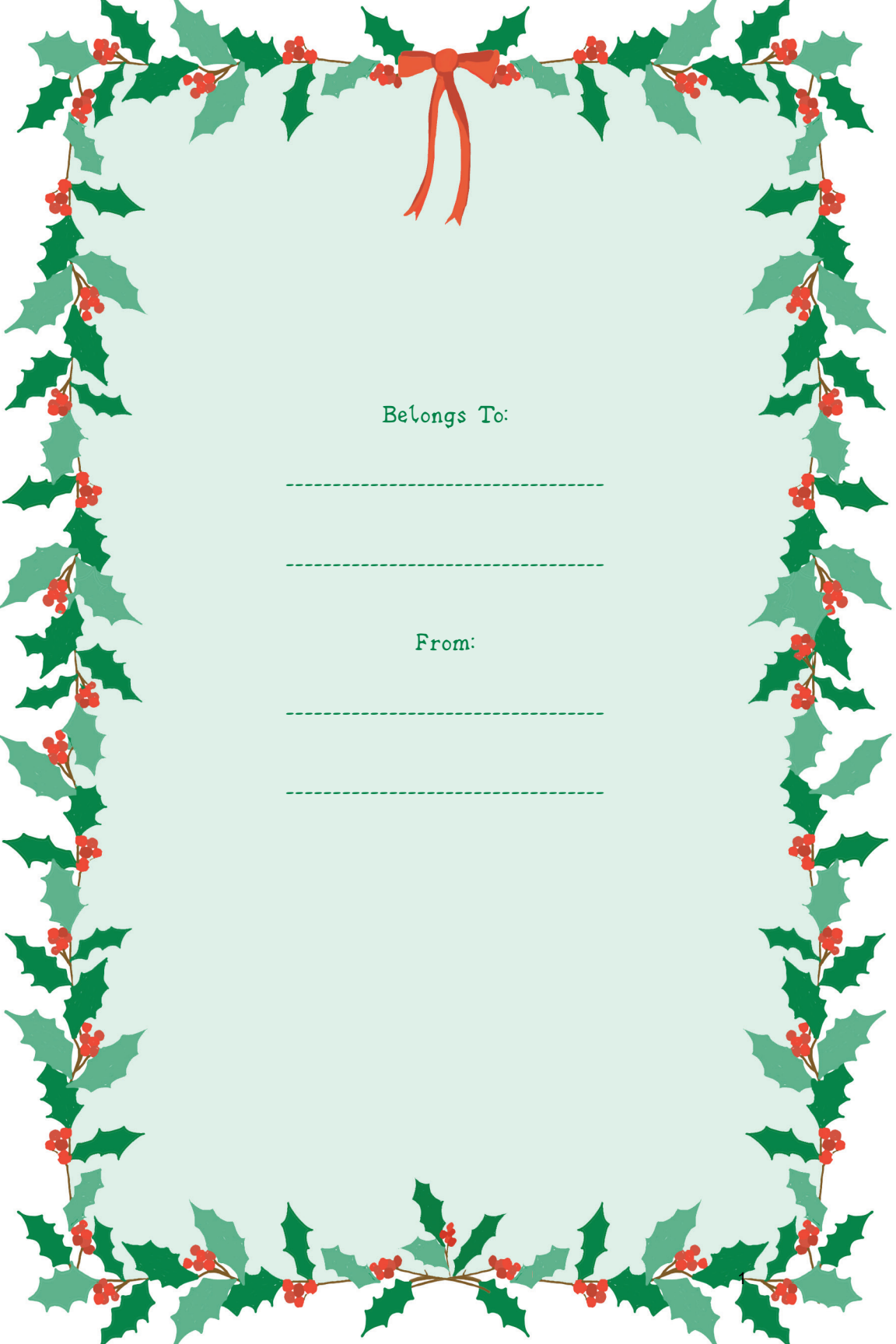


“Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end.” – Isaiah 9: 7





Belongs To:

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From:

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# Away In A Manger



*"For to us a child is born." - Isaiah 9:6*

Beloved Children of God,

On December 29th 2012, I was at home doing simple chores, when I got a mental picture of the baby Jesus in a manger with Mary and Joseph beside Him. Along with the image, I saw the words: Away in a Manger.

