an illustrated

ADVENT WREATH

illustrated
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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Born in Racine, Wisconsin.

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THE ADVENT WREATH

The tradition of what we know as our modern Advent Wreath began in 18th century Germany in the Lutheran church. It became a sign for Christians to use as they waited for the celebration of Christ's birth. The evergreen wreath is a sign of God's faithfulness to God's people. Each candle is a reminder of the light of Christ. The first candle symbolizes the Hope we have in Christ. The second candle reminds us that Christ came to bring Peace. The third candle reveals the Joy of Christ's coming. The fourth candle represents the Love of God through Jesus Christ. The center candle is known as the Christ candle and it is lit to proclaim the birth of Jesus.

We invite you to create your own Illustrated Advent Wreath to aid you as you move through the season of Advent on your own, with your family, or worshiping community. Each week of Advent, you will have the opportunity to color an Advent candle and say a prayer as you add a candle to your wreath.

We encourage you to cut out the candles and display them in a creative way (make a poster, hang them on your refrigerator, post them near your doorway) to help you remember and reflect on Advent throughout the week. Or you can use our paper "wreath" and place each of the candles on the appropriate circle. It is our hope that our Advent resources will deepen your faith and connection with God and your family as you journey together through Advent. There are some instructions and photos on the next few pages, and we hope that you enjoy making your Illustrated Advent Wreath.

We also love to see photos and hear stories about how you are using our materials. When you are posting photos or comments online, please use the hashtag #anillustratedadvent or tag us in the photos so we can see them. That allows us to be part of the conversation and you to be part of our online community. Additionally, checking the hashtag on various social networks is also a great way to get see how other families and churches are creatively using our resources.

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You can always reach us at icm@illustratedchildrensministry.com or find us on the following social networks:

Facebook Page: facebook.com/IllustratedCM
Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/IllustratedCM
Pinterest: pinterest.com/IllustratedCM
Twitter: twitter.com/IllustratedCM
Instagram: instagram.com/IllustratedCM

Blessings,

Adam Walker Cleaveland
Founder
Illustrated Children's Ministry, LLC.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Building your Illustrated Advent Wreath doesn't require many supplies. Feel free to get creative when you color/decorate your candles.

Supplies needed:

- The paper Advent Wreath, where you will tape/glue your candles to their appropriate circles each week.
- The paper printouts of the candles—we'd recommend printing them out onto a thicker card stock paper if you can.
- A pair of scissors.
- Tape (or a glue stick).
- Coloring pencils/crayons/markers.
- NOT REQUIRED: A Silhouette Cameo (special instructions for Cameo owners included).

Steps:

1. We would recommend having your child/children color the candle first. If you have more than one child, you may want to let each child color and build their own Illustrated Advent Wreath.
2. Once the candle has been colored, cut around the outline of the candle, being careful not to cut off the tabs at the bottom of the candle (this is how you will affix the candle to the wreath).
3. Then you will want to roll the paper into a candle shape so that the left side of the candle reaches over to the dotted line of the portion that has been left uncolored. You will want to use small rolls of tape, or glue on the uncolored portion, and affix it under the colored portion of the candle.

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4. Once your candle is taped/glued, take the small tabs at the bottom, and either fold them outward or inward (depending on how you want the candle to look), and place glue or small rolls of tape on the folded portion of the tab that will affix onto the wreath, and secure your candle onto the wreath.

5. Add a new candle each week and watch your Illustrated Advent Wreath grow!

There are some photos and additional instructions on the following page.

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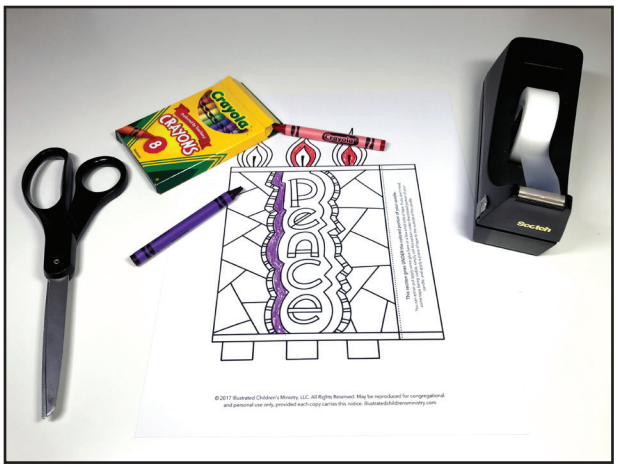
Step 1

