

## December 6 – The Stockings

### Ephesians 2

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... (Ephesians 2:4-5)

The picture of Santa today has changed a lot from who St. Nicholas really was. Today, Santa delivers gifts made by others to those who've been "nice." The real St. Nick gave away his own wealth to those who were in great need, because he wanted to reflect God's love.

*Do you consider yourself "rich in" anything? Why or why not? ~ If you do, what do you do with all that you have? ~ If you don't, do you consider yourself 'poor' or 'needy'? Why or why not?*

"Rich in mercy" means God has an abundance of it. Even though our sin makes it impossible for us to be "nice" in His eyes, He gives His mercy freely and abundantly to us by Jesus' death and resurrection, because of His love for us.

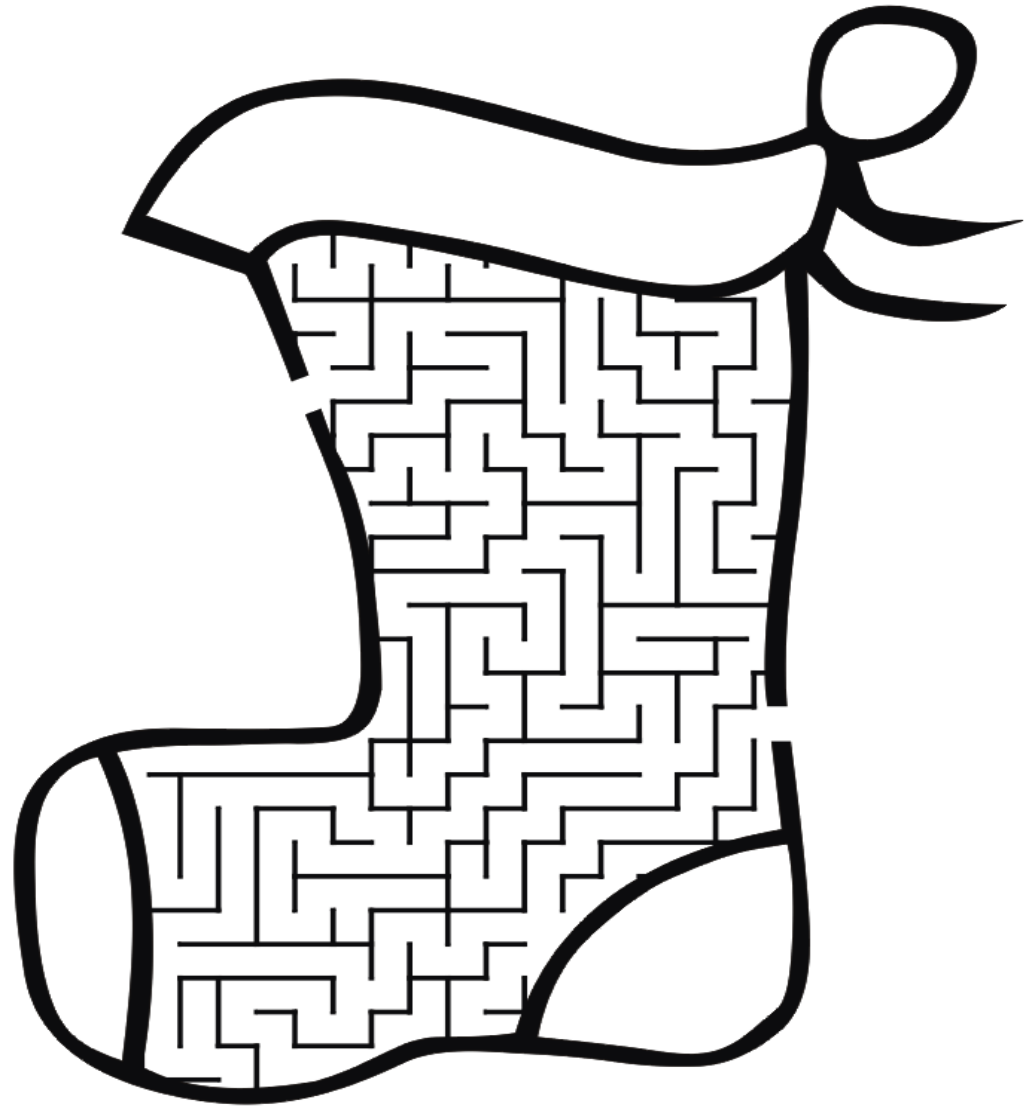
For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

