

Isaiah 9.1-7

Great joy!

darkness

It can be really quite scary being in the dark!

Write down below what you don't like about being in the dark.



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



The Bible says that until we trust in Jesus **we're all living in darkness.**

In the **dark** you can't really see properly: so it's like we're blind!

'**Dark**' moods are what we have when we're angry or thinking nasty thoughts about someone else: or when we're frightened or worried about something.

And '**dark**' deeds are things we do which we know are wrong and so we try to make sure others can't see that we've done them.

When we're not trusting in Jesus **it's a world of darkness we live in.**

today's passage

starts by describing us as people who've been living apart from God.

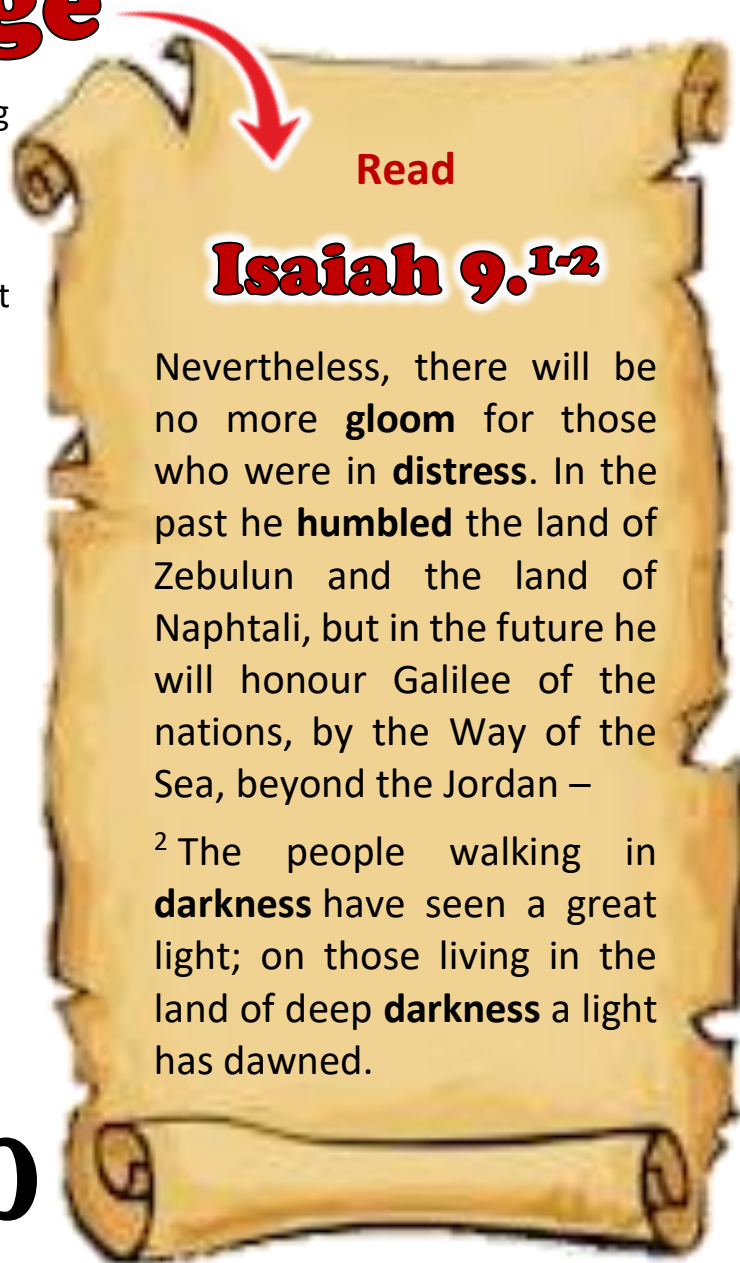
See if you can pick out the words which the writer uses to describe our experience and write them out below –

G _ _ _ _

D _ _ _ _ _ _ _

H _ _ _ _ _

D _ _ _ _ _ _ _ **(x2)**



Read

Isaiah 9.1-2

Nevertheless, there will be no more **gloom** for those who were in **distress**. In the past he **humbled** the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan –

² The people walking in **darkness** have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep **darkness** a light has dawned.

