



Van Gogh For It!

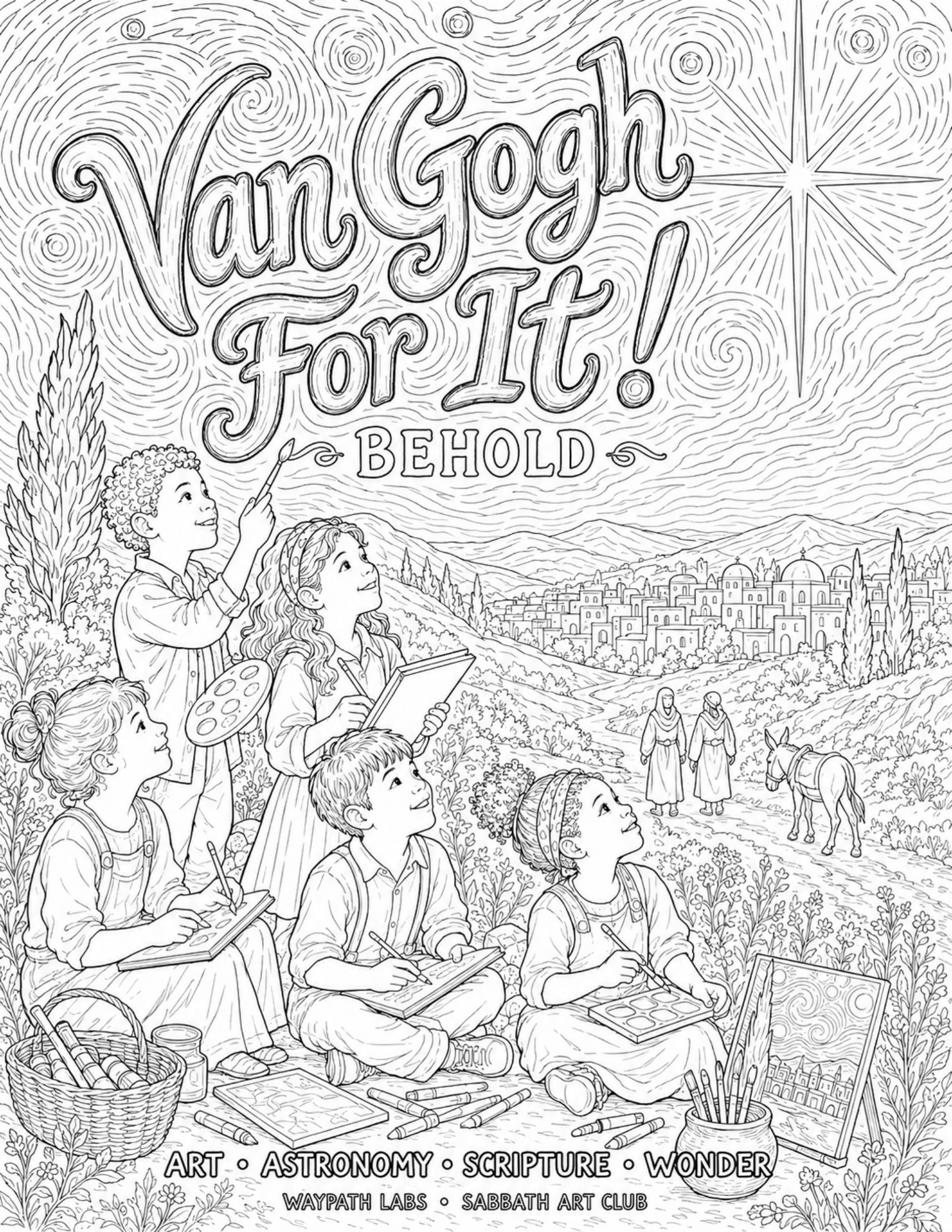
BEHOLD

ART • ASTRONOMY • SCRIPTURE • WONDER

WAYPATH LABS • SABBATH ART CLUB

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+ OPEN AND GO

Gather your family around the table.

This study joins art history, careful observation, Scripture, astronomy, and a finished creative project. Use every page or choose the pathway that fits your family today.

