

Best-Loved **Christmas Stories**



CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS



Arch® Books

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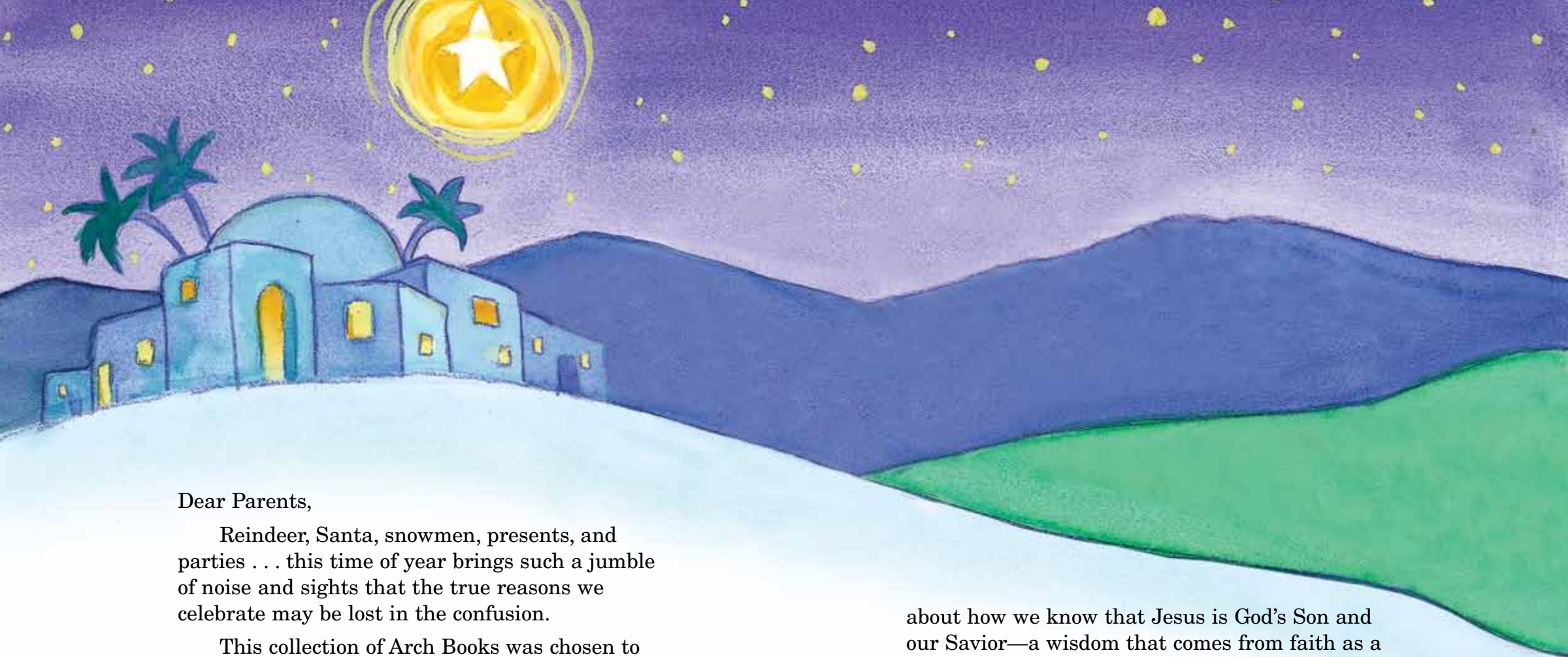
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Dear Parents,

Reindeer, Santa, snowmen, presents, and parties . . . this time of year brings such a jumble of noise and sights that the true reasons we celebrate may be lost in the confusion.

This collection of Arch Books was chosen to teach today's children about the real events of the first Christmas. Beginning with the angel's message to Mary and ending with the child's own life, these stories provide biblical context so you can help expand your child's understanding of our Savior's birth and what it means to us today.

As you read this book, talk about the whys of Christmas—our need for a Savior, God's promise fulfilled through that special baby, and the gifts of forgiveness and salvation He brings. Then talk

about how we know that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior—a wisdom that comes from faith as a gift from the Holy Spirit.

The gift of a Savior. The gift of faith in Him. These are the real reasons we celebrate.

May God bless your family with a happy Christmas season and grant that you know the joy and peace of forgiveness and salvation through the baby born at Christmas.