God's promise

The Lord promised through the prophet Isaiah that a new day was coming.

It would be like light at last shining into the darkness and removing the darkness forever.



Read

Isaiah 9.3-5

³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

Here's the next bit of the passage

These verses tell you what it will be like when this new day dawns. The prophet, Isaiah, used two 'pictures' to describe the joy that would come.



Fill in the blanks to spell out what the 2 pictures show

H _____

C _ **L** _ **B** _ **A** _ **I** _ **G** **V** _ _ _ _ **Y**



Remember what the angel said to the shepherds ...

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people!

Here's what the joy is like



"You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest .."

Spot the Difference
See if you can find 6 differences between the two harvest pictures

Colour in the pictures too!



This great **joy** which God gives is like the joy there is at harvest-time.

When you've planted some seeds, watered the plants ... and then see them grow to be a huge harvest – wow!

It's amazing! You're over the moon!

GOD MAKES THINGS GROW!



2.



“.. as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor ..”

This great **joy** which God gives is also like the joy of warriors who’ve won a victory.

When your team has been ‘battling’ against other teams, wins the matches and you become champions ...

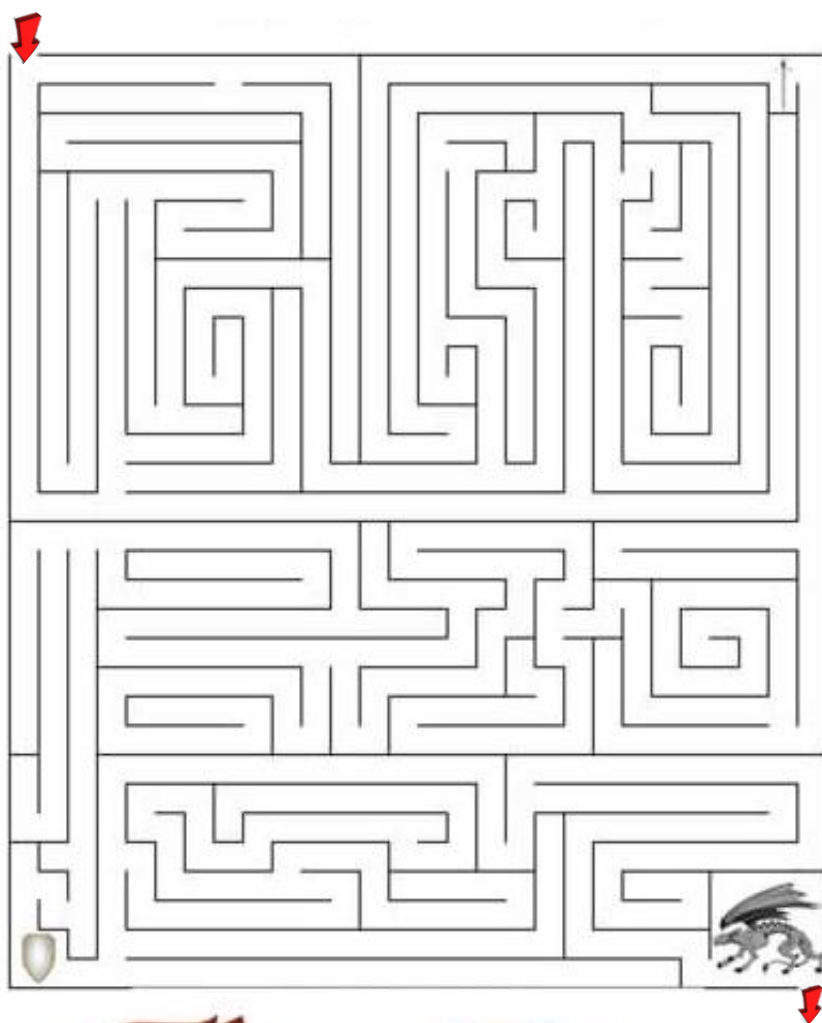
well, that’s a great feeling too!