This inspiration, gave me the idea for a Christmas time book devotional for children. Two years on, together with two wonderful artists: Hadley Hutton and Marielle Che, I have completed the devotional. I hope we have been able to capture the beauty, and joy, and LOVE, of Christmas for all children, everywhere to experience and share.

Christmas is such a special time, that above all should remind us that  
**JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR WAS BORN FOR US.**

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us try to spend a few moments each day with Jesus in prayer, as Mary and Joseph did.

I hope this book inspires you to love the Lord Jesus more and to celebrate Christmas with a whole lot of meaning and joy!

Have a blessed and most special Christmas!

Caritas (Lots of ❤️),  
Linda



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## READING

DAY 1, DECEMBER 24TH

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Imman'u-el. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.



## MEDITATION

*"A young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Imman'u-el."*



## REFLECTION

The young woman Isaiah spoke about is Mary the mother of Jesus. The son she was to bear is Jesus, our Lord. Immanuel means 'God is with us.'

When God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary, to let her know that she was to bear the Son of God, the moment Mary accepted the Angel's message, this promise from Isaiah was fulfilled. Mary became pregnant and gave birth to Jesus on Christmas Day. You can read Luke 1:26-38 if you want to see the full story.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming into our world. For the moment You came into this world, God came to be with us. We want to say - yes - to You in everything like Mary did. Please help us Lord. Amen.





The angel Gabriel from Heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden, Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessèd mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold  
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy Name."  
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

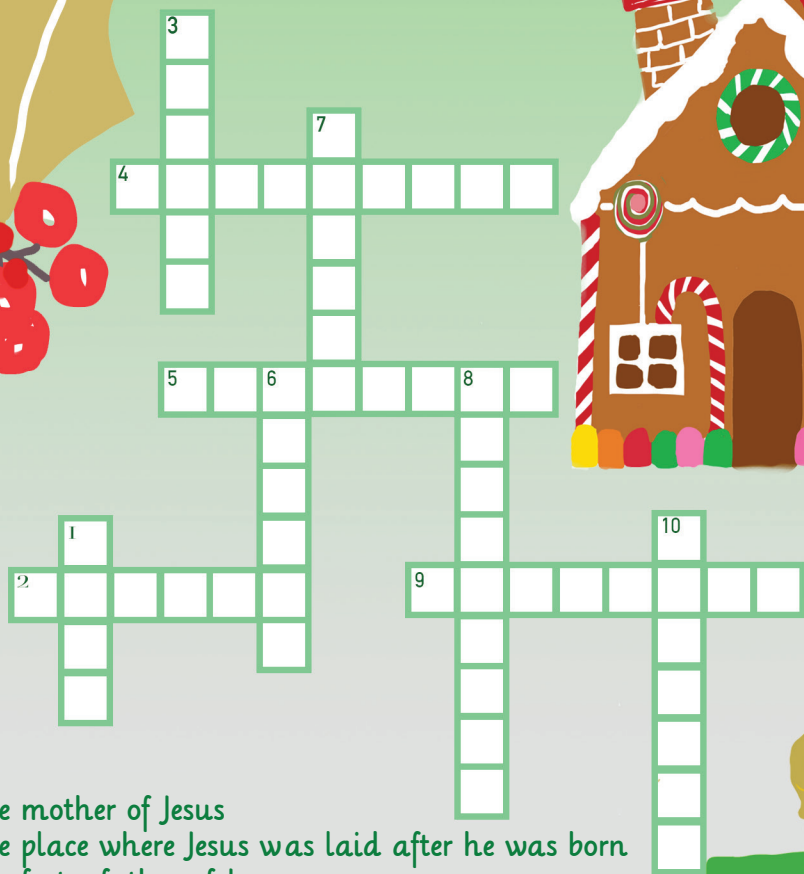
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born,  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!



# Have some fun!



Write down your thoughts. Think about the first Christmas Eve. Ponder about Mary and Joseph. How did they feel knowing that very soon, they would be having a child - who would be called Saviour?



