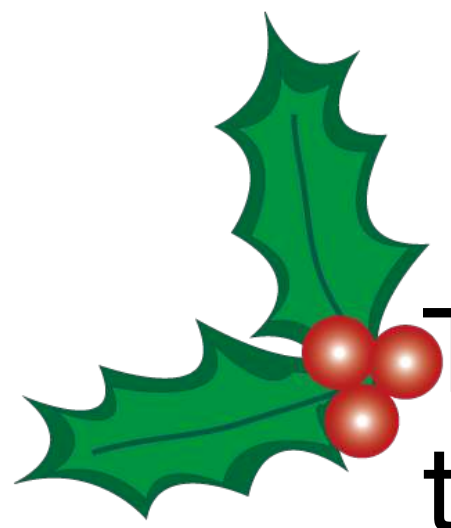


Muddy Church

Jesse Tree ADVENT - ure

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
Isaiah 11:1





The Jesse Tree's were originally designed as a pictorial story for illiterate people to be able to see the biblical narrative for the Christmas story. It doesn't just tell us again those familiar tales but brings together all the bible to remind us that God has a plan, is interested in the beginning, middle and end and it invites us to think where we are in this story.

Jesse Tree's were often carvings or tapestries or even stained glass windows and if you are wanting a nice little advent display this probably isn't for you. The idea is to journey through the bible towards Christmas with items and reminders from the world around us. So you will need a branch or stick but also a space, box or basket to put the items that are part of our adventure.

A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings and we hope as you join with us through this advent you will discover new things about God, yourself and the world.

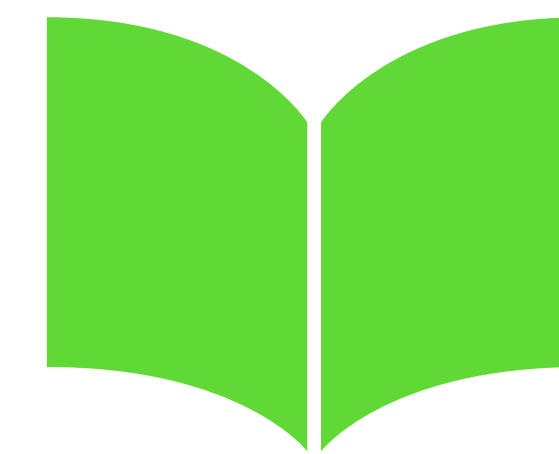


Day?: Theme

The days are numbered with a theme. Don't worry if you miss a day or two, each day works on its own.

There is a little thought or explanation about today but not very much. This is your adventure to hear and notice what God is saying to you from the story.

HOW TO...



Genesis - Chapter 1
Creation

The story or bible passage is in the corner each day. This isn't printed so you can use whatever version is best for you - children's bible, storybook, KJV

Each day has a number of different options for you to do as part of the story, response or reflection. It is totally up to you if you do any, one or all of them or not - this is your adventure!



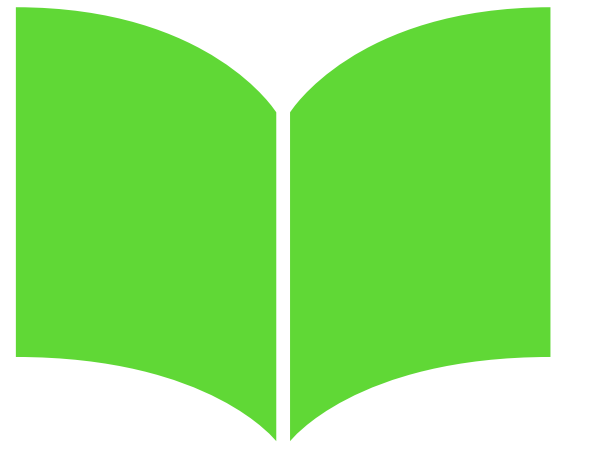
Day 1: In the beginning




Can you find a branch or stick that you can use as part of your Jesse Tree or is there a plant or tree that you can use?

I wonder what the story of the stick is, how did it get broken?

I wonder where we are in the story of creation, where do we fit in the world, how where we in this place at this time?



Genesis - Chapter 1
Creation




.....

Can you go for a walk or wander outside and find a stick that you can use for your Jesse Tree?

**M
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WONDER



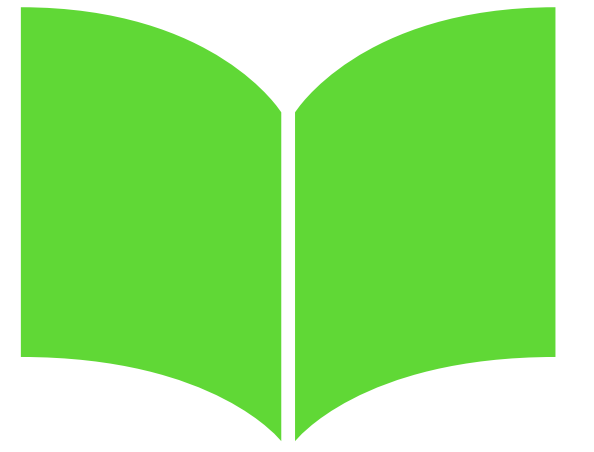
Which is your favourite day of creation and why?



CHALLENGE
CAN YOU FIND?

 Light	 Insect	 Star
 Plants	 Water	 Feather
	 Sky	

Day 2: Walking Together



Genesis - Chapter 3:1-8
Walking with God



People need others - sometimes they are part of our family and other times they are friends or neighbours. But God saw that people needed each other and we need God. God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden, God came near.

Can you walk with someone else today?

I wonder if you will see other people and how you could bring joy to them today?



CHALLENGE



Can you find an odd sock to add to your tree?



LISTEN

Can you hear noises from anyone else?

Can you hear noises from yourself?



Hug picture - draw around yourself with your arms stretched wide.

Cut out the shape

Colour in or add your face

MAKE

Day 3 : Consequences



Has anyone ever taken the blame for you?

Doing the wrong thing can make us or others feel sad and we may need to say sorry.

Take a moment to think of anything that you need to say sorry for and breathe it out in a deep breath, can you see or feel it floating away?

Can you find something that is broken but still useful?



Genesis - Chapter 3:10-19
The Fall



Can you stomp and stomp your feet as you go for a walk?



M
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WONDER



Can you find some fruit like an apple or orange. How many seeds are in there? I wonder how many more things could grow from this one?

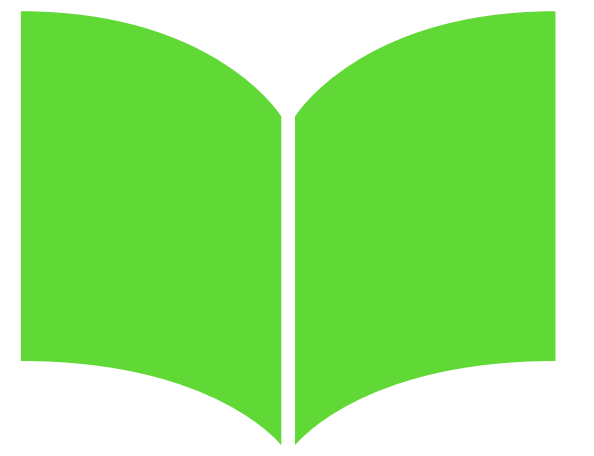


MAKE
A SNAKE

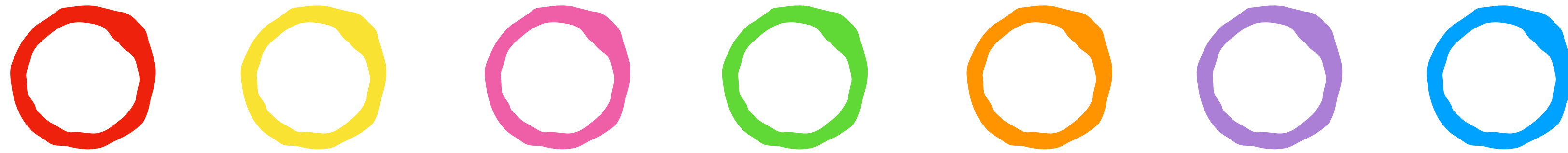
Can you find something that looks like a snake? Maybe some leaves fastened together or a bendy twig. Tie some cotton onto the end of this and see if you can make it slither.

Add this to your tree.

Day 4 : Promises



Noah
Genesis 6-9:17



Can you see the colours of the rainbow anywhere?

God used rain, animals, birds, branches and a rainbow to share in this miracle. All the things of nature brought together to bring about something new and better - a greater promise.

God with Us.

Add the rainbow you make or some cotton, wool or ribbon in different colours to your tree.



MAKE

Take a rectangle of kitchen roll or tissue and draw blocks of colour at each end.

Add some water to two pots and then dip the coloured ends of the tissue into this.

Watch the rainbow grow!

CHALLENGE

Can you find something from each colour and tick the circle above?