Try this maze and see how good it feels when you beat the monster and win the battle!

Start at the top;

find **the sword** and **the shield** as you go through the maze;

then trample over the monster as you come out at the end of the maze!



A Prayer

Think about what you've been learning in this worksheet.

Now try praying this prayer (or making up your own prayer!)



Lord Jesus, Christmas is always pretty exciting!

I love getting presents! It's fun opening up the parcel to see what I've been given – and then enjoying all my presents afterwards as well

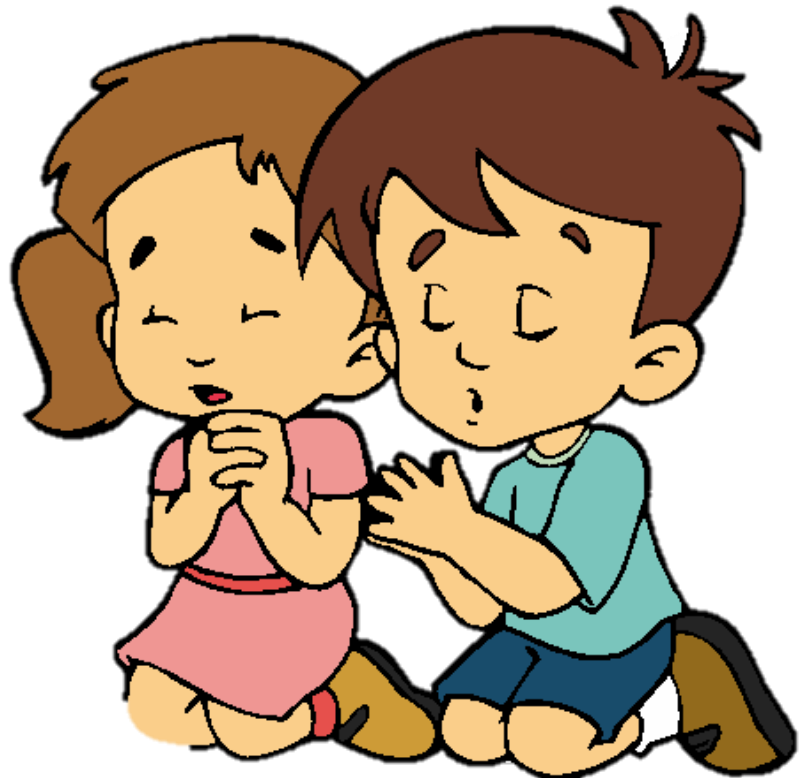
It's exciting, too, though, to learn about the gift we've been given when you came into the world.

I think the shepherds must have been really excited when the angel told them the news and said it would give them great joy!

You're amazing, Jesus!

You make things grow in the most amazing ways: and You always win the victory for us!

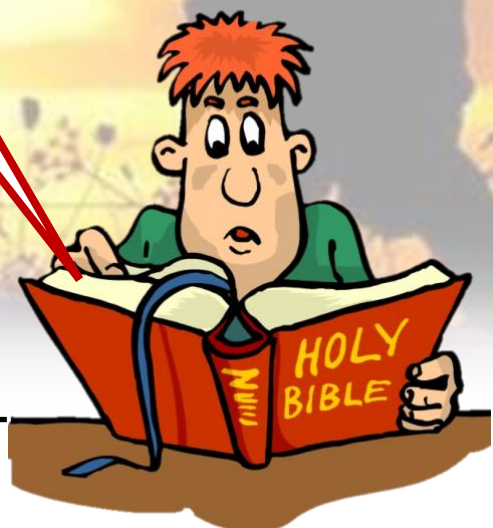
Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
You're the best!



