

JESUS GIVES
HOPE!

Advent Activities for Kids!

JESUS GIVES HOPE!

This Advent activity pack includes instructions and printables for a variety of hands-on learning experiences to help children understand the HOPE of Christmas and build anticipation for celebrating Jesus' birth. You can choose the ideas that best fit your teaching situation.

Key Word: Hope—Looking forward to Jesus making all his promises to me come true.

Key Phrase: Every week we'll have a phrase that goes along with the Advent teaching for the week. This week it's "Jesus gives hope!" You can use this phrase as you lead the related activities and throughout the week to reinforce and remember this truth.

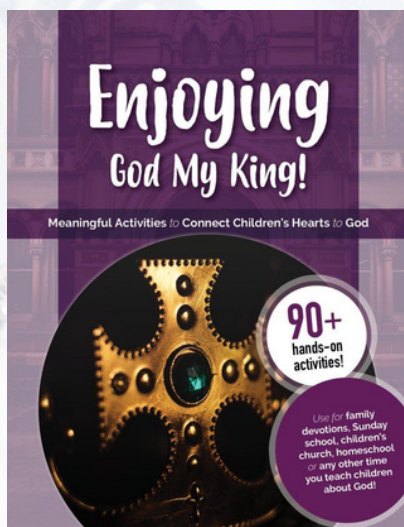
Key Verse: Psalm 130:5 "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope."

Songs about Hope: Listen to one or more of these songs during the week as you light the candle and talk about how Jesus gives us hope.

- "Hope Was Born This Night" by Sidewalk Prophets
- "Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death" by Keith and Kristyn Getty
- "O Holy Night"

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More Ideas from *Enjoying God My King!*

The following ideas from this FREE activity guide could be used to help children understand why and how **Jesus gives hope**.

- The Enemy & the King Story (pg. 30)
- Messages from God (pg. 42)
- His Name is J-E-S-U-S (pg. 43)

Download a FREE copy at TruthsumWords.com or KidsEnjoyingJesus.com. Printed books are available for purchase from Amazon.

Lesson: Jesus Gives HOPE!

Prepare: Jesus Gives Hope! printable for each child, Bible, drawing supplies

Do: Have everyone draw something they are looking forward to this Christmas. Discuss their drawings as you introduce the concept of hope.

Say: What do you hope Christmas is like? Maybe you hope to see family and friends. Maybe you hope to make cookies. Or maybe you're hoping for a certain Christmas present. We sometimes use the word "hope" to mean "looking forward to something that may or may not happen." But there is a Bible meaning for the word hope. It means looking forward to Jesus making all his promises to me come true. What Jesus says will happen WILL happen. When we put our hope in Jesus, we are trusting that his plan is good and true.

When sin came into the world, it separated people from God. But God gave them hope—something good to look forward to that was SURE to happen. God promised that he would send a Savior who would take away sin FOREVER (Genesis 3:15). For thousands of years God's people hung on to that hope. They waited and longed for the Savior to come and rescue them from sin and badness. I'm sure there were people who gave up hope—they thought God would never keep his promise. Many years later the time came. (Read Matthew 1:18-25.) The angel said his name would be called Jesus, because he would save his people from their sin. That is the greatest hope of all—to be saved from sin and be with God forever!

Do: Light the candle of hope and say: Today, as we light the candle of hope, we remember that Jesus came to bring us hope. When we believe in him as our Savior, we can trust his good heart that he has taken care of sin forever, and that one day he will make the whole world new. Everything Jesus says will happen will someday come true. All the sadness will go away. Say with me, "Jesus gives hope!"



Key Word Craft: HOPE

Prepare: Hope Key Word Craft printable, craft supplies

Do: Decorate the word "HOPE" while you discuss what it means that Jesus gives hope. and hang it somewhere your family can see it all week.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we usually use the word "hope"?
2. How does the Bible usually use the word "hope"?
3. Why did the promise of a Savior give people hope in the Old Testament long before Jesus was born?
4. Is there something you're waiting on God for now? How can Jesus give you hope even when bad things happen?



Key Verse: Psalm 130:5

Psalm 130:5 "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope."

Prepare: Psalm 130:5 Coloring Page, crayons or colored pencils, Bible

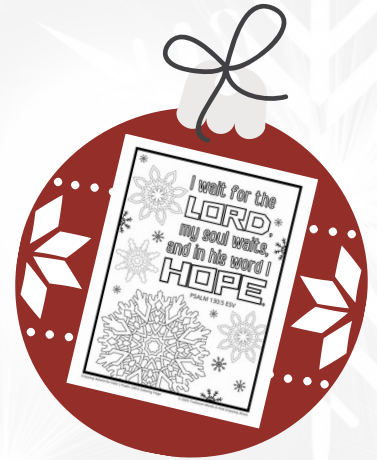
Say: Do you like waiting for good things that you know are going to happen? Like getting ice cream, or visiting your grandparents, or waiting for Christmas? Not many of us enjoy waiting for good things. Our verse this week talks about the very best thing to wait for!