1. The mother of Jesus
2. The place where Jesus was laid after he was born
3. The foster father of Jesus
4. The town where Jesus was born
5. The name given to Jesus in the book of Isaiah
6. Something remembered from the past
7. The Christmas song proclaimed by angels to shepherds
8. The cousin of Mary and mother of John the Baptist
9. The word Mary used to describe herself in answer to the angel
10. The angel who brought the news to Mary





## READING

DAY 2, DECEMBER 25TH  
CHRISTMAS

*Luke 2:4-7*

<sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



## MEDITATION

*"She gave birth to her first-born son,...and laid him in a manger."*



## REFLECTION

Today, the Saviour of the world was born for us! Oh, what a glorious day!

Consider however, that when the time came for Jesus to be born Mary and Joseph could not find any place to stay. Nobody recognised how important they were and so Jesus was born in a poor stable.

Sometimes Jesus comes to us in simple appearance, and we fail to recognise or welcome Him.

Today let us ask the Lord to help us recognise Him in our lives, so that whenever He comes to us, we may open our hearts and invite Him to stay with us.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, today You were born for us. We welcome You into our hearts, into our lives, into our homes and we make room for You so that You can live with us forever and ever. Happy Birthday Lord Jesus!





Have some fun!



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Today is one of great joy - our Saviour is born.

Write Jesus a Happy Birthday note, Remember to sign it  
with lots of LOVE.



JOY





# Away In A Manger

Away in a manger,  
No crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky  
Looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus,  
Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,  
The Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus,  
No crying He makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my bedside,  
'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever,  
And love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children  
In Thy tender care,  
And fit us for Heaven  
To live with Thee there.





## READING

Luke 2:8-12

DAY 3,  
DECEMBER 26TH

<sup>8</sup> And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; <sup>11</sup> for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."



## MEDITATION

*"For to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*



## REFLECTION

The news of Christ's birth was first announced to humble shepherds. The news was so awesome that the shepherds were filled with great joy!

Today also, this great joy is brought to you through Christ's birth. With such good news, you never have to be afraid. God is always with you, to help you and bless you.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, take away every fear from my life and from my family. Fill us with Your love, and peace, and Your joy. Help us rejoice this Christmas season, the same way the shepherds rejoiced. Amen.





## While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their  
flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All simply wrapped in swaddling clothes  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease!"







Have some fun!



Spot 10 Differences!





## READING

Luke 2:13-20

DAY 4,  
DECEMBER 27TH

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



## MEDITATION

*"Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God."*



## REFLECTION

The shepherds believed the message that they had heard from the angels. They went hurriedly to find the baby Jesus. Their faith led them to the place where Jesus lay. Then, they understood that truly God Almighty had become one of us. They could see Him, they could touch Him and most of all they could love Him.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we too love You and worship You. Like the shepherds and Mary, we want to treasure Your Word deep within our hearts and allow it to lead us to a life of faith and great friendship with You. Amen.





Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:

Though an Infant now we view Him,  
He shall fill His Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to Him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:

All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One.



# Have some fun!



W	C	Z	D	D	E	R	E	D	N	O	P	A	B
F	D	I	V	A	D	A	Y	A	C	E	R	B	W
P	R	A	I	S	I	N	G	T	G	G	H	I	Z
M	P	R	I	F	J	L	D	O	N	Y	G	I	A
Z	E	C	E	F	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	T	A
T	M	S	H	S	F	T	Y	I	I	U	U	R	F
S	F	V	S	R	H	F	A	Y	T	I	C	E	K
I	M	M	Y	I	I	E	B	E	H	S	K	A	H
R	R	T	S	R	A	S	P	A	D	R	K	S	Y
H	U	C	O	A	I	H	T	H	Q	U	X	U	B
C	V	L	D	J	G	V	C	M	E	P	J	R	B
I	G	E	X	W	J	O	B	O	A	R	G	E	E
G	E	W	X	O	O	X	T	R	Q	S	D	D	Z
T	D	K	E	O	F	R	H	X	S	G	S	S	V



