



# Rejoice

TOGETHER ONE AND ALL!

ADVENT AT HOME



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## Advent at Home

All around the world people are preparing for Christmas. Some people are buying gifts, some are making special goodies, some are busy planning for guests, some are preparing their houses with special decorations. What are you, or your family, doing to prepare for Christmas this year?

This ADVENT (the lead-up to Christmas), we invite you to join us on the Great Advent Challenge to “Rejoice together one and all!”

Together we will use our senses and take time to see, hear and feel the things around us, as we explore what it means to Rejoice.

In some circles the word REJOICE is common. We might hear it at church, in Christmas Carols, and it features in the Bible over 200 times. But when was the last time you heard someone use the word rejoice? What does it mean to rejoice? When do we rejoice? Here are some definitions:

**To feel or show great joy or delight.** *Oxford Dictionary*

**To feel or show that you are very happy about something.** *Brittanica*

**To feel joy; to experience gladness in a high degree; to have pleasurable satisfaction; to be delighted.**

*Webster's Dictionary*

This guide has many activities that you can engage with over the next 4 weeks. You can:



Read and think about the theme of the week and how you can Rejoice



Take time for mindfulness and prayer



Try some challenges



Do some colouring



Learn about the birth of Jesus

This Advent, let's take in the sights, sounds, feelings and learnings, and find reasons to rejoice. We encourage you to share your experiences with others and let's make the word 'rejoice' a mainstream word again.



# Rejoice & See

## Week One

How often do you take the time to really look and see all that is around you?

This week, we encourage you to take a good look around and notice things that you may never have noticed before – a newly formed spider web, a plant flowering in your neighbourhood, a new Christmas ornament, someone's earrings, an excited person.

This Advent, what gives you reason to rejoice? What makes you stop and reflect?

Maybe you:



**SEE** the signs of hope.



**SEE** the burdens carried by strangers and friends.



**SEE** the uncontained joy of children.



**SEE** God at work through other people.

Our weekly challenges will give you lots of opportunities to open your eyes and see things in your neighbourhood and in your home. As you complete the challenges, look for things that make you rejoice.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD SCAVENGER HUNT

Go for a walk around your neighbourhood and take the time to really look at what is all around you.

Look for things that make you want to rejoice. You might like to take a photo of these things.

If you see something that makes you sad or angry, stop and talk about it.

Look for the following items:



Three different types of birds



Something colourful



Christmas decorations



Four different types of flowers



A cloud shaped like an object or an animal



An ant



Something unusual



A big rock



Five interesting things



## MINDFULNESS AND PRAYER

Purchase a newspaper or look at online news. As you read the paper, ask God to speak to you.

Note: If you have young children, you may want to pre-select stories ahead of time.

What stories make you rejoice? Thank God for the situations and people in these stories.

What stories make you sad or angry? Talk to God about these situations and stories.

Are there any stories that make you reflect on your own life and/or behaviour? Talk to God about these things.

You might like to make a prayer collage using different cut-outs of newspaper stories.



Take the time to sit still and watch a candle flicker.

Take deep breaths.

What thoughts come to mind? Talk to God about them.



Sit with the Rejoice word, and colour or doodle images, words and ideas that come to mind as you think about what it might mean for you to Rejoice.



## LOOKING AND SEEING



Look through a Christmas recipe book or at online recipe sites. Choose some recipes that you'd like to make this Advent. You might like to try making a baby Jesus snack (see next page).



Look at the Christmas decorations at the shops or in people's yards. Which are your favourites?

Can you find any that are connected to the Nativity story (Jesus, angels, shepherds, cradle)?



Get up early and watch the sun rise.



Look at Christmas craft ideas online. What ideas could you make during Advent? You might like to try making [this baby Jesus Christmas star ornament](#).<sup>1</sup>



Warm up your eyes (and brains) by looking at objects and guessing what they are [in this video](#).<sup>2</sup>



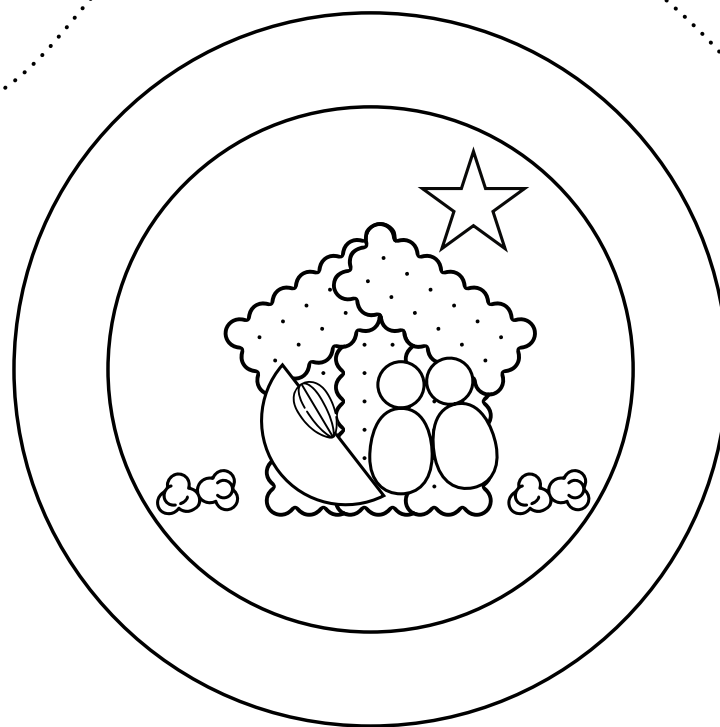
Read the [book Joy by Corinne Averis](#).<sup>3</sup>

What joyful things would you try to catch?

