



the Jesus
Storybook Bible[®]

ADVENT GUIDE

with introduction by Sally Lloyd-Jones





INTRODUCTION: BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES

Happy (Nearly Almost) Christmas!

What do you love most about Christmas?

Most of us say, PRESENTS! And probably all the grown-ups will laugh and want us to say something more spiritual.

But actually, do you know what? You're right. That IS the best, most important thing about Christmas.

Because, you see, Christmas is all about a present—a gift. The greatest, most magnificent gift there has ever been ...

Christmas is very hard to wait for, isn't it? Waiting to open all those presents—it's so difficult. Especially when you're little.

We count down the days. We can't wait.

But do you know how long God's people had to wait for Christmas? How long they had to wait for the gift God promised them?

Weeks?

No.

Months?

Um. Longer.

Years, then?

Even longer than that.

They had to wait for centuries and centuries! Can you imagine how excited they were when at last Christmas came?



When do you think Christmas begins?

Does it begin in Bethlehem?

Or with the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary?

Or does it begin with a bright star shining on a little stable?

Actually, the story of Christmas begins long, long ago—before there were even any stars in the sky at all.

Christmas begins in the heart of God.

Back in the very beginning, God had a magnificent dream inside his heart.

He made his children to share in his Forever Happiness and the world to be our perfect home. But we lost it all when we decided we didn't need him, when we decided we could be happy without him. And everything broke—in our hearts and in his world when sin and sadness and tears came in.

But God had a plan—a magnificent dream. One day, he would get his children back. One day, he himself would come to rescue them and heal their broken hearts. One day, he promised, Christmas would come!

All through the Bible, all through the long years, God has been waiting for exactly the

right time to send his great gift. He has been waiting for Christmas!

From the moment Adam and Eve left the garden he whispered the promise, "It will not always be so." To Abraham, he promised one day a child will come to bring laughter to the whole world. He promised Joseph, David, Isaiah. One day, he will send us a Good Shepherd. A Brave Hero. A Young Prince. A Mighty King. A Great Rescuer.

A Child.

And every story whispers His name.

Christmas is when, at last, everything is ready. The time has come, at last, for God to give us his great gift.





The days leading up to Christmas are called “Advent.” Advent means the “arrival.” It means the long waiting is almost over ...

As we wait for Christmas, we’ll go on a journey together. We’ll read a story every day, decorate the tree, and tell the story of God’s Secret Rescue plan—from the very beginning ... and wait, along with God’s people ...

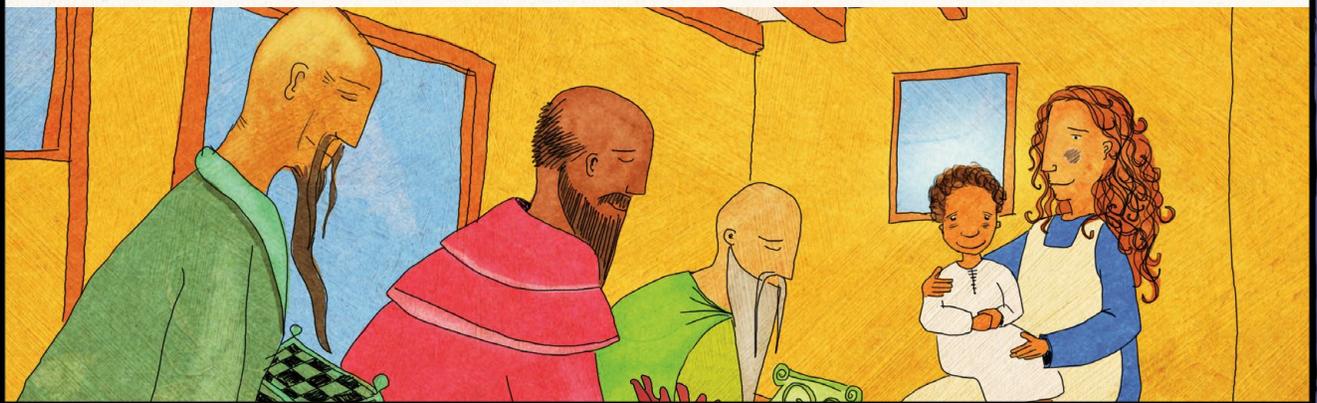
And on Christmas morning? PRESENTS!
And the greatest, most magnificent gift there has ever been—wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Sleeping under the stars that he made.

