

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** Hold up Bible story props one at a time as you tell the Bible story. Suggestions for props include a clipboard, a baby bottle, a receiving blanket or cloth, a toy sheep, a newspaper, a star cutout, a paper crown, and a gift bag.
- **Display art:** Cut pictures of Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, shepherds, angels, and other Bible story elements from Christmas cards. Attach double-sided tape to the back and move them around on a focal wall as you tell the story.

Jesus Was Born

Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

While Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus, **the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to be registered for a census.** Every person traveled to the town where his family was from. Since **Joseph** was a descendant of King David, he **and Mary** left Nazareth and **traveled to Bethlehem**, the city of David.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place for Mary to have her baby, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby, Jesus. She wrapped Him snugly in cloth, and she laid him in a feeding trough, where the animals ate their food.

In the same region, some shepherds were out in the fields watching their sheep. All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were terrified!

But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I have very good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.” Then the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.”

Then a whole army of angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

The shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. The shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. Everyone who heard

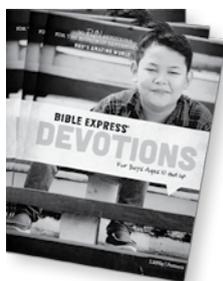
about Jesus was surprised and amazed. **The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God** because everything had happened just as the angel had said.

Some time later, wise men came to visit Jesus. They had seen a star in the east—a sign from God that Jesus had been born. The wise men went to King Herod. “Where is the king of the Jews?” they asked. “We have come to worship Him.”

A new king? Herod was king! “Go and search carefully for the child,” Herod told the wise men. “When you find Him, report back to me so that I can go and worship Him too.” But Herod was lying. He didn’t want to worship Jesus; he wanted to kill Him!

When the wise men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshiped Him. Then they gave Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When it was time for the wise men to go home, God warned them in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus was. So they took a different way home.

Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God’s Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from sin and to be their King forever.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that the wise men recognized Jesus as the King of the Jews. (Matt. 2:2) Jesus is King over all creation and is worthy of worship. (Heb. 1:8) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Jesus Was Born Word Search

Find and circle the key words from the word list in the puzzle below.

S C E N S U S D S J S A
 V D K S M Z S R W R H N
 J Z R A U A V O E D E G
 H O R E V S Y L N I E E
 E Y S I H R E H D V P L
 H A O E O P A J O A P S
 R R R L P I E U O D S W
 S J G T S H A H G W Z A
 E O X S H K Y Z S N U P
 S O E N E V A E H L I L
 C M P E A C E Y B A B K
 M E H E L H T E B D A M

Word List

- ANGELS
- BABY
- BETHLEHEM
- CENSUS
- DAVID
- EARTH
- GLORY
- GOOD NEWS
- HEAVEN
- JESUS
- JOSEPH
- KING
- LORD
- MARY
- MESSIAH
- PEACE
- SAVIOR
- SHEEP
- SHEPHERDS

Good News!

Use words from the word list to fill in the blanks to complete the Christ Connection.

The birth of _____ was _____!

_____ was not an ordinary _____.

He is God's Son, sent to _____ from _____.

_____ came into the world to save people

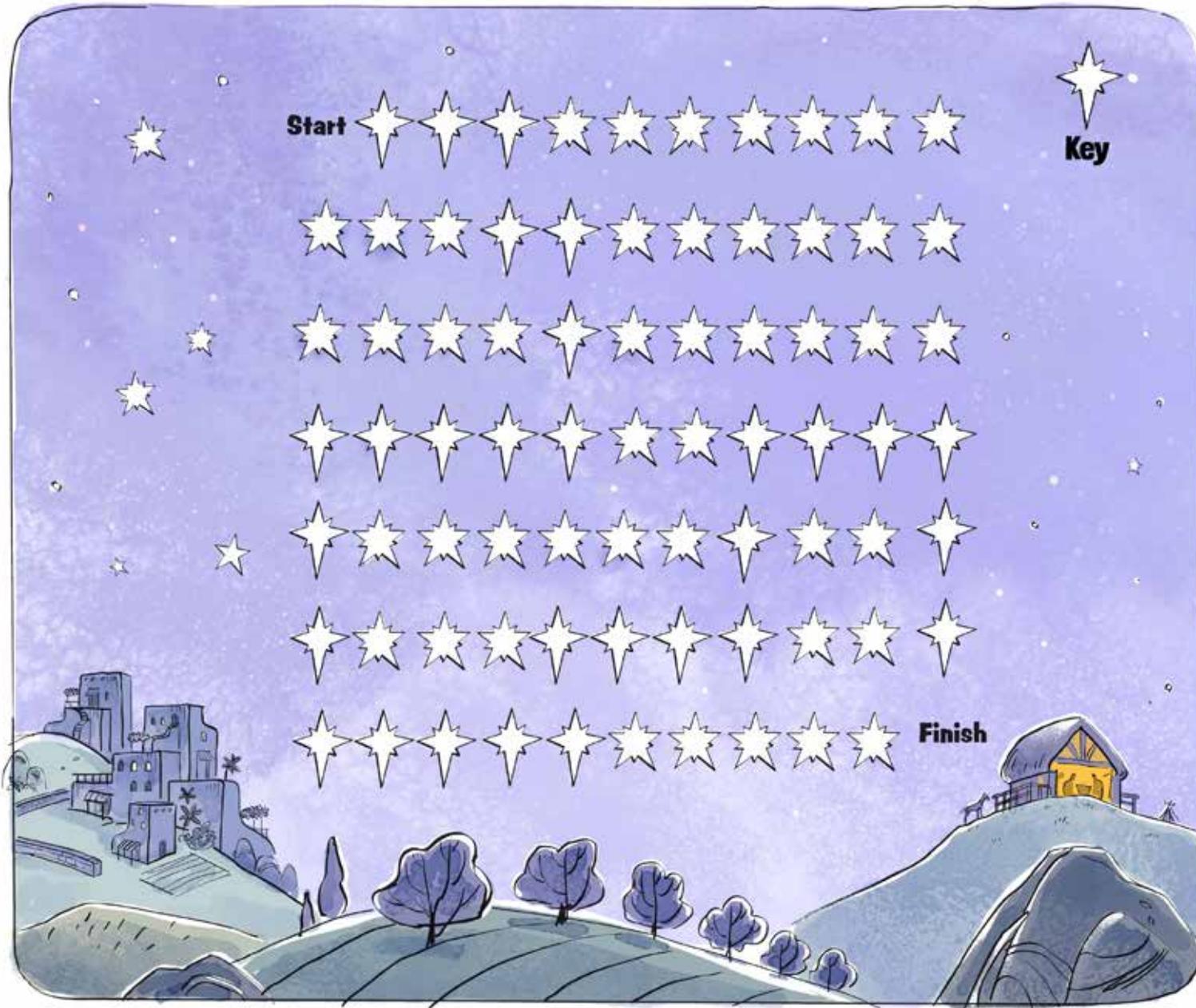
from sin and to be their _____ forever.



Follow the Star

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the pathway of bigger stars to lead the wise men to Jesus.



KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What makes Jesus different?
Jesus is fully God and fully man.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS WAS BORN

- Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for a census.
- Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.
- Angels appeared to nearby shepherds to tell them the news.
- Even wise men from the east traveled to worship Jesus as King.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why was Herod so upset when he heard about a new King?
- Name some ways God showed His power over all circumstances.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Celebrate a "mini-Christmas" party. Get small presents for your kids, wrap them, and surprise them when they wake up. Discuss how much of a surprise the first Christmas would have been for the shepherds.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 19, Session 3



The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.