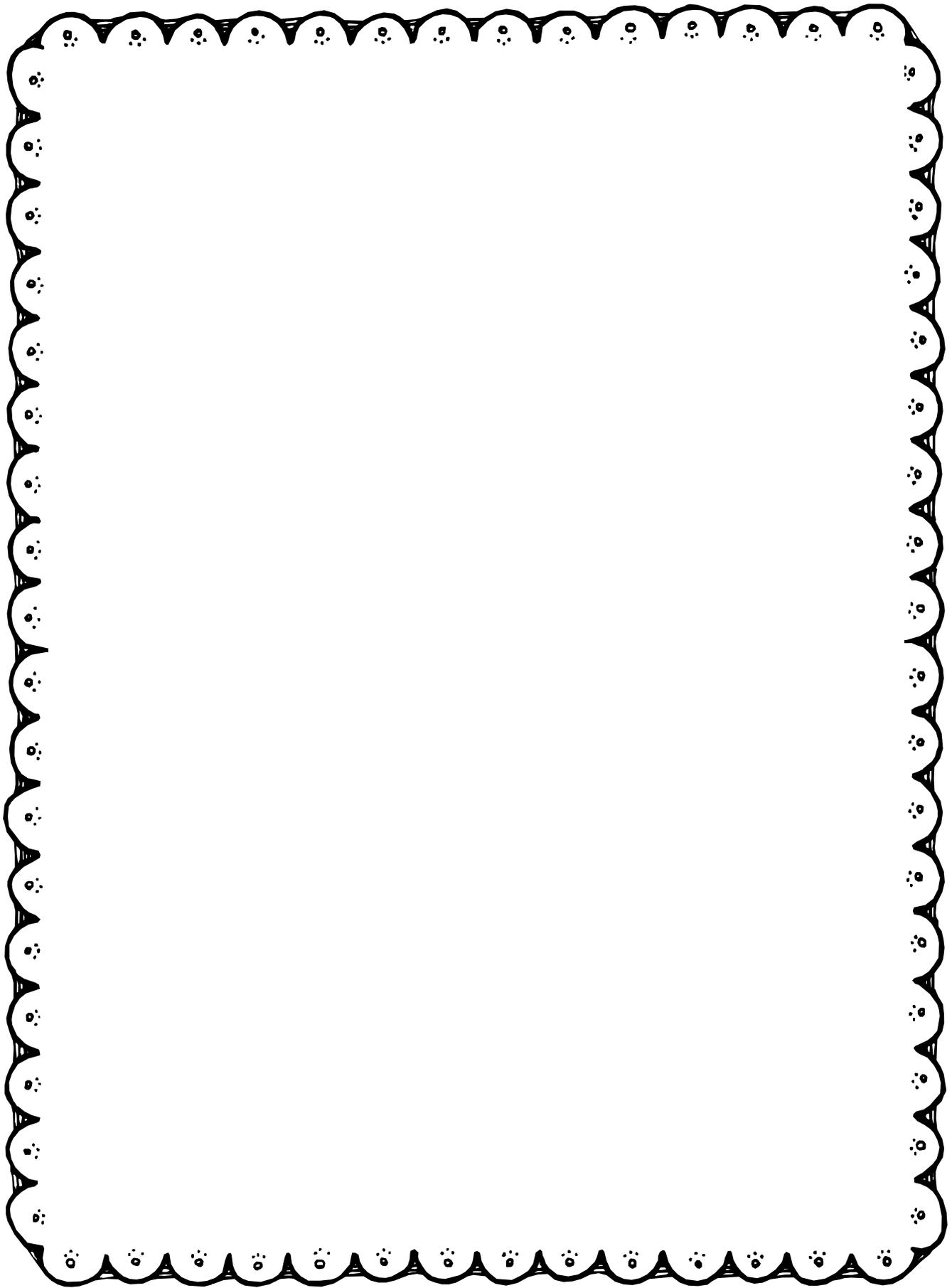


Christ Centered Christmas



By Cindy Rushton

Easy recipes, great ideas, and lots of
fun as you have a Christ-Centered
Christmas with those you love!



