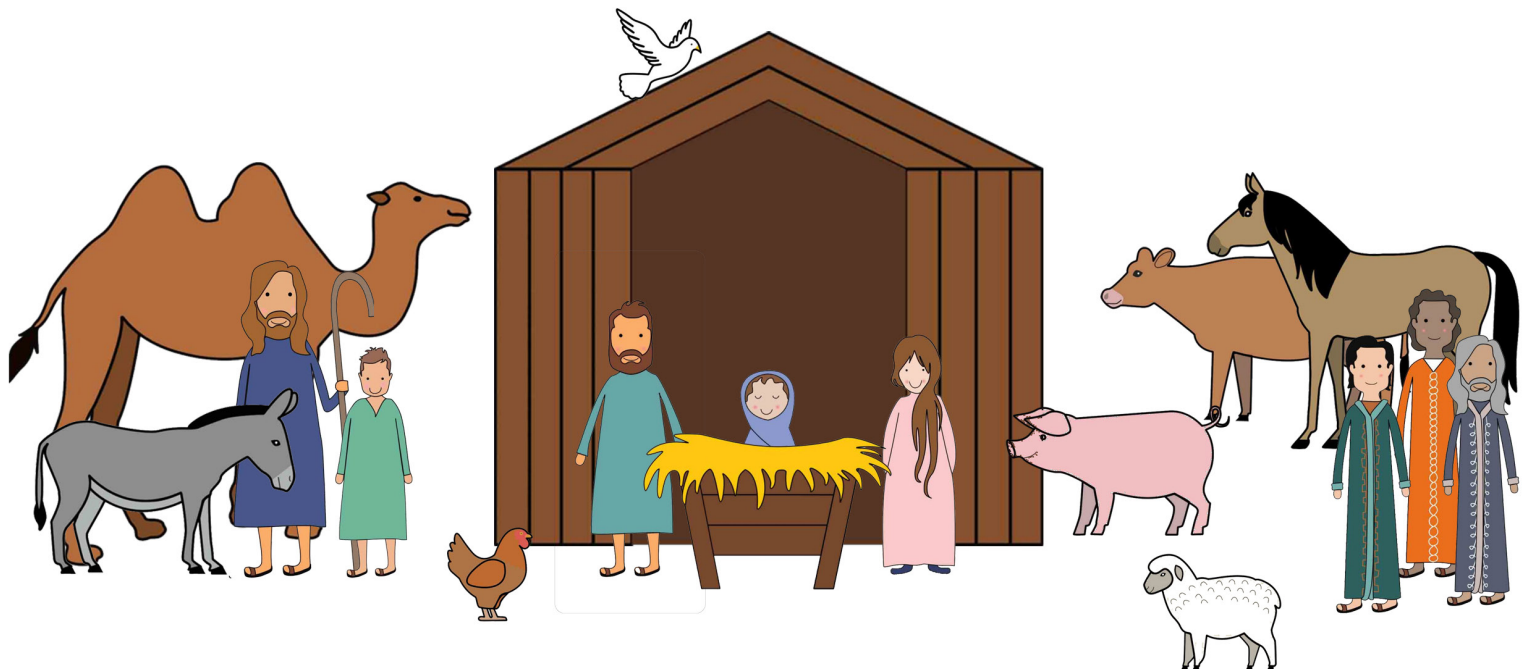


MY SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

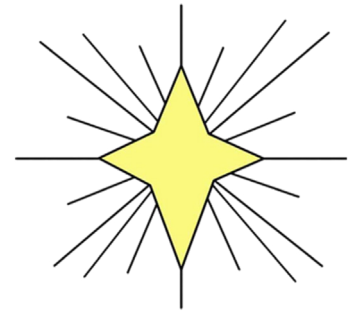
ADVENT WREATH READINGS



MY SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

ADVENT WREATH READINGS

Mrs. Anderson's first grade Sunday School class was given an assignment; they were to recreate the manger scene. All the children were busy with their assignments. Anna brought in her Barbie Doll and draped a cloth over her head to look like she was from Bible times. Tyler brought a roll of foil to shape a star. Sisters Kelly and Suzanne came in with cotton balls to make sheep. Will's dad found some hay for him to share to help the project smell like a stable.



