

# Lesson 18



1-3-2021  
LEADER GUIDE

## JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN A CHRISTMAS STORY

MATTHEW 2:1-12

### GOAL

▶ **To encourage children to seek after the Messiah and His Kingdom, above all other treasures.** The Magi, also known as wise men, were dedicated to finding the newborn king who would bring salvation to the whole world! Show children what it looks like to seek Him, know Him, and worship Him—just like the wise men did in the Christmas story.

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### WORDS TO KNOW

▶ **Magi:** Wise men from the east who were known, far and wide, for their knowledge and wisdom—so much so, that even great kings and leaders came to them for advice. The wise men in this story knew that a great king would be born, so they spent their lives searching for Him, and when they found Him, they worshiped Him.

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### MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Matthew 2:2:** Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

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### MEMORY VERSE MEANING

▶ **Matthew 2:2:** After it was revealed to the Magi that the Messiah was to be born, they traveled to Jerusalem in search of Him. Throughout the city of Jerusalem, they asked everyone they saw if they knew where the new king could be found. It must have been surprising to them that no one seemed to know about the coming of their own King, the Messiah!

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## OVERVIEW

**Read 2 Matthew 2:1-12:** This story follows the journey of a group of Magi, also known as wise men, in search of the promised King. One night, while they were gazing out into the night sky, they witnessed the brightest star they had ever seen. Convinced it was the announcement of the birth of the King they had been waiting for, they set off on a journey to find Him. Their adventure took them through the streets of Jerusalem, into the presence of the wicked King Herod, and finally to the exact location of Jesus. When at last they found the young Messiah, they fell on their faces and worshiped Him.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** The Magi thought the bright star was a sign of what?

**A1:** The Magi thought the bright star was a sign that a great king had been born.

**Q1b:** Have you ever seen a shooting star or meteor shower?

**TN:** If we are lucky, we may have seen a bright, beautiful light streak across the sky. We call them shooting stars or meteors. Most of the time, shooting stars are visible for only a couple of seconds. Meteor showers give us an opportunity to see more of these sights, but they are still very short lived. On the night that Jesus was born, a star rose and shined so brightly that people near and far took notice. The star didn't flash across the sky and then vanish—this star hung in the sky producing an amazing light for quite a long time. This was no normal occurrence—this was a sign.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did the angel tell the shepherds to comfort them?

**A2:** The angel told them that the Messiah had been born.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** In what city did the wise men ask people about the newborn king of the Jews?

**A3:** The wise men asked people in Jerusalem about the newborn king of the Jews.

SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What was the name of the man who called himself the king of the Jews?

**A4:** Herod called himself the king of the Jews.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** Toward what city did the wise men travel next?

**A5:** The wise men left Jerusalem and headed toward Bethlehem.

**Q5b:** Do you know in which direction the sun rises and sets every day?

**TN:** The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Knowing this can help us with directions and even approximate the time of day. Explorers often used the sun and the location of stars in the sky to help them find their way to new locations and back home again. Because the sun and stars are not visible all the time, using them for directions wasn't always helpful or accurate. The wise men traveled from far away, using only the bright light from the star that appeared the night that Jesus was born. While it is unknown whether the star was visible during the day, it definitely was at night. When it was visible, it was constant; it did not move across the sky like the sun and the stars, which made it easy to find Jesus' location.

SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What gifts did the wise men bring Jesus?

**A6:** They brought Him gifts fit for a king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.





## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** How did God warn the wise men and Joseph that Herod planned to kill Jesus?

**A7:** God warned the wise men and Joseph in a dream.

**Q7b:** How far would you go to see Jesus if He were a man on the earth again?

**TN:** Would we climb the highest mountain, swim an ocean? We don't know exactly how far the wise men traveled, but it wasn't a quick weekend road trip! Any distance would be worth the effort to see Jesus in person. The good news is that we don't have to go anywhere to be with Jesus. He is with us always! Wherever we are, all we have to do is talk to Him. His blessings and guidance are available to us even without being in His physical presence.

# JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ANSWER KEY

### Across

- King (**Herod**) was greatly disturbed by the Magi's news of a new King.
- The Magi went through Jerusalem asking, "Where is he who has been born king of the (**Jews**)?"
- The Magi declared, "For we saw his star when it rose and have come to (**Worship**) him.
- What city did the Magi find the new-born King, Jesus? (**Bethlehem**)

### Down

- When the Magi at last found the young Messiah, they fell on their faces and (**Worshipped**) Him
- The Magi were convinced that the bright light in the sky was a sign of the Messiah's (**Birth**).
- Secretly, the wicked King did not want to worship Jesus; he only wanted the wise men to discover where He was so he could have Jesus (**Killed**).
- The Magi are also known as (**Wisemen**).
- You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your (**Heart**).

