

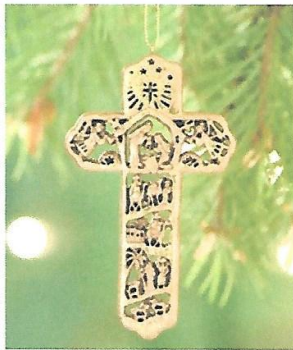
The Acmar Soul Miner
January 2021 Volume 22 Issue 1

*Searching for wisdom
As for hidden treasures...
For the Lord gives wisdom*

Scavenger Hunt

Our family Christmas gathering was smaller this year and it was our first to wear masks. It was also our first for a scavenger hunt.

Clues were clinging to a yard trailer, hanging on trees, resting on a bench, crossing a bridge, perched on blue bird houses, and swinging on a swing. Signs led those who searched to a gold resin Christmas Cross ornament hanging on a majestic Leland Cypress Christmas tree.



The ornament itself is like a scavenger hunt. One must search to see delicately carved scenes of the birth story of Jesus. Illuminating the way is a shining star. Centered in the cross are Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus lying in the manger. Angels hover on the sides heralding the good news of the Savior.

Journeying to find the new born King of the Jews are Magi and camels from the East. Working their way from the bottom are sheep and shepherds who heard the angel proclaim:

“I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be the sign: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths lying in a manger.”

Shepherds left flocks in the fields at night. They hunted in Bethlehem for a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Magi, known as wise men, observed a star which set them on a search for One whom was “born King of the Jews.” More than likely, leaving their homeland in Persia, they followed the course of the Euphrates River past Babylon and then started southward along a trade route into Jerusalem. They traveled through mountains, deserts, lowlands, and river valleys.

In Jerusalem their inquiry took them to King Herod’s palace. Scribes who scavenge through ancient Scripture revealed that the anticipated Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. When they left the palace, ***“The star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.”*** The Magi rejoiced with great joy.

Making our way through the uncharted territory of 2020 toward Christmas was like being on a scavenger hunt. We searched for signs of hope, peace, joy and love. We looked for glimpses of justice and life.

Could be that this Christmas is more like the first Christmas then we care to revisit. Sacrifices were made. Lives were adapted.

Through it all we came to accept that the Savior of “good tidings of great joy” is still the God who shows up. One Hallmark “Mahogany” Christmas card expresses it well:

*One of the sweet reminders
Christmas brings
is that God shows up
in the most unlikely places ...*

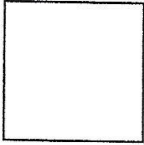
We leave 2020 and move with anticipation into 2021. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Children's Camp

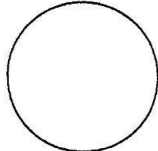
Gospel Light's Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles.

Puzzle 33

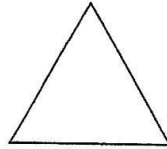
Trace each shape with your finger and say its name.