Like the grandma in this book, is there anyone, in your life, who needs a reason to rejoice? How might you be able to help them this Advent?



Colour in the SEE word and surround it with pictures of things that you like looking at or seeing. These might be photos that you took on your neighbourhood walk.



## BABY JESUS SNACK

### Ingredients:

- Crackers for the stable
- Peanut Butter or Hummus for “hay” and to help things stick together
- Thinly Sliced Apples for Jesus’ bed
- Almonds or Mini Marshmallows for baby Jesus
- Grapes cut in half lengthwise for bodies and some ends cut for heads
- Popcorn for sheep
- Pineapple or star fruit for the star above the stable
- Other items that you’d like to add from the story

In the Bible we read about the Christmas story - God’s ultimate gift to us. The highlight of history. You might like to read the story before and after making the snack and talk about each of the parts as you do. Listen out for all the key words - Jesus, stable, manger, star.

You can find the story in Luke 2:8-16 and Matthew 2:1-2

[CLICK HERE FOR THE EASY TO READ VERSION](#) <sup>4</sup>

I wonder what part of the story you like the best?

*Adapted from <https://www.trueaimeducation.com/cooking-with-kids-nativity-snack-and-activity/> <sup>5</sup>*



## READ AND REFLECT



Jeremiah 33: 14-16



Psalms 25: 1-10, 1



Thessalonians 3: 9-13



Luke 21: 25- 36

As you read, what images do you see? Imagine yourself in the readings and look around. What do you see on the surface? What is revealed to you if you look a little deeper?

## IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Have you ever heard the Christmas carol “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”? If you’ve worked in any kind of shop during the Christmas period over the last 10 years this might be triggering some bad memories, but for the rest of us, the signs that we see around us at this time of the year is a reminder that Christmas is on the way.

The decorations that catch our eye with their sparkle and movement. The lights and displays covering entire churches, houses, and even whole streets. The ads everywhere showing us what we need to make this Christmas more amazing than any we’ve had before!

There are signs everywhere we look pointing us to what is to come, even counting us down in shopping days!

Signs to get excited and rejoice for what is to come!

But sometimes all these things we see, can actually make it hard for us to rejoice, as we remember things from the past, or see where things are now in comparison with then.

Maybe we struggle to rejoice because we can’t see what is to come.

And so, as we begin this Advent journey, we might find ourselves in this time of very mixed emotions for ourselves, and for those around us.

Our Gospel reading this week from Luke 21:25-36, reflects some of this tension too, as it invites us to look around, not at the beginning of Jesus story, but at the other end of his story - Jesus’ return.

It speaks of the challenges and trials to come and the difficulties that will be seen.

But what it also reminds us to do is, to straighten our backs, lift our heads and look for God. It challenges us, despite how we might be feeling, to look with eyes that are open for God and what God is doing in the world.

It also serves as a reminder to continue to live the way Jesus has asked his followers to. No matter what is happening around us, we are encouraged to continue to live lives of self-sacrificing love, working in partnership with God, to restore all things so that others may see God, and find reason to rejoice.

This is something to see and rejoice: moments where we can be part of God’s transformation, particularly during this time of Advent.

Over the last few years our family has found a charity group to join in helping pack and deliver Christmas hampers across our community, as a small sign of God’s ongoing work, and bringing joy in the midst of darkness.

As we’ve done this, our kids have invited their friends to join in, and we have been part of something tangible for others to see a glimpse of the coming of God’s hope, love and joy. This interaction has allowed them too, to see God’s people undertaking small acts of joyful restoration in the world.

As you approach this Advent, despite how you might be feeling, or even because of how you are feeling, I wonder what opportunities you may see around you to rejoice in the goodness of God and share that rejoicing with others. How might you be able to embody a hope that can withstand whatever challenges it may come up against and in doing so, allow others to see what it really means for it to “look a lot like Christmas”.



## **WONDER AND DISCUSS:**

**What things do you see around that show you that Christmas is on the way?**

**What of these bring you joy? What doesn't?**

**What opportunities do you have (or could you take) to rejoice in the goodness of God and share that with others?**

**How can you embody hope to withstand challenges?**

**How can you show others what it means to "look a lot like Christmas"?**



# Rejoice & Hear

## Week Two

Preparing for Christmas can be full of noise. You might hear shopping centres full of Christmas carols, the excitement of children hoping for a particular present, plans for Christmas lunch celebrations, holiday makers travel ideas and advertising for the latest Christmas movie.

This Advent, what gives you reason to rejoice? What makes you stop and reflect?