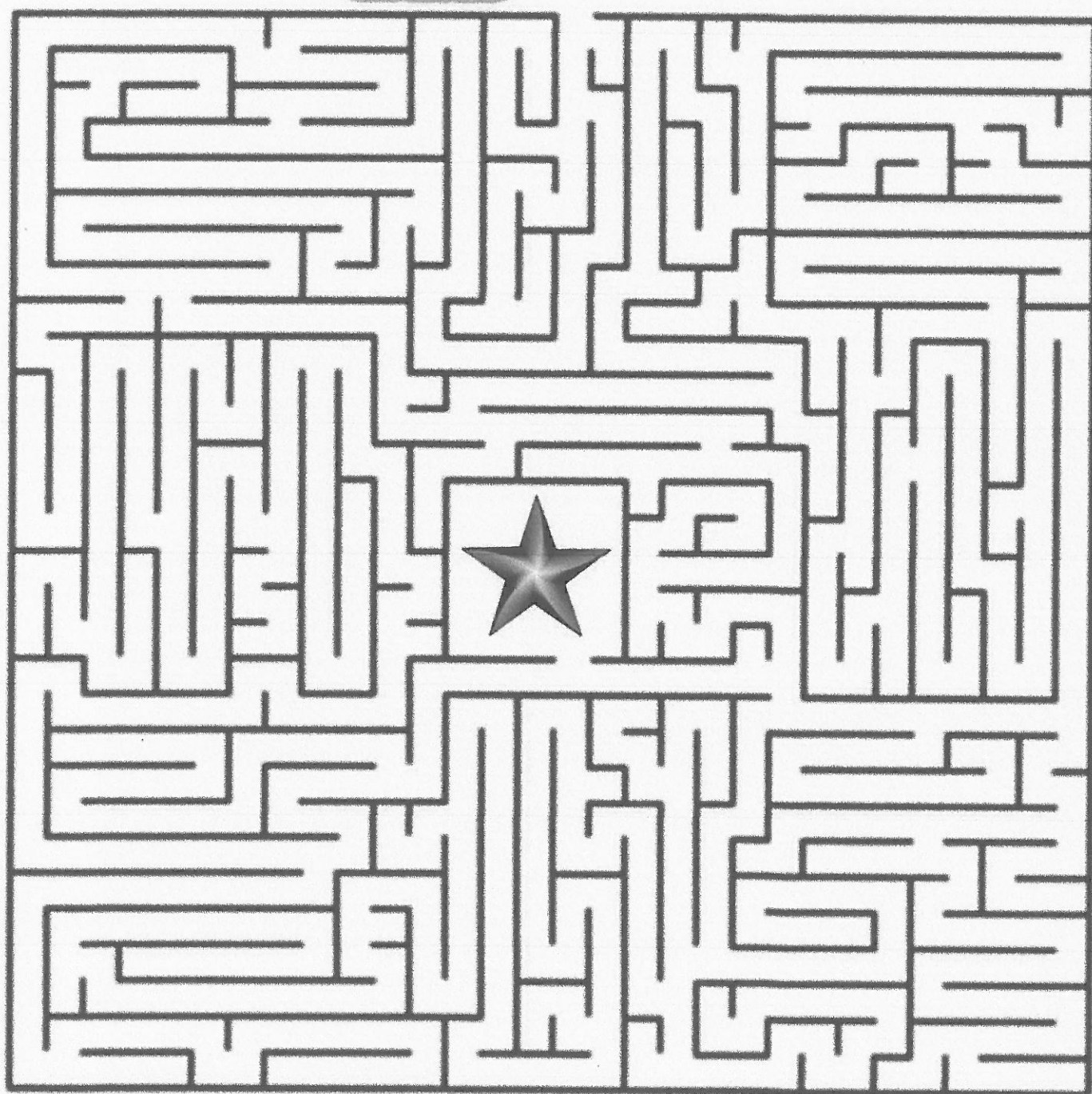
# JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

Matthew 2:1-12



Can you help the Wise Men  
follow the star to Jesus?





# JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

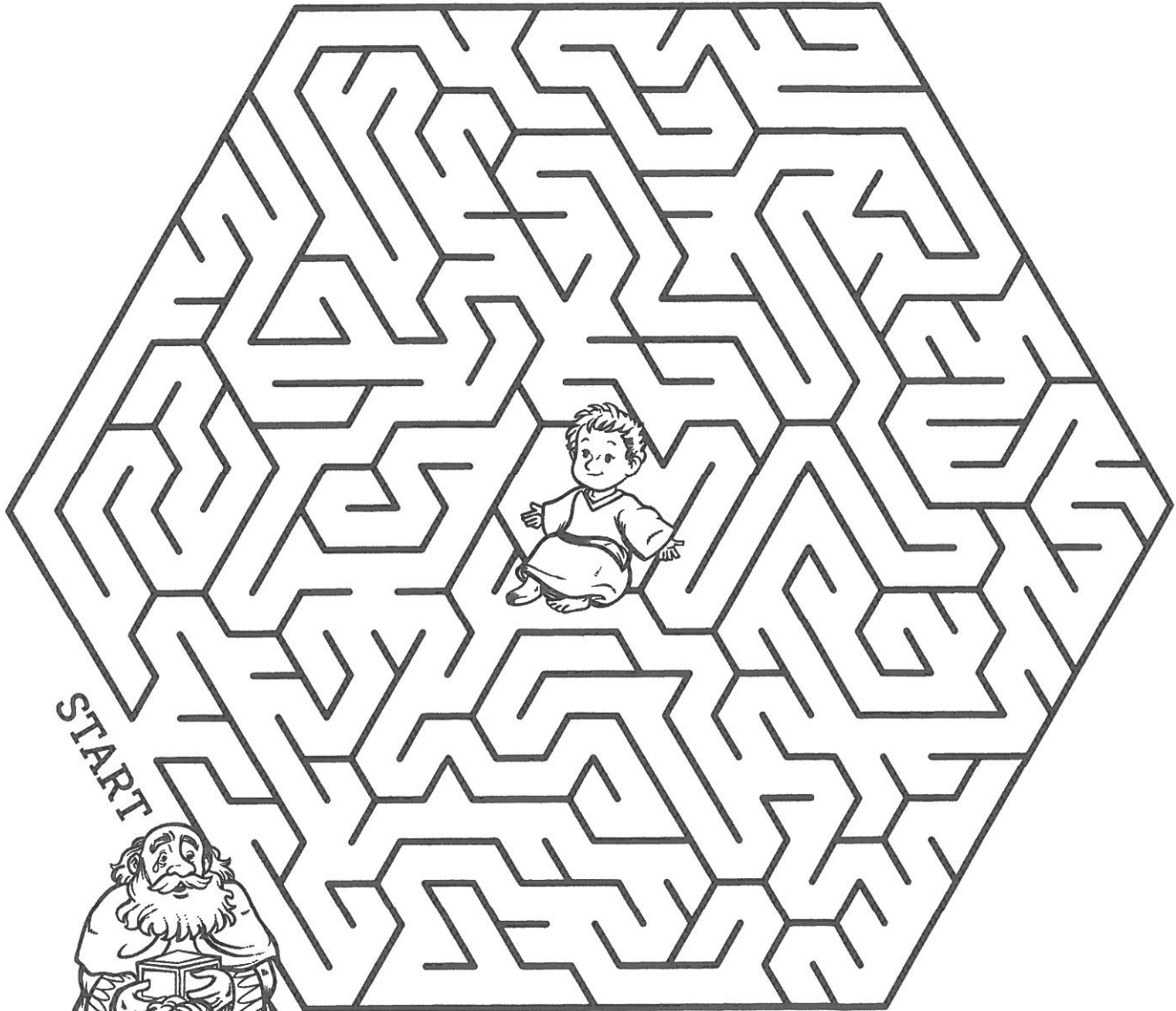
Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



# JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

Guide the three wise men to baby Jesus.



# JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

## A CHRISTMAS STORY



Discover the hidden words.

N	W	I	Y	D	O	B	K	D	B	S	H	I	U	X
E	R	Z	K	O	Q	A	K	V	W	S	J	C	Z	C
M	H	Y	P	R	U	Y	T	O	I	E	G	F	F	B
E	A	E	A	E	Y	Z	R	W	D	E	Z	L	L	J
S	K	K	A	H	F	S	E	E	D	B	J	T	E	T
I	P	I	U	R	H	J	P	G	F	U	F	R	L	N
W	H	Q	N	I	T	M	Q	U	J	C	U	L	M	D
L	Z	Z	P	G	E	J	E	A	I	S	X	U	G	V
B	O	V	M	E	H	U	O	H	A	G	R	J	X	I
B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	L	E	D	U	I	H	O
F	Y	U	N	K	J	Z	E	Z	E	L	G	Y	F	G
U	V	V	W	Z	N	M	C	R	B	A	H	O	R	N
M	K	Y	H	R	U	K	Q	X	M	O	U	T	N	I
F	I	J	E	S	U	S	O	T	G	R	A	N	E	E
M	S	B	S	O	X	R	Q	Q	H	Y	U	S	Z	B