The baby who would rescue the world is born!

Happy Christmas!

—SL—J



NOTE TO PARENTS:

Not long after the book was published, families started sharing how they were using **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE** during Advent. That's when we first realized there were EXACTLY the right number of stories to read each day of Advent beginning on December 1st right up to Christmas day with Jesus' birth. We were amazed. It was almost as if someone had planned it. (Which, of course, Someone had!)

So we wanted to share this special family Advent resource so more of you can enjoy it.

Inside, you'll find that the team at Zondervan have created a reading plan and some beautiful printable ornaments, to your Advent season especially meaningful as a family. For every day of Advent, there is a printable ornament, and on the reverse of each ornament there is the related story to read in **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE**, and the scripture passage it comes from.

As your family adds the ornaments to the tree, trace God's hand through all the stories, and tell the one big story of God's Great Rescue Plan through every day of Advent—starting with creation and leading up to Jesus' birth.

It's almost like an Advent tree calendar. (Is there such a thing?) Actually some people call this a Jesse Tree—named after the prophecy in Isaiah II: 1 “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse...”.

One family I know of, reads the story together and then they each spend some time drawing something from the story (the big fish from Jonah; the lions from Daniel; the big tower from the Staircase to Heaven, for example) as they listen to Christmas music.

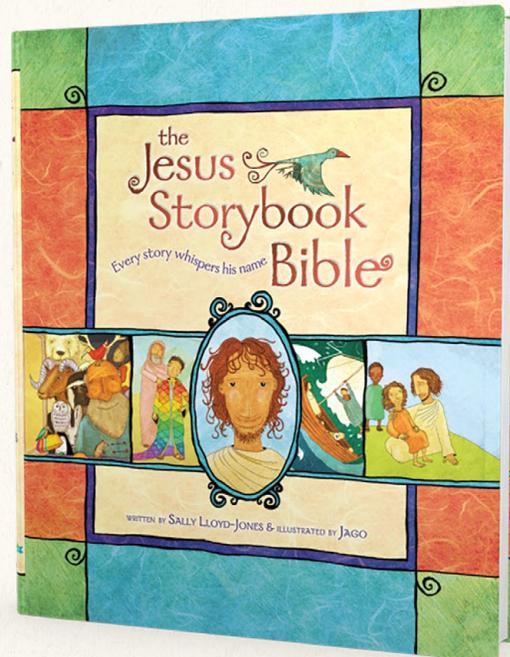
There are lots more ideas the team at Zondervan have created for you. And you will have your own ideas too.

Happy Advent!

Emmanuel!

God has come to live with us!

—SL-J



The Jesus Storybook Bible

Advent Reading Plan



The Story and the Song



The Song of Creation



The Terrible Lie



A New Beginning



A Giant Staircase to Heaven



Son of Laughter



The Present



The Girl No One Wanted



The Forgiving Prince



God to the Rescue!



God Makes a Way



Ten Ways to be Perfect



The Warrior Leader



The Teeny Weenie... True King



The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant



The Good Shepherd



Little Servant Girl and the Proud General



Operation 'No More Tears'!



Daniel and the Scary Sleepover



God's Messenger



Get Ready!



He's Here!
WATCH THE VIDEO



The Light of the Whole World



The King of All Kings



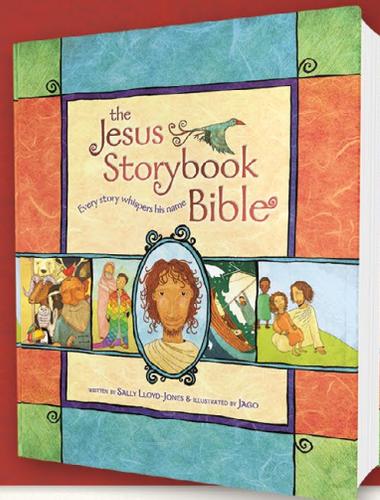
the Jesus Storybook Bible

is celebrating 10 years and over 2.5 MILLION copies sold!

Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) Top 100 Bestsellers of 2016 List.

“a very grown-up children’s bible” - *Christianity Today*

Every story whispers his name



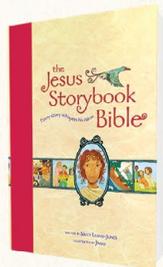
“Sally Lloyd-Jones has captured the heart of what it means to find Christ in all the scriptures, and has made clear even to little children that all God’s revelation has been about Jesus from the beginning--a truth not all that commonly recognized even among the very learned.” - Dr. Tim Keller, pastor of New York City’s Redeemer Church.



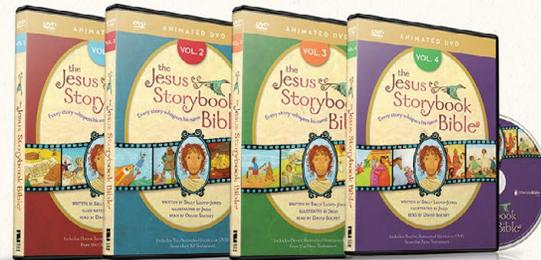
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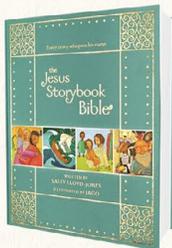
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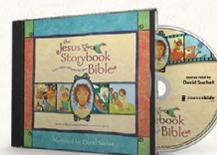
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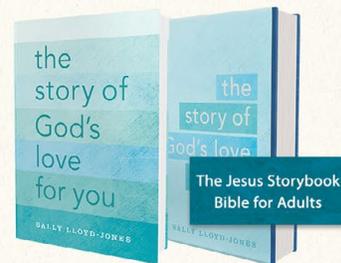
Found: Psalm 23
9780310757504 **\$9.99**
Loved: The Lord's Prayer
9780310757610 **\$9.99**



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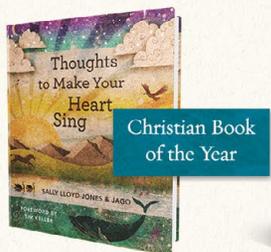
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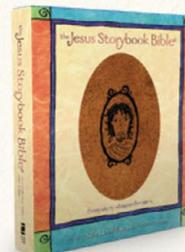
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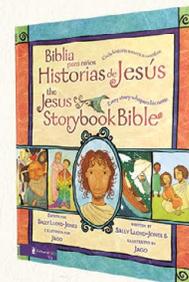
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Biblia Para Niños, Historias de Jesús / The Jesus Storybook Bible
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Activity He's here! (The Nativity, from Luke 1-2)

Jesus is ...



- a) God's Son.
- b) Joseph's son.

- a) Emmanuel.
- b) Gabriel.

- a) God come to punish us.
- b) God come to live with us.

☉ Jesus in the Story



What did you discover about Jesus from this story?

Jesus

☉ A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)



Notes for parents: From the story we learned that Jesus, the King, God's Son, was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Luke, using the diagram above. www.jesusstorybookbible.com

Activity The Light of the whole world (The story of the shepherds, from Luke 2)

The first people to hear the good

news about the birth of God's were .

- =a =d =e =g
- =h =i =l =n
- =o =p =r =s
- =t



Jesus would be like that shining in the sky: a for the whole world.

Jesus in the Story

What did you discover about Jesus from this story?



—————→ **Jesus**

A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)



Notes for parents: From the story we learned that God told the shepherds the good news that Jesus was born. This good news was for everyone everywhere, which means it is good news for us too. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Luke, using the diagram above. www.jesusstorybookbible.com

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

with Advent bible verses and readings from:

The Jesus Storybook Bible

1 PRINT THE CARDS

You'll want to start by printing the countdown graphics. Use the best color printer and the best paper that is available to you. The photos go on one side, and the Scriptures and readings are on the back so you will want to print double-sided or feed your paper separately into your printer and print each page one-by-one. (If you're not accustomed to printing double-sided, you may want to test this first with your black-and-white printing settings to save your color cartridge.)

