

# 'Twas the Evening OF Christmas

Written by Glenys Nellist

Illustrated by Elena Selivanova



RESOURCE AND ACTIVITY PACK



# 'Twas the Evening of Christmas: Resource and Activity Pack

## Introduction

The resources and activities contained in this pack are designed to be used by parents or children's ministry leaders during the Advent/Christmas season. They are based on using the book, 'Twas the Evening of Christmas by Glenys Nellist.

## Included in this Resource Pack:

- Signed printable bookplates.
  - Bookmarks.
  - Activities for All Ages.
- Activities for Younger Children.
- Activities for Older Children.
- A script for a simple Christmas pageant, based on the book.

## What You Need:

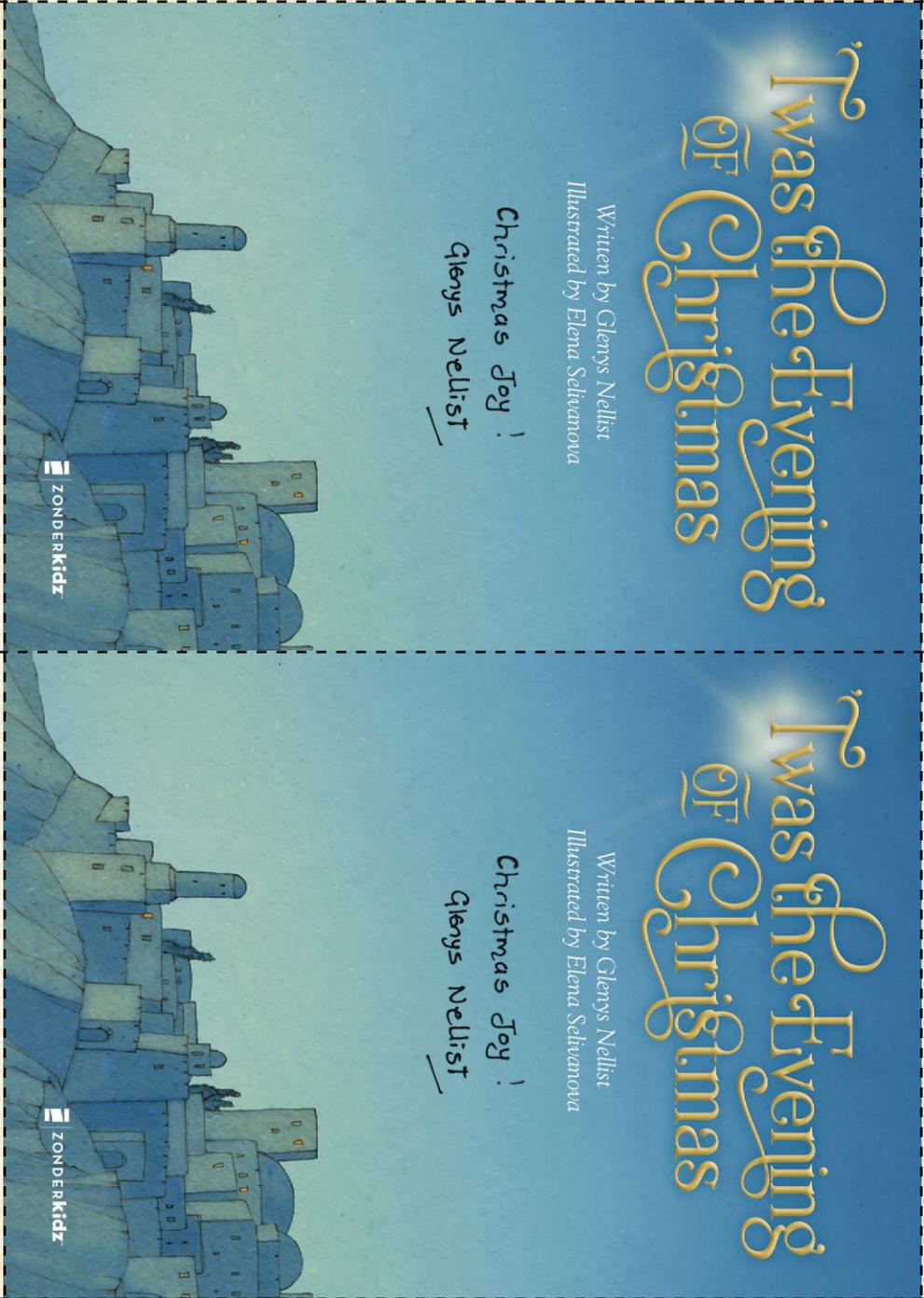
- 'Twas the Evening of Christmas
  - White Cardstock
    - White Paper
      - Scissors
      - Glue
    - Hole Punch
    - Ribbon



# Bookplate



Print on paper, cut out and glue inside the front cover



*Twas the Evening  
OF Christmas*

Written by Glens Nellist  
Illustrated by Elena Selivanova

Christmas Joy!  
Glens Nellist

ZONDERKIDZ





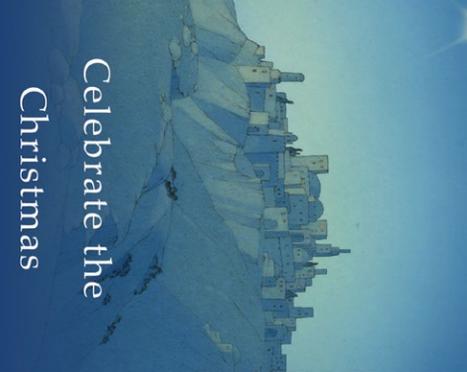
# Bookmark

Print on cardstock and cut out.



