

the Jesus  
Storybook Bible

ADVENT GUIDE

with introduction by Sally Lloyd-Jones





INTRODUCTION: BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES

## Happy Nearly Almost Christmas

What do you love most about Christmas?

Most of us say, PRESENTS! And probably all the grown-ups will laugh and want us to say something more spiritual.

But actually, do you know what? You're right. That IS the best, most important thing about Christmas.

Because, you see, Christmas is all about a present—a gift. The greatest, most magnificent gift there has ever been ...

Christmas is very hard to wait for, isn't it? Waiting to open all those presents—it's so difficult. Especially when you're little.

We count down the days. We can't wait.

But do you know how long God's people had to wait for Christmas? How long they had to wait for the gift God promised them?

Weeks?

No.

Months?

Um. Longer.

Years, then?

Even longer than that.

They had to wait for centuries and centuries! Can you imagine how excited they were when at last Christmas came?



When do you think Christmas begins?  
Does it begin in Bethlehem?  
Or with the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary?  
Or does it begin with a bright star shining  
on a little stable?

Actually, the story of Christmas begins  
long, long ago—before there were even  
any stars in the sky at all.

Christmas begins in the heart of God.

Back in the very beginning, God had a  
magnificent dream inside his heart.

He made his children to share in his  
Forever Happiness and the world to be  
our perfect home. But we lost it all when  
we decided we didn't need him, when we  
decided we could be happy without him.  
And everything broke—in our hearts and  
in his world when sin and sadness and  
tears came in.

But God had a plan—a magnificent dream.  
One day, he would get his children back.  
One day, he himself would come to rescue  
them and heal their broken hearts. One  
day, he promised, Christmas would come!

All through the Bible, all through the  
long years, God has been waiting for  
exactly the right time to send his great  
gift. He has been waiting for Christmas!

From the moment Adam and Eve left  
the garden he whispered the promise,  
“It will not always be so.” To Abraham,  
he promised one day a child will come  
to bring laughter to the whole world.  
He promised Joseph, David, Isaiah. One  
day, he will send us a Good Shepherd. A  
Brave Hero. A Young Prince. A Mighty  
King. A Great Rescuer.

A Child.

And every story whispers His name.

Christmas is when, at last, everything  
is ready. The time has come, at last, for  
God to give us his great gift.





The days leading up to Christmas are called “Advent.” Advent means the “arrival.” It means the long waiting is almost over ...

As we wait for Christmas, we’ll go on a journey together. We’ll read a story every day, decorate the tree, and tell the story of God’s Secret Rescue plan—from the very beginning ... and wait, along with God’s people ...

And on Christmas morning? PRESENTS!

And there is the greatest, most magnificent gift there has ever been—wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Sleeping under the stars that he made.

The baby who would rescue the world is born!

Happy Christmas!

-SL-J



# NOTE TO PARENTS

Not long after the book was published, families started sharing how they were using **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE** during Advent. That's when we first realized there were **EXACTLY** the right number of stories to read each day of Advent beginning on December 1st right up to Christmas day with Jesus' birth. We were amazed. It was almost as if someone had planned it. (Which, of course, Someone had!)

So we wanted to share this special family Advent resource so more of you can enjoy it.

Inside, you'll find that the team at Zondervan have created a reading plan and some beautiful printable ornaments, to make your Advent season especially meaningful as a family. For every day of Advent, there is a printable ornament, and on the reverse of each ornament there is the related story to read in **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE**, and the scripture passage it comes from.

As your family adds the ornaments to the tree, trace God's hand through all the stories, and tell the one big story of God's Great Rescue Plan through every day of Advent—starting with creation and leading up to Jesus' birth.

It's almost like an Advent tree calendar. (Is there such a thing?) Actually some people call this a Jesse Tree—named after the prophecy in Isaiah 11: 1 “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse...”.

One family I know of, reads the story together and then they each spend some time drawing something from the story (the big fish from Jonah; the lions from Daniel; the big tower from the Staircase to Heaven, for example) as they listen to Christmas music.

