

What Dad had said to Josh was right. Today it's possible to pay far more attention to cards, presents and Christmas dinners than to the real reason for Christmas... the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ. And even today, He is reaching out to us in love...

*Let the children come to me...*

Luke 18:6

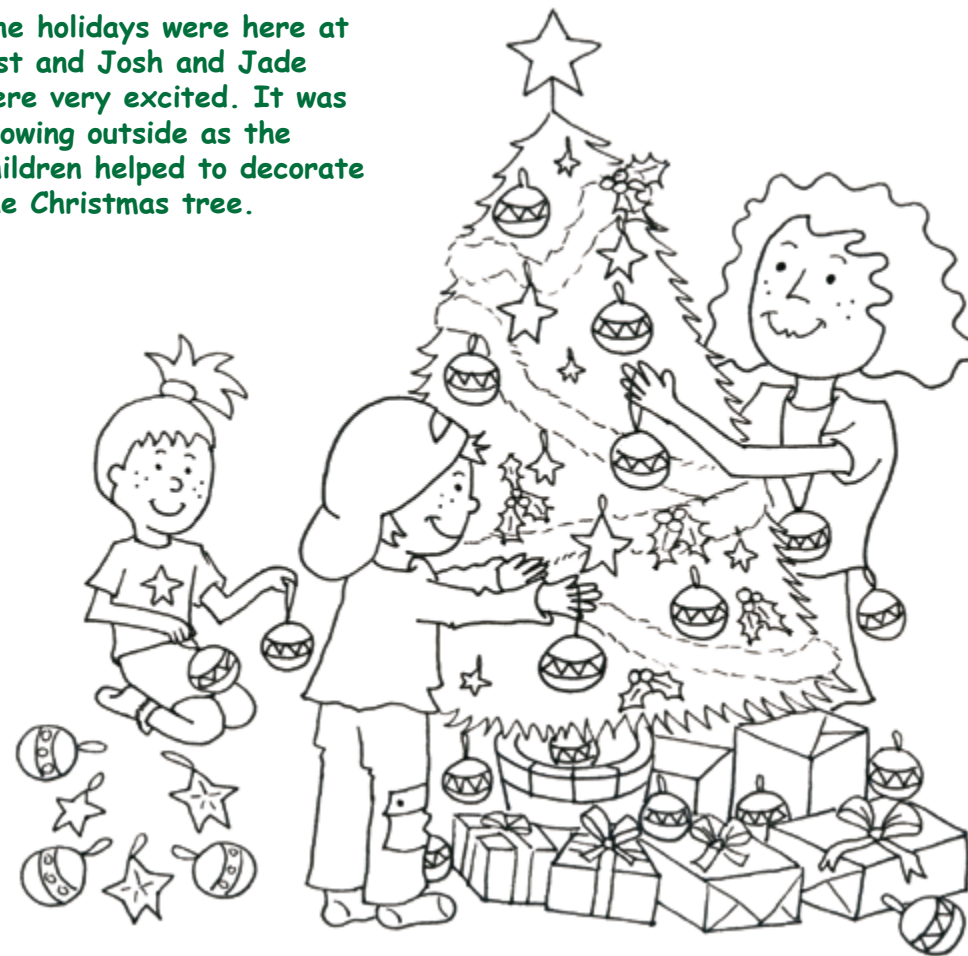
Why not ask Him to become your Saviour and Lord this Christmas?

If you want to know more about God's love, speak to your church leader.



..at Christmas

The holidays were here at last and Josh and Jade were very excited. It was snowing outside as the children helped to decorate the Christmas tree.



Count the Christmas baubles and colour the picture



'Isn't it amazing....,' said Mum, as she added some extra tinsel to the higher branches, '...that we celebrate Christmas every year because Jesus, the Son of God, was born over 2000 years ago.'

But Josh and Jade weren't very interested in that. They were far too excited just thinking about the presents they would get!

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Each Christmas they got something really special from Granny and Grandpa who lived in Scotland. 'What do you think it will be this year Jade?', asked Josh. 'Oh I do hope I get a new pair of trainers,' replied his sister '... that would be so cool.' 'Huh...' said Josh, '...boring clothes aren't proper presents. Now, if it was a Man. United top, that would be different. That's what I really want.'



