

an illustrated
ADVENT CALENDAR
Shepherds & Stars

24
Family question:
What do you think Jesus
liked to do for fun
when he was a kid?

25
Reach out
to someone who lives alone.
What is one way you can
share God's hope,
peace, joy, and
love with them on
this Christmas day?

20
Make a map
of your neighborhood using
playdough, blocks, popsicle
sticks, whatever!
Be sure to include
your favorite
places to eat,
and play.

19
Build a fort out of
blankets and pillows, then
crawl inside and do a puzzle
game together!





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Illustrated Advent Calendar: Shepherds & Stars

Thank you for your purchase of our *Illustrated Advent Calendar: Shepherds & Stars*.

In this PDF, you'll find two versions of the Advent calendar: a black-and-white version and a full-color version. Each version is two pages. Simply print out both pages, cut along the borders and tape the two pages together to complete your Advent calendar.

You may want to print out the full-color version to have a fun and colorful display in your home during Advent. Or you may want to print out the black-and-white version and color in the stars as you complete each of the activities.

We hope these activities help get you, your family, and your community into the Advent and Christmas spirit.

We love to see photos and hear stories about how you are using our resources. When you post photos or comments online, please use the hashtag #illustratedministry or tag us @illustratedmin in the photos so we can see them. That allows us to be part of the conversation and you to be part of our online community.

Additionally, checking the hashtag on various social networks is a great way to get to see how other families and churches are creatively using our resources.

Facebook: [fb.com/illustratedmin](https://www.facebook.com/illustratedmin)

Instagram: [instagram.com/illustratedmin](https://www.instagram.com/illustratedmin)

TikTok: [tiktok.com/@illustratedmin](https://www.tiktok.com/@illustratedmin)

Twitter: twitter.com/illustratedmin

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/illustratedmin](https://www.pinterest.com/illustratedmin)

Our Facebook Group is a growing community.
If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using
this resource, you can request to join here:
[fb.com/groups/illustratedmin](https://www.facebook.com/groups/illustratedmin)

Peace,

Illustrated Ministry

Best Practices for Sharing Illustrated Ministry's Resources

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We've found there are three good ways to share our files with your community:

Email: Depending on the size of your congregation, we encourage you to email files to those who want to use the resource. Another option is to put an announcement in your bulletin, asking those interested in receiving the files to email the person with access to the resource.

Note: Please do not include attachments or links to download our files in any emails/newsletters that are posted publicly online with services like Mailchimp, Constant Contact, etc. Links of this nature are searchable by Google, and the files can quickly become accessible to the general public.

Posting Online: We do not want the general public to have access to our products free of charge. We discourage posting our files online because they become easily accessible through Google searches. However, one option is to put the files on a password-protected page of your website, or use a private Facebook Group. Please remember to take the files down after you've finished using them.

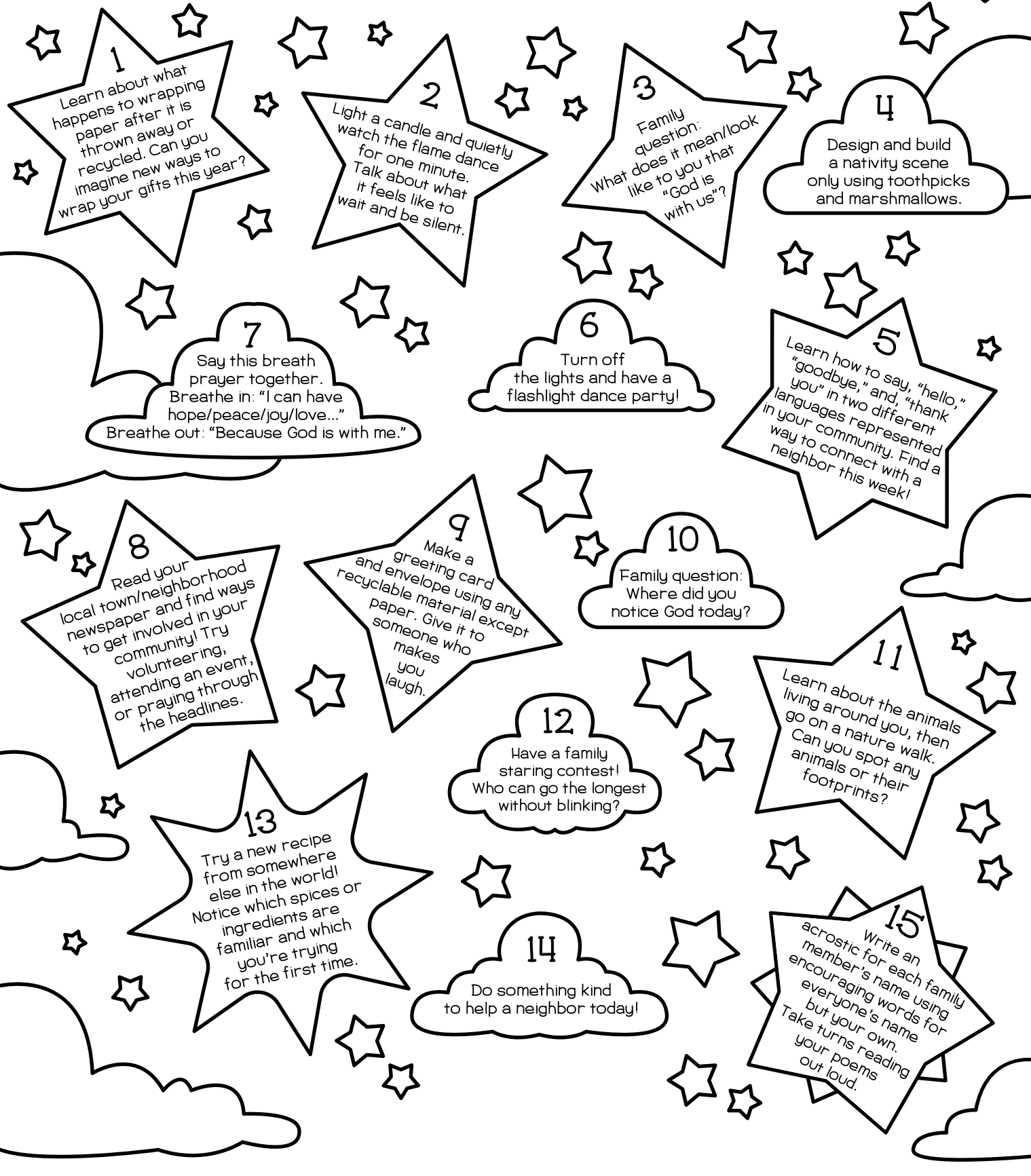
Note: Please do not post the password in a bulletin or newsletter that is posted publicly online.