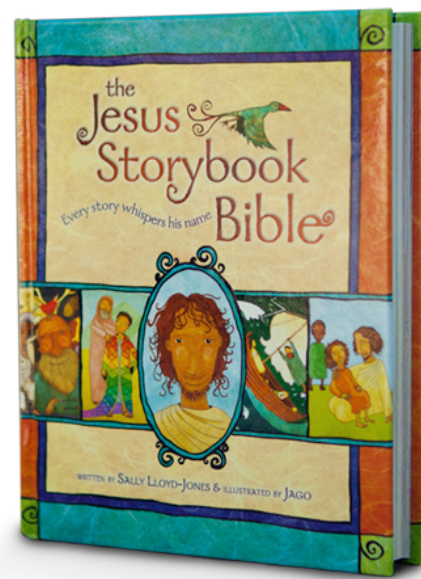
There are lots more ideas the team at Zondervan have created for you. And you will have your own ideas too.

Happy Advent!

Emmanuel!

God has come to live with us!

-SL-J



# ADVENT SOUNDTRACK

Sally compiled some of her favorite Christmas songs to accompany you on the journey to Christmas with The Jesus Storybook Bible this Advent. She said this about her “A Jesus Storybook Book Bible Advent Soundtrack”:

“I start with carols from Kings because that is Christmas for me—and move on to some of my favorite contemporary songwriters. (Full disclosure: quite a few of them happen to also be my friends but I’m not biased or anything.) All of the songs are telling the Christmas story. So I thought it might be wonderful resource to have—an advent soundtrack—as you read by yourself or together as a family—or as you decorate the tree—or really anytime at all in the day. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. My prayer is that as we journey to Christmas together, these songs help prepare our hearts. As we celebrate the Young Prince who loved us and came to rescue us... Happy Advent!

(PS right at the end is a bonus: two songs from my children’s album: BIG SONGS FOR LITTLE ONES.)”



[CLICK HERE](#)



# The Jesus Storybook Bible

## Advent Reading Plan



The Story  
and the Song



The Song  
of Creation



The Terrible Lie



A New Beginning



A Giant Staircase  
to Heaven



Son of Laughter



The Present



The Girl  
No One Wanted



The Forgiving  
Prince



God to the  
Rescue!



God Makes a Way



Ten Ways to  
be Perfect



The Warrior  
Leader



The Teeny  
Weenie...  
True King



The Young Hero  
and the  
Horrible Giant



The Good  
Shepherd



Little Servant Girl  
and the Proud  
General



Operation 'No  
More Tears!'



Daniel and the  
Scary Sleepover



God's Messenger



Get Ready!



He's Here!  
WATCH THE VIDEO



The Light of the  
Whole World



The King  
of All Kings

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Jesus is . . .



- a) God's Son.
- b) Joseph's son.

- a) Emmanuel.
- b) Gabriel.

- a) God come to punish us.
- b) God come to live with us.

🕒 **Jesus in the Story**



What did you discover about Jesus from this story?

→ **Jesus**

🕒 **A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home**

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)


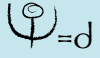

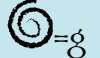

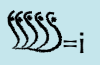

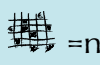

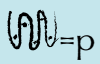

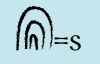



Notes for parents: From the story we learned that Jesus, the King, God's Son, was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Luke, using the diagram above. [www.jesusstorybookbible.com](http://www.jesusstorybookbible.com)



The first people to hear the good

news about the birth of God's  were .

=a    =d    =e    =g  
=h    =i    =l    =n  
=o    =p    =r    =s  
=t



Jesus would be like that  shining in the sky: a  for the whole world.

### Jesus in the Story

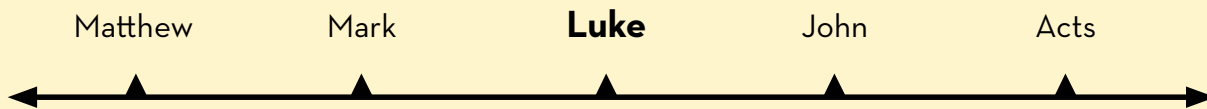
What did you discover about  
Jesus from this story?



—————→ **Jesus**

### A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)



Notes for parents: From the story we learned that God told the shepherds the good news that Jesus was born. This good news was for everyone everywhere, which means it is good news for us too. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Luke, using the diagram above. [www.jesusstorybookbible.com](http://www.jesusstorybookbible.com)

# COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

with Advent bible verses and readings from:

## The Jesus Storybook Bible

### 1 PRINT THE CARDS

You'll want to start by printing the countdown graphics. Use the best color printer and the best paper that is available to you. The photos go on one side, and the Scriptures and readings are on the back so you will want to print double-sided or feed your paper separately into your printer and print each page one-by-one. (If you're not accustomed to printing double-sided, you may want to test this first with your black-and-white printing settings to save your color cartridge.)

