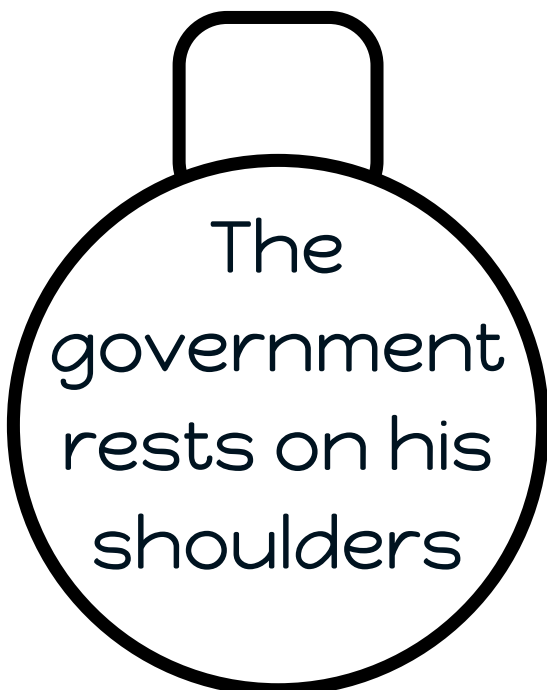




Isaiah 9:6

Christmas baubles

- 1) Print onto white card.
- 2) Colour and decorate the baubles.
- 3) Cut out the baubles
- 4) Use a hole punch to make holes in top part.
- 5) Tread through wool to hang





Wonderful
Counselor



Mighty
God



Everlasting
Father



Prince
of
Peace



Isaiah 9:6

Make your own Nativity

There are two options for making this week's craft. A version which you can colour yourself and another version which comes pre-coloured. You **only** need to print the version you would like to use. Scene can be used over the following weeks and covers, the angel appearing to Mary. Mary's visit to Elizabeth and Zechariah. The Shepherd, The wise men and of course the stable scene.



What you need

- The template page of your choice printed onto white card.
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colouring pencils or crayons

What to do



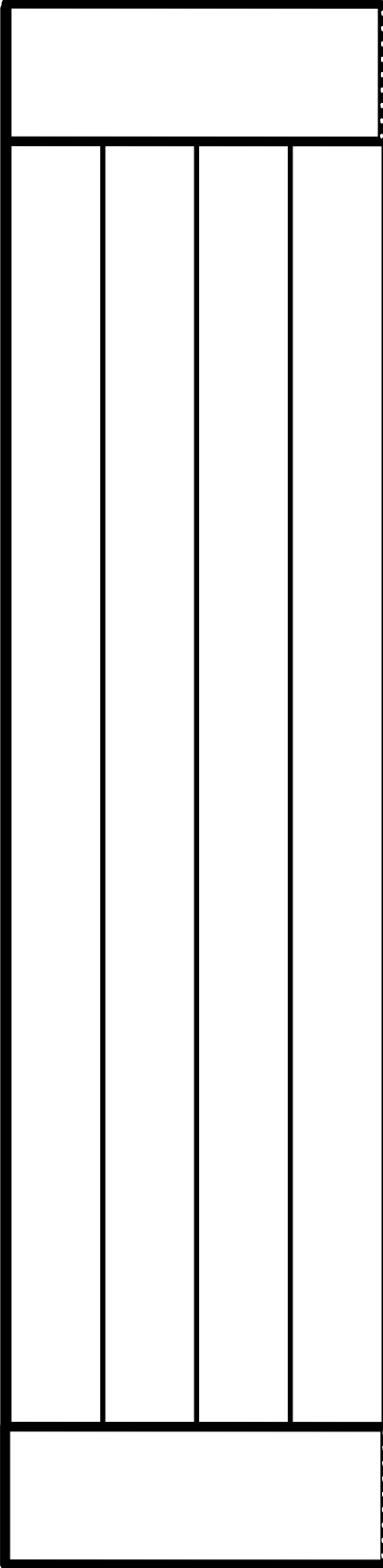
Colour the pictures and cut out.



Glue stable scene back to back. Fold and glue.

