

Isaiah

Bible Verse

And a little child will lead them.
(Isaiah 11:6)

Bible Story

Isaiah 11:6-9

Leap of Faith

God's Son came into the world as a child to offer me peace.

Before You Begin

When we think of Advent, we often turn our eyes to the Bible stories told in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew; but the Bible story of Jesus begins much earlier—in the prophetic books of the Old Testament. The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus when he spoke the words, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6, KJV). Isaiah also prophesies about the exact nature of this peace. In the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, the prophet describes the power of the peace that will come with a world ruled by Christ Jesus. Isaiah notes that the peace of Christ is so powerful that it will enable a wolf to lie down with a lamb and children to play near the den of poisonous snakes.

The peace described by Isaiah is difficult to comprehend. After all, we can't fathom allowing a child to be anywhere near a wild animal. Likewise, if we visited a zoo, and witnessed a lamb in the same exhibit as a leopard we would undoubtedly be concerned. The apostle Paul describes God's peace as “. . . the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7, CEB). This peace could only be achieved through the power and authority of Jesus.

Jesus was sent to this world to give us such a peace. The world and all who dwell in it have never seemed to master the concept of peace. God sent Jesus into the world that we might be in personal communion with our God. This closeness gives us peace. We know that despite all circumstances we have the assurance that our God is with us—God will never leave nor forsake us. This knowledge gives us peace. The story of Jesus also affords us the certainty of knowing that one day we will all live under the peace of Jesus. This peace will be perfect and all people and all manner of living creatures will enjoy the power of its existence.

Session 1 December 2



Visit GrowProclaimServe.com/leaders to join the community with other leaders and find helpful weekly content and articles.



Requires
preparation.



Grow Together

The following activities may be done in interest centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

Welcome

Supplies: Stickers, Attendance Chart (Resource Pak—pp. 12 & 13, 20), Bible, offering basket, CD player, CD-ROM

- Greet each parent and child. Play music (CD-ROM) as they arrive.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have the Bible open to Isaiah 11:6-9 on the worship table.
- Give each child the Sticker of baby Jesus to put on the attendance chart.

Fun Pak Fun

Supplies: Fun Pak—1, construction paper, blue crayons, glue sticks, foil star stickers

- Help the children with the Fun Pak activity (Fun Pak—1).


Coloring Page Fun

Supplies: Bible Story Pak—1, crayons and/or markers (including blue ones)

- Encourage the children color the coloring page.

Peaceful Pattern Fun

Supplies: “Peaceful Animals” (Reproducible 1a), scissors, construction paper, tape, basket

 Photocopy several copies of “Peaceful Animals” (Reproducible 1a) (one for each child). Cut construction paper into 12-inch strips. Tape two strips together to make a 24-inch strip for each child. Place the cut-out animals in a basket.

- Invite the child to color different animals, and help the child glue the animals to his or her strip of construction paper.

SAY: Have you ever seen a snake playing with a lamb? How about a goat playing with a lion? When we love Jesus, we have so much peace in our hearts that it is like a lion laying down beside a lamb. Usually lions and lambs don't like each other, but Jesus' peace is very powerful. God's peace helps all people live together in love.

Peaceful Paintings Center

Supplies: CD featuring soft music, CD player, clipboards, watercolor paints, plain paper, smocks, paintbrushes, small cups of water, plastic or paper table covering

- Cover a table with a plastic or paper table covering. Give each child a paint smock.

SAY: This music is soft and peaceful. It makes us feel calm. Music can help us feel peaceful.

- Give each child a clipboard and a piece of paper. Give each child access to watercolors and water. Play one song on the CD player. Invite the children to paint as they listen to the music.
- Look at the different pictures.

ASK: How did the music make you feel? Did it make you feel calm and peaceful? Sometimes music makes us feel peaceful. God sent Jesus to Earth to help people have God's peace.

- Lay the pictures aside to dry.

Christmas Book Center

Supplies: picture books about the birth of Jesus, Christmas cards with Nativity scenes, quilt or rug or pillows

- Choose a quiet corner of the room to display books. Provide a rug, quilt, or pillows for the children to sit on. Provide picture books about the birth of Jesus and greeting cards that show scenes of the Nativity. Let the children look at the books, or read the books to the children as they show interest. Let the children look at the greeting cards. Help them identify the people and animals that are pictured.

SAY: We are getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Our books and Christmas cards remind us about the time when Jesus was born.