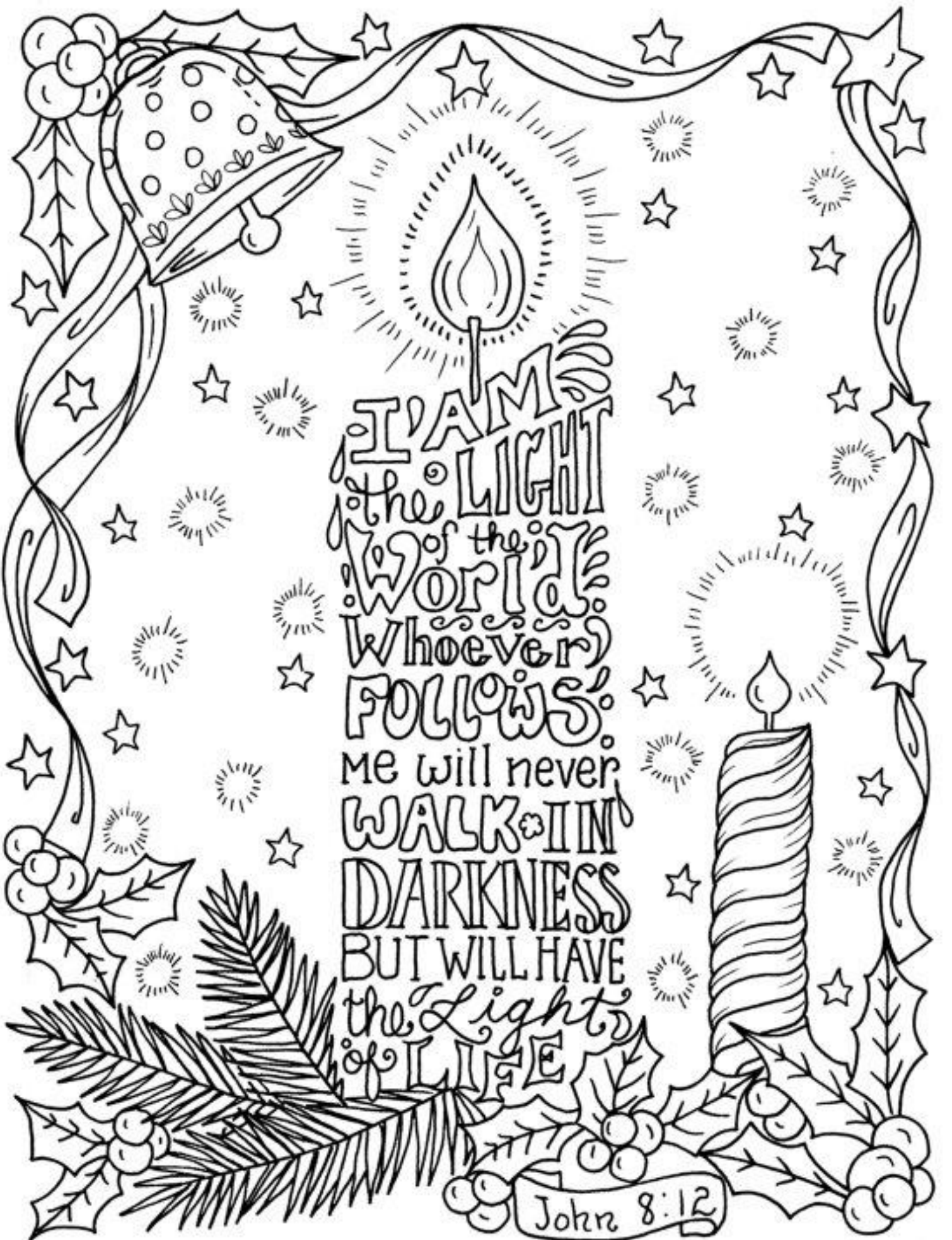
Today's verse for you to try and remember!

**"The people walking
in darkness have seen
a great light"**

Isaiah 9.2



For you to COLOUR IN



John 8:12