

## THE STORY FOR CHILDREN

*The Story For Children devotionals are broken up into three days. Each day has something to read together, do together, think about together, and pray together with your children. These times together with your family will help your children understand and live out The Story of God's Word!*

### Chapter 22 – The Birth of the King Day One – Jesus' Mother

**Today's reading:** Pages 180-183

**This reading covers:** Luke 1; John 1

**Summary:** Mary let God use her even though she didn't fully understand.

**Do together:** Supply construction paper, drawing paper, markers, crayons, scissors and glue. Have the children depict the angel Gabriel visiting Mary.

**Think about:** Discuss the role of angels in the announcement of Christ's birth. Have the children share their own ideas about these visions. How do they think they would have answered had they been Mary or Joseph?

**Also read:** Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-33

**Prayer:** How incredible to know that you used a very ordinary person to be the mother of Jesus. You also used your heavenly messengers to bring this good news. Help me to be ready to hear you when you speak, and to follow you when you show me what to do. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Chapter 22 – The Birth of the King Day Two – The Birth of Jesus

**Today's reading:** Pages 184-187

**This reading covers:** Matthew 1; Luke 2

**Summary:** Jesus' birth was a joyous event bringing hope to all people.

**Do together:** Have the children set up a nativity scene. You could use finger puppets or draw the characters on paper and cut them out. Be sure to include angels, shepherds, sheep, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Wise Men and King Herod.

**Think about:** Discuss each character as it goes into the scene. Talk about their involvement in *The Story*. Have the children talk about what it might have been like if they had been there too. Repeat together the praises of the angels: "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

**Also read:** Isaiah 9:2-7

**Prayer:** What a great day, the day Jesus was born. You brought hope and peace into the world. Thank you for this awesome gift. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Chapter 22 – The Birth of the King Day Three – Jesus as a Boy

**Today's reading:** Pages 188-191

**This reading covers:** Luke 2

**Summary:** Jesus shows children how to grow.

**Do together:** Get out the family photo album. Have fun looking at pictures of your family over the years. Notice how much everyone has grown.

**Think about:** The Bible tells us that Jesus grew up, too. Even though he was God, he still started as a baby, became a boy and grew into a man. Along the way, the Bible tells us he grew up well. At the very end of this chapter of *The Story for Kids* we read, "Jesus became wiser and strong. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." What would it take for you to grow up in each of these ways?

Wiser:

Stronger:

More pleasing to God:

More pleasing to people:

**Also read:** 1 John 2:5-6

**Prayer:** Thank you that you gave me an example of how to live when you sent your Son Jesus. He was a real person and someone I can relate to. Help me to grow like he grew. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.