Come Together Time

Supplies: CD featuring soft music, scarfs or pieces of fabric

- Give each child a scarf or a piece of fabric. Play the soft music.

SAY: I'd like each of you to take your scarf and dance peacefully to the Bible Storytelling area.

- Once the children are gathered, **SAY:** Our Bible story tells us that when we know and love Jesus, we have peace in our hearts. Let's listen carefully!

Proclaim the Word

Visit Leaper's Pointe

Supplies: Grow! DVD (Ages 3-6), DVD player

- Play the theme song "Growing in Leaps and Bounds" (Ages 3-6, DVD), and encourage the children to do the motions.
- Show the children the "GROW, Proclaim, Serve" video for today's session.

SAY: All the animals were a little rowdy in Leaper's Pointe today. They needed to calm down and practice peace. Rose told us about the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah said that with God's peace we could all get along with each other—even rowdy animals!

Learn the Bible Verse

Supplies: Bible Verse Poster (Resource Pak—p. 22) OR Grow! DVD (Ages 3-6) and DVD player, Stickers

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster (Resource Pak—p. 22) and **SAY** the Bible verse to the children: “And a little child will lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).
- Invite the children to echo the Bible verse several times by breaking it up, and learning one section at a time: “And a/ little child/ will lead them” (Isaiah 11:6). Once the children are familiar with the Bible verse, give them a Bible verse Sticker to wear home.

OR (If you have the Grow! DVD, Ages 3-6):

ASK: Do you remember the Bible verse?

SAY: The Bible verse says that a little child would lead the world to peace. This verse is talking about Jesus. Let’s listen to the video and learn the signs from American Sign Language for our new Bible verse.

- Play the Bible verse section of the DVD. Encourage the children to learn the signs and say the Bible verse: “*And a little child will lead them*” (Isaiah 11:6).

Experience the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible Story Pak—1


- Give each child the Bible story for today (Bible Story Pak—1).
- Read the Bible story to the children. Encourage them to follow along by pointing out objects in the artwork.

ASK: What was the name of the prophet man who lived a long time ago and told the people that Jesus was coming? (*Isaiah*) Did Isaiah say that Jesus would be born as a baby? (*Yes*) When you know Jesus and love Jesus, do you have peace in your heart? (*Yes*)

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for your Son, Jesus. Help us to feel the peace he gives us in our hearts. Amen.

Light the Advent Wreath

Supplies: Advent Wreath (Resource Pak—p. 5), masking tape or thumbtacks

 Punch out around the candles on the Advent Wreath poster, and fold the candles on the dotted lines so that the candles go behind the Advent Wreath poster. Display the Advent Wreath on a bulletin board or a wall. Each week, you will pull up one new candle. Use masking tape or thumbtacks to hold the candle(s) in place.

- Pull up the first purple Advent candle, and **SAY:** We are in the season of Advent, which means we are getting ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. Our first Advent candle on our Advent Wreath is the candle of HOPE, which means that when we are scared and lonely, we know we have someone to turn to—Jesus. Jesus gives us hope that God loves us and will always be with us.

Puppet Fun:

For additional fun this Advent season, consider making puppets of the Holy Family, and putting on a puppet show.

Supplies: Baby Jesus (Leader’s Guide—p. 123), crayons or markers, glue, craft sticks or tongue depressors

- For this first Sunday, copy and cut out the picture of baby Jesus.
- Invite the children to color baby Jesus.
- Have the children glue the picture of baby Jesus to a craft stick or tongue depressor.
- At Worship Time, have each child hold up his baby Jesus and say: *God promised a special baby. Jesus was that special baby.*
- Put the puppets away, and use them again in the coming weeks.

Serve With Love

Make Advent Wreaths

Supplies: “Advent Greenery, Candles, and Christ Candle” (Reproducibles 1b, 1c); purple construction paper, purple crayons or markers, glue sticks, business-sized envelopes



Post the children’s Advent wreaths (Reproducibles 1b, 1c) on a wall or bulletin board, and take them down each week for the children to add an additional candle. Save a spot in the middle of the paper for the children to add the Jesus candle on the Sunday after Christmas.

🕒 Photocopy and cut out **Reproducibles 1b and 1c** (one set for each child).

- Give each child a piece of purple construction paper. Invite the children to place the paper horizontally on the table before them.
- Give each child one HOPE candle, and invite the child to glue it on the paper to the far left. (Store the other candles and the holly leaves and berries in a business-sized envelope to add later.)