### Word Bank

HEROD

MAGI

JERUSALEM

KING

JEWISH

WORSHIP

BETHLEHEM

JESUS

BIRTHDAY

MURDER

WISEMEN

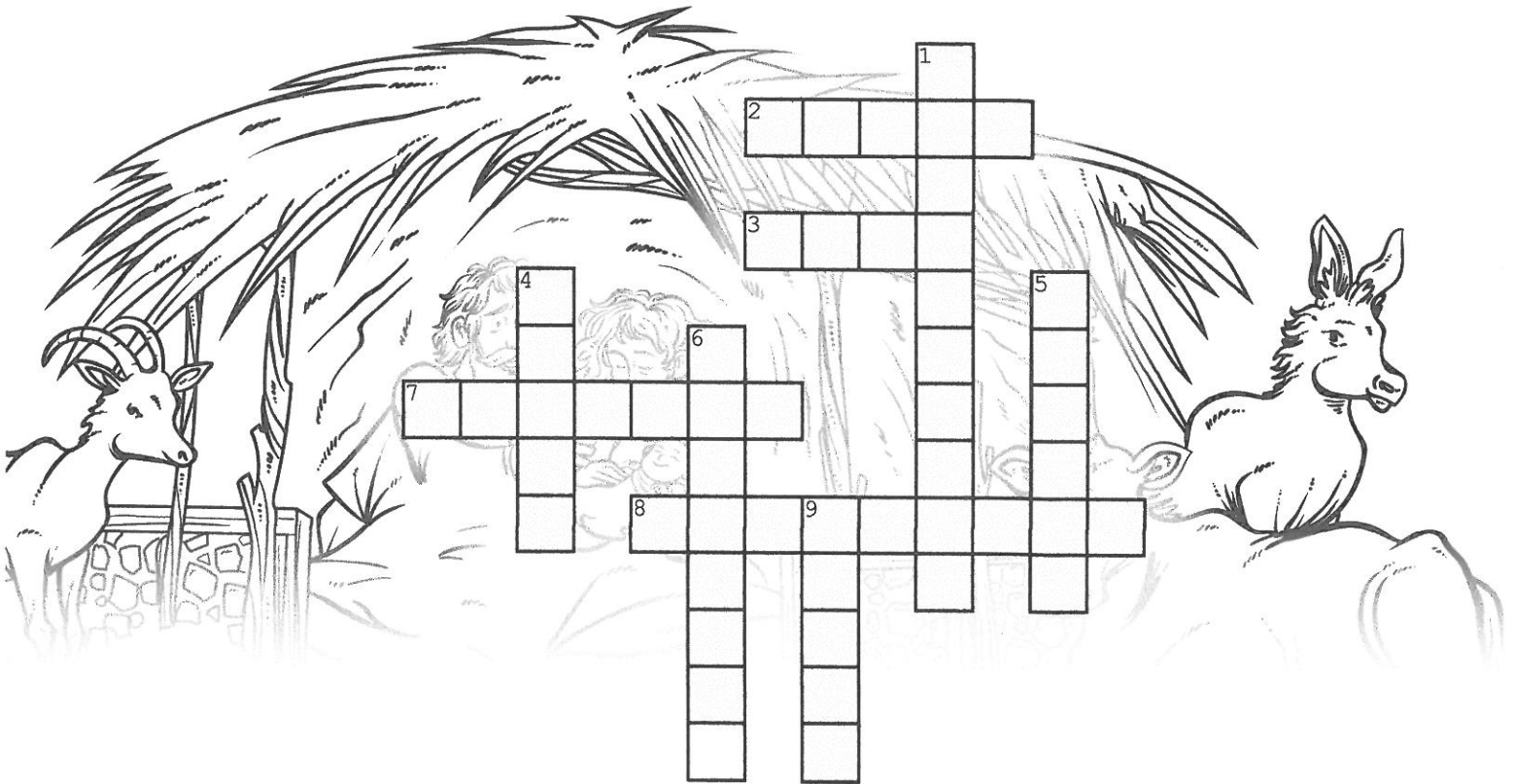
HEART



# JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

### Matthew 2:1-12



#### Across

2. King \_\_\_\_\_ was greatly disturbed by the Magi's news of a new King.
3. The Magi went through Jerusalem asking, "Where is he who has been born king of the \_\_\_\_\_?"
7. The Magi declared, "For we saw his star when it rose and have come to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
8. What city did the Magi find the new-born King, Jesus?

