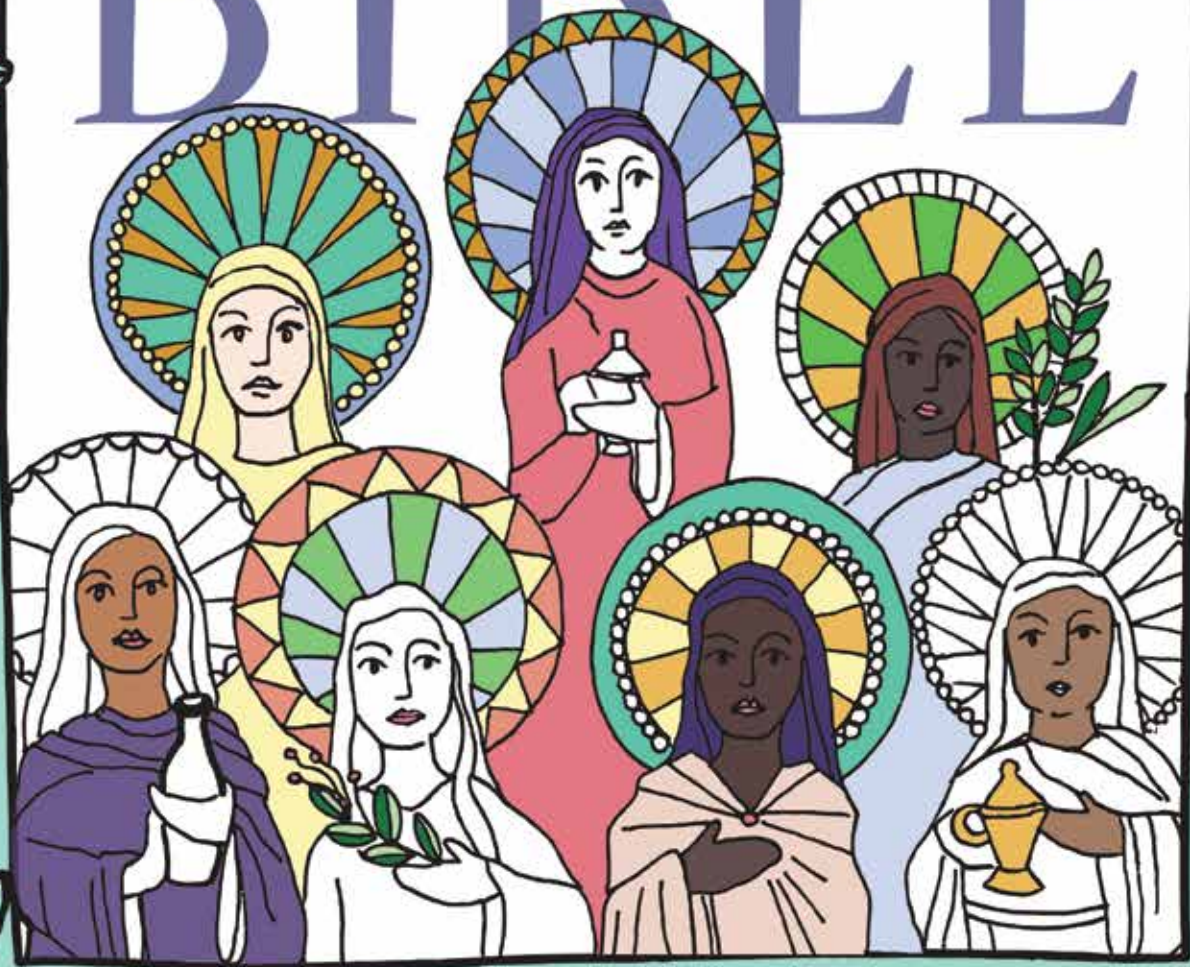


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COVER: The Myrrhbearing Women

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1. GOD-ADORNED: THE MOTHER

I am your Mother, do not forsake me! Say it with me: I am your Mother!