YOU WILL NEED

Paper or watercolor paper; pencil; black marker; blue, yellow, white, and one accent color; crayons, paint, markers, or oil pastels; Bible; two beads or small objects.

THE FAMILY RHYTHM

1. Behold: notice closely. 2. Discover: follow the evidence. 3. Connect: return to Scripture. 4. Create: make an original response. 5. Share: explain your choices.

Choose your path

DISCOVER

Ages 7-10: listen, circle, sketch, practice marks, and narrate the finished picture.

EXPLORE

Ages 10-13: read independently, compare evidence, and complete the artist statement.

INVESTIGATE

Ages 13+: verify sources, separate observation from interpretation, and write a supported conclusion.

A note for the grown-up

This lesson welcomes wonder without pretending every historical question has one easy answer. The goal is to teach children to notice what a source says, explore what science can calculate, label uncertainty honestly, and respond to the biblical story with imagination and faith.





+ ART HISTORY

Vincent made color move.

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) used visible brushstrokes, bold color, and rhythmic marks to communicate feeling as well as place.

THE STARRY NIGHT - 1889

Painted during Van Gogh's stay in Saint-Remy, France, the work combines observed landscape with memory and imagination. The village was not copied exactly from the view. The sky feels alive because repeated curves, dashes, and spirals lead the eye.

ART DETECTIVE

Before reading someone else's opinion, look for evidence in the artwork. Where does your eye go first? Which colors repeat? Which shapes feel still? Which lines create movement?

Notice before you name.

Three colors I notice:

A line that creates movement:

The quietest part of the picture:

One thing I wonder:





+ LOOK UP - LOOK CLOSER

Behold: a call to pay attention.

Biblical word studies help us slow down. A word's meaning comes from its sentence and story, not from a decorative definition by itself.

HINNEH

HEBREW: BEHOLD - LOOK - PAY ATTENTION

Hinneh often introduces something the listener must notice now: a person, promise, warning, or surprising act. It does not merely decorate the sentence; it turns the reader's attention.

LOOK UP

Read Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:2 and Matthew 2:1-12. Mark each place where someone sees, hears, goes, rejoices, or responds.

LOOK CLOSER

What promise, pattern, or detail seems important? Which connection comes directly from the text?

RESPOND

What faithful action follows attention in the passage: seeking, traveling, worshiping, warning, telling, or returning?

ONE CONNECTION I CAN SUPPORT FROM THE TEXT





+ LIGHT, PROMISE, MESSIAH

Follow the light through Scripture.

Read each passage in context. Connections can enrich the lesson without turning poetry or prophecy into a scientific measurement.

GENESIS 1:14

Lights mark signs, appointed times, days, and years.

NUMBERS 24:17

A star comes from Jacob; a scepter rises from Israel.

PSALM 19:1-4

The heavens declare God's glory.

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

Light, a child, and the promised kingdom.

MICAH 5:2

Bethlehem in the promised ruler's story.

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Magi, Scripture, a star, worship, warning, and return.

Draw the parallels carefully

Circle the themes you can trace across more than one passage:

☐ LIGHT☐ KINGSHIP☐ CREATION☐ PROMISE☐ JOURNEY☐ WORSHIP

A theme I want my artwork to emphasize: _____

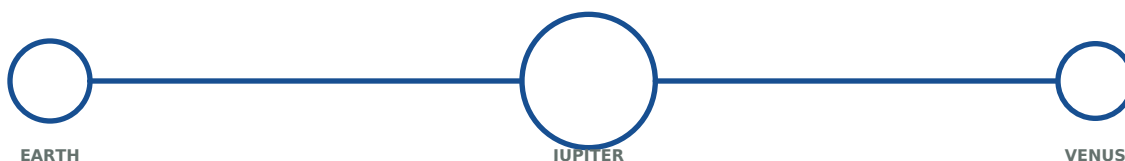




+ SHAUN'S RESEARCH LENS

Could two lights appear as one?

A conjunction happens when celestial objects appear close together from Earth's viewpoint. They remain far apart in space.

**WHAT ASTRONOMY CAN CALCULATE**

Planet positions, dates, apparent motion, viewing direction, and angular separation can be modeled. A full Moon spans about half a degree in the sky.