Do: Read Psalm 130:5 from your Bible and from the coloring page. Discuss the questions below to consider the meaning of the verse while you decorate the verse coloring page.

Discussion Questions:

- The man who wrote this verse is talking about waiting for God. What do you think he was waiting for God to do? (*perhaps waiting for God to do something specific in his life; perhaps waiting for the Messiah to come*)
- What do you think waiting for God meant for him? (*i.e. was he sitting around doing nothing or was he busy doing what God wanted?*)
- Why can we confidently put our hope in God's Word? (*Because God never fails—all of his words are true and good!*)
- How would you describe hope in your own words?

Do: Play the Musical Christmas Cards Bible Verse Game (below) to repeat the verse and help children remember it in a fun way.



Musical Christmas Cards

Prepare: Write Psalm 130:5 inside a Christmas card ahead of time.

Do: Have everyone gather around a table or in a circle on the floor. Pass the card around a circle while someone closes their eyes and hums or sings a Christmas carol (or you could play Christmas music from a phone or other device). When the person stops humming, whoever is holding the card opens it and reads or quotes the verse out loud. Have someone start humming again and resume passing the card to keep playing. Continue playing as long as interest and time allow.

Idea: Challenge the children to memorize the verse, or even just the end of it ("in his word I hope") so they can say it without looking inside the card.



Key Word Activity: HOPE

Prepare: playdough, Hope Definition Printable

Do: Have the children use playdough to form the word "hope". While you're playing, review what they have learned about the hope that Jesus gives. You can also repeat the Key Phrase ("Jesus gives hope!") together in fun ways while you use your playdough to form the shape of a baby and a cross to remember the sacrifice Jesus made to give us hope.



Hope Ornament Craft



Prepare: Hope Ornament Craft printable, crayons or colored pencils

Do: Using the provided printable, decorate the "hope" ornament and hang it on your Christmas tree (or wherever you want to hang them) as a reminder that Jesus gives hope.

Pass The Present Game

Prepare: small gift box, small surprises (optional)

Do: Place a small gift box in the center of your dining room table as a decoration. At mealtimes, pass this present around the table as each person says "thank you" to God for something they appreciate. This is a fun and simple way to plan praise into your daily routine in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Ideas: You can also occasionally hide a small surprise (candy, stickers, a note announcing a fun activity, etc.) in the box for your family to discover and enjoy together.



Christmas Hopes Game

Prepare: paper, pencils or crayons, bowl, Hope Definition printable

Do: Have each person write down or draw several things they hope will happen this Christmas. Then put the “hopes” in a bowl and draw them out one by one as you guess who said or drew each thing. After each successful guess, have everyone shout “Jesus gives hope!” together. Afterward, review a Biblical definition of hope and explain that the greatest, most real hope only comes from Jesus.



Praying for Hope



Prepare: paper, pencil

Do: Make a list of people you can pray for who need the hope only Jesus can give. Pray for them at meals or bedtime. If possible, write them a note, email, or text to let them know you're praying for them.

Ideas: People to pray for could include: friends or family who haven't believed in Jesus, people experiencing loss or sickness, people in nations where it's illegal or dangerous to follow Jesus.