*Before I conceived you, before I extended the cord of love to you,
before you were cradled by the overflowing streams of my womb, I loved you.*

Return to me, again and again.

*As I send you forth, in your adventures,
always return to me—
wherever you are found.*

I will comfort you.

I am your Mother.

I will always be your Mother.

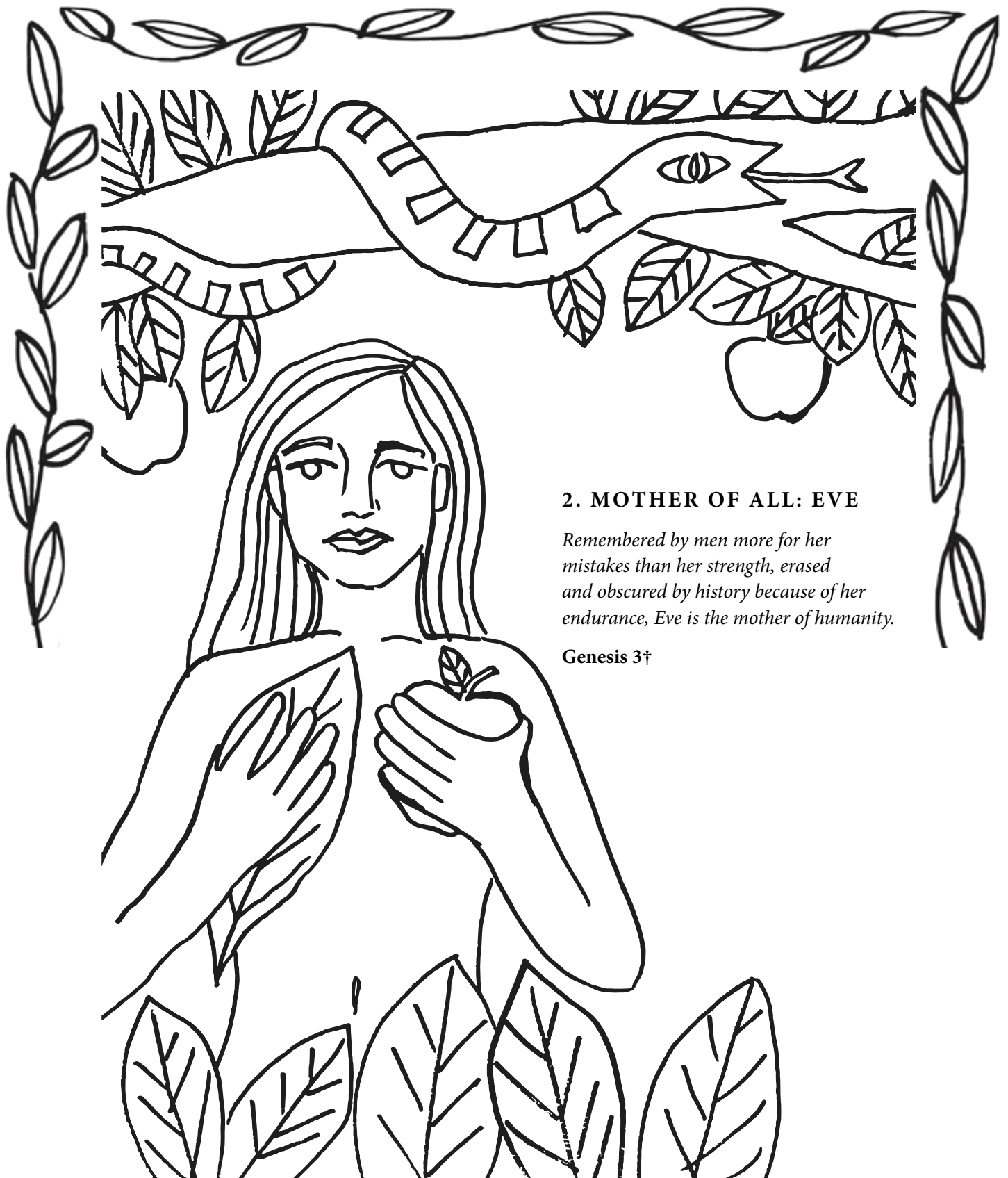
*You may forget to honor me,
but I will always be here.*

Always a source of comfort.