*'Twas the Evening  
OF Christmas*

All families  
will delight  
in this simple  
retelling of the  
most famous  
story ever told.



Celebrate the  
Christmas

season with  
books from  
Glengys Nellist

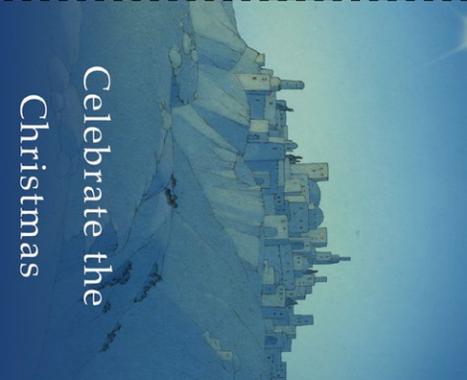


[www.glengysnellist.com](http://www.glengysnellist.com)



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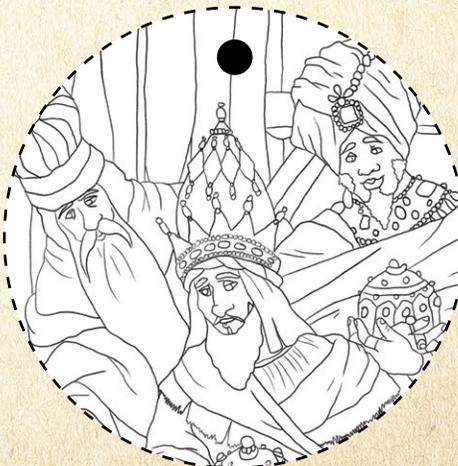


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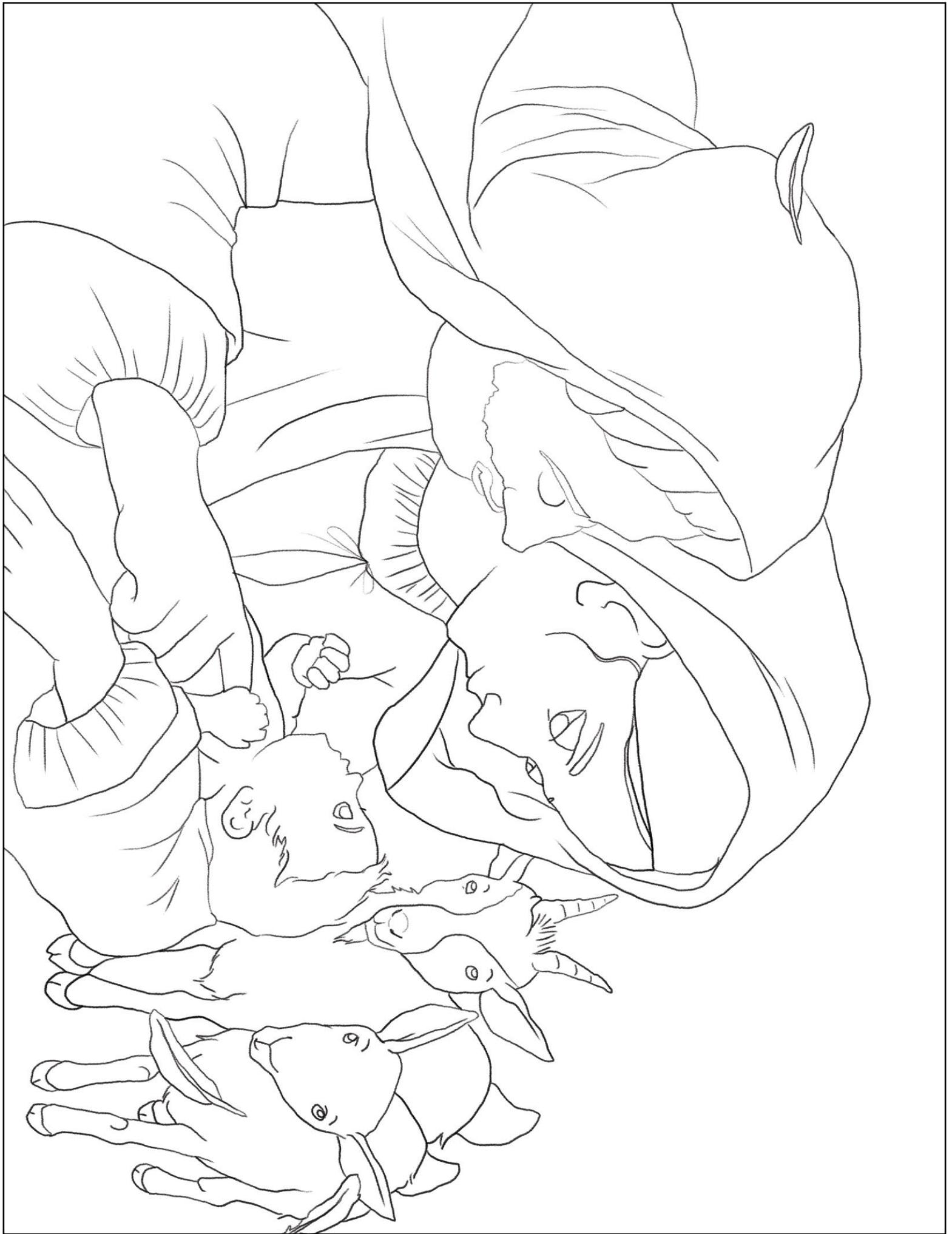
# Christmas Ornaments