### 2 CUT THE CARDS

The printables have square cutting lines around the images to guide you as you cut with a paper cutter or scissors. If you'd like you can also laminate the cards, either before or after you cut them, for durability. This is a good idea if you plan to use these year after year each Christmas!

### 3 DISPLAY YOUR CARDS

There are many options for how to display your advent Scripture cards each day as you count down to Christmas! Here are four simple ideas:

1. Turn your cards into ornaments! You can bunch a hole at the top of each card and hang them on your Christmas tree, or create a mini-tree to feature these images and scriptures on their own.
2. Create a clothesline display of the cards. Grab some ribbon or baker's twine and clothespins to hang the Advent pieces across a mirror, a picture frame, or mantle.
3. Place the cards in a pocket chart or other clear type display. You can often find these at teacher supply stores.
4. Hang them from a Christmas-card holder or other type of display that you find at retail stores.

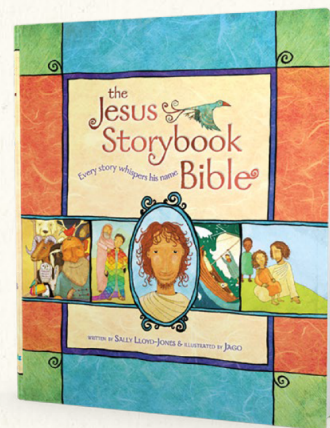
### 4 SHARE YOUR CREATIONS

We'd love to see how you display your cards. Upload your photos on Instagram, Twitter, or Pinterest with hashtag #JSBAdvent and we will try to like, retweet, and re-pin your images to the FaithGateway, Zonderkidz, and The Jesus Storybook Bible social media accounts. We can't wait to hear your stories and see your creative ideas for displays!

## SPECIAL OFFER

for our Advent Calendar Participants

SAVE NOW on The Jesus Storybook Bible!



LEARN MORE

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Dec 2

## **Genesis 1-2**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "The Song of Creation"  
(pg.18-27)

Dec 1

## **Psalm 19 and Hebrews 1**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "The Story and The Song"  
(pg.12-17)

Dec 4

## **Genesis 6-9**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "A New Beginning"  
(pg.38-47)

Dec 3

## **Genesis 3**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "The Terrible Lie"  
(pg.28-37)

Dec 6

## **Genesis 12-21**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "Son of Laughter"  
(pg.56-61)

Dec 5

## **Genesis 11**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "A Giant Staircase to Heaven"  
(pg.56-61)



Dec 8

## **Genesis 29-30**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "The Girl no One Wanted"  
(pg.70-75)

Dec 7

## **Genesis 22**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "The Present" (pg.62-69)

Dec 10

## **Exodus 3-13**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "God to the Rescue!"  
(pg.84-91)

Dec 9

## **Genesis 37-46**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "The Forgiving Prince"  
(pg.76-83)

Dec 12

## **Exodus 16-17, 19-40**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "Ten ways to be Perfect"  
(pg.100-107)

Dec 11

## **Exodus 14-15**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "God Makes a Way"  
(pg.92-99)



Dec 14

## **1 Samuel 16**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "The Teeny Weenie... True King"  
(pg.116-121)

Dec 13

## **Joshua 3 and 6**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "The Warrior Leader"  
(pg.108-115)

Dec 16

## **Psalm 51, 2 Samuel 7; paraphrase of Psalm 23**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "The Good Shepherd"  
(pg.130-135)

Dec 15

## **1 Samuel 17**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant"  
(pg.122-129)

Dec 18

## **Isaiah 9, 11, 40, 50, 53, 55, 60**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "Operation 'No More Tears!'"  
(pg.144-151)

Dec 17

## **2 Kings 5**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook Bible "A little Servant Girl and the Proud General"  
(pg.136-143)





Dec 20

## **Jonah 1-4; Hebrews 1:1-2**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "God's Messenger"  
(pg.160-169)

Dec 19

## **Daniel 6**

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Bible "Daniel and the Scary Sleepover"  
(pg.152-159)

Dec 22

## **Luke 1-2**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "He's Here!"  
(pg.176-183)

Dec 21

## **Nehemiah 8-10, Malachi 1, 3 and 4, Ezra 7**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "Get Ready!"  
(pg.170-175)