Hopeful Hot Cocoa

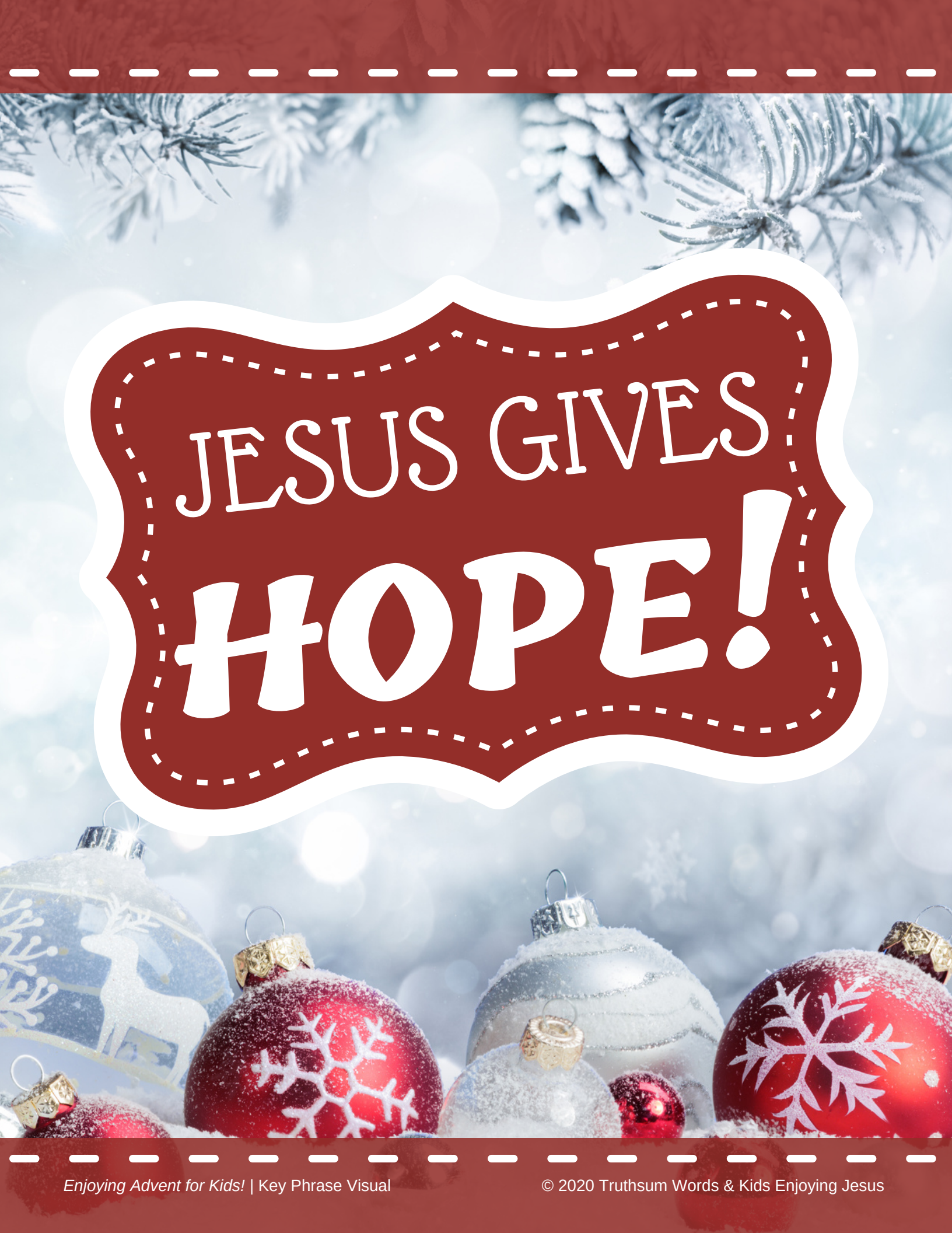
Prepare: hot cocoa mix, hot water, mugs, mini marshmallows or whipped cream

Do: Let the children help you make and serve hot cocoa as a special treat. As you enjoy your hot cocoa together, ask questions to connect with the children and also review what they've learned about the hope Jesus gives.

Discussion Questions:

- What are your favorite things about Christmas?
- Why do we celebrate Christmas?
- Do you have any questions about Christmas or Jesus?
- How does knowing Jesus give us hope?
- Can you think of people in the Bible to whom Jesus gave hope?
- Why is having hope something worth celebrating?
- Do you have any ideas about fun ways to celebrate Christmas?
- What do you imagine Christmas celebrations will be like in Heaven?





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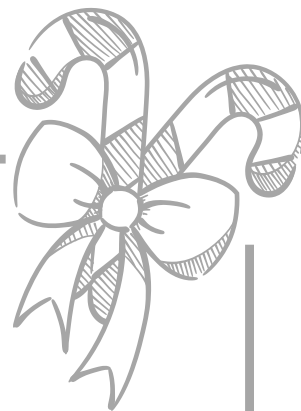
Looking forward
to Jesus making
all his promises
to me come true.

CHRISTMAS HOPES



Draw or write people you hope to see or talk to.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for drawing or writing names of people.



Draw or write treats and foods you hope to eat.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for drawing or writing names of treats and foods.