2 CUT THE CARDS

The printables have square cutting lines around the images to guide you as you cut with a paper cutter or scissors. If you'd like you can also laminate the cards, either before or after you cut them, for durability. This is a good idea if you plan to use these year after year each Christmas!

3 DISPLAY YOUR CARDS

There are many options for how to display your advent Scripture cards each day as you count down to Christmas! Here are four simple ideas:

1. Turn your cards into ornaments! You can bunch a hole at the top of each card and hang them on your Christmas tree, or create a mini-tree to feature these images and scriptures on their own.
2. Create a clothesline display of the cards. Grab some ribbon or baker's twine and clothespins to hang the Advent pieces across a mirror, a picture frame, or mantle.
3. Place the cards in a pocket chart or other clear type display. You can often find these at teacher supply stores.
4. Hang them from a Christmas-card holder or other type of display that you find at retail stores.

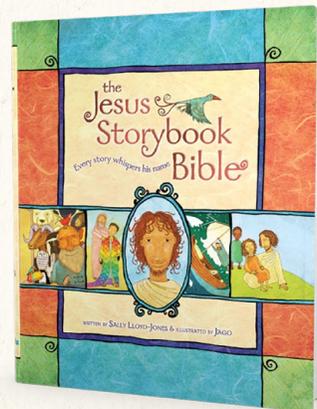
4 SHARE YOUR CREATIONS

We'd love to see how you display your cards. Upload your photos on Instagram, Twitter, or Pinterest with hashtag #JSBAdvent and we will try to like, retweet, and re-pin your images to the FaithGateway, Zonderkidz, and The Jesus Storybook Bible social media accounts. We can't wait to hear your stories and see your creative ideas for displays!

SPECIAL OFFER

for our Advent Calendar Participants

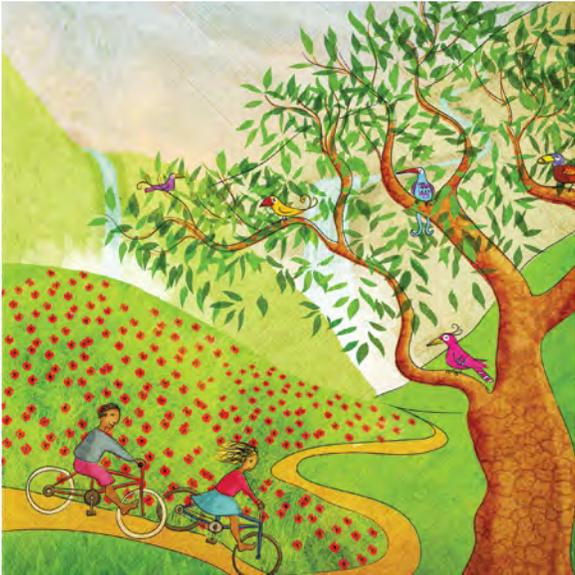
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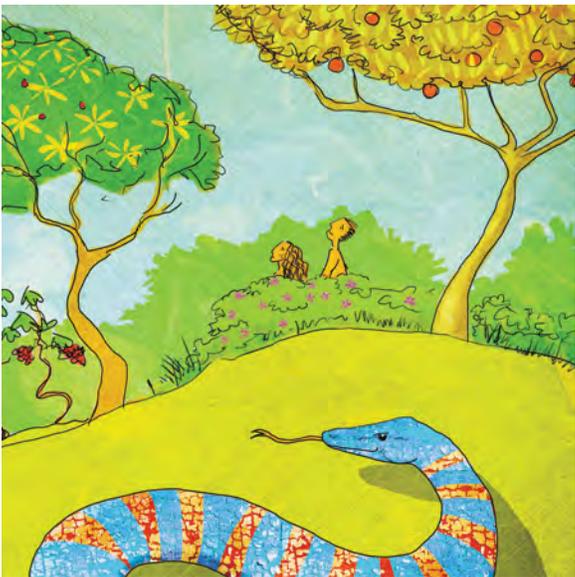
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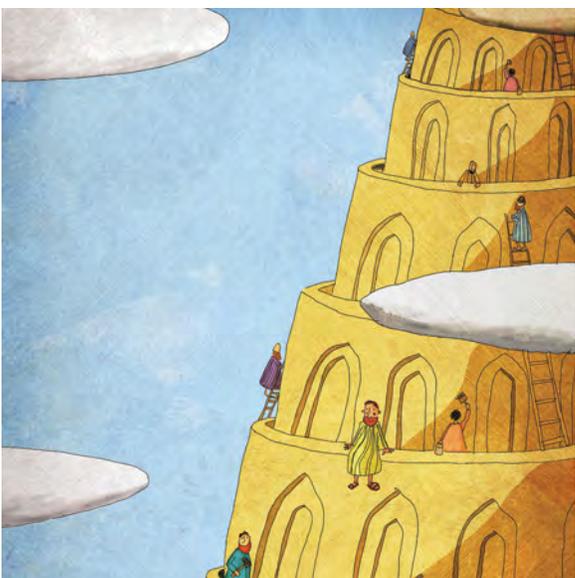
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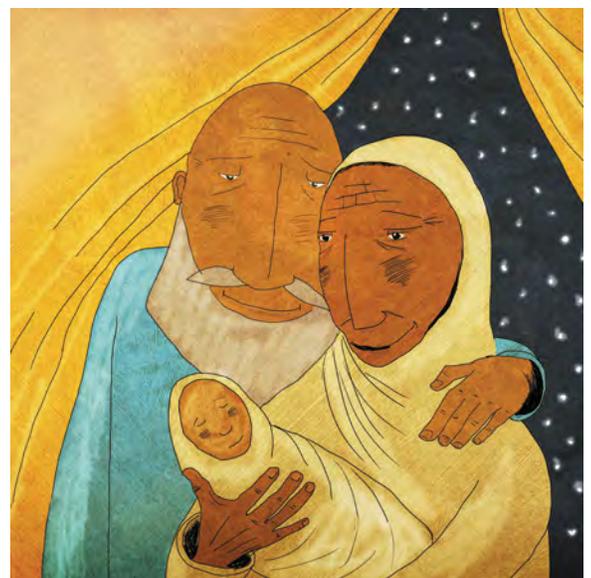
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December 2