*My wish for you and all
my children is that we will never be
less to each other than
we are in this moment.*

Isaiah 66, Hosea 11†





2. MOTHER OF ALL: EVE

Remembered by men more for her mistakes than her strength, erased and obscured by history because of her endurance, Eve is the mother of humanity.

Genesis 3†

3. PROMISE KEEPER: HANNAH

Hannah's prayers were answered, and she kept her promise to present a son to be consecrated in service to the temple. She brought her child, Samuel, to Eli in Shiloh, and sacrificed a bull in thankfulness to God and as a sign of promises kept.

1 Samuel 1—2



4. TOUCHING THE IMMACULATE: SALOME

According to legend, Salome—who would later witness the resurrection of Jesus—doubts the story she hears about the birth of Jesus. She then visits Mary and believes in the virgin birth!

Cf. Mark 16†



5. VOYEUR BEAUTY: BATHSHEBA

King David lusted after Bathsheba, watching her bathe, and he abused his power to seduce her and then conspired to murder her husband, Uriah. Ultimately, Bathsheba was punished for David's sin.

2 Samuel 11—12



6. SACRAMENTAL NAME: SARAH

Abraham rolled on the ground, laughing, when told that Sarah would be the mother of generations. And she became the mother of nations and kings and, as the apostle Paul would write later, "Sarah, our mother, is free!"

