



THE
JESSE TREE
Adventure



Special moments to
Wonder & Wander through Advent

The Jesse Tree was originally designed to enable illiterate people access to the biblical Christmas story through pictures. It doesn't just tell us again the familiar Christmas passages but brings the richness of the complete biblical narrative together. This helps to remind us that God has a plan, is interested in the beginning, middle and end, it invites us to wonder where we are in this story.



The Jesse Tree was often a carving, tapestry or even stained glass window. Our version is not quite aimed at being about a beautiful display but connecting with the world around us and the bible story. If you are looking for an Instagram Christmas display this may not be for you - unless you don't mind socks, wool, sticks and stones!

We invite you to enter into Christmas through your world, connecting the story and message with the everyday. Each day or activity invites you to wonder, to add something to your 'tree' and has the bible passage for you to read. We have left this for you to chose your own version as each of us will have different preferences.

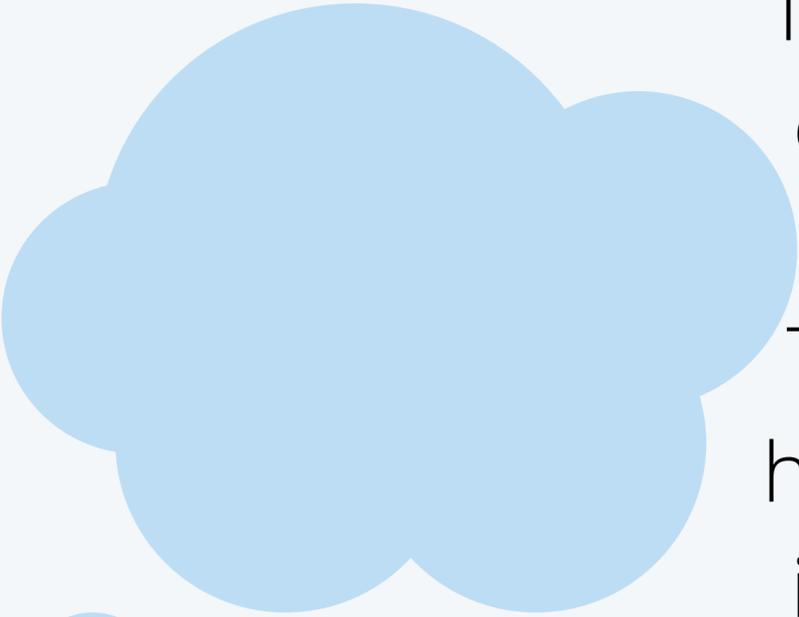
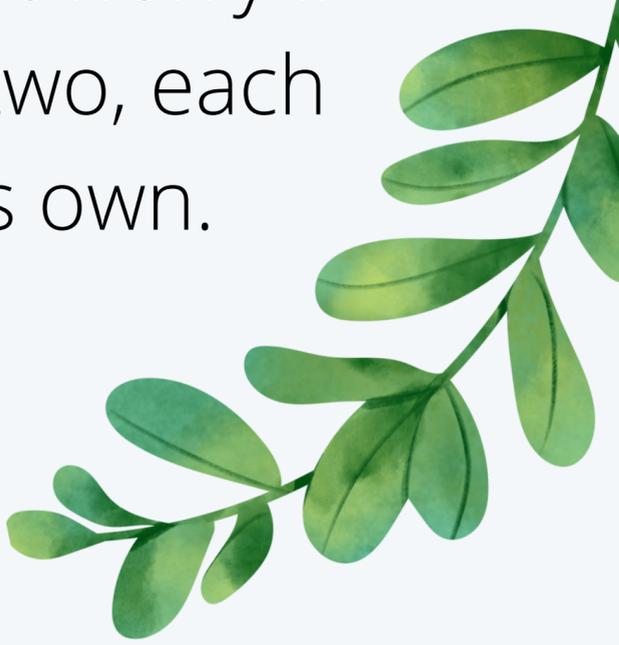
To begin you will need a branch or stick but also a space, box or basket to put the items you discover as part of our adventure.

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!



1.

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



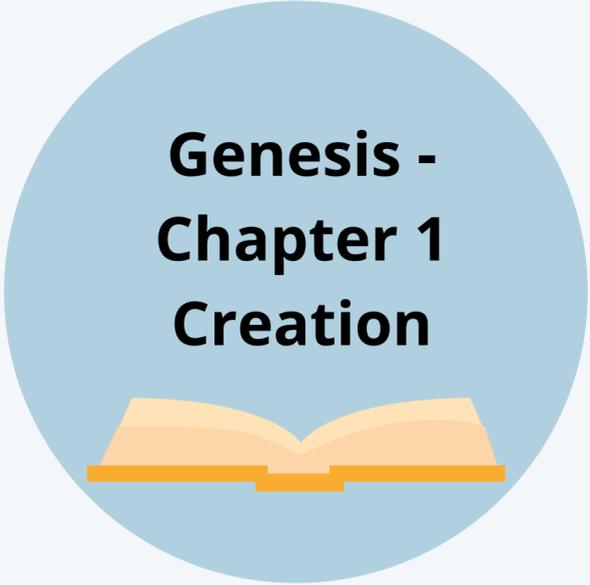
There is a little thought or explanation about today but not very much.

This is your adventure to hear and notice what God is saying to you from the story.



