



# PARENT Q

QUESTIONS TO HELP YOUR FAMILY  
TALK ABOUT THE STORY OF GOD

# THE STORY

## The Birth of Jesus

Tell the Story

*Don't just read it--know it and bring it to life!*

Now 400 years had passed since God had spoken to His people. The Israelites, called Jews, had been under the control of other nations for hundred of years. They were now ruled by the Romans, the most powerful empire that had ever existed. The Jews were still waiting and hoping for a king who would come to save them and lead them into victory.

Finally God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary in the town of Nazareth. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, who was a descendent of King David. The angel, named Gabriel, appeared to her and said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God has chosen to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus (which means 'God saves'). He will become a King whose Kingdom will never end!"

Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am still a virgin."

The angel replied, "This will happen supernaturally by God's Spirit, so this baby will be called God's Son. Remember: nothing is impossible with God!"

Mary said, "I am God's servant. May everything you have said come true!"

After that Mary sang to God, thanking Him for choosing to bless her. Just as the angel had said, Mary became pregnant.

When Joseph found out Mary was expecting a child, he decided to break off their engagement quietly. The law would have permitted him to have her killed if she had an affair.

But one night Joseph had a dream. An angel appeared to him and said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child in her is from God. You are to give Him the name Jesus, for He will save the people from their sins."

So Joseph took Mary as his wife, but he did not sleep with her until after the baby was born.

## The Birth of Jesus (continued)

Months later, as Joseph and Mary were traveling to Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth. No rooms were available for them at the local inns, so they found an animal stable--and that is where their baby was born.

They named the boy Jesus, meaning "the Lord is salvation" just as the angel had told them. Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and laid Him in a feed trough.

That night a group of shepherds were out in the fields taking care of their sheep when an angel suddenly appeared and frightened them.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I am bringing good news for everyone! The one who will save you, the Messiah, has been born tonight in Bethlehem! You will know it's Him when you find a baby in a stable wrapped in strips of cloth."

The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem as fast as we can to see the miracle God told us about."

When the Shepherds ran into town they found Joseph, Mary, and the baby in the stable just as the angel had said. After this they went and told everyone what they had heard and seen--and the people were truly amazed!

A few months later, wise men traveled from distant lands to find the newborn king. A star had guided them from the east to Bethlehem and stopped over the place where Mary and Joseph were living. As the wise men entered the house they were overcome with joy and knelt down and worshipped Jesus. They brought Him expensive gifts of gold, spices, and perfumes.

Eventually Joseph and Mary moved back to Nazareth where Jesus grew strong, wise and full of God's grace. When Jesus was twelve years old, He and His family attended the annual Passover Festival in Jerusalem.

On the way home, Joseph and Mary assumed Jesus was in their caravan but traveling with some of their other relatives. Later, when they stopped to sleep for the night, they realized He was nowhere to be found. In a panic, Joseph and Mary went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

Three days later they finally found Him. He was in the temple courts, discussing deep questions with the religious teachers. The teachers were all amazed at His understanding and insights. His parents didn't know what to think.

"Son!" His mother said to Him. "Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic and have searched for you everywhere."

## **The Birth of Jesus (continued)**

But why did you need to search?" Jesus asked. "You should have known I would be in my Father's house." Joseph and Mary didn't understand what He meant. Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents and was obedient to them. His mother thought deeply about what had happened.

Jesus grew in both height and wisdom and was loved by God and everyone who knew Him.

# The Questions

*The disciples came up and asked, "Why do you tell stories?" Jesus replied, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there's no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight."*

*-(Matthew 13:10-13, The Message Commentary)*

Pray that your children would have "ready hearts" to hear the story of God in Jesus and find life in Him.

Consider using the Story of God for Kids curriculum in your Missional Community! It's great for both adults and kids as you grow together as storytellers of the greatest story.

- **What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?**
- **What will you remember most about this story?**
- **How does this story make a difference in your life?**
- **What do you imagine people thought when they had been told the Messiah had been born?**
- **How would you have reacted? Would you have expected His entrance to the world to be different?**
- **If God sent Jesus to give the world a great gift, why do you think we focus so much on what we get at Christmas?**
- **How can we best celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus? What can YOU do to celebrate this personally?**