- Print on cardstock
- Color them in or use the pre-colored ones.
  - Cut out.
  - Punch a hole where indicated.
- Thread a ribbon through, tie & hang on the tree.



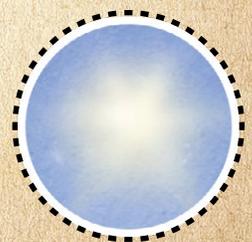






# Make Your Own Nativity Scene

Cut out the pictures below and glue onto the next page to make your own Nativity scene.

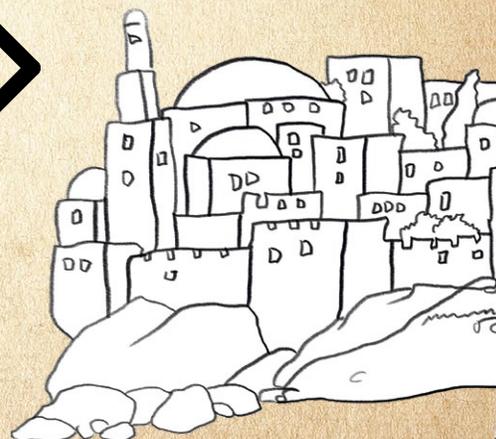
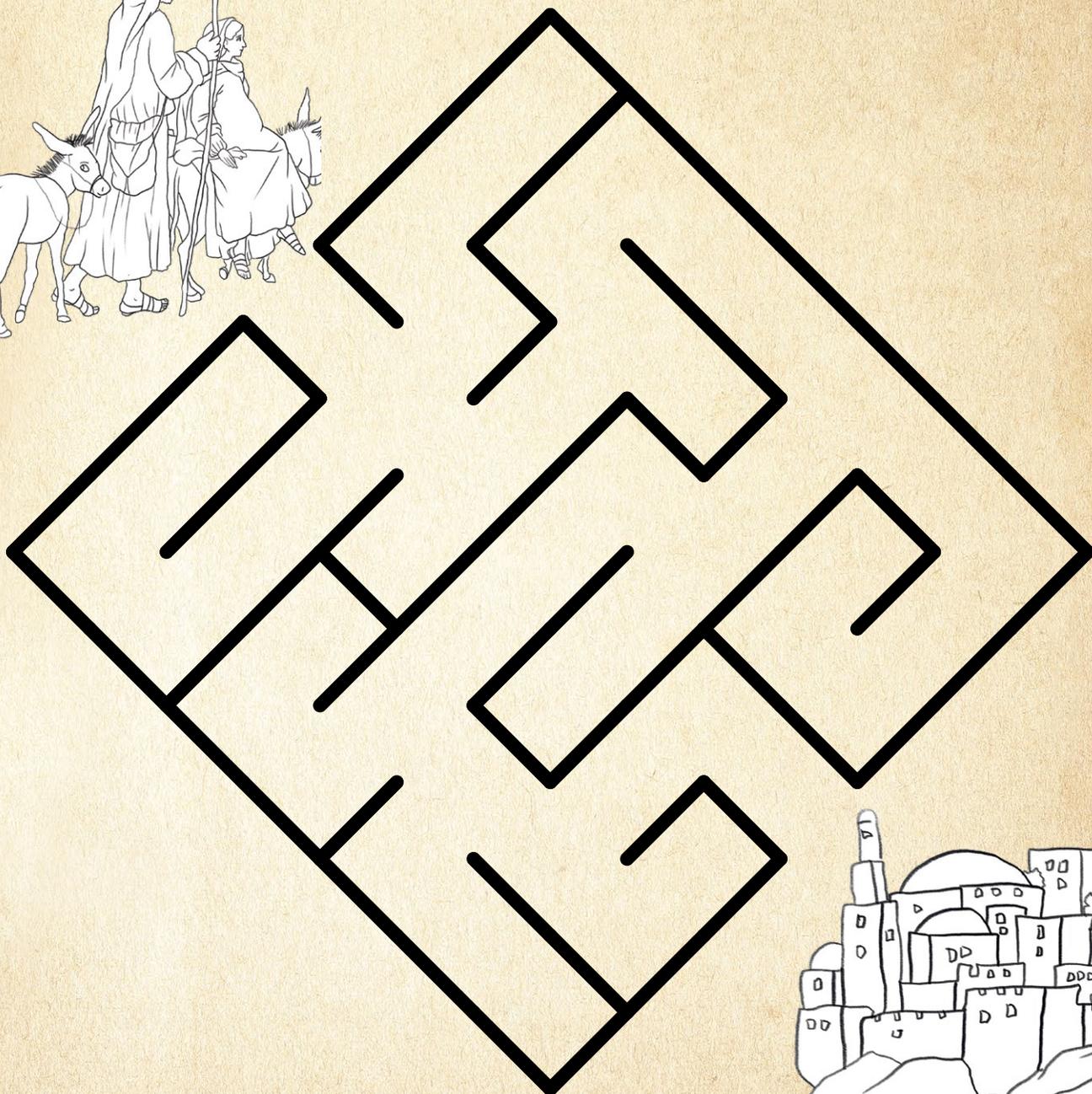
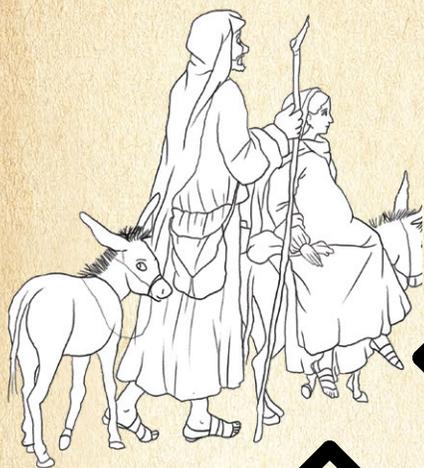




