Printable Prayer Stations

Hope in the Waiting

Prayer stations can take lots of time to set up, but not these!

Here are six printable prayer stations that you can use ‘out of the box’ during the busy season of Advent and Christmas. They tie in with six weekly themes:

1. Hope in Silence (Waiting with Elizabeth and Zechariah)
2. Hope for a Better World (Waiting with Mary)
3. Hope in Uncertainty (Waiting with Joseph)
4. Hope Made Real (Waiting with the Shepherds)
5. Hope for the Long Haul (Waiting with Anna and Simeon)
6. Active Hope (Waiting with the Wise Men)

The prayer stations would complement this series, but would also work if you are not using it elsewhere.

Simply:

1. Print the following six pages (in colour if possible, but they are designed to work in black and white too).
2. Display them around your space. You can leave it at this, or add to the stations with soft furnishings, fabric and lighting.
3. Encourage people to lead self-guided times of prayer throughout Advent and Christmas.

Enjoy sharing the hope of Jesus in this season of waiting!

Waiting with ...

Elizabeth and Zechariah



This prayer station is an invitation to wait on God in the silence of disappointment.

We all carry disappointments.
They can weigh heavily on us,
and silently rob us of our joy.

Name them.

Elizabeth and Zechariah knew this silence, and this sadness.

Quietly wait with them for a while.
You might like to open your hands,
releasing to God what you are carrying.

God of impossible beginnings, help us trust that even in the longest silence, your faithful love remains. We place our hopes, our fears and our future in your hands.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

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Waiting with ... Mary



My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will
call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done
great things for me –
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds
with his arm;
he has scattered those who are
proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers
from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants for ever,
just as he promised our ancestors.



This prayer station is a space to pause with the radical words of Mary's song, traditionally known as the Magnificat.

In a world where so much is not right, Mary's song looks beyond what is and trusts in what God is bringing about.

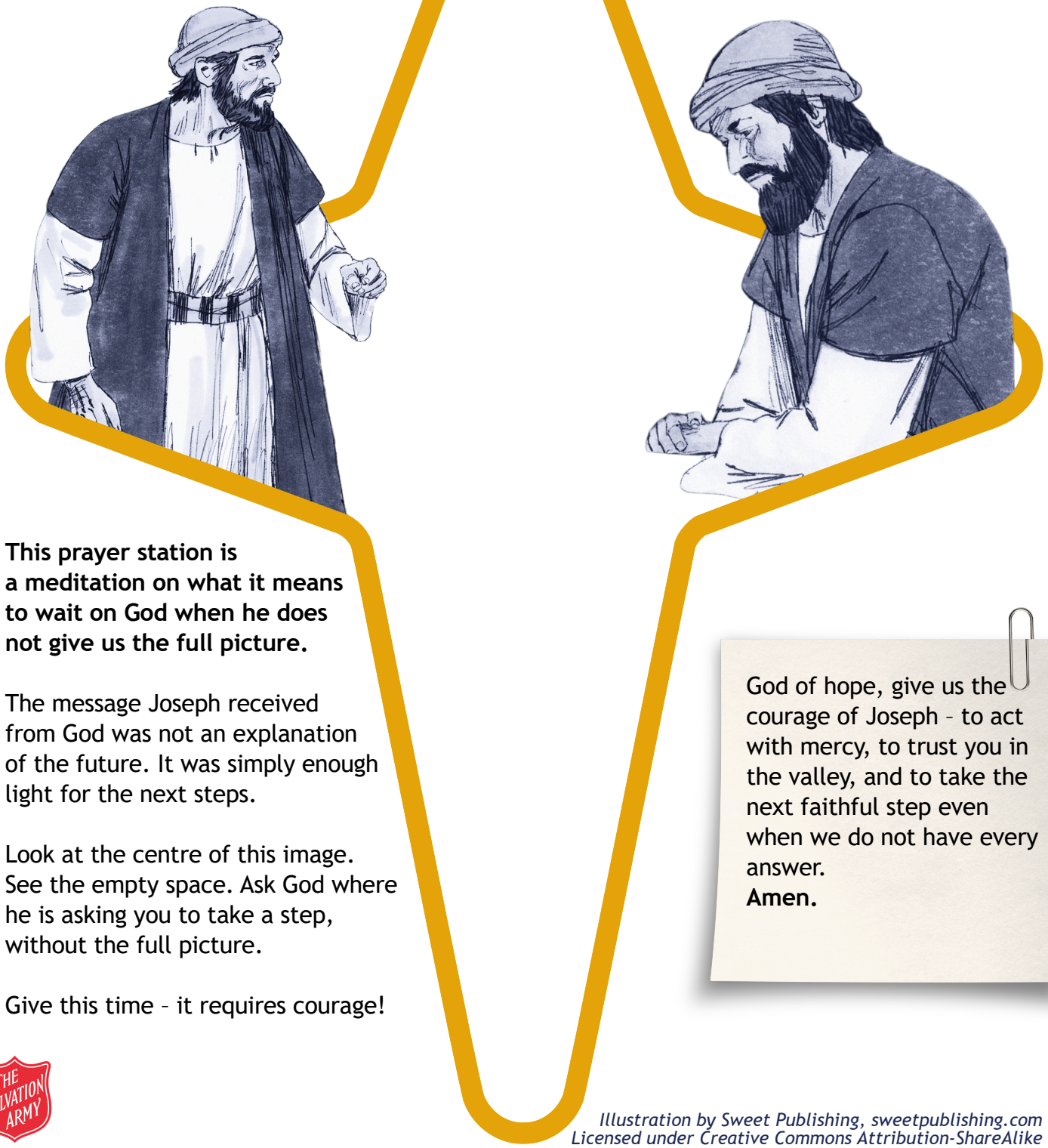
Find Luke 1:46-55 in a translation of your choosing, and allow yourself to dwell on the word(s) or phrase(s) that stand out.

