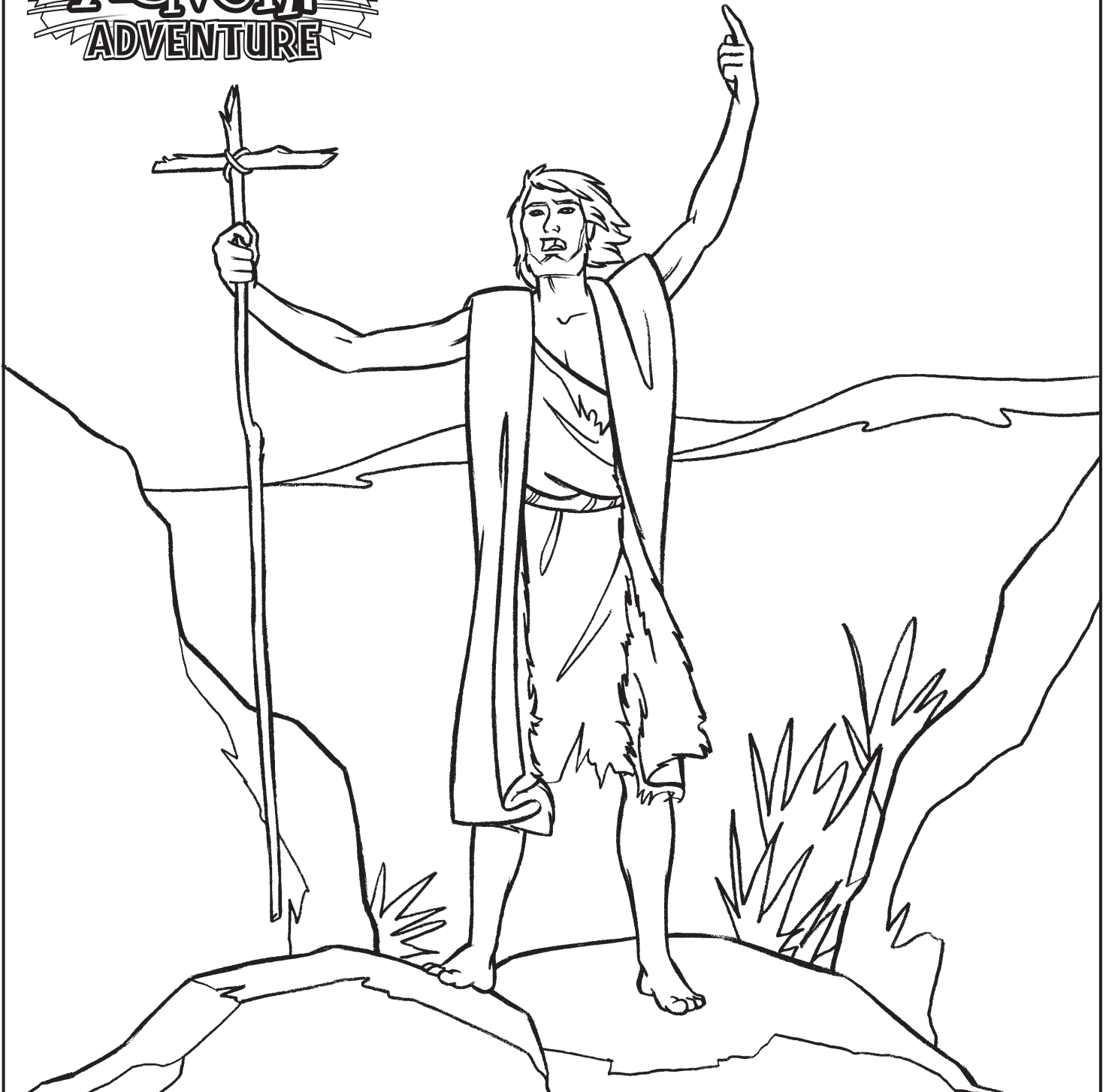


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In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken...

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist.

