

Deborah Haddix



COME ★ BEHOLD ★ ADORE

An Advent Experience

COME, BEHOLD, ADORE: AN ADVENT EXPERIENCE
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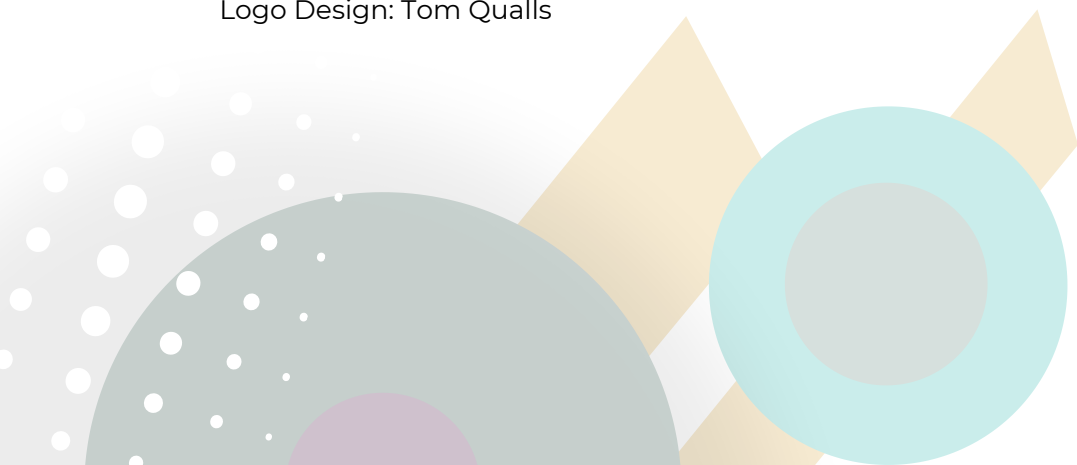
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COME
BEHOLD
ADORE

Christmas, a season of joy; a celebration of the birth of Christ, Immanuel, God with us; a time of awe and wonder.

Or is it?

For many of us, our Christmas reality is usually one of shopping, entertaining, parties, programs, and more. None of which is inherently bad, but when combined to fill our calendars can certainly work to pull our focus from the meaning and wonder of this glorious season.

Has that happened to you? Have the meaning and mystery of Christmas been lost in the crazy, busy of your holiday expectations and commitments?

Come, Behold, Adore was created for us – those of us whose focus has been pulled away, those seeking to regain the wonder and AWE of Christmas this season.

My prayer is that you will take the time this season to care for your weary soul and regain your AWE. Come, Behold, Adore was written as a nineteen day Advent experience aimed at helping the participant move toward Jesus with intention and clear focus and at seeing Him as the Only One worthy of our AWE.

Soli deo Gloria,
Debbie

* The Advent season varies in length from year to year. Most years the nineteen day experience will leave some margin for needed days off.

DAY 1



*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins."*

Matthew 1:21



Call His Name, Jesus

"You shall call his name Jesus" (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus. Say the name softly to yourself.

There's just something about that precious name, isn't there? Why is it then, do you think, that we can go days, even weeks, at a time without giving a moment's thought to this wonderful Name?

Turn things around today. Make some hard stops in the busyness of all that surrounds you and simply breathe His name as a breath prayer.

Doing dishes? Breathe His name, "Jesus."

Running errands? Breathe His name.

Tending to your children? "Jesus."

Preparing dinner? Breath prayer.

Crawling into bed? "Jesus."

Call His name.

DAY 2



*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28



Come, Heed His Call

He calls us to come. It's an invitation like no other.

Today, heed His call. Spend a few minutes today alone with Jesus.

Set a timer and for five minutes, sit -- with Him. Imagine Him across the table or in the chair next to you. No pencil, no paper, no to-do list, no words.

Simply be... with Him.