Maybe you:



**HEAR** the voices of hope.



**HEAR** the cries of a hurting world.



**HEAR** the stories of how God is at work through other people.



**HEAR** the voices singing the good news of Emmanuel – God with us.

Our weekly challenges will give you lots of opportunities to open your ears and hear things in your neighbourhood and in your home. As you complete the challenges, listen for things that make you rejoice.

## LISTENING SCAVENGER HUNT

Sit in a park, or in your backyard. Actively listen to all the sounds that are around you.

Listen for things that make you want to rejoice. You might like to make a recording of these sounds.

Listen out for sounds that might make you sad or angry. Talk about these things.

Listen out for interesting, or unknown, sounds.

Listen for the following sounds:



Three different birds



A car



A plane



Machinery



An unusual sound



A dog barking



A motorbike



A child's voice



An insect



## MINDFULNESS AND PRAYER

Try one, or all, of these prayer ideas. Listen to the different sounds as you scrunch, pop, rip, and breathe.



### BUBBLE WRAP PRAYER

Talk to God about the things that are worrying you and as you do, pop bubble wrap bubbles.



### PAPER PRAYERS

Write prayers of confession to God, then scrunch or rip them up.



### FOIL PRAYER

Use foil to pray for yourself and others.

Get a piece of foil (6x6cm is big enough)

Place the piece of foil shiny side up: think of the good things in your life.

Lightly scrunch the foil into a loose ball: think of people who find life tough.

Smooth out the foil again: think of people who help others (smooth things out) – parents, teachers, doctors etc.

Think of something or someone and make a letter out of the foil for their name.

Adapted from: <https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/04/interactive-prayer-foil-intercessions.html><sup>6</sup>



## LISTENING AND HEARING

Make, and listen to, a Christmas music playlist – which are your favourite songs or pieces?



Make, and listen to, a Christmas music playlist – which are your favourite songs or pieces?



Say kind or encouraging things to your family. Listen out for kind things that are said to you.



Colour in the HEAR picture and surround the word with things that you like hearing.



Read the book, [The Rabbit Listened](#)<sup>11</sup> by Cori Doerrfeld. What does listening mean to you?



Play the game: "Name that sound". Record a number of familiar sounds 2 or 3 seconds long. You could play individually, or in teams.



Check out this [Advent and Christmas Playlist](#)<sup>7</sup> for some new songs and old favourites



Listen to a prayer or Bible reading App: [24/7 prayer App](#)<sup>8</sup>, [Lectio for families, Lectio 365](#)<sup>9</sup>.



Watch [Sounding Joy](#)<sup>10</sup> by Ellie Holcomb. What sounds like joy to you?



Warm up your ears (and brains) by listening to and guessing the sounds [this video](#)<sup>12</sup>.

How the game works: Play a sound. Hand up if you know what it is. A point for each right guess.



## READ AND REFLECT



Malachi 3: 1-4



Luke 1: 68-79



Philippians 1:3-11



Luke 3: 1-6

As you read, what do you hear? What words and phrases jump or stand out at you? What are your inner thoughts saying? What messages do you hear in the words of John the Baptist and the prophet Malachi. How are they good news for you and your community?

### DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS?

This week's readings from Malachi and Luke are full of good and bad news. Good news that God had not forgotten them and was promising a Messiah to come to show them good ways. Bad news for some because they would have to change and sometimes that is hard.

In the reading from Luke 3:1-6, John, who became known as John the Baptist, comes out of the wilderness to the region around the Jordan River to tell the people to get ready for the promised Messiah. He tells them to change their ways, and repent. Repentance is translated from a Greek word that means "have a change of mind" or "go beyond the mind you have". John told the people that it was time to change (hear the Messiah is coming) and make a change (ask for forgiveness and be baptised). This was good news for those who would hear.

John's message is for us to hear too. As we prepare for Christmas, we hear the good news and are called to be people who put it into action. To be people who daily change our way to God's way, so that what we say and do, smooths the way, so that the good news of Jesus is heard and known in our community and world.

We have family that work and live in remote Western Queensland. It can be very rewarding but at times very challenging. One time James was coming back to the homestead on his motorbike after mustering all day. It was getting dark, and as he was heading along the track, he saw what looked like a brown snake ahead. He swerved to miss the snake, hit a log, came off the bike and landed on a branch that pierced his upper thigh. He couldn't move because he was pinned to the branch, and his leg hurt a lot. What was he to do?

Fortunately, James' two-way radio was still secured in a pouch on his chest, so he pressed the transmit button and called the homestead for help. "Station 1, are you there?" no answer. He called again "Station 1, are you there?" Then James' wife came on the radio. "Station 1 here. Where are you?"

James said he had never felt so much relief as when he heard his wife's voice. He knew help would be on its way. He had even more relief when he heard the RFDS plane overhead later that night. He knew that it would have been action all-stations at the homestead. Someone had gone out and lit up the runway, setting tins of oil down the sides to mark out a straight path so that the plane could land. He knew that even though his pain was extreme, and the branch was still in his leg, that the expertise of the flying doctor team would help him. James said as he lay there praying and waiting for the team to arrive and the sounds of the night bush came over him, he knew he would be OK.

James was airlifted to hospital and after surgery and lots of therapy was able to walk again. Along the way James and his family rejoiced as healing milestones were met. Praise God!



## WONDER AND DISCUSS:

Have you or someone you know been in a situation like James? How was that?

