

Holy Night

A BUILD-IT-YOURSELF NATIVITY SCENE
& ADVENT CALENDAR

Wednesday

DEC. 6 - CARD NO. 4

READ: MATTHEW 21:1-2

Did Mary ride on a donkey to Bethlehem? That's often how we picture her journey. Though donkeys are referred to over 150 times in the Bible, there is no mention of one used when Joseph and Mary traveled those long miles—and all while pregnant with the baby Jesus.

Donkeys would have been a common mode of transport in that time. And did you know that donkeys

CUT OUT THE DONKEY ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY

DEVOTION ON EACH CARD

CHARACTERS FOR EACH DAY OF ADVENT PLUS CHRISTMAS DAY



2017 ADVENT
STARTS DEC. 3

Holy Night

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH A BUILD-IT-YOURSELF
NATIVITY SCENE AND ADVENT CALENDAR

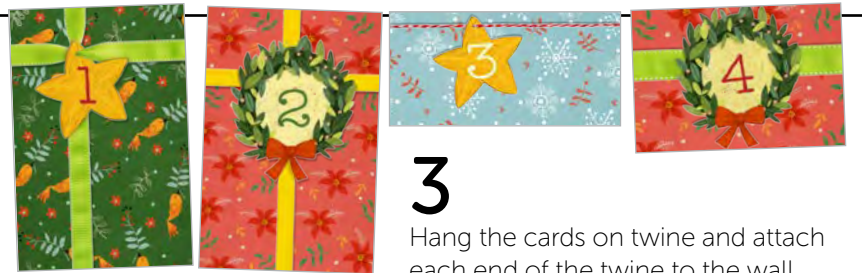
BY SHEILA SEIFERT
ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARA PALACIOS
DESIGN BY CARY BATES

SCRIPTURE READING AND DEVOTION



1 Print one copy of each page, which includes a Scripture reading, devotion and Nativity character or object.

2 Follow the directions on the pages to assemble each card



3 Hang the cards on twine and attach each end of the twine to the wall with a thumbtack, or set the cards on a table so the numbers face outward.

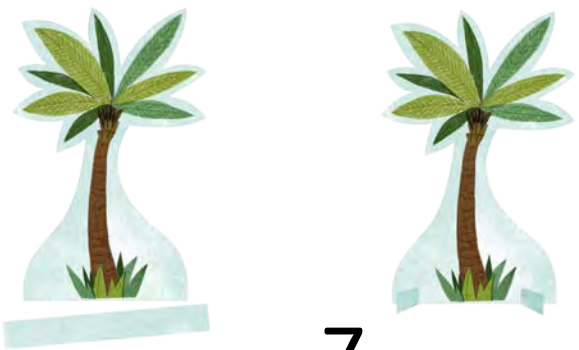
4 On the first day of Advent, Dec. 3, have a child pick the card with "1" on it. On the second day, find the card with "2" on it, and so on throughout Advent.

5 Read the Scripture and the day's devotion together.



6 Cut along the dotted lines around the character or object on the back of the card. Also cut out the stand and slits.

7 Make a small crease in the bottom center of the character or object. Slide the stand onto the character or object. Place on a flat surface to add it to your Nativity scene.





During dinner this week,
light the first purple candle in
your Advent wreath.

Sunday

DEC. 3 – CARD NO. 1

READ MICAH 5:2

What is Bethlehem Ephrathah? Wasn't Jesus born in plain old Bethlehem? During the time of the prophet Micah, there were actually two Jewish cities named Bethlehem. One was in the north, in Israel, and the other was in the south, in Judah. Six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Micah prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah, the southern one. This Bethlehem was the famous birthplace of King David. A good place for a king to be born! But the Jews never suspected their mighty Savior would be born in a stable, sleeping in a manger with animals all around. Jesus was born without most people even noticing.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION ABOVE,
CUT OUT THE PALM TREE ON THE BACK
OF THIS CARD AND BEGIN BUILDING YOUR
NATIVITY SCENE.

CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE TREE



FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.
(SEE ILLUSTRATED DIRECTIONS ON DAY 7.)

Monday

DEC. 4 – CARD NO. 2

READ MATTHEW 21:8 AND JOHN 12:13

During Bible times, people often waved palm branches to welcome kings and victorious warriors. The branches were also placed on the ground so that these individuals could ride or walk on them, just as we might roll out a red carpet to honor someone today.

There may have been palm trees in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. But Joseph and Mary could not have known that palm branches would one day be used to honor their son as king. Jesus came to defeat sin and death, to be a truly victorious king. Did the Jews recognize this? Well, they did see Him as some kind of king. During Jesus' final week on earth, when He entered Jerusalem on a colt, the crowds heralded Him as king of Israel, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!"



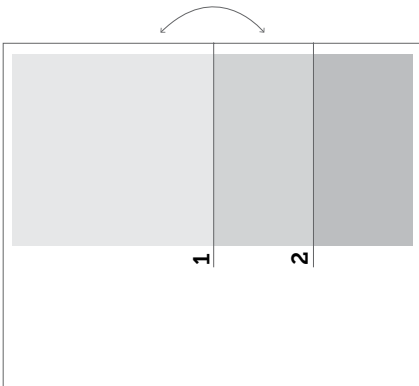
AFTER READING THE DEVOTION ABOVE,
CUT OUT THE PALM TREE ON THE BACK
OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR
NATIVITY SCENE.

CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE TREE

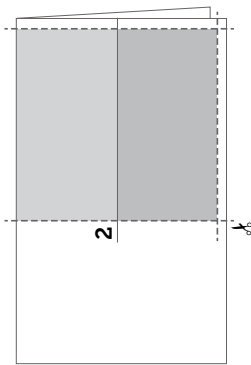


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(SEE ILLUSTRATED DIRECTIONS ON DAY 7.)

