

Gather around every day this month to read the story of how God sent joy to the world with the gift of His Son, Jesus.



You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. Luke 1:31

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.

God sent the angel Gabriel to a girl named Mary.





6

Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world.

She wrapped him in large because there were no

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby taking care of their sheep.

Luke 2:8

Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

13

good news!"

18

"The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid,

While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. 7 She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy.

Luke 2:6-7

know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby and lying in a manger.

17

and found Mary, Joseph and the

An angel of the Lord

Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem.



filled with joy.

They gave him gold,



frankincense and myrrh.

The shepherds returned. They gave

had told them.

It was just as the angel

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. And he will be called Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God.

24

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will

HAPPY BIRTHDAY **JESUS!**

Let us give thanks to God for his gift.

2 Cor 9:15

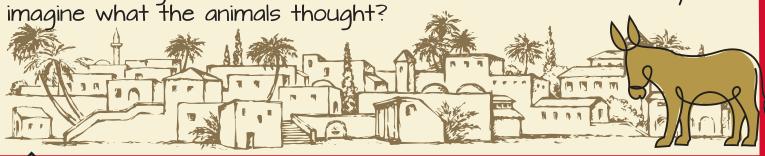
THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

God has always had a plan to help the world heal from all the hurt people have. In fact, He promised He would send help. God's people waited and waited for this help to arrive and then one day it did.

When it was almost time for the baby to be born, Mary and her husband Joseph went on a trip to their hometown, Bethlehem. When they arrived, Mary knew the baby was coming soon. Joseph tried to find them a

On one very ordinary day, God did something special. He sent an angel to talk to a young woman named Mary. The angel told Mary that she was pregnant with God's son and He would bring help to all people. At first, Mary was confused by the news. But God used angels to calm her fears and remind her that this was good news for everyone!

place to stay but everywhere was full. Their only option was to stay the night in a barn- with the animals! That very night Jesus was born. Imagine that- the son of God born in a barn. Can you imagine what the animals thought?



In a field nearby, shepherds were taking care of their sheep. All of a sudden, the night sky lit up and filled with angels singing, announcing the birth of the Messiah. At first, the shepherds were shocked but quickly realized something very good had happened. They ran to see where Jesus had been born. When they saw the baby and realized that God's plan to help His people was finally happening-they were so excited! The great help of the world that they had been waiting for was finally here! Jesus was born.

30-Day Bible Scripture Challenge

Day 1-Gen. 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel."

Day 2-Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Day 3-Isaiah 9:6

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Day 4-Isaiah 9:7

"Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Day 5-Isaiah 11:1

"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."

Day 6-Psalm 106:1

"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts."

Day 7-Luke 1:26-27

"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary."

Day 8-Luke 1:28-29

'And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.'

Day 9-Luke 1:30-31

'Then the angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you
have found favor with God. And
behold, you will conceive in your
womb and bring forth a Son, and
shall call His name JESUS."

Day 10-Luke 1:32-33

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Day 11-Luke 1:35, 37

'And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. For with God nothing will be impossible."

Day 12-Luke 1:38

'Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.'

Day 13-Matt 1:18

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit."

Day 14-Matt 1:19

"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly."

Day 15-Matt 1:20

'But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

Day 16-Matt 1:21

"And she will bring forth a Sor and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Day 17-Matt 1:22-23

'So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Day 18-Matt 1:24-25

"Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS."

Day 19-Luke

"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Day 20-Luke 2:8-9

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid."

Day 21-Luke 2:10-11

'Then the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid, for behold, I
bring you good tidings of great
joy which will be to all people.
For there is born to you this day
in the city of David a Savior, who
is Christ the Lord."

Day 21-Luke 2:10-11 "And this will be the sign to you:

You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Day 23-Luke 2:15

'So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

Day 24-Luke 2:16-17

"And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child."

Day 25-Luke 2:18-19

"And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Day 26-Luke 2:20

"Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."

Day 27-Matt 2:1-2

'Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Day 28-Matt 2:3-4

"When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born."

