

THE BIRTH OF THE KING

Timeless Truth: Jesus coming to Earth is God's plan to save mankind.

Bible Basis: John 1:1–18; Luke 1:26–2:20

Key Verse: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.
—Luke 2:11 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Children*, Chapter 22: "The Birth of a King"

PARENT TIPS

Read the key point from the Sunday school class your child(ren) attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity has your family listen to an upbeat song and spread some Christmas cheer—no matter what the date. The Extra Mile takes your family to a creative video about Christ's birth.

GET THE POINT

God sent a Savior for the world. I can believe Jesus is my Savior.

TABLE TALK

- God used angels a lot in this chapter of *The Story* to bring his message to people. Angels spoke to Mary, explained things to Joseph, and proclaimed Jesus' birth to the shepherds. What would you say if an angel appeared to you?
- If you saw an angel, you'd probably be scared. That's why the angels always say, "Do not be afraid." After you stopped being scared, what question would you want to ask an angel?
- Why do you think the angels appeared to shepherds instead of powerful, rich people?
- A couple of times in this chapter it says, "Mary kept these things like a secret treasure in her heart." What do you think that means?
- Share with your children "secret treasures in your heart" about them.
- Not a lot is recorded about Jesus' growing-up years. Do you think Jesus was a good kid? Why do you think that?

LIVING FAITH

Any time is the perfect time to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. You don't have to wait until Christmas. If Jesus hadn't come to Earth, there would be no forgiveness of sins.

Gather your family and watch a video of the Go Fish song "Christmas with a Capital C." You can find two versions on YouTube:

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=lAckfn8yiAQ
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEojXQHd1DU

One of the videos shows pictures of the Go Fish band members. The other pictures a house that has its Christmas lights timed to go with the song. They're both pretty short, so your family could watch each one as you listen to the song's powerful lyrics.

Society is trying to push out the miracle of Christ's birth from the holidays. But like the song says, "Jesus came down to take the punishment for me. He did it for you, too, so maybe you can see why it's called Christmas."

Fight the trend of taking Christ out of Christmas by putting Christ in everyday. Think of somebody you know who could use a dose of cheer. As a family pick out a present that costs less than \$10. Wrap it and give it to them. Let them know that Jesus has given you so much that you want to give a little away, too. Jesus' love can't be contained! And when Christmas comes around this year, make sure that everybody around you knows that Jesus loves them.

EXTRA MILE

Jesus' birth is one of the most highly talked about historical events. Watch this surprising video on Christ's birth: www.creativepastors.com/product_1764?stream=Upside_Down_MPEG1.

The video begins with a person who doubts the miracle of Jesus' birth. But once Jesus changes his heart and gives him hope, the same text is read upside down. The truth is Jesus turns our lives upside down. Instead of being selfish, we become selfless. Instead of wanting earthly treasures, we lay up treasures in heaven. After watching the video, have family members talk about one difference that Jesus has made in their lives.