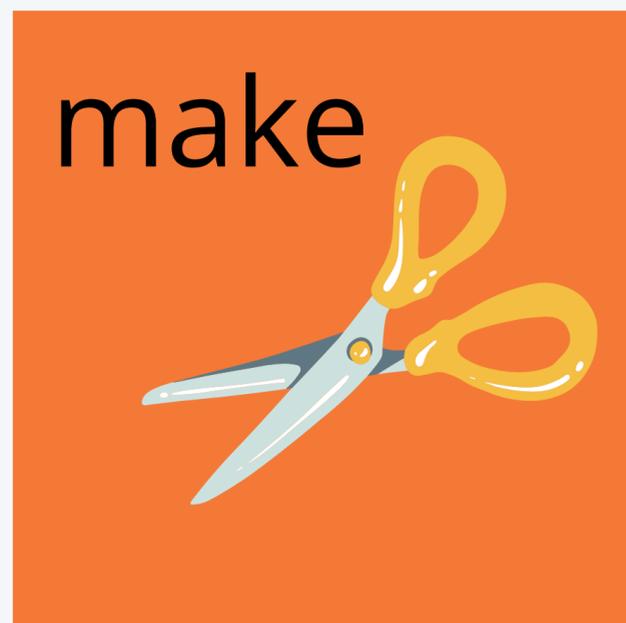
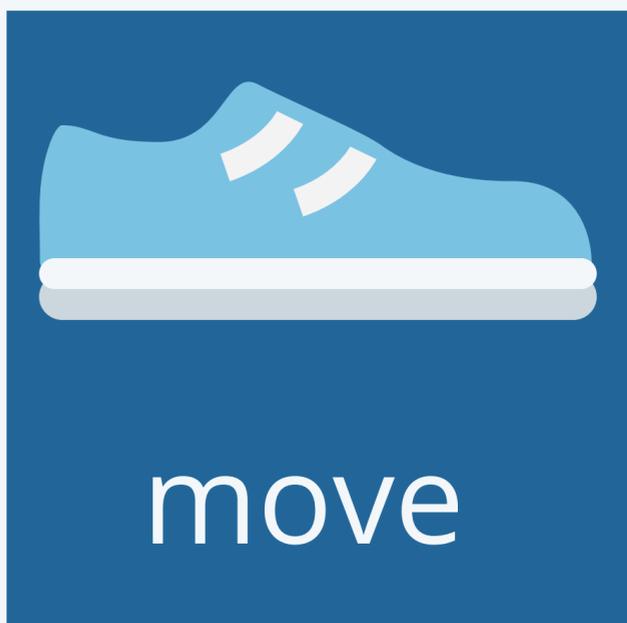
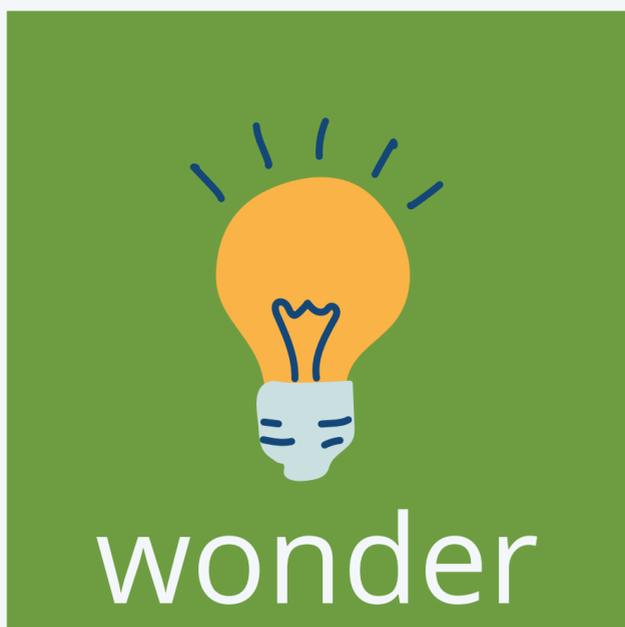
The story or bible passage is in the corner each day.

This isn't printed so you can use whatever version is best for you - children's bible, storybook, KJV



**Genesis -
Chapter 1
Creation**

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!





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 you find it, has someone else held it, 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?

1.





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

move

Which is your favourite day of creation and why?



wonder

challenge



CAN YOU FIND?



Light

Insect



Star



Water



Plants

Sky



Feather

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?

2.



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

Cut out the shape

Colour in or add your face

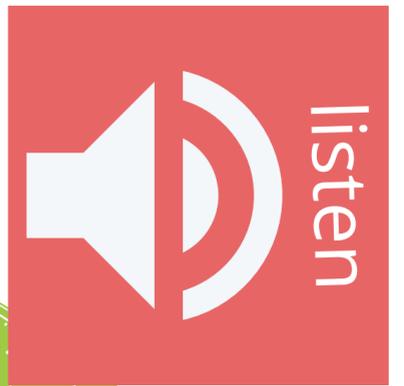


make



Can you hear noises from anyone else?

Can you hear noises from yourself?



challenge



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



Consequences

Genesis -
Chapter
3:10-19
The Fall

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 floatng
away?

Add something that looks like a snake to your tree.

3.





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



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



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



Promises

4.

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

Noah
Genesis 6-
9:17





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!



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

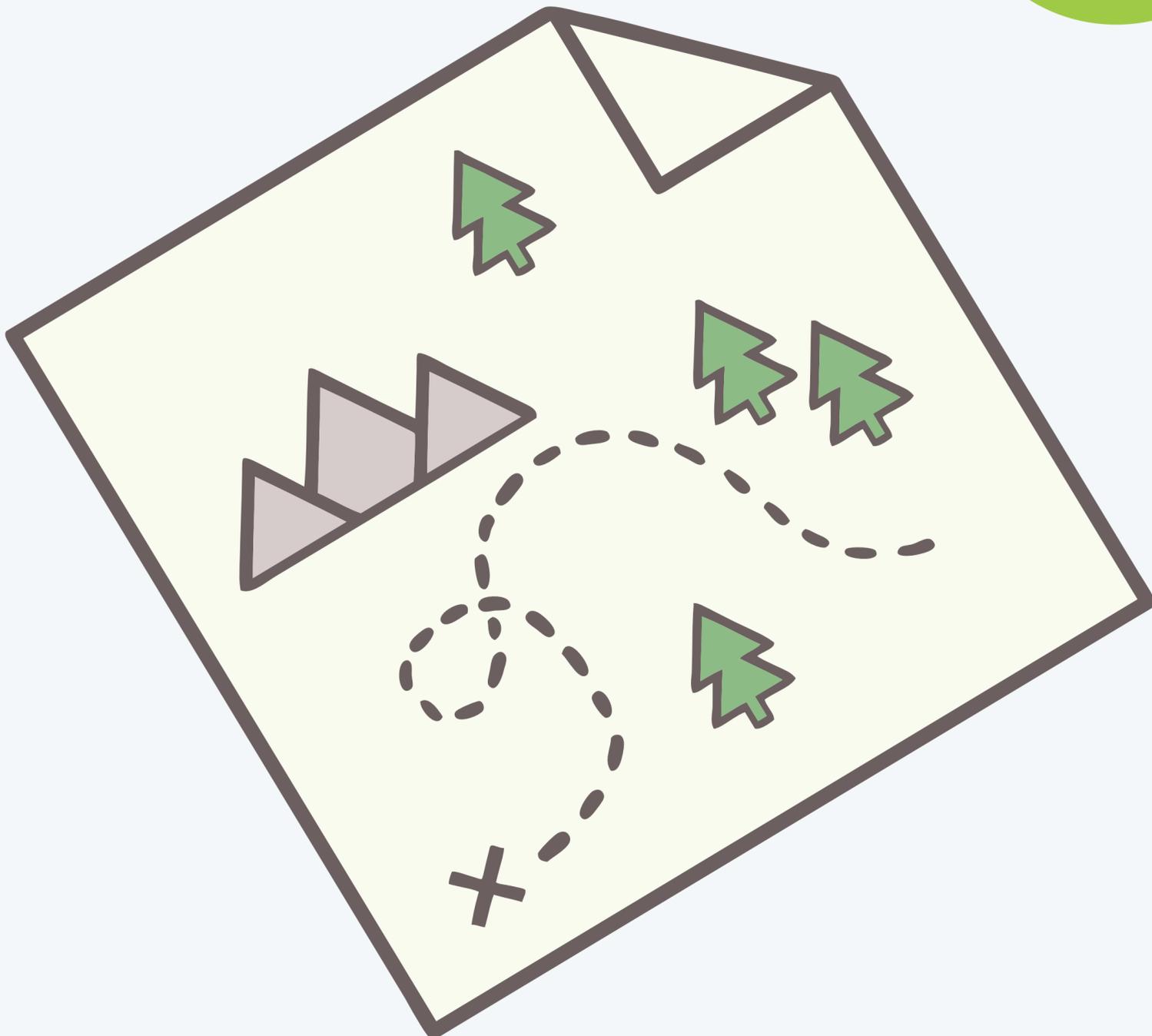


Can you find something from each colour and tick the circle?