Day 29-Matt 2:5-6

'So they said to him, "In
Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is
written by the prophet: 'But you,
Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are not the least among the rulers
of Judah; For out of you shall
come a Ruler Who will shepherd

Day 30-Gal 4:4-5

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

Advent Acts of Service

Here is a list of suggestions for acts of service. Try to complete as many as possible.

- ☐ Donate food to your local food pantry
- Pay for the person behind you in the drive-thru
- □ Donate food to an animal shelter
- ☐ Go Christmas caroling in your neighborhood
- ☐ Send a Christmas card to your pastor or a military service member
- ☐ Give a gift to an elderly person who lives alone
- ☐ Tell someone that Jesus loves them & invite them to church
- ☐ Make dinner for your parents
- ☐ Leave a treat in your mailbox for your mail carrier
- □ Paint a rock announcing the birth of Jesus and give it to a neighbor
- Save your change and put it in the Salvation Army bucket

- ☐ Give someone a compliment today
- □ Bring coffee to your teacher
- ☐ Go the whole day without complaining
- □ Do a chore for someone in your family
- ☐ Smile at EVERYONE you see today
- ☐ Pick up trash at your local park or playground
- ☐ Wash dishes after dinner for your parents
- ☐ Make a meal for another family and deliver it to them
- □ Read a Bible story to a younger sibling or friend
- □ Donate a coat to your school for kids in need
- Pray before you open gifts, and give thanks to God for His gift of Jesus