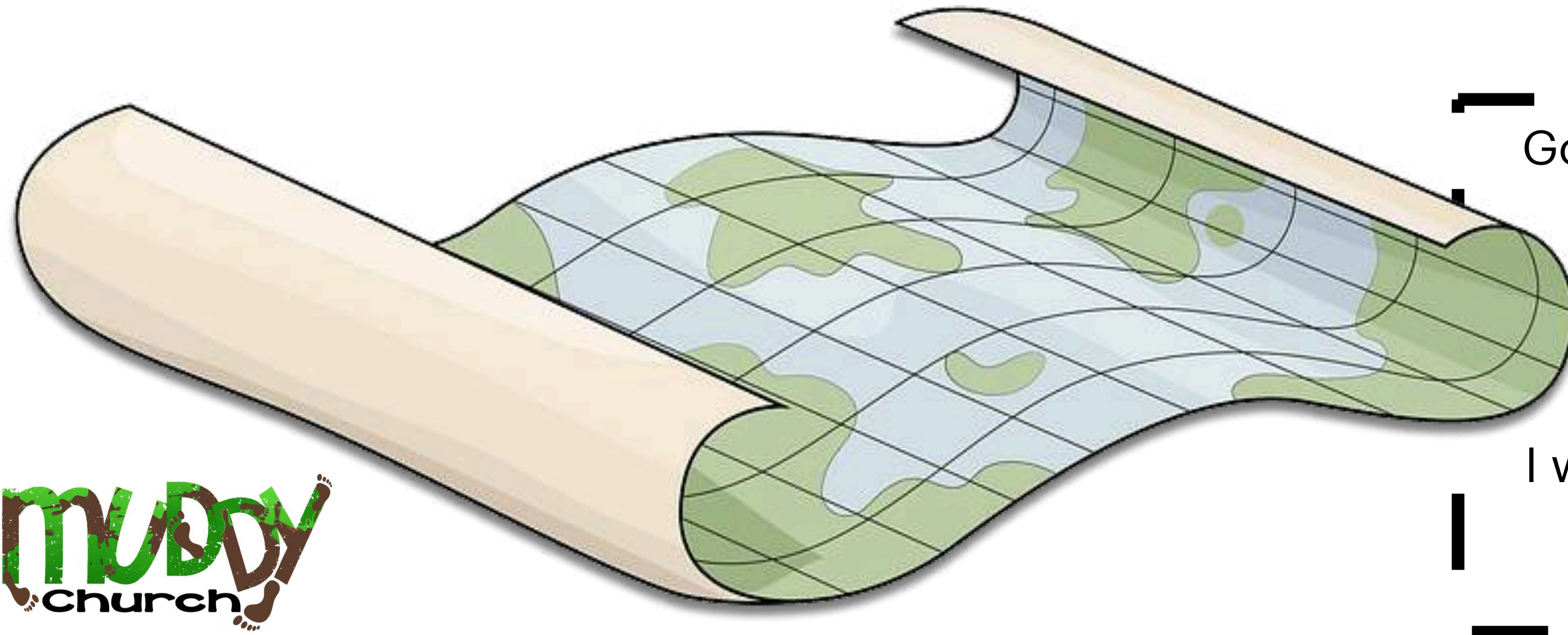
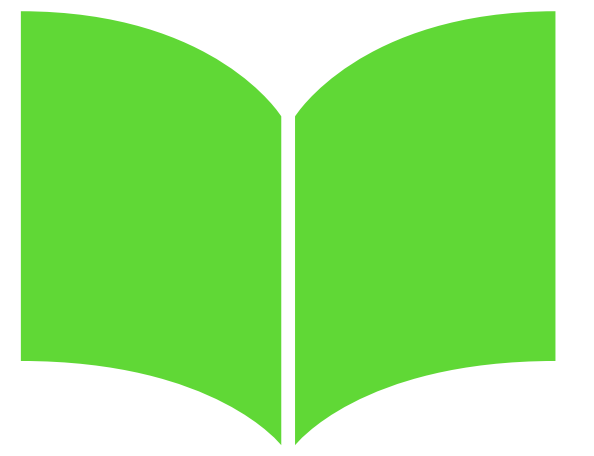
WONDER



I wonder if you see God in any of the colours?

Day 5 : Adventure

Abraham
Genesis 12:1-3



God told Abraham to leave somewhere and go on an adventure and promised to be with him.

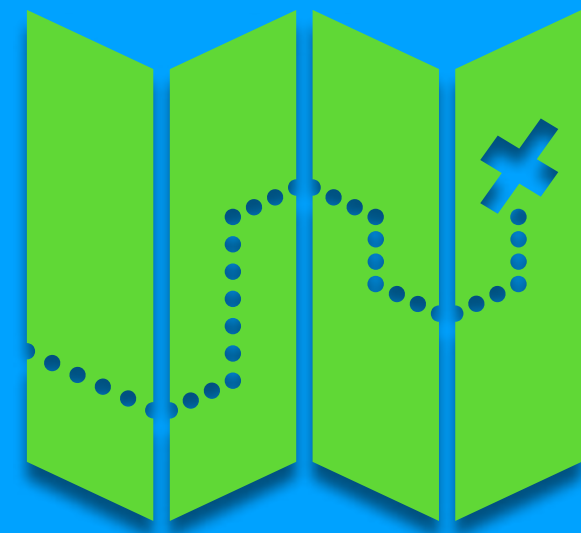
Is there a new path that you can take today?

I wonder if you made a map for an adventure if there would be places you knew God was with you?



**M
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V
E**

Can you go for a walk and see if you can find a new way or path. Add something from your walk to your tree.



MAKE

Can you make a treasure map for someone?

Lay still on the ground and imagine you are on a flying carpet. Where will you go and what will you see?

Imagine



Day 6 : Help!



Abraham & Isaac
Genesis 22:1-18

**I wonder if you have ever been rescued?
I wonder if you have been given something
just as you needed it?**

Abraham's actions remind us how great a cost it was for God to send Jesus to earth.

Can you find some wool that you can wrap around your tree?



MAKE

SHEEP MARSHMALLOW BISCUITS

Take a plain round biscuit

Add some mini marshmallows onto it
(you can use melted chocolate or icing as a glue)

Add chocolate buttons or edible eyes



.....

M

O

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E

Can you find anything
hidden in any bushes,
tress or hedgerows?

WONDER



I wonder how
God might want
to help you?

Day 7 : Heaven is Near

God came near to Jacob,
whispering a promise and showing
him wonders.

I wonder if you have ever heard or
seen God?

When Jacob woke up he knew that
God was near him, can you find a
stone to place by your tree?

WONDER



I wonder if there
are places that
you sense God is?



Jacobs Ladder
Genesis 29:10-19



CHALLENGE

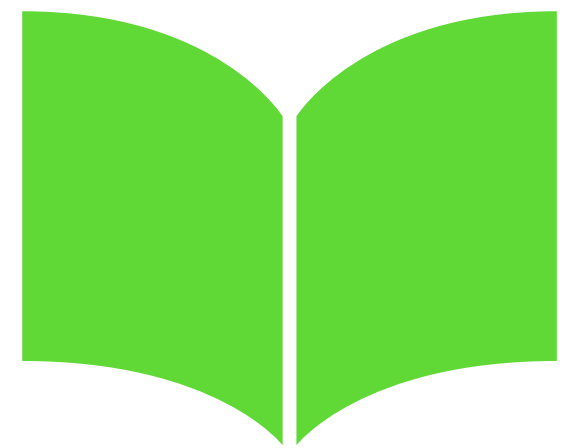


Can anyone make the
Jacob's Ladder from
string?

[https://www.wikihow.com/
Make-Jacob%27s-Ladder-
out-of-String](https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Jacob%27s-Ladder-out-of-String)



Day 8: Remarkable Colours



Genesis - Chapter 37:23-28 & 45:3-15



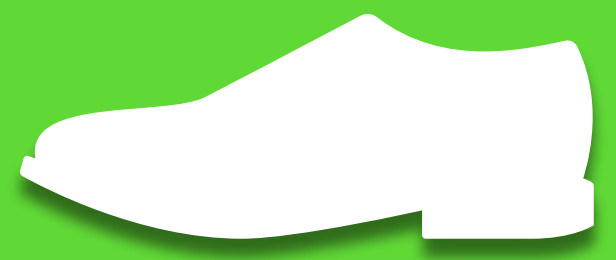
Can you find a coin to add to your tree?



I wonder if you have ever lost or had something special taken from you? A gift, an item that is special to you or something that says who you are?

I wonder if Joseph felt God near as he was alone in that dark place?

I wonder how Joseph was able to find the good, to forgive those who sold him and to help them?



**M
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On a walk or around where you are can you find dark places?

WONDER



Can you hold a coin in your hand - how does it feel?
I wonder what the cost of forgiveness is?

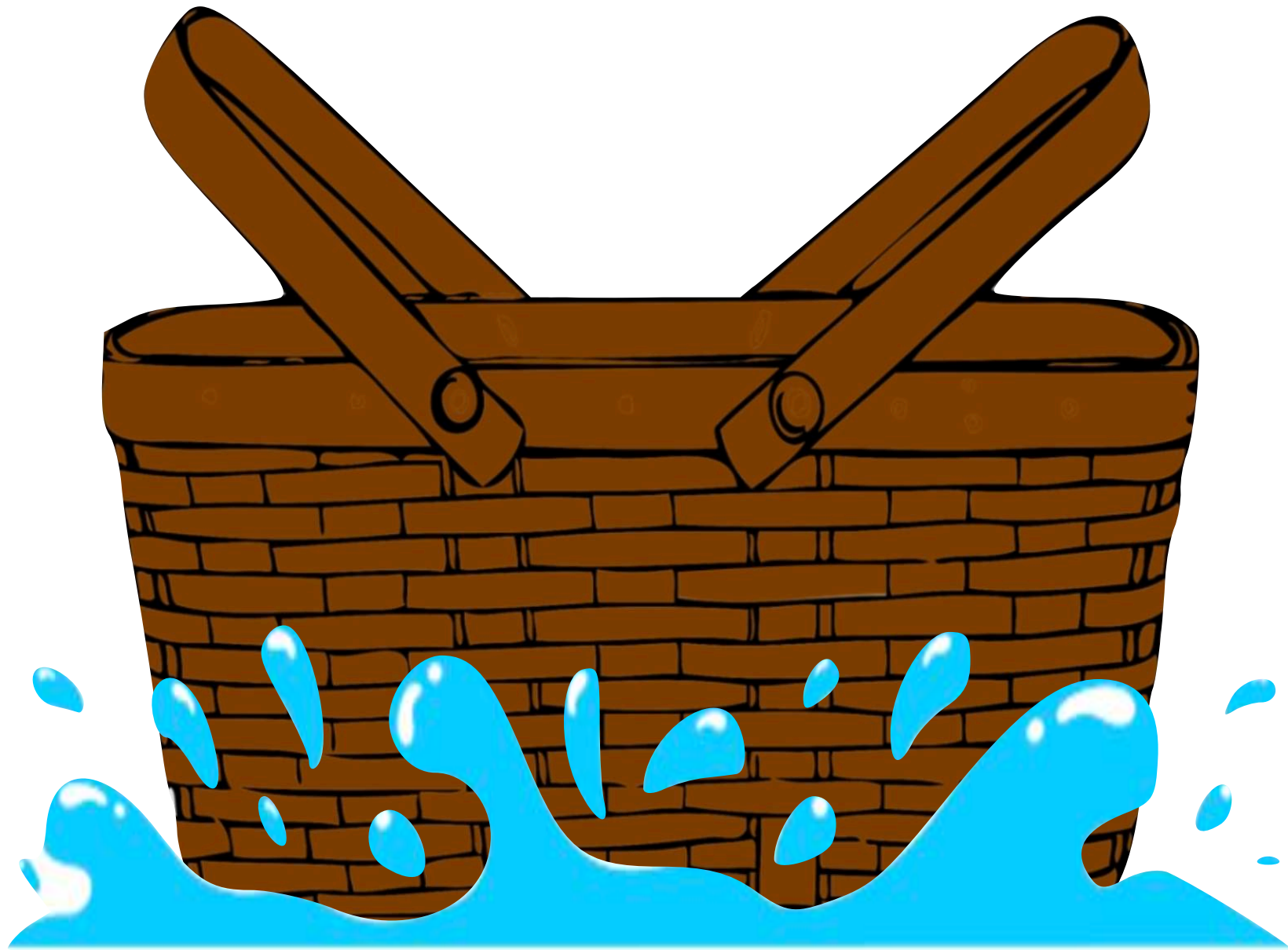


CHALLENGE

CAN YOU FIND?