square



circle

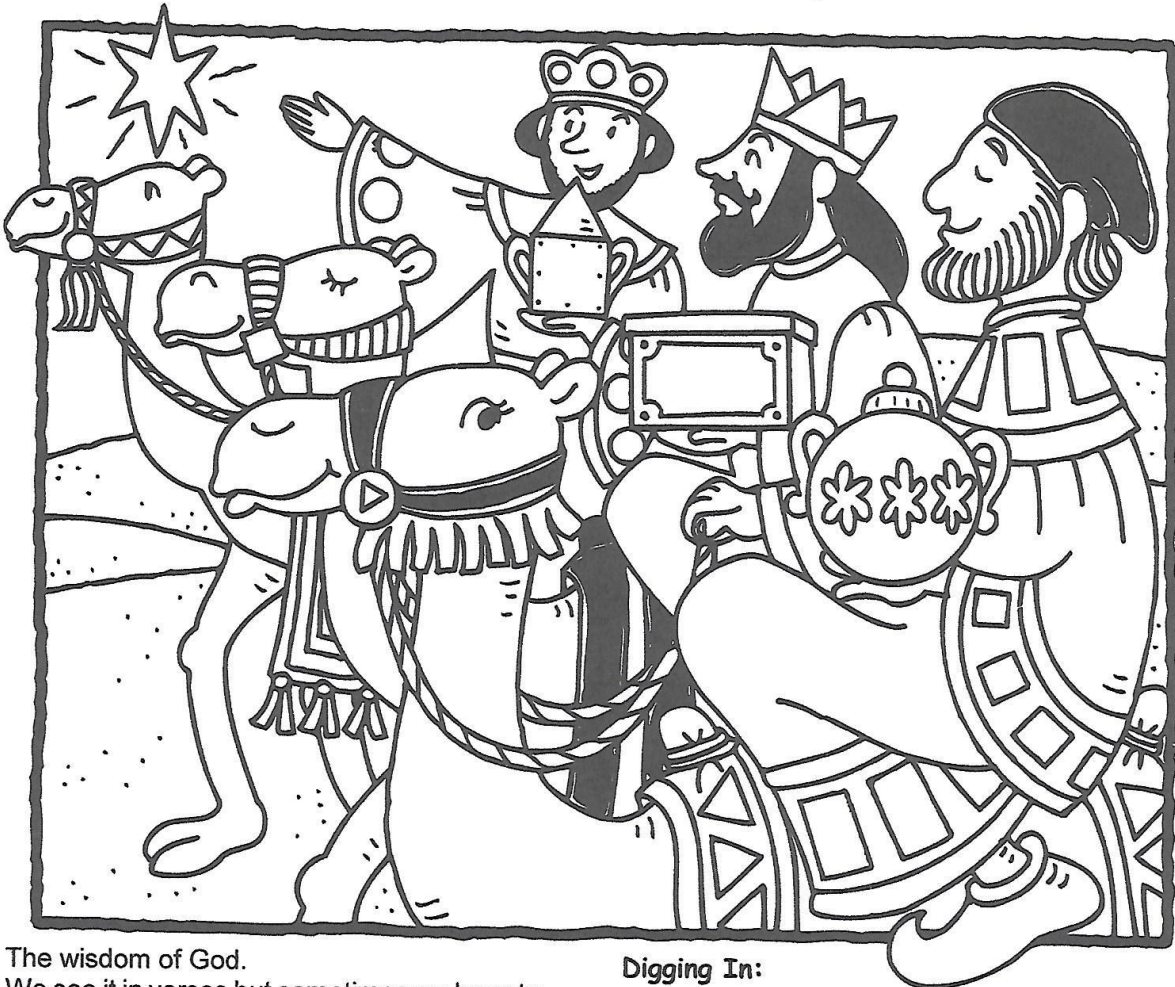


triangle



rectangle

Find each shape in the picture. Color each shape a different color.



The wisdom of God.
We see it in verses but sometimes we have to dig to uncover the meaning.

Look Here:

"When they had come into the house, they say the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. They presented gifts to Him." (Matthew 2:11)

Digging In:

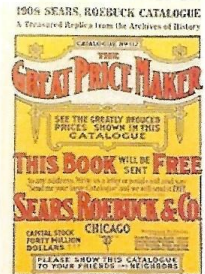
Wise men in the East saw a star in the sky.
They believed the star shone for a new king.
They followed the star a long way.

When they saw the Baby, they bowed down.
They worshiped Jesus and gave Him gifts.
They gave gold, frankincense and myrrh.

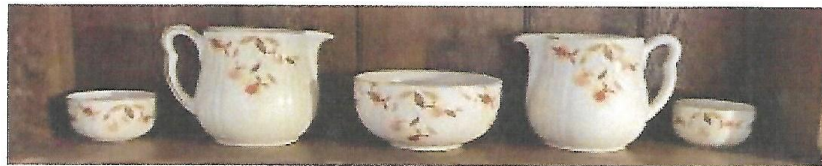
The Acmar Community Quilt

Young folks today probably think of shopping from home as a new thing, but here in Acmar, people were shopping from home over a century ago and in many different ways since. Long before the Home Shopping Network, internet, Amazon, and Wal-Mart, other options existed for shopping from home in Acmar.

Of course, many items could be purchased at the nearby company commissary during its time of operation, but many Acmar ladies sometimes found there were other things they would like that were not available locally. When Acmar was established in 1908, Sears & Roebuck was a well established retailer in Chicago. When the U.S. Postal Service began rural delivery of parcel post in 1913, it became possible for Sears to send its merchandise to many customers in rural or isolated areas. The Sears Catalog sold a wide range of merchandise at low prices so most homes in Acmar had one until it was discontinued in 1993.



