



DIY Christmas Decorations Guide



**Leprosy
Mission**
Southern Africa



SPOT IT



TREAT IT



STOP IT



PREACH IT

Every decoration you make can be a small reminder of the light, hope and healing shared by The Leprosy Mission Southern Africa — helping people affected by leprosy rebuild their lives.



Cookie Christmas Tree Ornaments:

Create special cookie Christmas tree ornaments, not just to decorate your home, but to reflect hope and healing through The Leprosy Mission Southern Africa.

How your tree works

1. Bake or craft your cookie ornaments (or use paper if you prefer) following the recipe instructions.
2. As you decorate each piece, think or pray for someone being helped by the Leprosy Mission.
3. For each ornament you make, consider a small gift of a donation to the cause — your gift helps Leprosy Mission provide care, training and hope.
4. Share a photo of your ornaments on social media, tag us and use a hashtag like #TreeOfHopeForTheLeprosyMission so we can raise awareness together.

Recipe:

These simple, delicious biscuits are perfect for hanging on your Christmas tree or turning into a cookie garland. Use Christmas-themed cookie cutters – or one of the printable stencils provided – and remember to make a small hole before baking so you can thread your ribbon through afterward.



Ingredients:

(Makes about 20 medium-sized cookie ornaments)

- 250 g cake flour
- 125 g butter or baking margarine, softened
- 100 g (½ cup) white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla essence (or almond essence for variety)
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon or mixed spice (optional)
- Pinch of salt
- Ribbon or string (for tying or creating a garland once baked)

For topping (choose one):

- A light dusting of cinnamon and caster sugar before baking, or
- Icing sugar to dust after baking, or
- Basic icing (see below)

Basic Icing (optional):

- 1 cup icing sugar
- 1–2 tsp milk or water
- A few drops of vanilla or lemon essence
- Food colouring (optional)

Mix until smooth and thick enough to spread or pipe.

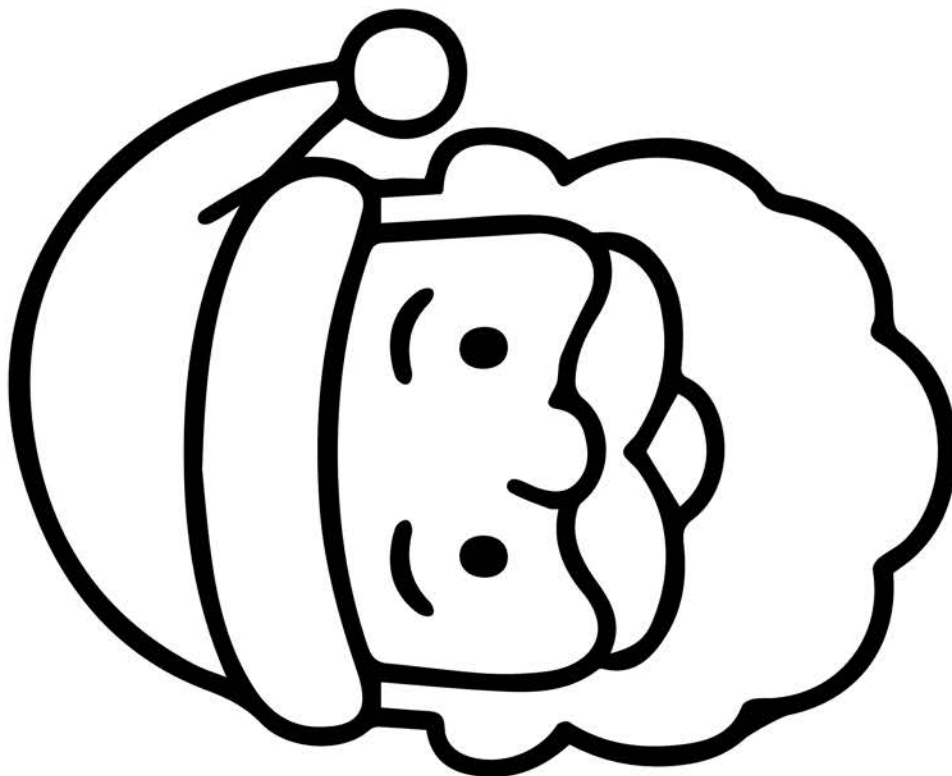
Instructions:

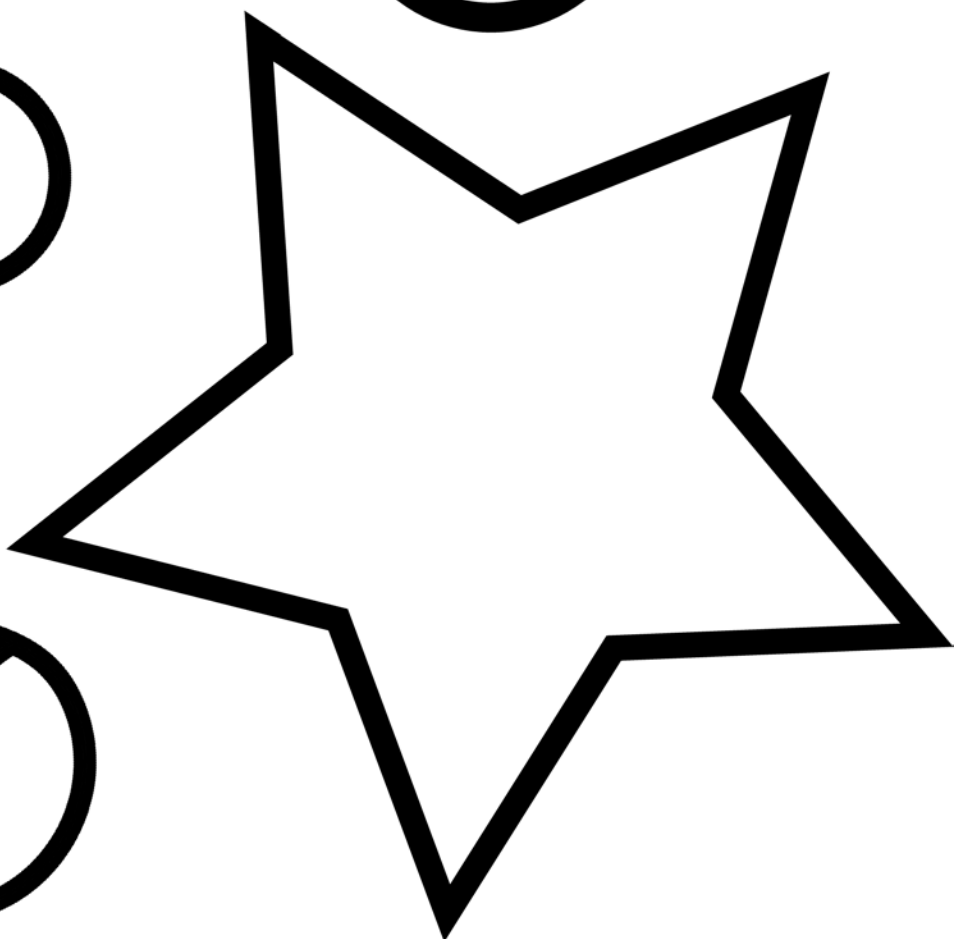
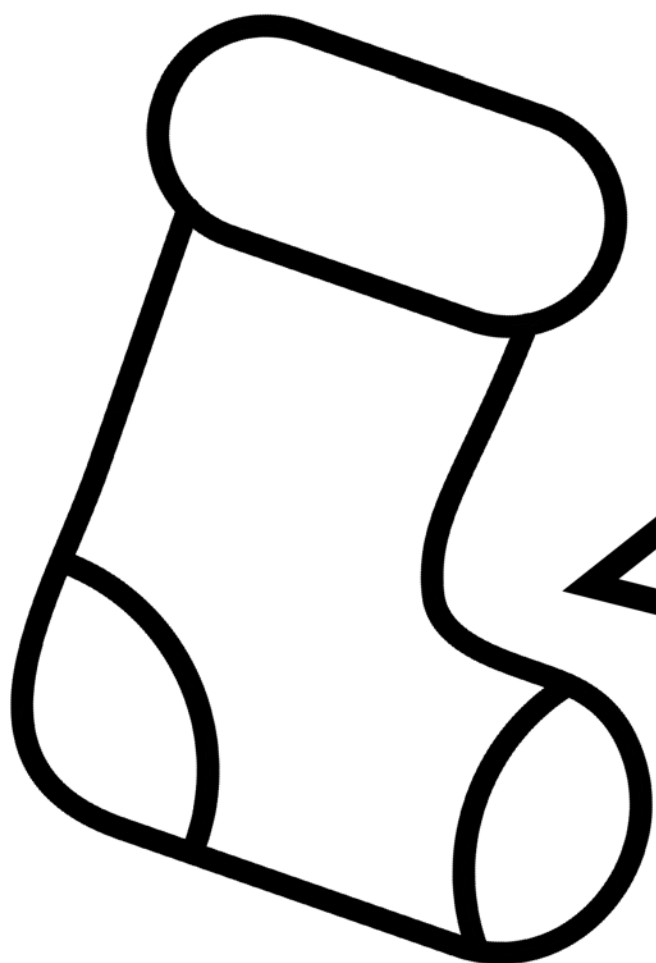
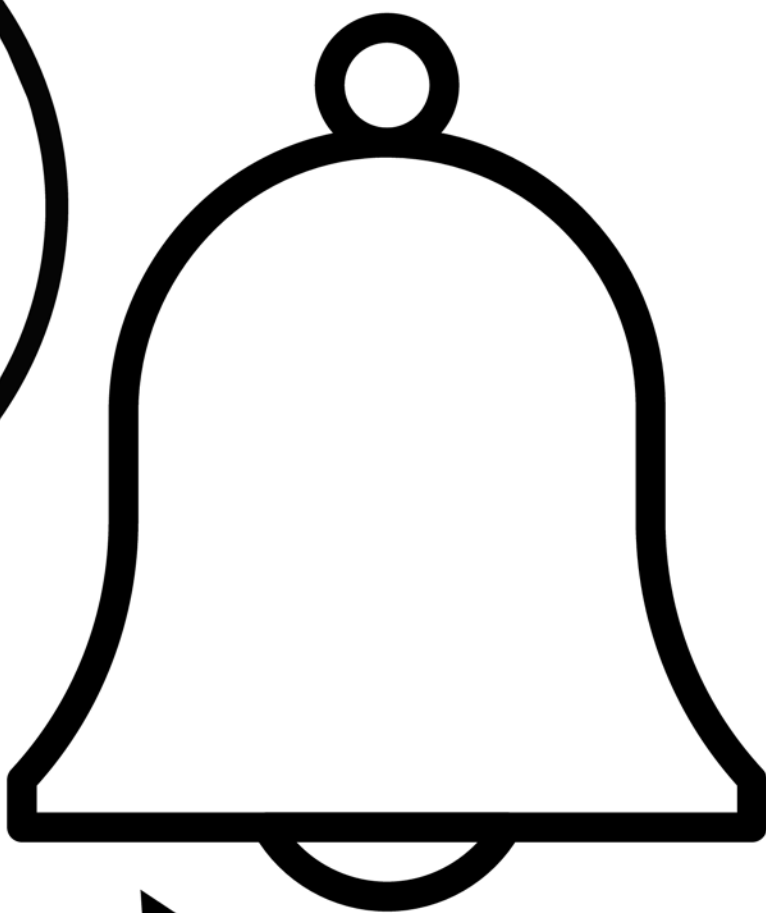
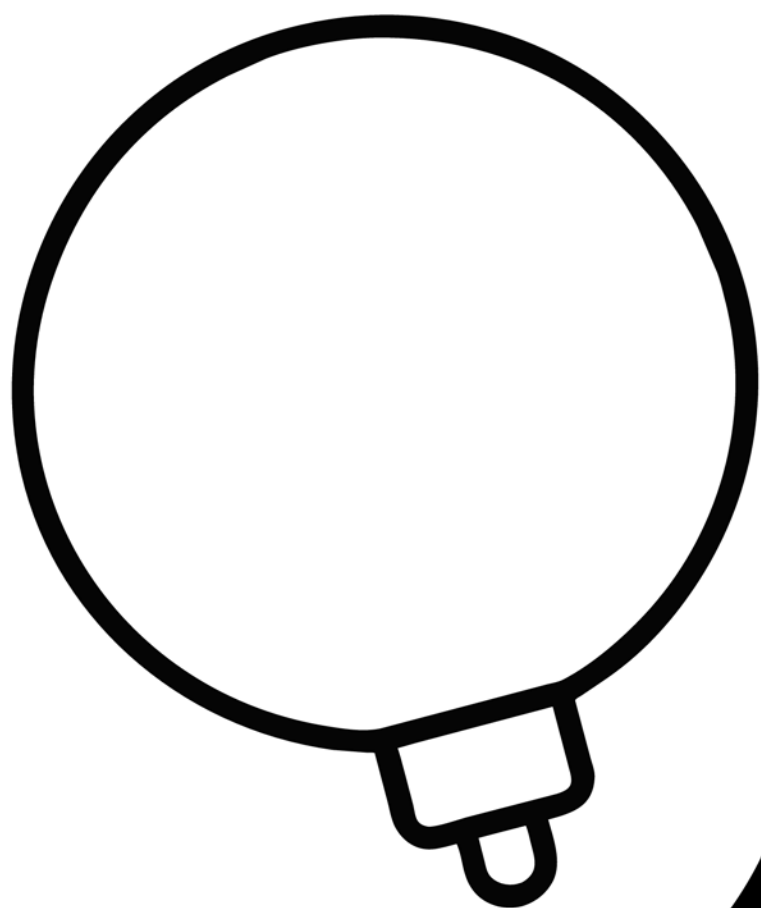
1. Preheat the oven to 180 °C and line two baking trays with baking paper.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together in a large bowl until pale and fluffy.
3. Add the egg and vanilla essence, beating until well combined.
4. Sift in the flour, salt, and cinnamon (if using). Mix to form a soft dough.
 - If the dough feels sticky, add a tablespoon or two of extra flour.
5. Wrap the dough in cling film and refrigerate for 20–30 minutes to make it easier to roll.
6. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about ½ cm thickness.
7. Cut out shapes using Christmas-themed cookie cutters — stars, angels, hearts, or trees — or trace around one of the stencils provided.
8. Make a small hole near the top of each cookie using a straw, chopstick, or skewer.
 - This is where you'll thread your ribbon later for hanging.
9. Transfer the cookies to the prepared trays.
 - If you'd like a sugar topping, sprinkle lightly with a mix of cinnamon and caster sugar now.
10. Bake for 10–12 minutes, or until the edges are lightly golden.
11. Cool completely on a wire rack. They'll firm up as they cool.
1. Decorate (optional):
 - Leave plain and dust with icing sugar for a simple rustic look.
 - Or pipe on icing designs once cool — snowflakes, dots, outlines, or stars.
 - Add edible glitter or sprinkles for a festive sparkle.
2. Once icing is completely dry, thread ribbon or string through each hole to:
 - Hang on your Christmas tree, or
 - Loop together to make a cookie garland.