- Something that holds water
- Something that has lots of colours
- Something that is alone
- Something that is surrounded

Day 9: Floating

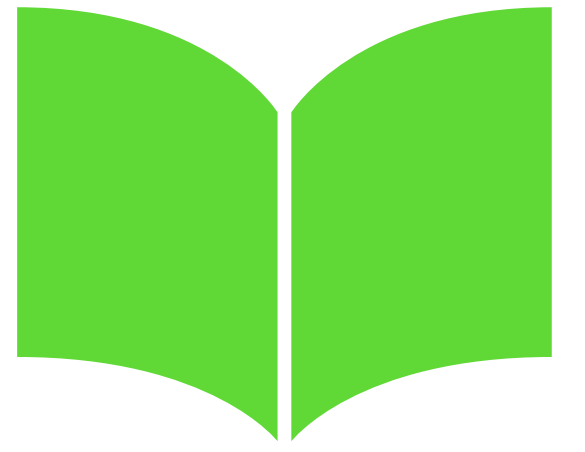


A story of a helpless child, who through years and adventures would lead many people to freedom and a new home.

The story of Moses shows us a helpless baby, a mother with so much love she would do anything and the kindness of a stranger.

As this baby was placed in the basket and left to float down the river no-one would have imagined that this would be his pathway to growing up as royalty.

God can do the most amazing things!



Exodus 2:1-10
Saved by a Princess



CHALLENGE



Can you find or make a boat to add to your tree?



Can you find some water?

LISTEN

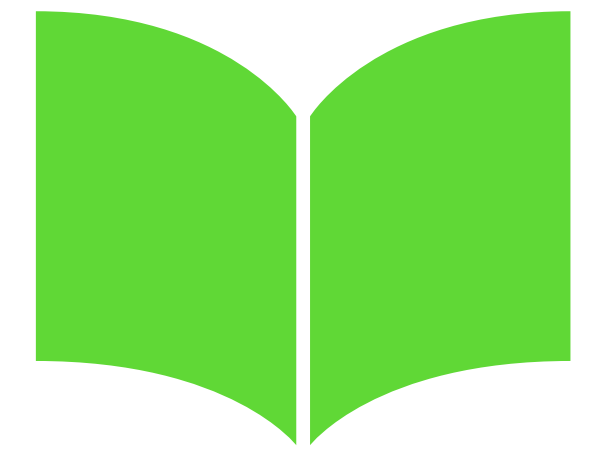
Stir it, splish it and splash it and listen to the sounds

CAN YOU FOLD SOME PAPER TO MAKE A BOAT THAT WILL FLOAT FOR AT LEAST A MINUTE?



MAKE

Day 10 : Called

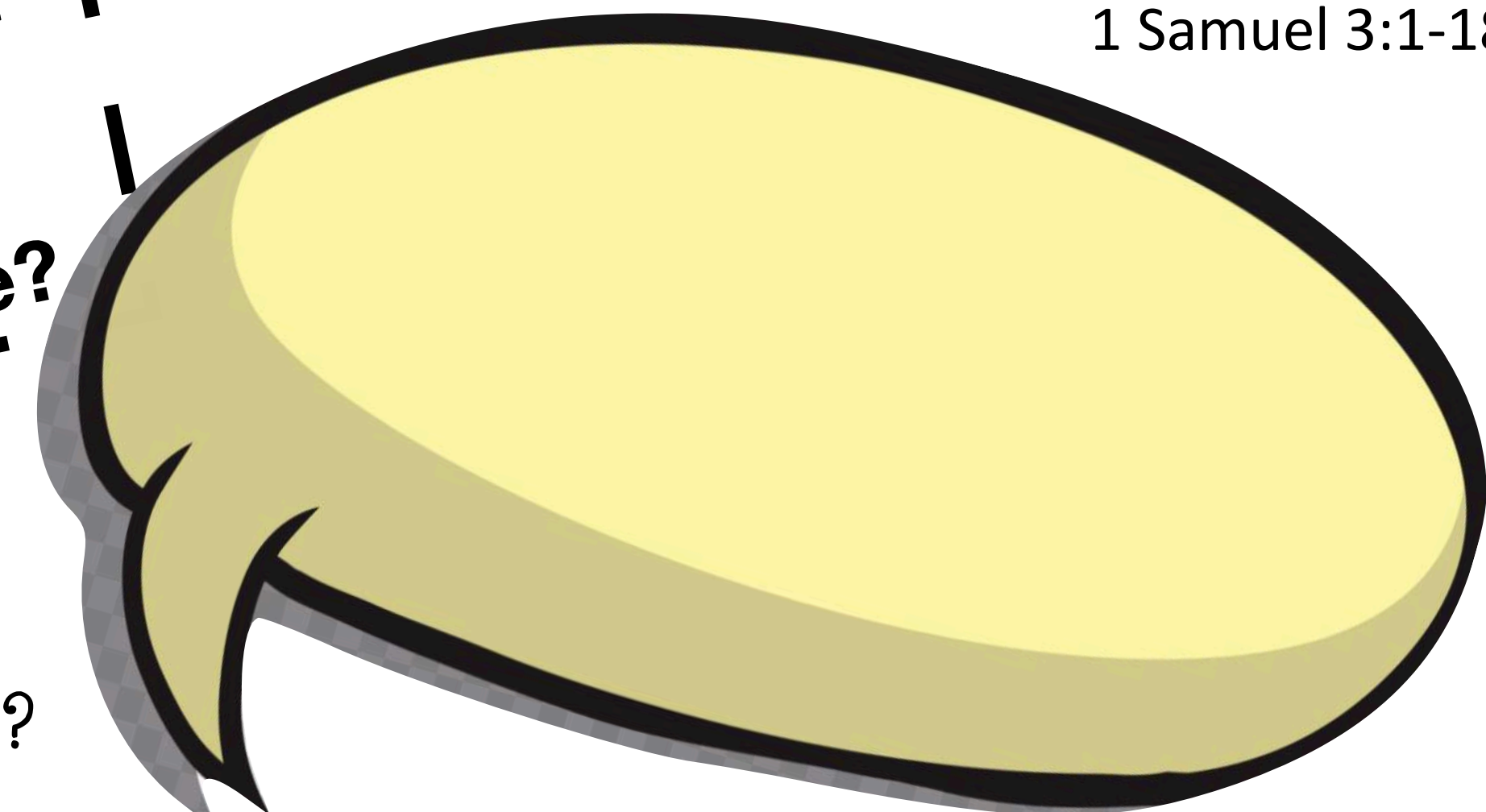


Samuel
1 Samuel 3:1-18

Have you ever heard someone calling and gone running towards them? I wonder if you were excited, worried, anticipating or surprised?

God called out to Samuel when he was a little boy, age didn't make a difference to the plans God had. It still doesn't!

I wonder how you would react to God calling your name?



Can you add a word to your tree?



As you go for a wander listen to the sounds around you - what can you hear?

M
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WONDER



I wonder if you can hear God around you?

I wonder what language God speaks?

I wonder if God has an accent?