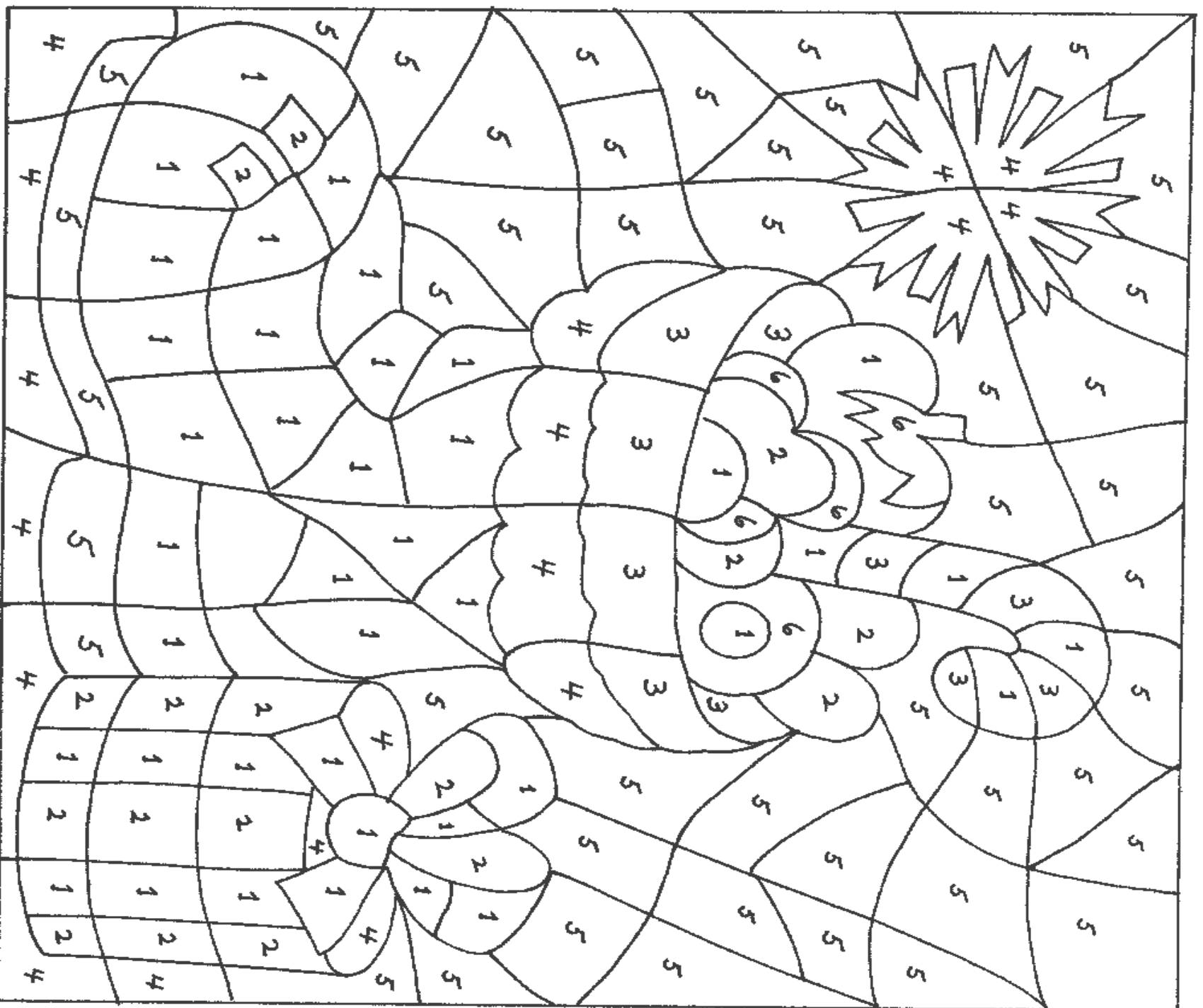
*When has someone shared their riches with you? ~ Did you deserve it? ~ How did you feel when you received it? ~ When have you shared your riches with someone in need? ~ How did you feel when you gave it?*

*King Jesus, you gave up your power and position to be born as a helpless, needy baby. But I am the one who is helpless and needy. Knowing You did that for my salvation is the greatest gift of all! Help me share it as joyfully and freely as You did. Amen.*

#### Bonus Time:

- ◆ Secret Santa! Draw names or identify someone in your life to give a gift to unexpectedly or do something nice for, like folding clothes or taking out trash, without being asked. Can you do it without them knowing it was you? Can you keep it a secret until Christmas Day?
- ◆ If you could only pick one thing to receive in your stocking, what would it be and why?
- ◆ Share your favorite, earliest, or funniest memory of Santa Claus. Bonus points for sharing photos!





**1=Red 2=Yellow 3=White 4=Blue 5=Black 6=Green**