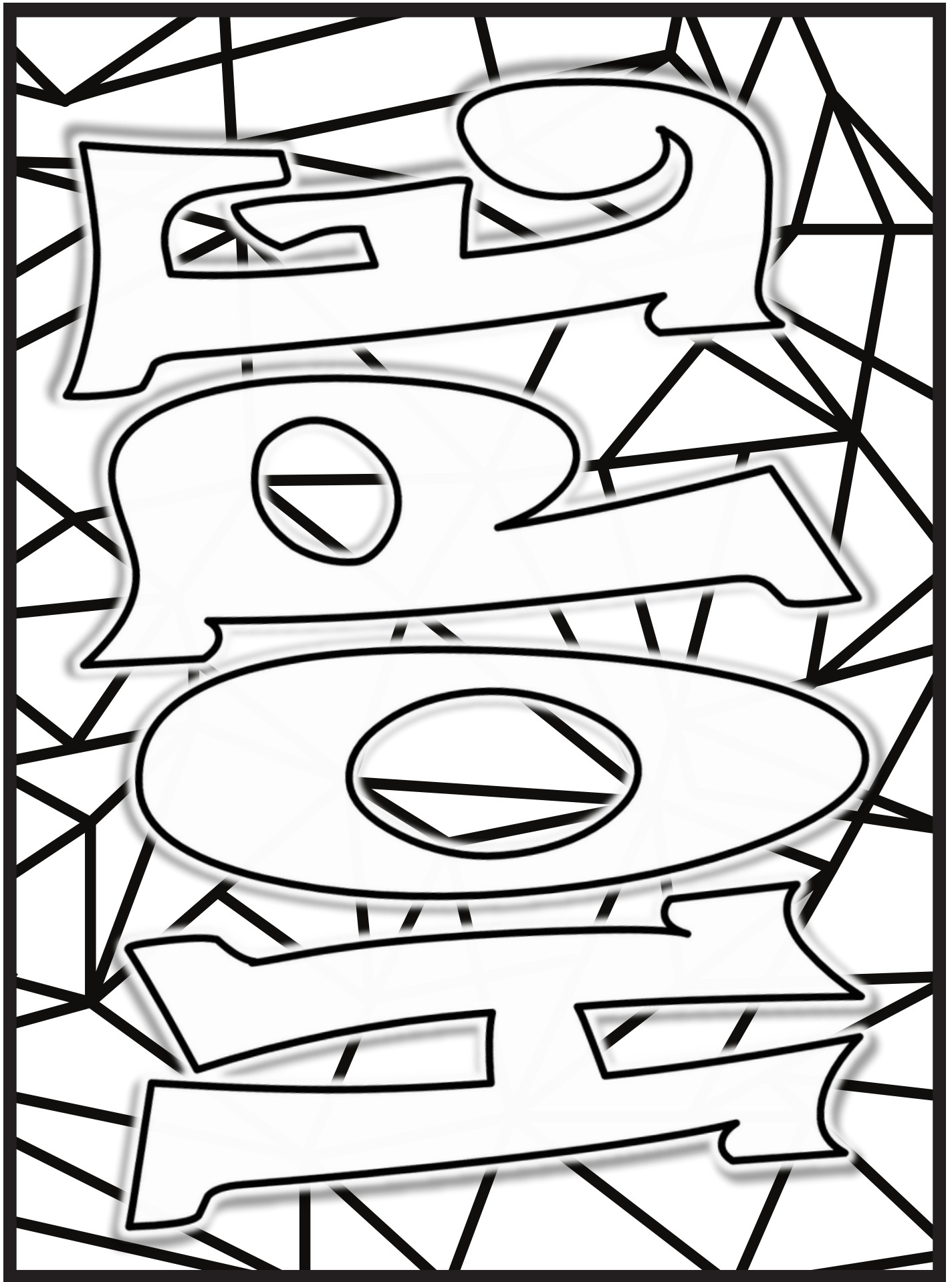
Draw or write fun things you hope to do.

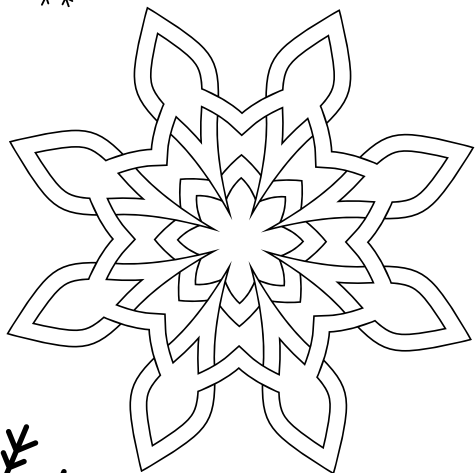
A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for drawing or writing fun activities.



Draw or write a gift you hope to receive.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for drawing or writing a gift.





I wait for the
LORD,

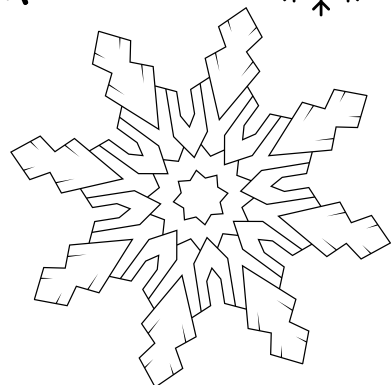


my soul waits,



and in his word I

HOPE.



PSALM 130:5 ESV

