

The Nativity



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Our story of
Christmas
began long ago,
with Mary and
Joseph (but
without the snow).
Mary and Joseph
were planning a
wedding,
then they found
out where
God's plan
was heading...

An angel told
Mary to not
be afraid,
for she had been
chosen, a plan
had been made.
God would send
a baby inside
of her tummy.
Yes, it was true,
she would
soon be a
mummy!





Now Joseph was
scared. What would
people say?

So an angel
brought news in his
dream one day.

“What has happened
is special, you’ll
soon be a dad.”

And Joseph
then trusted it
wouldn’t be bad.

Mary’s cousin
Elizabeth was
really quite old,
too old for a baby is
what she was told.

But God made
it so she could
have a child too,
to prepare the way
for God’s Son to
come through.





Her husband
was told by an
angel the plan.

He couldn't
believe it, "But I'm
an old man!"

The angel then
told him his **VOICE**
would be gone,
as he hadn't believed
what God said
would be done.

For months
Zechariah could not
make a **sound**,
he had to **write**
all he would say
on the ground.

At last it was **time**
for the baby to come,
and so he wrote
down on the ground,
"Call him **John**."





A census was ordered all throughout the land.

“Let’s count every person,” was Caesar’s demand.

So Mary and Joseph set off for the town, where the family of Joseph would be written down.

The journey to Bethlehem was very far, with no trains, and no planes, no fancy car.

They journeyed the 70 miles they must go, as Mary was pregnant the trip was quite slow.





But every home
where they hoped
they could stay
was already
taken, "We've NO
space today!"
Now the baby
was coming, they
couldn't say no,
the place with the
animals is where
they would go.

Mary's baby was born and laid on a bed,
made out of hay where the animals fed.
"You will call him Jesus," the angel had told her,
"and he will save all of the world when he's older!"





Some shepherds
nearby were watching
their sheep,
trying their hardest
to not fall asleep.
When suddenly an
angel appeared in
God's glory
and filled them all in on
the wonderful story.





Then a big group
of angels
appeared to
the crowd,
“Glory to God,”
they were praising
out loud.

“The King
has been born,
Christ the Lord,
here on earth!”

The shepherds
were first to hear
of the birth.

“Let’s go to see
Him,” the shepherds
declared,

and went down to
Bethlehem, just
like they’d heard.

Jesus was there
like the angel
had said,

wrapped in some
cloth, in a small
manger bed.





After 40 days, to the temple they went, with two doves or pigeons they had to present.

(A trip to the temple was needed by law, so off to Jerusalem they went to explore.)

An old priest called Simeon saw Jesus and knew, that he would bring hope to the world when he grew.

A prophet called Anna came up to them too and gave thanks to God for what Jesus would do.





When more time
had passed some
wise men
stopped by.

They had followed
a star they had
seen in the sky.

They went to the palace
to see the new King,
but King Herod said
he did not know a thing.

“Go find me this child
and I’ll worship him too,”

but what Herod told
them just wasn’t true.



They went on their way and the star rose ahead,
they followed it closely wherever it led.



Above a small house, it finally stopped,
so they went to the door and excitedly knocked.



We don't know how
many wise men
were there,
but three gifts they
brought: gold,
frankincense,
myrrh.

In a dream, they
were told Herod's
terrible plan,
so a different
way back to their
land they began.

Joseph was warned in
a dream the plan too,
“Herod will find all the
boys under two.”

So during the night off
to Egypt they fled,
and there they
would stay until
Herod was dead.

When news came to
Joseph that all was okay,
they journeyed to
Nazareth, where
they would stay.





The amazing story
of Christmas didn't
stop after Jesus
and his family
went to Nazareth.
That was just the
beginning.



Just as God had
planned, Jesus'
cousin, John the
Baptist, would
prepare the people
to hear Jesus'
message.

From the moment they saw him, Simeon and Anna knew that Jesus would grow up to rescue the whole world and, when he died for us on the cross, that's exactly what he did. The story shows us that God didn't just want rich people, like the wise men, to hear about the birth of Jesus, because the first people to hear were poor shepherds! This is the same today. God wants everyone, rich or poor, to hear about his wonderful Son, Jesus, and to worship him. We may not have gold, frankincense or myrrh to bring to him, but we can give him our hearts and lives today.





If you want to read the story of the nativity for yourself, you can find it at the start of both Matthew's and Luke's gospels in the Bible.



For Leon and Micah

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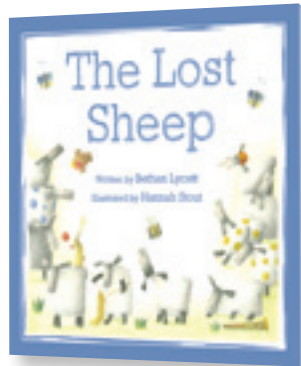
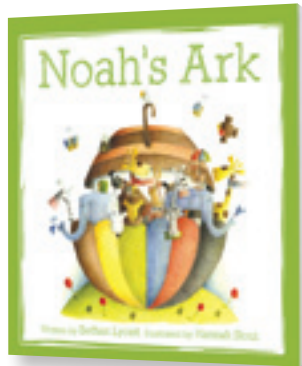
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