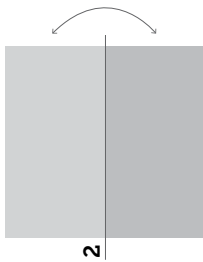
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3. Fold line 2.



FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN TRIM DASHED LINES. FOLD LINE 2.

Tuesday

DEC. 5 – CARD NO. 3

READ JEREMIAH 48:28 AND SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12

It's a bird paradise! Over 500 different kinds of birds dwell in the land where Jesus was born: blue jays, warblers, robins, kestrels, barn owls, and of course, doves. In fact, there are four different types of doves: the collared dove, laughing dove, Namaqua dove and rock dove, which is more like a pigeon. We're not sure what sort of birds were nesting in the rocks near where Jesus was born. But it's easy to imagine doves cooing praises at our Savior's birth. The dove has long been seen as a symbol of peace. What better bird to be present at the birth of the Prince of Peace!



Ask God to always place you exactly where He wants you to be and honor Him in every situation.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE DOVE ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE DOVE





Wednesday

DEC. 6 - CARD NO. 4

READ MATTHEW 21:1-2

Did Mary ride a donkey to Bethlehem? That's often how we picture her journey. Though donkeys are mentioned over 150 times in the Bible, there is no mention of one used when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. It's possible Mary actually walked those long miles—and all while pregnant with Jesus.

Donkeys would have been a common sight during Jesus' time. And did you know that donkeys can talk? Well, not by themselves, but once, God caused a pagan prophet's donkey (Numbers: 22:22-39) to speak to

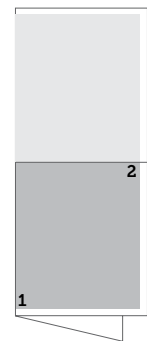


AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE DONKEY ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

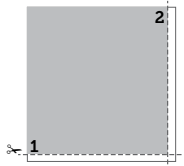
his master, Balaam, and prevent him from doing something that would make God angry. Many years later, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey. This donkey had no need to speak, but imagine what he might tell his friends if he could: "Today, I carried the King of kings!"



CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE DONKEY



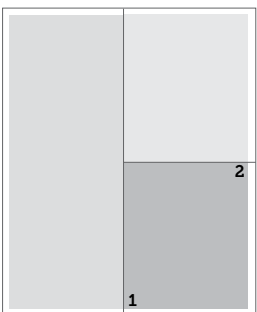
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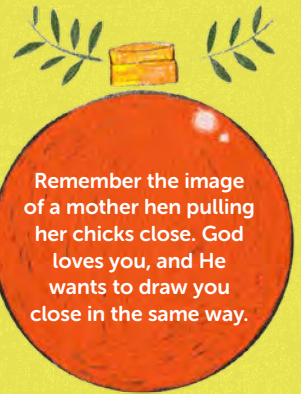
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Thursday

DEC. 7 – CARD NO. 5

READ MATTHEW 23:37

We say Jesus is the Lamb of God and also the Good Shepherd. But He is also a . . . chicken? Not really. Jesus uses the picture of a hen and her chicks to illustrate God's desire to protect His people and draw them close to himself. Chickens aren't mentioned much in the Old Testament. Historians say these birds weren't brought into the Palestine area until nearer to the time of Jesus. But hens and their chicks were certainly around Bethlehem during the Nativity. In God's desire to save us and draw us near, He sent His Son into the world.



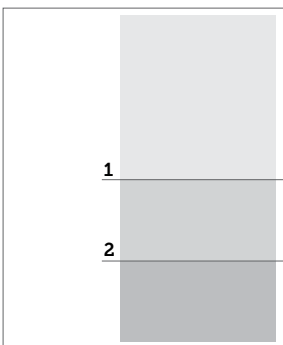
AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE CHICKEN ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



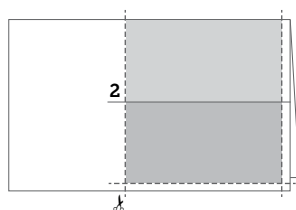
CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE CHICKEN



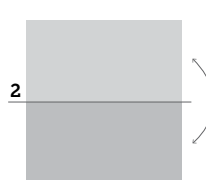
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3. Fold line 2.



FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN TRIM DASHED LINES. FOLD LINE 2.

Friday

DEC. 8 – CARD NO. 6

READ JOHN 10:14-15

Jesus is the Good Shepherd! That's a picture that people in Jesus' time would have understood very well. Sheep were an important part of life. They were used for food, their wool was made into clothing, and they were used as sacrifices. During this period, a shepherd might give his sheep names. Then when he called its name, the sheep would hear it and run to him. It took time for sheep to learn their names, but shepherds were patient and kind. They knew each sheep individually, just as Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows you. When He calls your name, do you come running? This Christmas season, spend time with Jesus so you learn how much He cares for you.

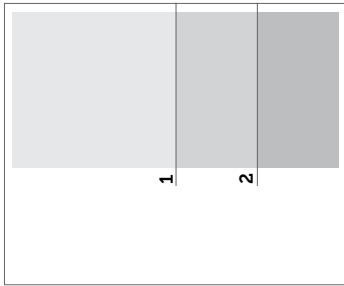


AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE SHEEP ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

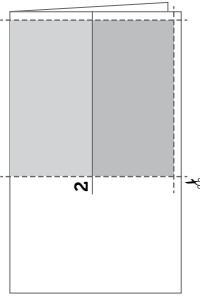


CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE SHEEP

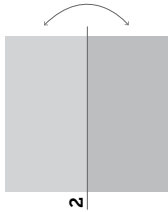
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Saturday