Christ-Centered Christmas



By Cindy Rushton

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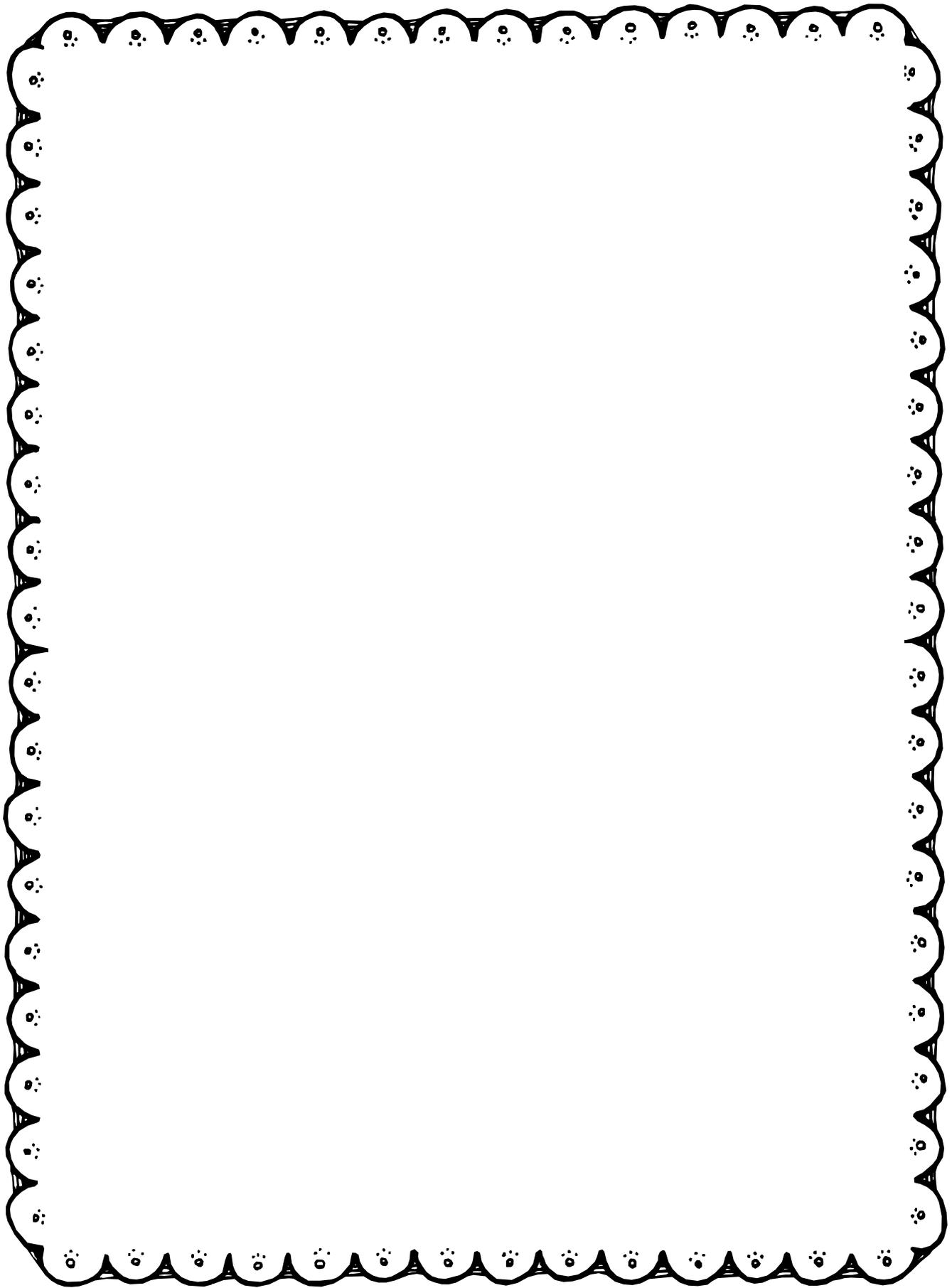
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Other Books By Cindy Rushton...

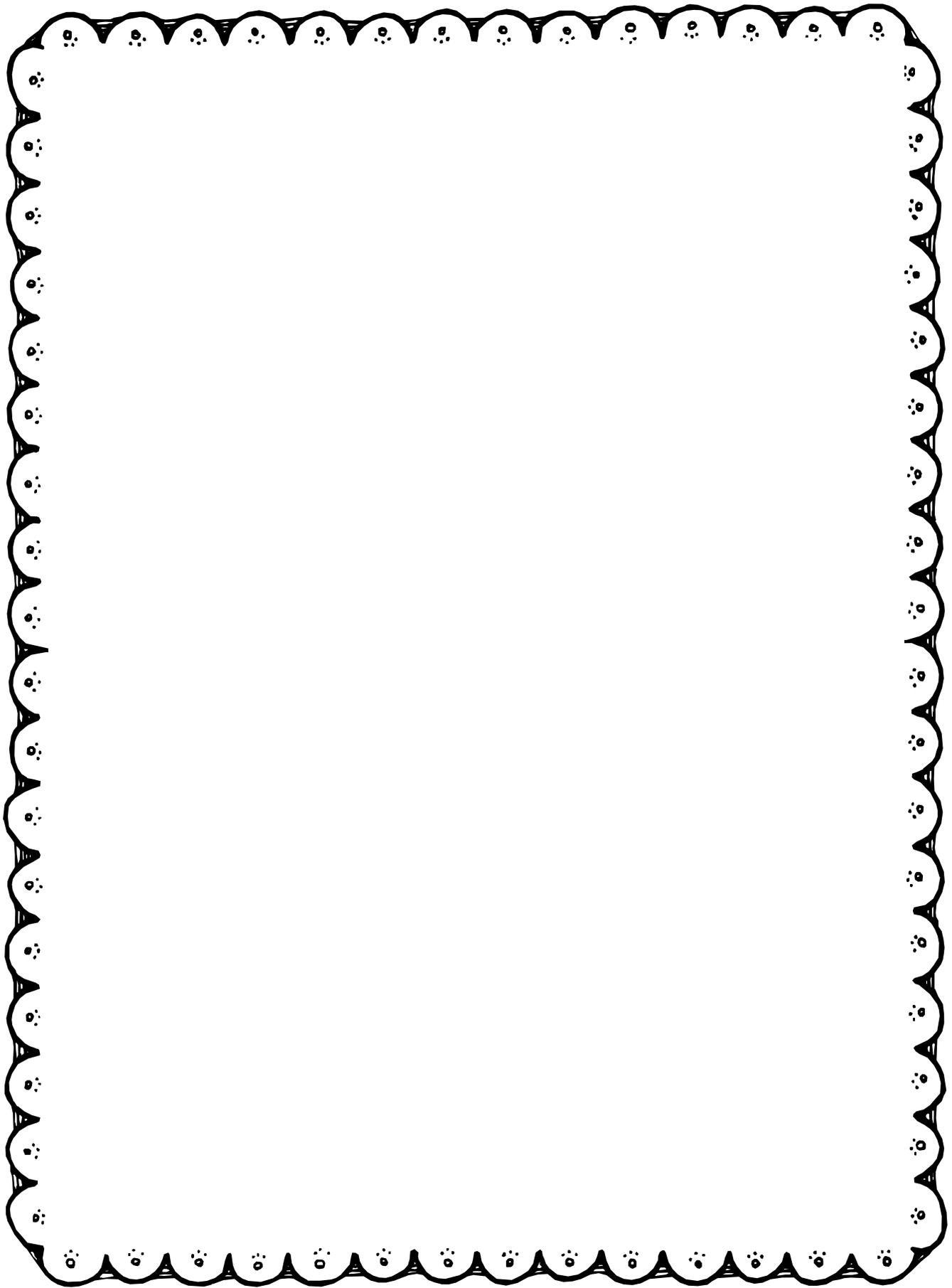
A Charlotte Mason Primer
A Cup of Tea???