SAY: The purple candle on the Advent Wreath says “HOPE.” It means that people *HOPED* for a messiah or God’s Son to come and give them peace. We know that Jesus is God’s Son, and he gives us peace in our hearts.

- Invite the children to color the HOPE candle purple.

Make Nativi-tree Ornaments

Supplies: Stickers, “Nativi-tree Ornament 1 (Reproducible 1d); Christmas tree; cotton balls; black, gray or brown yarn; paper punch; glue sticks; crayons; small paper plates; adult scissors; cardstock



Each week the children will make a Nativi-tree ornament. The children can put these on their Christmas trees at home, or they can hang them on a Christmas tree in the room.

🕒 Photocopy the Nativi-tree Ornament 1 (Reproducible 1d) onto cardstock for each child. Pre-cut an ornament for each child. Cut black, brown, or gray yarn into 1-inch pieces.

SAY: During Christmas, you will see many Christmas trees. Let’s make decorations for our (room tree or home tree). Let’s make ornaments.

- Give each child a cut-out ornament.

SAY: This ornament reminds us of our Bible story. Today’s Bible story comes from the book of the Bible called Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet, which means he gave people messages from God. Isaiah told the people that a special servant of God’s would be born to bring them hope and peace. That special servant is Jesus—God’s Son.

- Invite the children to color the picture on the ornament.
- Have the children glue cotton balls to the lamb. Have the children glue several pieces of yarn to the wolf.

SAY: The peace of Jesus is so powerful that it makes even animals who don’t usually get along, get along.

- Give each child a small paper plate. Have each child glue her paper ornament to a paper plate. Use a paper punch to punch a hole in the top of each paper plate. Tie a piece of yarn through the hole to create an ornament hanger.
- Give each child the Bible Verse Sticker to put at the bottom of the plate.
- Invite the children to hang their ornaments on the room Christmas tree or to take them home to hang on their Christmas trees at home.



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Worship

Bible Story Mural

Supplies: Bible Story Mural for Unit 1 and doves piece (Resource Pak—pp. 8, 9 & 16), tape

- Point to the Bible Story Mural of the Nativity.

SAY: We learned today that long ago a prophet named Isaiah told people that he had a message from God. Isaiah told the people that a baby would be born who would grow up to be a man named Jesus. Isaiah said that Jesus would give us hope and peace in our hearts.

- Invite a child to tape the piece of the doves onto the Bible Story Mural.

SAY: Jesus was born in a stable—a place where animals lived. We will learn more about Jesus every week in Sunday school. This is the time of year when we remember Jesus and his birth.

Prayer and Peace

Supplies: CD-ROM, CD player

- Play the song “Peaceable Kingdom” on the CD player, and invite the children to sit quietly and listen to it.
- After the children have listened to “Peaceable Kingdom,” invite them to give each other “Signs of Peace” by turning to their neighbor and saying: “Peace be with you.”

SAY: Let’s bow our heads, fold our hands, and close our eyes to pray.

PRAY: God thank you for your Son, Jesus. Thank you for the peace that Jesus gives us. Help us to show peace to others. Amen.



Children catch on to music very easily. Sing along with the CD-ROM, and soon they will be singing, too!