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 1-2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Song of Creation" (pg. 18-27)

December 1

Today's Scripture:
Psalm 19 and Hebrews 1

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Story and The Song" (pg. 12-17)

December 4

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 6-9

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"A New Beginning" (pg. 38-47)

December 3

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 3

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Terrible Lie" (pg. 28-37)

December 6

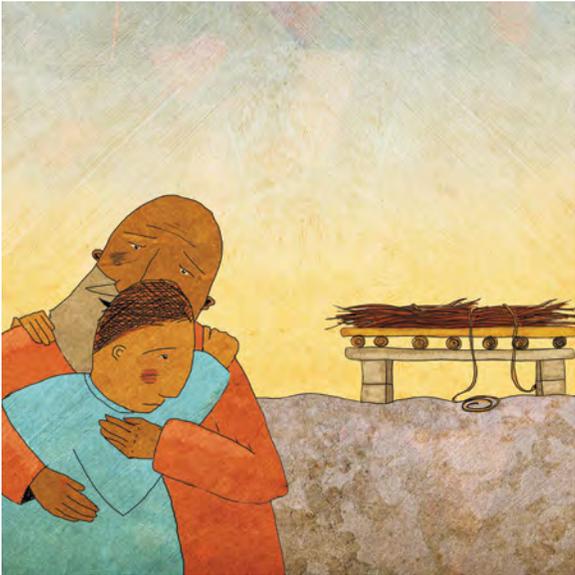
Today's Scripture
Genesis 12-21

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"Son of Laughter" (pg. 56-61)