# Activities for Younger Children

## 1. Maze!

Help Mary & Joseph find their way to Bethlehem. Then color the pictures in.





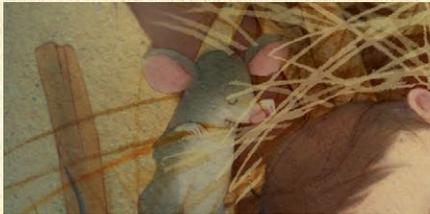
## 2. Find & Count!

Are you good at counting? Here's a sneaky peek at some pages in the book.

See if you can find which page they are from and count the items listed.

When you find them, check the box.

Can you find the page that has:



One Mouse



Two Donkeys



Three Kings



Four Sleeping Animals



Five Birds



Six Feathers



Seven Shepherds



Eight Sheep



Nine Angels

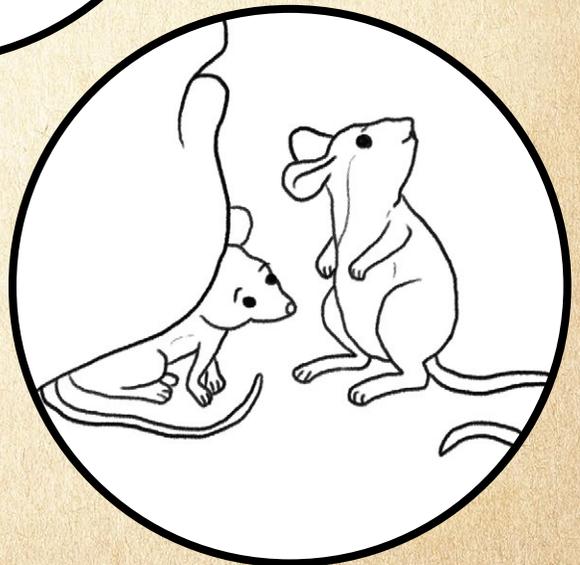
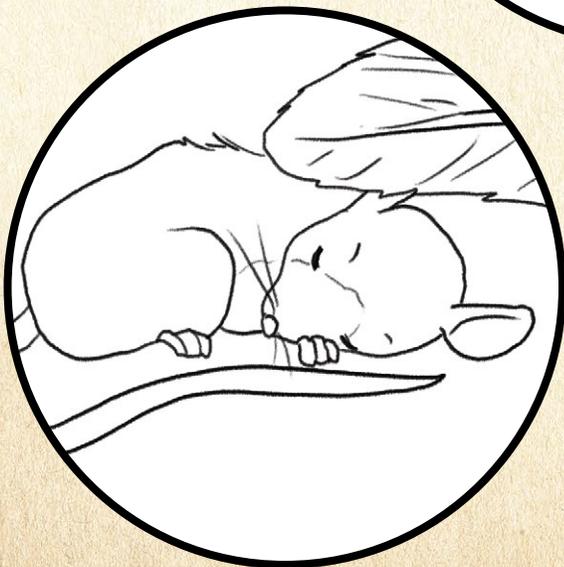


Ten Different Animals

### 3. Find the Mice!



There are six mice hiding in the book. Can you find each one?  
When you do, color them in!