Luke 1:46–55
NIV

Father, we pray that your Kingdom would come, and your will would be done, in our lives, in our communities, and in your world, today.
Amen.

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Waiting with ... Joseph



This prayer station is a meditation on what it means to wait on God when he does not give us the full picture.

The message Joseph received from God was not an explanation of the future. It was simply enough light for the next steps.

Look at the centre of this image. See the empty space. Ask God where he is asking you to take a step, without the full picture.

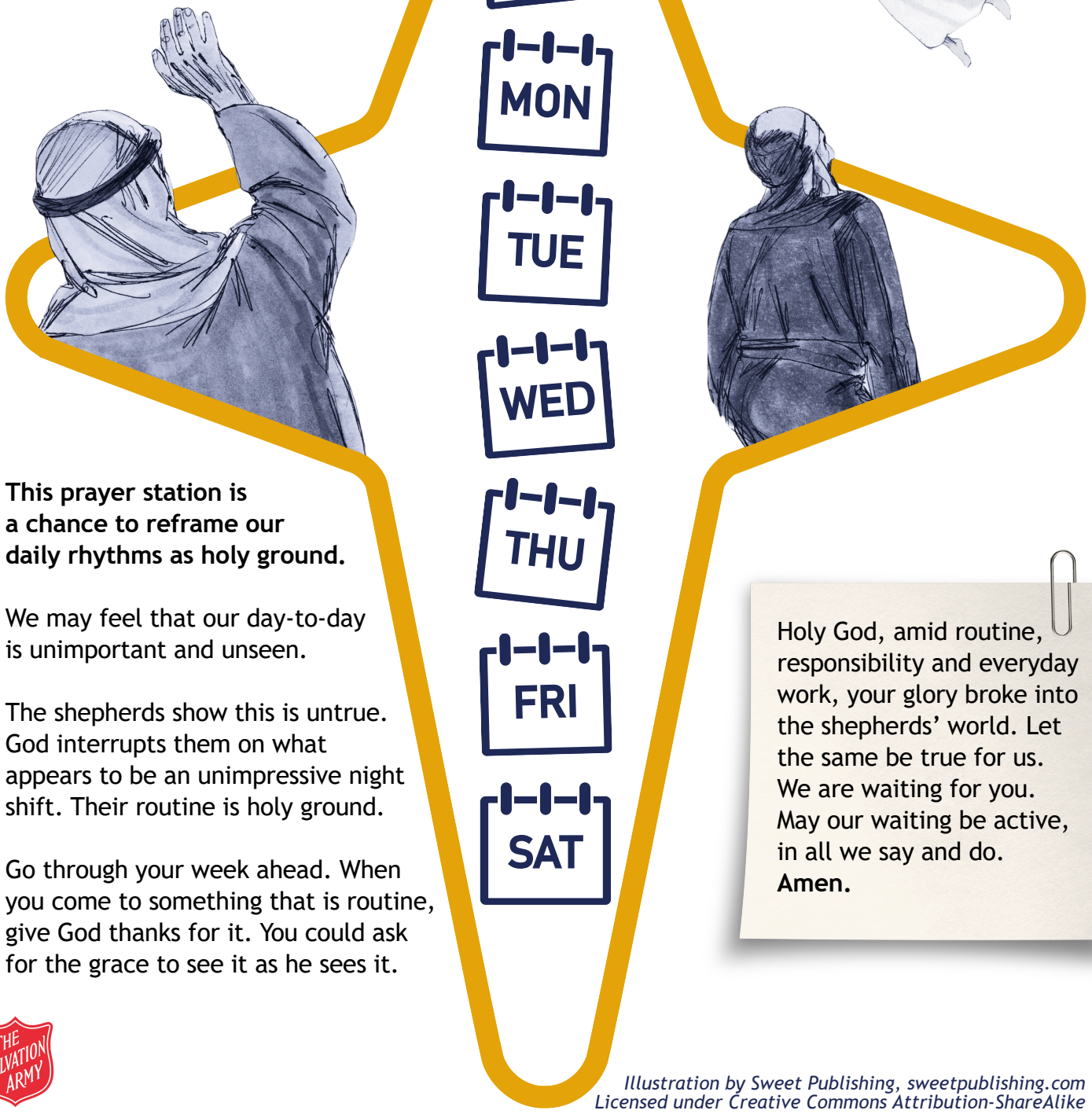
Give this time – it requires courage!

