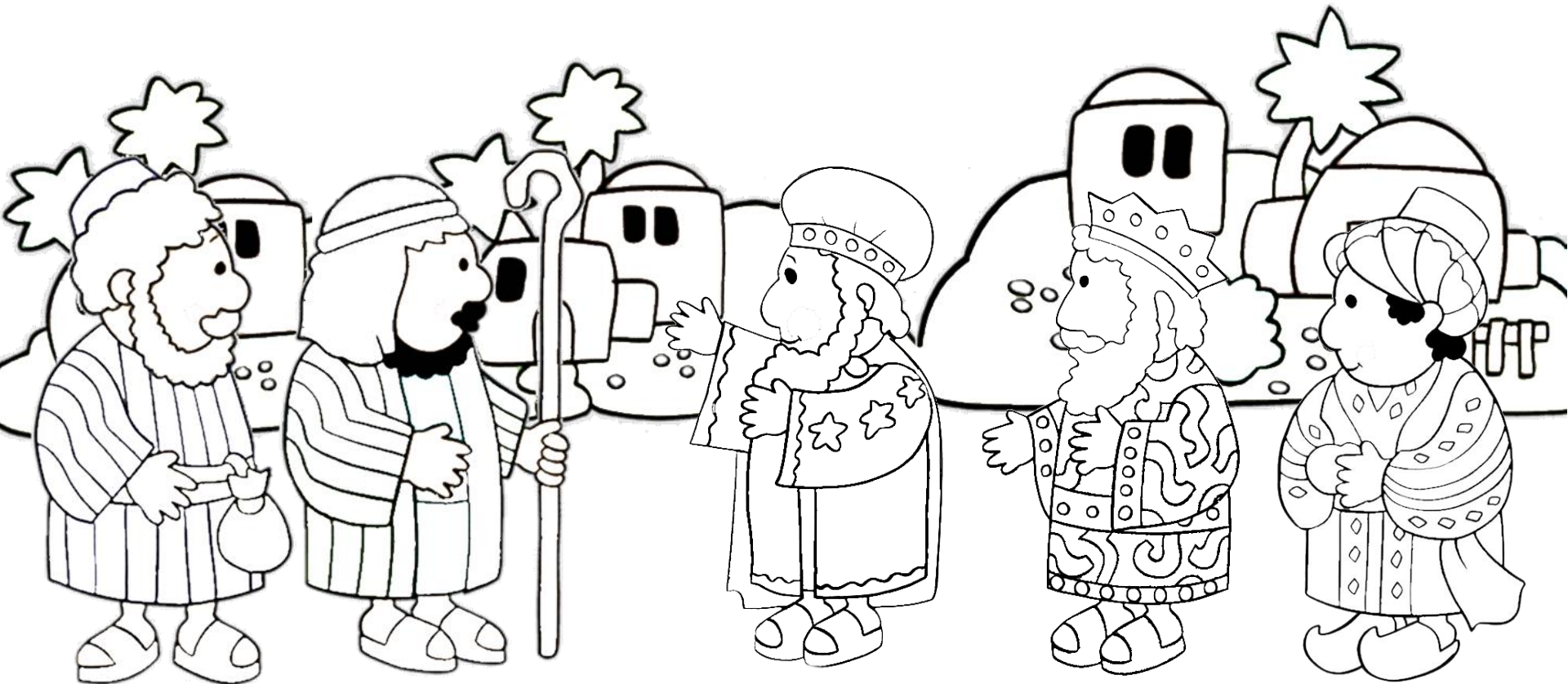


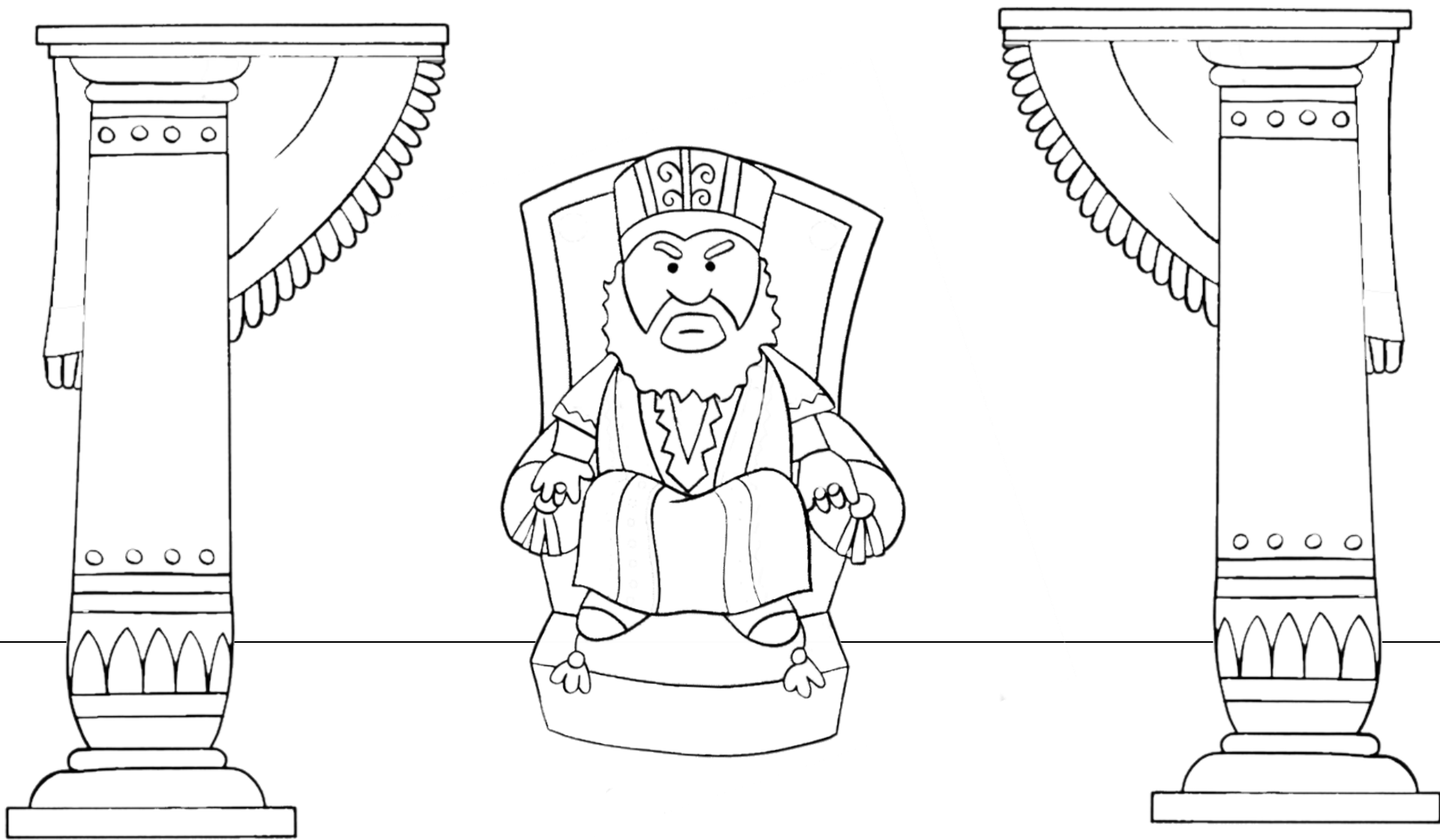
The First Epiphany

Wise men from countries far to the east saw an unusual star in the sky. They realized it meant a new king of the Jews had been born.