# 4. Match the Pictures!



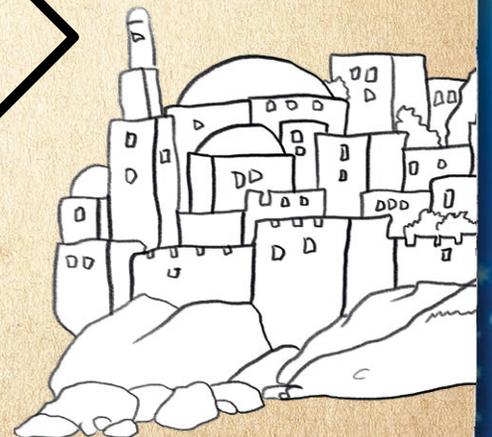
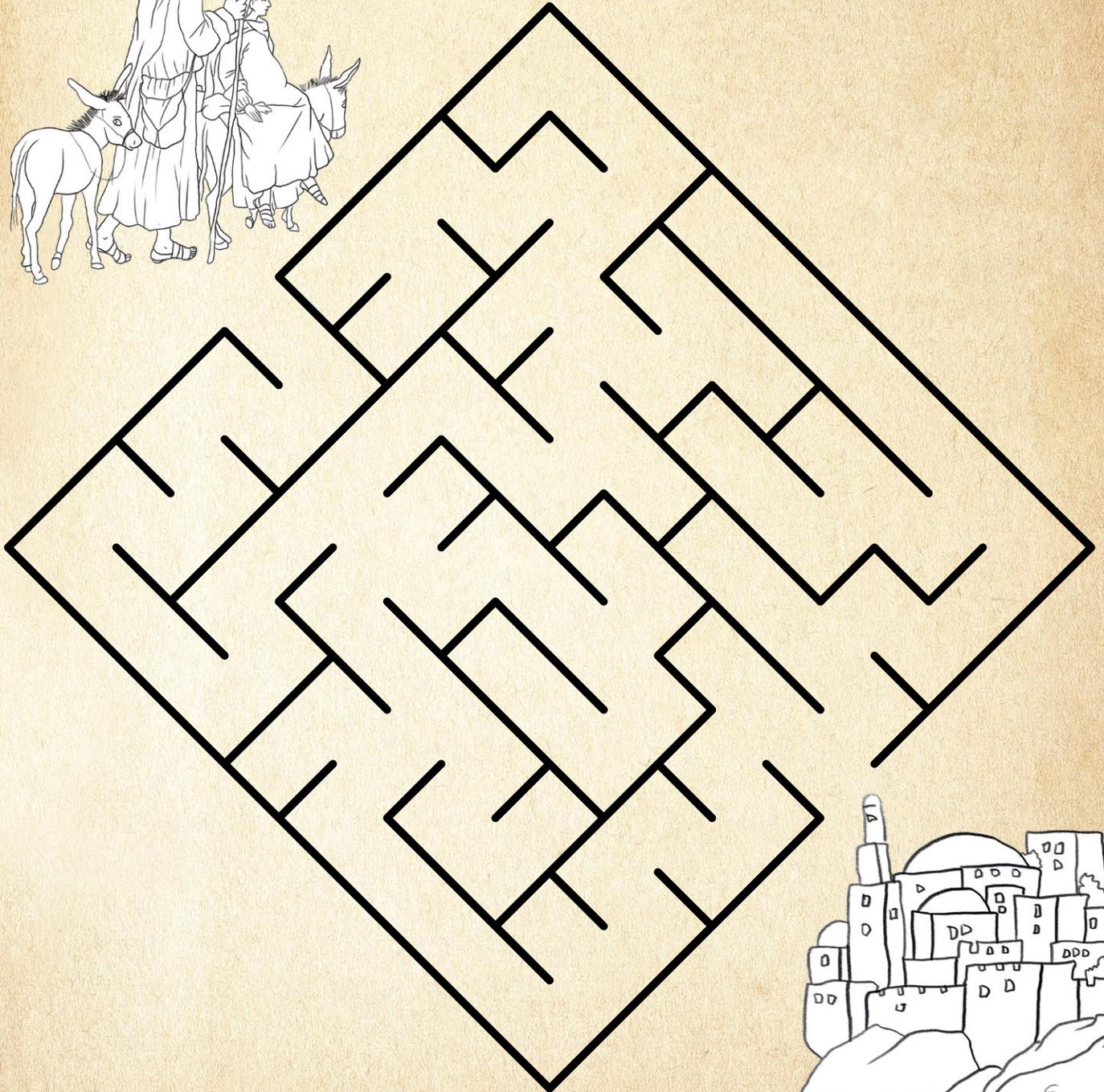
Draw a line from left to right to match the pictures.  
Then draw a circle around the pictures you like the best.