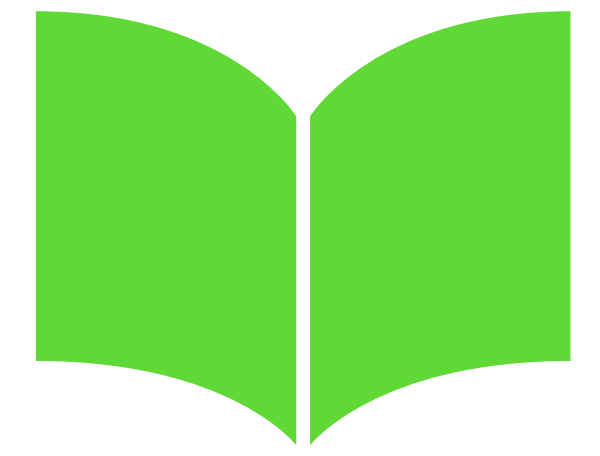
MAKE

A LANTERN

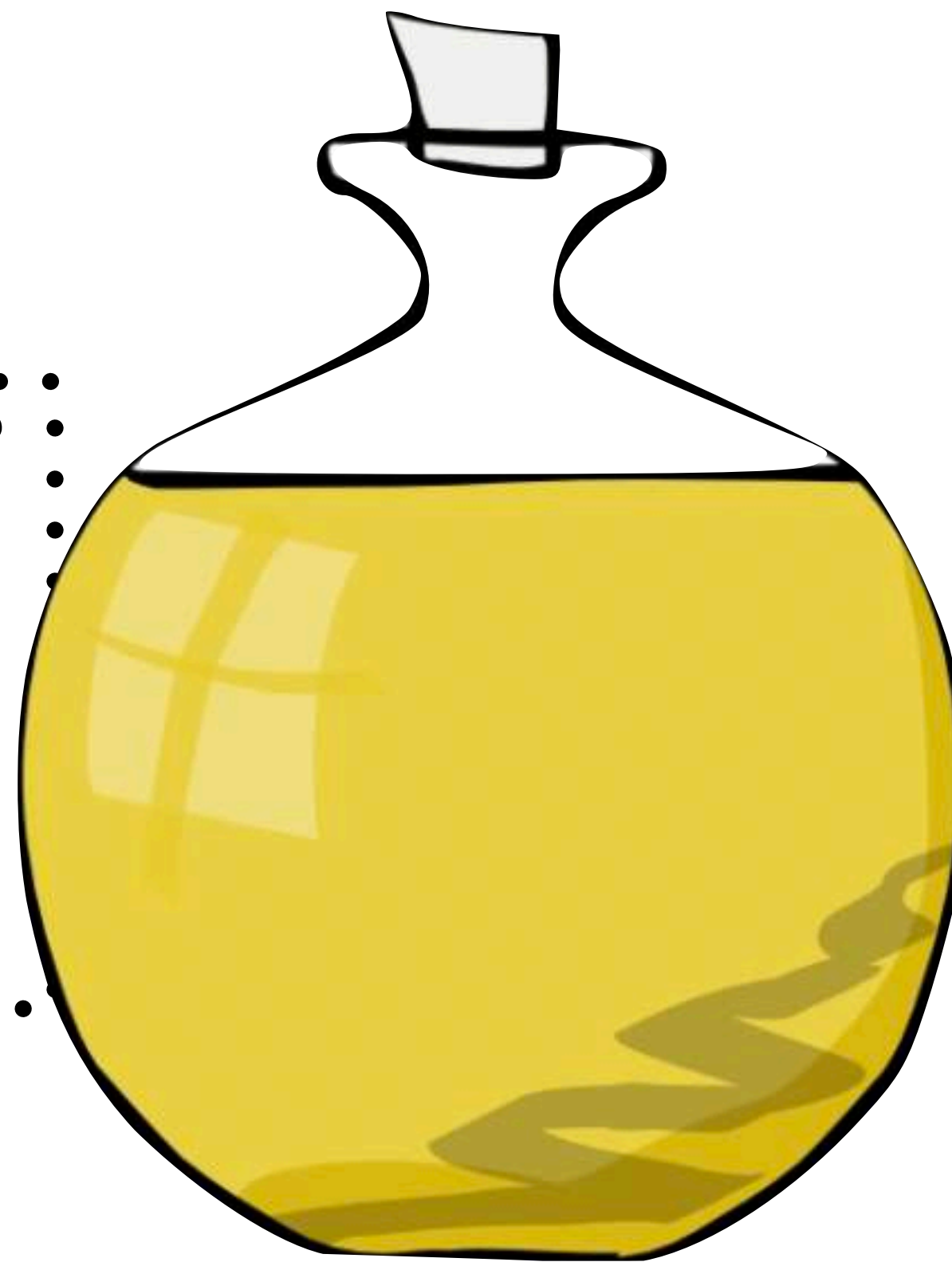
The lamp in the temple was still alight. Could you make a lantern jar and light it as you think about God.

You could take a jar from the recycle and colour the outside or add paper to the outside.

Day 11 : Looking In



Jesse
1 Samuel 16:1-13



-
- I wonder what might be amazing about you? •
-
- I wonder if you see people and notice something special?
-
-
- I wonder as you look around you notice the everyday but can see it as amazing?
-
-

Samuel had an important choice to make, he took time to listen to make sure he made the right one. I wonder what helps you to make choices?



MAKE

You are really special!
You can trace and cut around your hand, or add from other people to make a Christmas tree decoration. This would be great to look at each year and see how the hands have grown or changed!

CHALLENGE

Can you find something you use everyday but actually is special?



WONDER

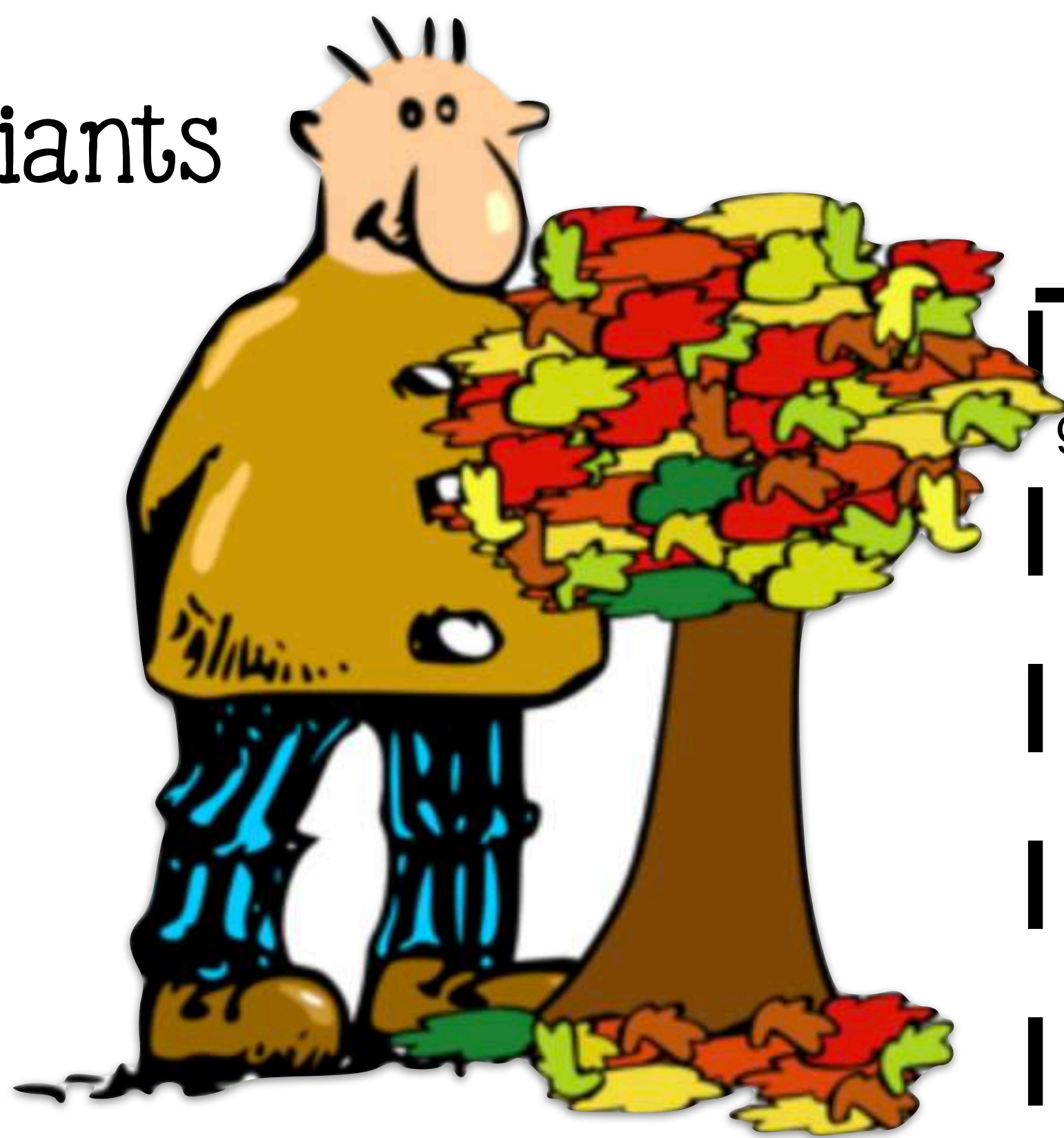
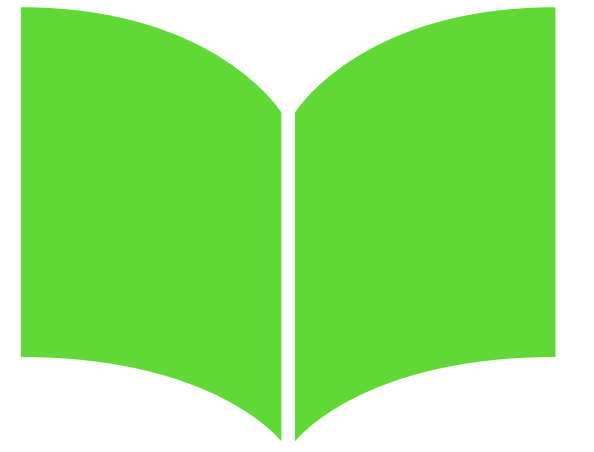


I wonder what things God finds special?

Day 12 : Giants

David

1 Sam. 17:12-51




Can you make a little shepherd bag to add to your tree?

Imagine standing in front of a huge, shouting, angry giant. David's brothers were annoyed by him being there but he didn't care about other people's opinions.

I wonder if at any point Goliath was worried about what David could do?

David had confidence because of the challenges he had faced when he was watching the sheep. I wonder if you are able to face some things because of what has happened before?





Can you go for a walk and see what giant things you can see?


**M
O
V
E**



MAKE

These giant sun catcher Christmas lights are fun - use contact paper with some tissue paper or normal paper coloured with felt tips and wash over with some oil to make it transparent. You could even find some sweet wrappers to make the colour!

Find a space and think about anything that is worrying you, scaring you or has been bothering you. Imagine it as that giant in front of you - what can you tell it, what would you say? Can you use David's words at that thing?