CHRIST  
MESSIAH  
CHRISTMAS  
PONDERED  
CITY  
PRAISING

DAVID  
SAVIOUR  
GLORIFYING  
SHEPHERDS  
JUDEA  
TREASURED



## READING

Isaiah 9:6

DAY 5,  
DECEMBER 28TH

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



## MEDITATION

*"For to us a child is born."*



## REFLECTION

This is one of my favourite scripture verses. I especially like to read it over and over at Christmas time. I encourage you to do the same today. Read it over once, twice or maybe more. As you read it, think about the titles that Jesus is being called in this verse and what they mean to you.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are my Wonderful Counselor, instruct me always. Jesus, You are my Mighty God, protect me always. Jesus, You are my Everlasting Father, care for me always. Jesus, You are my Prince of Peace, give me peace always and give peace to the entire world. Amen. Please help us Lord. Amen.





## Amid the Winter's Snow



See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

Hail thou ever blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies  
He Who built the starry skies;  
He Who, throned in heights sublime  
Sits amid the cherubim.

Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee,  
In Thy sweet humility.





# Have some fun!



Write your favourite title(s) of JESUS or draw images that come to your mind as you reflect on HIS titles.

PS: Sign your work, with lots of love!





## READING

*John 3:16*

DAY 6,  
DECEMBER 29TH

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



## MEDITATION

*"Whoever believes in him (Jesus)...will have eternal life."*



## REFLECTION

Jesus Christ was sent by God into the world to save us from sin and every form of evil – even death. When you believe this, that Jesus came to save you – yes you, because He loves you, you can count on Him to give you His eternal life. This means that here on earth, we can live life to the fullest with Jesus and we have His promise to live with Him forever in heaven.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming down to earth to give me Your life. I reject sin and everything that will ever try to separate me from You. I receive Your life now and forever. Thank You Almighty Father for sending Your Son to save me. Amen.





Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.





# Have some fun!



## BOGGLE

How many words can you find in the puzzle?  
Some are related to Christmas (hint: think  
the story of the wise men), others are not.

C	H	R	I
R	N	E	S
A	Y	M	T
T	S	A	E

### Points

3 letters = 1 point

4 letters = 2 points

5 letters = 4 points

6 letters = 5 points

7 letters = 6 points

8 letters = 8 points

9 letters = 10 points

SCORE!

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_





## READING

Matthew 2:1-4

DAY 7,  
DECEMBER 30TH

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.



## MEDITATION

*"(We) have come to worship him."*



## REFLECTION

To worship means to 'respect', 'esteem', 'adore'. Human beings sometimes respect riches, esteem famous people or adore fashion. But these words are all used wrongly. Since we humans are created in God's image (as the bible tells us in Genesis 1:26), the only person we should worship is GOD alone. So, let us ask God for the grace to be like the wise men who came all the way from a far country to worship Jesus Christ.




## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, please help me to always, respect, esteem and adore You only. May I always worship You like the wise men did. As I worship You, fill my heart with Your goodness, so that nothing else will take Your place in my heart. Amen.





# The Twelve Days of Christmas



On the first day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
A Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the second day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
2 Turtle Doves  
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the third day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
3 French Hens  
2 Turtle Doves  
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fourth day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
4 Calling Birds  
3 French Hens  
2 Turtle Doves  
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fifth day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
5 Golden Rings  
4 Calling Birds  
3 French Hens  
2 Turtle Doves  
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the sixth day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
6 Geese a Laying  
5 Golden Rings  
4 Calling Birds...  
(count down to Partridge)

On the seventh day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
7 Swans a Swimming  
6 Geese a Laying  
5 Golden Rings...