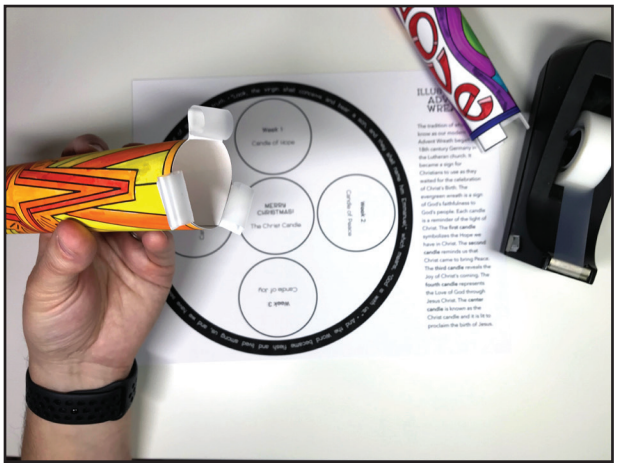


Step 2

Step 3

Step 3

Step 4



Step 5

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Special Instructions for owners of the Silhouette Cameo 3

These instructions were put together using the Silhouette Studio software, Business Edition, but the directions should work for any edition of the software (though the location of the menus or buttons may be different). The same general directions should also work with a Cricut, but we don't know if the menu and action items have the same name. However, anyone familiar with their software should be able to figure it out from these directions. Theoretically. Best of luck!

1. Open the PNG file for the candle you want to print and cut.
2. Open the 'Trace' Menu box and click on the 'Select Trace Area' box.
3. Using your mouse, draw a box around the entire image.
4. Slide the Threshold arrow to 100%.
5. Click on the "Trace and Detach" button at the bottom of the window.
6. Click on the image and drag it to the side.
7. Choose "Select All" from the edit menu and then hold down the shift key while clicking on the image a second time so that everything except the image is selected.
8. Hit delete.
9. Click on the image again and move it into the center of the paper.
10. Open the 'Page Setup' Menu box and set the Page Size to Letter (or whatever size you'll be printing on).
11. Then click the third tab on the top of the 'Page Setup' Menu box to open the Registration Marks Window.
12. In the first drop-down, choose 'Type 1 CAMEO, Portrait, Curio'.
13. Make sure the image fits within the boundaries created by the registration marks.

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14. Choose ‘Print’ from the file menu and print the image onto cardstock or whatever material you’re using.

15. Once you’ve sent the image to print, do not change anything on the screen in the Silhouette Software.

16. Take the printed image and stick it to your Silhouette mat in the upper left hand corner (as it is shown in the software).

17. In Silhouette Studio, click on the ‘Send’ button on the top right, select the material you’re cutting from the drop down menu.

18. Click ‘Next’ and make sure the image you’re cutting is outlined in red.

19. Click ‘Next’ and make sure your blade is set to the correct depth (if you’re not using an Autoblade).

20. Load your mat into the Silhouette and send it off to cut. It should only take a minute as it’s a simple cut.

21. In order to ensure that the candle doesn’t rip when you’re removing it from the mat, it can help to turn the mat upside down and peel the mat away from the image rather than trying to pull the image away from the mat.

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WEEK 1: HOPE PRAYER

To the One who gives us Hope,
Thank you for inviting us to this time of waiting.
Help us to:
open our eyes so we can see your light,
open our ears so we can hear your
words of hope,
open our minds so we can understand you,
open our hearts so we can receive your love.
Come, long expected Jesus, we are waiting
for you!

Amen.

WEEK 2: PEACE PRAYER

Gracious One,
Thank you for the promise of peace.
Thank you for moments
where we feel it deep in our hearts.
Teach us to make peace
with our words, with our hands,
for our own place and all places.

Amen.

WEEK 3: JOY PRAYER

Joy-Giving One,
Thank you for the ways you accept and
celebrate all of who we are.
Thank you for the many, many ways
you live among us.
Teach us to recognize you
and to share our joy.

Amen.