God of hope, give us the courage of Joseph – to act with mercy, to trust you in the valley, and to take the next faithful step even when we do not have every answer.
Amen.

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Waiting with ... the Shepherds





This prayer station is a chance to reframe our daily rhythms as holy ground.

We may feel that our day-to-day is unimportant and unseen.

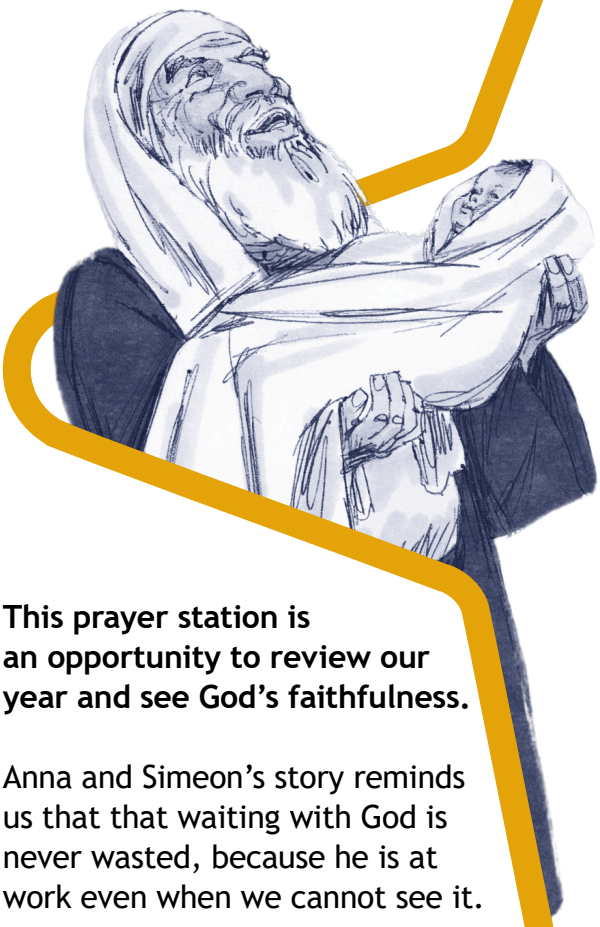
The shepherds show this is untrue. God interrupts them on what appears to be an unimpressive night shift. Their routine is holy ground.

Go through your week ahead. When you come to something that is routine, give God thanks for it. You could ask for the grace to see it as he sees it.

Holy God, amid routine, responsibility and everyday work, your glory broke into the shepherds' world. Let the same be true for us. We are waiting for you. May our waiting be active, in all we say and do.
Amen.

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Waiting with ... Anna and Simeon



T.

S.

P.



This prayer station is an opportunity to review our year and see God's faithfulness.

Anna and Simeon's story reminds us that that waiting with God is never wasted, because he is at work even when we cannot see it.