Adventure

5.



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?

Abraham
Genesis
12:1-3



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

imagine

make



Can you make a
treasure map for
someone?

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.



move



6.

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?**



Abraham & Isaac
Genesis 22:1-18



**I wonder how
God might want
to help you?**



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



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

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?

Jacobs Ladder
Genesis 29:10-19



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



**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)**



REMARKABLE COLOURS

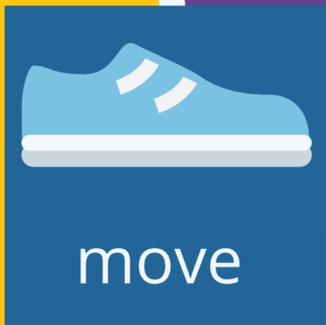
I wonder if you have ever lost or had something special taken from you? A gift, an item that is special to you or something that says who you are? I wonder if Joseph felt God near as he was alone in that dark place?

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

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



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



**On a walk or around,
can you find dark
places?**



CAN YOU FIND?

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

9.

floating



**Exodus 2:1-
10
Saved by a
Princess**



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 the 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.

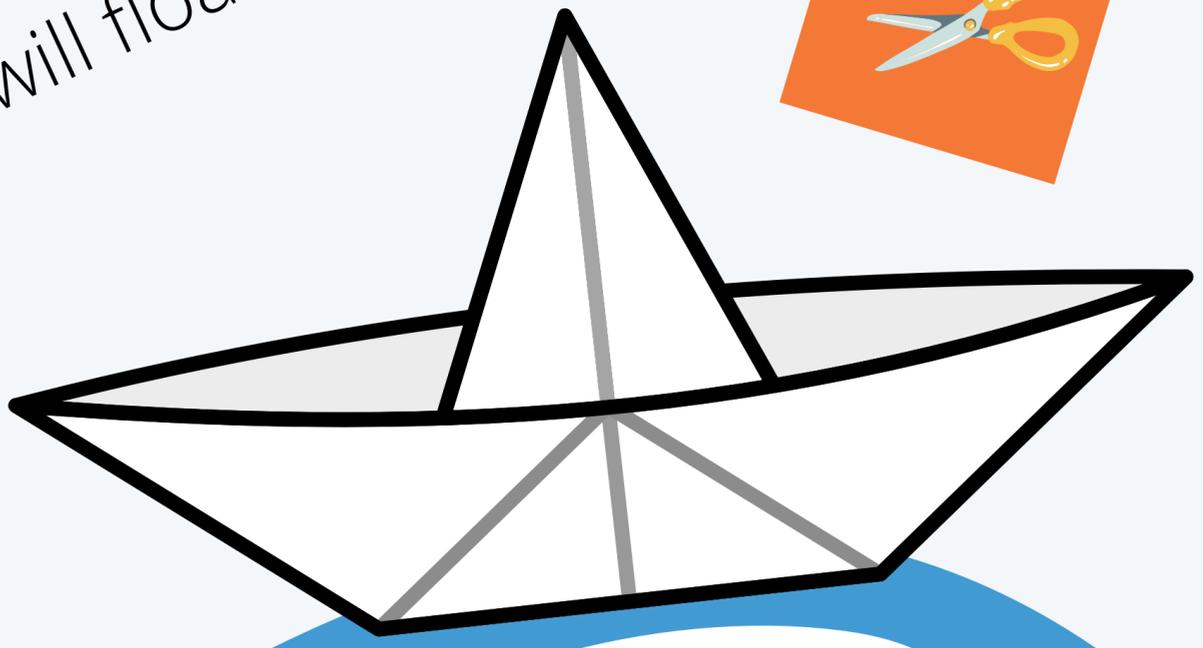
God can do the most amazing things!





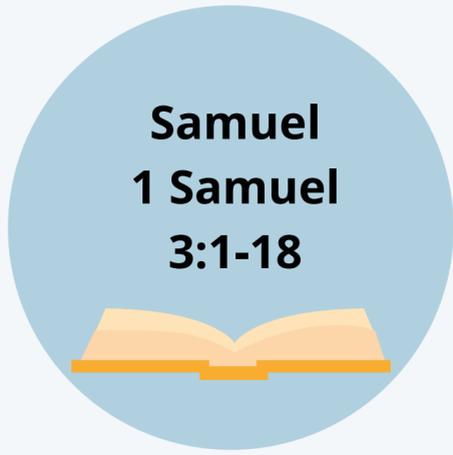
Can you find or make a boat to add to your tree?

Can you fold some paper to make a boat that will float for at least a minute?



Can you find some water?

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



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?



I wonder if you can hear God
around you?

I wonder what language God
speaks?

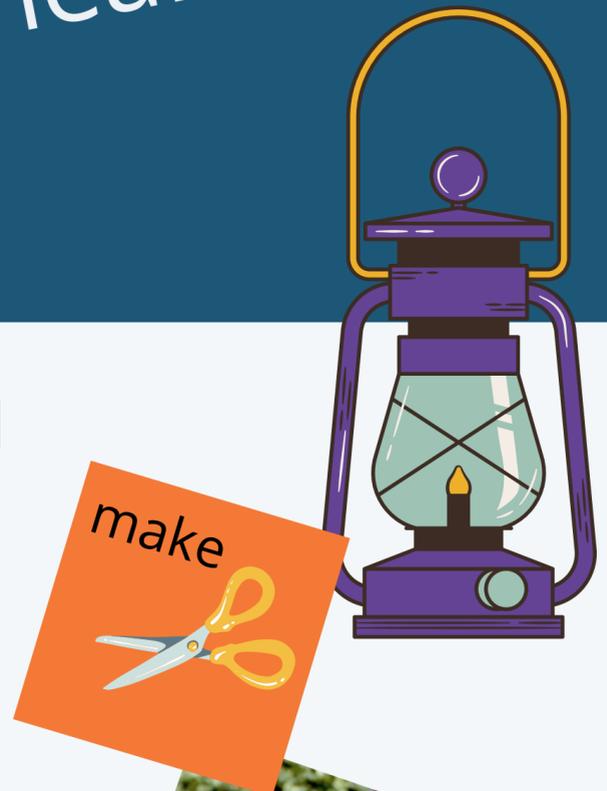
I wonder if God has an accent?



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

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.



Jesse
1 Samuel
16:1-13



11.

I wonder what might be amazing about you?

I wonder if you see people and notice something special?