DEC. 9 – CARD NO. 7

READ JOHN 1:29 AND 1 PETER 1:16-19

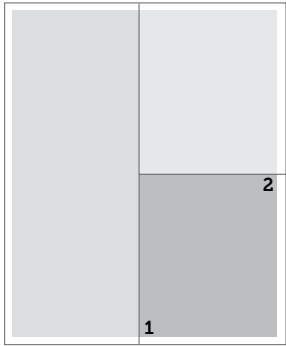
When John the Baptist first saw Jesus, he called Him “the Lamb of God.” What a strange thing to say. But John had a good reason. During Bible times, lambs were sacrificed as an atonement for people’s sins. Only death can pay for the seriousness of sin, but for many years, God accepted an animal sacrifice. Abel, one of the first shepherds, sacrificed his firstborn lambs, and God was pleased with his offering. During the time of Jesus, lambs were sacrificed in the temple to cover the sins of the Jewish people. But Jesus came to the world to become humankind’s perfect sacrifice. He had done nothing wrong. Still, He chose to be sacrificed on the Cross and rise again to remove punishment for humankind’s sin once and for all. The death of the Lamb of God means no additional sacrifices are needed. Jesus is our Savior.



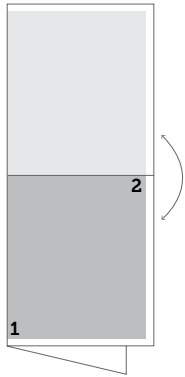
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CUT OUT THE SHEEP ON THE
BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT
TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



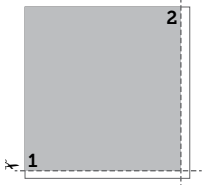
CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE SHEEP



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2. Fold line 2.



3. Trim dashed lines.

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.






During dinner this week,
light the second purple Advent
candle, along with the first.

Sunday

DEC. 10 – CARD NO. 8

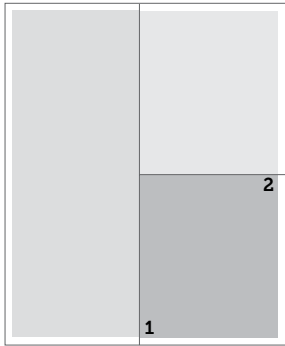
READ REVELATION 5:5-6

A lion that looks like a lamb? Or is it a lamb that looks like a lion? The apostle John wrote the book of Revelation when he was in exile as an old man. God gave him a vision of the future, and he wrote down what he saw. John was told that a “lion” had conquered death and could open the Book of Life. As John waited to see this valiant lion, a lamb instead appears and opens the book. What a great picture of the true nature of Jesus! He had the strength and power of a lion—the power to *create* lions, in fact—but He took on the role of a sacrificial lamb—meek and patient—to draw humankind back to God. This mighty lion did not charge into battle. No, He bowed His head and gave up His life for us all. In humility and sacrifice lies godly strength and power.

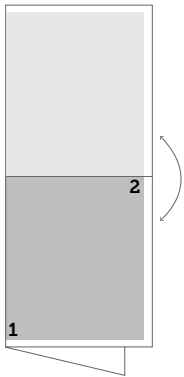
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OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR
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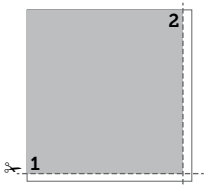
CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE SHEEP



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2. Fold line 2.



3. Trim dashed lines.



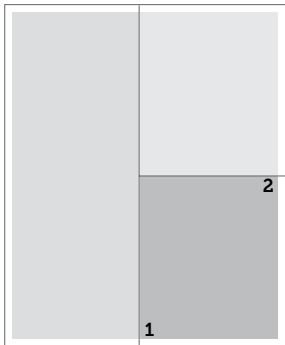
FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.

Monday

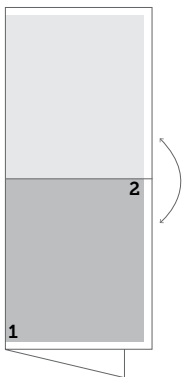
DEC. 11 – CARD NO. 9

READ LUKE 2:8-9 AND ISAIAH 40:5

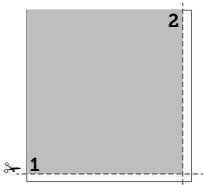
Imagine the brightest and most beautiful Christmas lights you've ever seen. How do you think that compares to the "glory of the Lord" that the shepherds witnessed shining around the angels at the first Christmas long ago? What a sight! This divine radiance did not come from the angels, but God; the angels were the messengers of God's glory. Angels get their brilliance from the One who made them. This is also true for believers today. When we accept Christ as our Savior and choose to follow Him, God's glory shines through our lives, allowing us to be His messengers to a hurting world. When the shepherds saw this glorious light, they were filled with fear. Perhaps they feared God's glory because they recognized their own sin. It was a humble recognition that they fell short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Don't fret when you find that you aren't perfect, either. Instead, follow the shepherds' lead and come to the Savior, who takes away our sins.



1. Fold line 1.



2. Fold line 2.



3. Trim dashed lines.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION,
CUT OUT THE SHEPHERD ON THE
BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT
TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE SHEPHERD

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.



Tuesday

DEC. 12 – CARD NO. 10

READ LUKE 1:26-30

What's the most surprising news you've ever heard? Imagine how Mary might have felt when the angel Gabriel told her that she would be the mother of the Messiah. What an announcement! The mighty angel Gabriel is often a messenger of God's big news. In Old Testament times, Gabriel explained Daniel's strange vision of the end times (Daniel 8:15-16). Many years later, Gabriel told Zechariah that he would be the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-20). But Zechariah had his doubts. He and his wife were old, and Zechariah didn't think they could have a baby. When Gabriel told Mary that God had chosen her to be Jesus' mother, she agreed to be a part of God's plan, even though she didn't understand how it could happen.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION,
CUT OUT THE ANGEL ON THE
BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT
TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



During this holiday
season, choose to
follow God and
His Word.



CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE ANGEL.

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.
(SEE ILLUSTRATED DIRECTIONS ON DAY 12.)



Wednesday

DEC. 13 – CARD NO. 11

READ LUKE 2:10-14

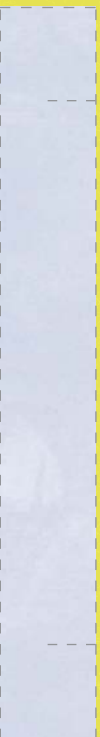
If you were holding an envelope with the most important announcement the world would ever see, who would you give it to? You might think a TV reporter or an important leader should see the news first. But how about a group of unknown shepherds?

When Jesus was born, a multitude of angels delivered this message to lowly shepherds outside of Bethlehem. They told the shepherds that the Messiah had arrived and that He had come for the good of all people—the lonely, poor and unknown, as well as the rich, respected and powerful. Seeing this “heavenly host” must have been quite an experience for the shepherds, who lived with their flocks of sheep out in the quiet country night. But what a joy to hear this Good News!

At the birth of the Messiah, this company of angels couldn’t wait to praise God for sending His Son to save humankind. Take time today to praise God for what He has done for you—the sacrifice of His Son for the forgiveness of your sins.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE ANGEL ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE ANGEL

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES. (SEE ILLUSTRATED DIRECTIONS ON DAY 12.)



Thursday

DEC. 14 – CARD NO. 12

READ LUKE 2:15-16

If you were going to have a big birthday party, would you invite someone you didn't like or someone you didn't trust? At the time of Jesus' birth, shepherds were hired to look after other people's sheep. These men spent a lot of time away from people, and some thought shepherds stole newborn lambs. Jewish leaders encouraged people not to buy from shepherds because they believed the wool or meat was probably stolen. At this time, shepherds were not able to be witnesses in court because their testimony was not trusted—they were thought to be ignorant. And being out with sheep for so long, they didn't always look or smell as nice as they could.

Although the world didn't think much of them, God chose shepherds to be the first to see His Son as a newborn. They immediately responded to the angelic message and hurried to find Jesus. God doesn't judge people as the world does. He doesn't care about reputation or outward appearance; He cares only about a person's heart.

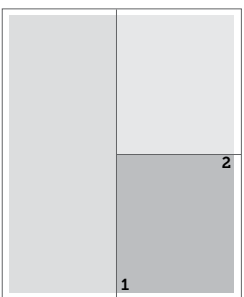


AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE SHEPHERD ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

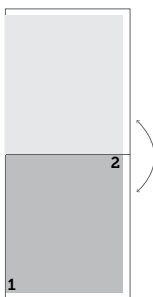


CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE SHEPHERD

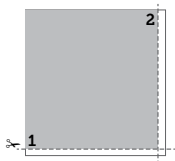
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3. Trim dashed lines.



Friday

DEC. 15 – CARD NO. 13

READ LUKE 2:16-18,20

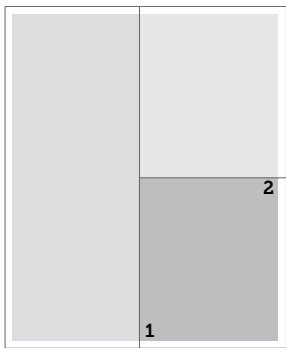
Have you ever had great news to share? You probably couldn't wait to tell all your friends. The same was true of the shepherds who were told of Jesus' birth. After hearing the news that they'd find the Christ child in a manger in Bethlehem, the shepherds hurried toward the city to search for the Messiah. After the shepherds found the Christ child, they could not keep what they'd learned to themselves. They went throughout the stables and courtyards, telling people of the angels' announcement and of what they had witnessed. They glorified and praised God for including them in His miraculous plan to save humankind. They wanted everyone to hear as they returned to their sheep: "The Savior has been born, as a baby, and we saw Him!" We, too, can share the Good News of Jesus with our friends and family this Christmas season.



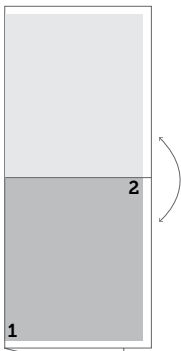
AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE SHEPHERD ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



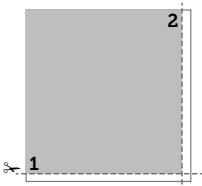
CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE SHEPHERD



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2. Fold line 2.



3. Trim dashed lines.

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.



Saturday

DEC. 16 – CARD NO. 14

READ MATTHEW 2:1

Were there wise men in the stable, too? Just how big was this place, anyway? Actually, the wise men didn't arrive in Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. These astronomers first saw the Christmas star from very far away, and they had a long journey from the East. So they arrived in Jerusalem some time *after* Jesus was born. Some Bible scholars speculate that the wise men came to Bethlehem a year or two later. They asked King Herod where the Christ child was to be born, and he eventually told them Bethlehem. And that's exactly where they found Him. Searching for Jesus is a good trait for all wise men—and women and children—to have. Did the wise men ride camels to find Jesus? No one knows. The magi could have walked or used other animals, but there is a good chance they did use camels to pack what they needed.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE CAMEL ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE CAMEL

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.
(SEE ILLUSTRATED DIRECTIONS ON DAY 12.)



During dinner this week, light the third candle, the pink one on your Advent wreath, as well as the first two purple candles.