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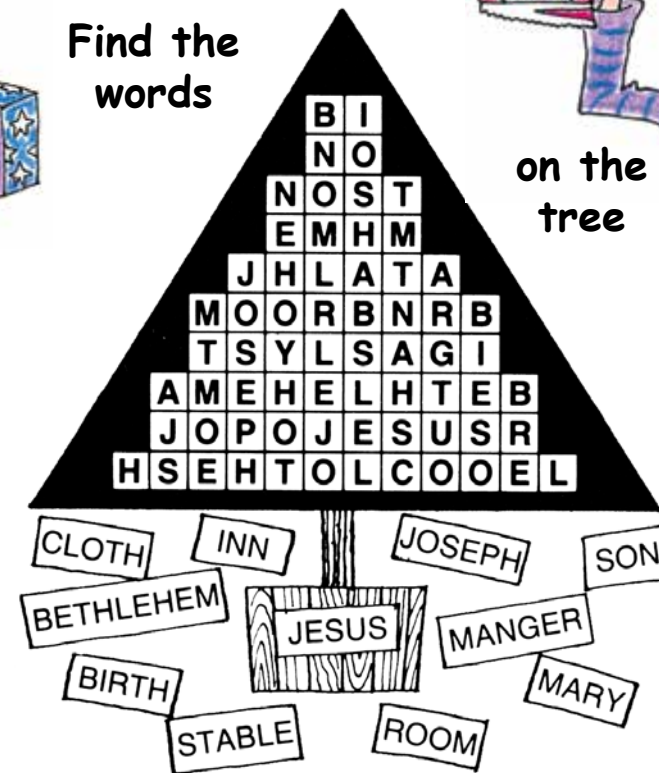
At long last, Christmas Day arrived and it was time to open their presents. There were the usual toys and games, sweets and socks. And the children were both very pleased with so many exciting things.



'Why don't we leave the presents from Granny and Grandpa till last,' suggested Josh, recognising the handwriting on the labels. 'OK,' agreed Jade.

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## Find the words



on the  
tree



And when she came to open her last parcel she was thrilled. It was just what she had hoped for, the coolest pair of trainers she could imagine.

But when Josh opened his present, he was in for a shock... and a big disappointment. The parcel had been soft and just the right size and shape to be the new Man. United top he was hoping for.

Tearing open the wrapping, he found, not what he had been wanting, but instead a new jumper! 'What's this!' he said as his face fell.



Mum and Dad could see how disappointed he was and nothing they said about its nice colour and how warm it would be seemed to make him feel any better.

Josh threw the jumper across the floor and...

Crack the code to find out what Josh did.



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\_\_\_\_\_

What would you have done?

- ☐ Take it to a charity shop
- ☐ Write a thank you letter to Granny
- ☐ Stamp off like Josh
- ☐ Tell Jade her trainers are horrible
- ☐ Put it away until it's too small
- ☐ Cry and say it's not fair



This made Mum and Dad a bit angry, so Dad went after him. He sat down beside Josh on his bed. 'I know you're very disappointed...' said Dad, '...but you need to remember, Granny is an old lady, and she doesn't really know anything about football. But she's done her best for you. She made that jumper for you herself, and with those sore fingers of hers it must have taken her a long time and been very painful.'



'When you think about it...', Dad went on to say, '...isn't this what happened with Jesus. Your new jumper wasn't what you wanted, but Granny and Grandpa knew it was what you needed. Jesus is God's gift to the world, but today most people forget about Him as they celebrate Christmas. Yet, we all need Jesus more than anything else. Only He can become our Saviour and Lord... only He can forgive all our selfishness.'

*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*

1 Timothy 1:15

*For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.*

John 3:16



So think about these things and please come back and join the rest of the family when you're in a better mood.'

Un-scramble these letters to find out more things about the first Christmas starting with the letter that has been underlined.



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NEIRED \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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After a while Josh did return, just in time for Christmas dinner. He was sorry for what had happened, but had been really disappointed. 'Never mind.' said Mum. 'How about using the money you've been given to buy a new top.' 'Great,...' replied Josh, '...can we go and get it now?'



Find the 10 stars hidden in the picture