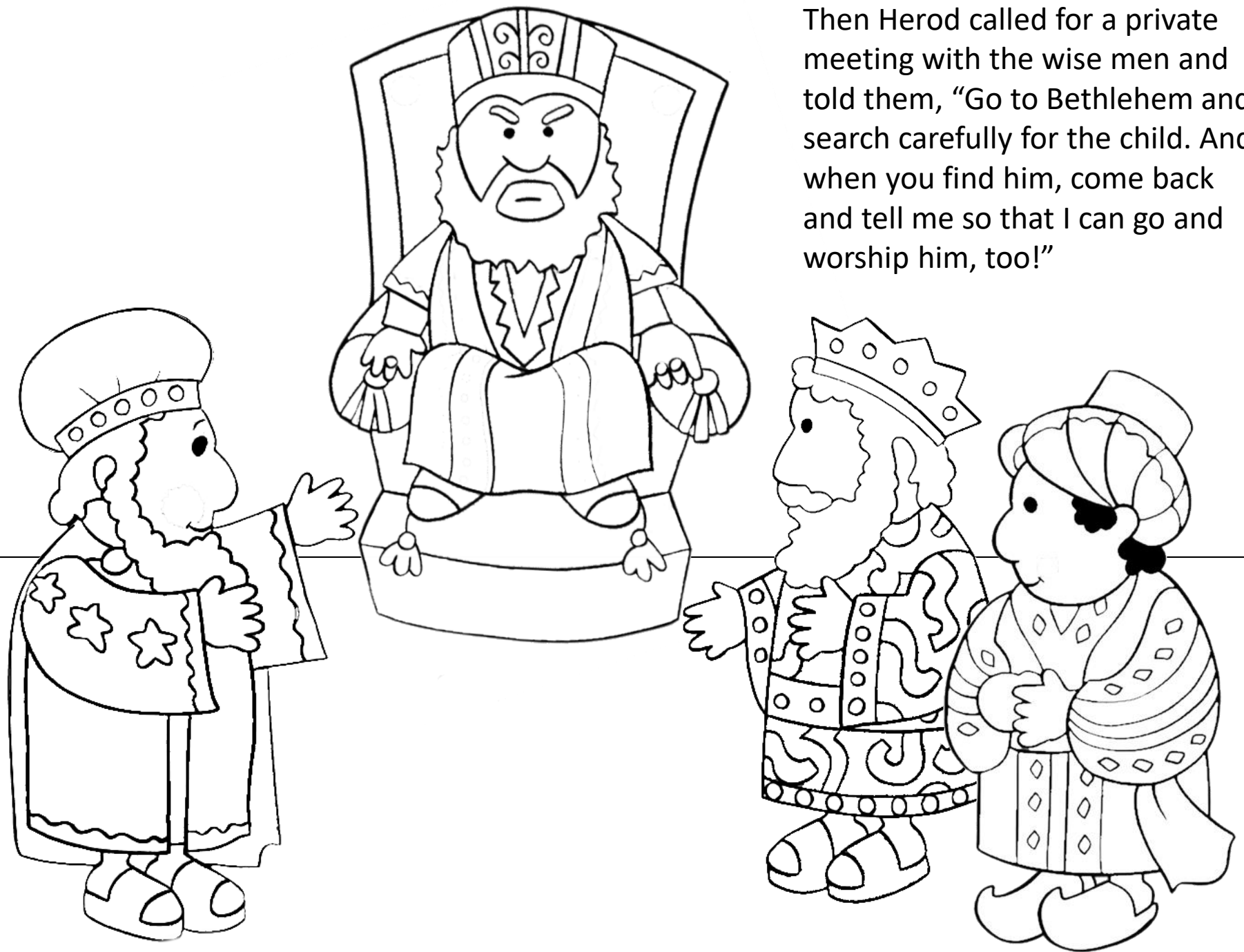


The wise men traveled a great distance to see this king. They came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."