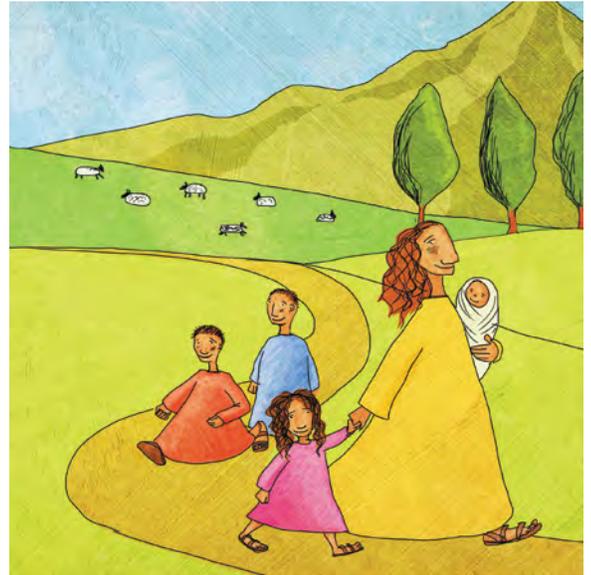
December 5

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 11

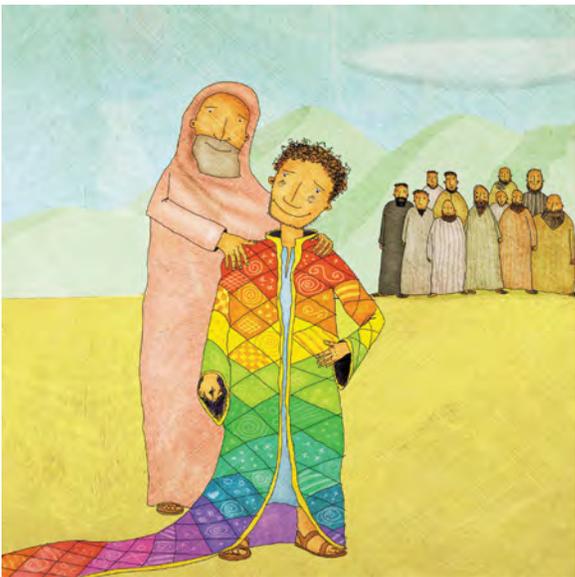
Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"A Giant Staircase to Heaven"
(pg. 48-55)



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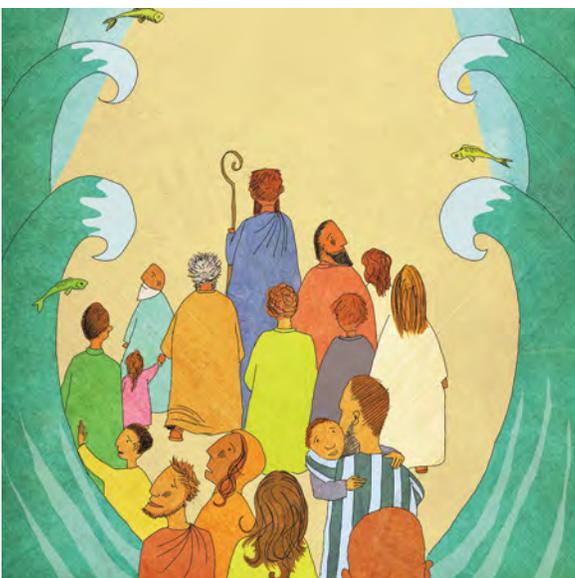
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December 8

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 29-30

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Girl no One Wanted" (pg. 70-75)

December 7

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 22

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Present" (pg. 62-69)

December 10

Today's Scripture:
Exodus 3-13

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"God to the Rescue!" (pg. 84-91)

December 9

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 37-46

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Forgiving Prince" (pg. 76-83)

December 12

Today's Scripture:
Exodus 16-17, 19-40

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"Ten Ways to be Perfect" (pg. 100-107)