How would you feel when you heard the plane, voice, noises in the dark of night?

What sounds do you hear this season to help you celebrate Jesus and rejoice?

As you listen to Christmas carols what is the good news you hear that you can tell others?

What opportunities do you have (or could you take) to rejoice in the hope of God and share that with others?

How can you show others what it means to be a follower of Jesus?



# Rejoice & Act

## Week Three

How often do you stop to think about the things that you are doing during the week?

This week, we encourage you to take some time to think about what you want to be doing, or how you want to be acting, this Advent. What is important to you as a family, or as an individual? What might be missing?

This Advent, what gives you reason to rejoice? How does this rejoicing make you want to act?

Maybe you want to:



**ACT** with a sense of purpose.



**ACT** to serve others.



**ACT** to make a difference.



**ACT** to share the good news.



**ACT** to share God's love.

Our weekly challenges will give you lots of opportunities to do some things, or act in a way that you may not have done in a long time, or maybe never tried. Hopefully, the activities will help you connect with the world and people in a different way, help you reflect on what's important in your life, and help you and others rejoice.

### 'IT'S TIME TO ACT' CHALLENGE

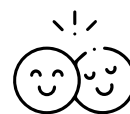
Can you complete the following 'doing' challenges:



Pick up some rubbish in your neighbourhood.



Make a Christmas recipe and give it to someone.



Do something that will make someone rejoice.



Say something kind to a stranger.



Make a Christmas tree ornament.



Have a 'normal' dinner meal using your nicest plates and table decorations.



Write a letter or card to a friend or relative.



Clean something in your house that hasn't been cleaned for a long time.



## MINDFULNESS AND PRAYER

### FIVE FINGER PRAYER:

Use your fingers to think/pray for yourself and others.



#### Thumb

Pray for people closest to you – your family and friends



#### Pointer Finger

Pray for teachers and healers – your Teachers, Leaders, Coaches, Doctors and Pastors



#### Middle Finger

Pray for leaders – those in government, business, school and church



#### Ring Finger

Pray for the sick, lonely and poor



#### Pinky Finger

Pray for yourself and your own needs last

Reference <https://www.imom.com/printable/five-finger-prayer/><sup>13</sup>



### STRETCH AND PRAY

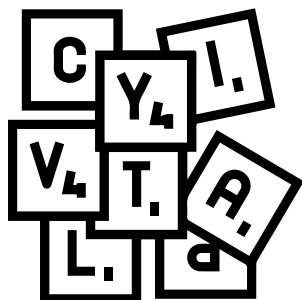
Stretch your arms up high for 30 seconds:  
Focus on who God is.

Bend over and stretch down for 30 seconds:  
Thank God for all that God has done in your life.

Stretch your arms and body to the left side for 30 seconds: Pray for your family and friends.

Stretch your arms and body to the right side for 30 seconds: Pray for difficult situations around the world.

Give yourself a big bear hug for 30 seconds:  
Ask God to be with you during the day -guiding, helping and supporting.



### SCRABBLE PRAYER

Throughout the week use scrabble tiles to make prayer words – you could make words that represent things that you are rejoicing in, things that you'd like to pray for, and/or things that you are grateful for



### DOING AND ACTING



Trace, then colour-in, your hands. As you do, think of all the ways your hands have helped others and the ways other people's hands have helped you.



Colour in the ACT poster. Surround it with words or pictures that represent ways that you want to 'act' this week.



Have a meal with your family or friends and talk about how people have actively shown love to you.



Do a rejoicing dance with scarves and/or percussion instruments.  
You might like to dance along to these Christmas songs:



Show love to someone different or who you might not usually think of showing love to.

🎵 ["Time to Jingle Jam"](#)<sup>14</sup> Orange Music  
🎵 ["Joy to the World"](#)<sup>15</sup> Go Fish



## READ AND REFLECT



Zephaniah 3:14-20



Isaiah 12:2-6



Philippians 4:4-7



Luke 3:7-18

What in these readings calls you to action? What makes you want to act in a different way.

## DON'T WAIT, ACT NOW

People generally don't want to be told to act. Have you noticed that there is only 10 days till Christmas? There is so much left to do. Hey, have you even started Christmas shopping yet?

In the Luke reading the people ask John what they should do? If John is telling them to follow God, then what is it they need to do? I wonder if you have ever asked that question, "What does God want us to do?"

What's your answer? I think we would generally say things like: read the Bible, pray, go to church. They are good things to do, no doubt. But they are not the things which John mentions. His ideas are focused around others. Give to those in need, don't take more than you need.

How does that play out in your life? Particularly at this time of year? We are busy getting ourselves ready. How often do we think about others? Sure, there is a lot of thinking about what to buy for others. And that can be special. It is one of my real joys of Christmas. To come up with something that the person really loves. That is bringing joy into their life and is part of the message of Christmas.

But then how do we think about those outside of our family? Uniting World allows us to buy a gift for someone overseas and to give a card to a relative to say, "hey I was thinking of you, and I bought this for someone in need." For many years my parents have said "We have all we need, get us some of

these." I probably spend more on them now than if I was giving them something physical. It is fun to think which gift of help makes them smile. The joy of this is that the gift which is given is something that the people who receive it really need, that will make a radical change in their life, what a great gift to give, so much better than socks (sorry to my son who loves giving me socks). This action also links with the Philippians reading, where we can be thankful for what we have, and so be generous.

