

New lesson plans each Sunday

GRACE UNITED METHODIST VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL



December 20, 2020
MEET YOU AT OUR GRACE WEBSITE
GRACESIOUXCITY.ORG

FAITH WORD



Access code for site: **Gracekids**

Under the children's ministry tab, you will find Virtual Sunday School. Per the request of Cokesbury Kids in place of a registration for live stream, we are giving an easy code word for the kids of Grace to access it. We will be creating packets with our weekly letter that has materials for upcoming Sundays. If you are new to Grace and would like to participate in our Sunday school please send us a message and we'll reply with an invite. You will find materials on the next few pages with some fun games and skits.

Jesus Brings Joy



Today we finally get to celebrate the greatest joy of all—the birth of Jesus! But this joy did not come easily.

There were a lot of surprises, confusions, and changes that led to this miraculous birth. As seen in today's story, Mary and Joseph had to take a long journey to Bethlehem.

The emperor forced families to return to their hometowns to be registered. This was not part of these expectant parents' plans, and neither was the news they had received earlier about the upcoming birth of Jesus.

After their journey to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph arrived to find no place to deliver this special baby and were forced to bear the child in a room shared with animals. Nothing was going according to plan. Yet, after the long journey, the waiting, and the difficulties, they received with great joy their newborn son, Jesus.

Jesus brought joy not only to Joseph and Mary but also to the whole world.

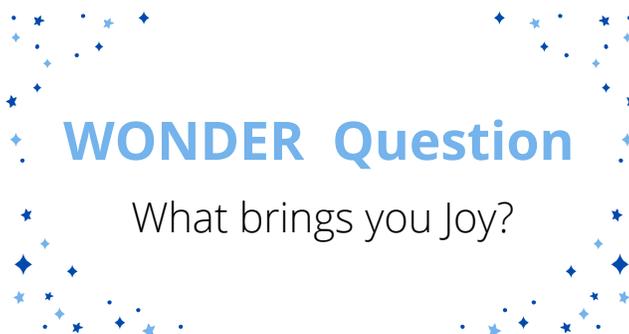


Spiritual Practice

When we least expect it, joy can appear! in the midst of chaos, God may bring a reminder that joy is just ahead.

Jesus brought joy in the midst of chaos. As you light the Advent wreath, read Luke 2: 1-7. Gather around the advent wreath. Holding hands, sing Christmas songs of joy. Welcome Baby Jesus.

Sing songs of joy to the baby Jesus as you go throughout this week. Jesus brings Joy!



WONDER Question

What brings you Joy?

***Although we can't gather together we can still gather with Christ.
We do miss our church family but the church is WHERE WE ARE!***



Instagram
gracesiouxcity



Grace UMC Sioux City, Iowa
@gracesiouxcity

Follow along in our Bible Story time then roll your wonder cube to answer questions with your family.

Jesus Brings Joy

Luke 2:1-7

The man in power, the emperor Caesar Augustus, wanted everyone to go to their hometowns to be counted. Joseph was from Bethlehem, so he and Mary had to go to Bethlehem. It was a hard trip, walking from Nazareth all the way to Bethlehem, and Mary was going to have her baby very soon!

Bethlehem was very crowded and busy when they arrived. That night, baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the guestroom.



Can you count all of the animals in the picture?