Stencils:

- Print and cut out these stencils and use them to shape your cookies.





Chain garland

Many people don't realise that leprosy still affects around 100 new people every year in South Africa. Leprosy Mission South Africa is a Christian charity helping those affected to receive treatment, prevent disability, rebuild dignity and break the chains of stigma.

Instructions:

1. Cut out the strips.
2. Form the first strip into a loop and glue or tape the ends together.
3. Thread the next strip through the loop, then glue or tape it closed.
4. Keep adding strips until your garland is the length you want.



HOPE



FAITH



LOVE



GRACE

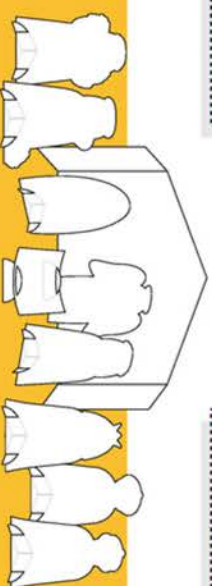
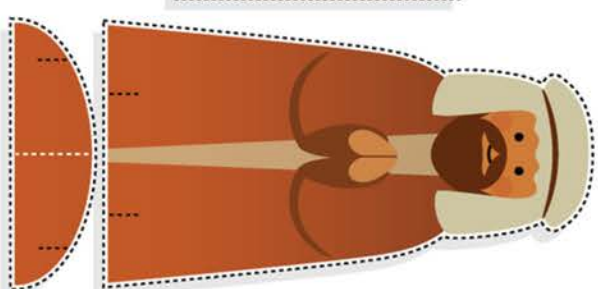
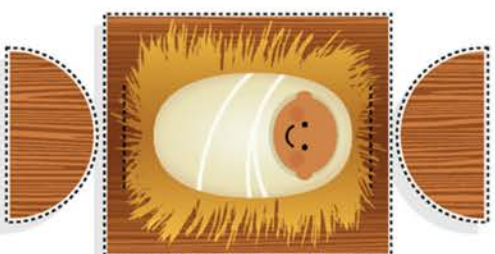
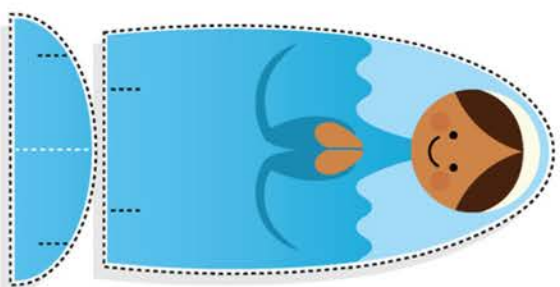
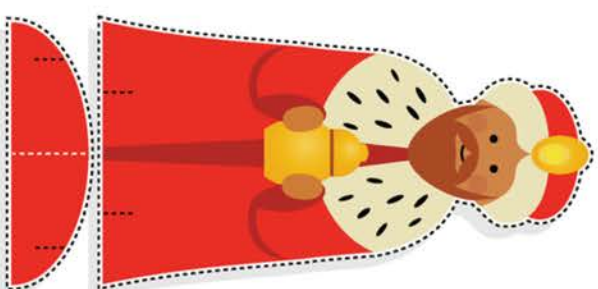
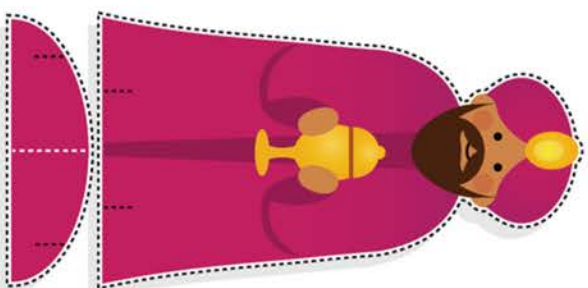
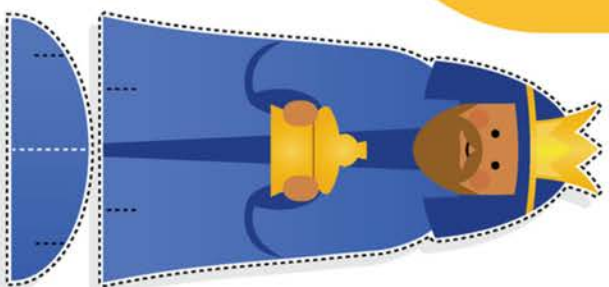
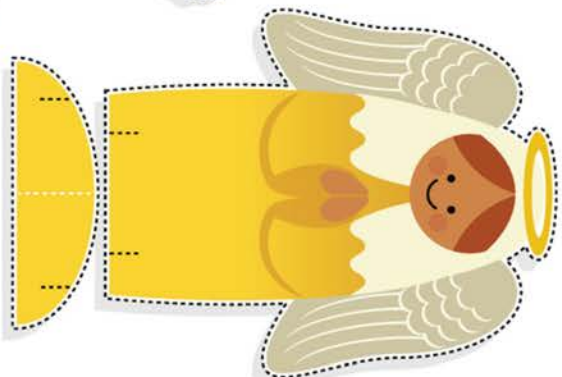
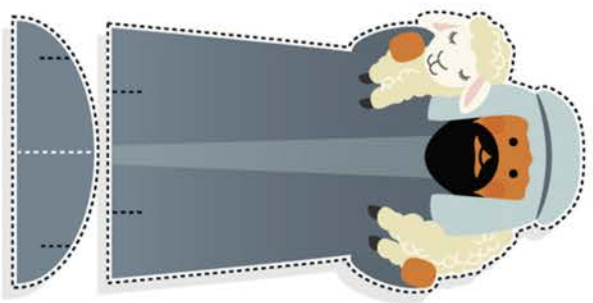