# Activities for Older Children

## 1. Maze!

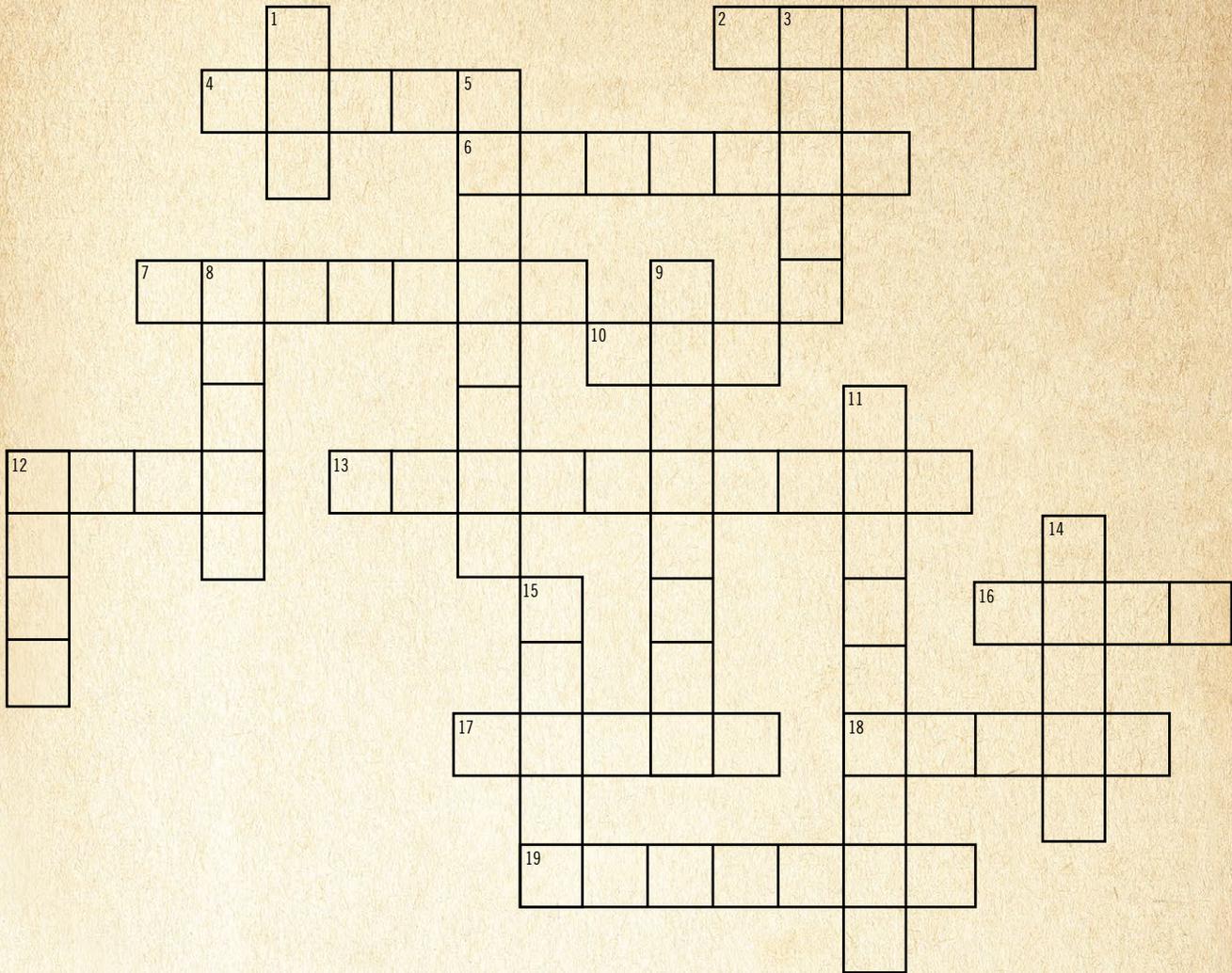
Help Mary & Joseph find their way to Bethlehem. Then color the pictures in.



## 2. Crossword!



Use the book to help solve the puzzle.



### ACROSS

- 2 A shepherd is holding one.
- 4 What two baby animals are peeking over Mary's shoulder at the end of the book?
- 6 Who were 'nestled all snug in their beds'?
- 7 The pattern on Joseph's headdress.
- 10 The number of angels.
- 12 What the mice did when they saw the donkey.
- 13 How the shepherds felt when they saw the angels.
- 16 Who heard Mary whisper at the end of the book?
- 17 You'll find this creature sitting on a cow's head.
- 18 How many sheep are looking up through the angels' wings?
- 19 What the animals did to Jesus' fingers and feet.

### DOWN

- 1 What Jesus' bed was made from.
- 3 All the kings are wearing these.
- 5 The adjective used to describe the three kings.
- 8 How Mary and Joseph felt when they reached the town.
- 9 You'll find these on almost every page.
- 11 The name of the town where Jesus was born.
- 12 'And high in the heavens, God whispered, 'My Son, you'll bring \_\_\_\_\_ to the world and love everyone.'
- 14 The last word in the book.
- 15 The color of Jesus' eyes.

\*Answer key at the end



### 3. Animal Scramble!

Unscramble the letters to find eight animals featured in the book. Then take all the letters in bold and unscramble them to find some hidden animals.

Clue: You'd find them in a stable, but they're not featured in the book.

