

Welcome to the Hands at Work in Africa Advent Calendar

Let there be light!

Journey with us this Advent season as we explore the idea of being light in the darkness. We will explore what this looks like in our own lives and in the lives of the most vulnerable across Africa. Join us as we count down to the birth of Christ, the ultimate light in our lives.

“...I am the Light of the world; those who follow Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

– John 8:12

Each day of the week will look like this:

Monday | CREATE – a chance to be creative

Tuesday | READ – read a section of the Christmas story

Wednesday | LEARN – Learn more about Care Worker Mercy and Shina from Nigeria

Thursday | FIND – a chance to explore the world around you

Friday | LIGHT A CANDLE - as a symbol of light in the darkness

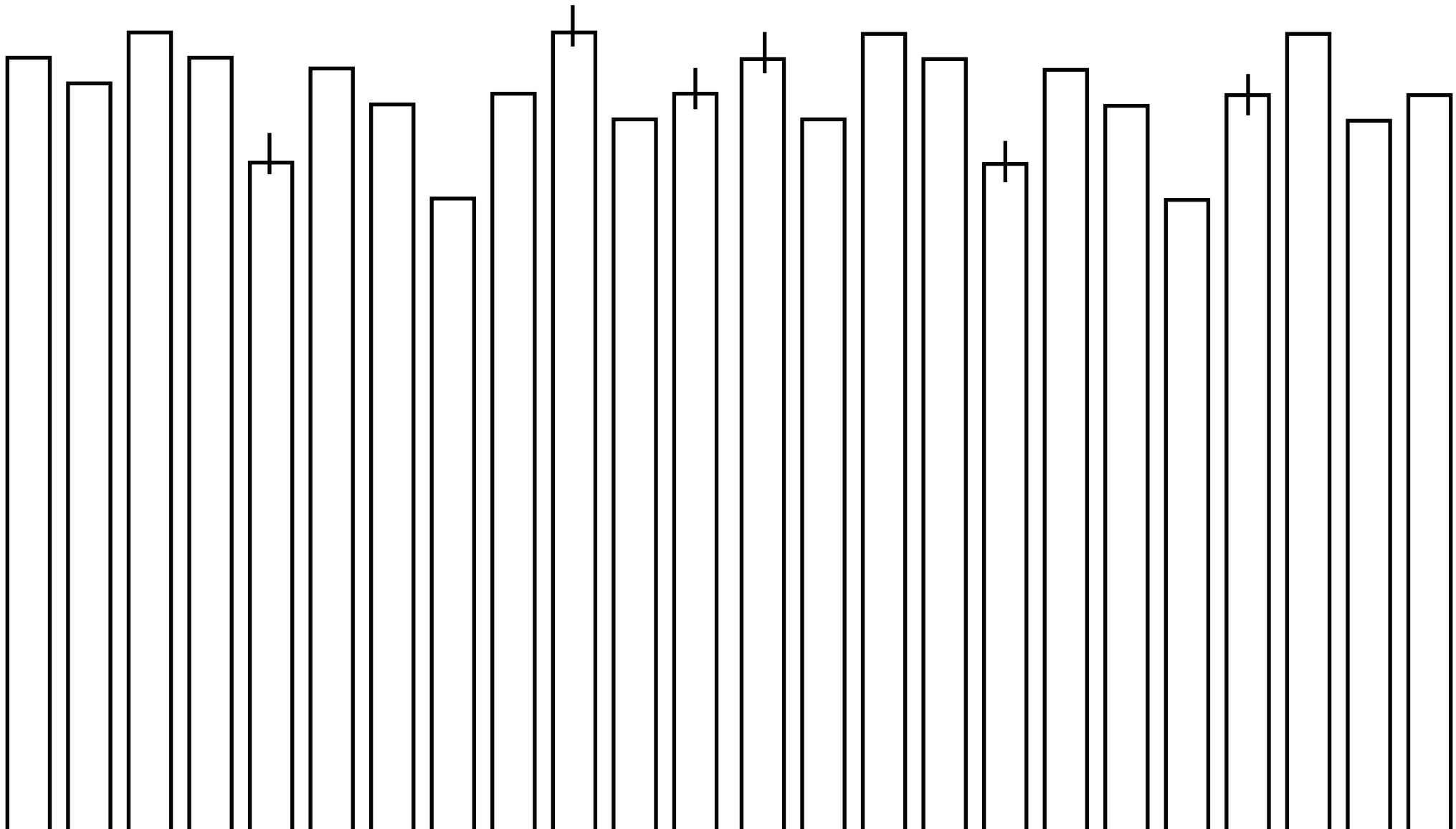
Saturday | GIVE – an opportunity to be generous