Billy sat in the corner, watching all the activity with a sad look on his face. Mrs. Anderson went to investigate and asked, "Billy, what's wrong? Don't you want to be part of this project?" "I do, Mrs. Anderson," Billy replied, "but there's one thing I just don't understand...in all this stuff, where does Jesus fit in?"

We love all the "stuff" that comes with Christmas, but sometimes we are so busy going to parties, decorating the tree, watching Christmas movies, and writing our wish lists that we don't give space to Jesus. The best part of Christmas is Jesus - for he was God's gift of love to us. The best part of Christmas for Jesus is you. Jesus wants you to spend time with him.

So, let's get back to basics and make Christmas simple. In everything we do, let's ask ourselves, "where does Jesus fit in?"

During the next four weeks, you will read God's Word daily to prepare your mind and heart for Jesus' birthday. Then, on the four Sundays before Christmas, you will read from this book with your family and click on a candle to help keep you focused on the true meaning of Christmas...Jesus!

Look at the back of this book to get your supply list and instructions on how to make your Advent wreath which will also supply you with the Bible verses you will read every day until Christmas day.

Merry Christmas!

WEEK 1

Jesus brings satisfaction – Hebrews 13:5 *“Don’t be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, “I’ll never let you down, never walk off and leave you...”*

When the three Wisemen came to Jerusalem looking to visit Jesus, the newborn King of the Jews, King Herod was so jealous. He didn’t want to share power and fame with another king! There wasn’t enough power and fame in the world to keep Herod satisfied.

When we look to the world to satisfy us, it is never enough. But, when Jesus becomes our Savior and Friend, we have more than enough.

Light the 1st purple candle

PRAYER:

Jesus, help me to be satisfied with whatever Christmas brings. You are all I really need. Amen.



WEEK 2

Jesus brings true happiness – Luke 2:10 – *“There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them, and God’s glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.”*

At first, the shepherds were frightened at seeing the angels in the sky. But they were bringing the message that the Son of God was born. So they overcame their fear and followed the angels’ instructions. They were so overjoyed that the promised Savior of the world had finally come. Nothing was going to stop them from sharing this birth announcement. Some probably thought they were crazy, but the joy that Jesus brings to our lives is true happiness!

Light the 1st and 2nd purple candle

PRAYER:

Jesus, you bring a joy that no one can take away. Thank you. Amen.



WEEK 3

Jesus meets my needs – *“She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there wasn’t any room for them in the inn.”* Luke 2:7 (GW)

Today, most babies are born in a hospital with doctors and nurses who help the baby come into the world safely. The baby is wrapped in a warm blanket, and every need is supplied.

Jesus was born in a stable with simple strips of cloth wrapped around his newborn body. That doesn’t seem to be the greatest welcome into the world.

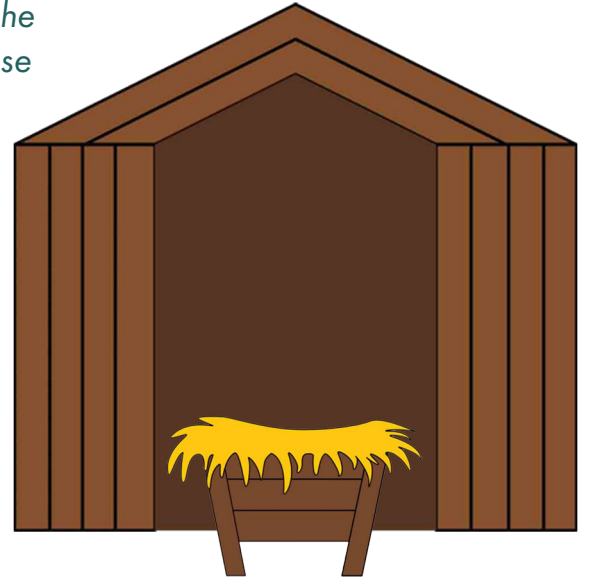
It is important to remember that God took care of every detail so that Jesus could come into the world safely. Mary and Joseph, Jesus’ parents, had every need supplied. No, it wasn’t fancy, but God met their needs.