WEEK 4: LOVE PRAYER

Generous One,
Thank you for all of the ways we are loved.
Thank you for all of the ways we can love.
Teach us to listen closely to each other,
and to our world,
for all of the ways and places love is shared.

Amen.

CHRISTMAS MORNING PRAYER

Dear Jesus,
Happy Birthday!
We are so glad that you chose to be born
and that you choose to get to know us.
Thank you for becoming a part of our family
and for inviting us to become a part of yours.
Thank you for loving us. We love you!

Amen.

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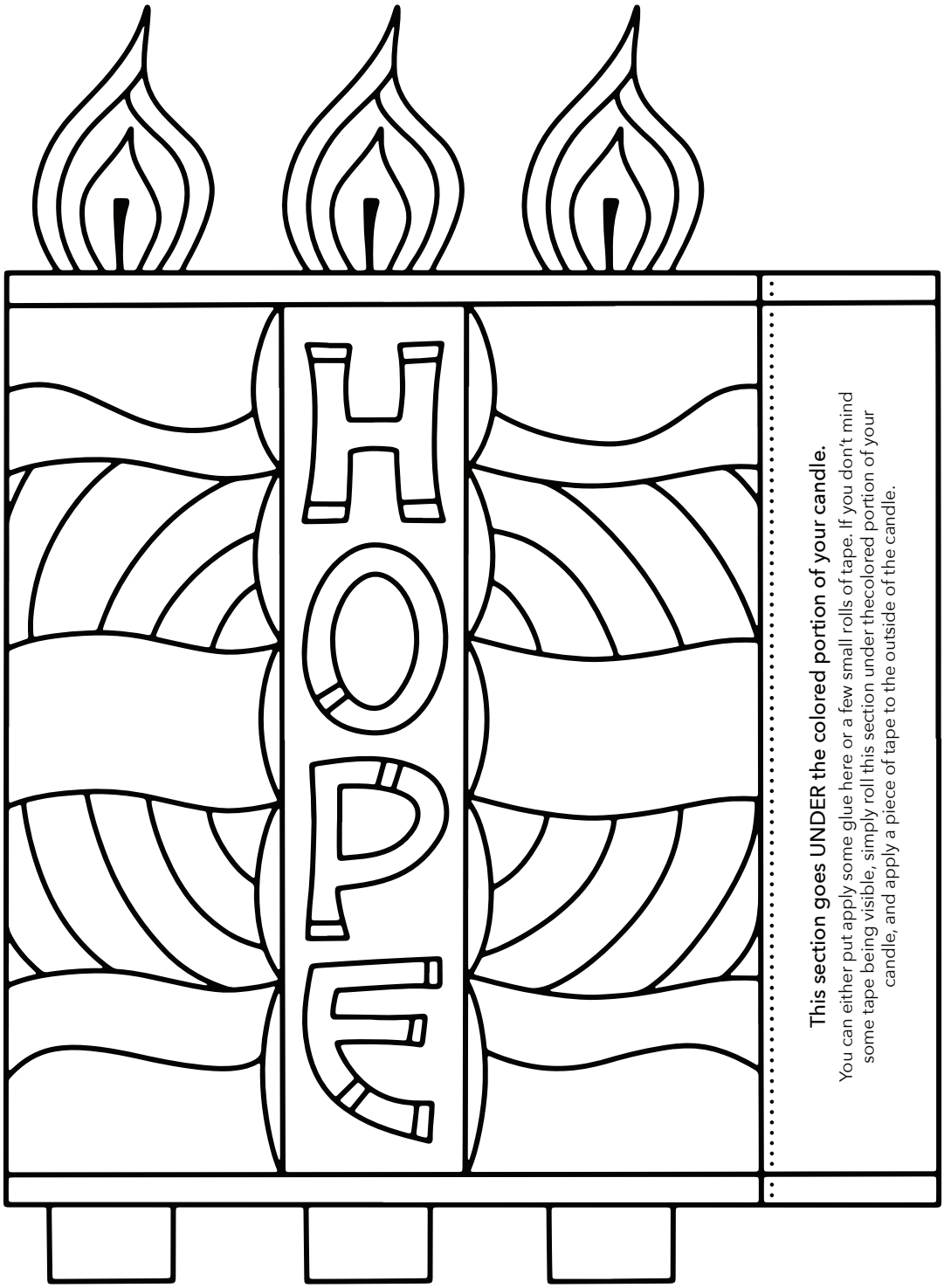

This section goes UNDER the colored portion of your candle.