Dec 24

## **Matthew 2**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "The King of all Kings"  
(pg.192-199)

Dec 23

## **Luke 2**

Read along in the Jesus Storybook  
Bible "The Light of the Whole world"  
(pg.184-191)

# the Jesus Storybook Bible

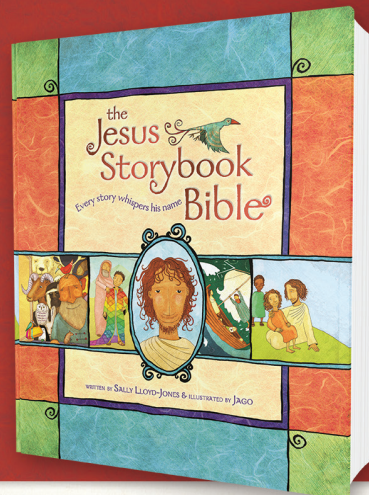
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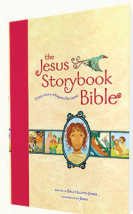
“Sally Lloyd-Jones has captured the heart of what it means to find Christ in all the scriptures, and has made clear even to little children that all God’s revelation has been about Jesus from the beginning--a truth not all that commonly recognized even among the very learned.” - Dr. Tim Keller, pastor of New York City’s Redeemer Church.



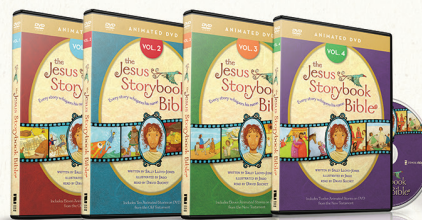
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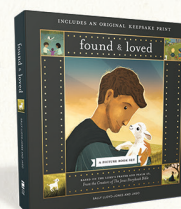
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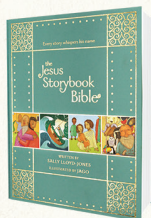
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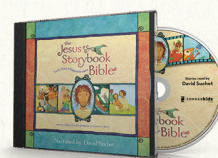
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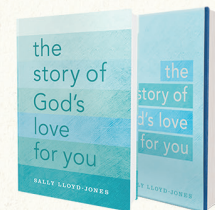
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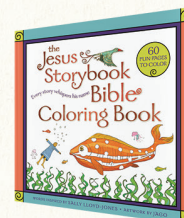
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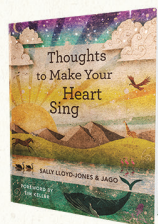
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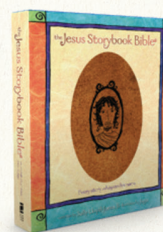
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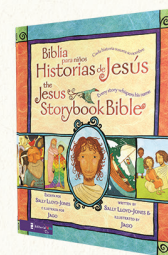
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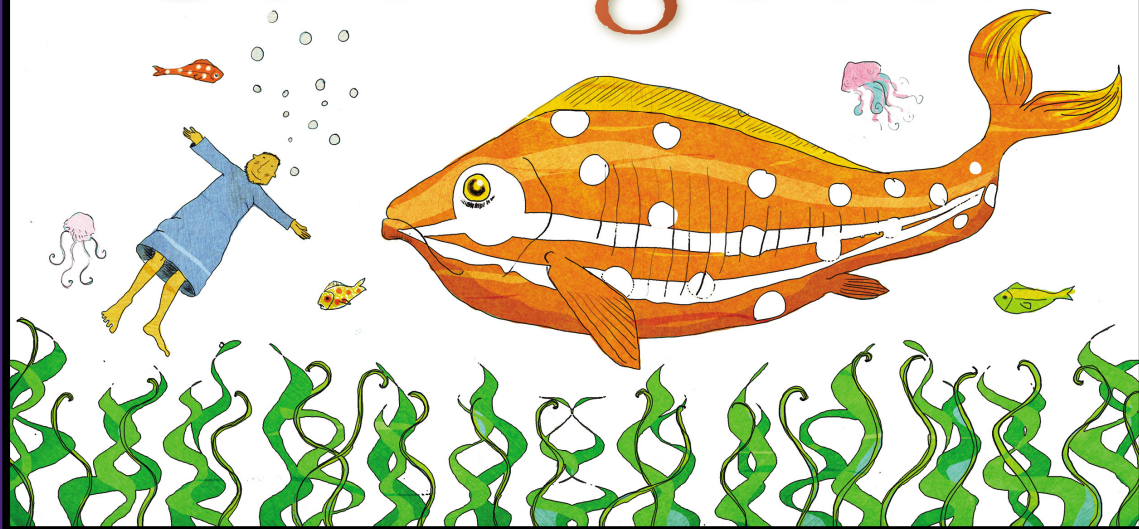
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Every story whispers his name