Plan for Next Week

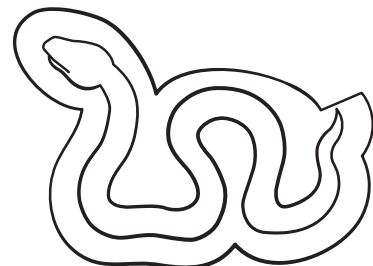
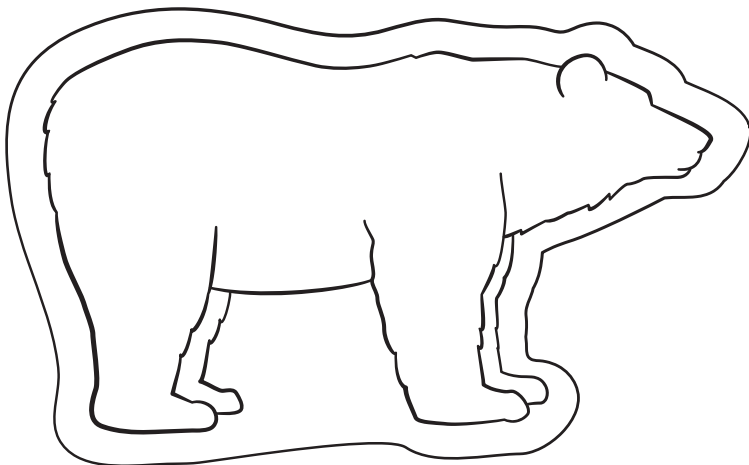
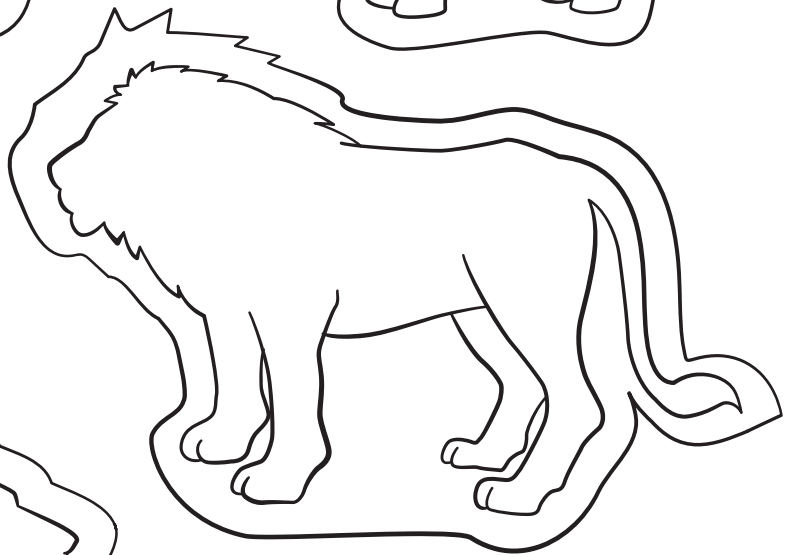
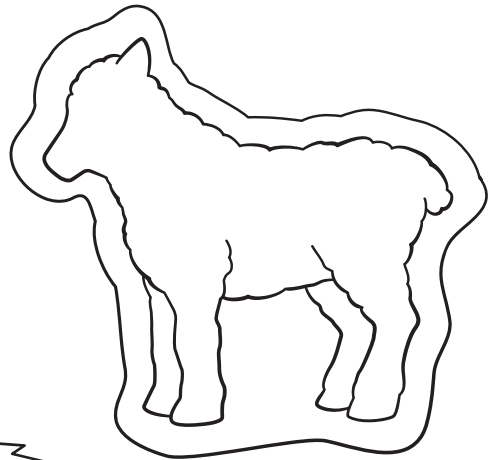
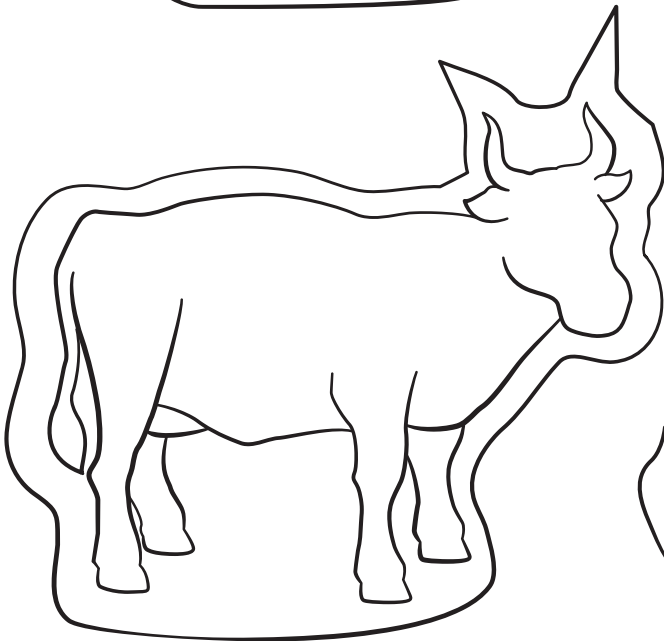