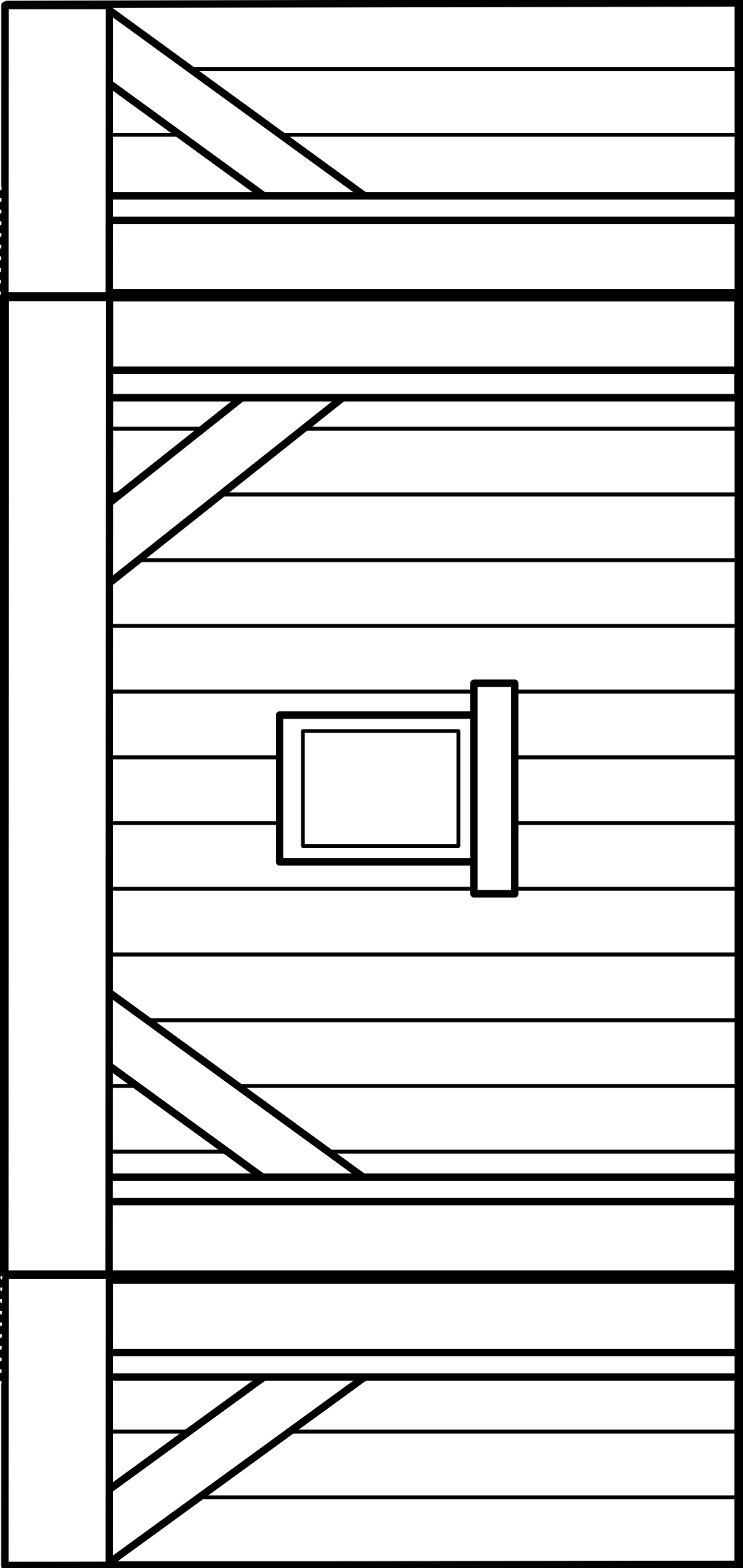


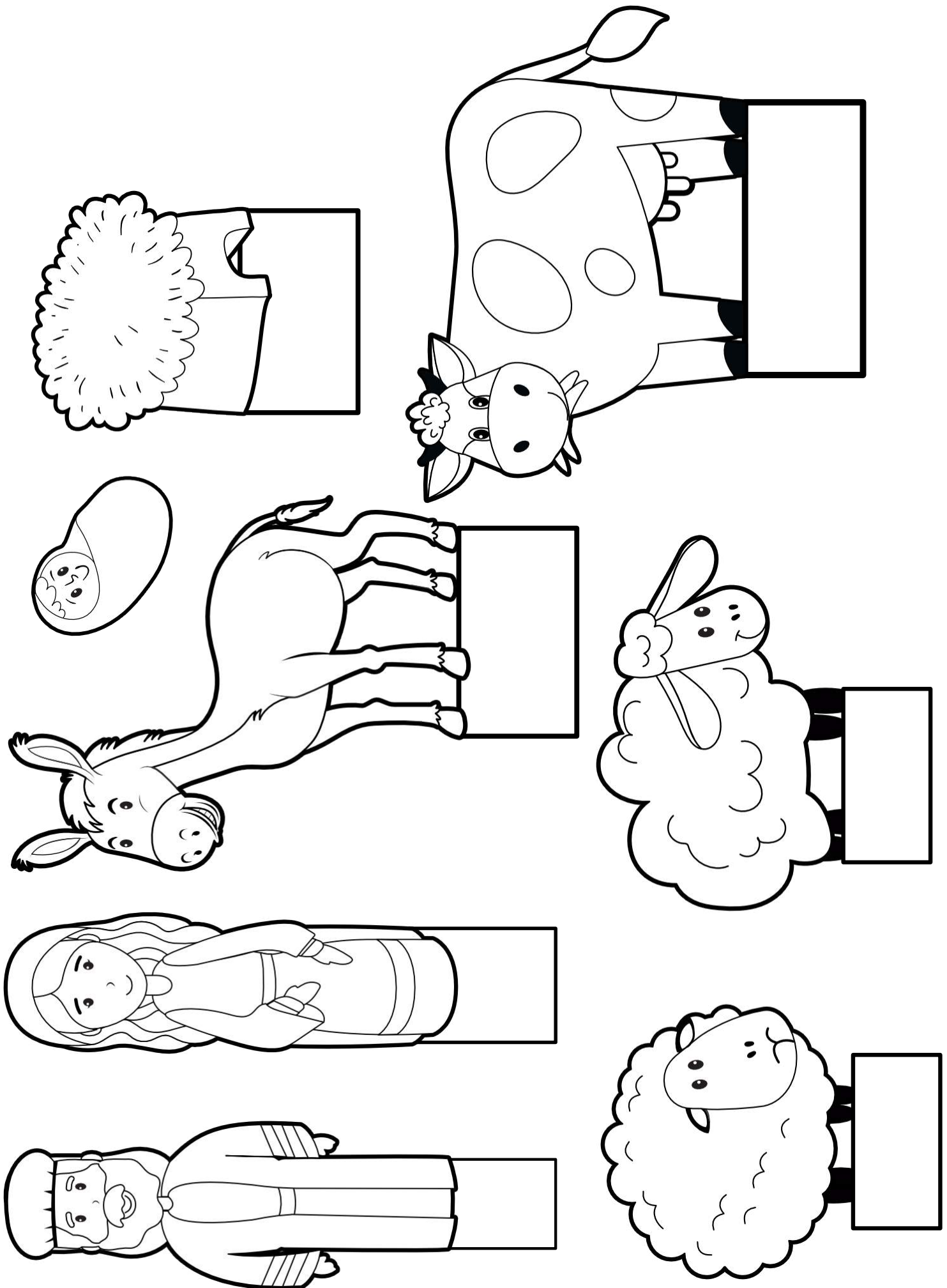
For added stability, tape cardboard rings or small object to back of characters.