DAY 3



*Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And He's just the same as His lovely name,
And that's the reason why I love Him so;
Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know.*

Jesus is the Sweetest Name I Know, Lela B. Long, Public Domain



Jesus, the Sweetest Name

The name, Jesus, is by far the most often used name in the New Testament for our Lord. It is a declaration that HE is Jehovah the Savior, and it is His personal name. Today, meditate on His name.

Suggested Scriptures for meditation:

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David." Luke 1:31-32

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name." Philippians 2:9

"So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." Philippians 2:10

DAY 4



*”For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6*



Behold Jesus Today

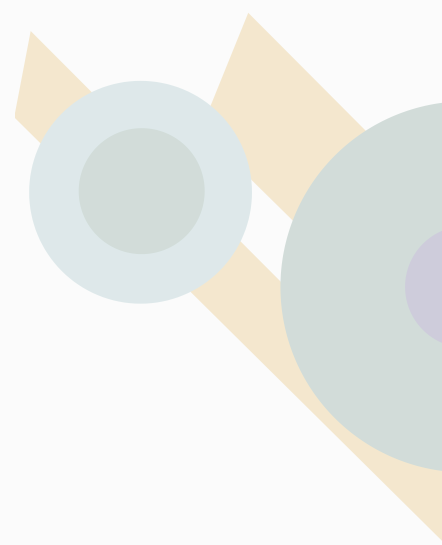
I have read that there are nearly two hundred names for Jesus recorded in the Bible. That's nearly two hundred opportunities for growing to know Him better!

Today, sit with Jesus and think on His names.

Each time a name of Jesus comes to your mind, record it on the next page. Create a simple bullet list, make charts, or doodle and add lots of beautiful color.

When you are finished, place your “list” in a visible place and revisit it throughout the day.

NAMES OF JESUS



DAY 5



*"He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation."*

Colossians 1:15



The Names of Jesus Christ

Spend a few minutes watching this simple yet powerful video.

May you *behold* and *adore* Him today.

Video:

The Powerful Names of Jesus Christ by Jesus Gives New Life Ministries - from the sermon notes of Eric Ludy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vStWMvDSMo>

DAY 6



*"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls."*

Matthew 11:29



Come....