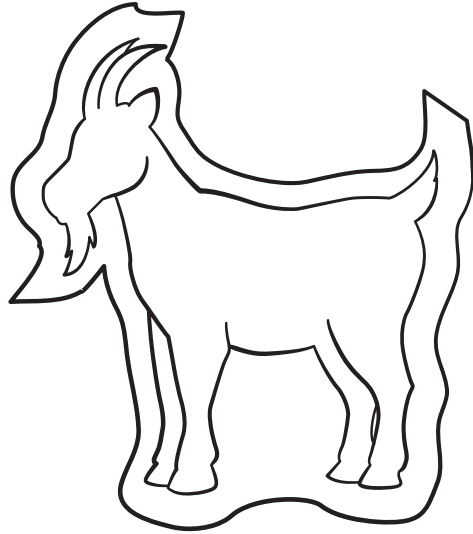
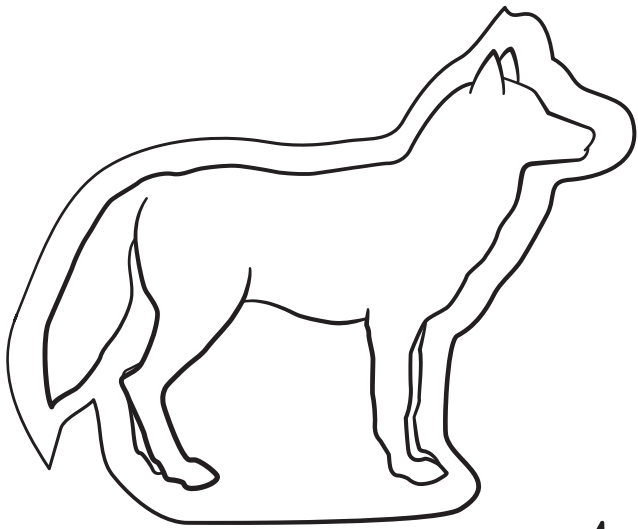
 **Photocopy:** the Zechariah puppet (**Reproducible 2a**) for each child. Provide paper lunch bags for making the puppets.