Jesus Brings Joy

Jesus Is Born

CELEBRATE
WONDER

Session 3 • Ages 3-5



7

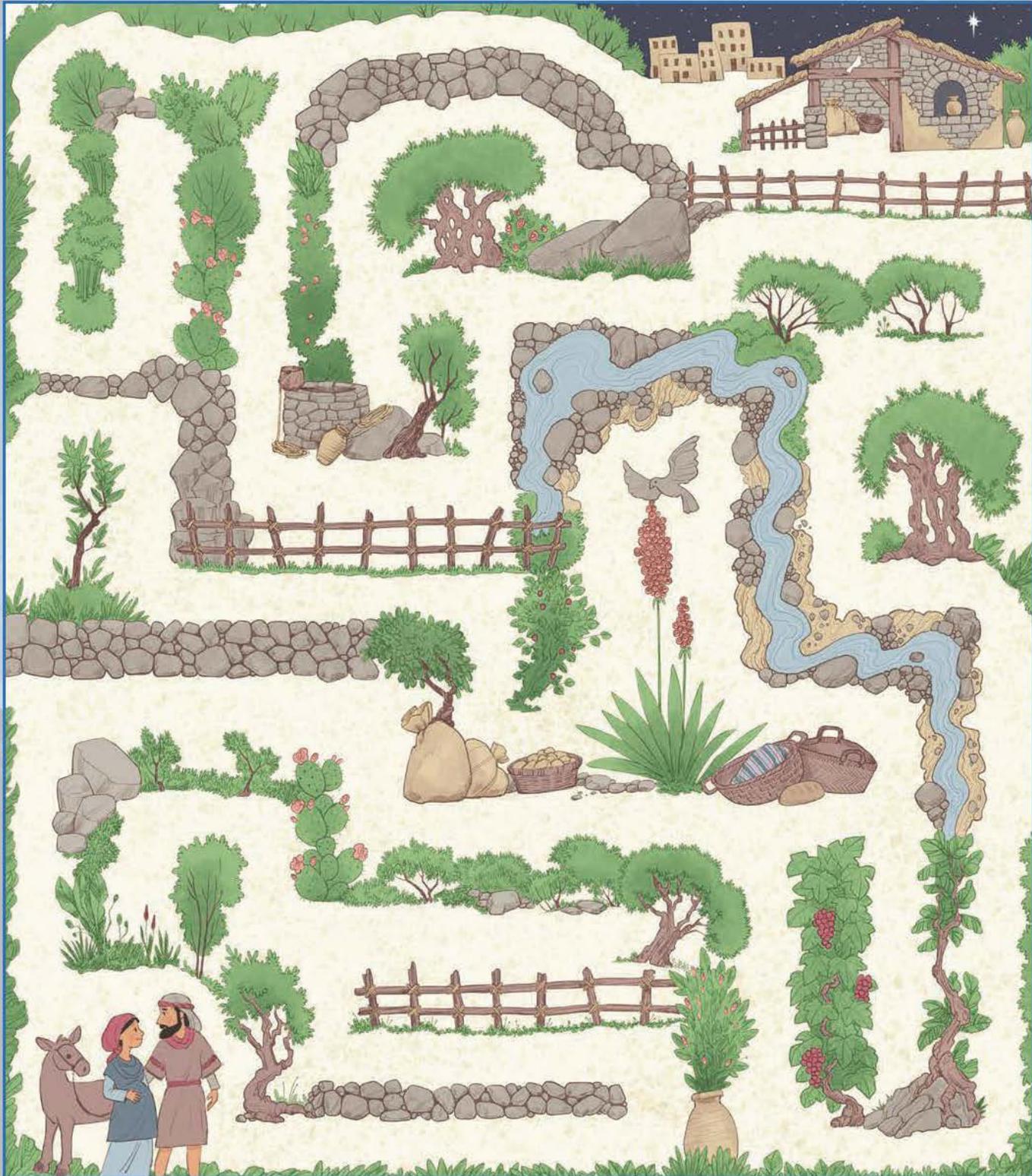
Instructions

1. Color the four Nativity figures.
2. Cut out the four figures.

Jesus Brings Joy

Find the Joy

Help Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem.



Jesus Brings Joy

Create Your Own Joy

Help retell the story of Jesus' birth. As you read, come up with a response.

Storyteller: *(a King's name)*, had everyone come to the big city because... *(Why did the people have to come to the city?)*

Joseph: We have to go.

Mary: *(How do you think Mary responded?)*

Storyteller: Mary and Joseph went. When they arrived,
(What did they see?)

Then Mary and Joseph looked for a place to sleep.
(Where did they sleep?)

Mary: I think it's time to have my baby!

Joseph: *(How do you think Joseph responded?)*

Storyteller: Mary had a baby boy. She wrapped him snugly in bands of cloth. *(Where did Mary place the baby?)*

What do you think happened next?