GENEROSITY



LIGHT

3D Nativity Scene

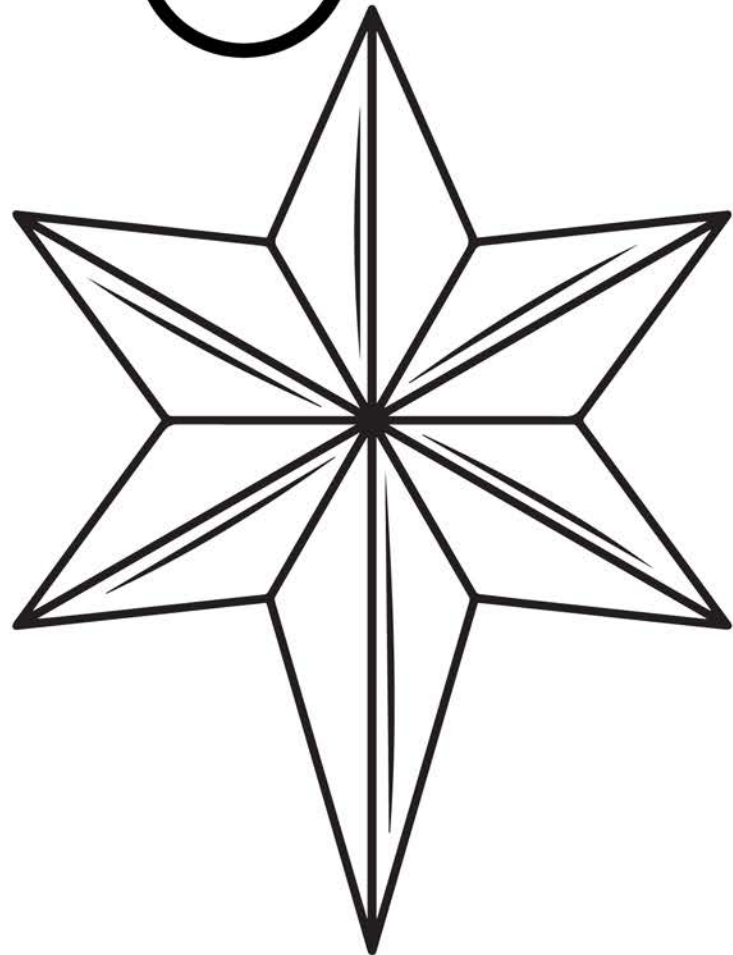
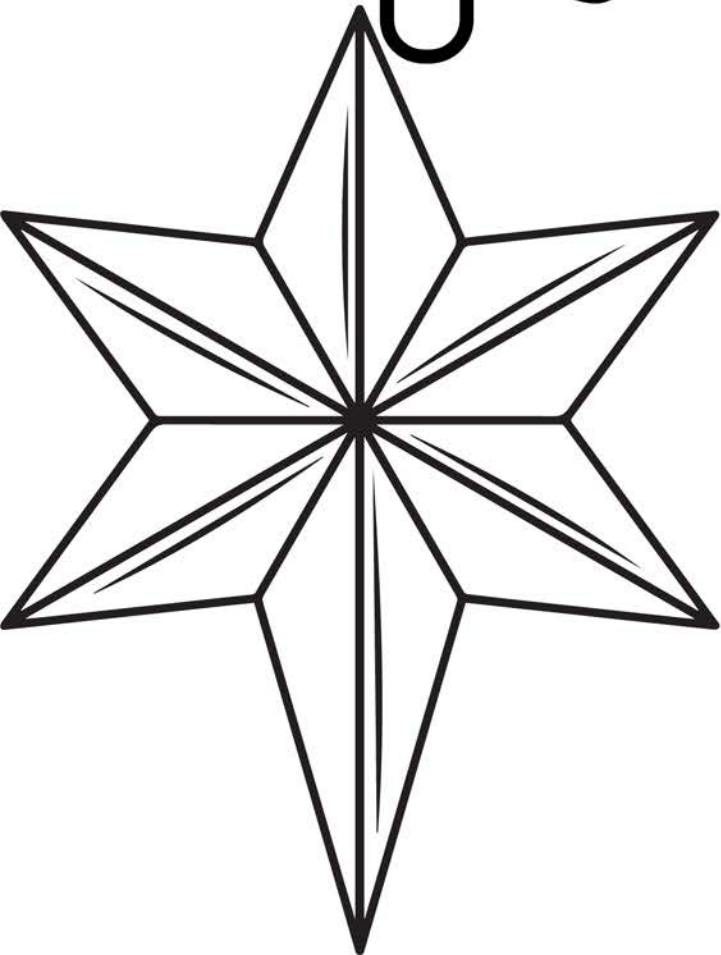