Baby Dolls & Babies Are Special Centers: Provide a variety of baby dolls, baby blankets, baby toys, bottles, and so forth. Cut out a variety of pictures featuring babies (be sure to include babies of different sizes and ethnic groups—parenting magazines are a great resource.) Write the Bible verse “And a little child will lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)” on a piece of construction paper for each child.

Evergreen Paintings: Cut fresh evergreen branches into small sections to use as paintbrushes. If possible, bring several types of evergreen branches. Pour white paint into pie pans.

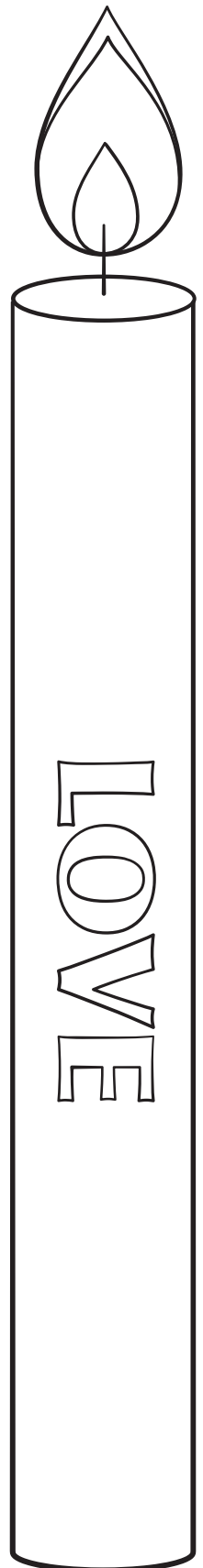
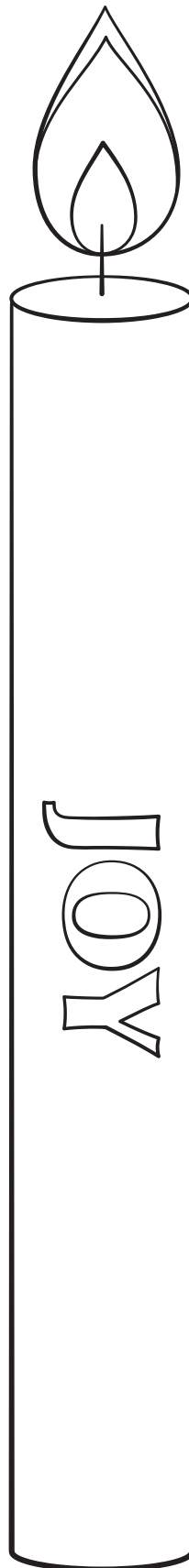
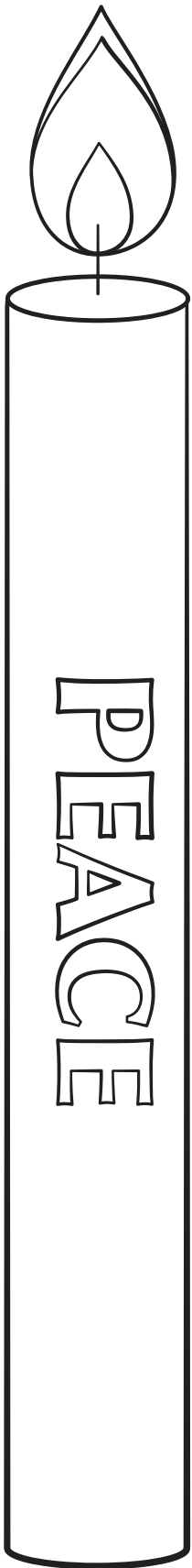
Snack: Cut bagels half. Provide green cream cheese, red sprinkles, plastic knives, and paper plates.