A Wise Woman Builds Her Home Bible Study
CHRIST-Centered Christmas
Enlarge the Place of Your Tent...KEEP Your Home! Bible Study
Fill Your Cup Back Up!
High School! YES! It CAN Be Easy Too!
Homemade Books! Yes! You CAN Be a Writer Too!
Homeschooling: Digging Into All of the Options
Homeschooling...The Easy Way MEGA Issue
Homeschooling...The Easy Way Workshop Manual
Homeschooling The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 2
Homeschooling The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 3
Inspiring Our Children Toward Greatness Using Great Literature
Language Arts...The Easy Way
Let's Make A History Timeline Notebook
Make Your Own Alphabet Notebook
Make Your Own Alphabet Book
Make Your Own Brain-in-A-Binder Printables
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Boys
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Girls
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook
Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook
Make Your Own English from the Roots Up Notebook
Make Your Own Mommy Journal
Make Your Own Mommy Record-Keeping Notebook
Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Notebook
Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Notebook
Make Your Own Recipe Notebook
Make Your Own Science Notebook
Make Your Own Student Record-Keeping Notebook
Marriage 101: Hey! What's This All About??? Bible Study
Ministering to the Heart of Your Child Bible Study
Ministering to the Heart of Your Child
Nature Study...The Easy Way
Notebooking...YES! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too!
Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too Workshop Manual
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Homeschool Mom
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Mom!
Spiritual Mothering: The Call to Mentoring, Mothering, and Ministry Bible Study
Step-by-Step Through Daniel

The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ABBA FATHER
The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ISHI
The Hidden Woman of the Heart: A Bible Study for YOUR Heart
The Never-ending Rushton Reading List
The Ultimate Mommy Menu Planner!
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volumes 1 and 2
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 3
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 4
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 5
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 6
Time for Tea Reprint book for Volume 7
Who? Me? A Virtuous Woman???

YES! YOU! A Vessel God CAN Use!

PLUS! Lots More Coming Soon!!!
Stay Tuned!



Dedication



Special Thanks to my dear family: Harold, Matthew and Elisabeth...

You are all the delight of my holidays. Each year has been filled with wonderful memories spent with you. Thanks to each of you for making each holiday sooo special. From the first date back on December 24, 1984 to the present season that we are entering into, each holiday has been fantastic and filled with happy memories. I pray that God continues to bless us as we spend each holiday season creating memories together while we center all we do around Jesus Christ!

Love ya! Mom

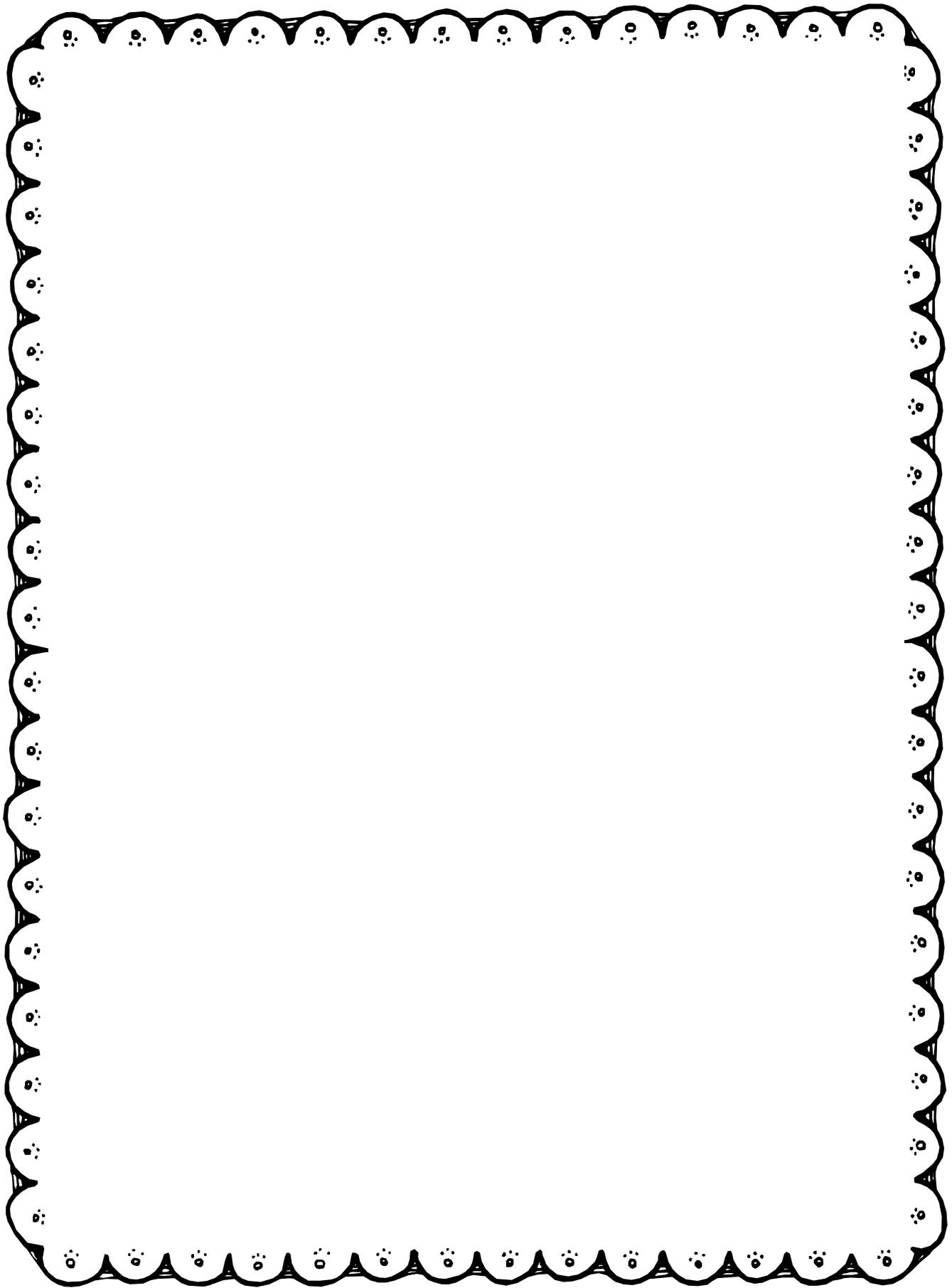
For Mom and Dad...thank you for making so many special memories throughout the years! When I think back over my childhood, the holidays have always been a special time and it was because of you! May this book bring back MANY happy memories!