Knowing the difference between “needs” and “wants” is important. God provides for our needs – food, home, family – so we can live healthy, secure lives. Our Heavenly Father also loves to give additional gifts to his children. We don’t need them, but they make us happy. The gifts God allows are for our good and not what may harm us. Trust him to know what is best for you. You are his precious child.

Light the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd purple candles.

PRAYER:

Gracious Lord, you provide for everything I need. Help me to be truly thankful. Amen.



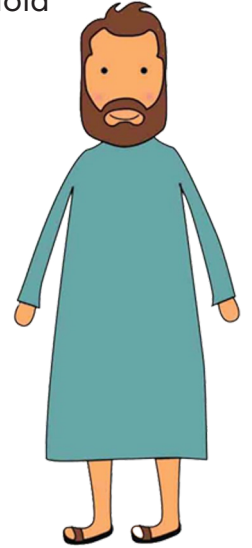
WEEK 4



Jesus makes me strong – “After they left, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, ‘Get up! Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Herod will start looking for the child to kill him. Stay in Egypt until I tell you to return.’ So, Joseph got up and left for Egypt during the night with the child and his mother.” Matthew 2:13-14 (ICB)

Just imagine how Joseph felt when he woke up from his dream when an angel told him that Herod was on the hunt for Jesus. Surely, he was worried about this newest member of his family. But, he was also being told to leave everything familiar to him and take his family to a new, unknown place and live. He would remain there until it would be safe to return home.

All of us have been scared at one time or another. Maybe you have had to change schools or participate in something new and unfamiliar. The unknown can be scary. We may not have a dream like Joseph, but we can follow his example of simple trust in God. God’s Word says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)



Light all 4 candles

PRAYER:

Jesus, you bring a joy that no one can take away. Thank you. Amen.

HOW TO CONSTRUCT YOUR ADVENT WREATH

Supplies:

- Scissors
- Glue/glue stick
- 4 LED tea light candle
- Cardboard or paper plate

Instructions

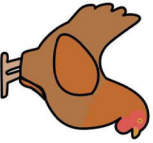
1. Either cut out the center of a 10-inch paper plate or use a piece of cardboard to cut out a 10-inch circle (about 2 inches in width).
2. Cut out strips from the attached character/ scripture strips (print the following pages double sided)
3. Fold over the prepared cardboard/ paper plate and glue at the fold on the inside of the circle. So that the character picture is shown and can be lifted to reveal the scripture verse for the day.
4. Place your completed wreath on a flat surface and lay tea lights on top, as shown in the picture.