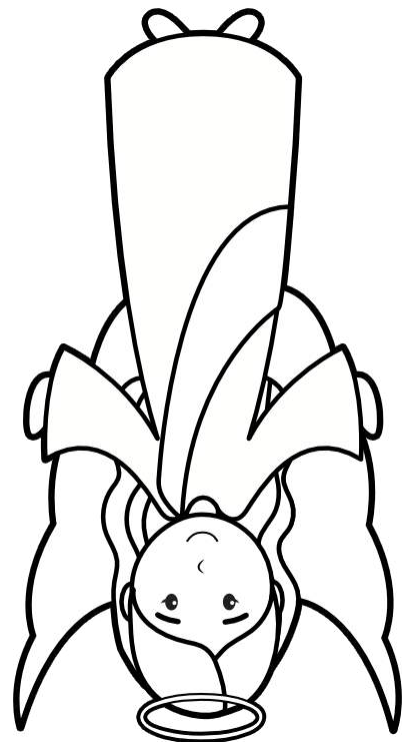
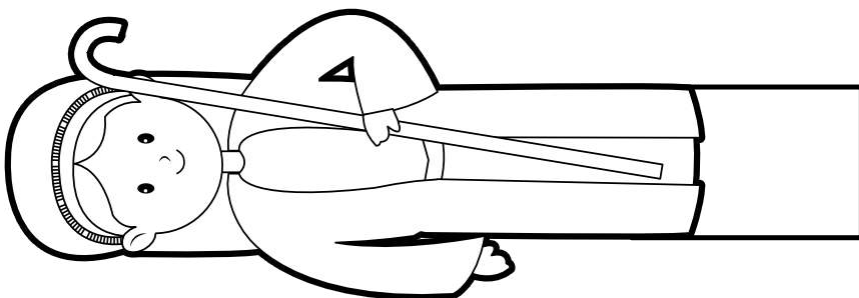
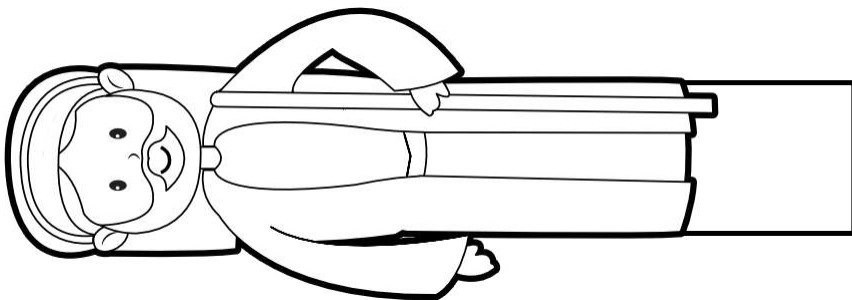
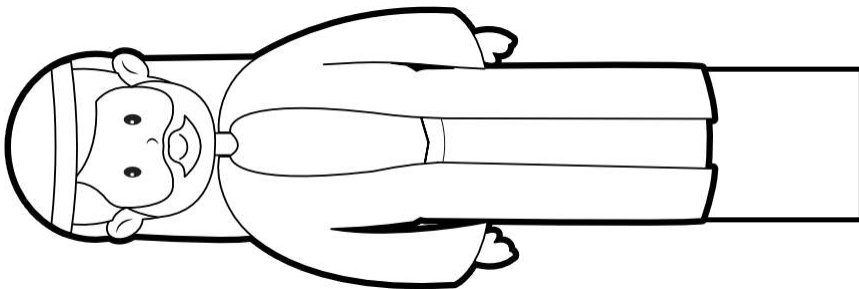
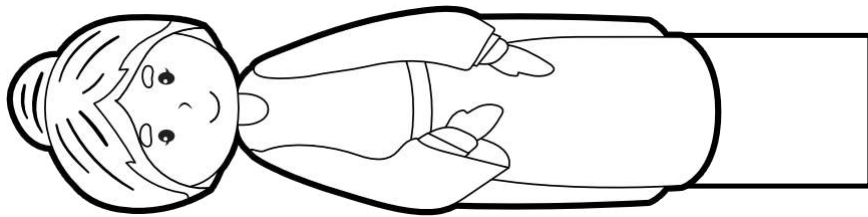
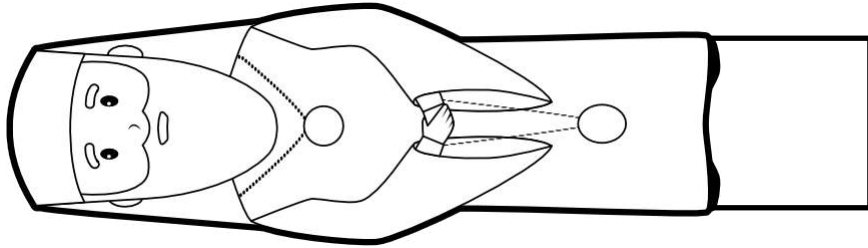
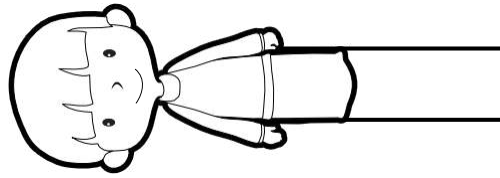