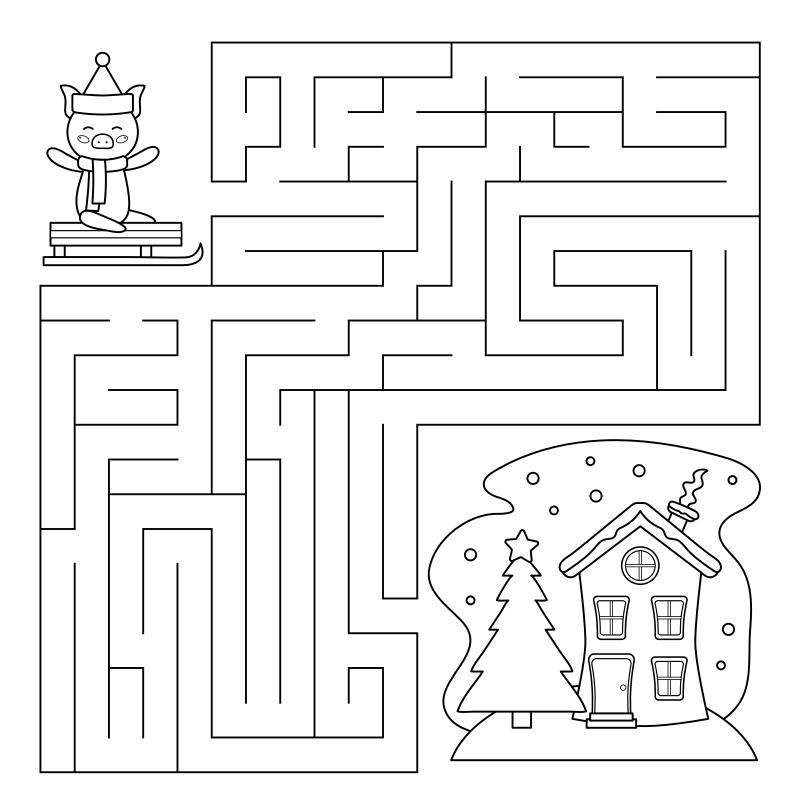




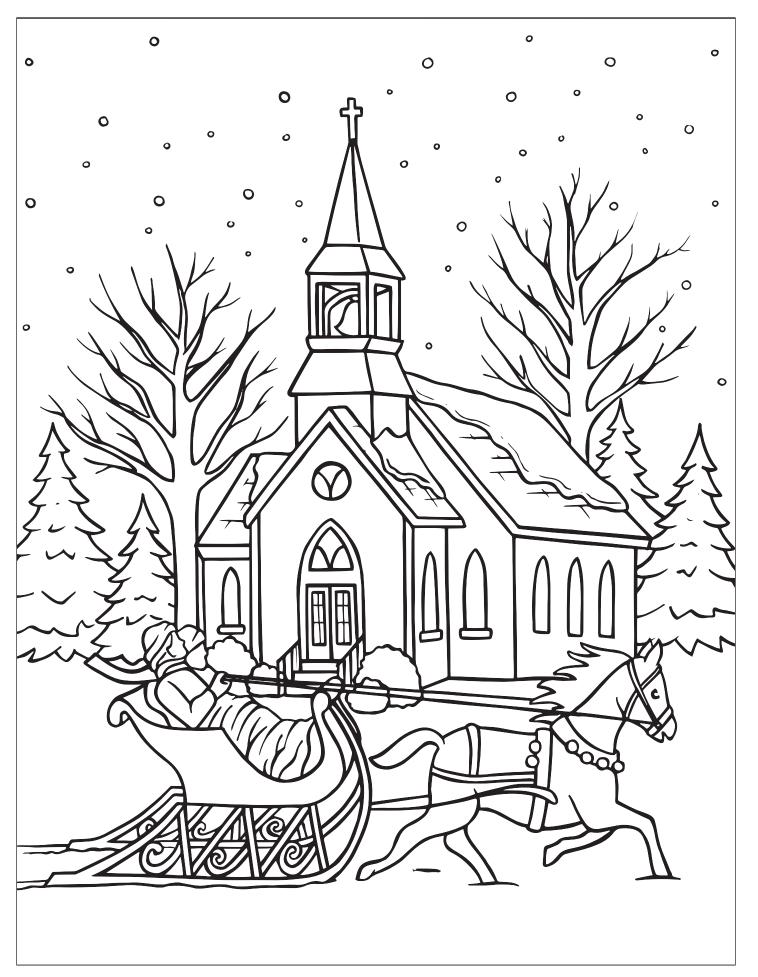


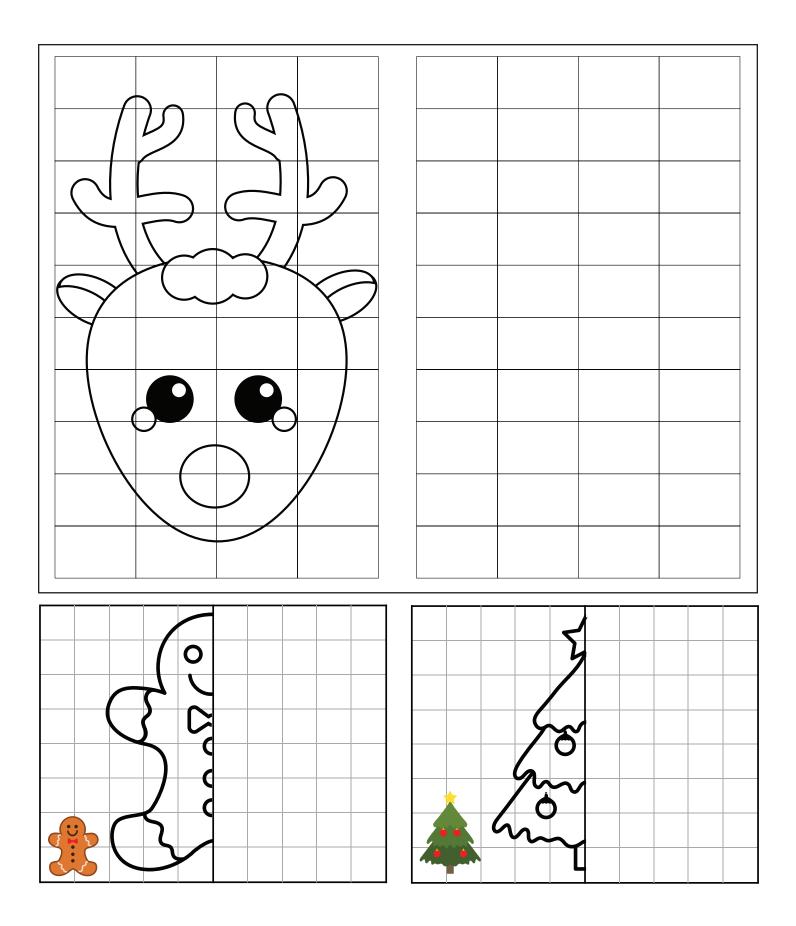
Activities



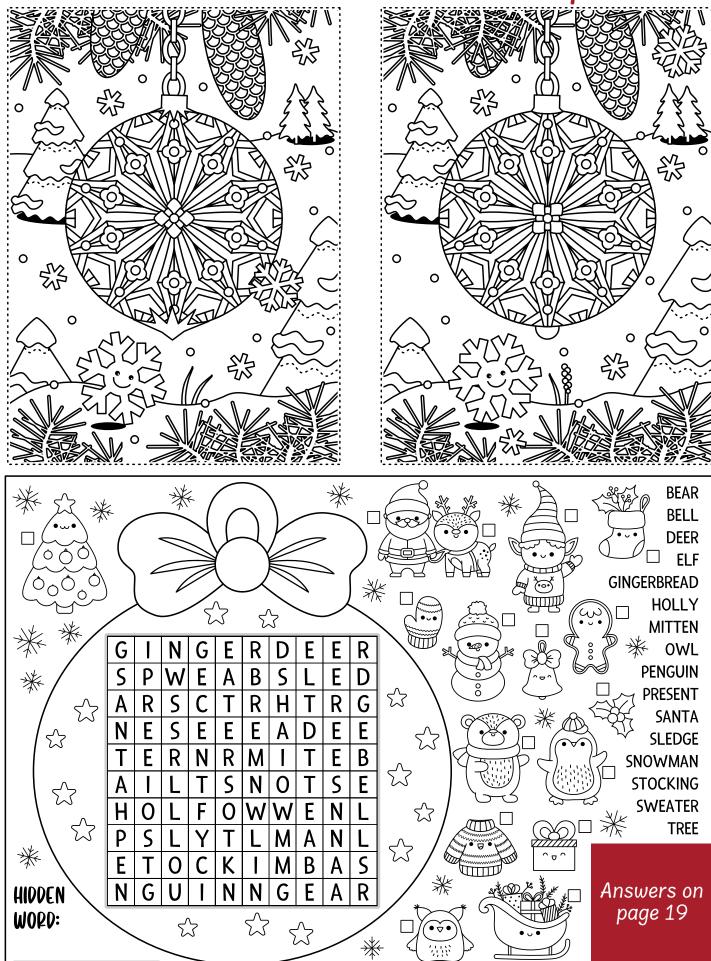








Find ten differences between the two pictures



Christmas Recipes



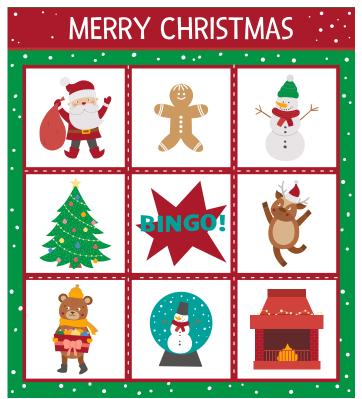
CHRISTMAS BINGO!











CHRISTMAS BINGO!









Answers to word search on page 16

. 0										
G	1	N	G	Ε	R	D	Ε	Ε	⊫R	
S	Ρ	W	Ε	Α	В	S	L	Ε	D	
Ā	R	S	С	Ī	R	Н	Ţ	R	G	
N	E	S	Е	Ε	E	Α	Ð	Ε	E	
Ī	E	R	N	R	М	-	Т	E	В	
Α	Τ	L	Ţ	S	N	0	T	S	E	
H	0	E)	Б	0	W	W	E	N	L	
Ρ	S	L	Υ	Τ	L	М	ΙΑΙ	N	L	
Ē	Ť	0	C	K	ų.	М	В	Α	S	
N	G	U	-	N	N	G	E	Α	Ð	

Have Some Family Fun This New Year's Eve

The Ball Drop Take a Kleenex Tissue Box and cut two slits on

the ends so that you can slide a belt through it. Place the belt around the participants waist so that the box is on their lower back. Participant has to shake a Ping Pong ball out of the box by shaking their hips and moving their body. The goal is to get the ball to drop to the ground before the allotted time is up.

