

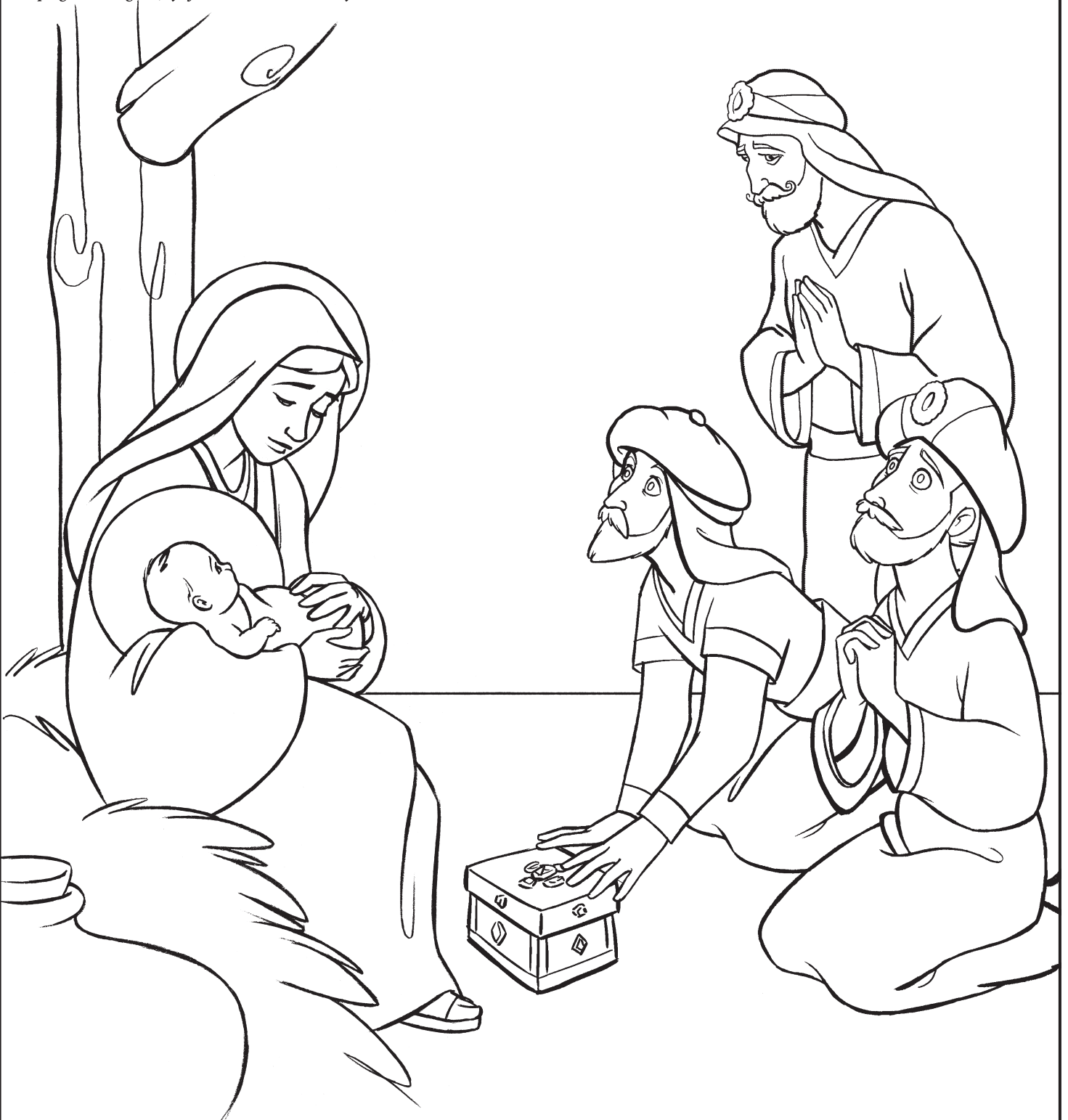
*Helping You Bring the Joy of the Faith to Your Family*



The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. (Luke 2:16-20)

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They prostrated themselves and did Him homage.  
Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
(Matthew 2:11)