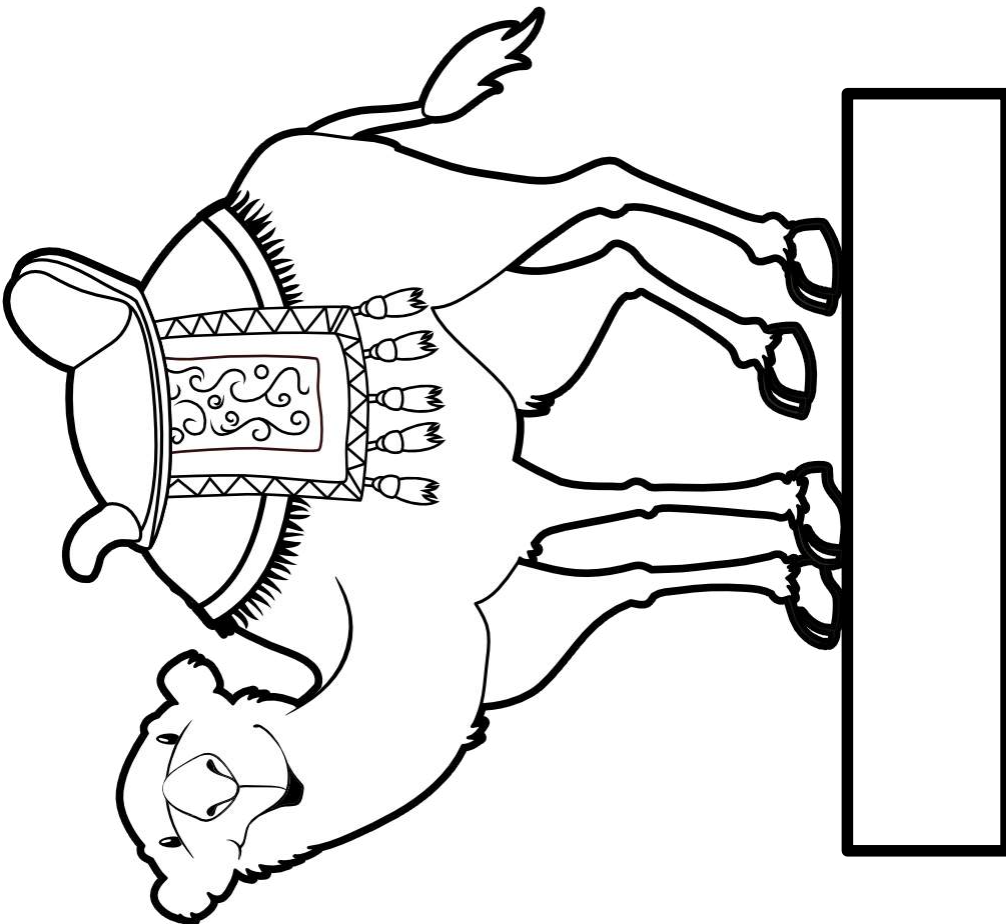
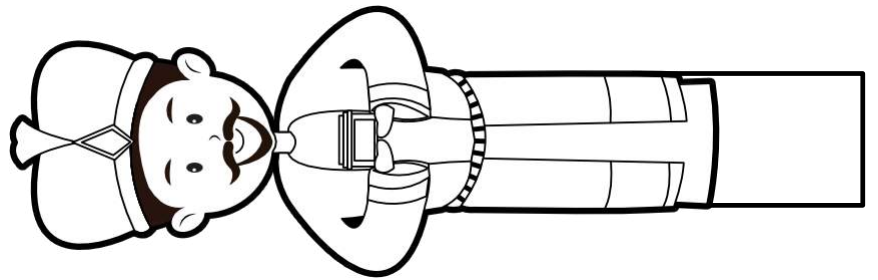
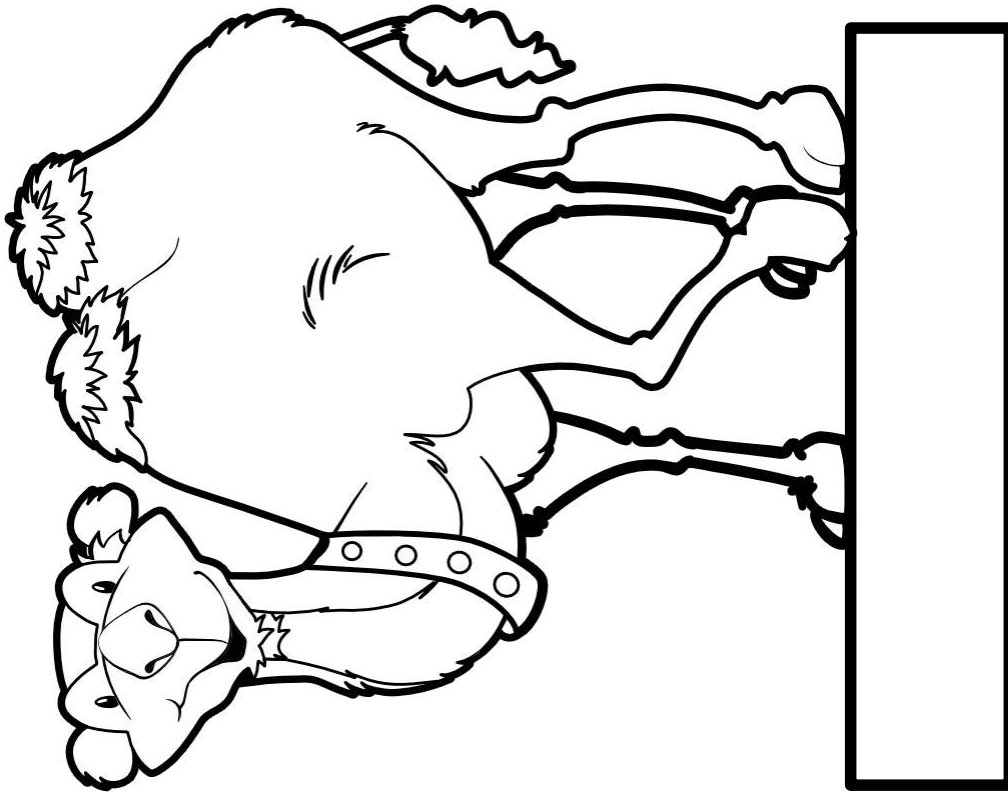
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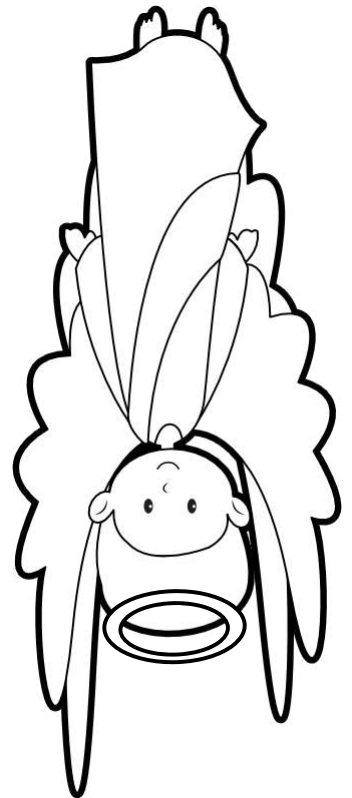
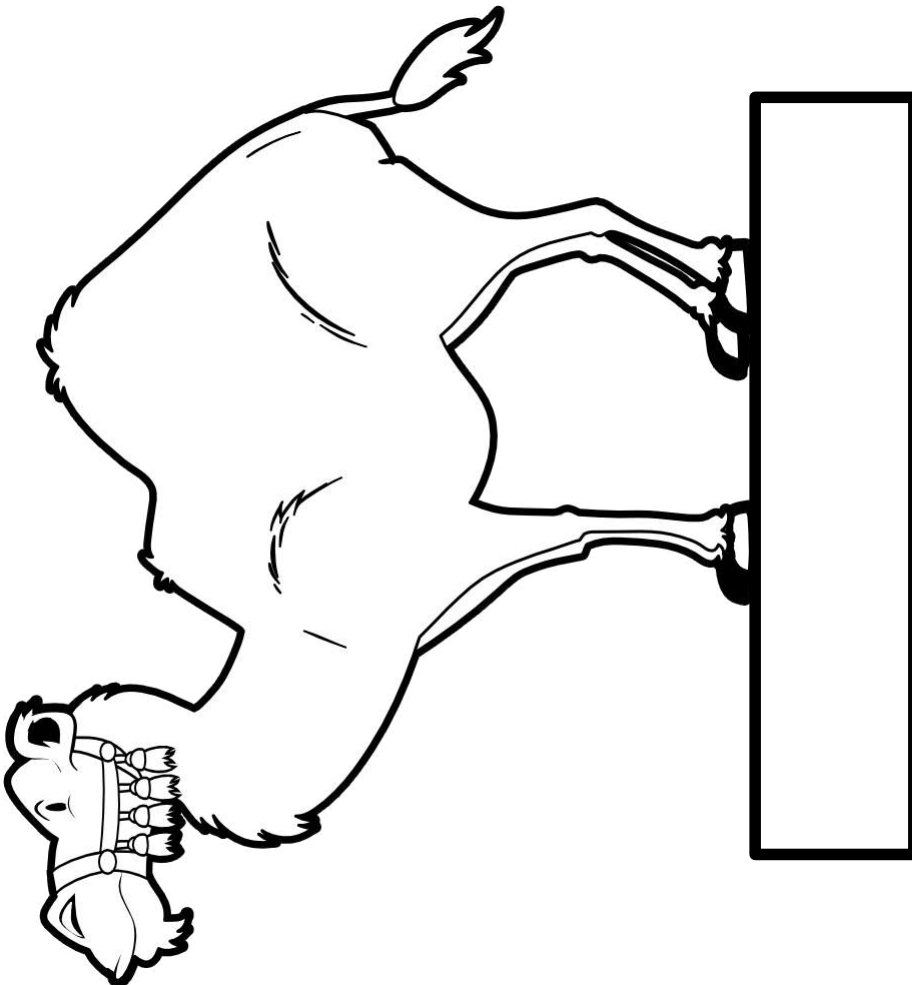
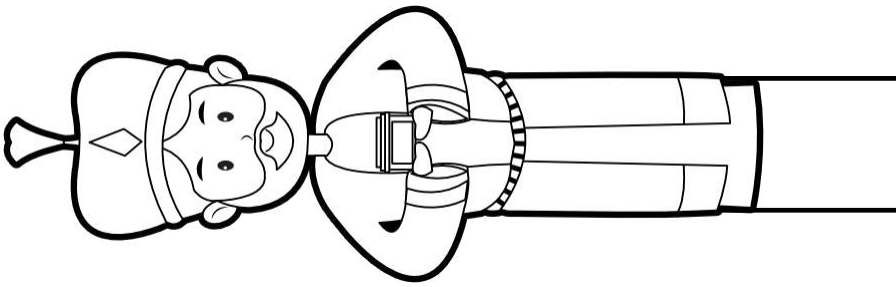
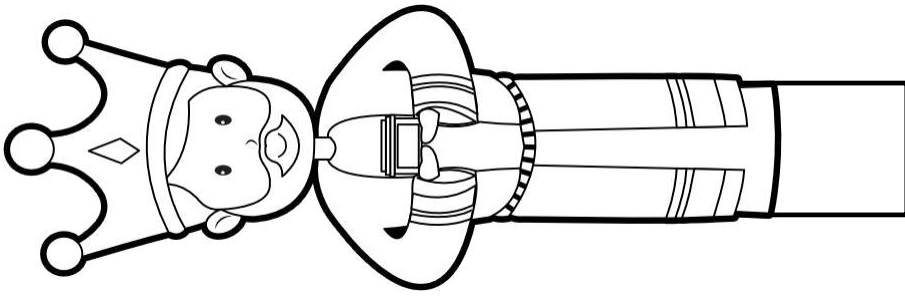
Cut out and
glue back to
back.