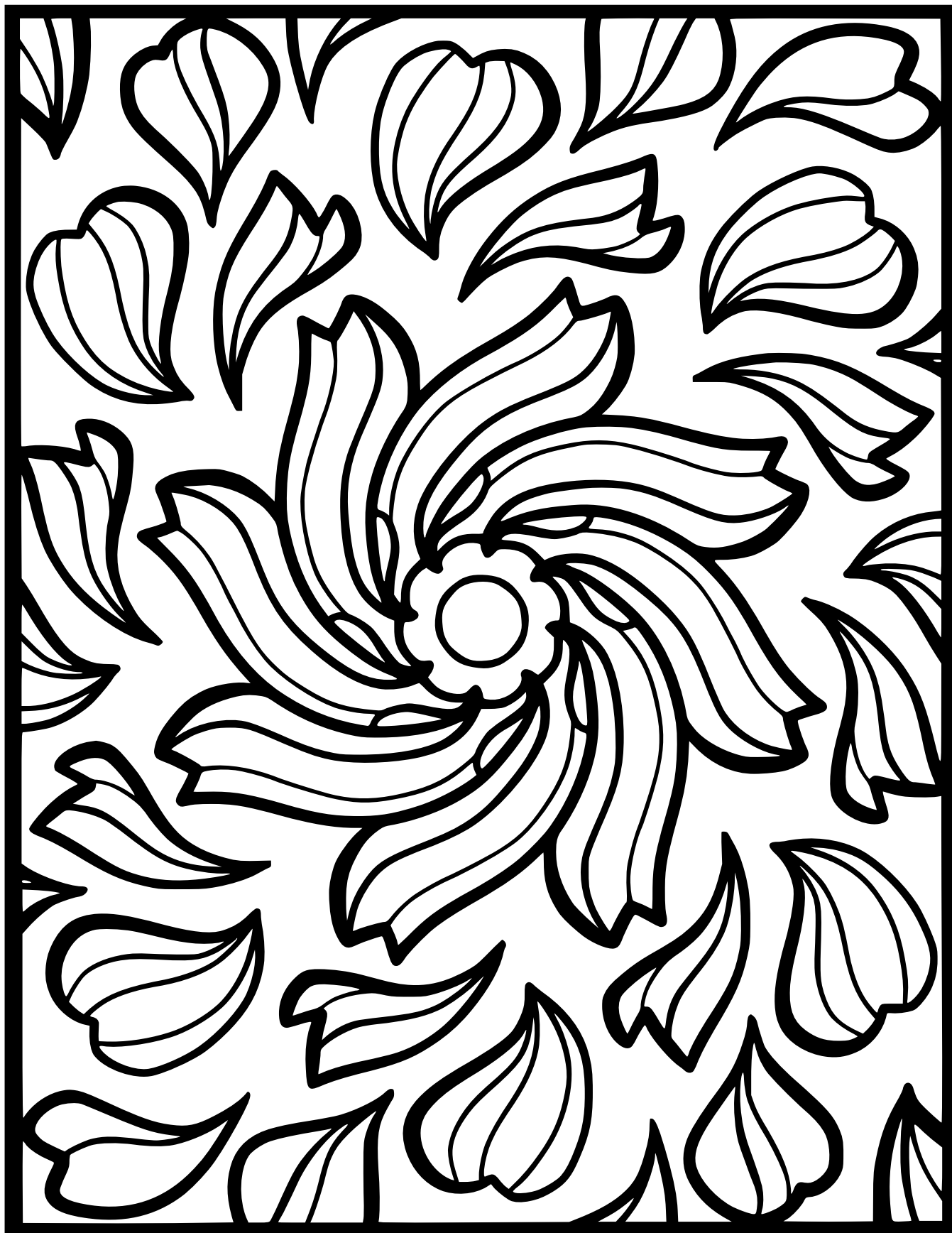
Relax and Be with Jesus Today

On the following page you will find a blank coloring template. Grab your favorite coloring media and a marker or pen and spend some time with Jesus.

Behold and Adore Him as you color the page. Consider using your marker to write in names of Jesus as they come to your mind. Additionally, you can meditate on those names or take them to Him in prayer.

Make this a beautiful time of worship.

Blank Coloring Page



DAY 7



*”Be not rash with your mouth,
nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God,
for God is in heaven and you are on earth.
Therefore let your words be few.”
Ecclesiastes 5:2*



Come....

Break away from all that you have to do and all that is on your mind.

Spend a few minutes today simply being with Jesus. Set a timer for seven minutes and then sit. No words are necessary.

Just be – with Him.

(If you must speak, try simply speaking His names.)

DAY 8



*"In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God."*

John 1:1-2



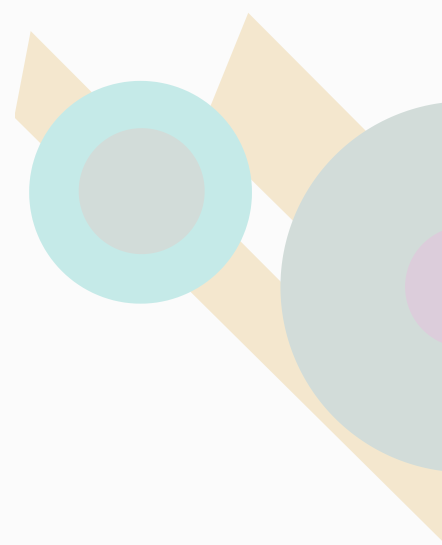
Behold Jesus Today

Grab your favorite set of pens or art supplies and turn the page.