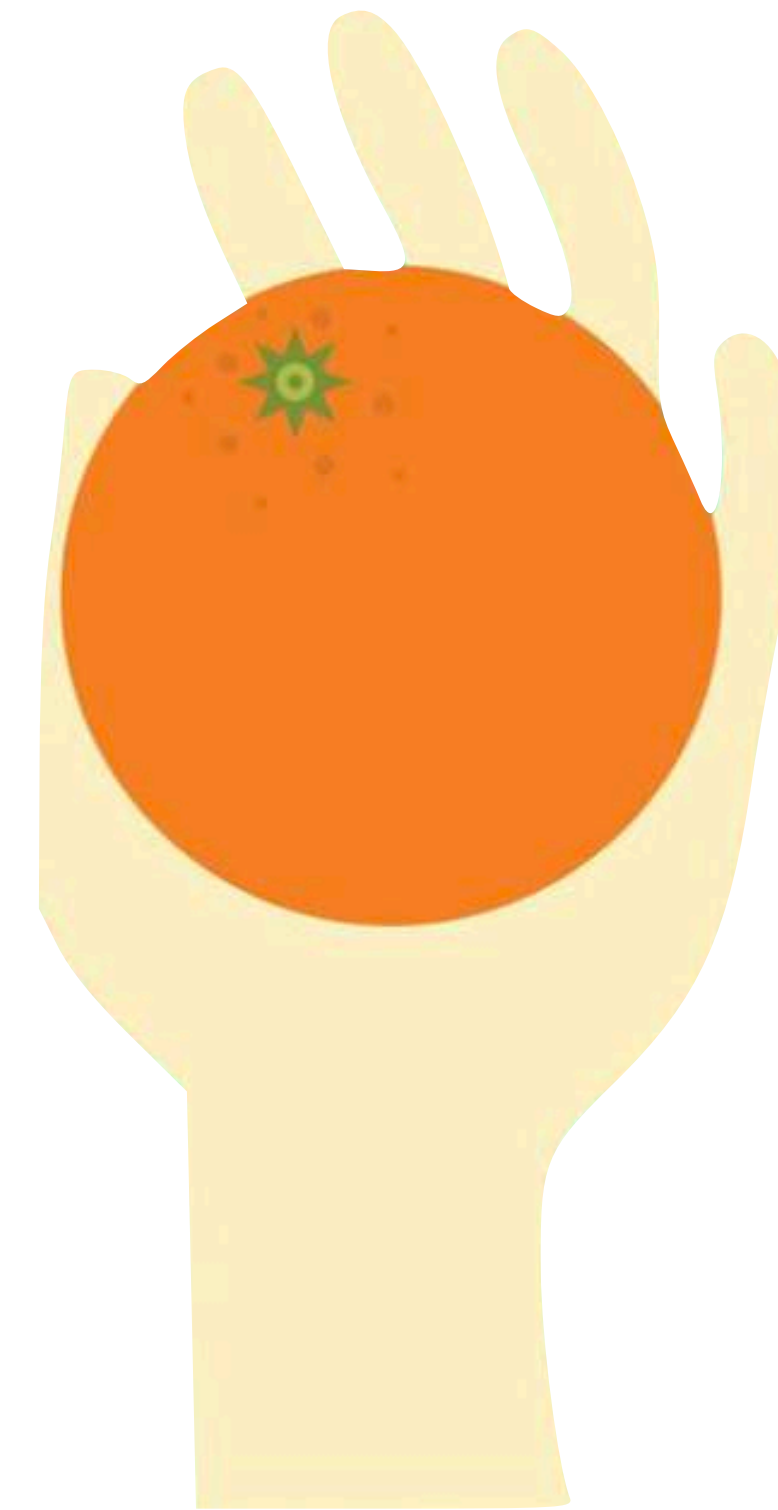
Imagine 

Day 13 : Wise Choices

If God offered you anything I wonder what you would choose?

As a young boy Solomon had so many things that he could have asked for but he thought about the life ahead of him and how he could make the most of it. Solomon didn't ask for riches or the best toys but knew a deeper value.

I wonder what might be on your want list?



Solomon
1 Kings 3:5-14

Can you find something shiny or sparkly like a treasure to add to your tree?



MAKE



Can you make a treasure chest from a box? Think about what you will put in it. Maybe everyone can put in something they are grateful for and open it on Christmas Eve.



Can you spot some things in nature that are really clever?

M
O
V
E

WONDER



I wonder what you might ask God for?



Day 14 : Sleeping Lions



Daniel
Daniel 6: 10-23

God came near Daniel - as he entered a pit full of hungry lions he trusted God. In danger and in fear God is still near to us.

Daniel didn't fear other people or what they might say. He didn't worry about looking different. He put God first because he knew God had a bigger plan.

Can you find anything like a lion to add to your tree?

WONDER



I wonder if there are things you worship?



.....

As you go for a wander can you see things bowing down and can you notice anything worshipping?

M
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V
E

CHALLENGE



Can you play sleeping lions?
Find a space and lie as still as possible, breathe deeply and calmly and see how long you can last.

Day 15 : Names



Isaiah
Isaiah 9: 2-7

Wow! What a lot of names and descriptions for this person that Isaiah tells us about. But also what a lot of things He is going to do.

God came near to Isaiah and whispered this promise of what he was going to do... who was going to come. It wouldn't be the next day, month or even year but God hadn't finished His story yet....



G	
H	
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WONDER



I wonder what your name means or what words God would use to describe you?

CHALLENGE

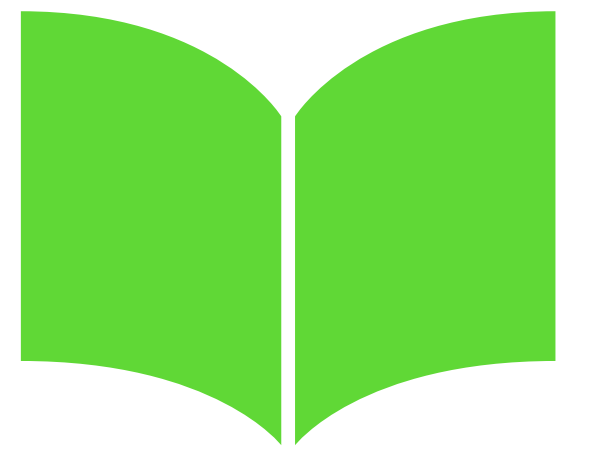


Can you use the letters opposite and think of words you might use for God starting with each letter?

Day 16: So Quiet



Can you find a feather to add to your tree?



Zechariah & Elizabeth
Luke 1:5-25

Zechariah had been serving God in the temple for many years, he loved God and he loved his wife. This day God came near. It all seemed impossible, so crazy but he couldn't even tell people. His wife was too old. He was too old. All those years they had hoped and prayed and now.... God doesn't always answer us straight away or in the way we hope - I wonder where God might speak to you today?



**M
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V
E**

Can you go for a walk and find silence?

WONDER



I wonder what things you are waiting for?



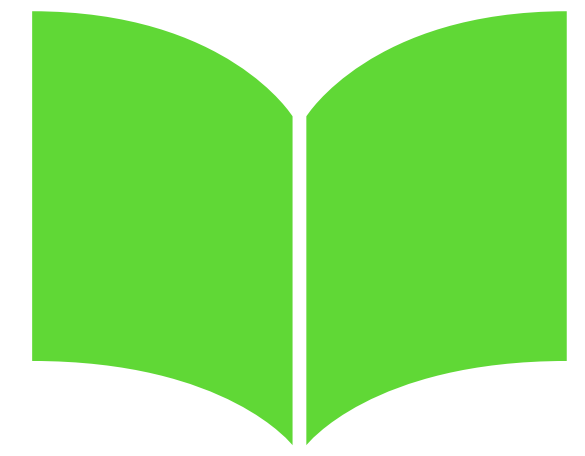
CHALLENGE

CAN YOU FIND?

Can you be quiet for five minutes... 5 minutes?!
Zechariah had to wait 5 months to speak – imagine that!

Day 17: Coming Soon

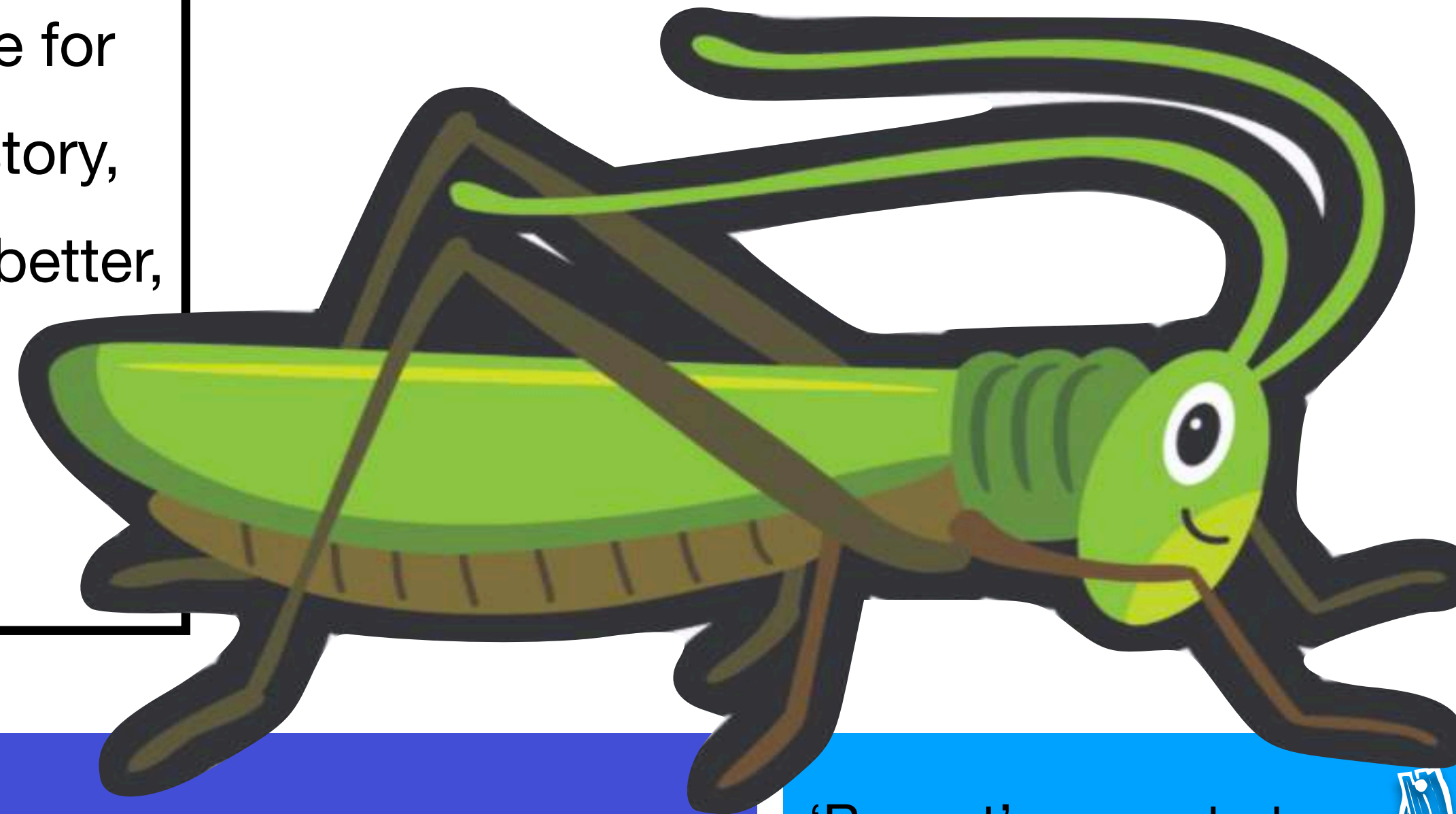
Matthew 3:1-11
John the Baptist



The baby that Zechariah & Elizabeth had prayed for was born and grew into this young man who lived his life for God. John lived his life telling people about God's story, inviting them into it but sharing that there was more, better, someone fantastic that was coming soon.