Genesis 17, Galatians 4

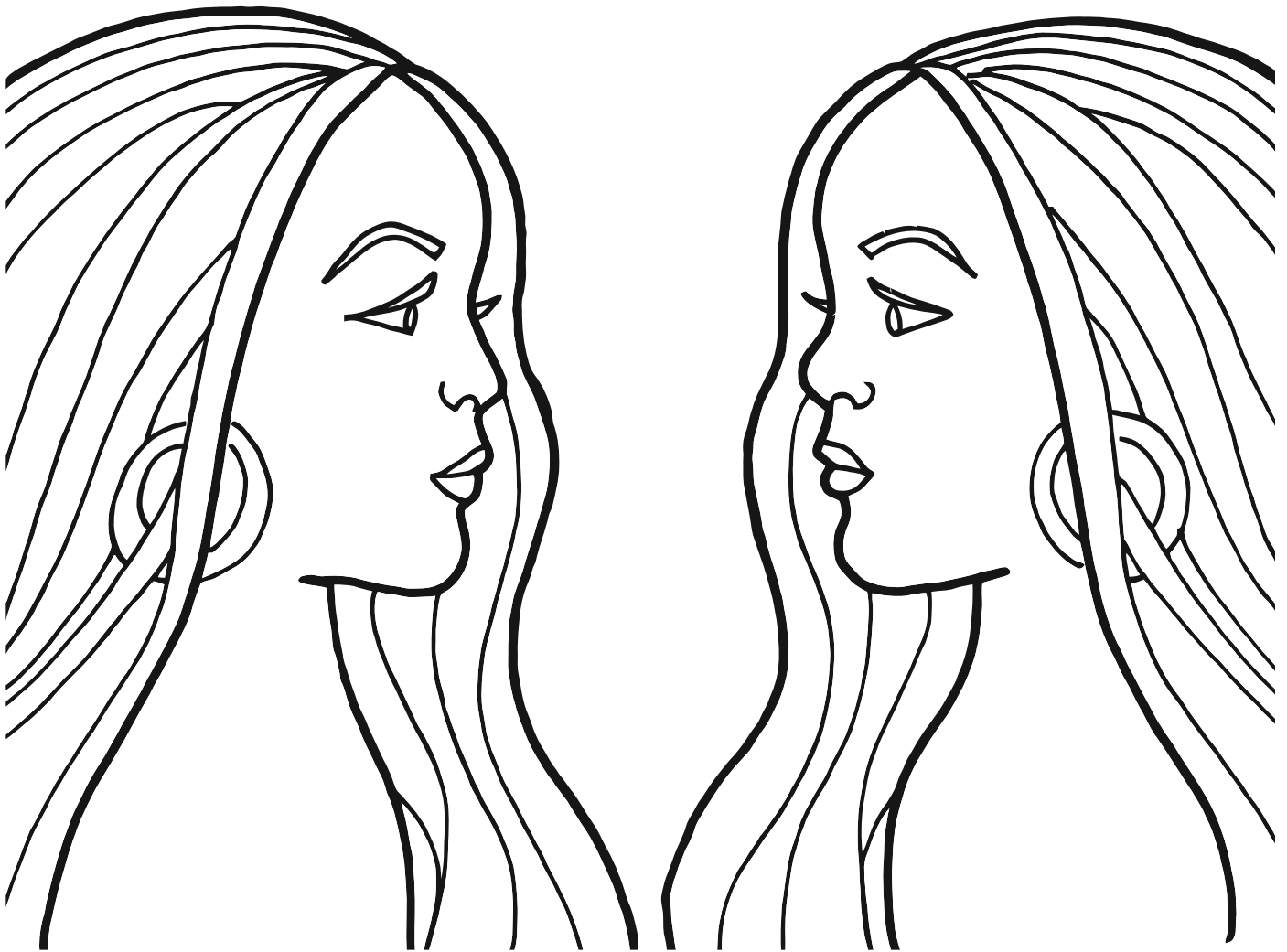


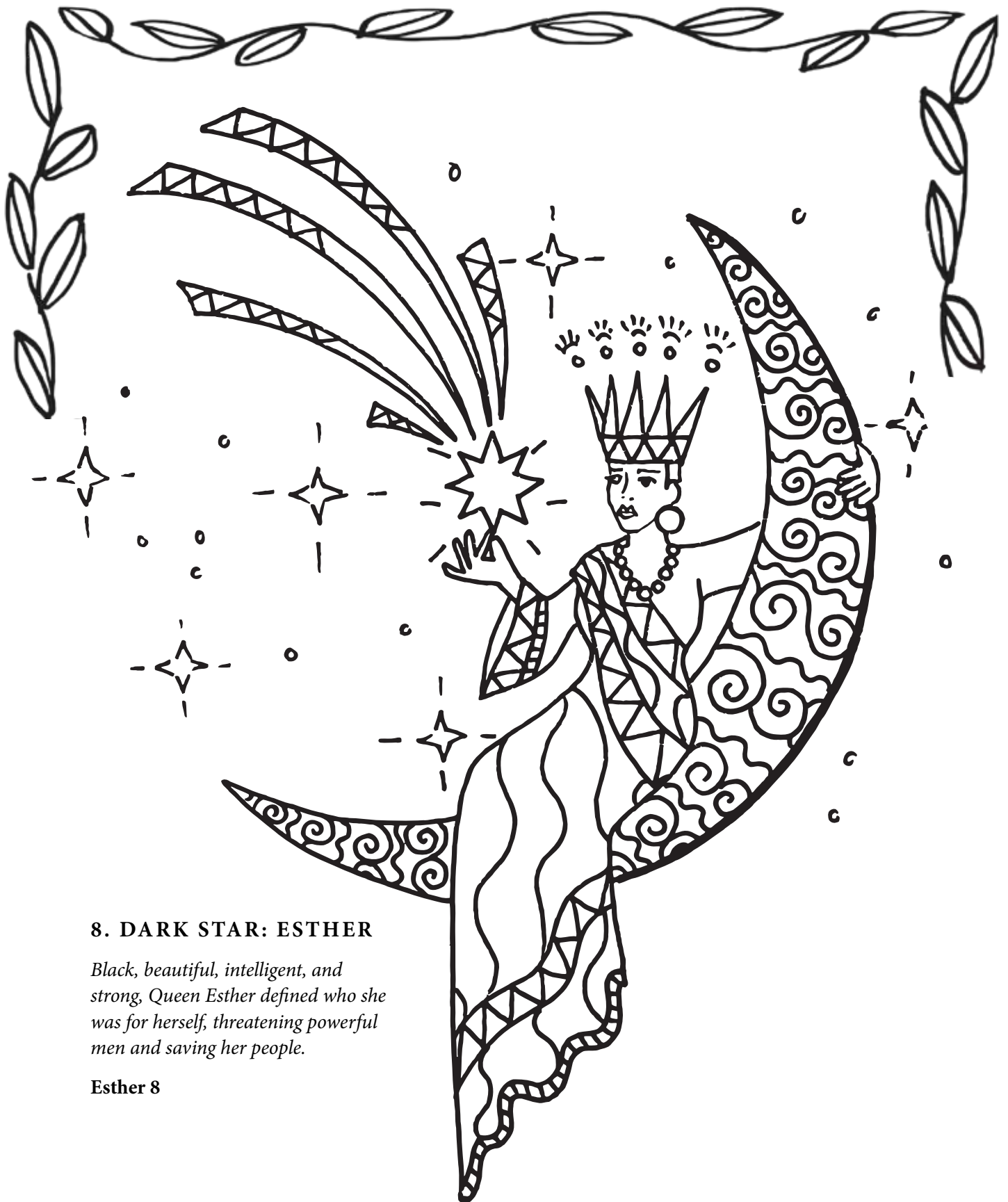


7. SENT AWAY AND RETURNED: HAGAR AND KETURAH

Hagar, Abraham's second wife, was cast