Next, set a timer and for five minutes record what comes to mind when you think – "Jesus."

When you are finished, place your "recording" in a visible spot. Add to it throughout the day and/or use it as a prayer prompt.

★ ★ JESUS ★ ★



DAY 9



*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

1 Peter 1:3



Only Jesus

Only He is worthy.

First, prepare yourself: clear your mind, remove distractions, and sit quietly with the Lord for a moment.

Then pull up and enjoy this beautiful song. Close your eyes and *adore* Him as you listen.

Song:

Jesus Only Jesus

<https://youtu.be/2xzGCcMCYPA>

DAY 10



*"And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone,
for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."*

John 8:29



Behold Jesus' Character

Use the Attributes of Jesus List on the next page to help you *behold* Him.

Scan the list for one or more attributes that jump out at you. For each one, read the accompanying Scripture thoughtfully and then spend some time meditating on it.

ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS

Compassionate – Matthew 9:36

Eternal – Psalm 90:2; Revelation 1:8

Faithful – Deuteronomy 7:9

Gentle – Matthew 11:29

Glorious – Psalm 76:4

Good – Psalm 119:68

Gracious – Isaiah 30:18a

Healer – Isaiah 53:5

Holy – Revelation 4:8

Humble – Philippians 2:8

Incomprehensible – Psalm 145:3

Infinite – Romans 11:33

Immutable – 1 Samuel 15:29

Immeasurable – Isaiah 40:12-13

Just – Isaiah 30:18

Kind – Titus 3:4

Light – 1 John 1:5

Long-suffering – Psalm 86:15 (KJV)

Love – 1 John 4:8

Meek – 2 Corinthians 10:1

Merciful – Deuteronomy 4:31

Mighty – Isaiah 63:1

Obedient – Philippians 2:8

Omnipotent – Jeremiah 32:17; Isaiah 44:24

Omniscient – Isaiah 40:13-14

Omnipresent – Psalm 33:13-14

Patient – 2 Peter 3:9

Perfect – Hebrews 5:9

Pure – 1 John 3:5

Righteous – Psalm 145:17

Self-Existent – John 5:26

Self-Sufficient – Acts 17:24-25

Sovereign – 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

Trustworthy – Psalm 22:4-5

Truth – John 14:6

Unchanging – Malachi 3:6

Understanding – Luke 2:47

Victorious – 1 Corinthians 15:57

Wise – Romans 11:33

DAY 11



*”For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor,
so that you through His poverty might become rich.”*

2 Corinthians 8:9



Dig Deeper and *Behold* Him

Verse Map one of the verses you chose to meditate on yesterday.

Verse Mapping will help you familiarize yourself with a verse and really digest it, allowing its meaning to penetrate your heart.

A Verse Mapping Guide and a blank page for creating your map are provided on the following pages.

VERSE MAPPING GUIDE

Verse Mapping is a method for engaging more deeply with God's Word. It makes God's Word more personal, and it helps you connect with God and how He wants to use that verse in your life. In Verse Mapping, you go beyond reading. You, in fact, interact with the verse on a whole different level.

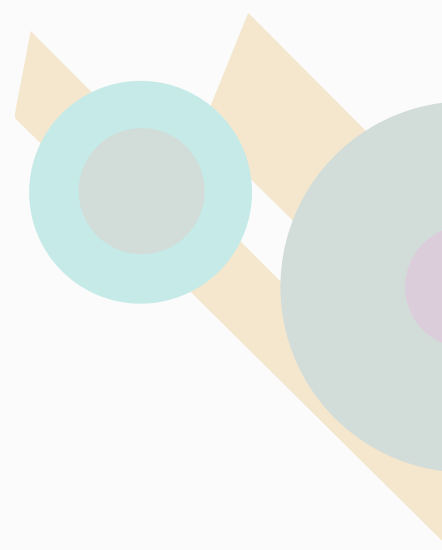
BEGIN by writing out your verse. Be sure to leave plenty of space around it, between the lines, and between the words. This will provide you with plenty of space to work. Then choose some or all of the following ideas to help you Map your verse.

