

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

Psalm 126



Psalm 126 · [illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com)

## INTRO

Share a story about having a bad day.

## QUESTIONS

- Have you ever had a bad day?
- What makes a day good or bad? Describe what kinds of things happen on a good day. Describe what kinds of things happen on a bad day.
- When you are experiencing a bad day, how do you feel?

## WRAP-UP

Remind the children that Advent is a season of waiting for the joy of Jesus' birth. Even so, as we look forward to Christmas, we may not always feel joyful. Sometimes, bad things happen. Sometimes, we have a bad day. Sometimes, we feel sad about what is going on in the world or our own lives. Show the children today's illustration and read the words printed there together, "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!" Tell the children that these words come from the Psalms—prayers and poems in the Bible that people have prayed for thousands of years. Then define or show what it means to "sow." Tell the children farmers sow seeds they hope will someday grow into plants. In the same way a farmer scatters or sows carrot seeds, hoping they will grow into more carrots, we sow things we hope will grow into more of what we have sown. We sow kindness by doing something kind for someone, and we hope our kindness will inspire more kindness. We sow love to help people feel loved. Wonder with the children about what they think it means to sow in tears. That sounds strange! We don't usually want more tears or more sadness to grow! Why do you think the psalmist says those who sow in tears will make joy grow? Explain to the children that God knows we do not always feel joy. God promises when we sow in tears—when we are honest about the sadness we feel—we help sow seeds of hope and joy. Like a farmer who sows seeds and waits for plants to grow, we wait during Advent for Jesus to be born. Even on our bad days, knowing Jesus is with us can bring us comfort and joy.

## PRAYER

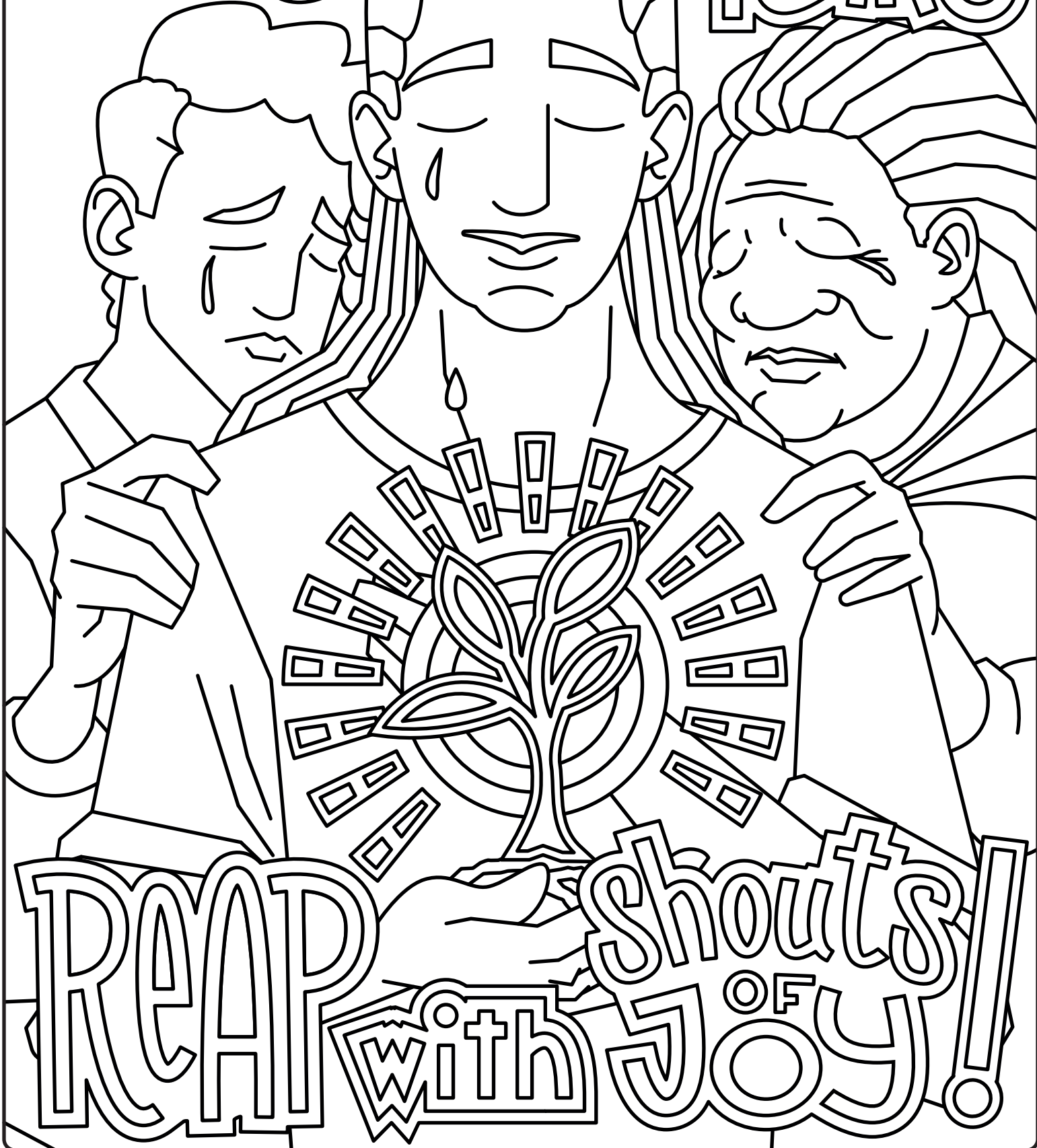
Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring for us when we have a bad day, a tough week, or a difficult season. When we sow in tears, make joy grow as we wait for the birth of Jesus.