**YEONDK** \_\_\_\_\_

**NGIOEP** \_\_\_\_\_

**EPHSE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EVOD** \_\_\_\_\_

**XENO** \_\_\_\_\_

**OCW** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEOMU** \_\_\_\_\_

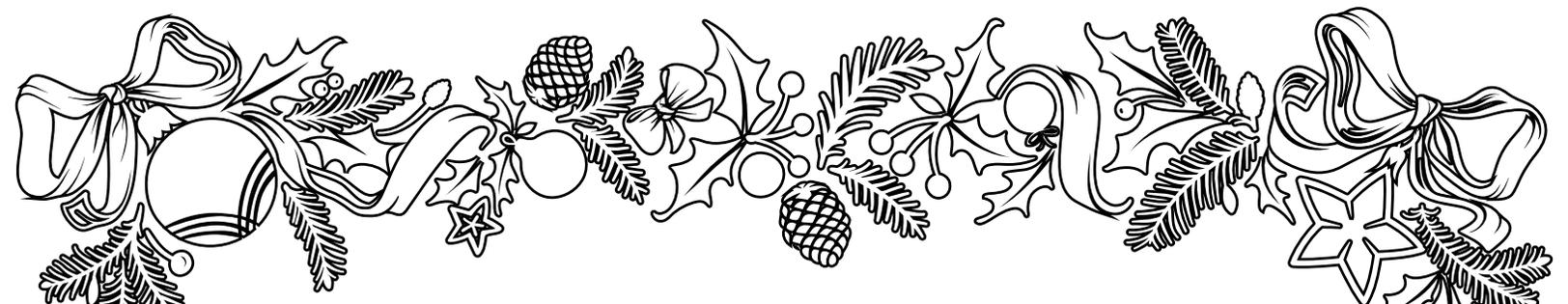
**EMALC** \_\_\_\_\_

The hidden animals are: \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** Can you number the animals 1-8 in alphabetical order?

\*Answer key at the end





## 4. Poetry Fun!

'Twas the Evening of Christmas is written in a similar style to Clement C Moore's classic, *The Night Before Christmas*. Read his poem and compare it to *'Twas the Evening of Christmas*. Can you find any words or phrases that are similar? Underline them, then color the border.

### *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Clement C. Moore



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes--how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."





# Answer Key



Animal Scramble

YEONDK      Donkey      3

NGIOEP      Pigeon      7

EPHSE      Sheep      8

EVOD      Dove      4

XENO      Oxen      6

OCW      Cow      2

SEOMU      Mouse      5

EMALC      Camel      1

The hidden animals are: Chickens





# Twas the Evening of Christmas Pageant

This simple Christmas pageant, based on using the book, *Twas the Evening of Christmas*, can be used with any number of children. Using one or two narrators, the story is read from the book as children act it out. If your church has projection capabilities, the best effect will be achieved if you project the pages from the book as they are being read, but only if you have obtained permission from Zondervan first. Please contact <https://www.zondervan.com/about-us/permissions/> to obtain permission. Zondervan can also provide high resolution scans of these images. However there will be a fee associated with this.

This pageant is flexible. It can be used as a full-blown production with all the costumes, or a simple, unrehearsed nativity pageant, using character/nativity masks held on craft sticks. It is assumed that a simple manger scene be set up at the front and center of the church. All songs are optional and may be sung by the children or by the congregation.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Book: *Twas the Evening of Christmas* by Glenys Nellist
- Costumes or masks
- Simple nativity scene/backdrop
- Doll for Baby Jesus
- Three 'gifts' for the kings

## WHO YOU NEED:

- 1 or 2 Narrators
- Mary & Joseph
- Three Kings (or however many you like!)
- Shepherds
- Animals (any kind)
- Angels





## PREPARATION:

*Shepherds and angels should be grouped at the front of the church, off center. All other participants are gathered at the back of church, except for some animals who should already be sitting in the stable. Baby Jesus should be hidden behind the manger.*

## SCRIPT

Narrator 1: Twas the evening of Christmas, when all through the town,  
Every inn was so crowded, no room could be found.  
Tired Mary and Joseph, who went door to door,  
At last found a place on a small stable floor.  
*Mary & Joseph make their way to the stable, accompanied by music.*

Narrator 2: “Thank goodness”, said Mary, who tiptoed inside.  
The mice saw the donkey and scurried to hide!  
The rest of the creatures all cuddled up tight.  
In hopes that they might have a calm, peaceful night.  
*Mary & Joseph sit either side of manger.*

## SONG: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM VERSE 1

Narrator 1: The pigeons were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of breadcrumbs danced ‘round in their heads.  
The cows closed their eyes, and the oxen laid down;  
The doves cooed so gently; the lambs made no sound.

Narrator 2: The moon, through the trees, was just starting to glow  
With a glimmer of light on the stable below.  
When quite by surprise came a newborn babe’s cry  
That woke all the animals sleeping nearby.  
*A hidden actor makes the sound of a baby crying. Mary lifts baby Jesus from behind manger and cuddles him. All animals jump up.*

Narrator 1: Up jumped the cows, and the oxen and sheep.  
Up popped the pigeons, aroused from their sleep.  
They all came to gaze at the small baby boy,  
As his mama and papa hugged him with joy.  
*Animals gather around Mary, baby & Joseph. They make loud ‘awww’ noises.*

Narrator 2: Now donkeys, now cows, now pigeons, and sheep,  
Now oxen and mice in the manger did peep.  
His eyes, how they twinkled, his dimples so sweet,  
As they nuzzled his fingers and cute little feet.





