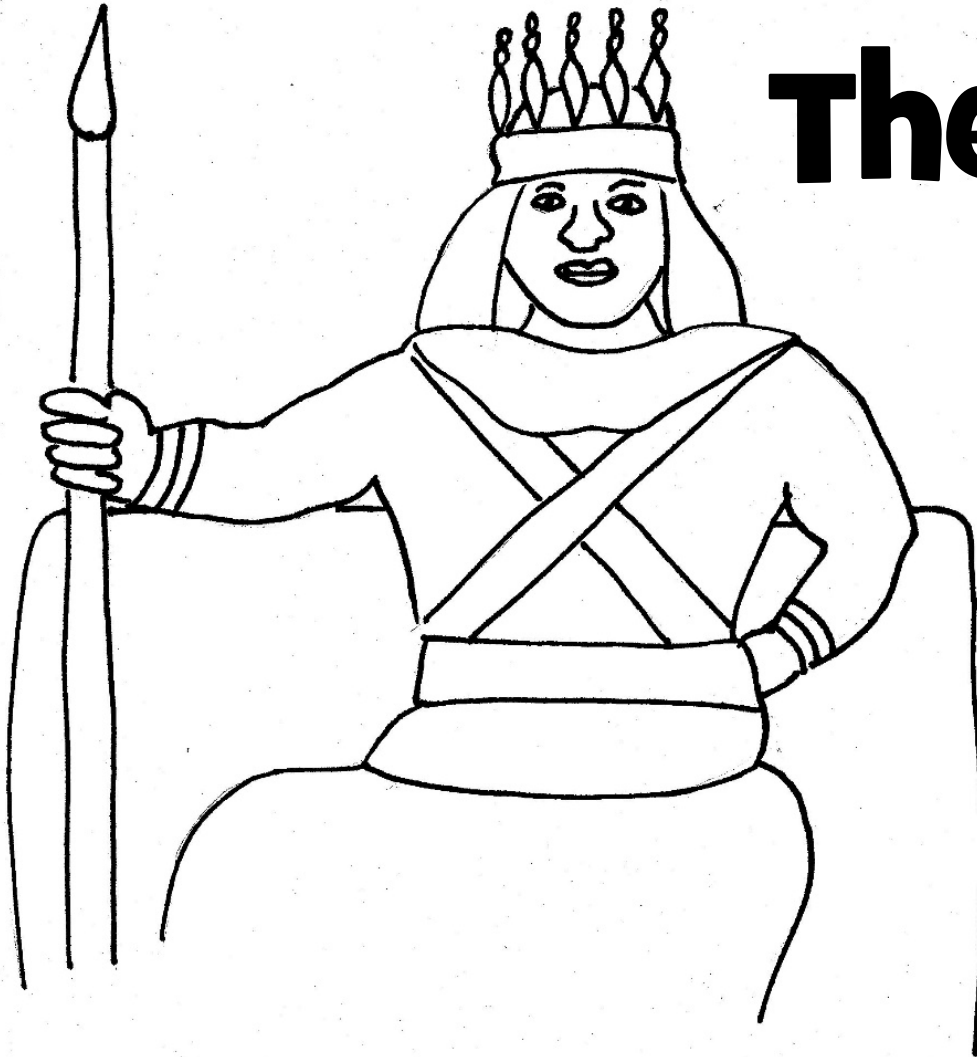


The Christian King of Axum



How Ethiopia
Became a
Christian Nation

Illustrated By: _____

Two Syrian boys, Frumentius and Aedesius were aboard a trading ship on the Red Sea when it was seized!

The boys escaped and were taken to the King of Axum, King Ella Amida. He was smitten by the boys and decided to take them in as part of his family. He gave them their freedom and many important jobs to do.

Not long afterward, King Ella Amida suddenly died. He had only one son, a little baby boy named Ezana. Ezana was not big enough to take his father's throne, so his mother asked Frumentius and Aedesius to continue doing their jobs at court until her son was old enough to rule.

Frumentius was especially loyal, helpful, and honest. He was a Christian and taught Ezana about Christianity. He sought out Christian traders and eventually became a bishop as well.

Because Frumentius had been such a kind, good adviser and taught Ezana about Christ, Ezana joined the church and made Christianity the official state religion. He minted coins with crosses on them and taught his people what it means to be a Christian.

Ethiopia is the modern-day country where Ezana lived. It is still mostly Christian to this day because of the goodness of the brothers and the choices of Ezana, the first Christian king of Axum.