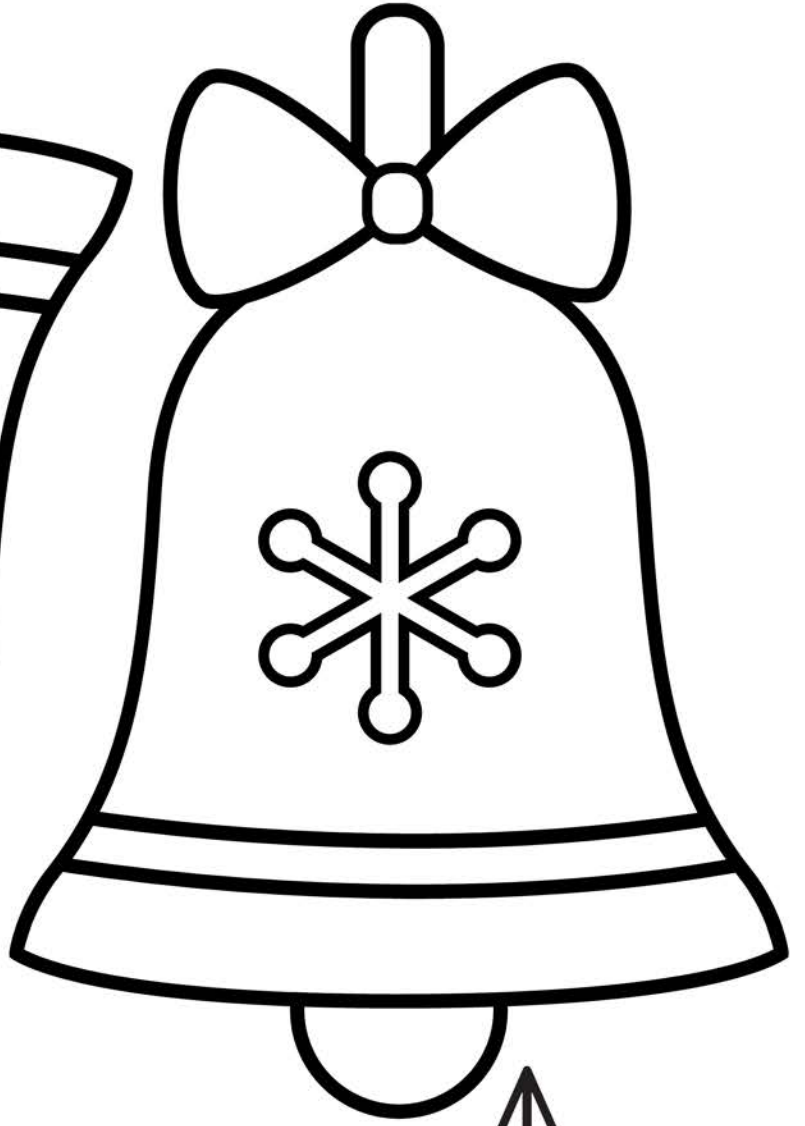
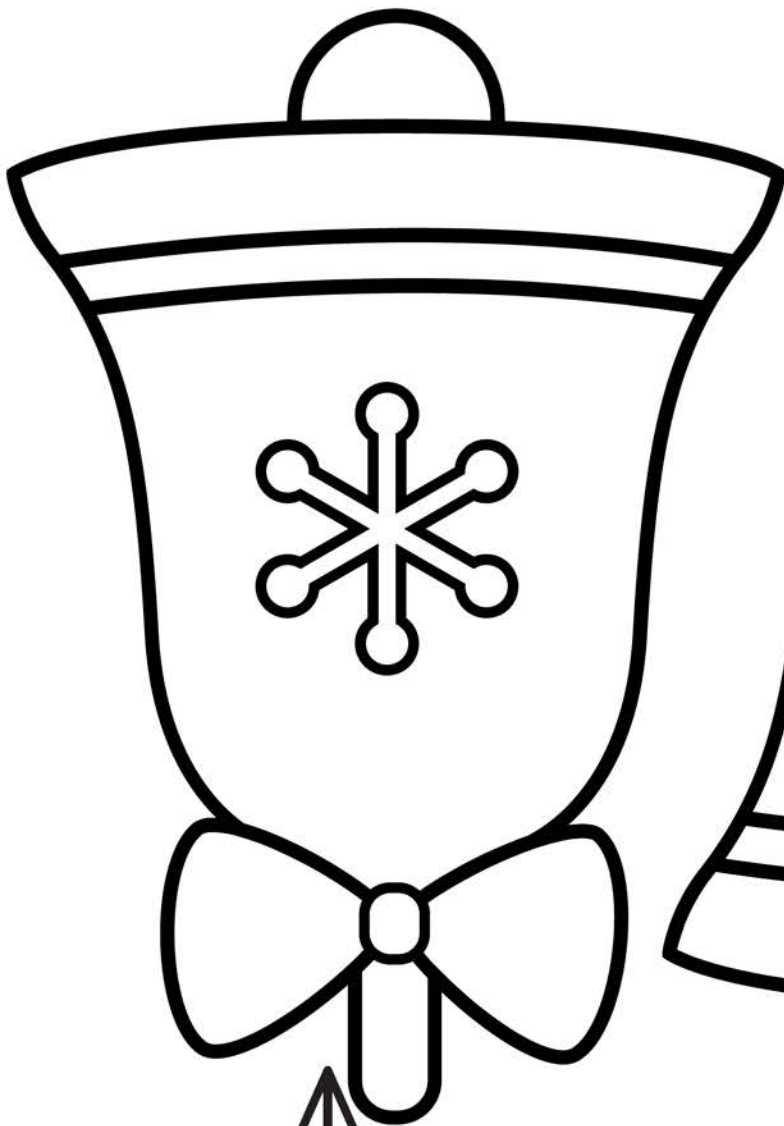