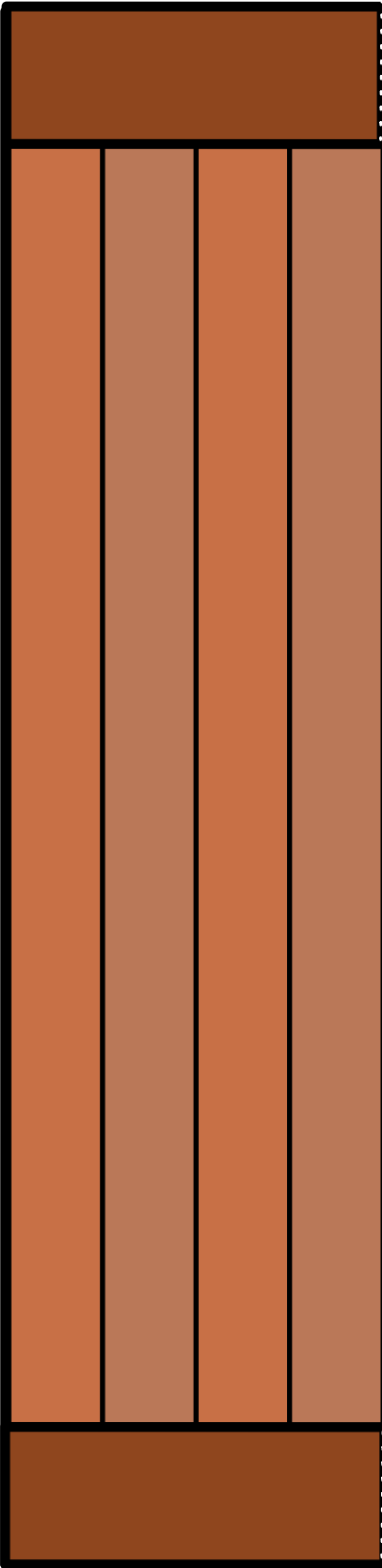






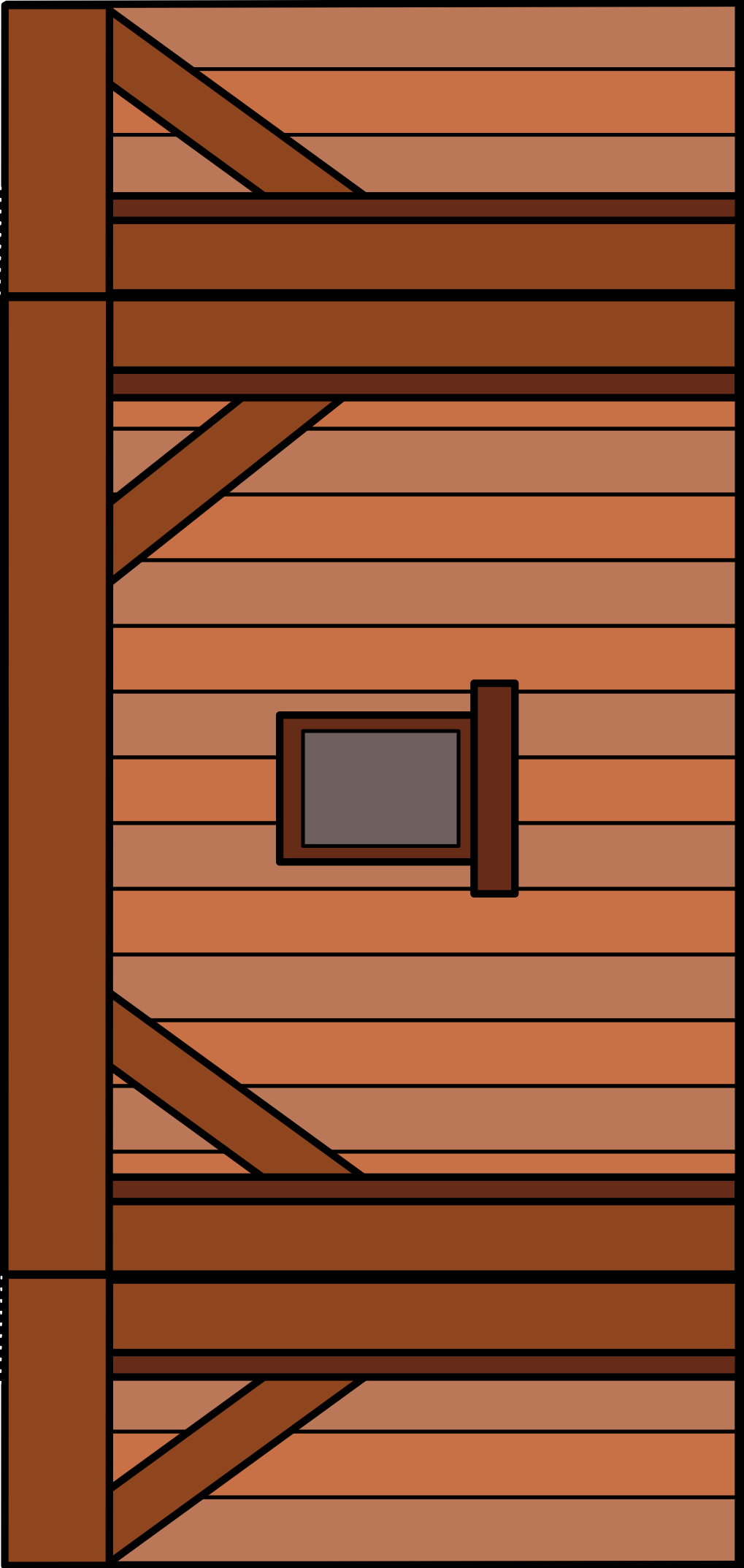


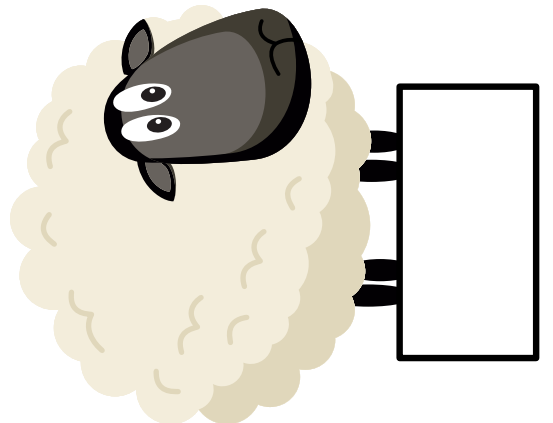
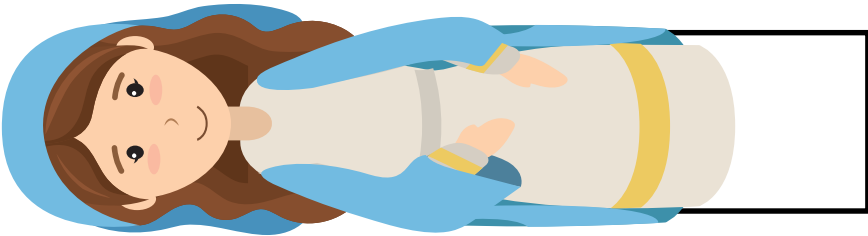