Ideas and Suggestions for Verse Mapping

- Personalize the verse - cross out words like "you," "we," "whoever," "them," and replace it with your name.
- Highlight parts or words that jump out at you. Use different colors.
- Read the verse in context – the whole chapter or passage.
- Read the verse in at least two other translations. Note on your page words or phrases from other translations that help you understand or apply the verse. If you don't have other translations laying around the house, a couple of good resources for several translations are Bible Gateway, Blue Letter Bible, and YouVersion.
- Find cross references and note anything that brings new meaning. Cross references are verses that have similar words or phrases. Again, Bible Gateway, Blue Letter Bible, and YouVersion can be of help.

NOTE: There are no rules in Verse Mapping – no right or wrong way to do it. The ideas above are simply suggestions to help you get started. You can do any one or all of them. You can even add your own ideas!

VERSE MAP



DAY 12



*"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"*

Psalm 46:10



Come... be with Jesus

He wants to be with you.

Today, set your timer for ten minutes and sit with Him.

No words are necessary. Just be.

(If you MUST speak, simply utter His attributes.)

DAY 13



"He said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him."

John 9:38



Worship Him

Worship and *adore* Jesus today as you listen to Dr. Tony Evans share the attributes of Jesus Christ found in every book of the Bible.

Video:

Jesus Through the Bible

<https://youtu.be/HmfFW0gPuyE>

DAY 14



"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

James 4:8



Come...

Relax and Be with Jesus Today

On the following page is a blank coloring template for your use. Color the sheet using your favorite coloring instruments. In addition to coloring, use a pen or marker to add in attributes of Jesus as they come to mind.