I wonder as you look around if you notice the everyday but can see it as amazing?

**LOOKING
IN**



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?

challenge



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



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!

I wonder what things God finds special?



wonder

giants

12.

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?

David
1 Sam.
17:12-51



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

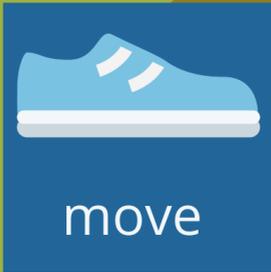


Find a space and think about anything that is worrying you, scaring you or has been bothering you. Imagine it as that giant in front of you - what can you tell it, what would you say? Can you use David's words at that thing?



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!



**CAN YOU GO FOR A WALK
AND SEE WHAT GIANT
THINGS YOU CAN SEE?**

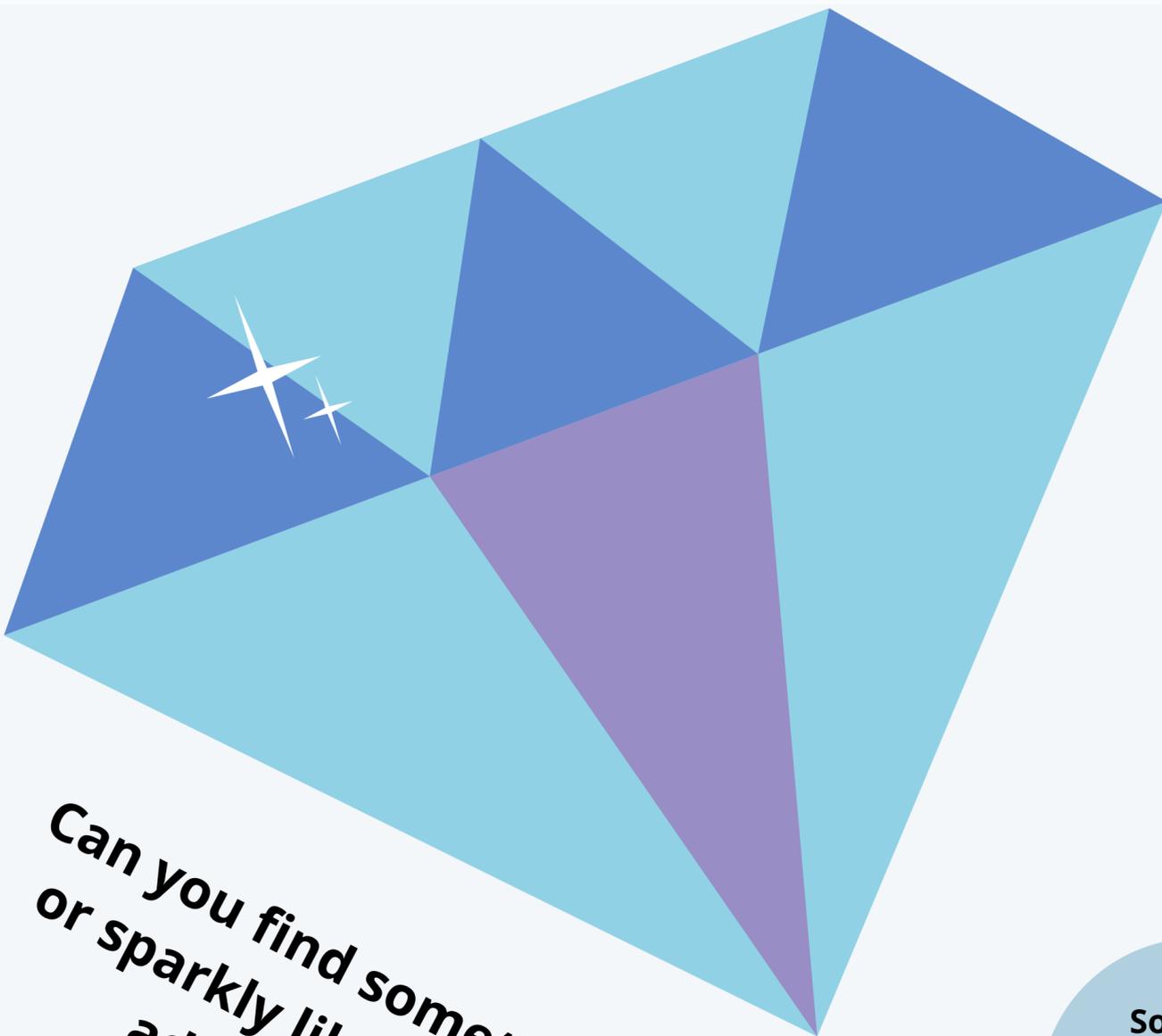
choices

13.

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?



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

Solomon
1 Kings 3:5-
14

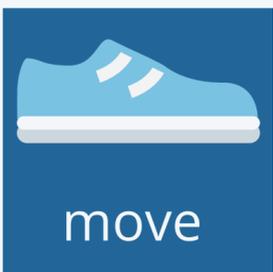




I wonder what you
might ask God for?



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?**

Sleeping

14.

Lions

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?

Daniel
Daniel 6:
10-23



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?**

**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.**



15.

Names

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....

Can you write a name for Jesus and add it to your tree?

Isaiah
Isaiah 9: 2-7



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

C	
H	
R	
I	
S	
T	
M	
A	
S	



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



16. So Quiet

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?**

Can you find a feather to add to your tree?

Zechariah &
Elizabeth
Luke 1:5-25



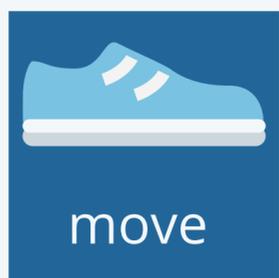


Can you be quiet for five minutes... 5 minutes?!
Zechariah had to wait 5 months to speak - imagine that!



I wonder what things you are waiting for?

Can you go for a walk and find silence?



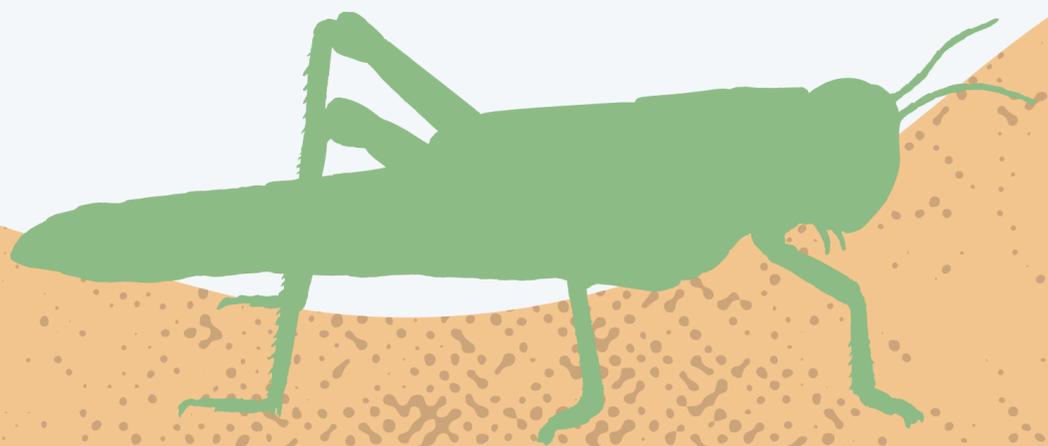
17.