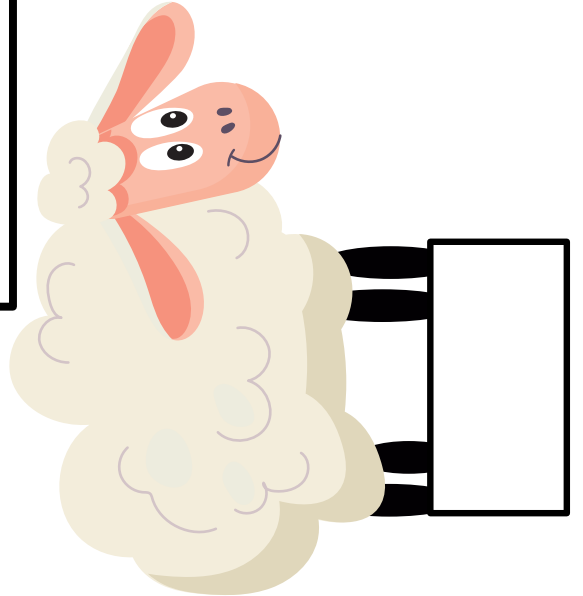
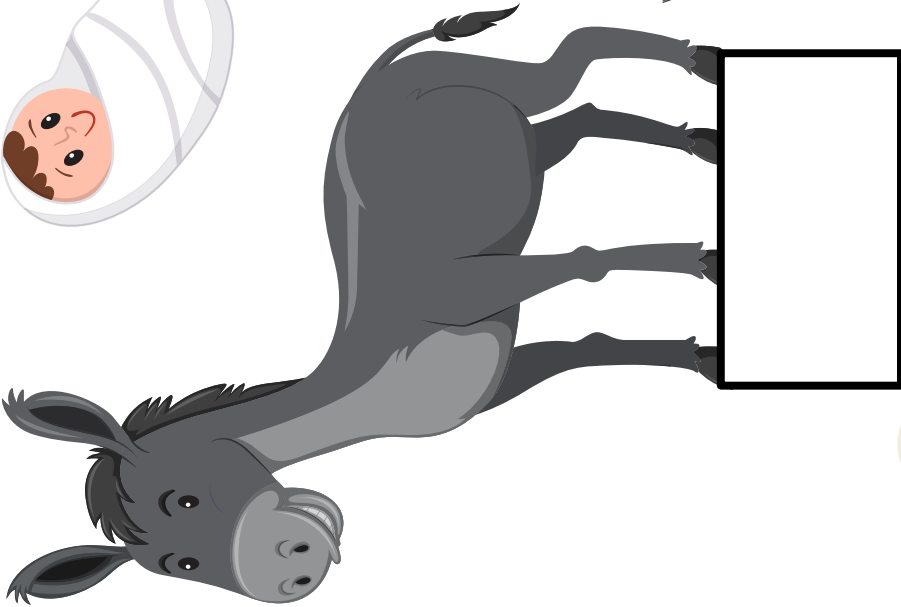
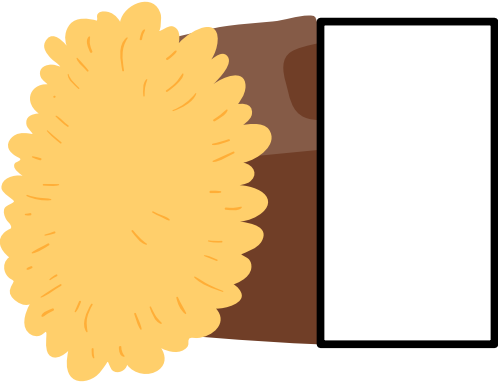
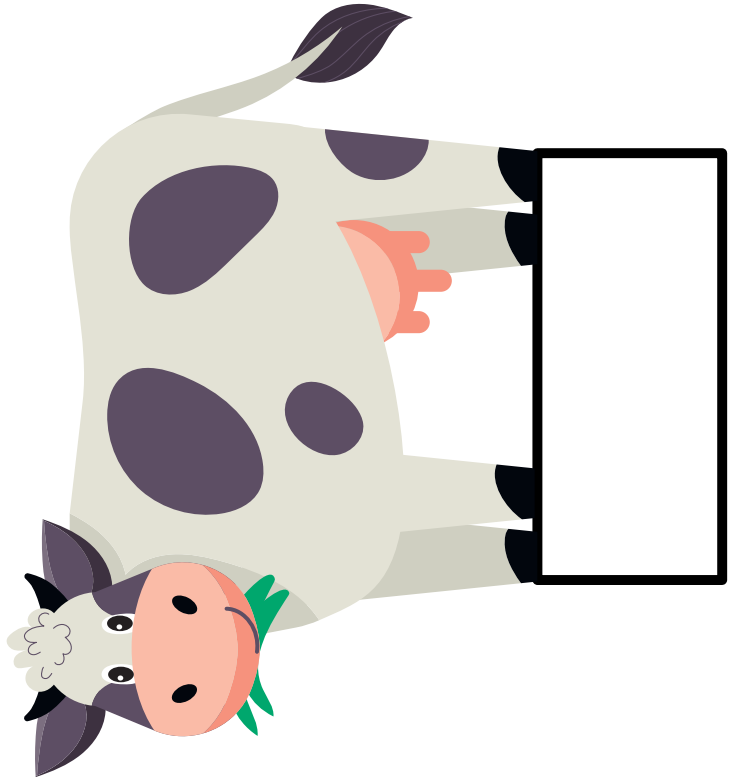