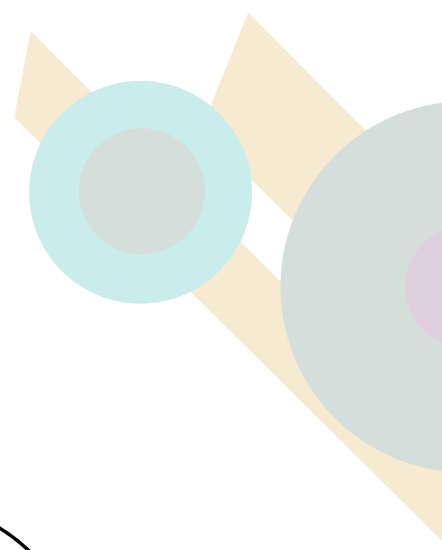
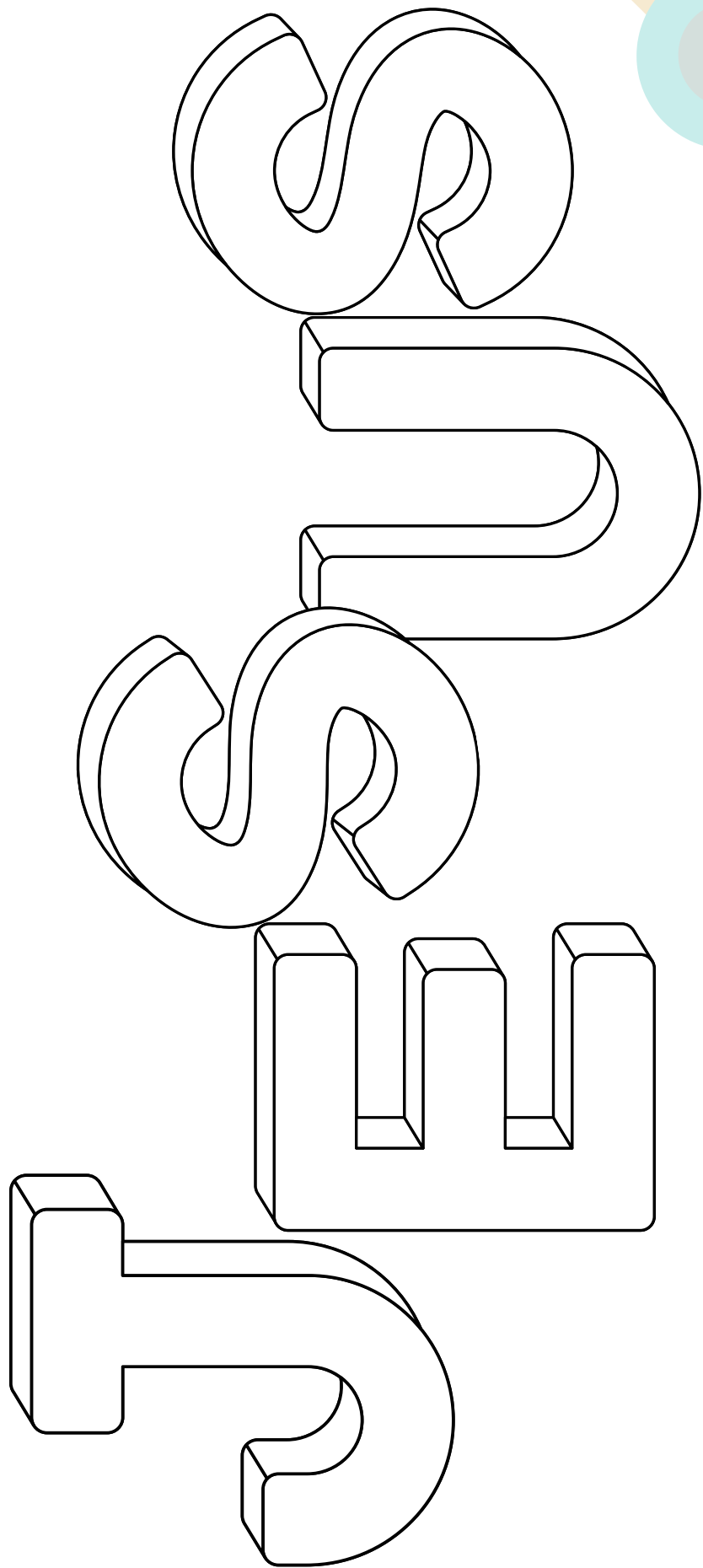
Behold Him.

Adore Him.

As you color, meditate on His attributes or spend some time in prayer.

Make this a beautiful and personal time of worship.

Ext
His
Attributes
Coloring
Page



DAY 15



*"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it."*

Psalm 139:6



Behold His Attributes

Today you are going to need some of your favorite pens, markers, and/or highlighters. Once you have them ready, turn your book to Psalm 139 on the following pages.

Read through the passage once and simply allow the words to wash over you.

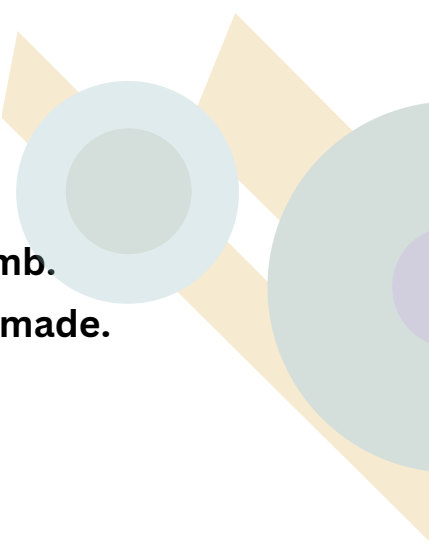
Then, read it again. This time read slowly and thoughtfully. As you read, search for descriptions of our Lord and mark them with your pen or highlighter.

What attributes do you find as you behold Him today?