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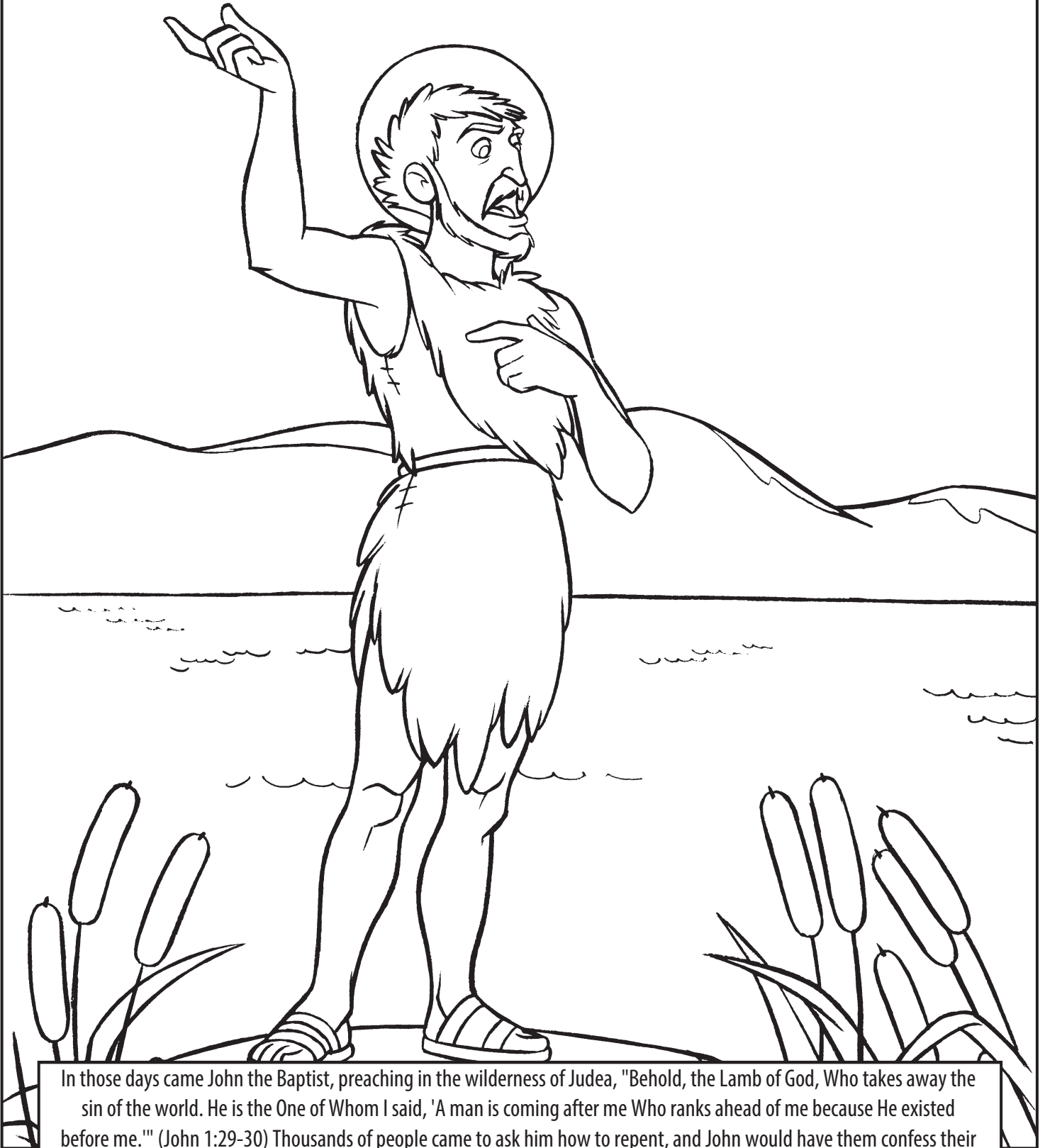
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And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from Heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17)