Love Ya, Cissy

For you the reader...Thanks for your confidence in bringing CHRIST-Centered Christmas home with you! I pray that you will take this time to think over your own special traditions while (prayerfully) getting some fun ideas from our celebration.

Enjoy! Love, Cindy





About the Author...



Cindy Rushton...



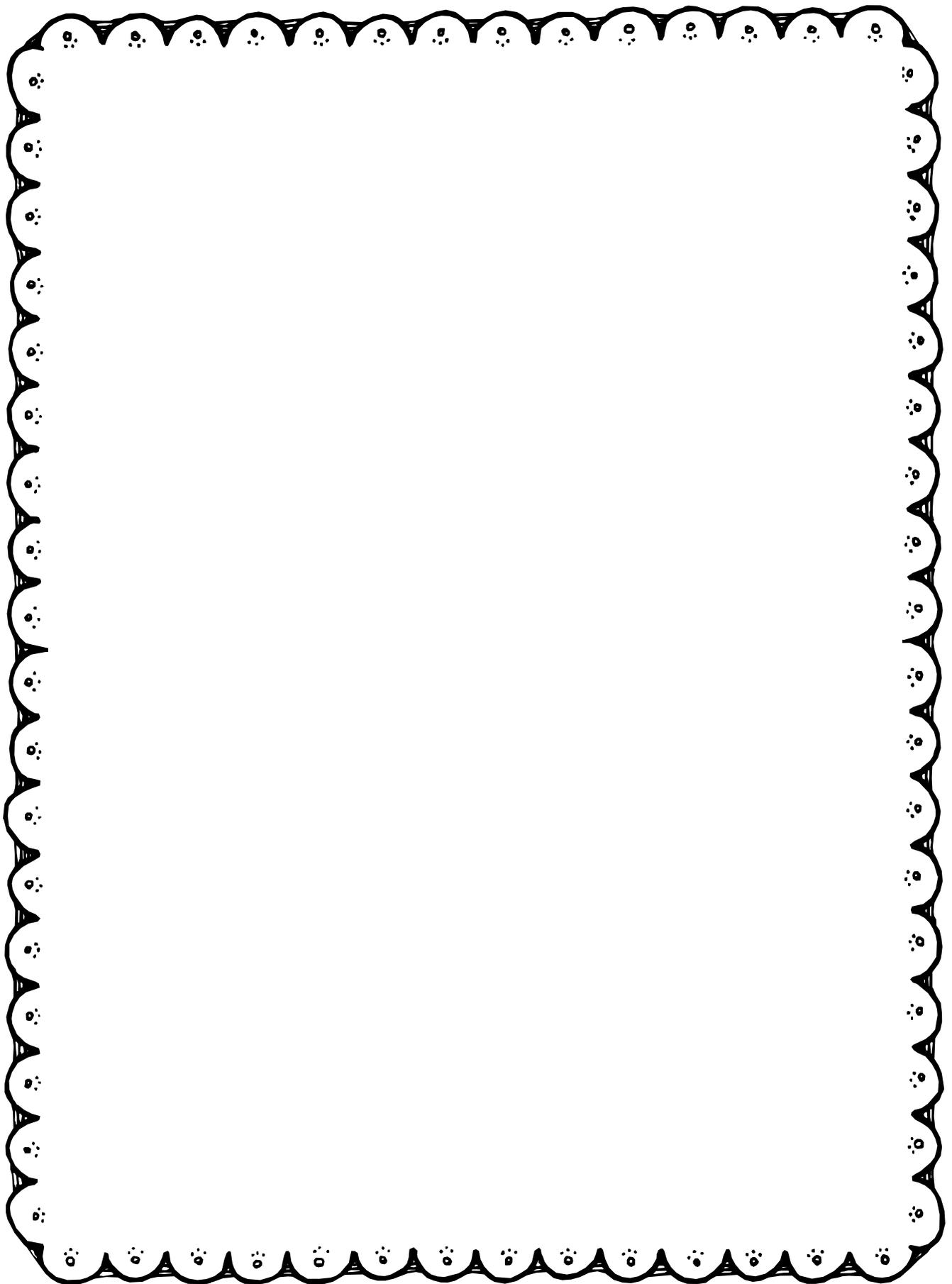
Cindy Rushton is the wife of her very best friend, Harold Rushton, and the mother of Matthew (18) and Elisabeth (15) who have always been homeschooled. Cindy lives in the beautiful mountains of North Alabama in her dream cedar cabin.