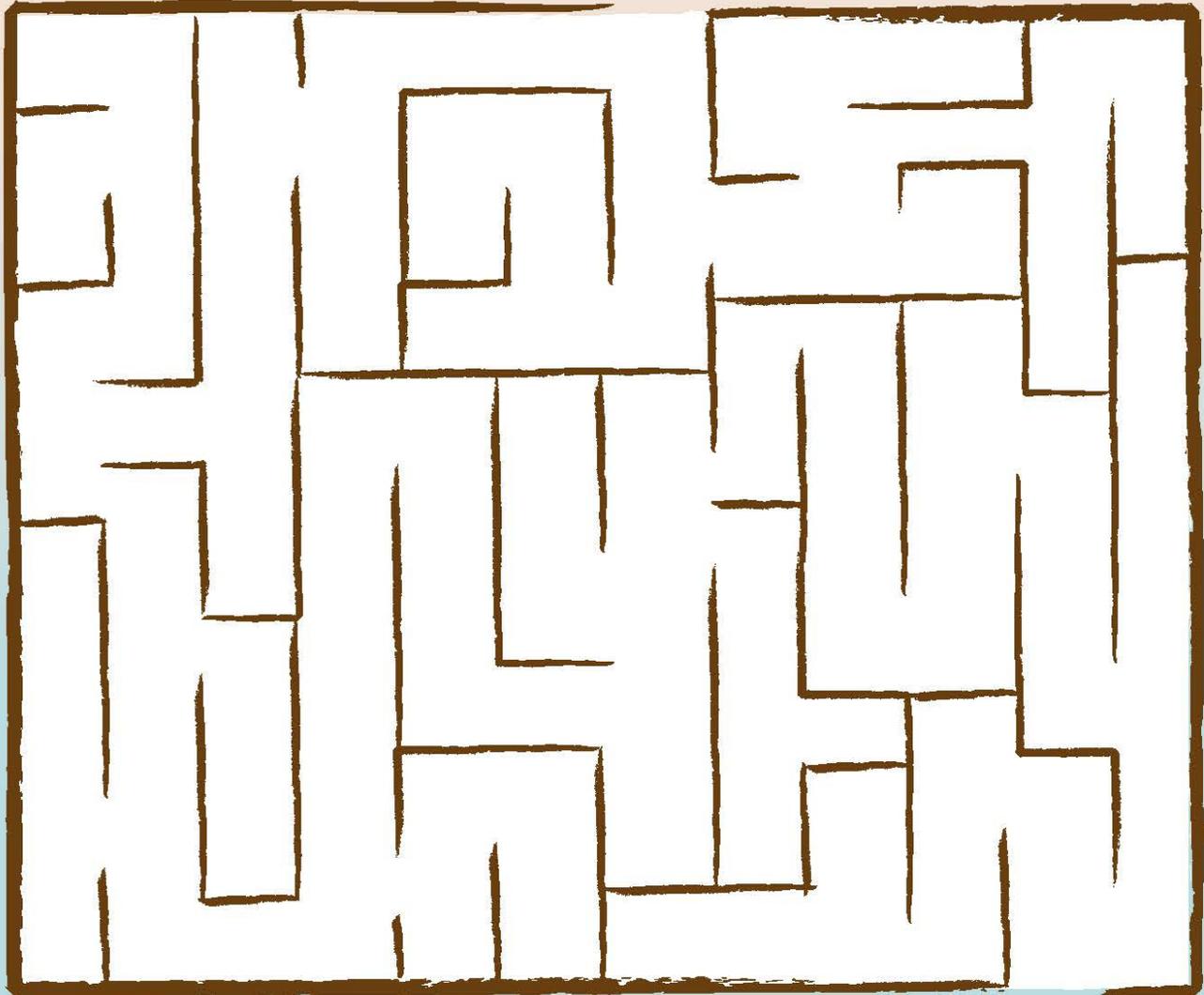
Jesus Brings Joy

Road to Bethlehem

Instructions

Solve the maze by tracing Mary and Joseph's path from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Nazareth



Bethlehem



Jesus Brings Joy

Mary and Joseph's Feelings

Instructions

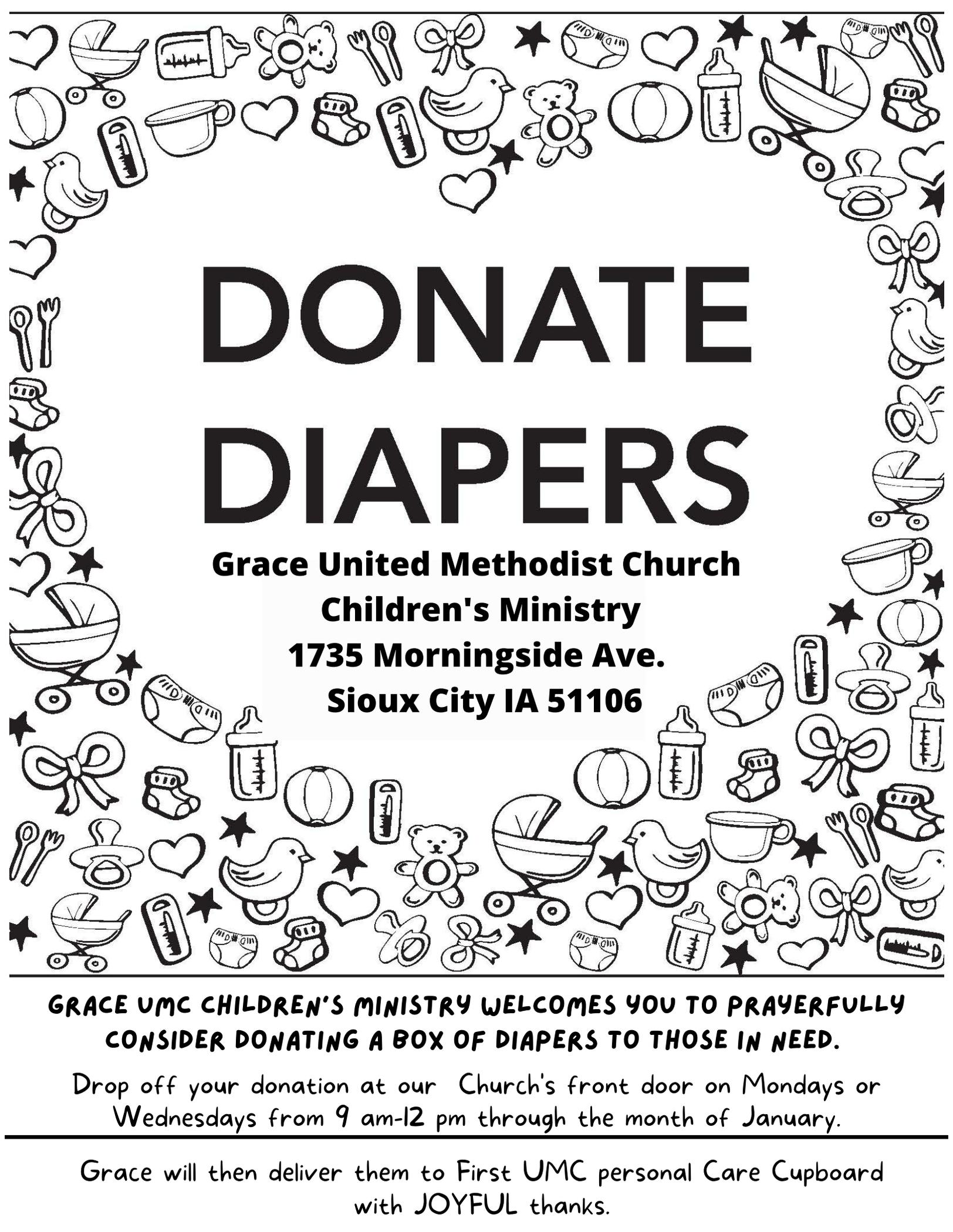
Read the Bible story (Luke 2:1-7), and then reflect on it in the spaces provided.