WHAT ASTRONOMY CANNOT DECIDE

A calculation cannot prove what a particular ancient observer believed, what spiritual meaning the observer assigned, or which candidate event Matthew describes.

Model it

Hold two beads at different distances from your eye. Move one until they appear to touch. Sketch the view from the side, then sketch what your eye sees.

SIDE VIEW

WHAT MY EYE SEES





+ REASON LIKE A RESEARCHER

Observation is not interpretation.

The Star of Bethlehem has inspired several astronomical proposals. This lesson uses candidate events to practice careful reasoning, not to announce one theory as proven.

1 - OBSERVED

Planetary conjunctions can be modeled and dated.

2 - TEXTUAL

Matthew reports Magi interpreting a star in connection with a royal birth.

3 - PLAUSIBLE

An unusual planetary event could attract trained ancient sky watchers.

4 - UNCERTAIN

We cannot demonstrate which candidate event, if any, the Magi observed.

5 - FAITH CLAIM

Matthew presents the event as part of God's testimony to Messiah.

MY CAREFUL CONCLUSION

Use one astronomy observation, one Scripture observation, and one sentence naming what remains uncertain.





✦ TRY VINCENT'S VISUAL TOOLS

Four marks can wake up a whole sky.

Practice each mark. Change its size, direction, spacing, and pressure. Put a star beside the mark that feels most like your voice.

DASH

Make light flicker.

CURVE

Wrap wind around a star.

SPIRAL

Turn still air into motion.

RHYTHM

Repeat a visual beat.

Compare the feeling

Which marks make a calm sky? Which make an excited sky?





+ YOUR BIBLICAL STARRY NIGHT

Borrow the idea. Make it yours.

Create an original night scene that guides the viewer toward one important light. Your picture may show Bethlehem, your neighborhood, a remembered place, or an imagined landscape.

1

Sketch a low horizon: hills, rooftops, trees, or water.

2

Place one guiding light where the viewer should look first.

3

Build movement with curves, dashes, spirals, and rhythm.

4

Repeat two cool colors, one warm color, and one light accent.

5

Add a path or figure to show a response: seek, go, worship, tell, or return.

PLAN OR CREATE YOUR MASTERPIECE HERE - USE A SEPARATE SHEET FOR MORE ROOM





✦ THE ARTIST'S TABLE

Explain choices - not who made the best picture.

A finished work becomes richer when the artist can notice, explain, connect, and encourage.

I NOTICED

What part feels most alive?

I CAN EXPLAIN

Which mark created movement?

I MADE IT MINE

What did you change or invent?

I CONNECTED

Which Scripture theme shaped a choice?

Older-student extension

Write 300-500 words: How does the artwork use observation, imagination, and biblical symbolism without confusing one for another? Cite the painting, one biblical passage, and one astronomy source. Save the artwork, statement, and time log as portfolio evidence.

Artwork title: _____





+ KEEP EXPLORING

One free study. A whole series ahead.

Van Gogh For It! invites families to encounter artists, places, science, history, Scripture, and technique through joyful, usable projects.

SOURCE TRAIL

Museum of Modern Art: The Starry Night, 1889. Van Gogh Museum: Vincent's colours and letters. NASA/JPL HORIZONS: historical ephemeris calculations. Primary biblical texts: Genesis 1; Numbers 24; Psalm 19; Isaiah 7 and 9; Micah 5; Matthew 2.

PARENT NOTE

Museum and astronomy sources help verify art and sky facts. Scripture supplies the story's theological claims. Where evidence remains debated, label the conclusion possible, plausible, uncertain, or unsupported.

Coming in the Van Gogh For It! series

- **Sunflowers** - gratitude, harvest & color
- **Olive Trees** - Gethsemane, place & texture
- **The Sower** - parables, agriculture & rhythm
- **Almond Blossom** - promise, watching & new life

Keep creating around the family table.

Download more free resources, join Sabbath Art Club updates, or explore WayPath Labs learning pathways at waypathlabs.com.

WAYPATHLABS.COM | BORN AROUND OUR FAMILY TABLE. BUILT FOR YOURS.