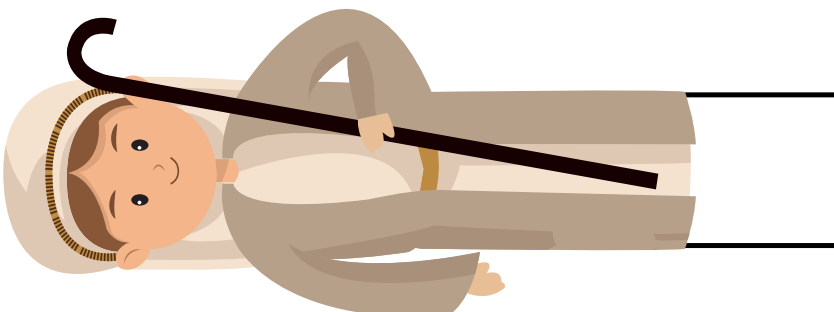
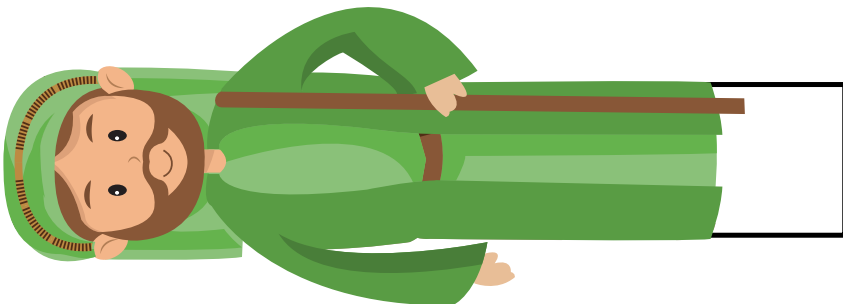
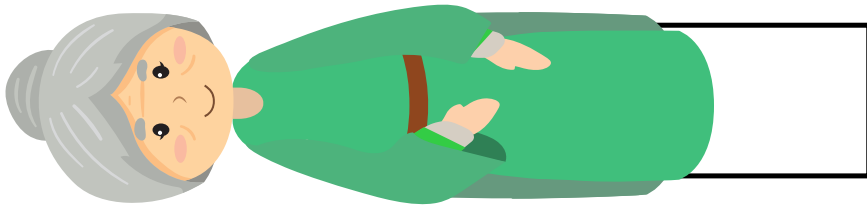
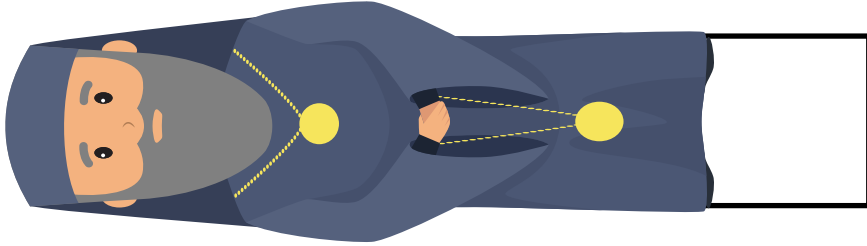
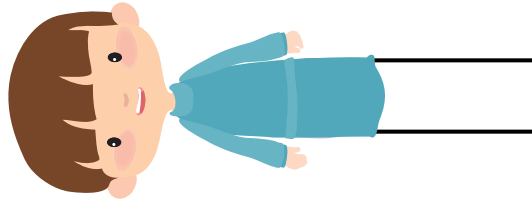