Sunday

DEC. 17 – CARD NO. 15

READ MATTHEW 2:1-2

Stand outside in the dark some clear night this Christmas season. Ask yourself: *What makes any one star stand out from the millions of other stars?* The magi, also known as wise men, lived in the East and saw a single star. Something about this star was unique—perhaps its brightness or its size or its color or some other quality. We don't know what made it special. We do know that these wise men studied astronomy, and from their studies, they reasoned that certain star formations and characteristics meant certain things. When this star appeared, the magi deduced that it signaled the birth of a child who would be the King of the Jews. Perhaps the whole purpose of this star was to let the magi know that the Christ was born. God reveals His truth to people in ways they can understand, especially when they are searching for it.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE STAR ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE STAR



FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES (SEE ILLUSTRATED DIRECTIONS ON DAY 12.)

Monday

DEC. 18 – CARD NO. 16

READ MATTHEW 2:7,9-10

Maybe you've heard the lyrics to the old song: "We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar." Some have woven into the Christmas narrative the idea that the magi were kings. Who else could afford to present the baby Jesus with such expensive gifts? But this is an old legend, not a fact. This story may have rooted itself in our culture from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "The Three Kings." If the wise men were kings, it is not mentioned in the Bible. Many years earlier, the prophet Daniel was placed in charge of the magi in Persia after he interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. And there may be a connection between Daniel and the later wise men, too. Daniel talked about a coming Savior of the Jews in Daniel 9:24-26. So the magi who came to see Jesus may have studied Daniel's writings about the coming Messiah. Whoever they were and wherever they came from, the wise men sought the Savior.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION,
CUT OUT THE CAMEL ON THE BACK
OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR
NATIVITY SCENE.



CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE CAMEL

Tuesday

DEC. 19 – CARD NO. 17

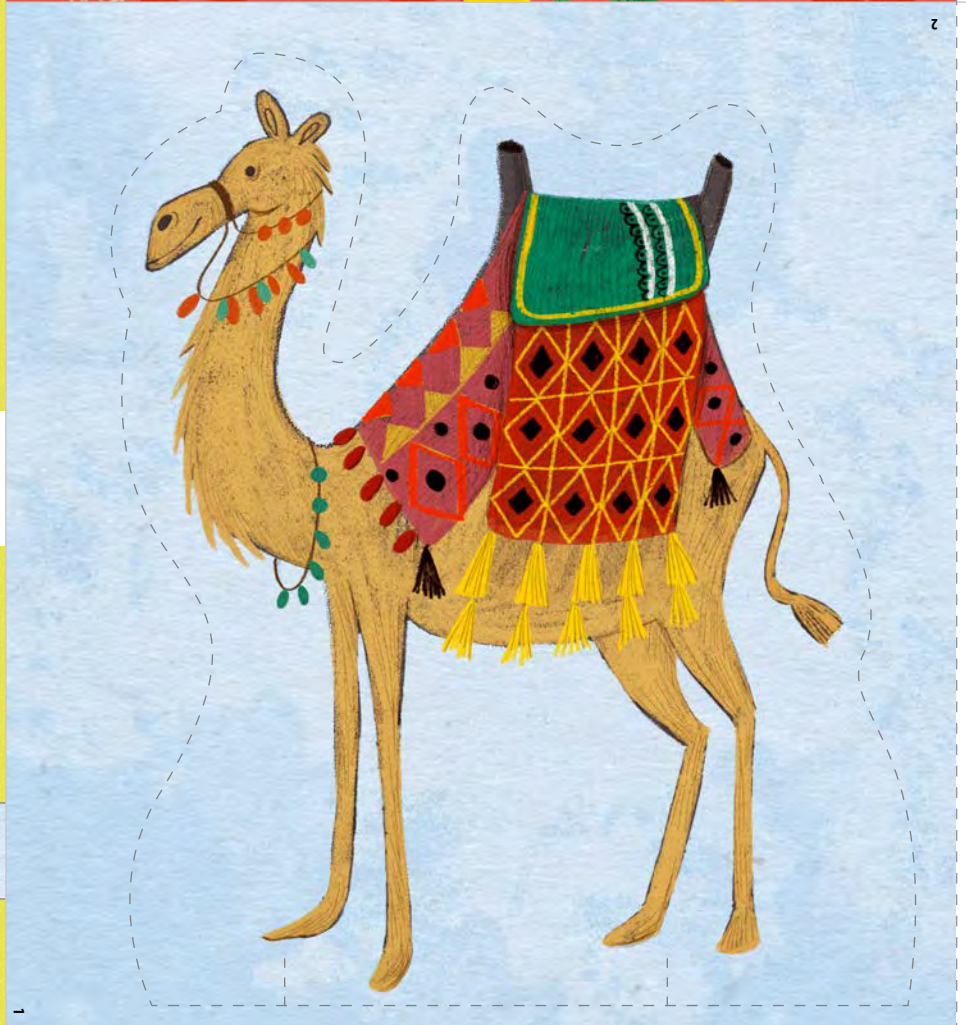
READ MATTHEW 19:23-24

Have you ever seen or ridden a camel? What a huge animal! The size is something that Jesus must have noticed, too, for He used it as an illustration in His teachings. Once He told the Pharisees that their hypocrisy was like straining out a gnat but swallowing an entire camel (Matthew 23:24). This would have had a certain meaning to the Jews. Camels were not considered clean animals (Leviticus 11:4), so the Israelites did not eat them. Imagine being a religious leader of the day and being told that you had swallowed a camel.

But camels were very useful work animals. Because of their ability to store fat in their hump, camels can last months without water. And they can survive hot and cold environments. The Jews used camels to carry people and heavy loads, which made these animals good for trading caravans. Camels would have been a common sight around the time Jesus was born.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE CAMEL ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE CAMEL



Wednesday

DEC. 20 – CARD NO. 18

READ MATTHEW 2:11

What comes to mind when you think of a king? Do you picture a powerful leader who wears a crown and sits on a throne in a majestic palace? Does he have servants who wait on him and an army to protect him? Does everyone bow in reverence as they approach him?