out from their household. After the death of his first wife, Sarah, he married Keturah, who many suspect to be Hagar in disguise and with a new name.

Genesis 25, 1 Chronicles 1†





8. DARK STAR: ESTHER

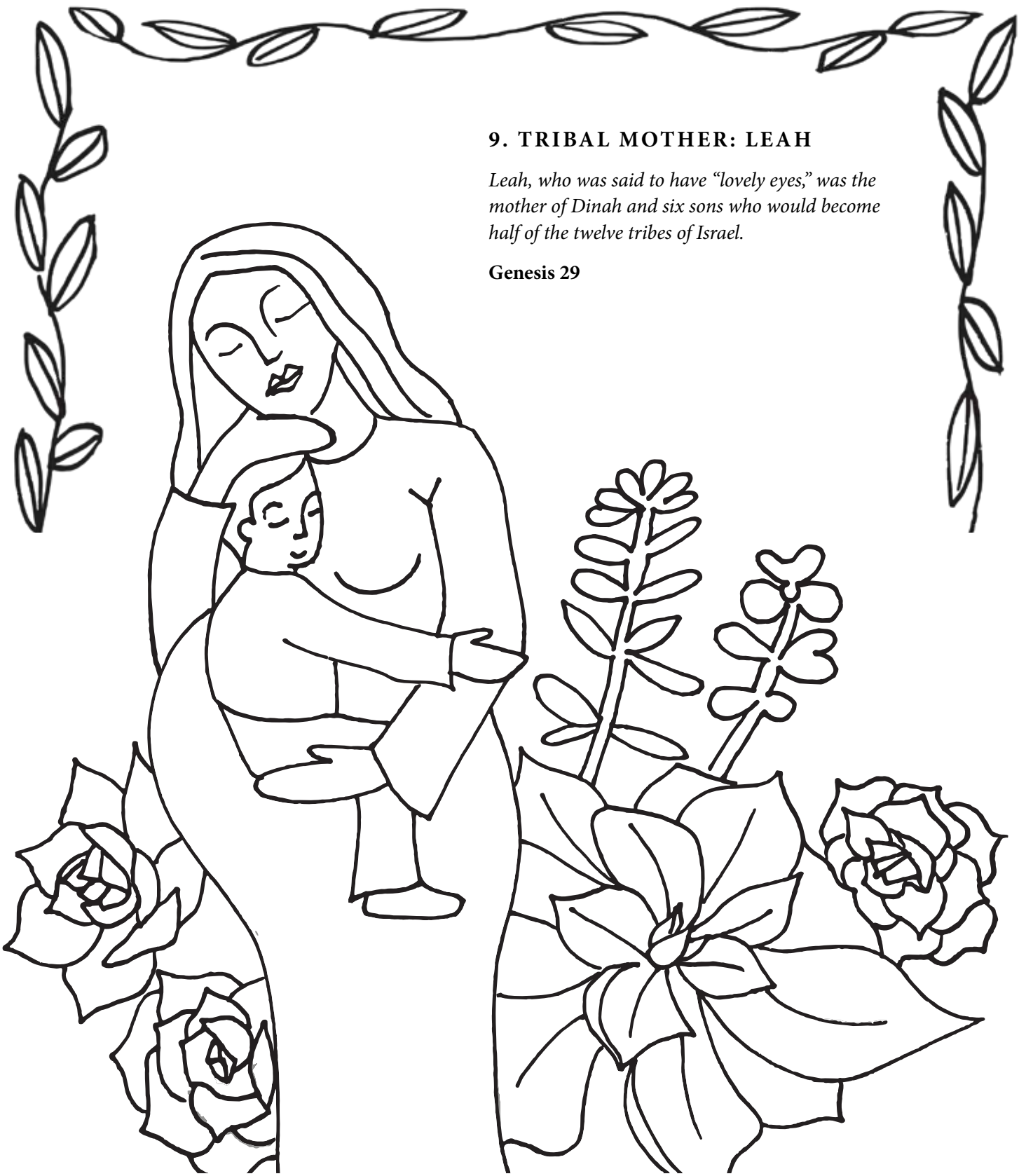
Black, beautiful, intelligent, and strong, Queen Esther defined who she was for herself, threatening powerful men and saving her people.

