





Open your Bible to Matthew 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips found in the leader guide to help you tell the story. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

JESUS WAS BORN

God's people had been waiting a very long time to hear a message from God. At last, **God sent an angel named Gabriel** to a town called Nazareth. The angel appeared **to a young woman named Mary. Mary was engaged to Joseph**, a relative of King David.

The angel said to Mary, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Mary was surprised and a little scared. What did this mean? **The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. This is what will happen: You will give birth to a son, and you will name the baby Jesus. He will be great and will be a king forever."**

Mary asked, "How can this happen? I am not married yet."

The angel said, "The Holy Spirit will give you the baby. He will be the Son of God. Nothing is impossible for God!"

Mary replied, "I am God's servant. May it happen as you said." **Then the angel left.**

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. This baby is from God. When the baby is born, name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he **did as the angel said.**

Now at that time, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, sent out an order to all the people in the land: "Everyone must return to his hometown to be counted!" Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She wrapped Him in cloth so He would be snug and warm, and she laid Him in a manger since there was no guest room available for them.

In the same area, **some shepherds were out in the fields watching their sheep. All of a sudden, an angel stood before them, and a bright light shone all around. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have very good news: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David."**

The shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Him, lying in a manger, just as the angel said.