Reproducible Ia



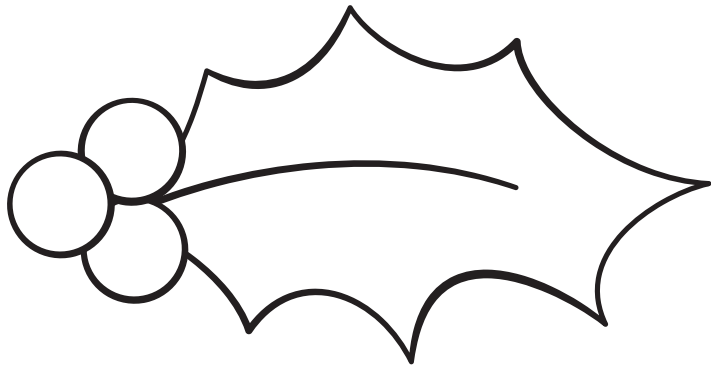
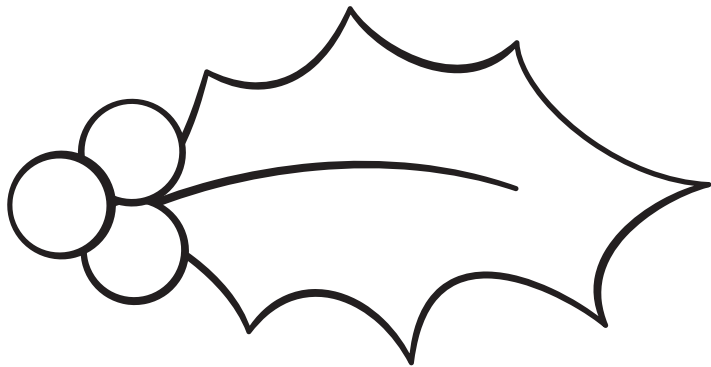
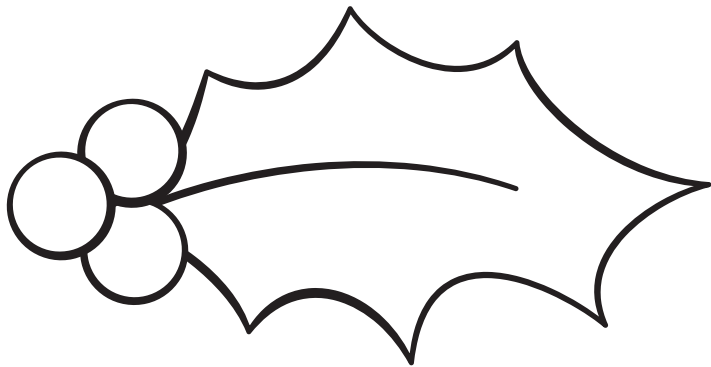
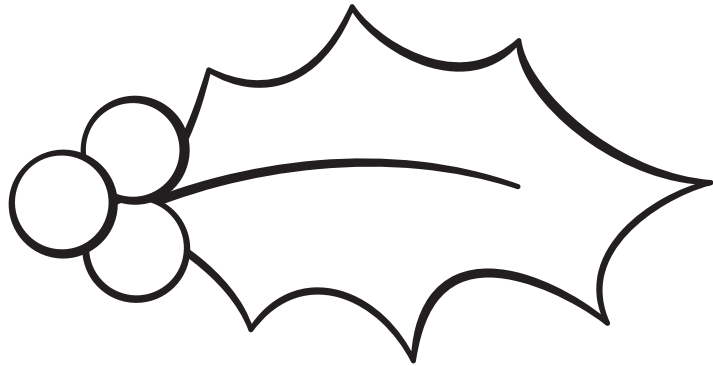
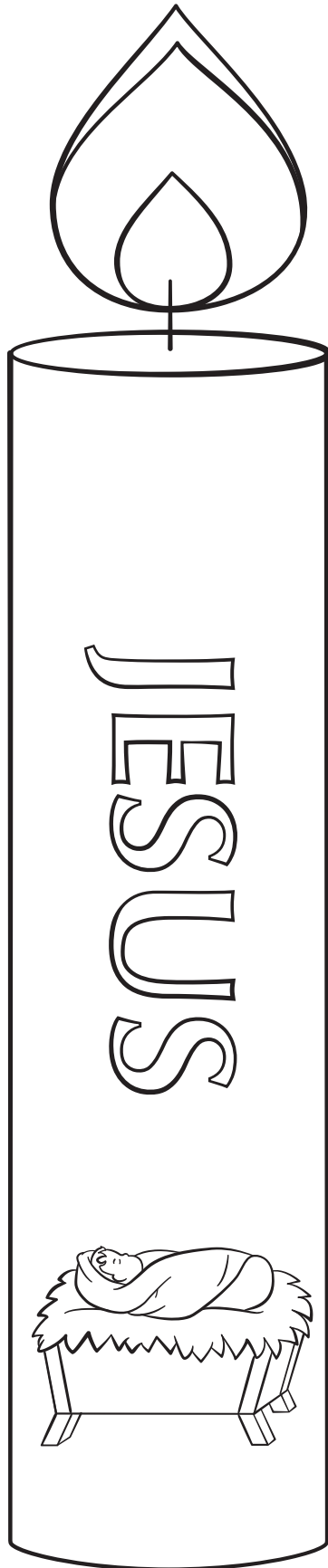
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Reproducible 1b