Cindy is the author of over 80 books, Bible studies and homeschool resources. She edits and publishes two magazines, *Time for Tea* and *Homeschooling The Easy Way* and *Scrap-A-Latte Newsletter*. If that is not enough, she also manages two of her own blogs—*Cindy's Desk(Top!)* and *A Writer's Nook*. She has become a beloved and favored speaker for homeschool conventions, ladies ministries and retreats across our country.

As you pour yourself a cup of tea and pour through the following pages, you will find a dear, dear friend to give you a great big hug, loving smile, and take you by the hand as you get ready for a very special Christ-Centered Christmas! You will feel as though you have an old friend there beside you as you get ready for the best holiday ever. So...get ready...you are definitely in for a treat!

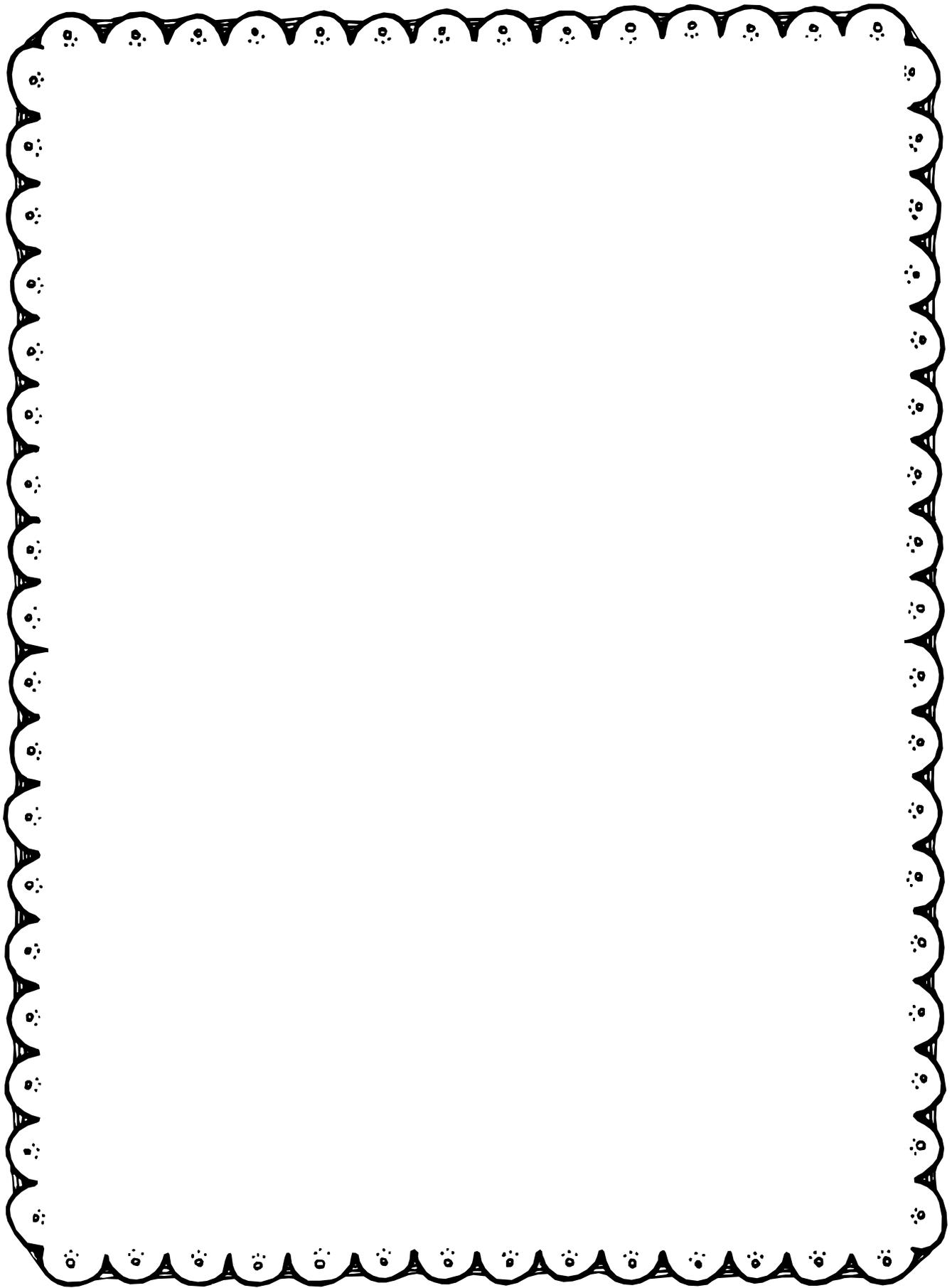


"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." Jeremiah 31: 25



Time for Advent





Advent...