The other way we might act is to help those around us to understand more of what Christmas is about. Maybe you are involved in a carols service at your church, then invite your friends along. Maybe you have special decorations, share the meaning of those with others. Maybe when you are sitting at work over lunch and chatting about the busyness of Christmas, share a little thought about the joy it brings you and the way Jesus brings light to the world. It doesn't have to be an hour-long presentation, a sentence or two can have a huge impact.

Yes, I know you probably don't want to be told to act right now. But think about how you might act in a new way.

## WONDER AND DISCUSS

What is still left on your Christmas to do list? How is this compared to your regular to do list?

What do you think God wants you to do or act this week?

How might you show others what it means to be a follower of Jesus in action this week?

What opportunities could, or have you taken this week to act differently, and share the good news of Jesus with others?



# Rejoice & Feel

## Week Four

How often do you take the time to stop and feel? Feel the textures of things around you and feel the emotions within you?

This week, we encourage you to take the time to feel – it may be sand under your feet, a cool breeze, the bark of a tree, clean sheets, or the warmth of a hug.

This Advent, what gives you a feeling of rejoicing? What moves you beyond your logic and reasoning to stop and wonder?

Maybe you:



**FEEL** a sense of excitement.



**FEEL** nervousness before trying something new.



**FEEL** the warm embrace from a loved one.



**FEEL** God's presence.

Our weekly challenges will give you lots of opportunities to feel things in your neighbourhood, in your house, and within your own body. As you complete the challenges, be aware of the things that make you rejoice.

### A SENSORY SCAVENGER HUNT

Go for a walk in a park or the bush and touch different objects. You might want to have some gloves to make sure your hands are kept safe.

As you touch things, does anything make you rejoice? Thank God for these things.

As you touch things, does anything make you sad or angry? Talk to God about these things.

As you touch things, does anything surprise you?

Can you touch the following?



Large rocks



Water in a creek



Flower petals



Something soft



Something cool



Something spiky  
(be careful of this one)



Small stones



Bark from different trees



Grass



Something warm



Something squishy

## MINDFULNESS AND PRAYER

Walk around your house and take the time to touch different objects and surfaces. As you touch different things, talk to God about the things that come to mind.

Set up a tactile 'feeling' area and think about or pray for different people and situations.

Take time each day to touch and pray. Some ideas are:



### Rock

Think about situations that are hard



### Bowl of water

Think about people who live across the sea



### Cuddly

Think about people who need to feel love and warmth



### Christmas ornament

Think about people who may struggle this Christmas



### Playdough/clay

Make an alphabet letter out of the playdough and think about people and situations that start with that letter



## FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS

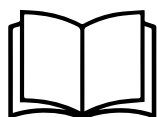
Have a special dinner and talk about different emotions.

What makes you feel happy?

What makes you feel sad?

What makes you feel scared?

How are you feeling this Christmas?



Take the time to read the Christmas Story. Luke 1: 26-56, 2: 1-20. What emotions do you feel as you are reading it? You can find some different version here:

[Watch the Christmas Story Video](#) <sup>16</sup>

[Easy to Read version](#) <sup>17</sup>



Make biscuit dough. As you roll, shape, and cut the dough, think about people who have shaped your life. Here's a Christmassy biscuit recipe you might like to try:

[Confetti Cookies](#) <sup>18</sup>



Make an Advent sensory box and think about the Christmas story as you feel and play:

[Advent Box](#) <sup>19</sup>





## READ AND REFLECT



Micah 5: 2-5a



Psalms 80: 1-7



Hebrews 10: 5-10



Luke 1:39-55

As you engage with the Bible readings, what do you feel? Put yourself in the readings and be aware of your feelings. How is your body reacting? What is revealed to you through those feelings?

### HOW DO YOU FEEL WITH 2 DAYS LEFT TILL CHRISTMAS?

Did you realise that there are only 2 days until we get to Christmas Day. I wonder how you feel when you hear those words?

Maybe you are one of those people who have everything organised, menus planned for Christmas Day, presents not just bought but already wrapped and under the Christmas tree. Or maybe you are like so many others who had good intentions of being organised this year, but life got in the way and now the school holidays have started and you're rushing to get everything done.

Living in a place where many come to holiday, I can already feel the difference. The locals have started to express their frustration as they feel their piece of paradise is being overrun by the outsiders.

You can feel the tension rise on the roads as the locals simply try to continue their lives getting from point A to point B, trying to do their shopping, getting to the medical appointment finding the roads blocked by people trying to find their hotel, or that meeting place someone suggested would be really easy to find.

Amidst the busyness of Christmas and holidays, normal life continues. As you go for a stroll along the esplanade you can feel the difference! There's a big difference between those who are out exercising, maybe in between work, school and family schedules and those who are exercising at a much more relaxed pace that you can just tell are holiday makers with no schedule to keep.