Sunday | ACT – an activity for you to do

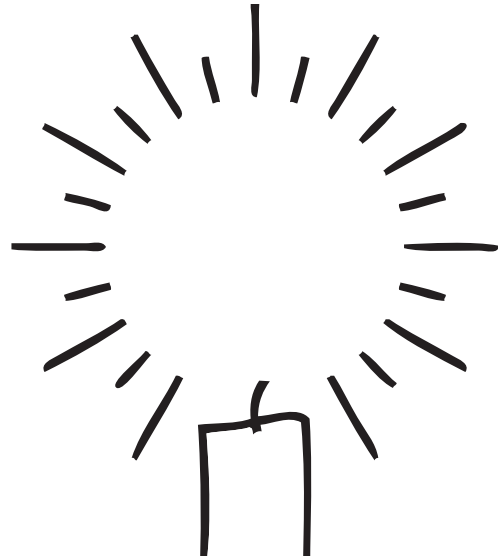
Materials you might need as you work through the Advent calendar include:

- Candle to light each week
- Scissors
- Tape
- Crayons, colouring pencils or markers
- Extra paper or poster board

Let There Be Light!
Advent 2023



December 1st | Light a Candle



“...I am the Light of the world;
those who follow Me will not walk
in the darkness, but will have the
Light of life.”

– John 8:12

Jesus says that He is the light of the world. He is light, and the darkness can't overcome it. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be a light. We are called to reach out to those who are living in darkness and bring the light of Jesus.

Together with your family, light a candle. This candle represents the light of God coming into this world through Jesus' birth.

What do you think it means to be light in the world?

December 2nd | Give

What is a gift?

How do you feel when someone gives
you something?

Today, think of how you could bless
someone with a gift.

December 3rd | Act



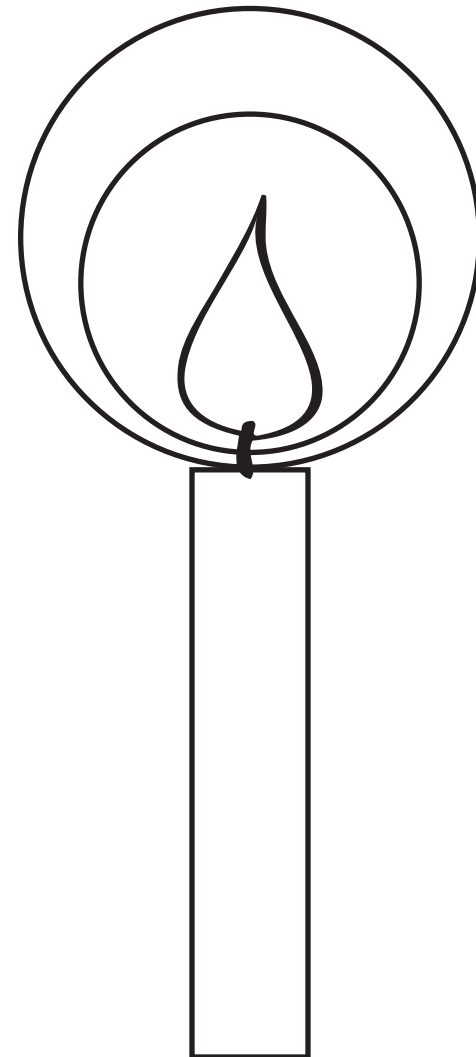
Act of Forgiveness

In the Bible, we learn how important it is to forgive each other. Jesus forgives us for our mistakes, so we need to do the same for others.

Is there someone you need to forgive because they hurt you or said something unkind? Or is there someone you need to say sorry to and ask for their forgiveness?

December 4th | Create

Create a decoration for your home or Christmas tree that will remind you of the light Jesus brings to the world.



December 5th | Read

Mary + Joseph

Matthew 1:18

A long time ago, in a place called Nazareth, there was a young couple named Mary and Joseph. Both were hardworking and gentle people. Mary and Joseph were going to be married very soon, and God had a special plan that would change their lives forever.

One day, God sent an angel to visit Mary. The angel told Mary that she would give birth to a baby boy whom she would name Jesus. Mary was concerned about having a baby because she was not yet married, but the angel assured her that it would be a miracle from God.

How do you think Mary felt when the angel visited her?

December 6th | Learn



Hands at Work is helping churches see their role in bringing light in the darkness and pursuing the lost one in vulnerable communities in Africa.

Mercy is a Care Worker in her community. She is one of the people who are bringing light to the darkness and searching for those who are most vulnerable in Nigeria.