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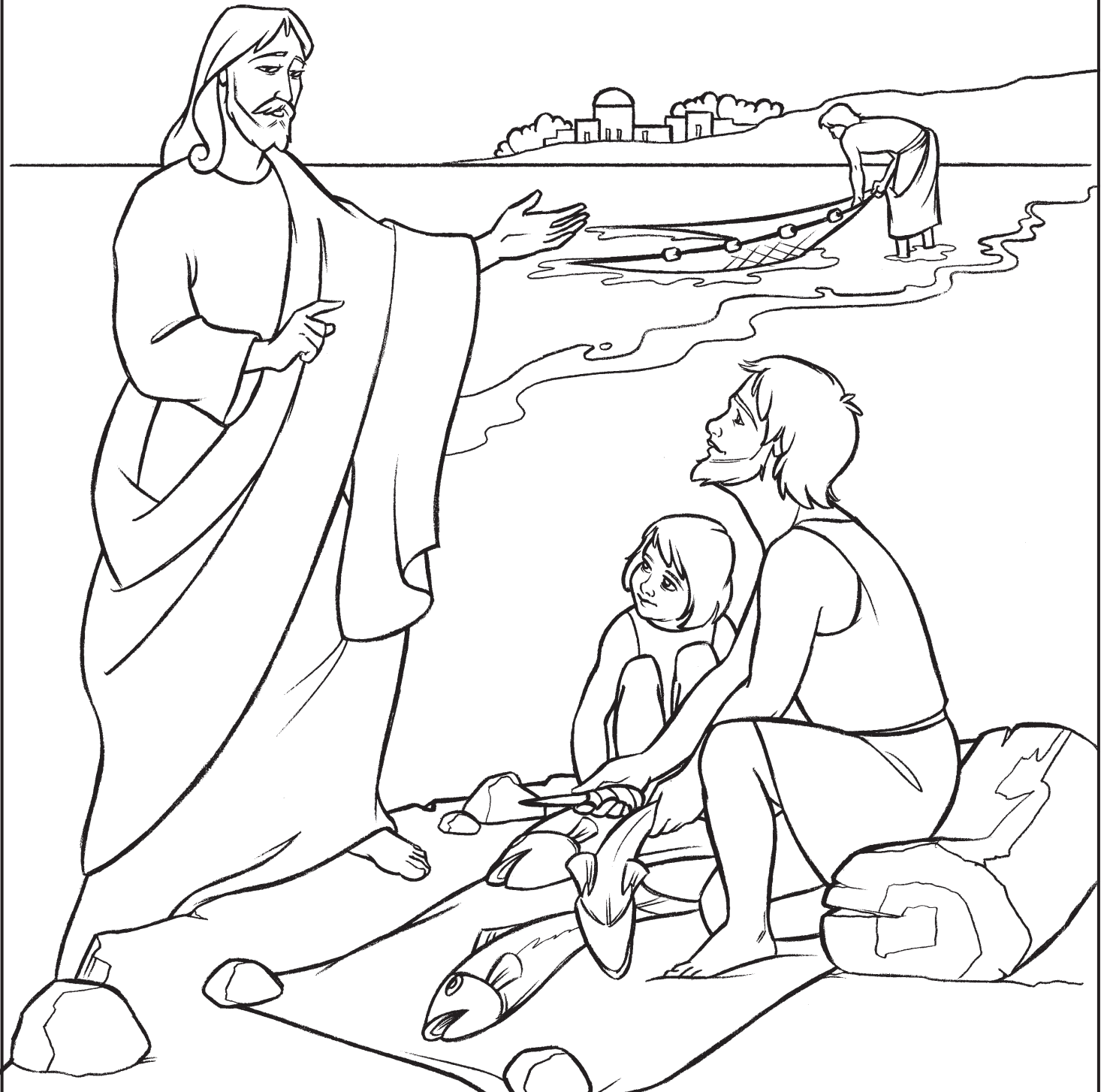


In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world. He is the One of Whom I said, 'A man is coming after me Who ranks ahead of me because He existed before me.'" (John 1:29-30) Thousands of people came to ask him how to repent, and John would have them confess their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River as a symbol of their resolve to live better lives. But John told them that the Son of God would bring a different and more powerful baptism, one which would bring the Holy Spirit.

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When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea. From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:12-13, 17)

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