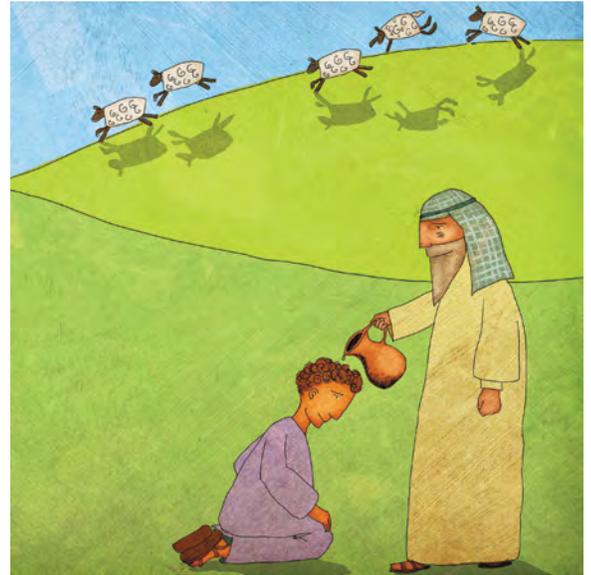
December 11

Today's Scripture:
Exodus 14-15

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"God Makes a Way" (pg. 92-99)



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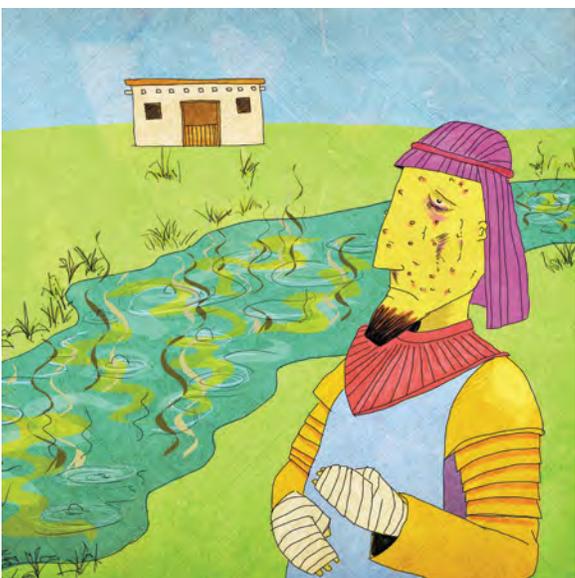
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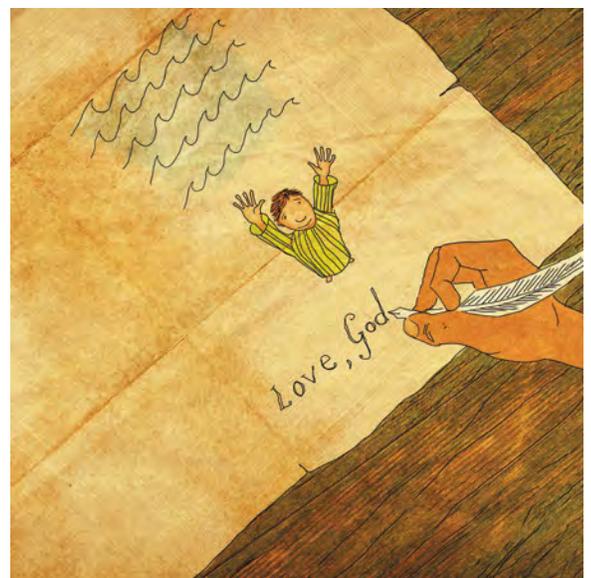
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16



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17



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18

December 14

Today's Scripture:
1 Samuel 16

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Teeny Weenie... True King"
(pg. 116-121)

December 13

Today's Scripture:
Joshua 3 and 6

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Warrior Leader" (pg. 108-115)

December 16

Today's Scripture:
Psalm 51, 2 Samuel 7;
paraphrase of Psalm 23

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Good Shepherd" (pg. 130-135)

December 15

Today's Scripture:
1 Samuel 17

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Young Hero and the Horrible
Giant" (pg. 122-129)

December 18

Today's Scripture:
Isaiah 9, 11, 40, 50, 53, 55, 60

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"Operation 'No More Tears!'"
(pg. 144-151)