Esther 8

9. TRIBAL MOTHER: LEAH

Leah, who was said to have “lovely eyes,” was the mother of Dinah and six sons who would become half of the twelve tribes of Israel.

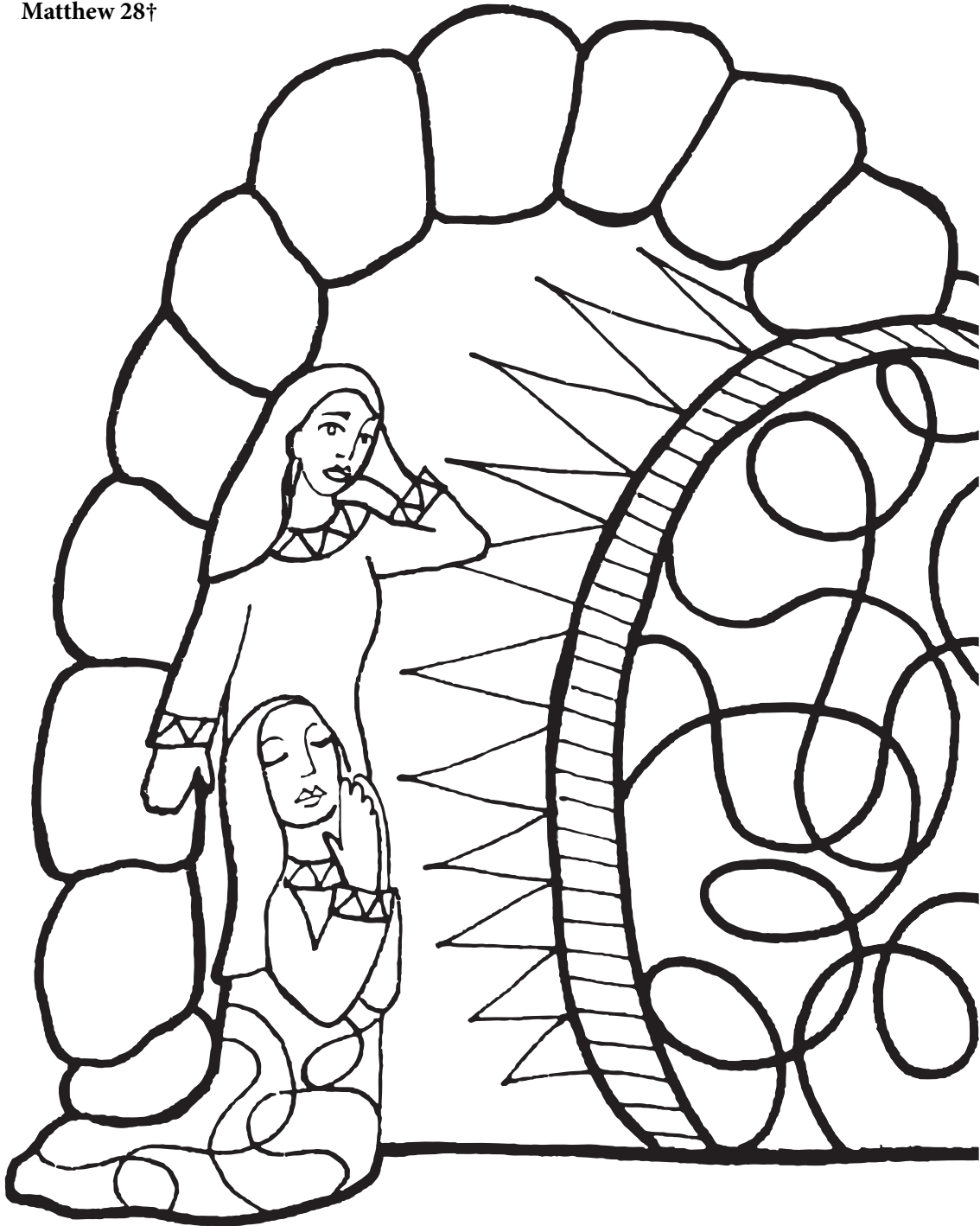
Genesis 29



10. THE FIRST PREACHERS: MARYS

On the very first Easter, two Marys meet the risen Jesus. As they grasp at his feet in joy and awe, Jesus commissions the women to be the first preachers of the Christian faith: to tell the male disciples, who are hiding in fear, that Jesus will meet them where they are.

Matthew 28†

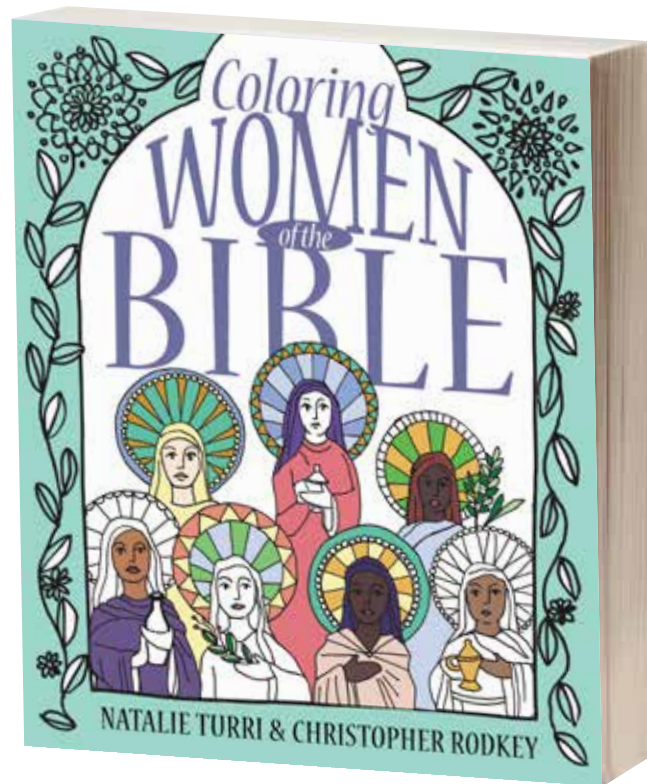


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