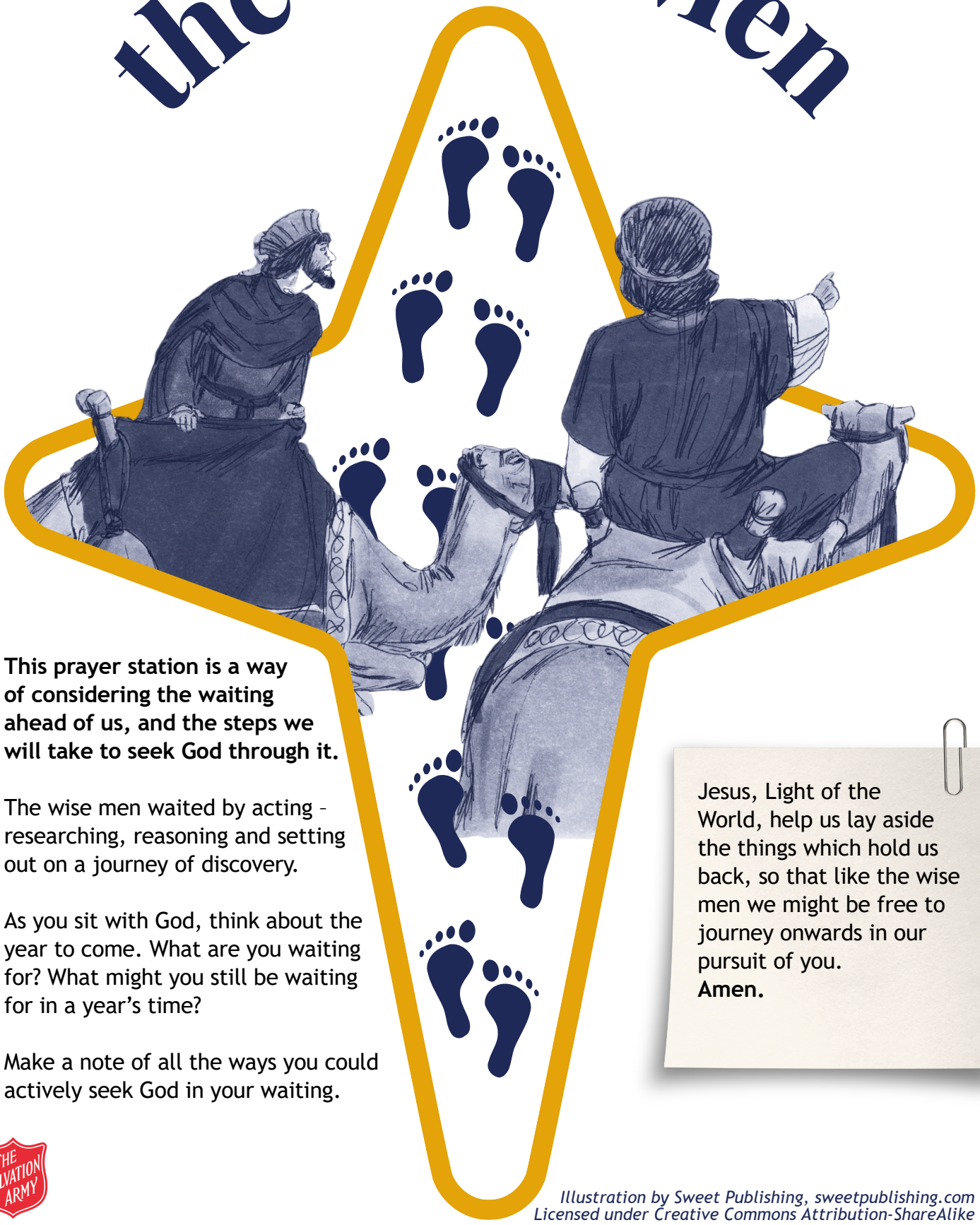
Use this simple 'teaspoon' prayer in three parts to look back over the past year. Start each part with the following words:
T. Thank you ...
S. Sorry ...
P. Please ...

Faithful God, you are with us in every season. Like Anna and Simeon, help us look back and see your hand at work, even in those seasons that feel long, cold and dark.
Amen.

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Waiting with ...

the Wise Men



This prayer station is a way of considering the waiting ahead of us, and the steps we will take to seek God through it.

The wise men waited by acting – researching, reasoning and setting out on a journey of discovery.

As you sit with God, think about the year to come. What are you waiting for? What might you still be waiting for in a year's time?

Make a note of all the ways you could actively seek God in your waiting.

Jesus, Light of the World, help us lay aside the things which hold us back, so that like the wise men we might be free to journey onwards in our pursuit of you.
Amen.

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