What is Advent? Advent simply means "time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ." It is a time of making room for Jesus Christ in our hearts.

So many days of the year are spent in a rat race, without making room for our precious Lord and Saviour. The holidays usher in a focus on the life of Jesus Christ. They offer a time for us to look at the truly important things in our lives...our relationship with God and others. It is often the only time of the year that we focus on developing great memories with those who are dearest to us!

Advent usually begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continues until Christmas Day.

Advent is celebrated differently in different Christian homes. Some homes traditionally use the Advent Wreath or Advent Calendars. Some spend time each day of Advent preparing for Christmas by making gifts and reading scripture or stories about the Advent of Jesus Christ. Some use this time to do all those wonderful traditions that simply must be passed down to the little ones!

In our home, we take this time off from all the busyness of the rest of the year. Our homeschool days are free from the basic table skills. Our days are filled with activities that REALLY use those practical skills as my little ones help to design and make cards and gifts for those dear to us! I hope you will enjoy some of the ideas that we use in our home for Advent.

Celebrating Advent took a lot of the pressure off of Christmas Day. I used to be sooo disappointed if EVERYTHING did not go perfect on Christmas Day... AKA: burn the homemade bread...scorch the giblet gravy...someone wake up sick!

(Yes, each of these disasters has happened!) I would wear myself thin to make our memories of Christmas super special. Celebrating Advent throughout the whole month was the simplest cure-all to these problems. It gave us enough time to really focus on meeting needs of others around us. We were able to seize a whole month of wonderful memories! AND each of those disasters became memories to laugh about among all the other sweet memories of each holiday season!

Our prayer is that you will be blessed by our ideas of traditions that have kept our CHRISTmas CHRIST-centered! We offer ideas for making Advent fun, but there is much, much more included in this little book (perfect for keeping us out ALL year long!)

The first section includes ideas for activities that you can do as a family including a list for reading aloud during the holidays. The second section includes gift ideas that you make for others throughout the month. The final section includes recipes that are traditional meals in our homes on Thanksgiving and Christmas! For your convenience, we include plenty of space to jot down your favorite recipes and ideas so you will be able to find them in ONE spot! (In fact, that is how this guide came to be! I had recipes ALL over my home and wanted to find them all in one spot as I cooked up our memories!) Jot yours in here and don't forget to send them to us...they may become part of our CHRIST-centered CHRISTMAS in the future! Have fun!

The Advent Wreath...



Want to make an Advent wreath? Advent wreaths can be made or purchased. We made our first wreath out of styrofoam covered with evergreen foliage. You may choose live foliage like pine, laurel, holly, bayberry, or any evergreen tree or shrub. We placed four (3 purple and 1 pink or rose colored candles) candles around the outside and used a white candle in the center. (You can place the white around the outside if you would like!) I find my candles at K-mart for our wreath. We place our Advent Wreath on our dining table for the holidays.

Each Sunday evening a text from Scripture is read and a candle is lit. As we light each candle, there is a special emphasis in our Bible Study.

- The first week the candle is the Prophet's candle representing HOPE. (Isaiah 9: 2-6)
- The second week the candle is the Bethlehem candle representing FAITH. (Matthew 1: 18-25)
- The third week the candle is the Shepherd's candle representing JOY. (Luke 2: 1-20)
- The fourth week the candle is the Angel's candle representing PEACE. (Matthew 2: 1-12)
- The fifth week the candle is the Christ's candle representing LOVE. (Luke 1: 68-69)

Each week on Sunday evening, we sit together with special treats made especially for the evening (Hot Chocolate and Cinnamon Rolls or Wassail and Sugar Cookies, etc.)...light our candles for the week (the first week you only light one, the second week you light the one from the week before and the one for that week and so on until Christmas Morning when all candles are lit! It is beautiful!)...and have a reading from Scripture to remind us of the Christmas story.

We have used our time for the children to act out the Christmas Story with finger puppets and in costumes. We have also followed our time with baking Christmas goodies for our family or to carry to others the next day. I have treasured this time with my family because it truly turns our hearts to Christ and KEEPING HIM IN OUR CHRISTMAS!



Advent Bible Study...



Every year we spend our Advent season studying about Jesus Christ using a different emphasis. We cuddle up around the Advent Wreath and light the candles for that particular week and read from Scripture. One year we used Wanda Sanseri's book **Advent Foretold** as our study guide. Other years, we used different devotions like **Let's Make a Jesse Tree**. Either of these can be bought or ordered at your local Christian Bookstore.

We are planning to study the names of Jesus this year during Advent. If we are to praise Jesus, we must KNOW Jesus. The following are a few of the names of Jesus and where they can be found in Scripture. You may look up the verses and read them aloud. Then, look up the meaning of the name and spend time in prayer with your family just praising Jesus! Keep your eyes posted for our little devotional (to come soon) with all of this in an order for the season of Advent. Until then, here are some different names of Jesus for you to choose from for your evening devotions...