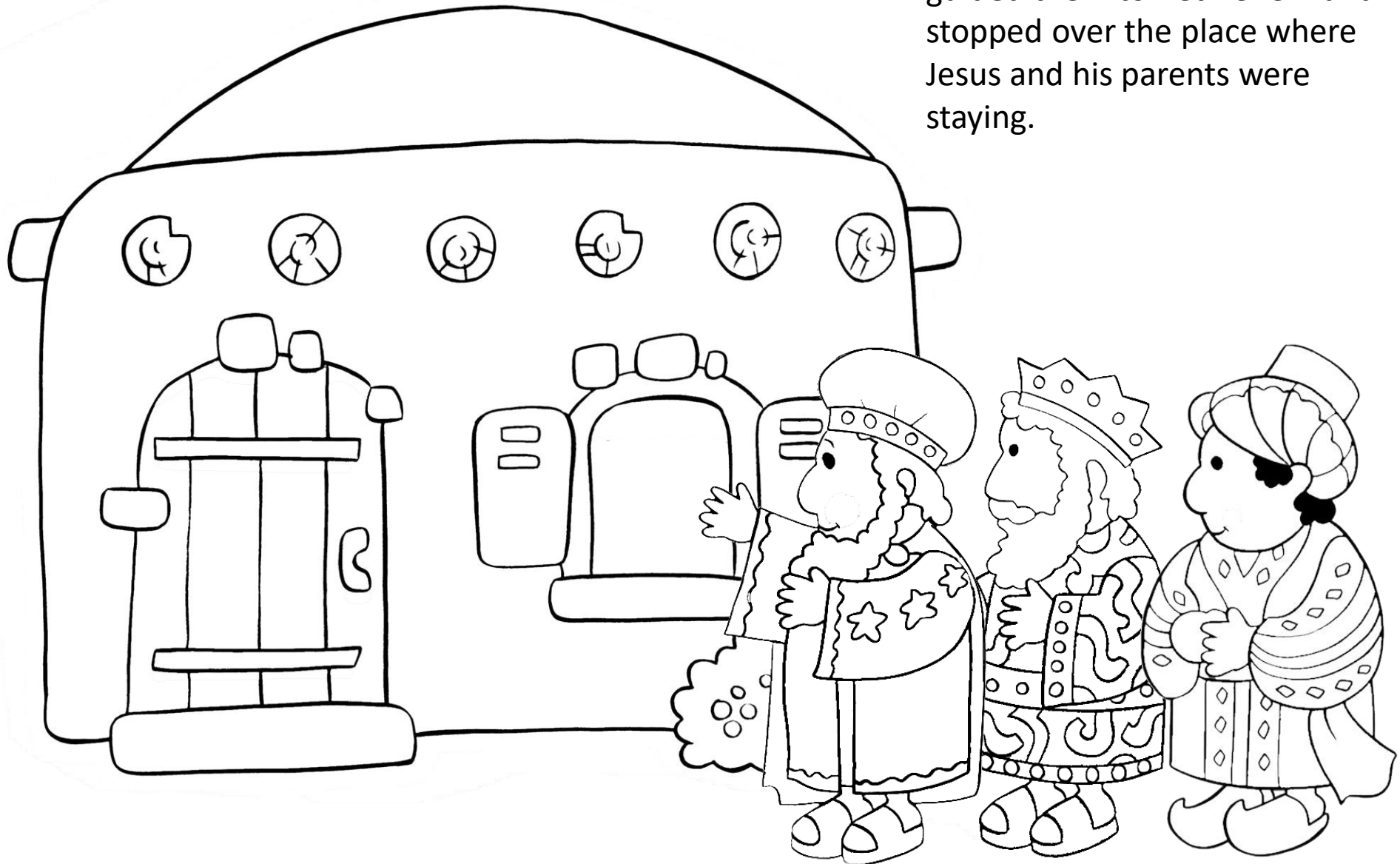
King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”
“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said.