God was near....

*Can you find a shell
or some water in a
container to your
tree?*



CHALLENGE CAN YOU FIND



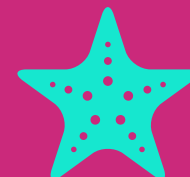
Water

Footprint



Honey

Shell



An insect



Sand

Can you hear things
near to you?



LISTEN

Can you hear things
far away?

'Repent' means to turn
around from the things
we have done wrong.

MAKE

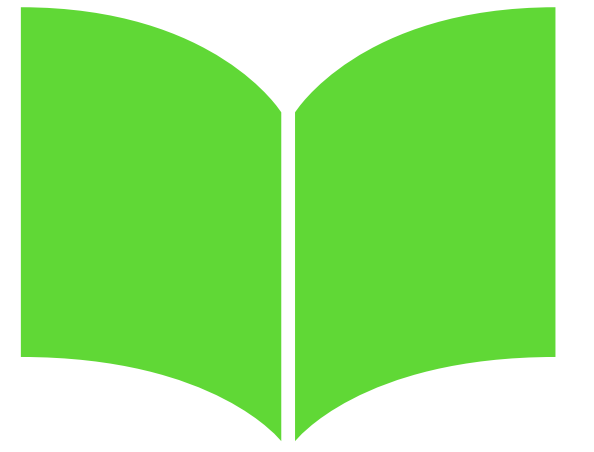
Make a whirly spinner

- Get a circle of paper or card
- Colour & add patterns
- Thread string through 2 holes in the middle.



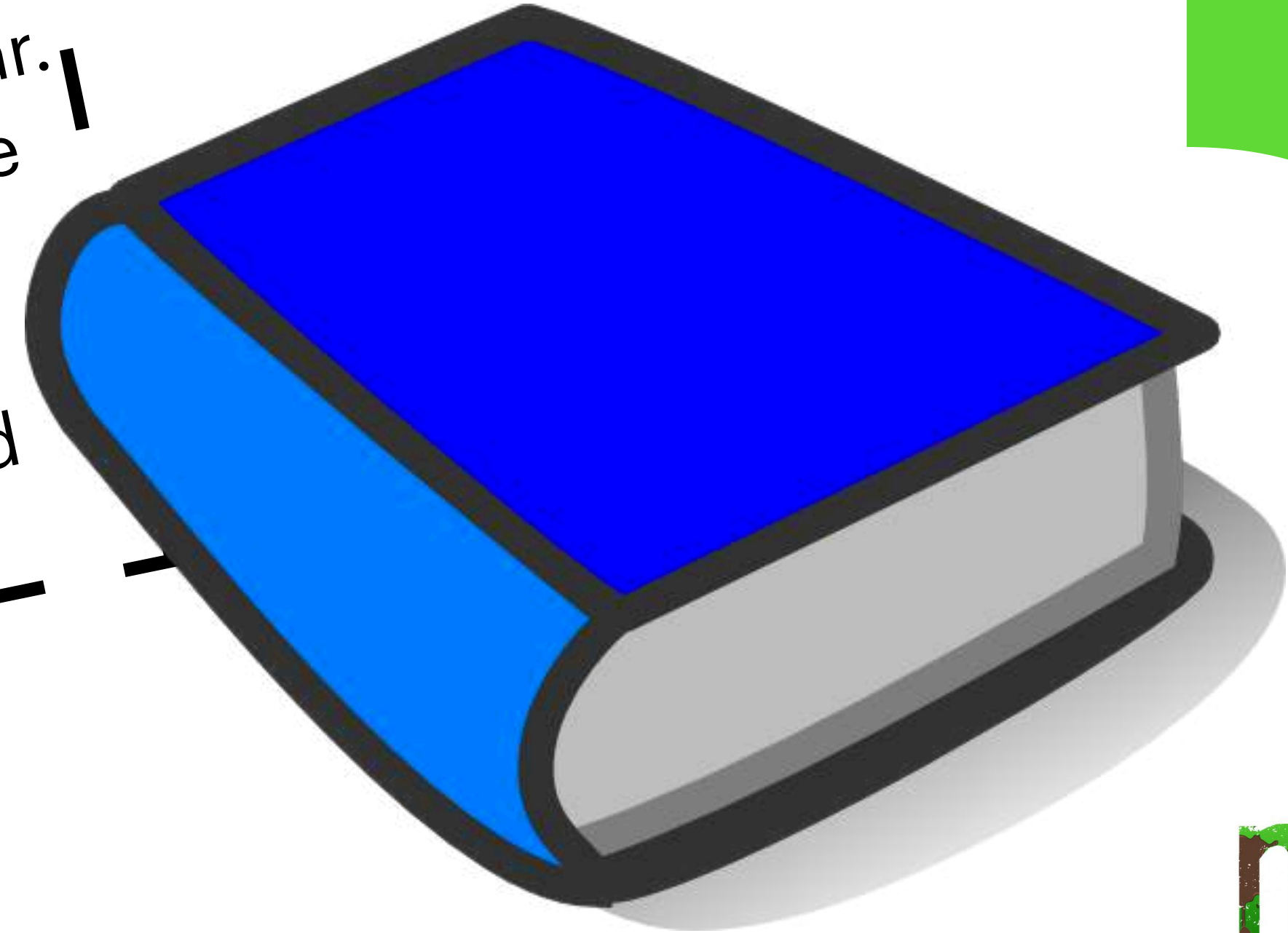
Twist the string, pull it and watch the amazing
pattern that happens when it turns around.

Day 18: In the Everyday



Mary
Luke 1:26-38

Mary was just doing her everyday thing and God came near.
With a message from an angel that would change her life
and all of history.
God's story was continuing through a young girl, God
invites everyone into the story.



Can you add something blue to your tree?



M
O
V
E

Can you notice things
on a wander that are
busy with the every
day tasks?

Can you collect some leaves
for the Make?

WONDER



I wonder how Mary
changed from fear, to
question, to willing?

I wonder what God
might be inviting you
to do today?



MAKE
CHRISTMAS LEAVES

Can you collect some leaves and a twig?

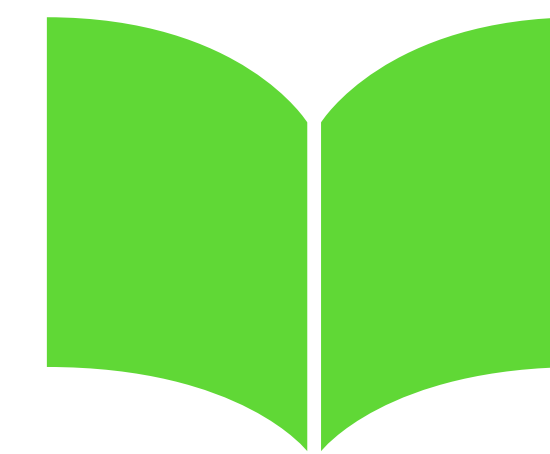
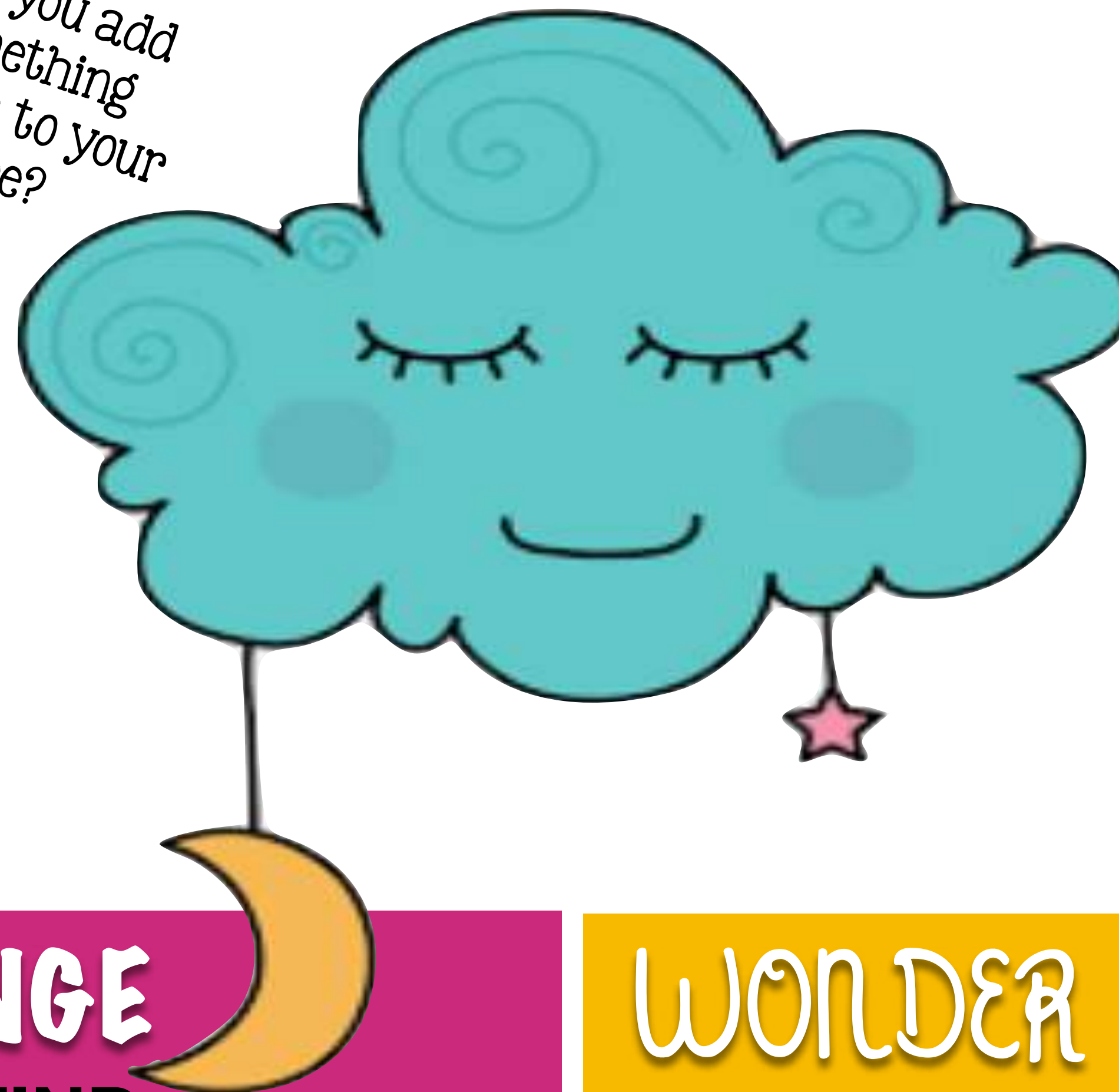
Cut the leaves into shapes gradually
getting smaller.