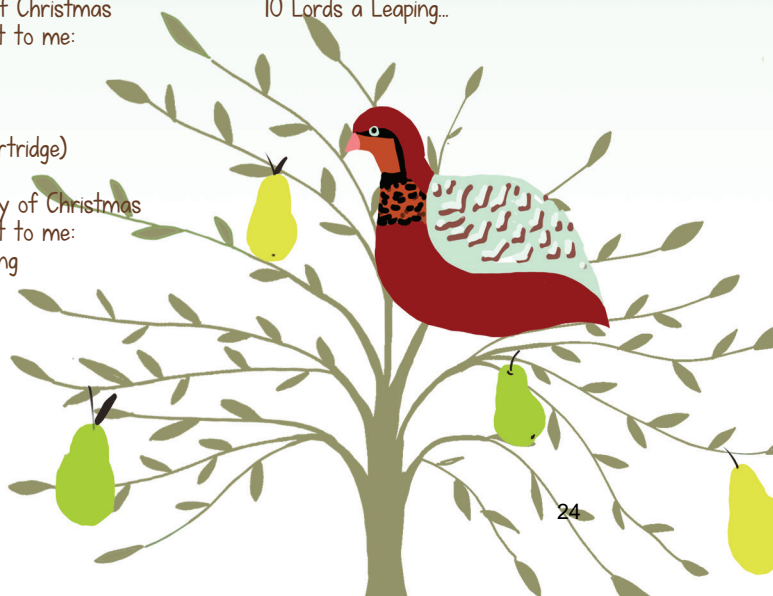
On the eighth day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
8 Maids a Milking  
7 Swans a Swimming  
6 Geese a Laying  
5 Golden Rings

On the ninth day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
9 Ladies Dancing  
8 Maids a Milking  
7 Swans a Swimming...

On the tenth day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
10 Lords a Leaping  
9 Ladies Dancing  
8 Maids a Milking...

On the eleventh day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
11 Pipers Piping  
10 Lords a Leaping  
9 Ladies Dancing...

On the twelfth day of Christmas  
My True Love sent to me:  
12 Drummers Drumming  
11 Pipers Piping  
10 Lords a Leaping...





# Have some fun!

Do you know that the 12 Days of Christmas Carol is packed full of symbolism. Try to crack the true meaning of the carol. Match each of the 12 symbols to their real meanings. (Hint: Each number in the carol is directly linked to the answer.)

True Love

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



The Commandments

Fruits Of The Holy Spirit.

First Books Of The Old Testament

GOD.

The Faithful Apostles

Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

Christ On The Cross

Faith, Hope And Charity

Points In The Apostle's Creed

Old And New Testaments

Beatitudes

The Gospels

Days Of Creation



## READING

*Matthew 2:5-6*

DAY 8,  
DECEMBER 31ST

<sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:  
<sup>6</sup> 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"



## MEDITATION

*"A ruler who will govern my people."*



## REFLECTION

Today the year, draws to an end. If we look back at the year, we will recognise so many times when Jesus has been governing (leading and protecting) us and our loved ones. Throughout the year, Jesus has been loving us and taking care of us. Let us thank God for His love. For His love has blessed us and kept us safe and is gently leading us into another awesome year.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You have been so good to me throughout this year. Thank You for my life and the lives of my loved ones. Help us to stay close to You in the New Year that is coming and bless us always. Amen.