What do you think Mary was thinking as they traveled?

What do you think Joseph was thinking as they traveled?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn't find a place to stay?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when Jesus was born?



DONATE DIAPERS

**Grace United Methodist Church
Children's Ministry
1735 Morningside Ave.
Sioux City IA 51106**

**GRACE UMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WELCOMES YOU TO PRAYERFULLY
CONSIDER DONATING A BOX OF DIAPERS TO THOSE IN NEED.**

Drop off your donation at our Church's front door on Mondays or
Wednesdays from 9 am-12 pm through the month of January.

Grace will then deliver them to First UMC personal Care Cupboard
with JOYFUL thanks.

AT HOME WEEKLY CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Parents Page

Grace United Methodist Church

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONTACTS

OFFICE: 712-276-3452

CHRISTIANED@GRACESIOUXCITY.ORG



**Brock
Bourek**



**Tamera
Albert**

Family Service Project



After babies are born, they need many things. Sometimes families cannot get the resources they need, but your family can help. In this newsletter, there is a sample sign on the previous page to promote a diaper donation for those in need.

Feel free to have your children color and decorate them and explain the donations can be delivered to the Grace United Methodist Church front door on Mondays or Wednesdays from 9 am-12 pm through the month of January.

Grace will then deliver them to First UMC personal Care Cupboard with JOYFUL thanks.



Winter Break

SUNDAY, DEC. 27 -
SUNDAY, JAN. 3

*Virtual Sunday School Story Lessons
will still be available on our
Grace Website and Youth Facebook page.*

The Christmas Story continues with Celebrate Wonder through Epiphany! Next week we will still have activity sheets mailed for students to explore the Story of Christ's birth further at home. No Youtube videos will be available.

Our upcoming lessons will include:
"Joyous News on **December 27th**, where we reflect on the first to hear of Jesus' birth, the Shepherds.

A new Unit Packet will arrive before **January 3rd** for "The Magi", or the wise men.

During this time of Advent, your family can help your child explore the scripture together! Merry Christmas!

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Many of us plan our days, our weeks, and more. We have schedules and routines we always follow. But what if those plans are disrupted? This week shake up your schedule. Look at your daily tasks, errands, meetings, and responsibilities, and try to do one thing differently. Maybe you can respond to that email later and instead make a gratitude list. Try going for a walk while you listen to a conference call.

Whatever may be your disruption, it is important for you to remember that things do not always go according to plan. If you can practice self-care in the midst of change, you might just find a little joy!



Hello, Parents & Guardians of Grace UMC Youth!

Thanks to you, we were still able to have a small little Christmas "program". You will be able to view the prerecording during our **December 20th** worship Service. Children and Youth recorded the telling of the story of Jesus' birth through Christmas song lyrics.

This was a fun & easy way to share the joy of Christmas within our Church community and we're also sure our congregation misses seeing all of our student's bright and beautiful faces!

Thank you so much and we look forward to enjoying it with you!!