Hole punch the centre and thread them
onto your twig.
At the top add a star and some string to
hang your decoration.

Day 19 : Dream again

-
- Way back on day 8 we met another Joseph who had a dream - that he would rule, that others would bow down to him.
- Hundreds of years later we meet this Joseph - the same name but a very different dream. This dream was not about him, a carpenter from a little town but about the child that would be born - God's son.
-
- God came near to Joseph in a dream that would change the world.
-

Can you add something wooden to your tree?



Joseph
Matthew 1:18-25



MAKE





A Christmas Stick Frame

Tie some sticks together at four corners to make the frame and then add a picture or photograph.

Add some ribbon to hang it or give as a gift.

CHALLENGE

CAN YOU FIND

-  Something asleep
-  Something changing
-  Something helping
-  Something stuck to something



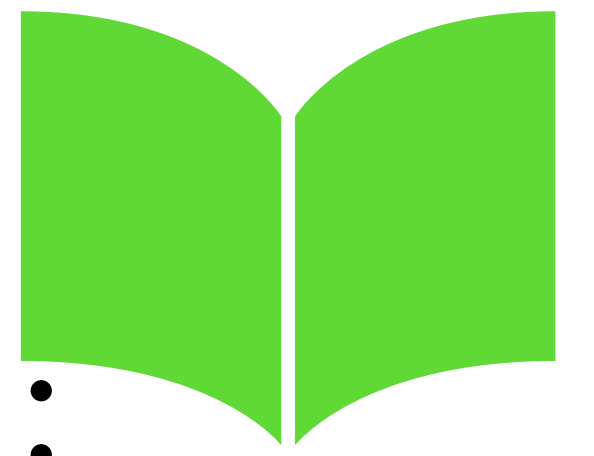
WONDER

I wonder if you have ever changed your plans?



Day 20 : Great News

Can you make an angel for your tree?



Angel
Luke 2:9-14

- Through all of God's story He has given angels the job of sharing news, messages and announcements. God also uses people, animals, things such as the weather. God's message can be shared by anyone - including you.
- I wonder what is the most exciting news about God that you could share and how you would tell others?



M
O
V
E

Can you spot things that might be like God's glory? Can you see huge crowds of anything?



MAKE

Can you find some items on your walk to make an angel for the tree? Pinecones, acorns, leaves, twigs.... I wonder what else you could use? You could add some paint or earth friendly glitter for some extra sparkle.

Find a still space and close your eyes. Try to imagine what it was like for the angels to suddenly appear. The noise, the light....

Breathe in and out as you think about how it would feel.

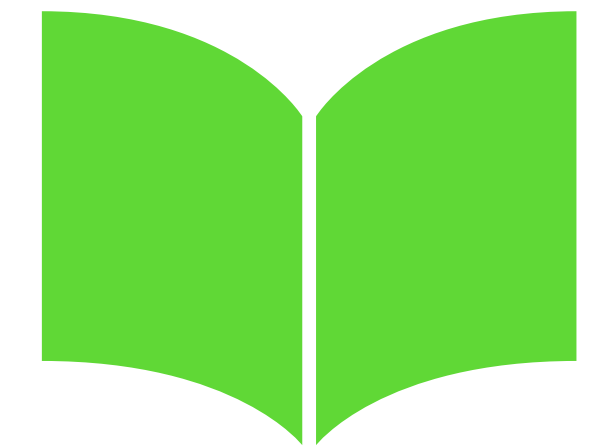
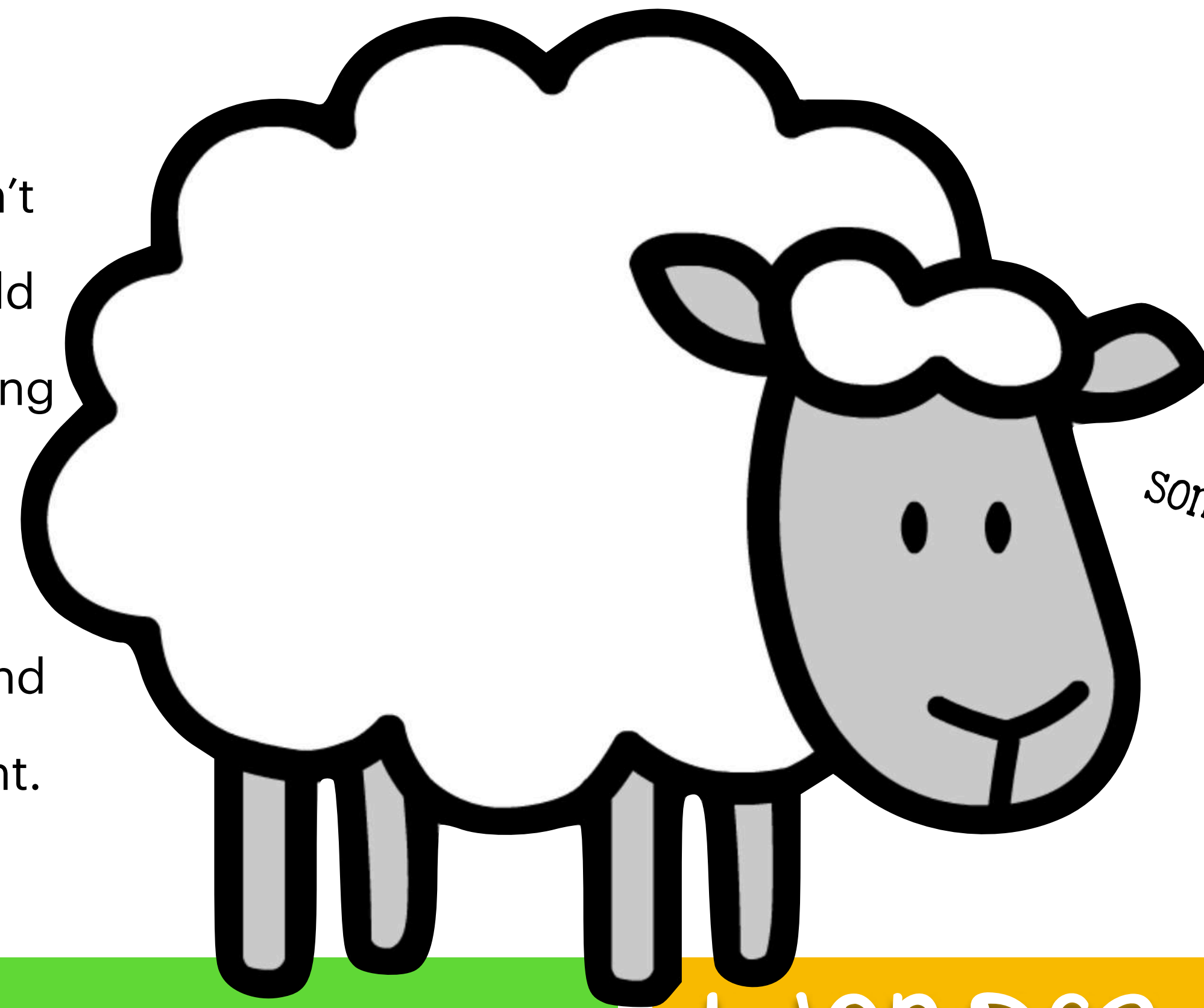
Imagine



Day 21: The things we see

They were used to watching for bears and wolves but weren't expecting to see God come near. Those angels couldn't hold back the excitement with messages, songs, shouts and sharing the news of where to find God.... as a baby.

The shepherds couldn't wait to go and come close to God and then had to tell everyone they met about this incredible night.



Shepherds
Luke 2:8-12, 2:15-19

Can you find something like a sheep to add?



MAKE



Can you find some wool (to remind you of the shepherds) and wrap it around 4 fingers. Ease it off your fingers and tie ribbon or cotton about 2cm from the top (pull this tight) Cut the loop at the bottom of the wool to make your angel.



.....

M O V E

When you move fast do things look differently than if you move slowly?
Change the pace during your wander and see if it alters what and how you see things.

WONDER

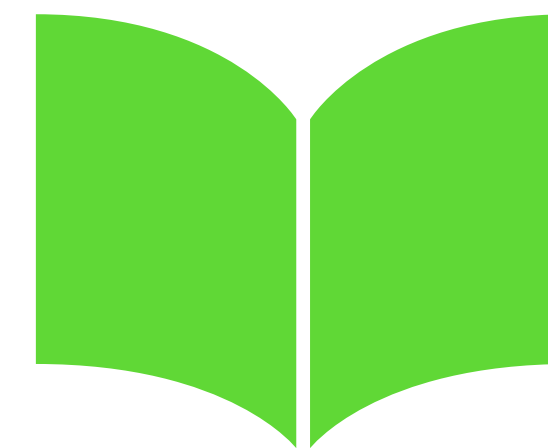


I wonder why they told everybody what they had found?