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Prophet...Deuteronomy 18: 15-19; Matthew 5: 1-12

Child, Babe...Isaiah 7: 10-14; Matthew 1: 18-25; Luke 2: 1-7 Luke 2: 12 (Luke 2: 11-20)

Immanuel (God with Us)...Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

Judge of the Living and the Dead...Isaiah 11: 1-5; Acts 10:42-43 (Acts 10: 39-43)

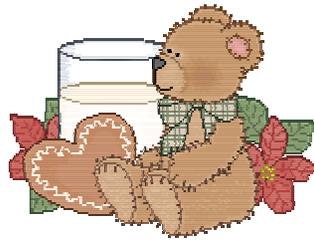
Branch of Jesse...Isaiah 11: 1-10; Jeremiah 23:5

Deliverer, Saviour...Isaiah 19: 19-25

Sovereign Lord...Isaiah 40: 9-11

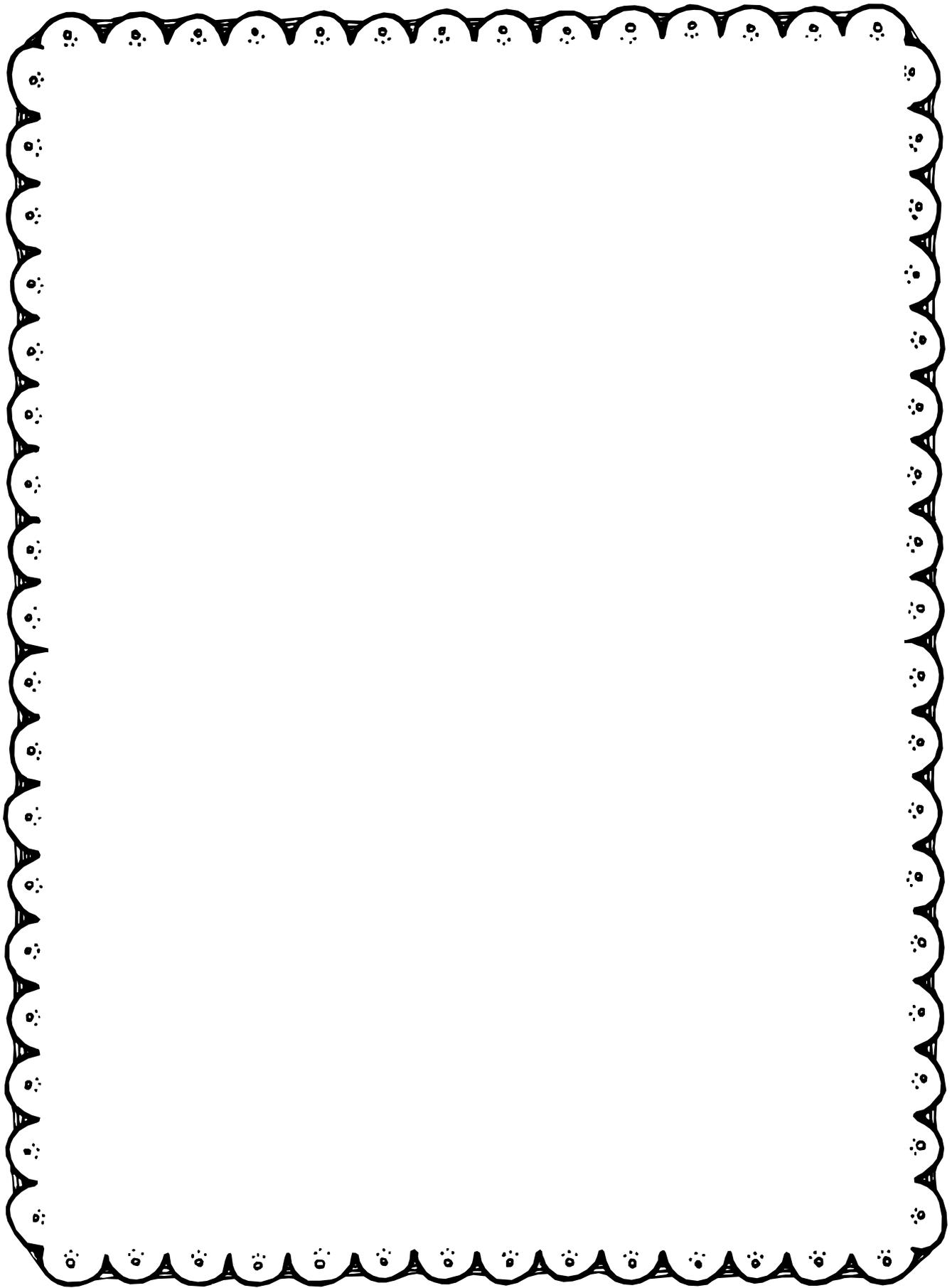
- : **Chosen One**...Isaiah 42: 1-4
- : **Servant**...Isaiah 49: 1-7
- : **Light of the Gentiles**...Isaiah 49:6
- : **Man of Sorrows/Intercessor for Our Sins**...Isaiah 53: 1-12
- : **Righteous Branch**...Jeremiah 23: 5-6
- : **Ruler over Israel**...Micah 5: 2
- : **King**...Zechariah 9: 9-10
- : **Messenger**...Malachi 3: 1
- : **Bridegroom**...Matthew 9:15
- : **Son of Man**...Matthew 11: 19
- : **Holy One of God**...Mark 1: 24
- : **Redeemer**...Luke 1: 68-69
- : **Saviour, Christ the Lord**...Luke 2:11; Titus 2: 13-15; Ephesians 5:23
- : **Lamb of God**...John 1: 29; Revelation 17:14
- : **Messiah**...John 1: 41
- : **King of Israel**...John 1: 49
- : **Son of God**...John 1: 49; John 11:27; Hebrews 4: 14
- : **Bread of Life**...John 6: 48-51
- : **Gate for Sheep to enter the Pasture**...John 10: 7-10
- : **Good Shepherd**...John 10: 11-18
- : **The Resurrection and the Life**...John 11: 25-26
- : **The Way, the Truth , and the Life**...John 14:6
- : **Holy and Righteous One**...Acts 3: 14
- : **God Over All**...Romans 9:5
- : **Root Of Jesse**...Romans 15:12; Revelation 5:5
- : **Chief Cornerstone**...Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6
- : **Head of the Church/Saviour**...Ephesians 5:23
- : **Pre-Eminent One**...Colossians 1: 15-23
- : **Lord of Peace**...2 Thessalonians 3:16
- : **Author of Salvation**...Hebrews 2:10-11
- : **Great High Priest**...Hebrews 4: 14-16
- : **Author and Finisher of our faith**...Hebrews 12: 1-2
- : **Morning Star**...2 Peter 1: 19; Revelation 22: 16
- : **Lamb**...Revelation 5: 1-14
- : **Lion of the Tribe of Judah**...Revelation 5:5
- : **Lord of Lords and King of Kings**...Revelation 17:14
- : **Root of David**...Revelation 22: 6