December 17

Today's Scripture:
2 Kings 5

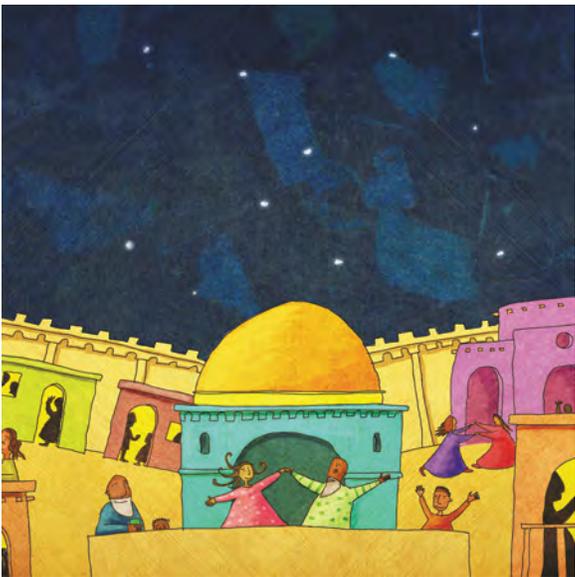
Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"A little Servant Girl and the Proud
General" (pg. 136-143)



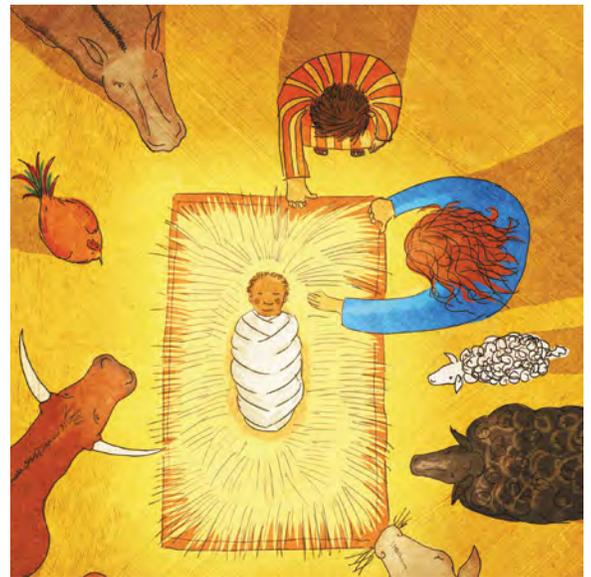
DEC 19



DEC 20



DEC 21



DEC 22



DEC 23



DEC 24

December 20

Today's Scripture:
Jonah 1-4; Hebrews 1:1-2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"God's Messenger" (pg. 160-169)

December 22

Today's Scripture:
Luke 1-2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"He's Here!" (pg. 176-183)

December 24

Today's Scripture:
Matthew 2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The King of all Kings" (pg. 192-199)

December 19

Today's Scripture:
Daniel 6

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"Daniel and the Scary Sleepover"
(pg. 152-159)

December 21

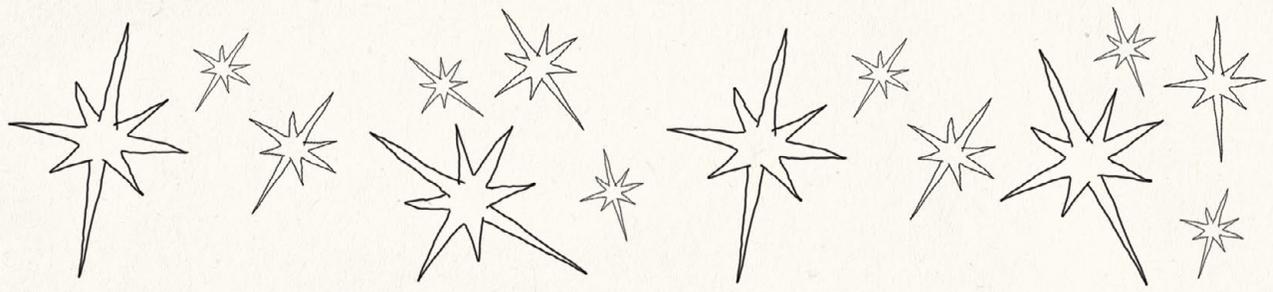
Today's Scripture:
Nehemiah 8-10, Malachi 1, 3
and 4, Ezra 7

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"Get Ready!" (pg. 170-175)

December 23

Today's Scripture:
Luke 2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Light of the Whole World"
(pg. 184-191)



The Light of the Whole World



The Light of the Whole World