Day 22 : Right time, Right place

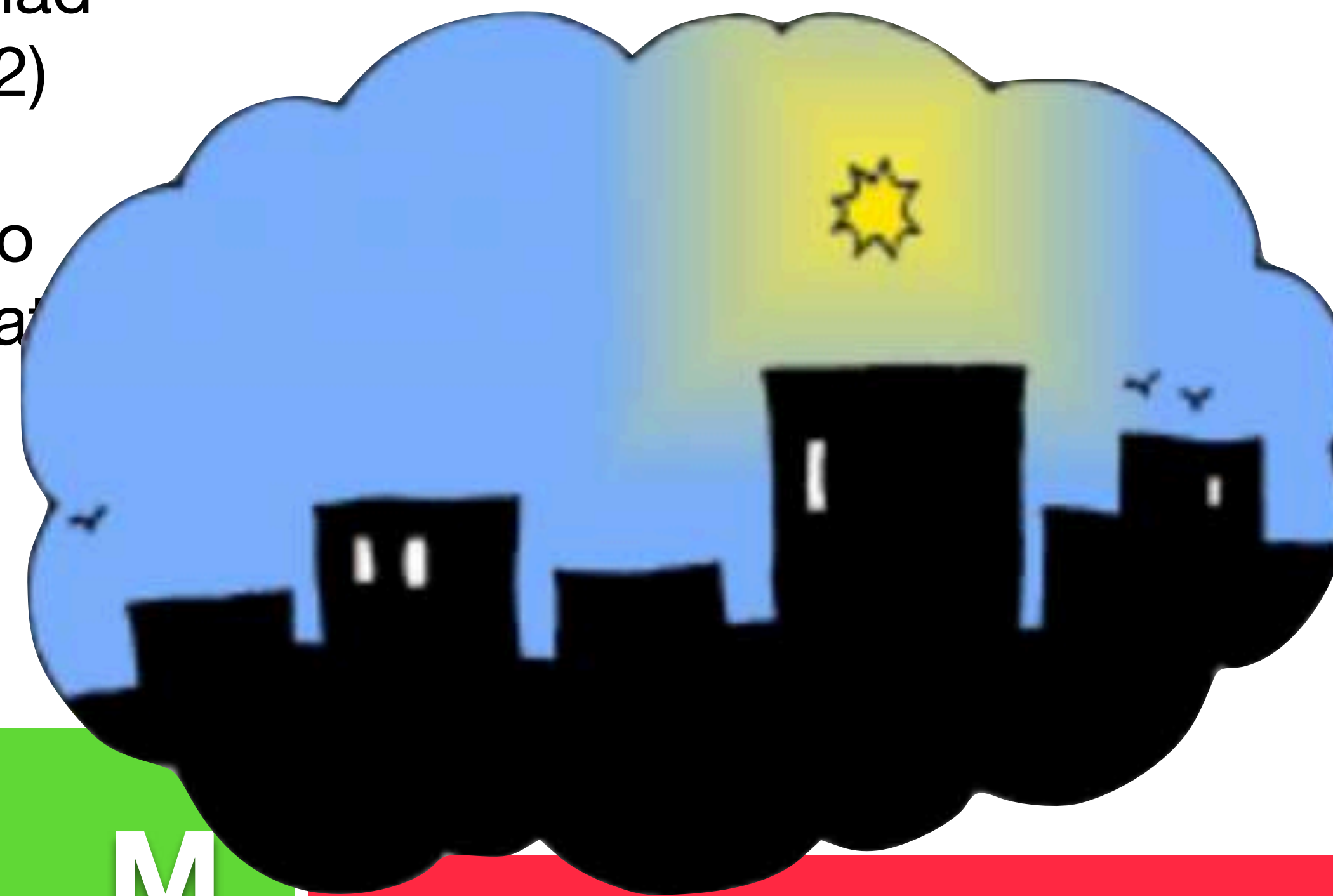
Can you add a house to your tree?

Bethlehem
Luke 2:1-5



About 700 years before this amazing event God had said that Bethlehem would be special (Micah 5:2)

At just the right time Joseph had to take Mary to Bethlehem, far from their home but the place that God had promised.



At just the right time God came to this place.



WONDER



I wonder if there are places that you sense God is?



.....

What special places in your community could you wander to or around?

M
O
V
E

Someone special is coming to town, they are really important. What do you think the town would be like? How would it feel? How would it look?

Imagine



Day 23: All of Nature

The Manger
Luke 2:4-7



Can you add a seed or straw to your tree?



Joseph was a carpenter, he made things from wood but he couldn't make a bed for his baby. They had to use a feeding box for animals.

When God came close his first bed was in the straw from the animals, in their feeding box. With people, animals, straw all of nature came together to give God a welcome to this place called home.



M
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As you go for a wander can you find unexpected spaces that God might make His home.

WONDER

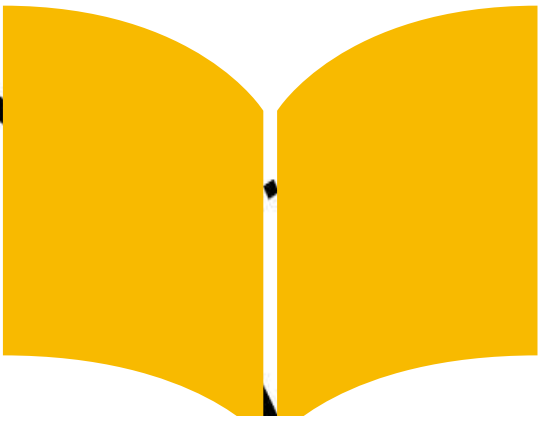


I wonder where else Jesus could have slept?



MAKE

Can you make a bird feeder - maybe from wire with fruit, raisins, nuts on it or cover a pinecone with lard and add seeds. Hang it in the garden and help the animals through winter.

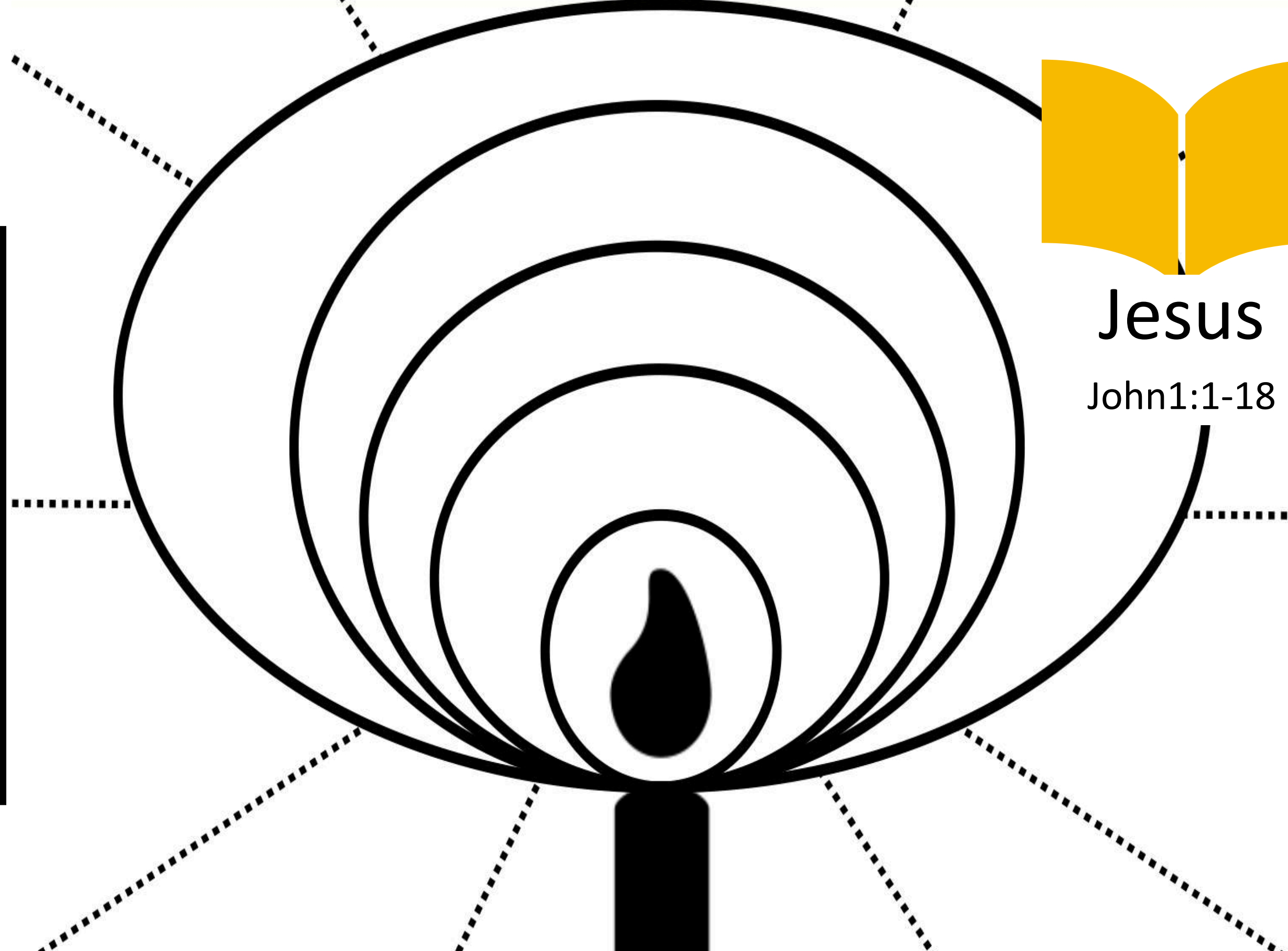


Jesus

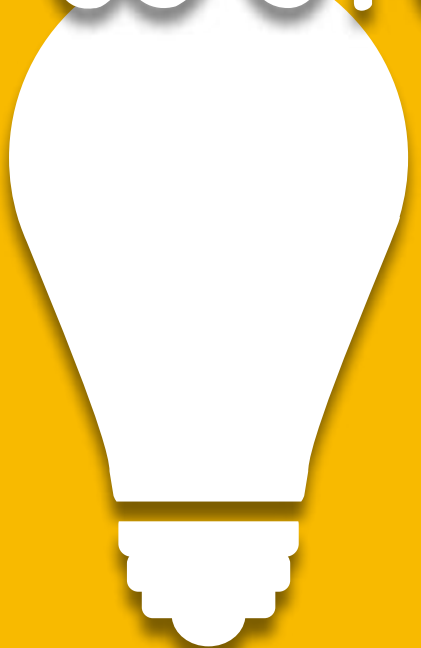
John 1:1-18

God was near in the beginning.
God was near through all of the stories.
But then God came even closer. Into the neighbourhood,
into the everyday lives, into the darkness.

God came near and brought light.
God comes near and bring love.




WONDER

A white silhouette of a lit lightbulb with a glow effect.

I wonder what God's light is like?

Imagine God is near to you
- how does that feel, how does God smell, what does God sound like?

Imagine 

A white silhouette of a foot.

.....

Can you find God in your neighbourhood?

**M
O
V
E**

CHALLENGE

A white magnifying glass icon.

Can you get help to light a candle and to look at it.
Feel the warmth, smell the fragrance, see the light.