Noisemakers

These DIY noisemakers are simple to make & a fun activity for the entire family. Simply remove the labels from several plastic water bottles and set up a decorating station where you can turn them into festive noisemakers. Fill the water bottles

with beans, buttons, jingle bells, ribbon and confetti! Then screw on the cap and decorate the outside with glue, cut tissue paper, washi tape and ribbon the sky's the limit!



Time Capsule

Something that will become extra meaningful is to create a time capsule of this year. Take the time to write down all kinds of memories & favorite things from the year for your family to look back on next New Years.

Dress Up Photo Booth Who doesn't love to dress up for a special occasion? Break out the feather



boas, top hats, or exaggerated plastic glasses. Anything goes! Purchase some photo booth props or spend the day crafting with the kids to make your own. Whatever you choose, make it fun, make it silly, and make it memorable to mark the end of the year. Set up a little corner with a camera and tripod, or go all out and create a party-style photo booth in your living room, and start snapping.

Dance Party

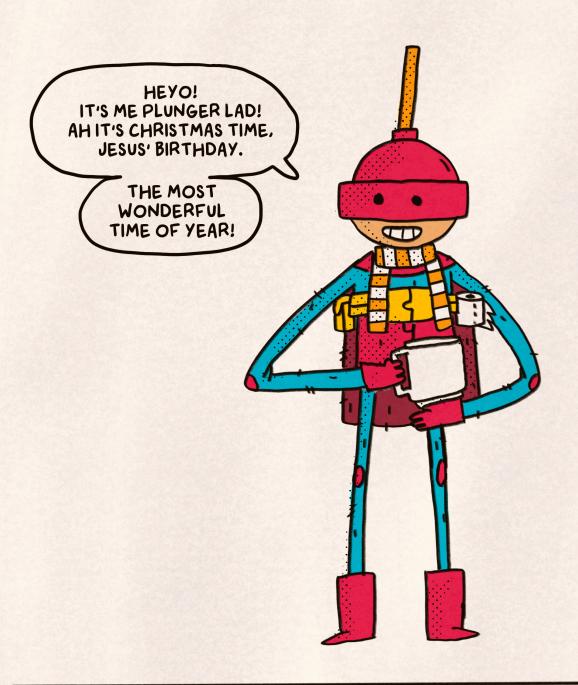
Put on your favorite tunes, pull up a kid-friendly playlist, or get a free Just Dance app for some family-friendly groovin'. Throw in some glow sticks for an extra ounce of fun!