**Amen.**

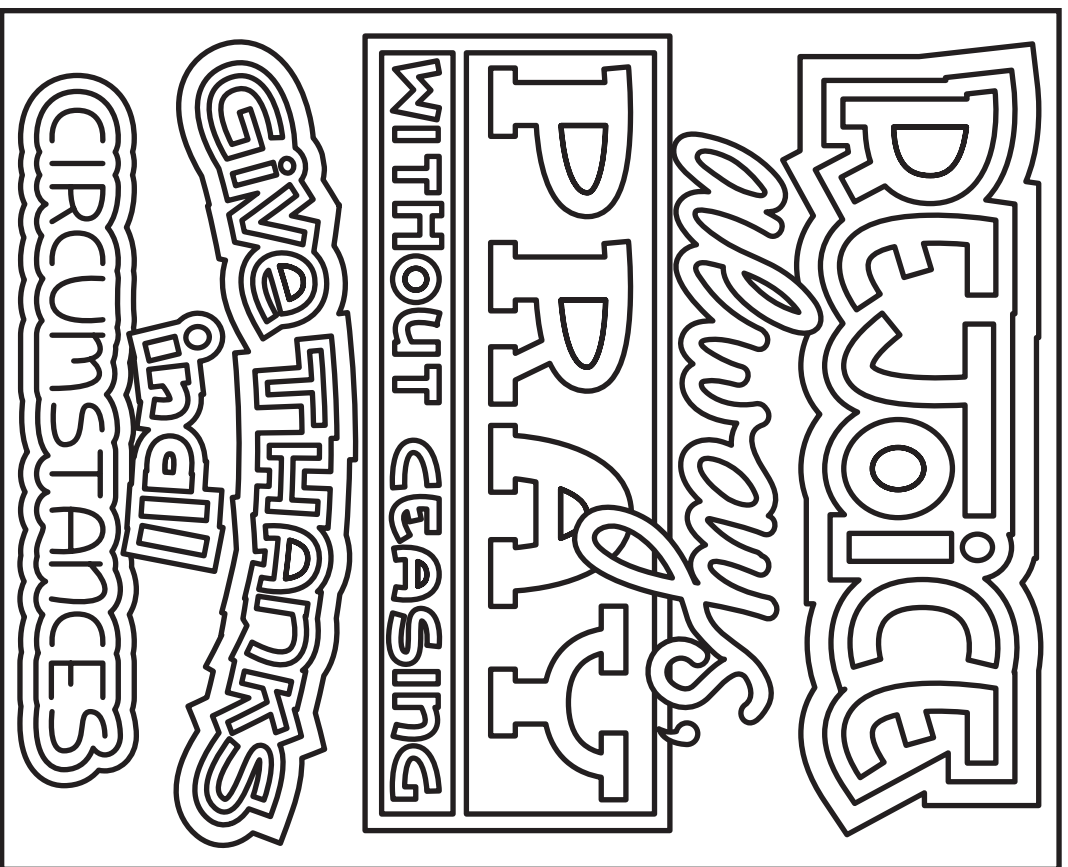
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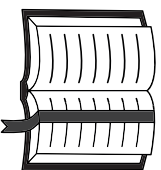
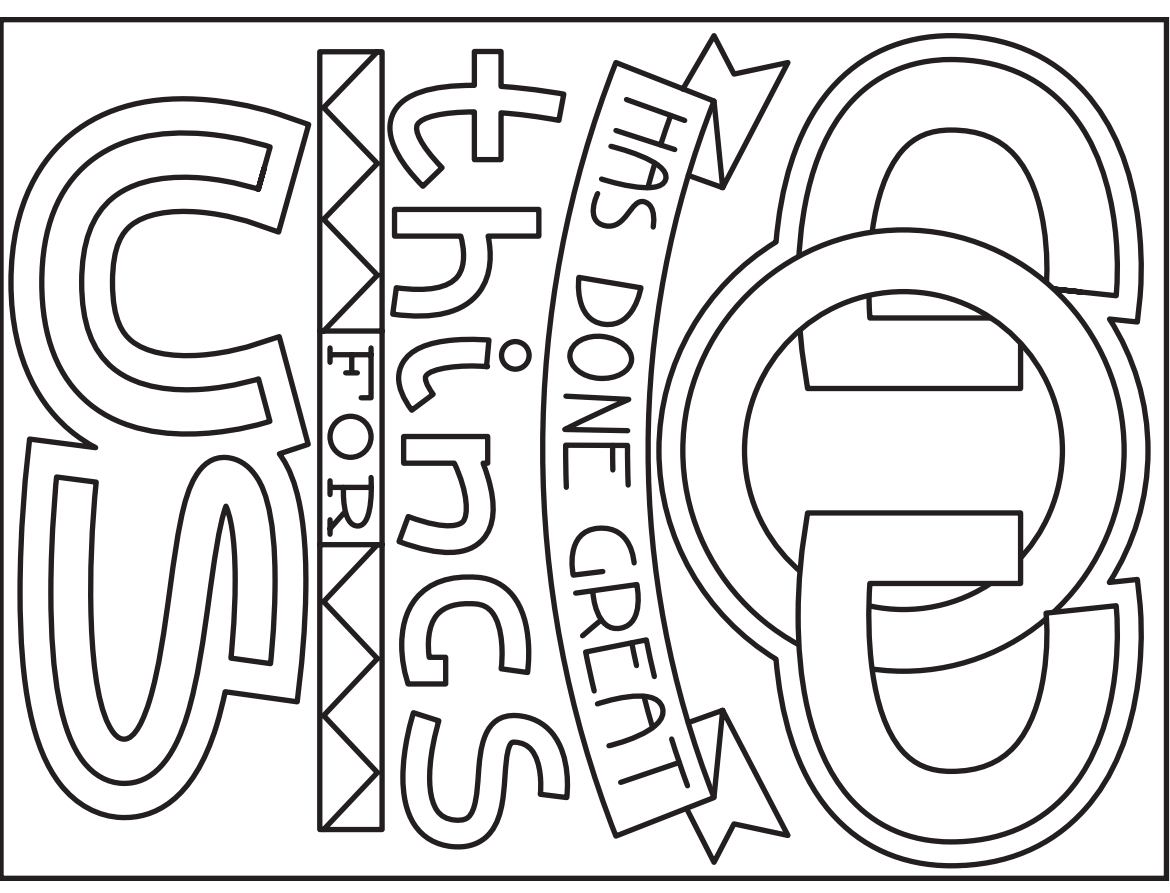


COLOR THE WORDS



CHILDREN'S  
WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24,  
John 1:6-8, 19-28.



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# DRAW IT

In John 1, we meet John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus. He described himself as a “voice crying out in the wilderness, ‘make straight the way of the Lord!’” Draw a picture of what you think it looks like to “prepare the way” for Jesus.

# UNSCRAMBLE IT

What does Isaiah say he has been called by God to do? These same words will later be repeated by Jesus! Unscramble the words to find out!

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DGO SHA TENS EM OT NRBGI

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OGOD SWNE OT HET SREEDPOPS,

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OT DNBI PU EHT

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ROKTENHEABRDE, TO

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CLIPRAMO BERTYL OT

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TEH SCAPVETI, DAN OT

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SEALREE SONPRISRE.