How interesting that the wise men bowed to the child Jesus. He certainly didn't look like a king, and the wise men had no idea what He would ultimately accomplish. Yet they were compelled to honor Him. They recognized that His birth was a remarkable event. When you consider their response to the Christ child, consider your own response to Him during the Christmas season.

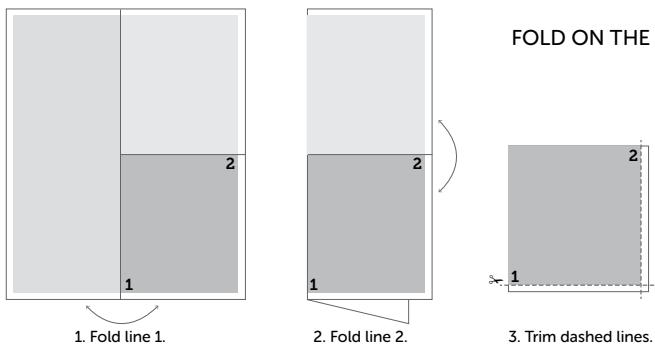


AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE WISE MAN ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE WISE MAN

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.



1. Fold line 1.

2. Fold line 2.

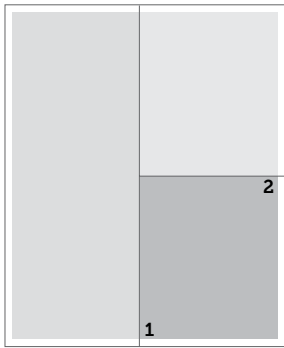
3. Trim dashed lines.

Thursday

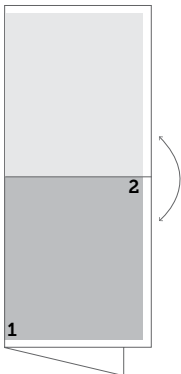
DEC. 21 – CARD NO. 19

READ MATTHEW 2:11

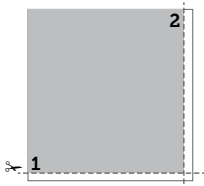
The wise men brought expensive presents for Jesus, although Mary and Joseph were probably more impressed by the treasures than the King of kings was. But these gifts had special meanings, too. In Bible times, gold was a precious metal, as it is today. Giving Jesus the gift of gold treated Him as a king. Frankincense, a type of incense, was used for worship in the temple. This gift called attention to Jesus' role as the High Priest of all humankind. It might even have been a way of recognizing that God the Father was pleased with what Jesus was sent to do on earth. And finally, myrrh was given to Jesus. This spice was used in the burial process when embalming a body. The gift of myrrh foreshadowed Jesus' death, the reason He came to earth. Today, God has a gift for you. He wants you to follow Him and receive the gift of His Son as your Savior.



1. Fold line 1.



2. Fold line 2.



3. Trim dashed lines.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE WISE MAN ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE WISE MAN



FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.



Friday

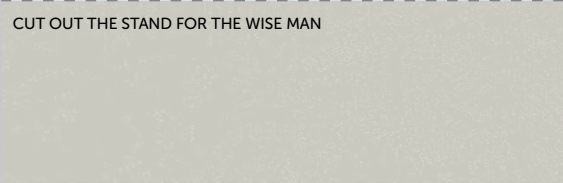
DEC. 22 – CARD NO. 20

READ MATTHEW 2:7-8,12

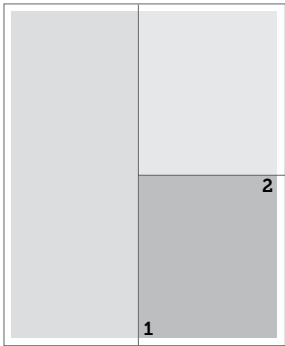
The magi changed their travel plans because of a dream. This might seem like a strange thing to do, but the magi were used to having dreams and visions. The one true God warned them in a dream “not to return to Herod.” Who was Herod? The Roman government appointed Herod as the king of the Jews. He wasn’t a natural-born Jew; he was actually an Edomite. He chose to be a practicing Jew, but he didn’t let his religion get in the way of him being a brutal and ruthless ruler. He did whatever it took to keep his throne, which meant a newborn that people called “the King of the Jews” was a threat that had to be dealt with. Thanks to God’s direction in a dream, the wise men were not responsible for helping Herod carry out the evil he had planned.



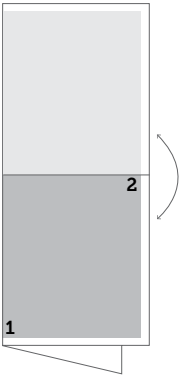
AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT THE WISE MAN ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



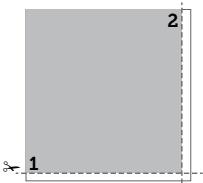
CUT OUT THE STAND FOR THE WISE MAN



1. Fold line 1.



2. Fold line 2.



3. Trim dashed lines.

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.

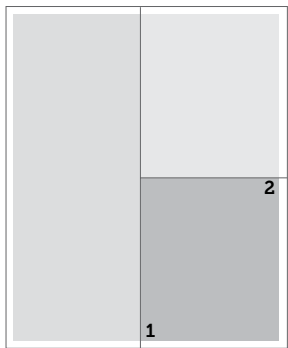


Saturday

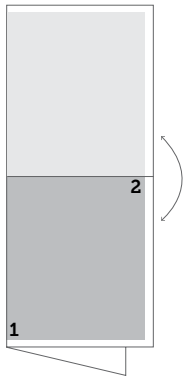
DEC. 23 – CARD NO. 21

READ MATTHEW 1:18-24

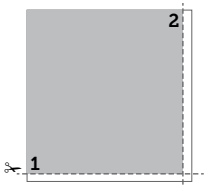
Joseph agreed to become Jesus' earthly father after he had a divine dream. An angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife. Doing this was not convenient or easy for him socially. Others knew Mary was pregnant. It was not convenient for him physically. He had to travel to Bethlehem with a pregnant wife, probably on foot, approximately 65 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. He may have wondered what his decision would mean in the coming years. Though completely inconvenient to be Mary's husband, Joseph agreed to the task, and as a result, he was given the honor of being Jesus' earthly father. This Christmas season consider how the inconvenient things in your life may be a gift from God.