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Today, take time to pray for Care Workers like Mercy.

December 7th | Find



Today, we are
going to do an
indoor scavenger
hunt.

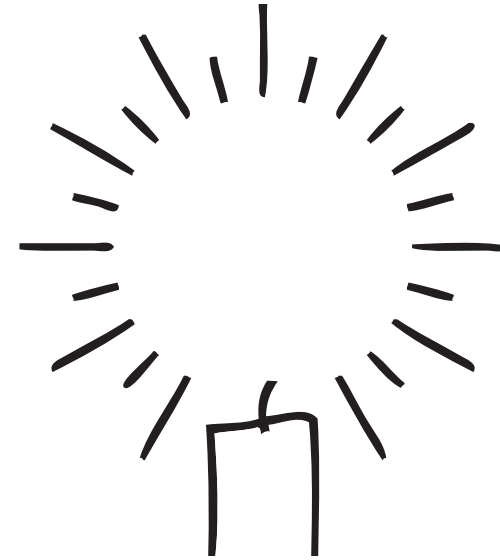
Find five things around your
home that make light.

What do you notice about these things?

What do they do?

How do they change the things around them?

December 8th | Light a Candle



“...I am the Light of the world; those
who follow Me will not walk in the
darkness, but will have the Light of
life.”

– John 8:12

Together with your family, light a candle. This candle
represents the light of God coming into this world
through Jesus’ birth.

When have you experienced someone being light
in the world?

December 9th | Give

God calls us to be generous
with our time, money and things.

Today, go through your toys, clothes
and books and think of how you can
bless someone with something
that you own.

December 10th | Act



Act of Kindness

There are many different ways that we show kindness to people. Sometimes, Jesus would sit and talk with people who looked different, or he would give a child a hug. In all that Jesus did, he was kind and full of love.

Today, think of a way you can show kindness to someone in your life.

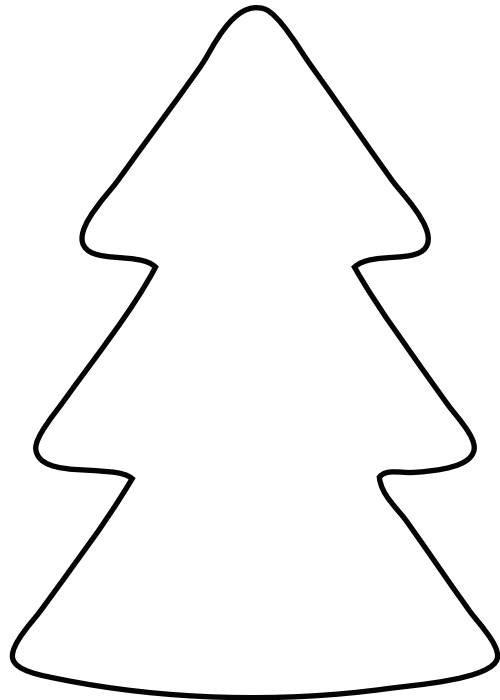
December 11th | Create

Tree of love and kindness

Make a list of all of the ways you can be kind and loving to the people around you.

Cut a simple Christmas tree shape out of paper and decorate it, adding one colourful, bright decoration for every item on your list.

Hang it up in your bedroom or somewhere in your home as a reminder of the light we can bring into this world.



December 12th | Read

A Trip to Bethlehem

Matthew 1:19-24

Mary listened to what the angel had told her. Not long after, she became pregnant and told Joseph what the angel had said. Joseph was confused and became upset because Mary had become pregnant before they were married.

One evening, while Joseph was sleeping, the angel visited him and told him about God's plan and how Mary's baby was going to be a miracle from God. The angel shared that Mary had been faithful and they should still get married.

After the wedding, Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, but when they arrived, there was no place for them to stay. So, they had to stay in a stable with animals. It was there that Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God.