You can either put apply some glue here or a few small rolls of tape. If you don't mind some tape being visible, simply roll this section under thecolored portion of your candle, and apply a piece of tape to the outside of the candle.

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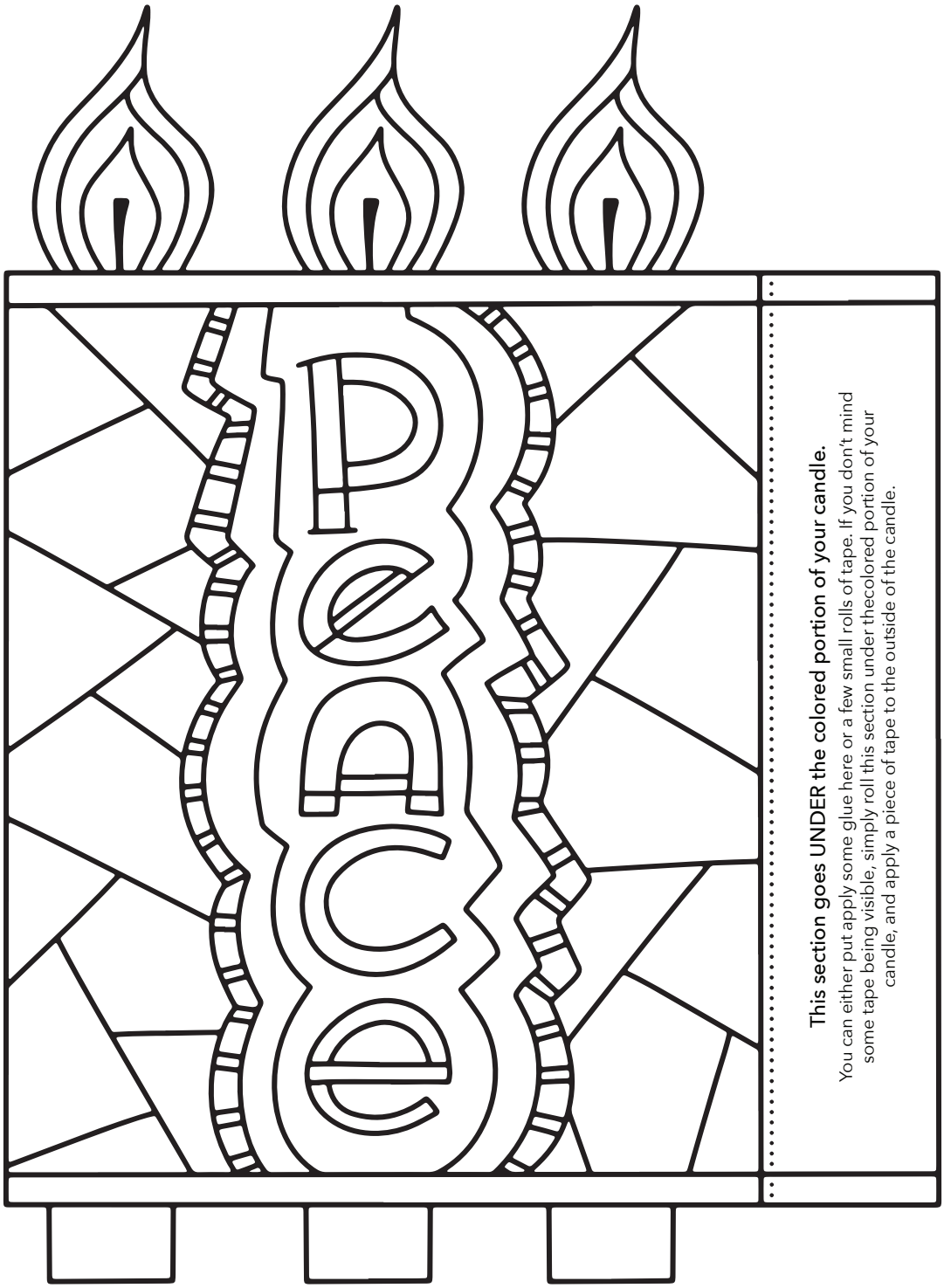