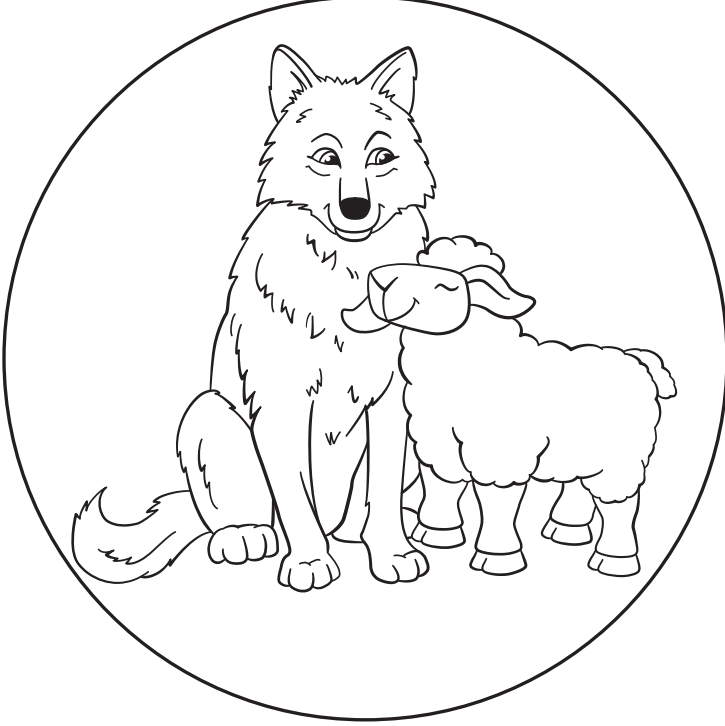
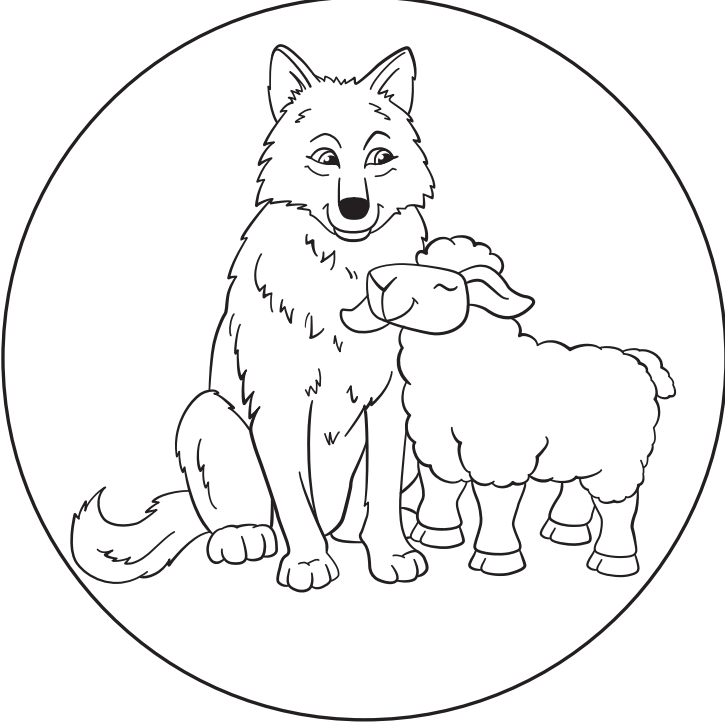
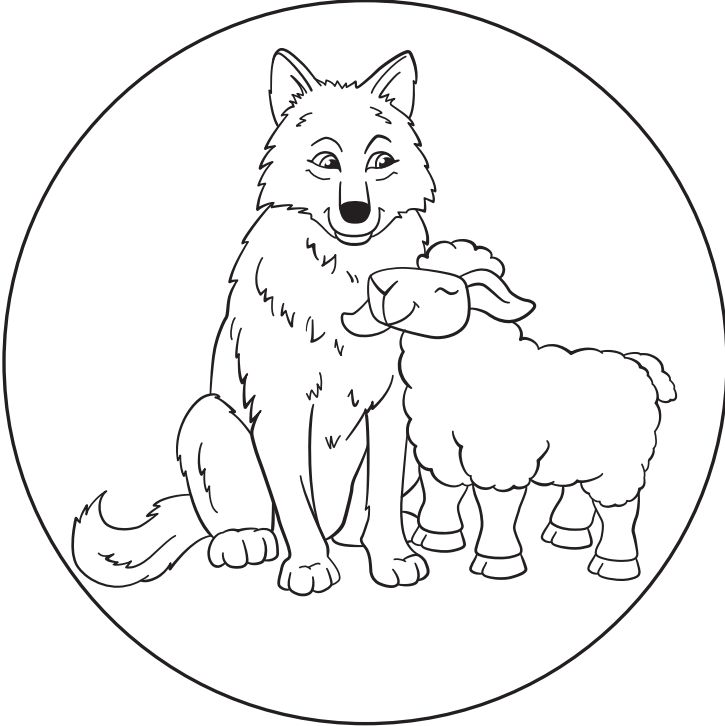
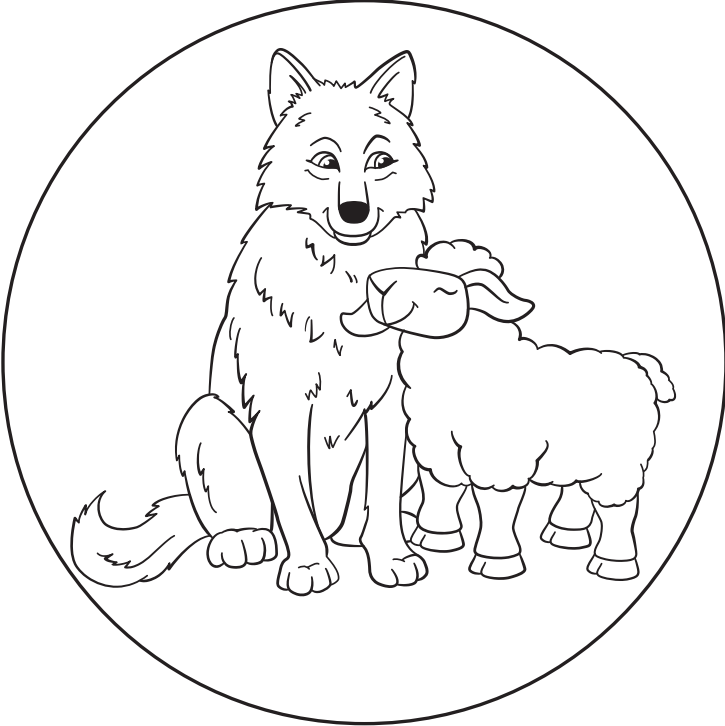


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