And don't you dare suggest going to the shopping centre! Do you know how packed it is with people looking for that last minute gift? Or if we are to listen to the media, full of husbands in panic mode trying to source the right gift. Maybe it is the attitude people take into the shopping centre as some look like they are actually enjoying themselves, whereas you can tell others are feeling the strain and pressure of the clock ticking ever closer to Christmas Day.

Christmas Day can be a wonderful time for many people a chance to reconnect with relatives and friends that you have not seen for a long time and people feel the excitement of the day approaching, but for others Christmas Day is not such a great experience. Personally, I had an uncle who was in the process of relocating to Australia and staying with us on Christmas morning, all the feelings of excitement drained away as we sought to find meaning in what was happening. It took many years before I or my family could look forward to Christmas day again!

Thinking back to the first Christmas, I wonder if you've ever stopped to think about the stresses and anxieties those in the story might have been feeling? We think about Mary and Joseph and wonder why Joseph had not used WOTIF or AGODA to book ahead. Then the anxiety when they finally get to Bethlehem and find there is nowhere for them to lay their head.

If you have been fortunate enough to experience parenthood, or to journey with someone who has, you know the hope and joy that is associated with a newborn, but also the feelings of fear and uncertainty that are there too.

This Christmas as we think about the journey to Bethlehem, I encourage you to think about your feelings, what ever they are and know that the only thing you can do with a feeling is feel it.



## WONDER AND DISCUSS

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt as they journeyed to Bethlehem?

How do you think the others in Bethlehem might have felt when they saw a pregnant lady with no place to stay?

How do you think the wise men might have felt as they sought to follow a star not knowing why?

How do you think Herod felt as he was told about the newborn King?

How do you feel as you journey to Christmas day?

How could you help others feel a sense of joy and expectation about the wonder of Christmas?



## URL REFERENCES:

**1. Baby Jesus Christmas Star Ornament:**

<https://www.redtedart.com/popsicle-stick-nativity-star-ornament/>

**2. Warm up your eyes (and brains) by looking at objects and guessing what they are:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLjZgFjDfQ>

**3. Read the book Joy by Corinne Averis**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni\\_lxS6Xsy8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni_lxS6Xsy8)

**4. Easy to read version of Luke 2:8-16 and Matthew 2:1-2**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202%3A8-16&version=ERV>

**5. Baby Jesus Snack**

<https://www.trueaimeducation.com/cooking-with-kids-nativity-snack-and-activity/>

**6. Foil Fun**

<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/04/interactive-prayer-foil-intercessions.html>

**7. Christmas Playlist**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3MEKcTdJRhtz1MagmKjX6w?si=887ccf4366ef469a>

**8. 24/7 prayer App**

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/>

**9. Lectio for Families**

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectioforfamilies/>

**10. Sounding Joy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jthLvNgmFjA&t=13s>

**11. The Rabbit Listened**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBjAWkog9n0>

**12. Warm up your ears (and brains) by listening to and guessing the sounds**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EmAe3xMfD0>

**13. Five Finger Prayer**

<https://www.imom.com/printable/five-finger-prayer/>

**14. "Time to Jingle Jam", Orange Music**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p--a5ar3RA>

**15. "Joy to the World", Go Fish**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhJuVHpB8us>

**16. Watch the Christmas Story**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dbp24wZQa3Y>

**17. Easy to read version of Luke 1: 26-56, 2: 1-20**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202%3A1-20&version=ERV>

**18. Confetti Cookies**

<https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/confetti-cookies/dd8493f7-cabf-4fc7-8276-e9fa12694be1>

**19. Advent Box**

<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2015/11/easy-nativity-discovery-box-for-under-5s.html>

Created by the Uniting Church in Australia Qld Synod Office.

