

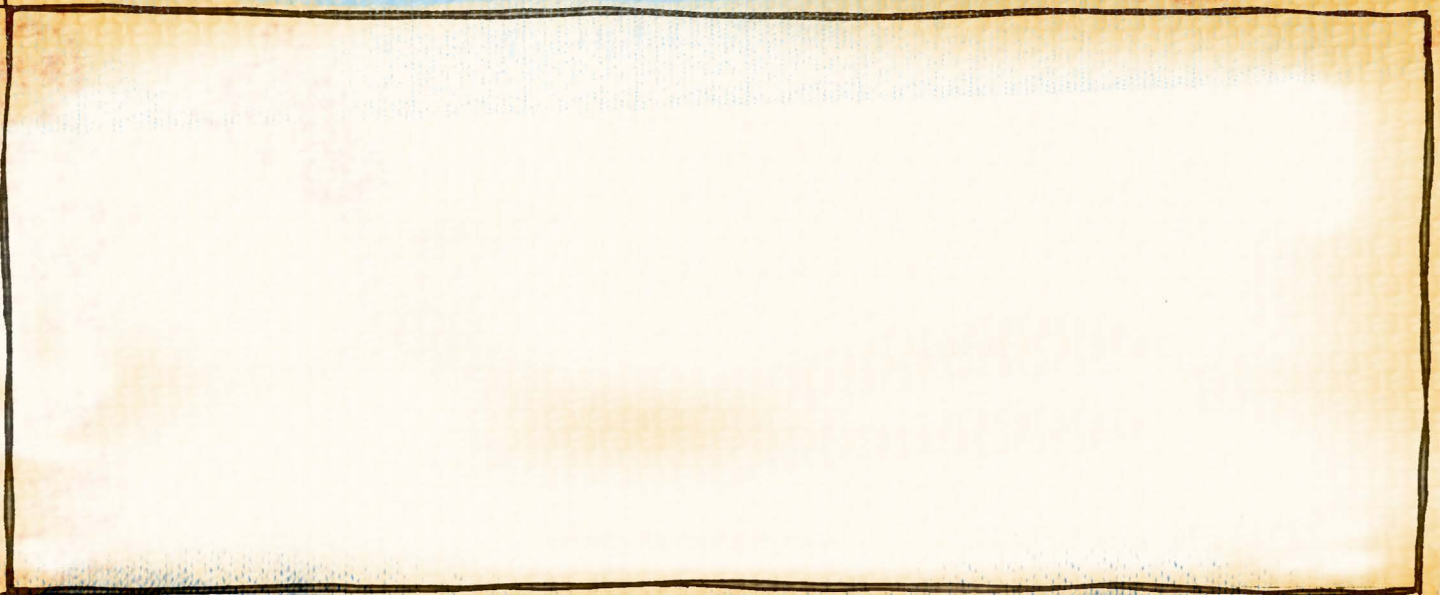
week 1a HOPE for the future

In Advent we look back to the first Christmas, but also forward to the future when God will make the whole world right again.

When the disciple John was an old man he had a vision of heaven coming to earth and making it perfect (Revelation 21).

Close your eyes, as someone reads a version of this vision out to you. Imagine what it would be like, and then talk about it together.

Draw a picture of what this heaven-on-earth could look like, either in the box below or spread out onto bigger paper to fit your creativity!



"I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The City of Jerusalem was new too, it was gleaming as if it was made from precious jewels or crystal. The wall was built out of a red, shiny gemstone, and the city itself out of gleaming, pure gold. The foundations of the wall were built out of every bright and beautiful jewel; I saw red, green, pink, rainbow coloured, blue, sparkling white, yellow, orange, turquoise, purple and violet gemstones. The gates in the wall were made from pearl, and the main street running through the city was made of blindingly bright, pure gold.



"I heard someone speak loudly from God's throne: 'Look! God will live with his people from now on - he will settle down amongst them! God himself will wipe the tears from the people's eyes. No one will die any more, so no one will grieve, no one will cry or be in pain any more. The old ways of the world will be gone!'

"There was no church in this city, because God was right there to be worshipped! There was not even any need for sunshine, candles or lamps - because the glory of God was shining so bright. The gates never need to shut - everyone will be completely safe, everyone who belongs to Jesus."