# Bible Coloring Book



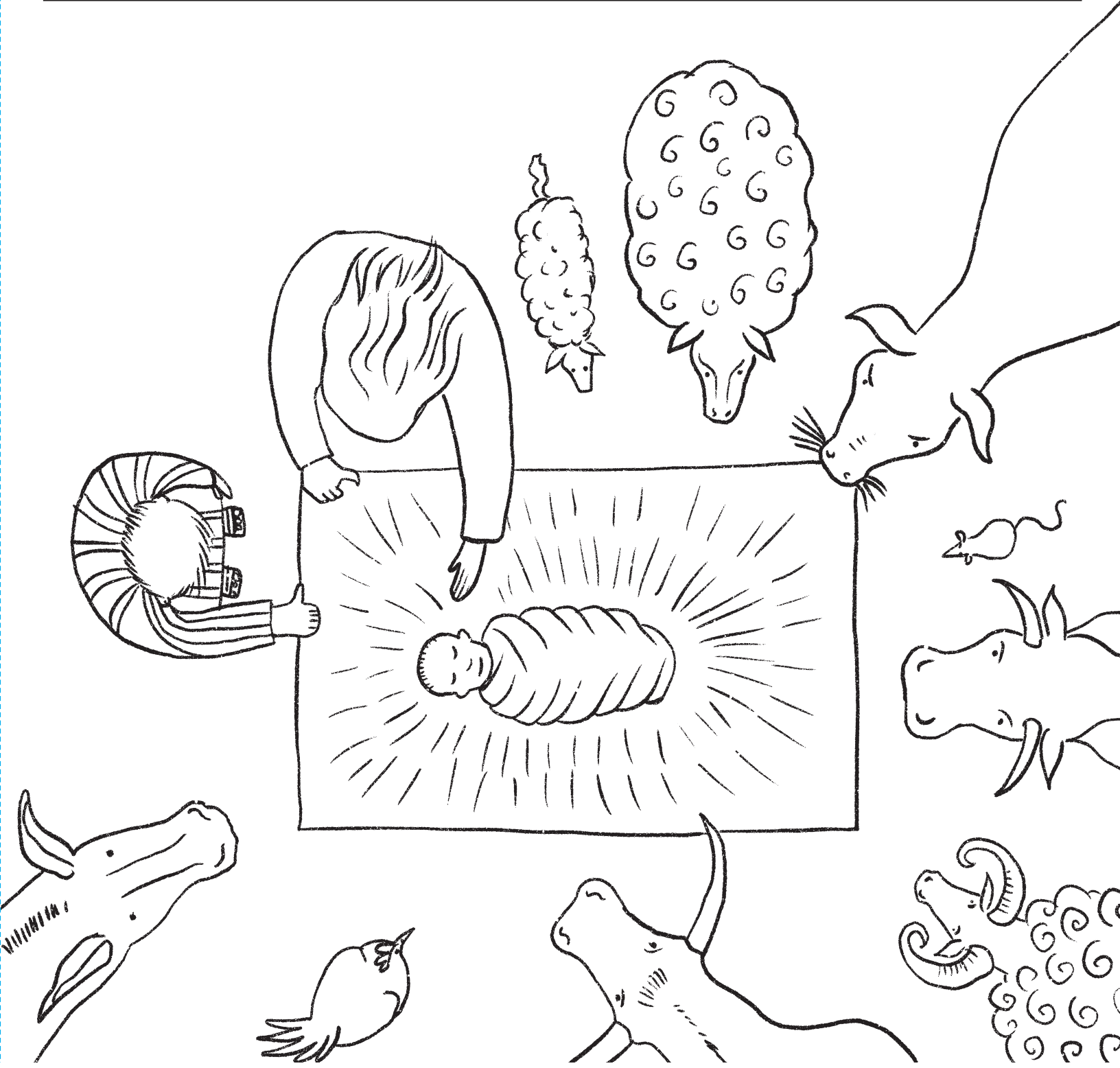
WORDS INSPIRED BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES • ARTWORK BY JAGO

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God's Son, Jesus, was born where the animals stayed—a stable.





Three Wise Men followed the same star to find the baby king.