December 13th | Learn



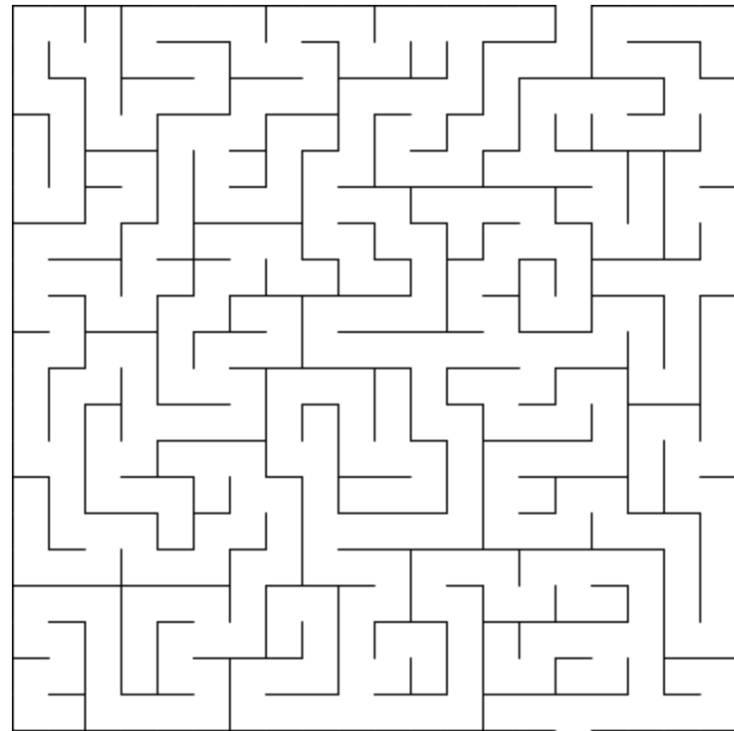
Shina* is two years old and lives in the Temitope Community in Nigeria. She lives with her grandmother, Tiwa*, and four brothers and sisters. Shina's mother died when she was born, and her father isn't involved in her life. Though Shina was loved and cared for by Tiwa, she was very sick. Tiwa didn't have money to purchase the food that her family needed.

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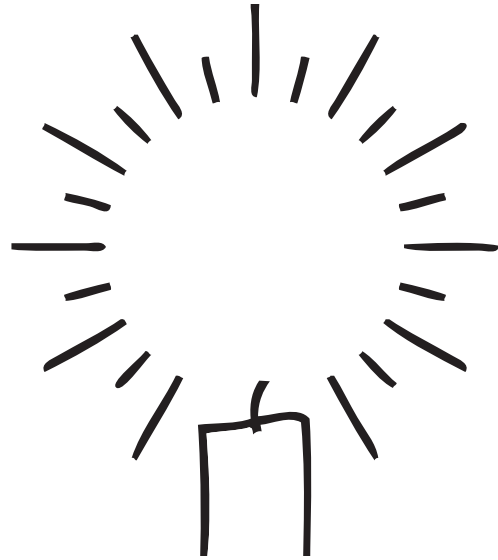
Take time to pray for children like Shina.

December 14th | Find

Help Mercy find Shina and bring her to the Care Point, where she will be welcomed into a group of people who love and care for her.



December 15th | Light a Candle



“...I am the Light of the world; those who follow Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

– John 8:12

Together with your family, light a candle. This candle represents the light of God coming into this world through Jesus’ birth.

When have you had the chance to be light in the world?

December 16th | Give

Giving does not always have to be something physical.

Today, give of your time. Think about how you can help someone around your home or in the community.

Is there something you are good at that you know could help someone else?

December 17th | Act



Act of Encouragement

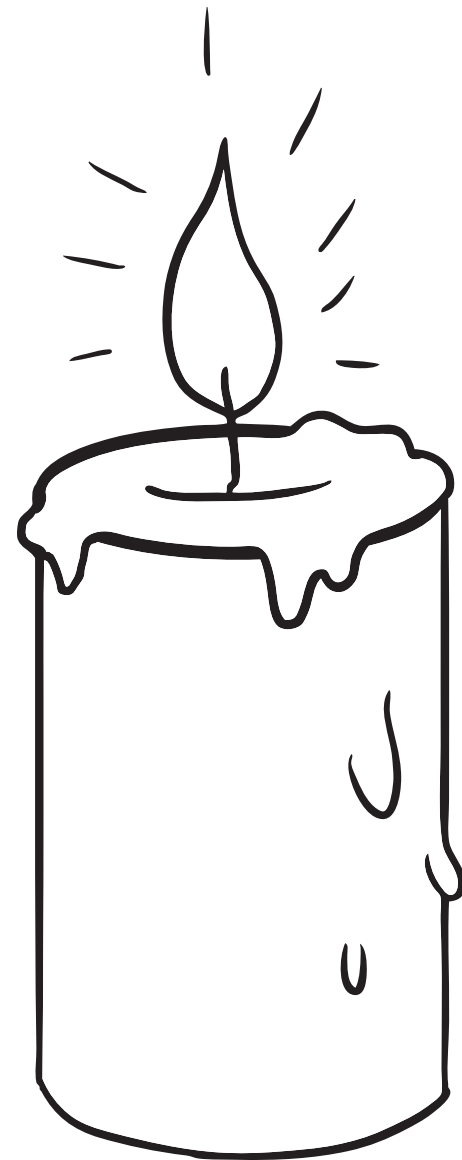
When someone speaks kind and encouraging words to you, it shows how much you are loved by them and by Jesus.