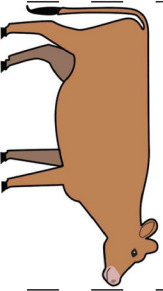
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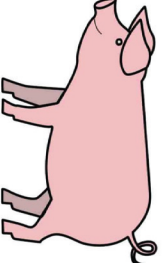
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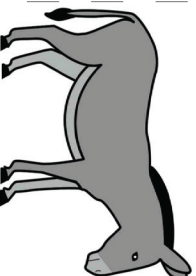
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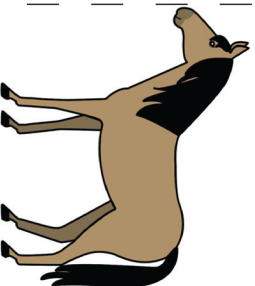
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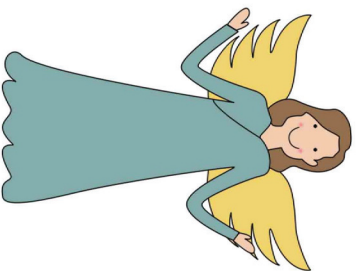
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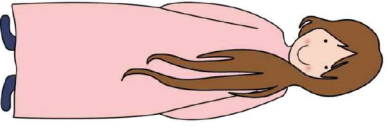
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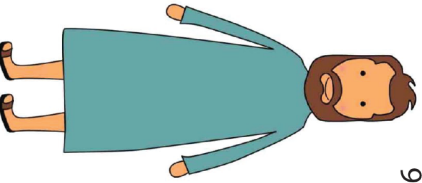
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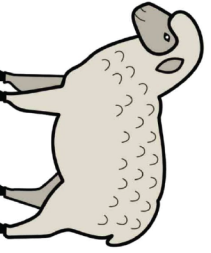
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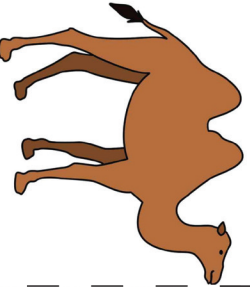
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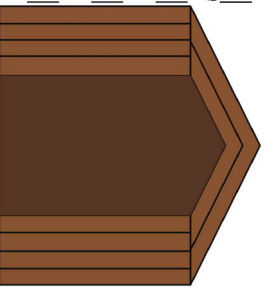
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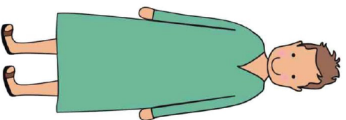
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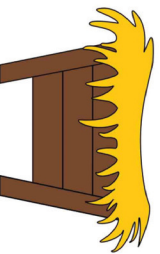
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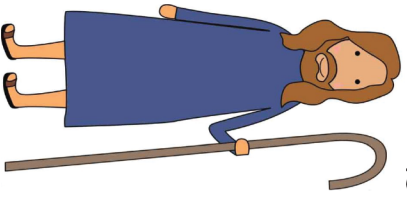
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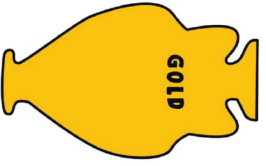
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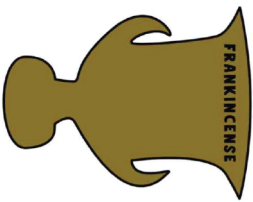
<p>December 8th (Mary)</p> <p>"In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary." Luke 1:26-27 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 9th (Joseph)</p> <p>"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Mathew 1:20-21 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 10th (sheep)</p> <p>"The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." The name Immanuel means "God with us." Matthew 1:23 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 11th (camel)</p> <p>"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby inside her jumped. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she called out, "God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have!" Luke 1:41-42 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 12th (stable)</p> <p>"Mary said, 'My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. From now on all people will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me. His name is holy.'" Luke 1:46-49 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 13th (shepherd boy)</p> <p>"In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world... So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby." Mathew 2:1, 4-5 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 14th (manger)</p> <p>"While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay." Luke 2:6-7 (NIRV)</p>
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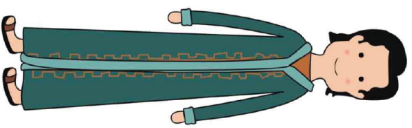
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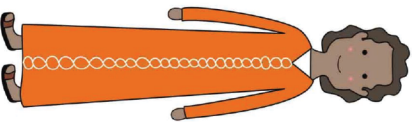
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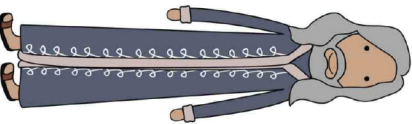
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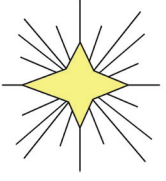