1. Fold line 1.



2. Fold line 2.



3. Trim dashed lines.



AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT JOSEPH ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



CUT OUT THE STAND FOR JOSEPH.

FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.



During dinner this week, light the final purple candle, along with the first three candles in your Advent wreath.

Sunday

DEC. 24 – CARD NO. 22

READ ISAIAH 7:14 AND LUKE 30-32;38

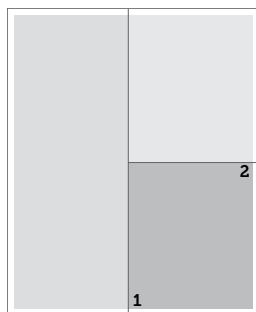
Mary was a popular name during the time of Jesus. In the New Testament, seven Marys are mentioned. But it wasn't Mary's name that made her important; rather, it was God's unique call on her life. An angel came to her with an outlandish proposal—that she would be the mother of the Son of God. Her complete trust in God showed in her response to the angel. She did not doubt the angel's message, even though she did not know how it could possibly come true. She was willing to submit to whatever was required of her if this was what God wanted. Because she chose to submit to God's will, she became the mother of Jesus. What an honor!



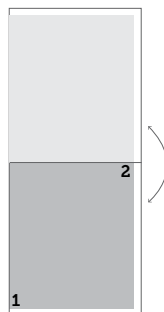
AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT MARY ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.



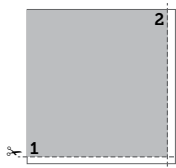
CUT OUT THE STAND FOR MARY.



1. Fold line 1.



2. Fold line 2.



FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.

3. Trim dashed lines.



Advent ends on Christmas Eve, so today you light only the white candle in the center of your Advent wreath.



Monday

DEC. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY! - CARD NO. 23

READ JOHN 1:14 AND 1 JOHN 5:11

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.

—FROM *MERE CHRISTIANITY* BY C.S. LEWIS

That babe in the manger at Bethlehem is a sign to you and me that God will freely give us that spirit of love if we ask for it. For He would not have set that example if He had not meant us to follow it, and He would not ask us to follow it if He did not intend to give us the means of following it.

—ADAPTED FROM "CHRISTMAS DAY" BY CHARLES KINGSLEY

Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.

—FROM *THE LAST BATTLE* BY C.S. LEWIS

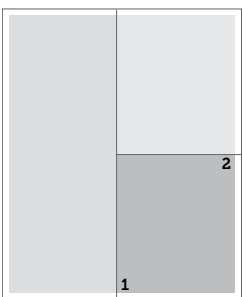


AFTER READING THE DEVOTION, CUT OUT BABY JESUS ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD AND PLACE IN YOUR NATIVITY SCENE.

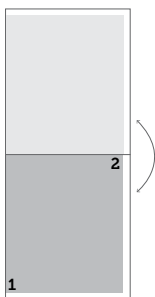


CUT OUT THE STRAW FOR THE MANGER.

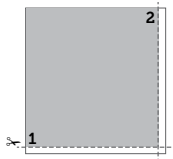
FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES. FOLD LINE 1, THEN FOLD LINE 2. TRIM DASHED LINES.



1. Fold line 1.



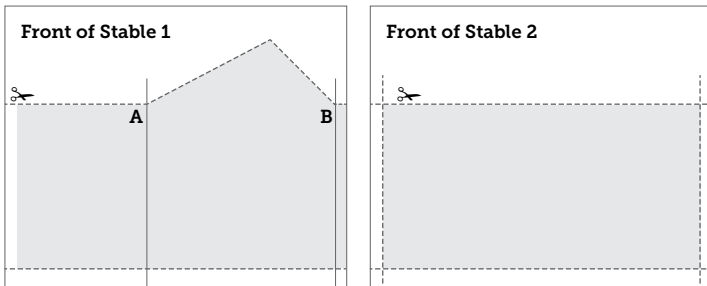
2. Fold line 2.



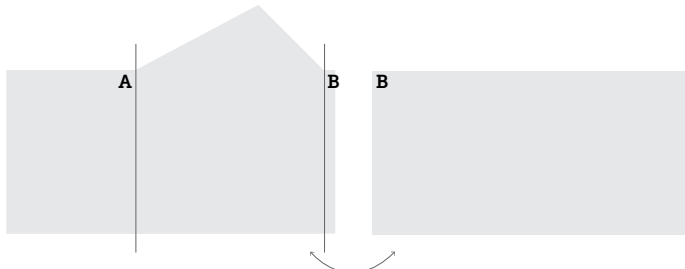
3. Trim dashed lines.