#### Down

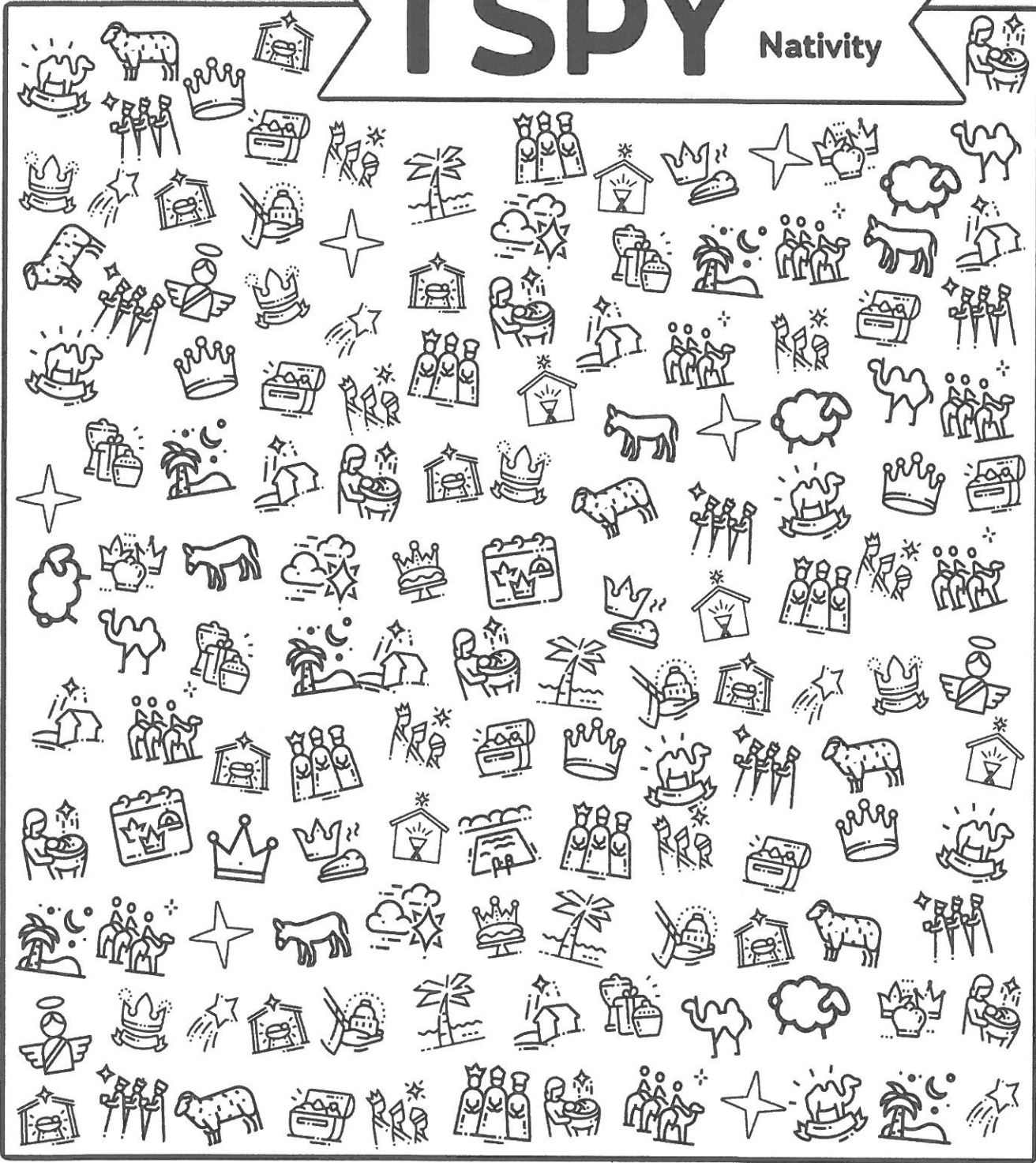
1. When the Magi at last found the young Messiah, they fell on their faces and \_\_\_\_\_ Him
4. The Magi were convinced that the bright light in the sky was a sign of the Messiah's \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Secretly, the wicked King did not want to worship Jesus; he only wanted the wise men to discover where He was so he could have Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Magi are also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
9. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your \_\_\_\_\_.





# I SPY

Nativity



- |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 |  | 4 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 5 |  |
| 1 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  |
| 3 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 2 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  | 9 |  | 6 |  | 3 |  |