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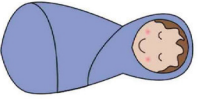
<p>December 15th (shepherd man)</p> <p>"There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people."</p> <p>Luke 2:8-10 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 16th (gold)</p> <p>"Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, 'May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!'"</p> <p>Luke 2:13-14</p>	<p>December 17th (frankincense)</p> <p>"The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger."</p> <p>Luke 15:16 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 18th (myrrh)</p> <p>"But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. 20 The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told:"</p> <p>Luke 2:19-20</p>	<p>December 19th (wise man #1)</p> <p>"The Lord says, 'Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel. His family line goes back to the early years of your nation. It goes all the way back to days of long ago.'"</p> <p>Micah 5:2</p>	<p>December 20th (wise man #2)</p> <p>"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, 'Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him.'"</p> <p>Matthew 2:1-2 (NIRV)</p>	<p>December 21st (wise man #3)</p> <p>"Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea' they replied. 'This is what the prophet has written. He said, 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you.'"</p> <p>Matthew 2:4-6 (NIRV)</p>
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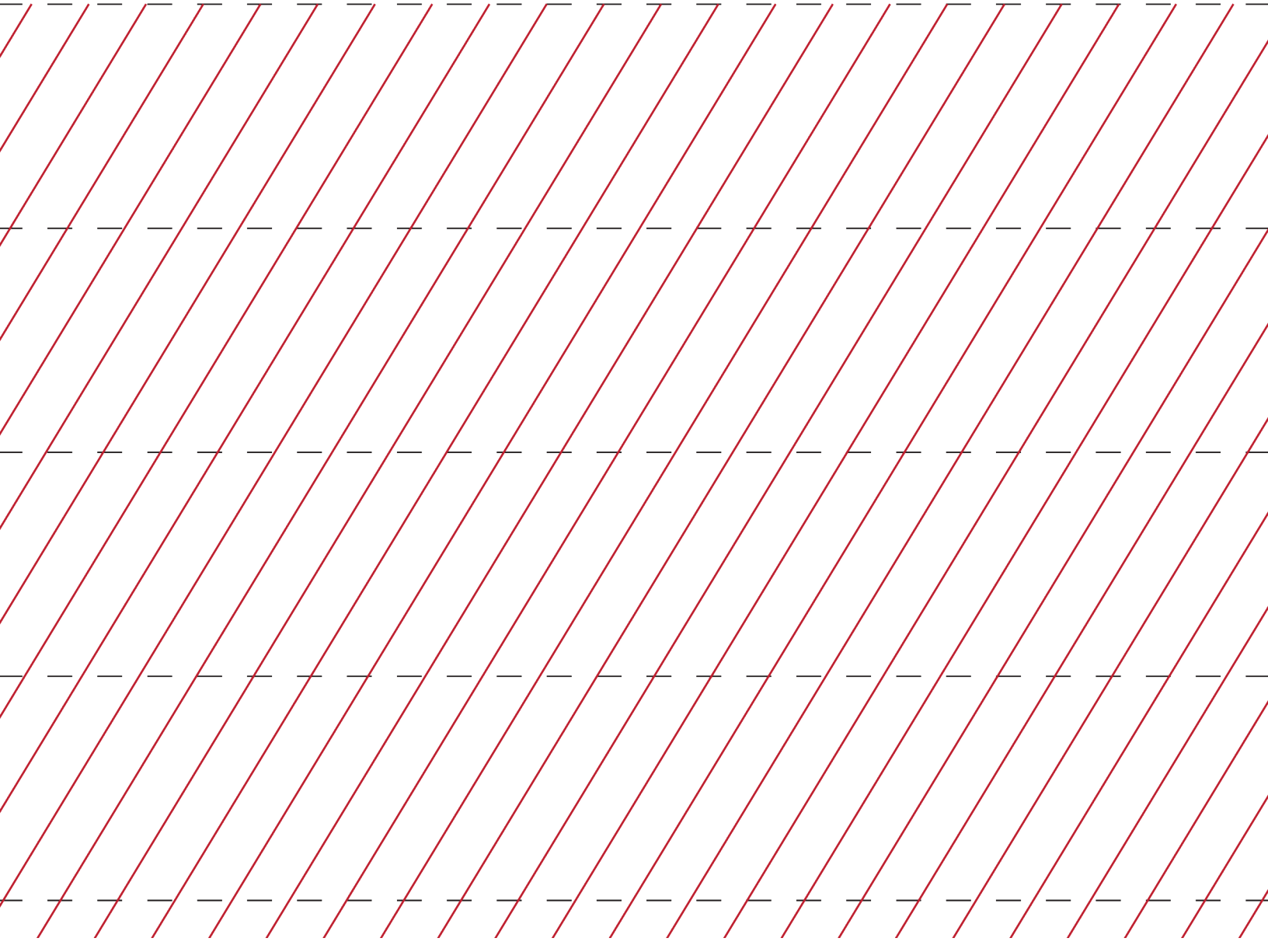
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December 22nd (dove)

"Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too.'"

Matthew 2:7-8 (NIRV)

December 23rd (star)

"After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was... The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh."

Matthew 2:9&11 (NIRV)

December 24th (Jesus)

"The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth."

John 1:14 (NIRV)