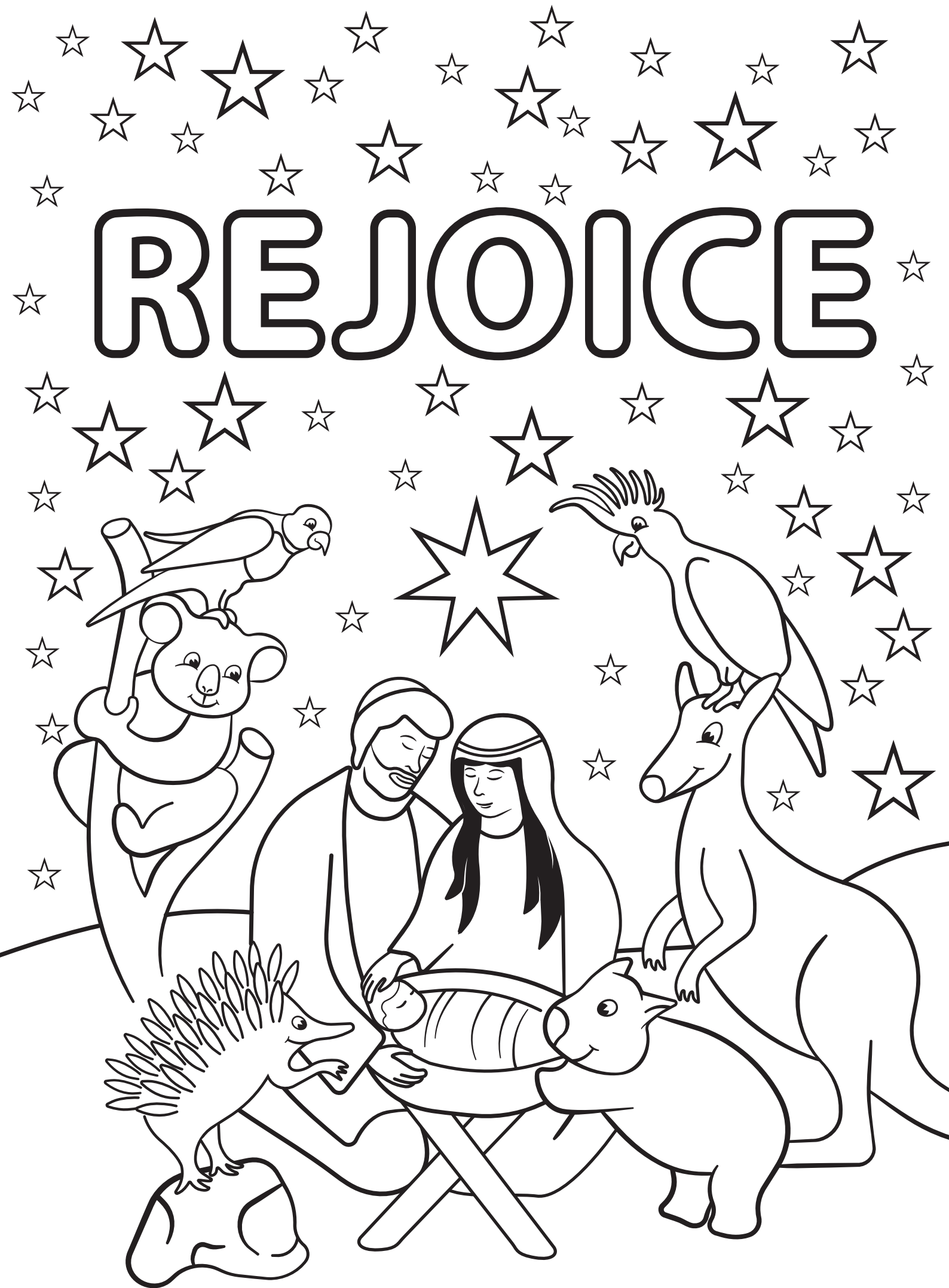
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A suite of additional materials including resource for worship and early learning are available from the Mission Accompanying Team via [discipleship@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:discipleship@ucaqld.com.au)