Advent Calendars...



Advent Calendars can be purchased or homemade. You can usually find them in Christian Bookstores (or they can order one for you) early in the fall. I bought one a few years ago on sale after Christmas at our Christian Bookstore. It has little windows that the children open each day with a picture relating to the Christmas story and a Bible verse for that day. You can make your own easily. There are many neat "how-to" books...just search your library or Christian Bookstore!





Jesse Tree...



A *Jesse Tree* is a little tree that has ornaments that remind you about the Ancestor's of Jesus Christ. The reason it is called a *Jesse Tree* is that the idea stems from the Scripture in Isaiah 11: 1-10, which prophesies the Messiah coming from the lineage of Jesse.

When we made our Jesse Tree, we made a felt banner with a tree on it which we velcro felt ornaments on. You may want to use an evergreen tree and just hang ornaments symbolizing each night's study upon it.

The ornaments are little symbols reminding you of the story behind the lineage of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1: 1-17). It is a fantastic way to study the prophecies of Jesus' coming and how they were fulfilled. I still learn so much every year! The following are the symbol, story, and Scripture that we use for our daily devotion. You may look up the lineage of Jesus (and their stories) and make your own symbols to remind you of those in His lineage or you may want to use these Scriptures taken from *Let's Make a Jesse Tree* by Darcy James for your devotions every evening...

Genesis 1:1-2:3...Dove...Creation

Genesis 2:4-3:13...Tree with fruit (or an apple)...The Fall

Genesis 6: 11-22; 7:17-8:3; 9:8-17...Rainbow...The Flood

Genesis 12: 1-7; 15: 1-6...Starry Sky...The Call and Covenant with Abram

Genesis 22: 1-19...Ram...Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 28:1-17...Ladder...Jacob

Genesis 42:1-45:15...Grain Sack...Joseph and his brothers

Exodus 1: 1-14; 3: 1-12...Burning bush...Moses and the burning bush

Exodus 12: 1-39...Kneading bowl...Passover and Escape from Egypt
 Exodus 19:16-20:20...Stone tablets...The giving of the law
 Joshua 1: 1-9; 5:13-6:20...Ram's horn...Conquest of Jericho
 Judges 2: 6-16; 1:1-16; 7:1-23...A Water Jar...Gideon
 1 Samuel 16: 1-23; 2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 7: 1-17...A lyre...David
 1 Kings 18: 17-39...A stone altar...Elijah and the prophets of Baal
 Isaiah 6: 1-13...Tongs and burning coal...Isaiah in the Temple
 Isaiah 8:11-9:7...Crown...A wise and just king
 2 Chronicles 36: 11-21; Jeremiah 30: 23-31: 14...Stalks of Grain...The
 Babylonian Exile
 Jonah 1:1-4:11...The Great Fish...Jonah
 Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2: 1-4...A watchtower...Waiting on the Lord
 Malachi 3: 1-5; 4: 1-6...Sun...Sun of Righteousness
 Luke 1: 5-17; Matthew 3: 1-6...Shell...John the Baptizer
 Luke 1: 26-38...Lily...Mary and the Angel
 Matthew 1:18-25...Carpenter's Tool...Joseph
 Luke 2: 1-5...A scroll...Journey to Bethlehem
 Luke 2: 6-21...The manger and the star...The Birth of Jesus

You can find wonderful books that have patterns for these symbols like *Let's
 Make a Jesse Tree* (ISBN number 0-687-21439-4) by Darcy James or any of
 the other activity books listed in resources. Just have fun and stay focused on
 Jesus during this season!



Advent Activities...



I mentioned that we do neat activities that focus on Christ and doing for others ALL month long. Some of our favorite traditions are as follows:

C is for Christ Who Loves us
so
D is for Decorations
E is for Everyone together,
etc.

We use this for Copywork; it is lots of fun!

MAKE A CHRISTMAS

ACROSTIC... This is a fun activity for a homeschool morning. Try to come up with words that describe Christ from the word Christmas, for example

C is for Christ,
H is for Holy,
R is for Risen Saviour,
etc.

Another option is to use the alphabet to come up with an acrostic that reminds you family about your Christmas Celebration, for example

A is for Advent Wreaths and
Advent Calendars
B is for Baby Jesus

FAMILY NEWSLETTER... This is such fun for you to prepare and to receive. I found that I have gotten horrible about writing those so dear to me. Since we have moved so many times and many of them have moved away from me leaving me with friends and family ALL OVER... Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Texas, Oregon, Washington, Tennessee, Georgia, China, Albania, etc.... Often I just call to keep up, yet that seems to leave out neat details of what God is doing along the way. Well, the answer is the **FAMILY NEWSLETTER!** It is not only