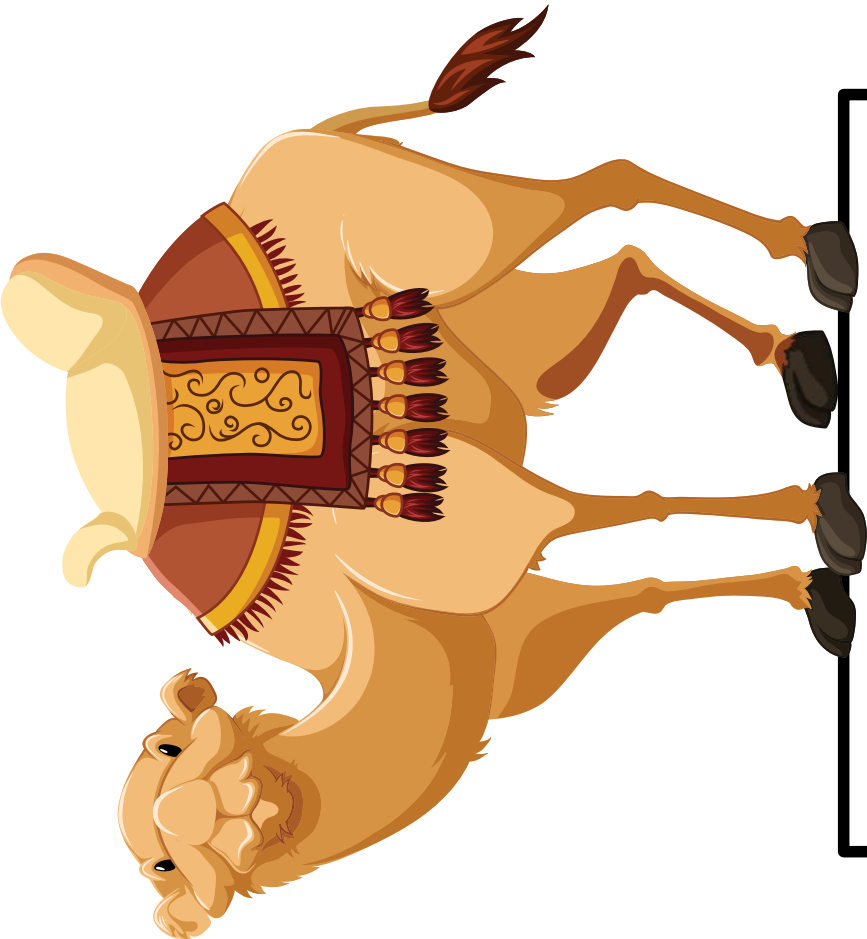
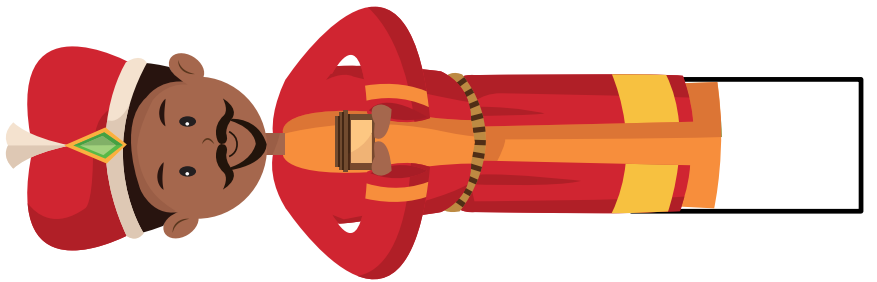
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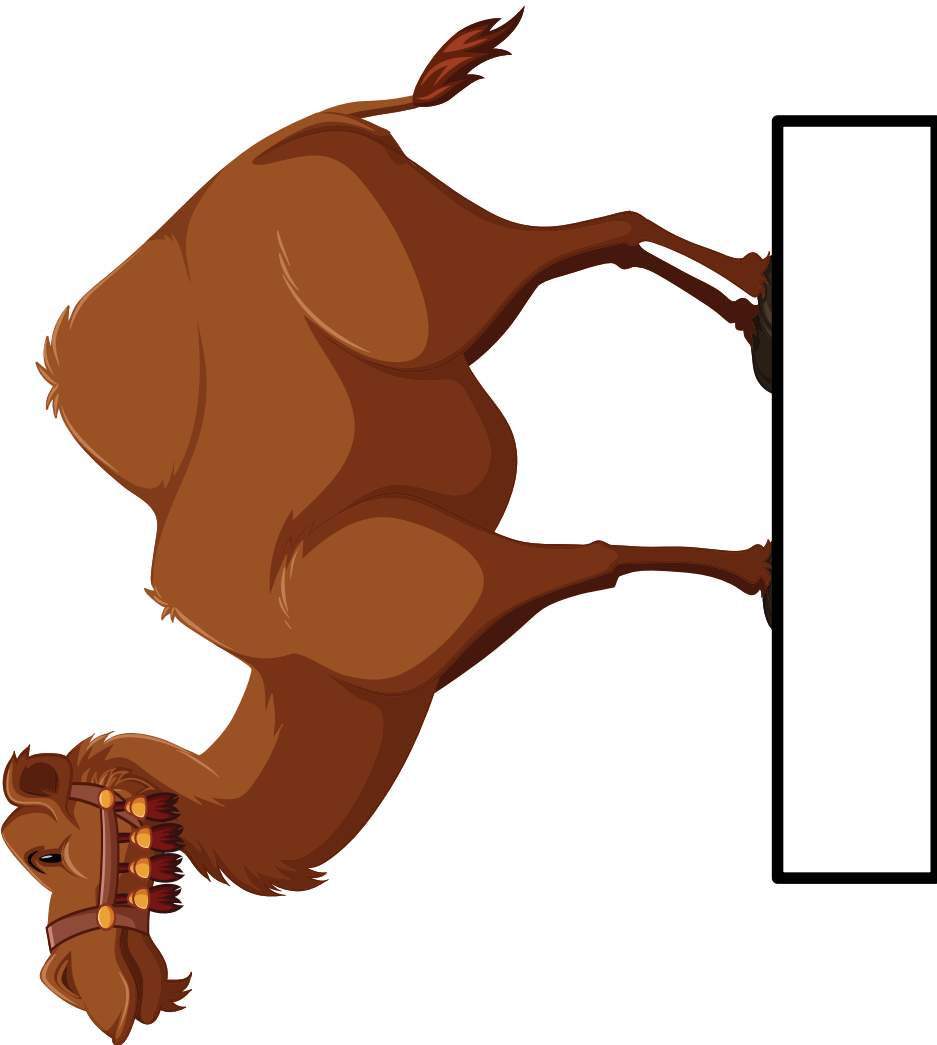
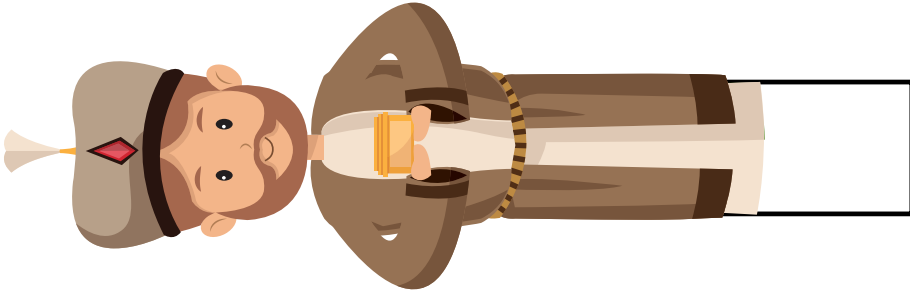
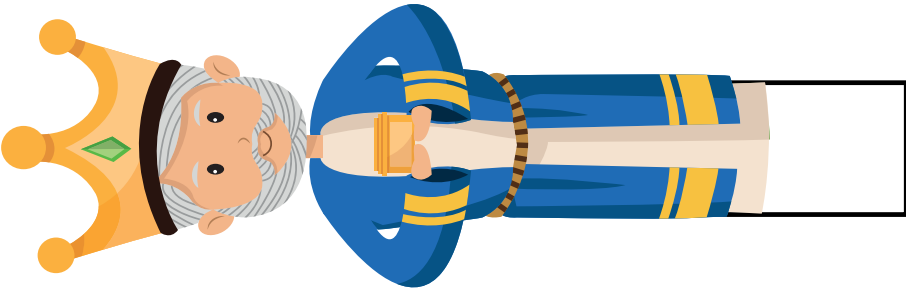
Cut out and
glue back to
back.











Worship Time

Recommended worship songs. Not produced by Trueway Kids. YouTube Videos to be used for personal use only.

Jesus, Savior Of The World

<https://youtu.be/KFMw0B2ukUw>

Too Wonderful

<https://youtu.be/pkc2m0CmYL8>

God Always Keeps His Promises

<https://youtu.be/WzrFkvn1LGg>



Prayer Time

Thank God that He always keeps his promises.

Ask God to help you wait for His perfect time.

Next Week

The angel appears to Mary and Mary
Visits Elizabeth

If you haven't already done so, sign up
to receive future lesson by email.
truewaykids.com/subscribe/



Answers

Prophecy Fill-in-the-Blank

- 1 Bethlehem
- 2 Immanuel
- 3 Jesse
- 4 King
- 5 nations