Coming Soon

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?**



Matthew
3:1-11
John the
Baptist



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



Make a Whirly Spinner

Get a circle of paper or card

Colour & add patterns

Thread string through 2 holes in the middle.

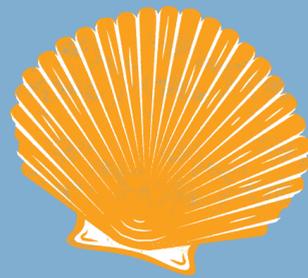
Twist the string, pull it and watch the amazing pattern that happens when it turns around.



water



sand



shell



insect



footprint

challenge



CAN YOU FIND

Can you hear things far away?



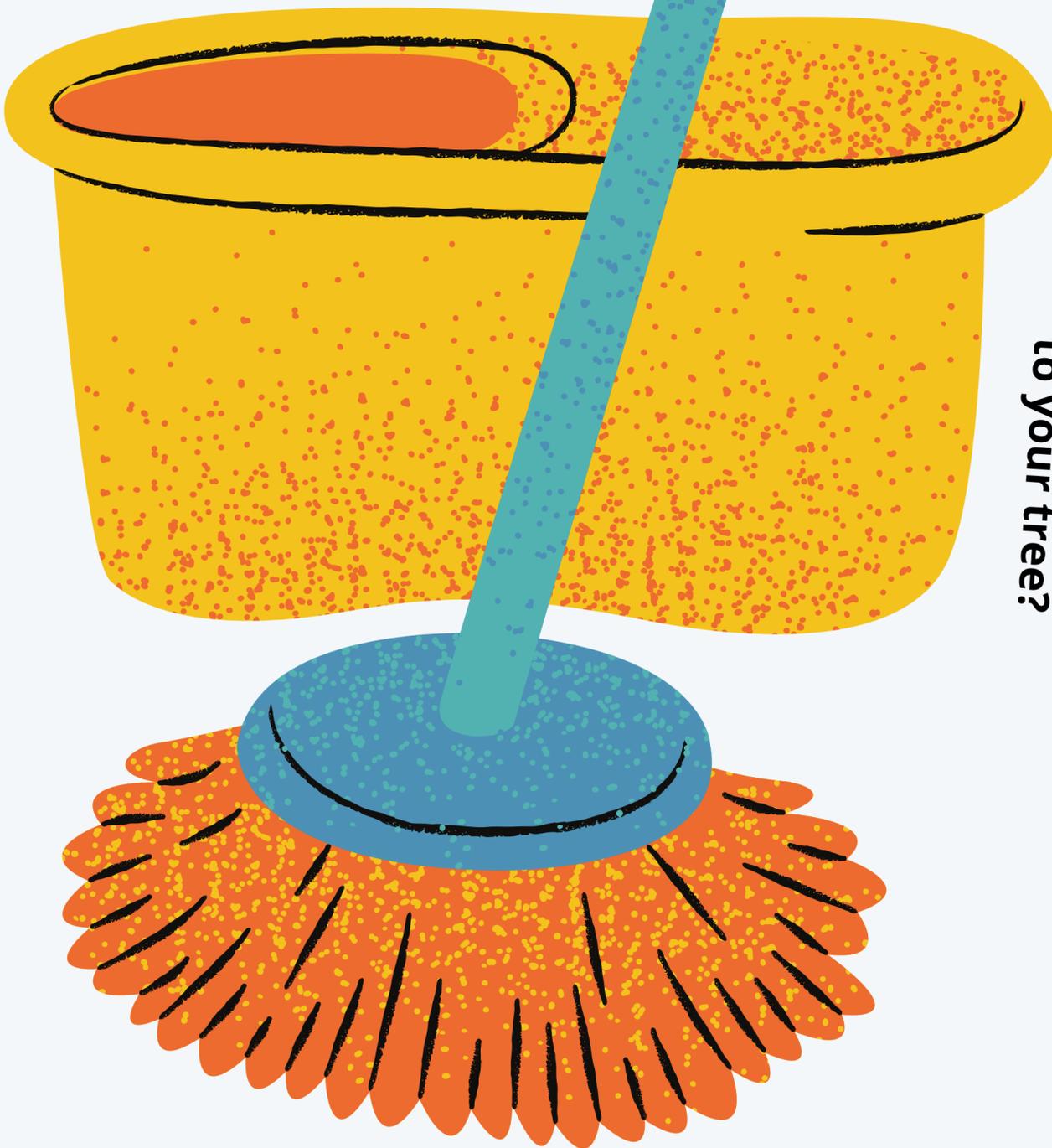
Can you hear things near to you?

18.

Everyday

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.

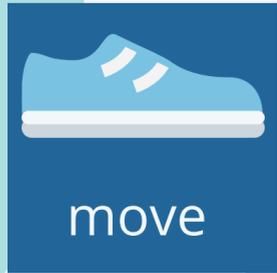


Can you add something blue
to your tree?

Mary
Luke 1:26-
38



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



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

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

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.