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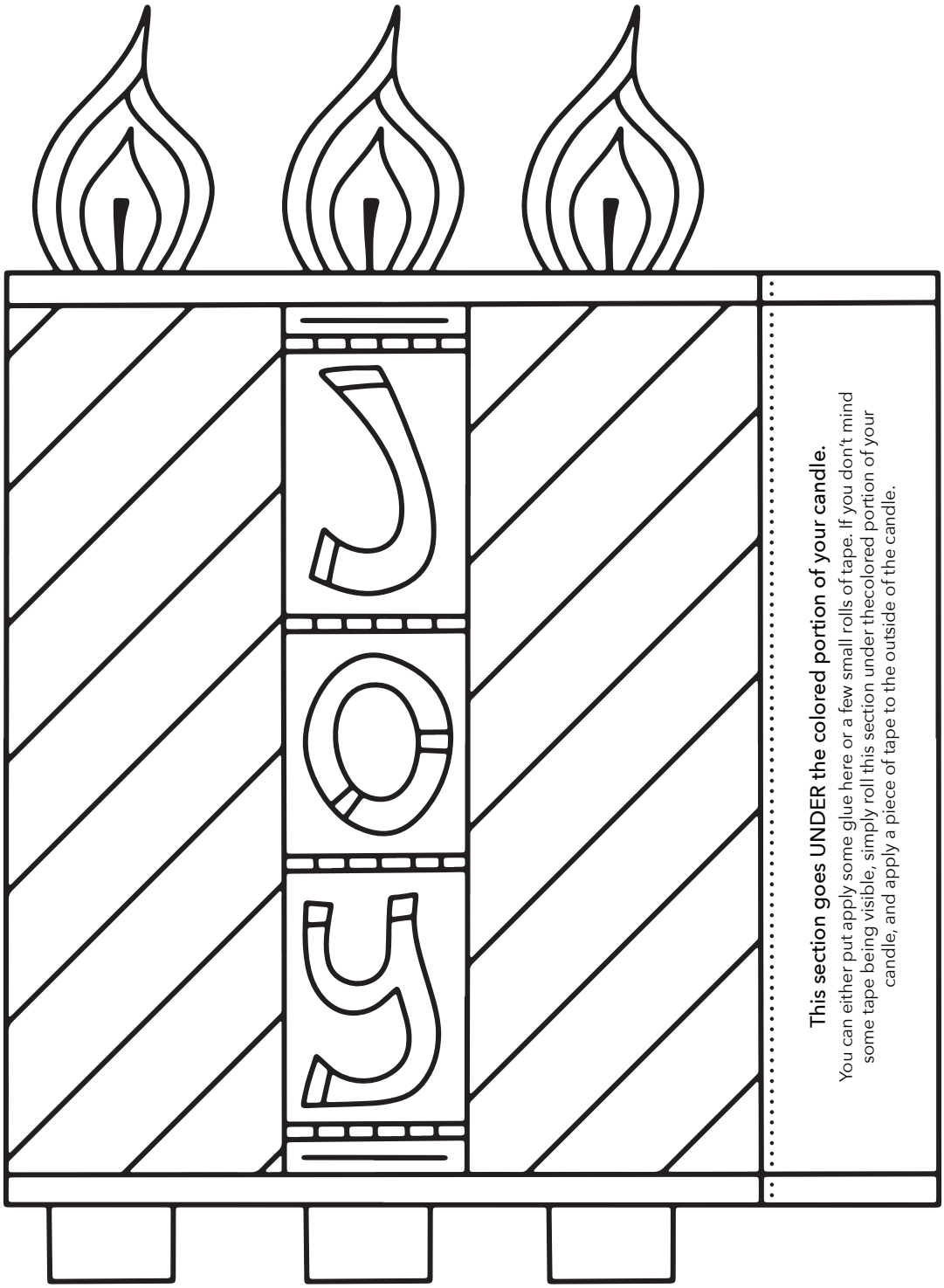