Is there someone in your life who you want to encourage?

Take time to think of a way to encourage and bless that person. You might want to draw them a picture, call them, write a message or share a Bible verse.

December 18th | Create

As you colour in this picture, remember that Jesus is the light of the world.



December 19th | Read

Jesus Is Born

Matthew 2:10-11

When Jesus was born, there was a sign in the sky, a bright star! It was brighter than all the others. There were wise men who were awaiting Jesus's birth. They used the star to guide them to where Jesus was. When they arrived, they had brought gifts for the newborn baby.

In other parts of Bethlehem where shepherds were feeding their sheep, angels appeared to them. They shared the good news of Jesus and sang songs to welcome Jesus into the world. The shepherds ran to where Jesus was and worshipped him.

December 20th | Learn



One day, Mercy saw Shina being carried on her older sister's back. Mercy could see how sick she looked and wanted to learn her story. Mercy left what she was doing and went to visit their home. She saw that they were very vulnerable. Shina and her siblings were invited to the Care Point where they could be cared for by Mercy and other Care Workers. Shina was taken to the clinic and given medicine to treat her sickness.

Today, Shina and her siblings receive daily love and care from Mercy and her fellow Care Workers. These men and women represent the light of Jesus in their community.

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Today, pray for Care Points across Africa, where children are welcomed in with love.

December 21st | Find

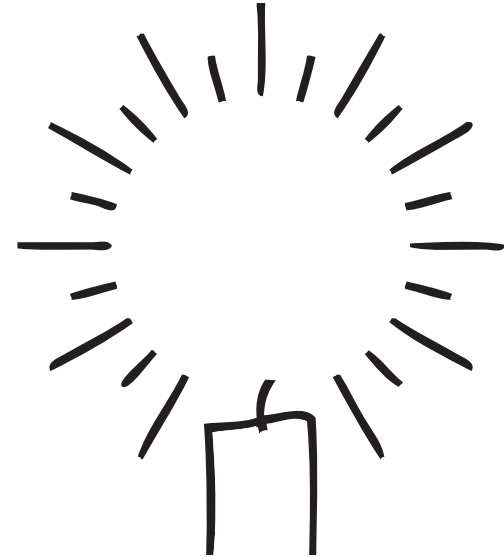
Today, we're going to play a game of hide and seek.

Ask one of your grown-ups to hide a toy in a dark room. Once hidden, go and find the lost toy without any light. After you've finished, think about how hard it was.

Then, ask them to hide the toy again, but this time, when you go searching you can use a light to look for the toy. Did you find it easier to search for the toy with a light?

Remember that when we walk with Jesus who is the light, we walk in the light.

December 22nd | Light a Candle



“...I am the Light of the world; those who follow Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

– John 8:12

Together with your family light a candle. This represents the light of God coming into this world through Jesus' birth.

What is something you would like to do to help be light in the world over the coming weekend?

December 23rd | Act

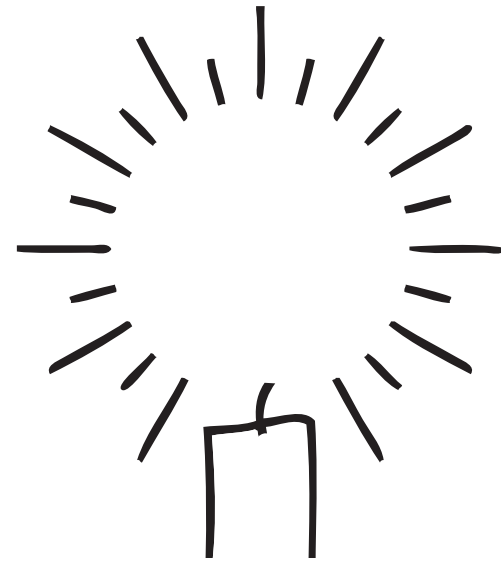


Act of Celebration

Spend some time looking back on what you've learned this advent season. Praise God for all the stories, people and lessons you have learned.

Spend time praying and thanking God for all the ways he is light in our world!

December 24th | Christmas Eve



... "I am the Light of the world; those who follow Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

— John 8:12

Today is Christmas Eve, the day before we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Together with your family, light a candle.

This candle represents the light of God coming into this world through Jesus' birth.

Spend time praying and thanking God for this beautiful gift.

Thank you for joining us this
advent season



From our family to yours,
we wish you a blessed and
Happy Christmas!