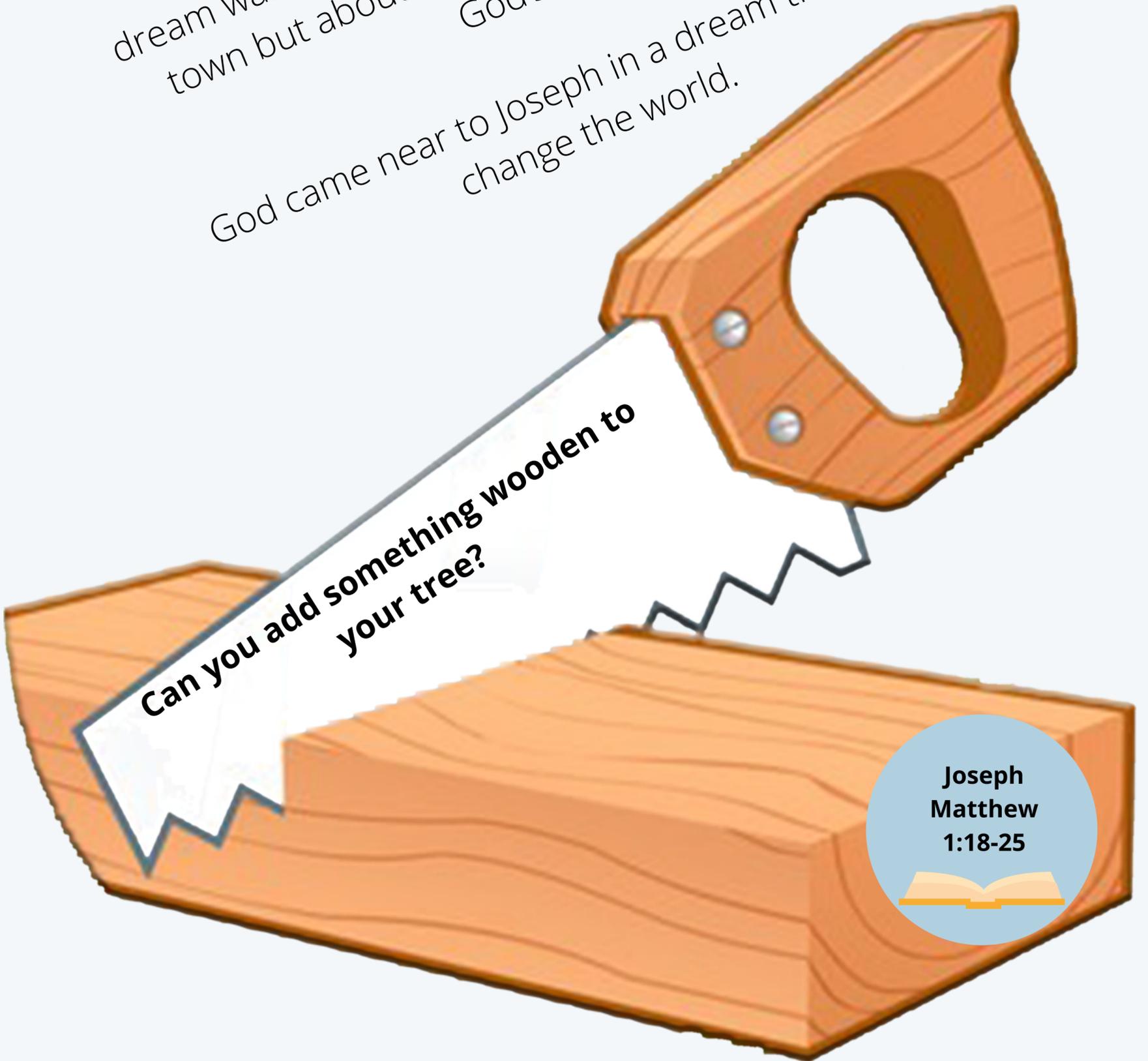
Dream Again

19.

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.





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.



Something asleep



Something changing



Something helping



Something stuck to something

CAN YOU FIND



I wonder if you have ever changed your plans?

20.

Great News

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?

Can you make an angel for your tree?

Angel
Luke 2:9-14



imagine



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.

Can you see huge crowds of anything?



move

Can you spot things that might be like God's glory?

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.





21.

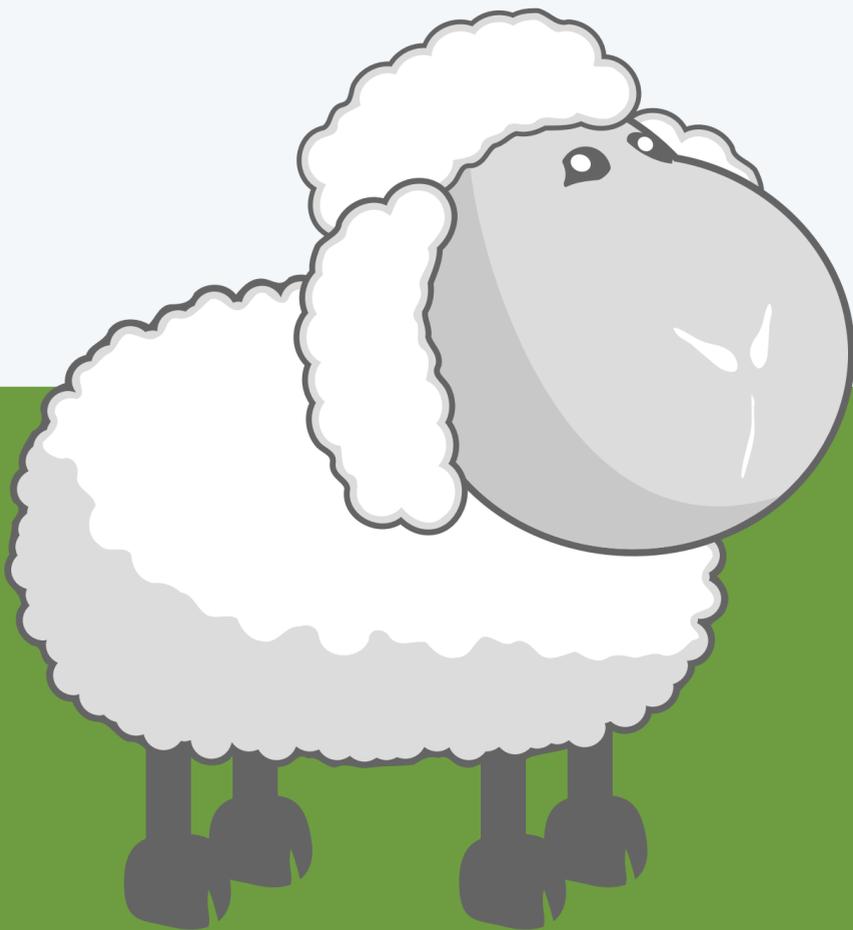


THE THINGS WE SEE



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.



*Can you find something
like a sheep to add?*

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



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.

make



I wonder why they told everybody what they had found?

wonder



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.



move



22.

Right Time, Right Place

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.



Can you add a house to your tree?

Bethlehem
Luke 2:1-5



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?