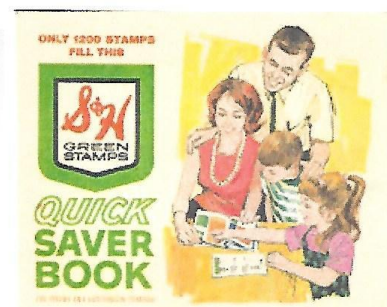
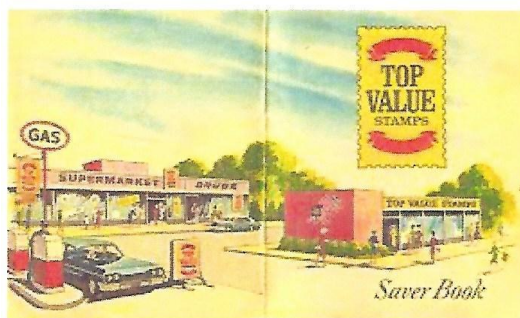
The **Jewel Tea Company** sold household products through traveling salesmen from the 1930s to 1981. As the salesman visited door to door in Acmar, housewives could purchase coffee, tea, grocery items, cleaning supplies, linens, cookware, and china. They earned “premiums” for each purchase which could later be traded for items like the popular “Autumn Leaf” line of dishes which can still be found in some Acmar households today.




















S&H Green Stamps was a line of “trading stamps” popular in the United States from the 1930s until the late 1980s. Customers received the green stamps as a reward for purchases at the checkout counters of retailers, mostly grocery stores. The stamps would be collected and attached to the pages of a small “saver book” supplied by the company. Sperry & Hutchinson Company (S&H) sent out a rewards catalog detailing merchandise which could be given by redeeming a certain number of stamps. During the 1960s through 1981, the Top Value Company promoted its yellow stamps very much like the Green Stamps. They also provided a catalog which customers used to earn premiums like toys, household merchandise, and many other items. These items could be selected at home from the catalogs and picked up at a “Redemption Center”.



Of course, there was no two-day shipping or Prime membership deals, but the (mostly) ladies of Acmar were still able to shop from home and bring items into their households they could not get locally.



January, 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| Acmar Sanctuary Worship / Returns Sun., Jan. 10 / 9 am On-site temperature check, masks and social distancing No singing, Children's Church, snacks or Sunday School Audio sermon podcasts will still be on Acmar's Website | | | | | 1  NEW YEAR'S DAY | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6  EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | 7  Zac Goodner | 8 | 9 |
| 10  CHURCH 9 am | 11 | 12  Jeani Navert | 13  Scott Skinner Sonja Baker  | 14  Marsha Ramsden | 15 | 16  Gudrun Rominger Tamm |
| 17  CHURCH 9 am | 18  ML KING JR DAY Karen Byers  | 19  David Wimberly | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23  Grace Howard |
| 24  CHURCH 9 am | 25 | 26  Sharon Turner | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31  CHURCH 9 am Off: MCA | Special Offering / 01-31-21 Moody Challenged Adults | | <i>I cannot recover the joys of the past, but I can have new joys with God in the present.</i> ~ Kenneth Claar (Upper Room, Dec. 23, 2020) | | | |

Mon., December 28
 Tue., December 29
 Wed., December 30
 Thur., December 31
 Fri., January 1
 Sat., January 2

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7,10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12
 Romans 5:1-5
 Romans 5:6-11

Acmar UMC / P.O. Box 85 / 4107 Old Acton Road
 Moody, AL 35004 Phone: 640-4325
 Moody Crossroads / Intersection Hwy. 411/Cty. 10
 Take Cty. 10 W. (Park Ave.) toward Trussville;
 Travel 1 mile; Right on Acmar Rd; travel 2 miles;
 Left onto Old Acton Rd.; Church is on the left

Mon., January 4
 Tue., January 5
 Wed., January 6
 Thur., January 7
 Fri., January 8
 Sat., January 9

Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11
 Romans 8:1-6
 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24



Mon., January 18
 Tue., January 19
 Wed., January 20
 Thur., January 21
 Fri., January 22
 Sat., January 23

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20
 Colossians 3:12-15
 Matthew 5:1-9

Mon., January 11
 Tue., January 12
 Wed., January 13
 Thur., January 14
 Fri., January 15
 Sat., January 16

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 16
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51
 Genesis 25:19-34
 Genesis 33:1-10

Mon., January 25
 Tue., January 26
 Wed., January 27
 Thur., January 28
 Fri., January 29
 Sat., January 30

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28
 Romans 12:1-8
 Romans 12:9-18