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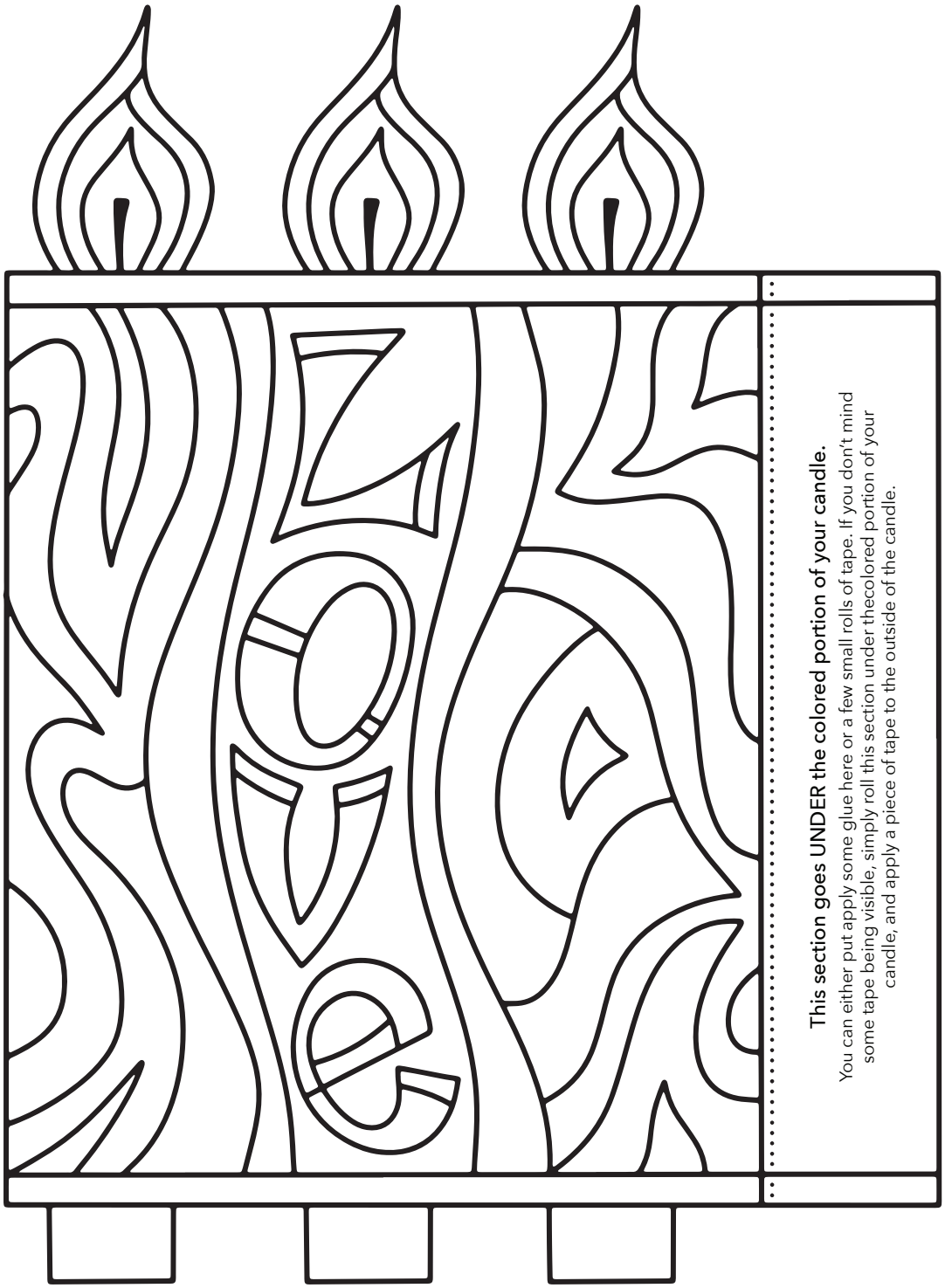