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



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

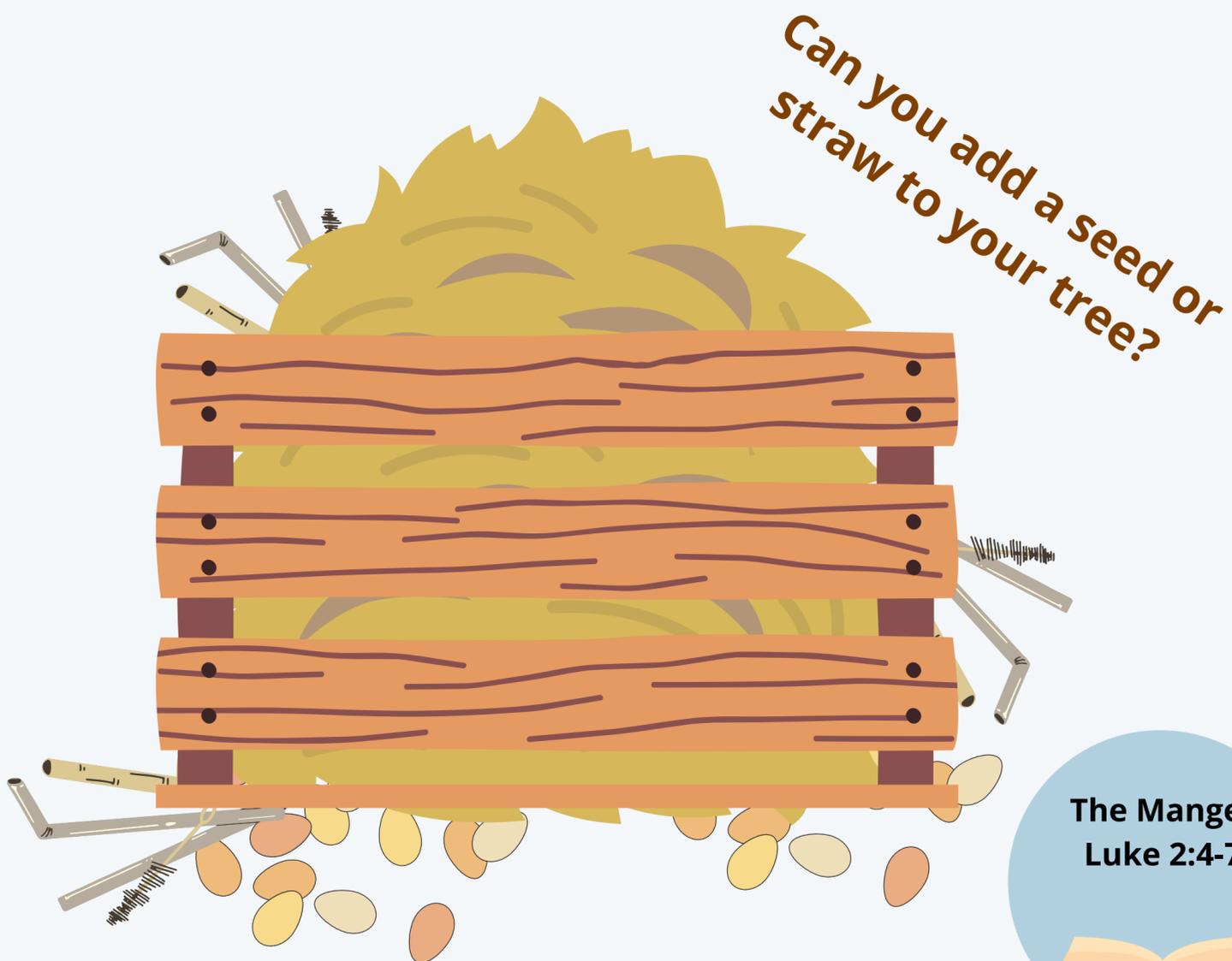


23.

All of Nature

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.



Can you add a seed or straw to your tree?

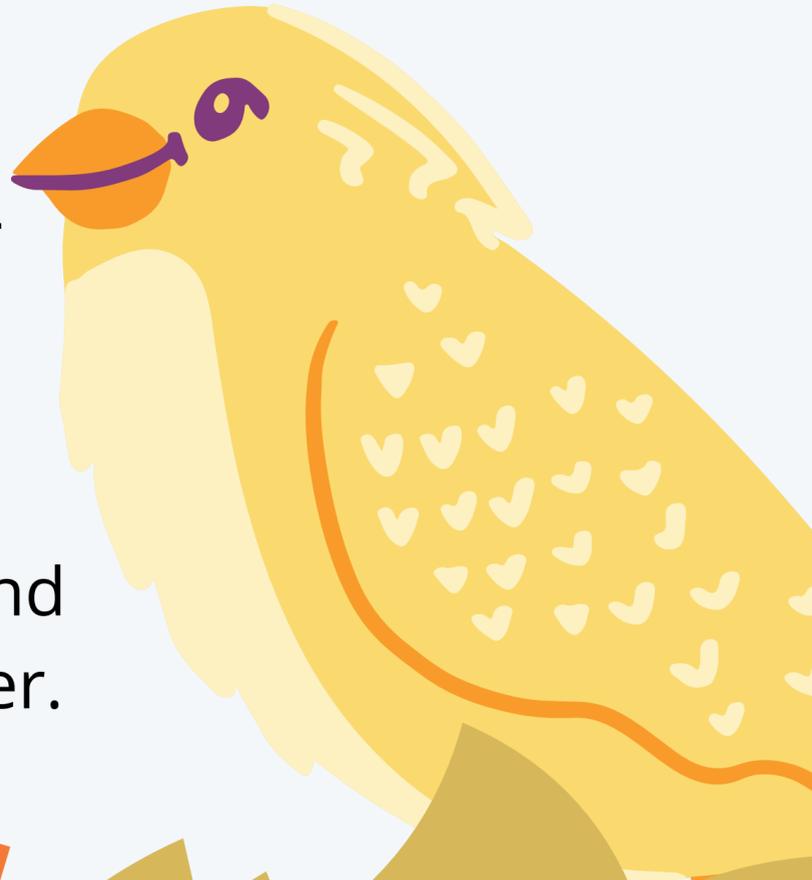
**The Manger
Luke 2:4-7**



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



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.



I wonder where else Jesus could have slept?