Psalm 139

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- LORD, you have searched me and known me!**
- ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- ³You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.**
- ⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.**
- ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.**
- ⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?**
- ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**
- ⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**
- ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.**
- ¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,”**
- ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.**



**13 For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.**

**14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.**

**15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

**16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.**

**17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!**

**18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.**

**19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!
O men of blood, depart from me!**

**20 They speak against you with malicious intent;
your enemies take your name in vain.**

**21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?**

**22 I hate them with complete hatred;
I count them my enemies.**

**23 Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!**

**24 And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!**

DAY 16



*"The angel answered and said to her,
'The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.'"*
Luke 1:35



Consider His Attributes

Every book of the Bible points to Christ.

Watch this video by Aaron Jeffrey & Jeff Sivey.

Come worship and adore!

Video:

He Is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7Btc3g0UaU>

DAY 17



*”And this is eternal life,
that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

John 17:3



Come Know Jesus Christ

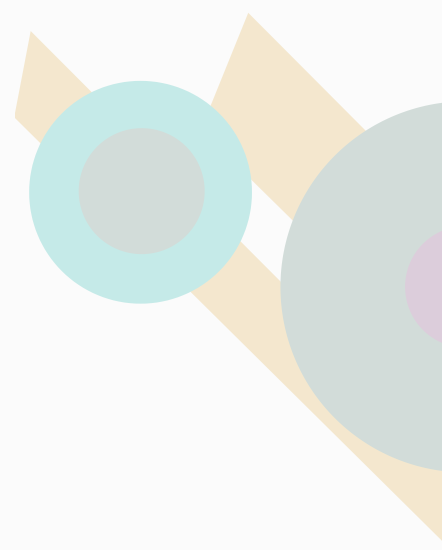
John 1, Ephesians 1, Colossians 1, Hebrews 1, Revelation 1

Select one or more of “The Ones” listed above and search for claims about Jesus. Read thoughtfully. Look closely. Pull out the claims. (A page is provided if you would like to record the things you find.)

Our honor and adoration begin with who He is.

Worship Him.

Name of Book _____



DAY 18



*”He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”*

Hebrews 1:3



Come... Behold

Curl up today with your favorite hot beverage and Luke Chapter 2.

Behold Jesus as you take the time today to read the passage thoughtfully.

(You might even try reading it from a different translation in order to help you see with fresh eyes.)

DAY 19



*"On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written,
King of kings and Lord of lords."*

Revelation 19:16



Come, Behold... Adore

Today, sit back, listen, and *adore* Jesus, the King of Kings.

Video:

How Many Kings by Downhere

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYfAddaEq3I>



As you conclude this Advent experience, it is my prayer that you stand in AWE of Jesus, the King of Kings.

And as you close this book and one season follows another, may you continue to move toward Him -- *COMING, BEHOLDING, ADORING* -- with purposeful intention and focus as you worship.

Additional Resources Available Through Deborah Haddix

Engaging the Scripture: Encountering God in the Pages of His Word - Engaging the Scripture explores 5 ways a reader can learn to interact with the text of the Bible, encountering God.

Journaling for the Soul: A Handbook of Journaling Methods (Nourish the Soul) - This book includes a wide range of different methods to suit a variety personalities or seasons of life and topics: gratitude, simplicity, vision boards, timelines, journaling for friends, fears, self-reflection, attributes of God, names of Christ.

Scripture Journaling Workbook - This workbook includes: a basic “how-to” of Scripture Journaling, creative lettering tips and practice, creative doodling practice, and more.

Just for Praise and Worship: Resources for Responding to God with Our Entire Being - This 48-page downloadable resource includes 10 Scripture-based exercises for growing in the wonder of God and learning to worship Him in awe. Perfect for individual use or small groups.

In Preparation - Four weeks in the Scripture to help us examine the implications of the resurrection and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Names of Jesus Scripture Study - A Scripture study of the names of Jesus. Know Him better through time spent with 30 of His recorded names.

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