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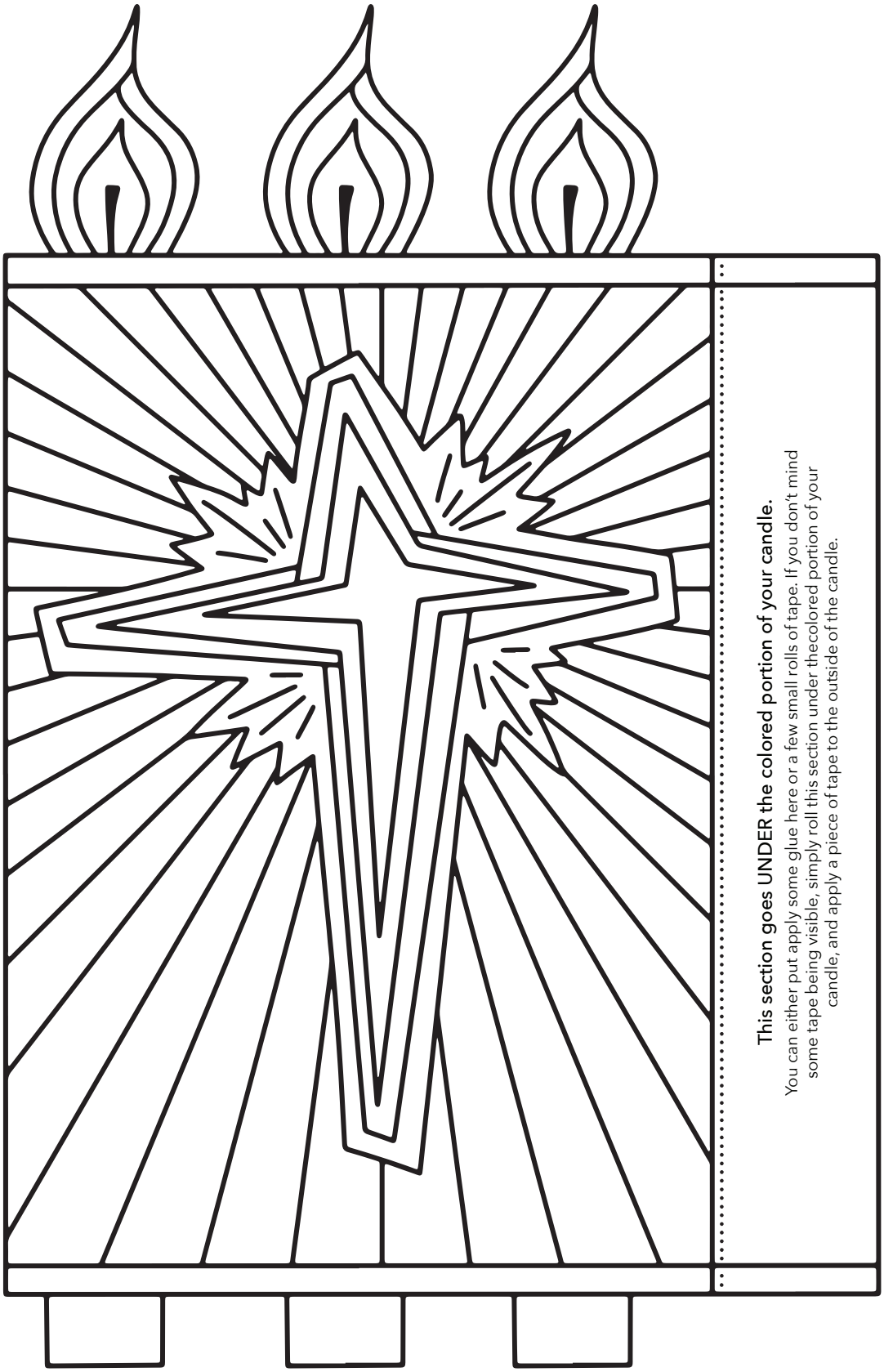

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JESSICA HAUSER BRYDON is a Social Worker serving Early Childhood Programs in Muskegon County, Michigan, and is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). After earning her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan and Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, Jessica found herself in a variety of work situations that drew on her training in both disciplines. As one half of a clergy couple and parent to three children, Jessica has had both personal and professional experience helping her own family and many church families discover ways to be fully engaged in worship and faith communities. Having been a big fan and supporter of Illustrated Children's Ministry from the beginning, she is excited to have an opportunity to join the writing team.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

REBEKAH LOWE, a local of Kansas City, Southern California, and Austin, TX, earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies at Azusa Pacific University and served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Brentwood Presbyterian Church (USA) in Los Angeles, California. She is a parent to two amazing kids and resides in Austin, TX with her family.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

ADAM WALKER CLEAVELAND is an artist, entrepreneur, pastor, pastor's spouse, and father of four (two living). Adam graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Youth Ministry. As an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Adam has served churches in Idaho, California, Oregon and Illinois. Adam is the founder and illustrator of Illustrated Children's Ministry, LLC.

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