BUILDING THE STABLE

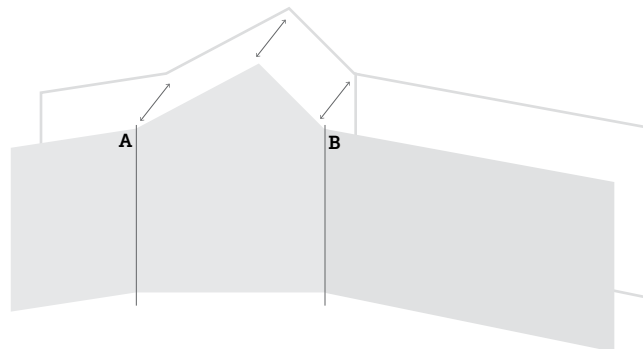


1. Cut along dashed lines to cut out Front of Stable-1 and Front of Stable-2.



2. Place the left edge of Front of Stable-2 over the B on Front of Stable-1, aligning along the fold line.

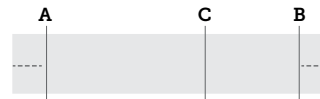
3. Repeat for Back of Stable 1 and 2.



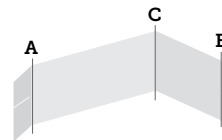
4. Place front and back stable pieces together, matching wrong side. Attach only the center section with double-side tape or glue.

5. Fold A and B lines inward — Attach front and back. Trim white edges.

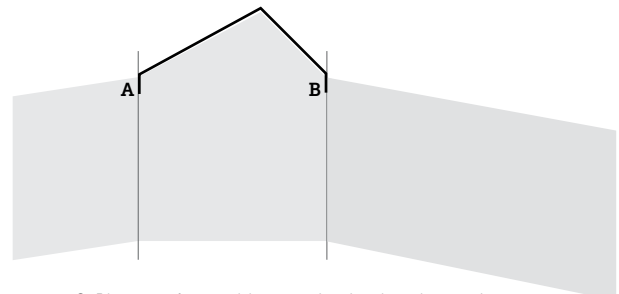
Roof



6. Cut along dashed lines to cut out roof, including slits.



7. Fold A, B, and C lines.



8. Place roof on stable, securing in place by putting the roof fold A onto stable fold A and so on.

FRONT STABLE - 1



A

B



B

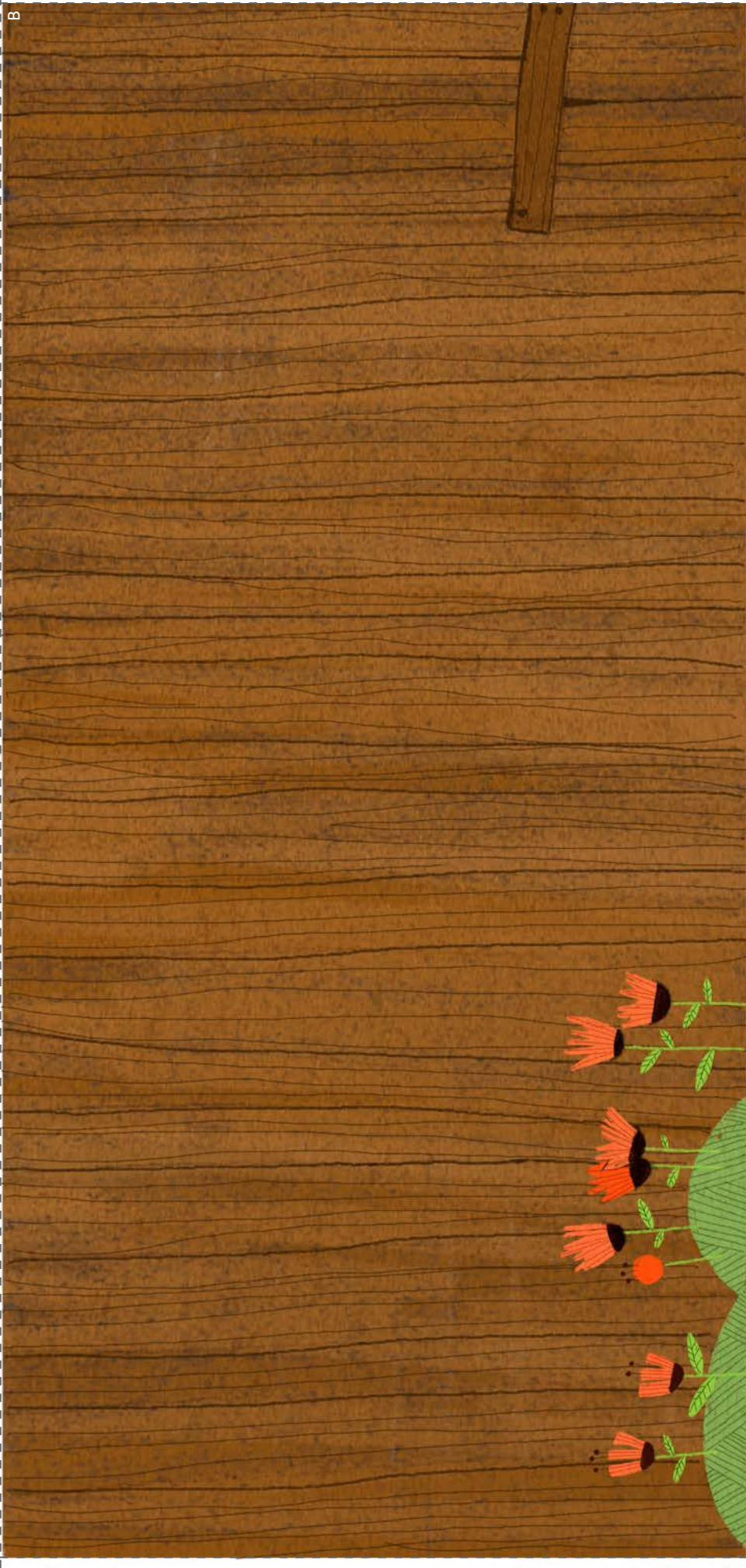
BACK OF STABLE - 1



A

B

BACK OF STABLE - 2 AND ROOF



Holy Night

A BUILD-IT-YOURSELF NATIVITY SCENE
& ADVENT CALENDAR

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