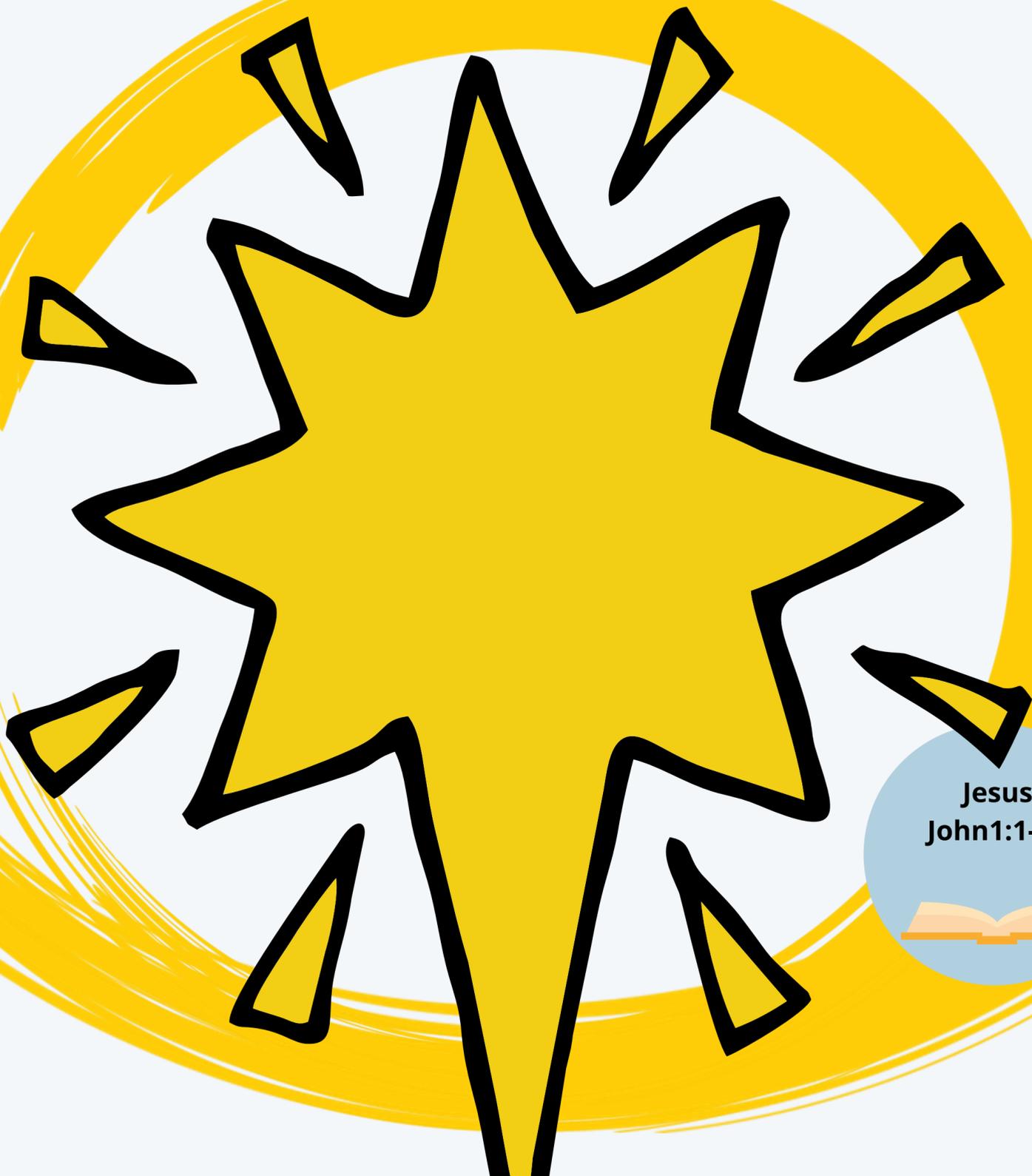


24.

He's Here!

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.



Jesus
John1:1-18





I wonder what
God's light is like?

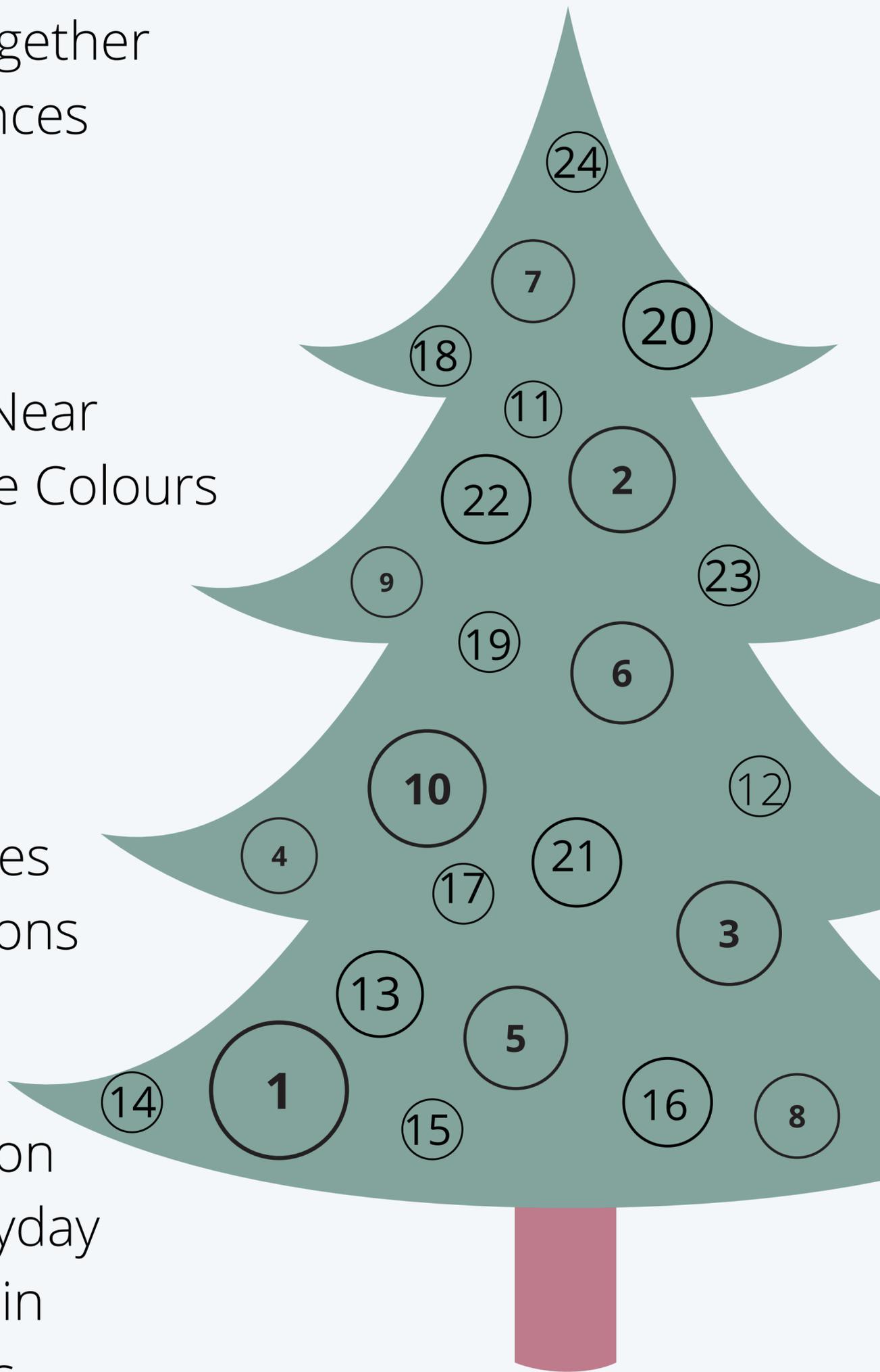
Imagine God is near to you -
how does that feel, how
does God smell, what does
God sound like?

Can you find God in
your neighbourhood?

Can you get help to light a candle
and to look at it.

Feel the warmth, smell the
fragrance, see the light.

1. In the Beginning
2. Walking Together
3. Consequences
4. Promises
5. Adventure
6. Help!
7. Heaven is Near
8. Remarkable Colours
9. Floating
10. Called
11. Looking In
12. Giants
13. Wise Choices
14. Sleeping Lions
15. Names
16. So Quiet
17. Coming Soon
18. In the Everyday
19. Dream Again
20. Great News
21. The Things We See
22. Right time, Right Place
23. All of Nature
24. He's Here!



THE JESSE TREE *Adventure*



Join us on an Advent adventure,
exploring together God's story and
where we fit into it and our world.

Create your advent Jesse Tree, pause, reflect
and bring the stories into your home.

*Take time to wander at this most
wonderful time of the year.*



Muddy Church aims to help people connect
together, with their community and with God.
Exploring the spaces outside and the wonders
all around us.

www.muddychurch.co.uk