Time Flies

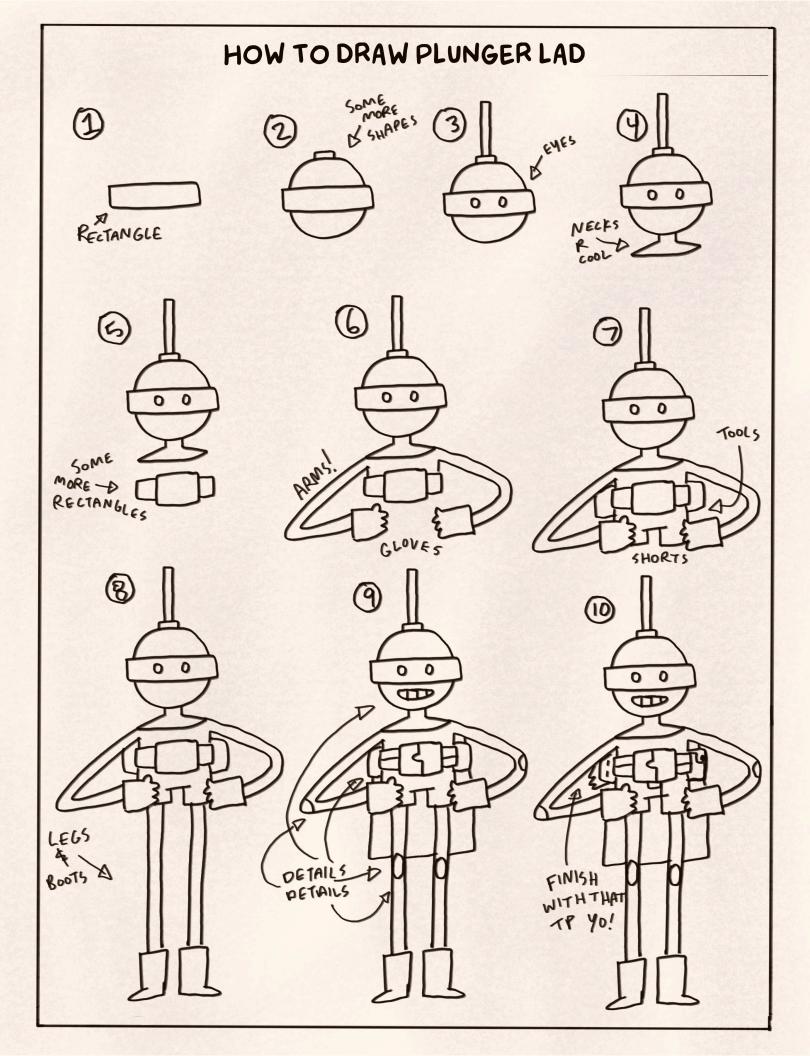
Line up 12 cups in order. One player will blow up a balloon and then blow each cup off of the table one at a time. Competition is best when you have two players side by side racing against each other.

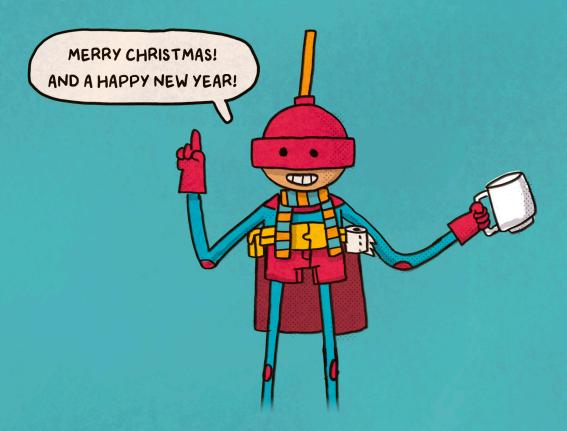
New Year's Resolution

Making a New Year's resolution is an American culture. They help us look to the future, so it is only fitting to do it as you go into the beginning of a new year. Give everyone a sheet of paper for an individual resolution or have one big family resolution page.



With all the hustle and bustle, it sure can be easy to get caught up in how we celebrate Christmas instead of why we celebrate Christmas, you know what I mean? I invite you and your family to learn more at Mount Hope Church on Sundays. See you soon!





Pray. Love. Serve.

We are all about the family and creating disciples who are healthy, growing, and full of love. You can expect a warm and welcoming atmosphere filled with love and grace.

Adult Service Times

CREYTS CAMPUS

Sunday Services: 8:30am & 10:30am*

Wednesdays Prayer Gathering:

7:00pm* | Sanctuary *Available Online

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Sunday Service: 11:00am

Family Service Times

MOUNT HOPE KIDS: Nursery - Elementary

Sundays: 10:30am **Wednesdays:** 7:00pm

STUDENTS: Middle & High School

Wednesdays: 7:00pm | Event Center

MOUNT HOPE YOUNG ADULTS:

Thursdays: 7:00pm

Follow us on social media or learn more at **mounthopechurch.org**