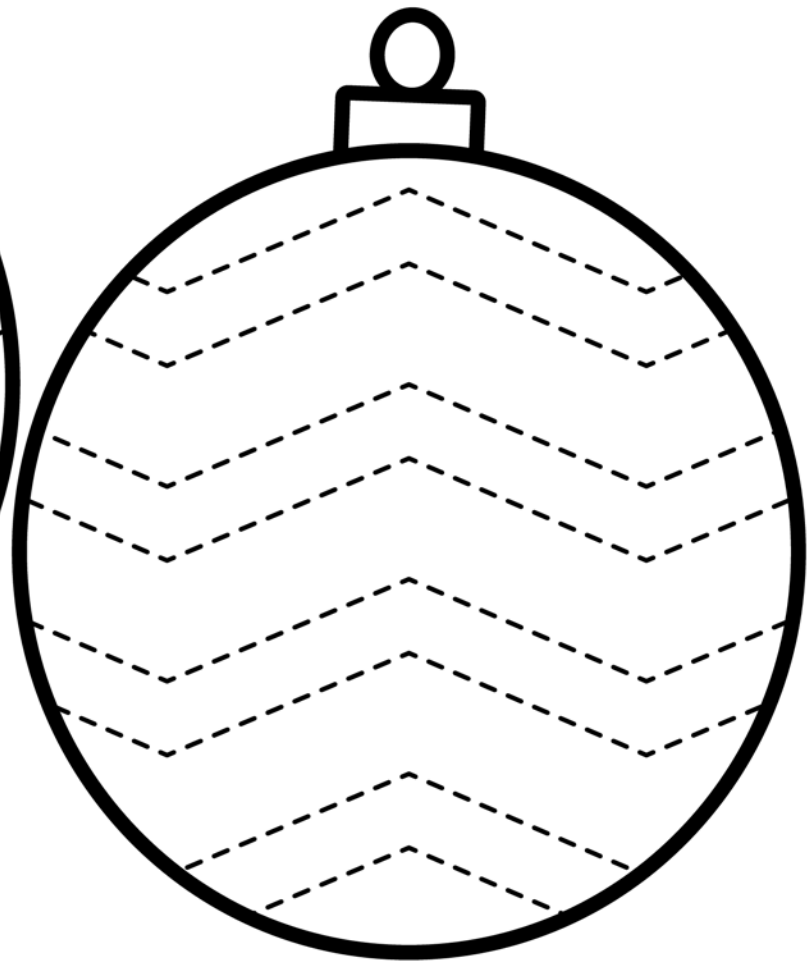
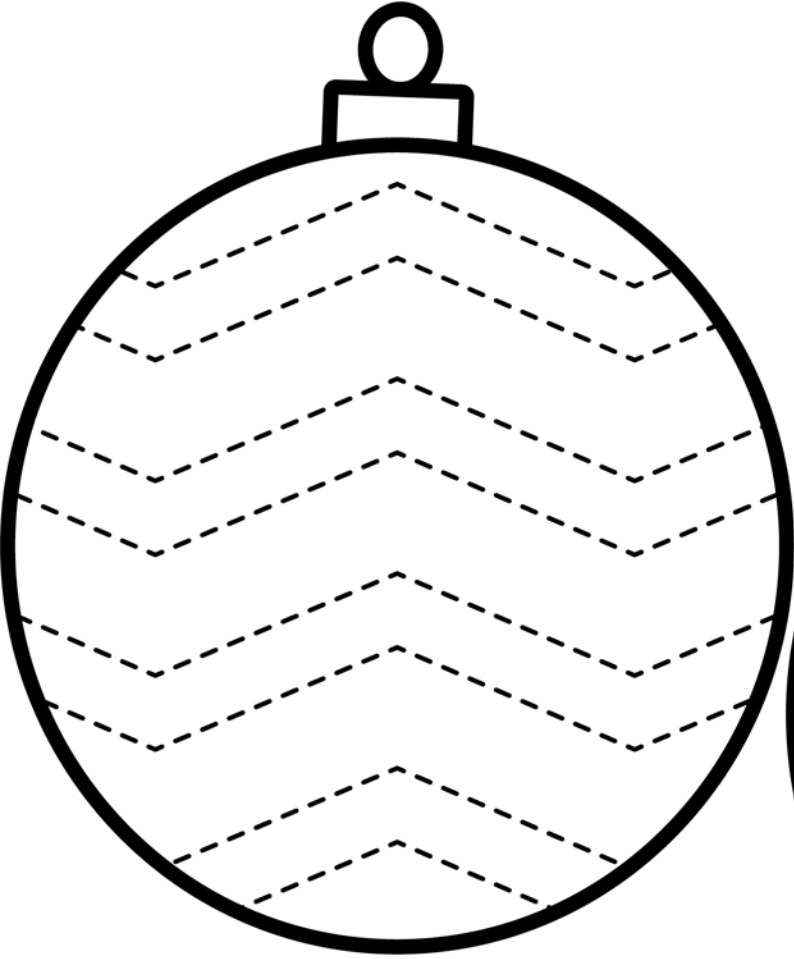
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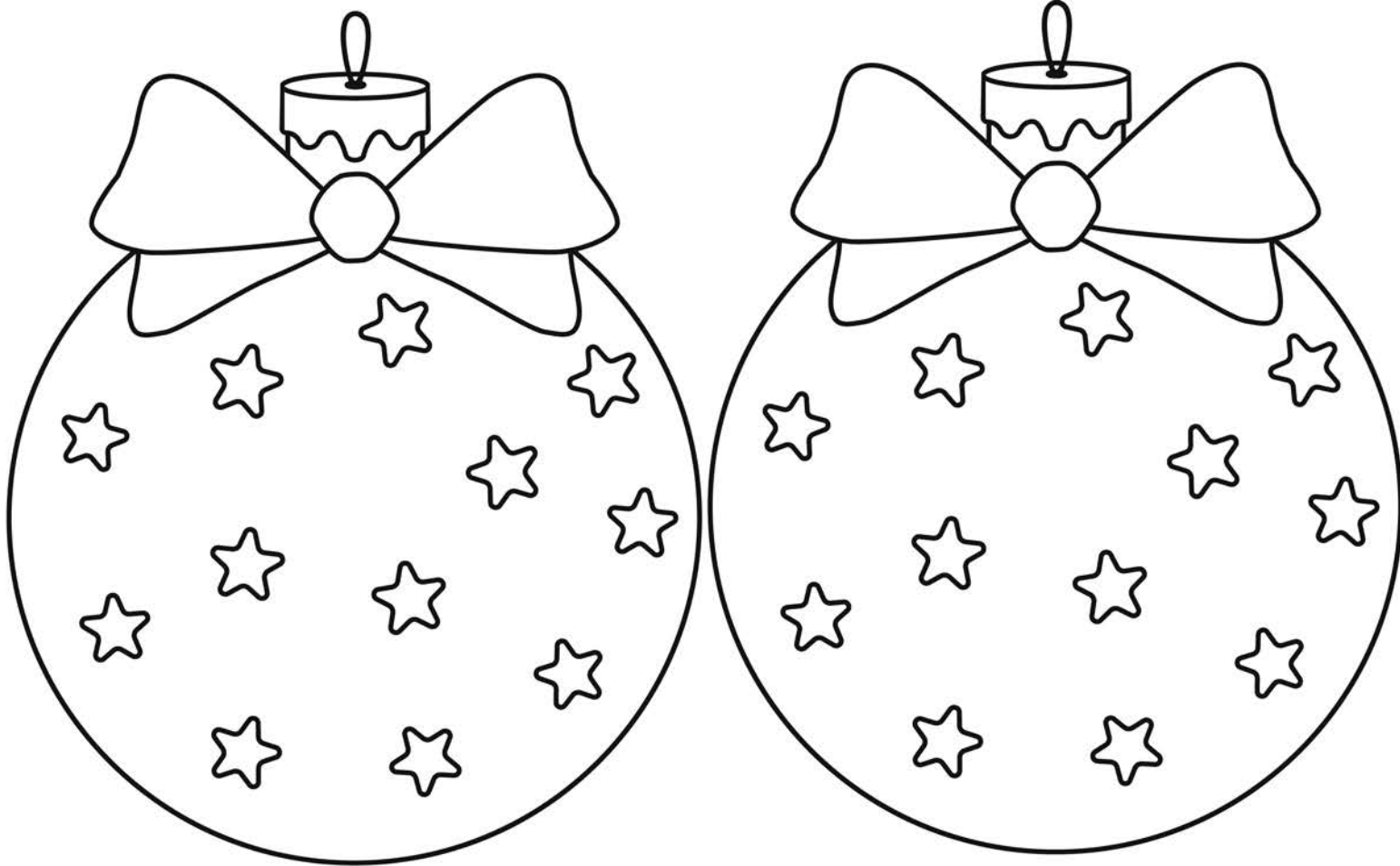
----- CUT LINES ----- FOLD LINES

Christmas tree decorations.

Print, cut out, colour in and stick these together with a string in between to make your very own hanging Christmas tree decorations. This activity is fun for the whole family.







THANK YOU

Thank you for downloading our DIY Christmas Decorations Guide.
We hope you and your family enjoy creating these festive decorations together!
If you'd like to show your support this Christmas, please send your gift here:

<https://leprosymissionsouthernafrica.org.za/make-a-donation/>

Or simply scan the QR code or make an EFT to support our mission of bringing healing, dignity, and hope to those affected by leprosy.

Bank: First National Bank

Account name: Leprosy Mission No 2 account

Account number: 51471056974

Account type: Current

Branch name: Balfour Park

Branch sorting code: 212217

Please use your phone number as the beneficiary reference, so that we can thank you.



Disclaimer

This guide is for entertainment purposes only and not for resale.

Please consult your doctor if you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies before preparing the cookie recipes.