Print: Most congregations who purchase our digital files choose to print out the materials. Printing the materials is probably the easiest way to share the resources with your community.

Thanks for understanding, and we appreciate your support!

Illustrated Ministry

ADVENT CALENDAR



1

Learn about what happens to wrapping paper after it is thrown away or recycled. Can you imagine new ways to wrap your gifts this year?

2

Light a candle and quietly watch the flame dance for one minute. Talk about what it feels like to wait and be silent.

3

Family question: What does it mean/look like to you that "God is with us"?

4

Design and build a nativity scene only using toothpicks and marshmallows.

7

Say this breath prayer together. Breathe in: "I can have hope/peace/joy/love..." Breathe out: "Because God is with me."

6

Turn off the lights and have a flashlight dance party!

5

Learn how to say, "hello," "goodbye," and, "thank you" in two different languages represented in your community. Find a way to connect with a neighbor this week!

8

Read your local town/neighborhood newspaper and find ways to get involved in your community! Try volunteering, attending an event, or praying through the headlines.

9

Make a greeting card and envelope using any recyclable material except paper. Give it to someone who makes you laugh.

10

Family question: Where did you notice God today?

11

Learn about the animals living around you, then go on a nature walk. Can you spot any animals or their footprints?

12

Have a family staring contest! Who can go the longest without blinking?

13

Try a new recipe from somewhere else in the world! Notice which spices or ingredients are familiar and which you're trying for the first time.

14

Do something kind to help a neighbor today!

15

Write an acrostic for each family member's name using encouraging words for everyone's name but your own. Take turns reading your poems out loud.

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18

Learn how to make shadow puppets with your hands and feet, then put on a light and shadow puppet show.

17

Family question: How did you show kindness today?

16

Map out the night sky: What constellations or planets can you see from your place on earth?

19

Build a fort out of blankets and pillows, then crawl inside and do a puzzle or play a board game together!

20

Make a map of your neighborhood using playdough, blocks, popsicle sticks, whatever! Be sure to include your favorite places to eat, learn, and play.

23

Look up what kinds of birds live around you and listen to their calls. Walk around your neighborhood and practice listening. Can you identify any birds by their calls?

22

Learn more about a non-profit at work in your community. Brainstorm different ways your family can support them, then make it happen!

21

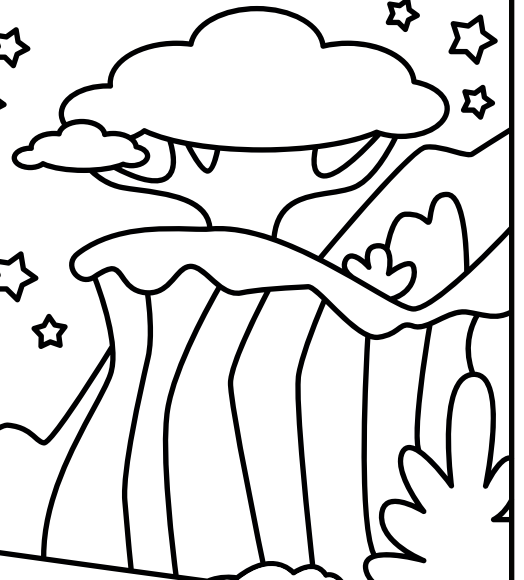
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24

Family question: What do you think Jesus liked to do for fun when he was a kid?

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Reach out to someone who lives alone. What is one way you can share God's hope, peace, joy, and love with them on this Christmas day?



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