## Royal David's City

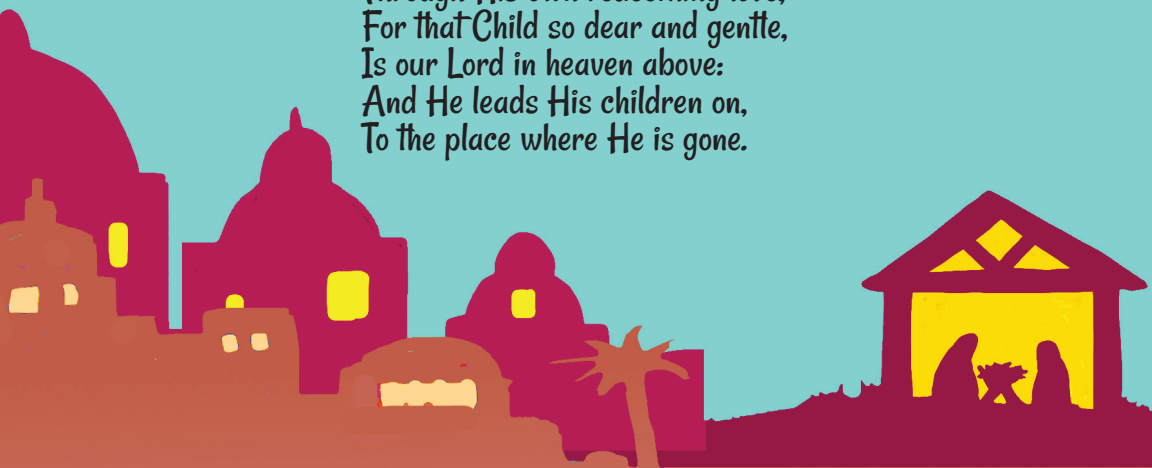


Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby,  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild;  
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and meek and lowly,  
Lived on earth, our Saviour holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern;  
Day by day, like us, He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles, like us He knew:  
And He cares when we are sad,  
And He shares when we are glad.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above:  
And He leads His children on,  
To the place where He is gone.







# Have some fun!

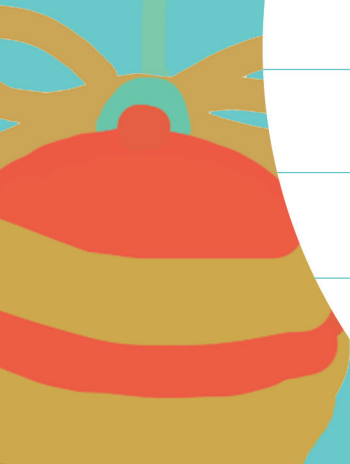


SIMPLY

GIVE

THANKS

WRITE DOWN 10  
THINGS THAT  
HAPPENED THIS  
YEAR FOR  
WHICH YOU ARE  
GRATEFUL.

A large white Christmas ornament with a white bow at the top, featuring horizontal lines for writing.



## READING

*Matthew 2:10-11*

DAY 9,  
JANUARY 1ST

<sup>110</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; <sup>11</sup> and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.



## MEDITATION

*"Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts."*



## REFLECTION

Happy New Year! Today we are celebrating a new beginning. For us who have used this devotional during Christmas, it is a new beginning in Jesus Christ. Let us too open our treasure chests, which is our hearts; and give our gift of love to God. As we begin this New Year, tell the Lord what you want Him to do for you. Most importantly, decide that every day you will speak to God in prayer, and read a portion of the Bible.



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I want to give You my love. No matter how small it may seem, in Your hands, it would be increased. This year, help me to start on a new journey with You and help me to remain close to You in prayer. Amen.





Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare His room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.



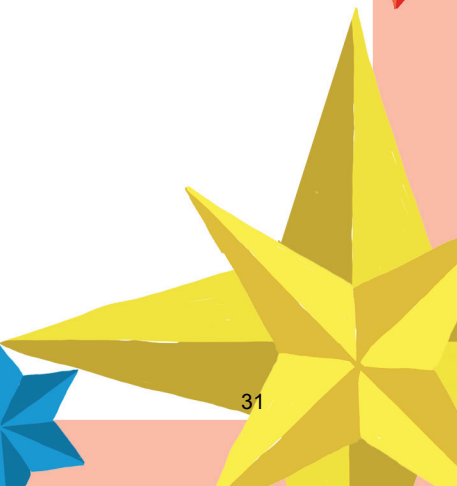
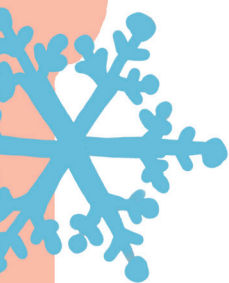
*Have some fun!*



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Write down what you want JESUS to do for you this year.

Make your requests to the Lord simply, humbly and with good intentions. Look back on this list during the year and thank God as He answers.





*I hope you've been richly blessed during this Christmas season, and have come to a deeper experience of Jesus' love for you.*

*Have a beautiful and blessed year ahead in Jesus Christ. Amen!*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*<sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you:*

*<sup>25</sup> The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:*

*<sup>26</sup> The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*





## PSALM 23



### THE DIVINE SHEPHERD

A Psalm of David.

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.





*O come, let us adore Him.*

"For we have  
seen His star in  
the East and  
have come to  
worship Him."  
— Matthew 2:2