## SONG: BABY JESUS FAST ASLEEP BY GLENYS NELLIST

*For best effect, the animals should sing this, to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.*

Baby Jesus, fast asleep,                      *Bring arms together & rock back & forth as if holding baby*

Tiny hands and tiny feet.                      *Lift up hands & hold out in front; point to feet.*

Baby Jesus, we love you,                      *Fold arms across chest*

And we know you love us too.                      *Point to self*

Baby Jesus, fast asleep,                      *Bring arms together & rock back & forth as if holding baby*

Tiny hands and tiny feet.                      *Lift up hands & hold out in front; point to feet.*

*Animals return to their places, sitting in stable.*

Narrator 1:                      And out in the fields, taking care of their sheep,  
Some shepherds were just getting ready to sleep.  
When all of a sudden, they had such a fright,  
As a whole choir of angels lit up the night.  
*Angels & shepherds stand. Shepherds shield their eyes.*

Narrator 2:                      But the song of the angels; the words that they said,  
Soon let the men know they had nothing to dread.  
“Dear shepherds! It’s wonderful news that we bring  
A savior is born—he is Jesus, the king!”  
*(Optional: Have one of the angels speak these two lines.)*

Narrator 1:                      They ran to the stable and peeked through the door,  
And saw something never imagined before!  
There, in a manger, a baby boy lay—  
No blankets, no pillows, his bed made of hay.  
*Angels & shepherds now make their way to the manger scene, perhaps taking different aisles,  
or routes, as music is played or first verse of ‘Go, Tell It On The Mountain’ is sung.*





Narrator 2: And to that small stable came three splendid kings  
With gifts for the baby—all beautiful things.  
They jumped from their camels and knelt at his feet  
With their frankincense, gold, and myrrh that smelled sweet.  
*3 kings to stable, as music is played. They place their gifts in stable & stay there.*

Narrator 1: The stable was filled with a wonderful light  
As stars above Bethlehem twinkled so bright.  
And high in the heavens, God whispered, “My Son,  
You’ll bring hope to the world and love everyone.”

Narrator 2: Then back to their slumbers the animals curled,  
Amazed at this babe who had entered their world.  
As Mary and Joseph got ready for bed,  
They snuggled their baby and kissed his sweet head.  
*Animals lie down, Mary & Joseph cuddle Jesus.*

### SONG: AWAY IN A MANGER VERSE 1

Narrator 1: As Mary laid Jesus, asleep, in the hay,  
She thought about all that had happened that day.  
The mice heard her whisper, as she tucked him in tight,  
“Merry Christmas, my son, and to all ... a good night.  
Mary puts baby in manger & leans down to kiss him.

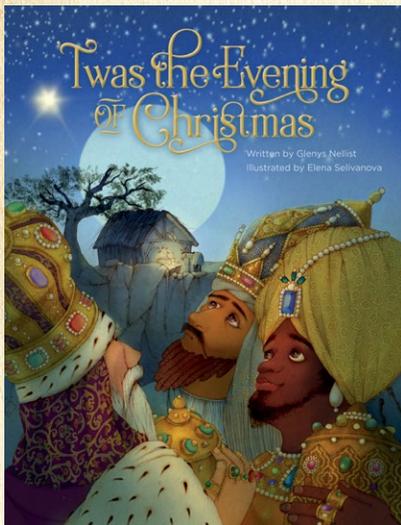
### SONG: AWAY IN A MANGER VERSE 2 & 3

#### PRAYER:

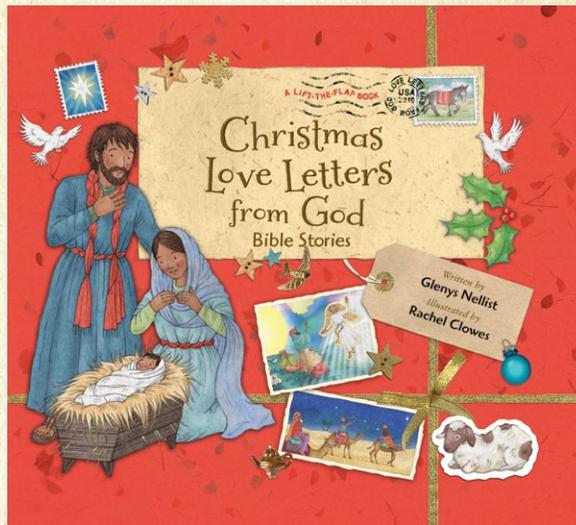
Thank you, God, for that special night in Bethlehem when your son was born. Thank you for the angels, the shepherds, the animals and the wise men. Thank you for Mary and Joseph. Most of all, thank you for Jesus. Amen.



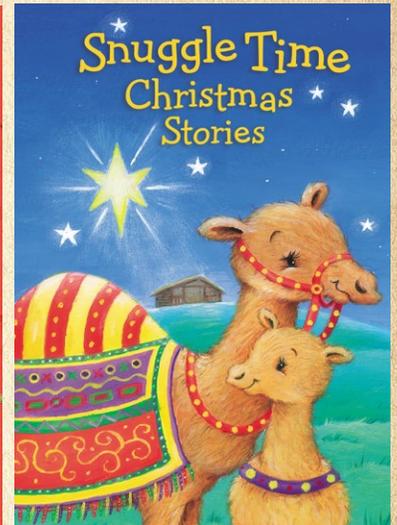
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**Twas the Evening  
of Christmas**  
\$17.99



**Christmas Love Letters from God**  
\$16.99



**Snuggle Time  
Christmas Stories**  
\$9.99†



Glenys Nellist was born and raised in a little village in northern England. Her writing reflects a deep passion for bringing the Bible to life for young children. She lives in Dearborn, Michigan, with her husband, David. Find Glenys online: [glenysnellist.com](http://glenysnellist.com)