His food was locusts and wild honey. (Matthew 3:1-4)

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As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ...Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he." (Matthew 11:7, 9-11)

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When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

(Matthew 1:18-19)

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Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home." (Matthew 1:20)



“... it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” (Matthew 1:20-23)



When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.
(Matthew 1:24)

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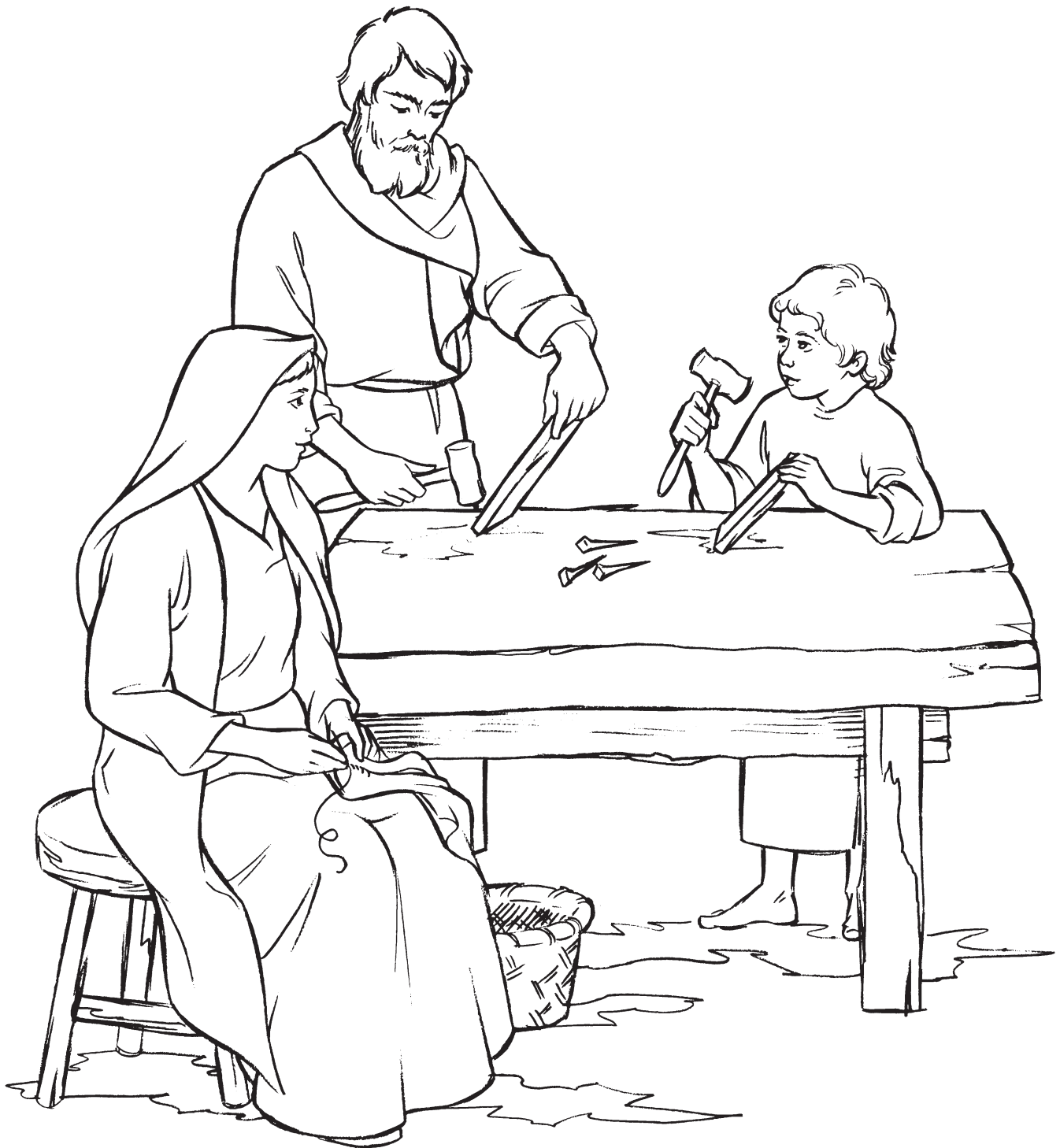


Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:4-7)

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He [Joseph] rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel ... He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, *He shall be called a Nazorean.*
(Mt. 2:20a & 23)

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