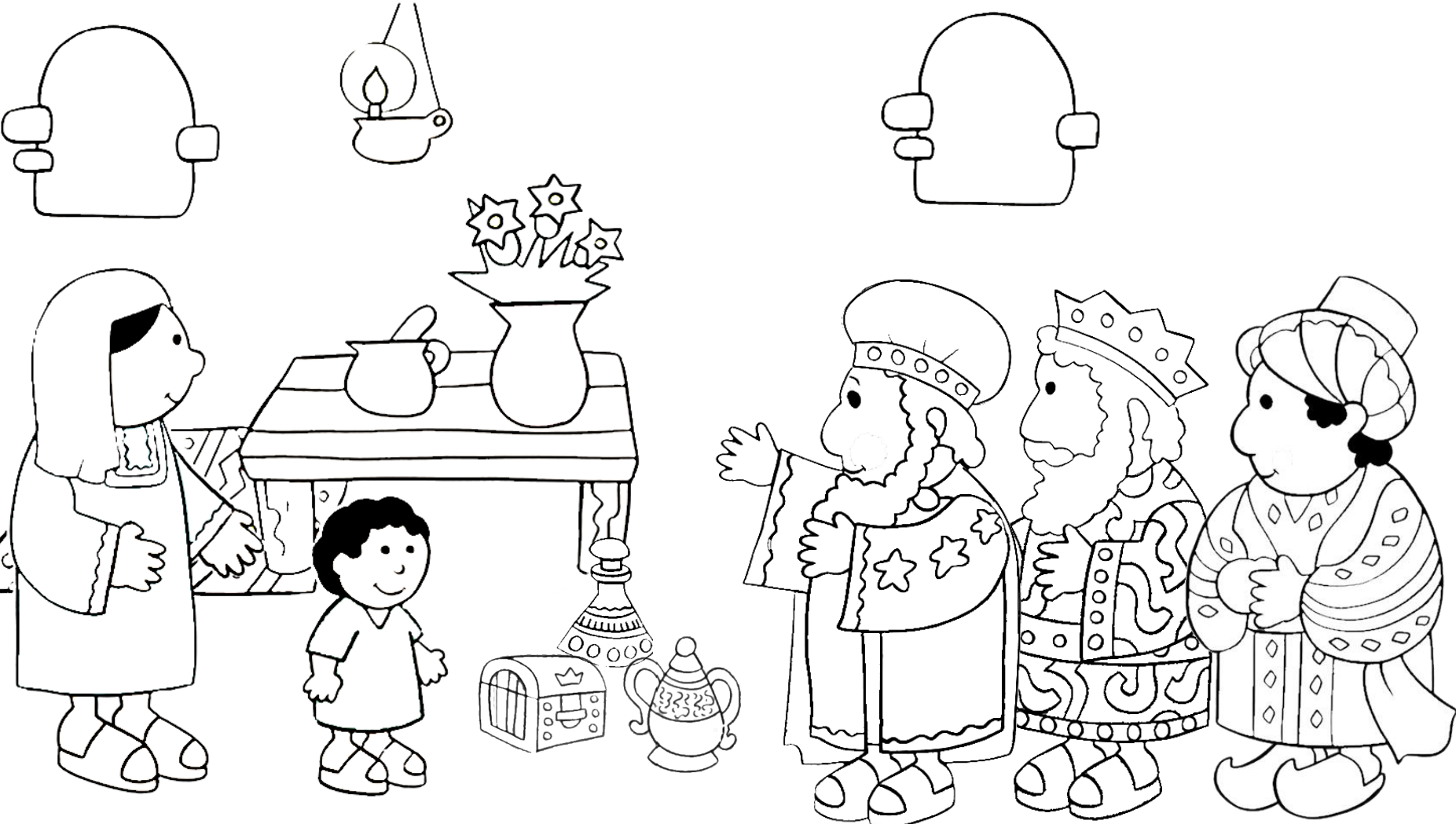
Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men and told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"



After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem and stopped over the place where Jesus and his parents were staying.

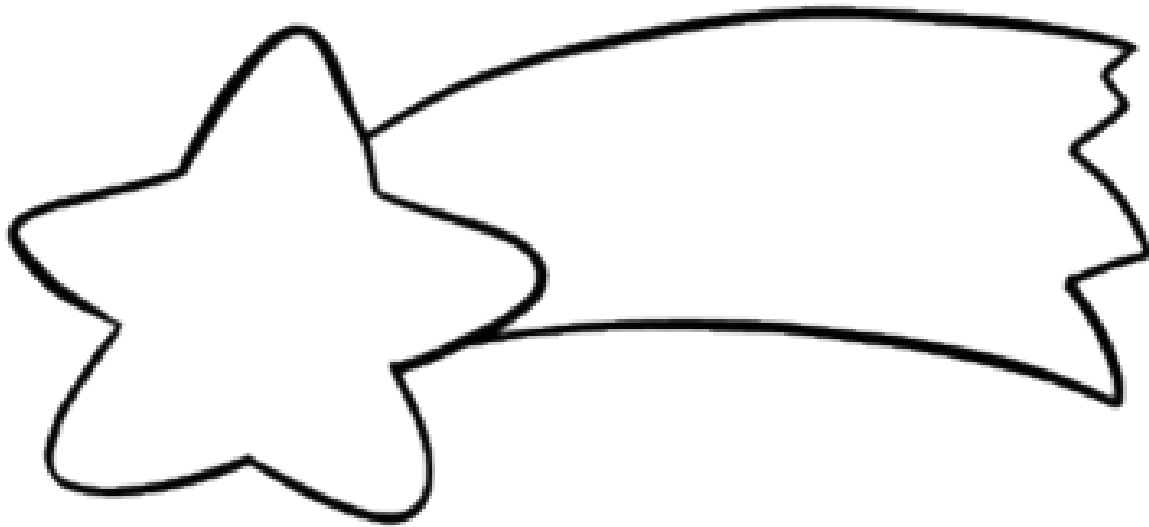


The wise men entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, because God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.





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