REJOICE



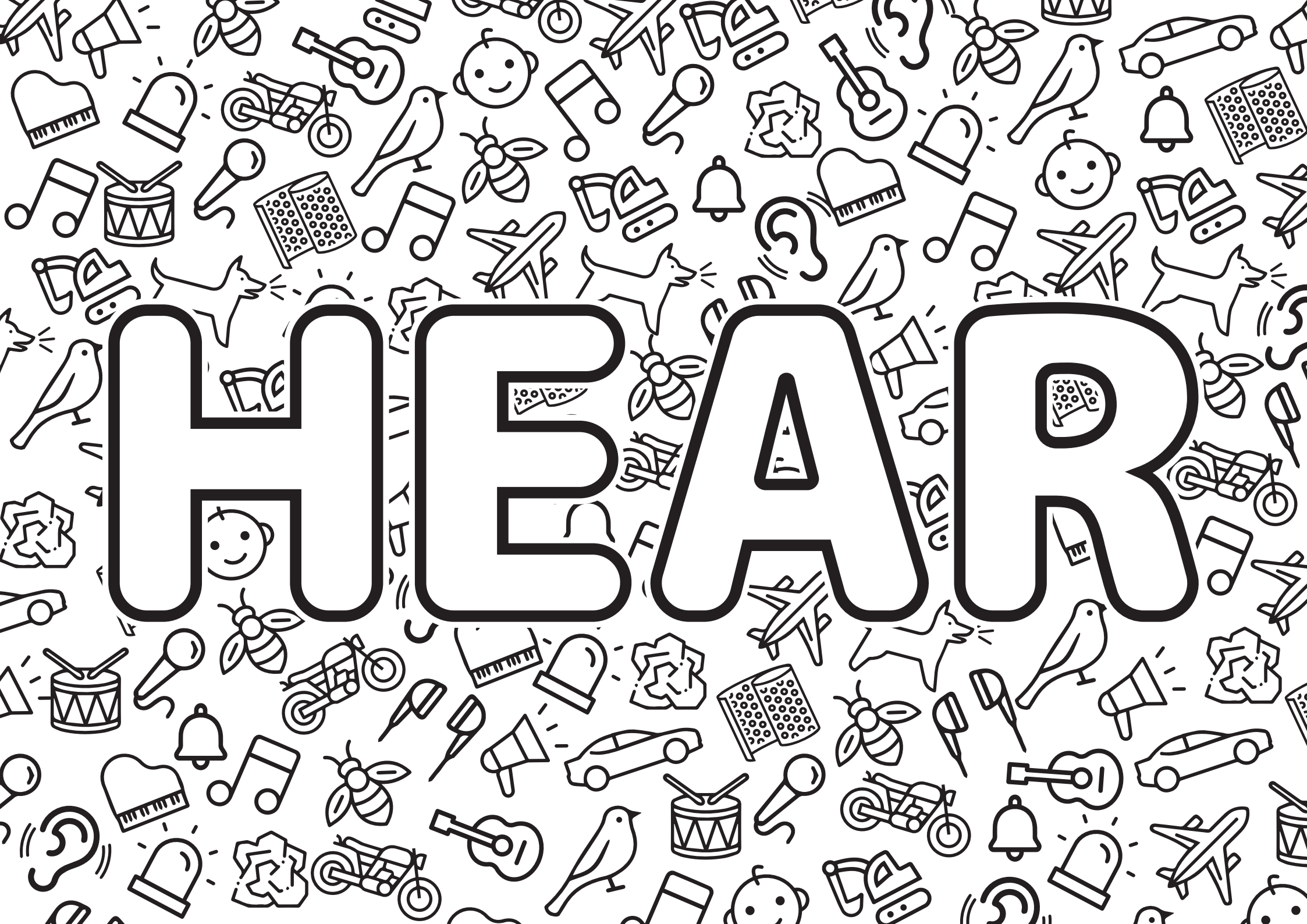
REJOICE



SEE

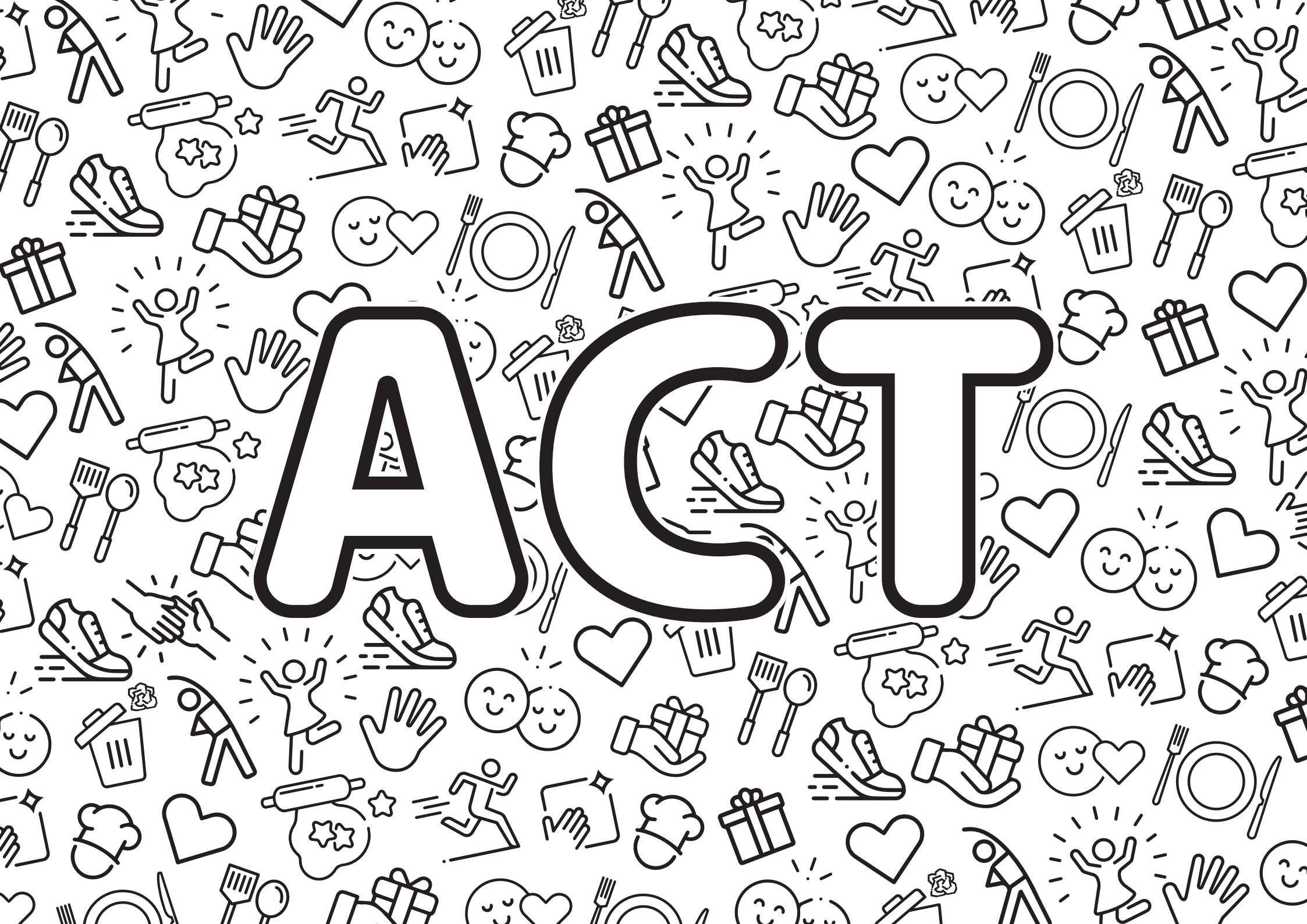


HEAR



HEAR

ACT



ACT





FEEL