To Him be the glory!
The editor

Mary's Christmas Story

Luke 1:26–56
Luke 2:1–20 for children

Written by Teresa Olive
Illustrated by Nancy Munger





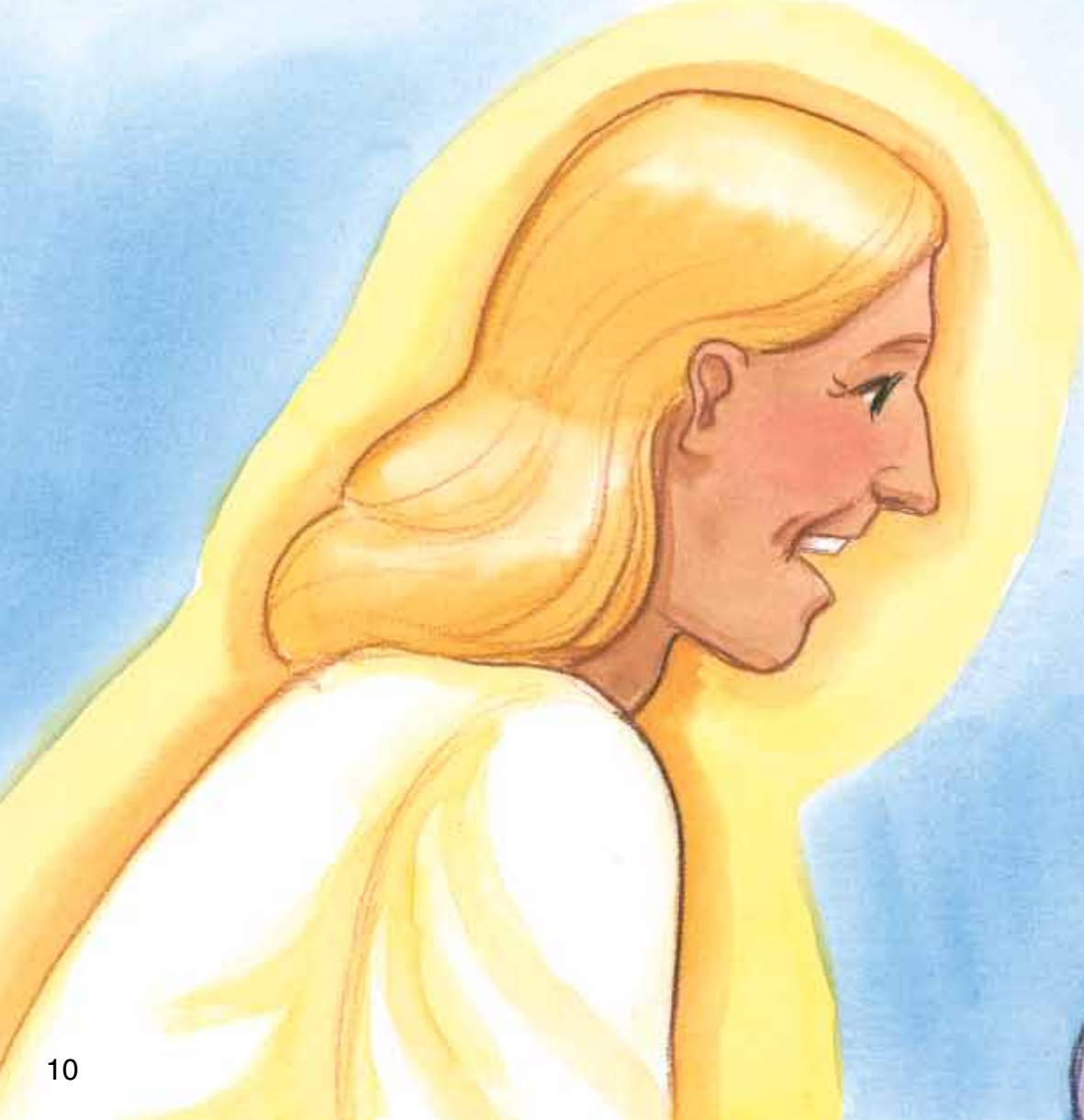
Young Mary lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee.
She was a girl who tried to serve the Lord most faithfully.
As Mary sat quietly in her home one night,
The angel Gabriel appeared, shining oh so bright!

“Greetings!” said Gabriel. “You’re favored by the Lord!”
Mary felt afraid and trembled at his words.
But the angel gently said, “Mary, do not fear.
God is very pleased with you, and He sent me here.”



“You will have a baby named Jesus, God’s own Son.
He will sit on David’s throne, ruling everyone.”
Mary did not understand. She asked, “How can this be?
I am still a virgin. I’m not married yet, you see.”

Gabriel said, “God Himself will cause you to conceive.
Nothing is impossible with God—you may believe!
Your relative, Elizabeth, who is old and worn,
Is finally a mother—her child will soon be born.”



JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS STORY

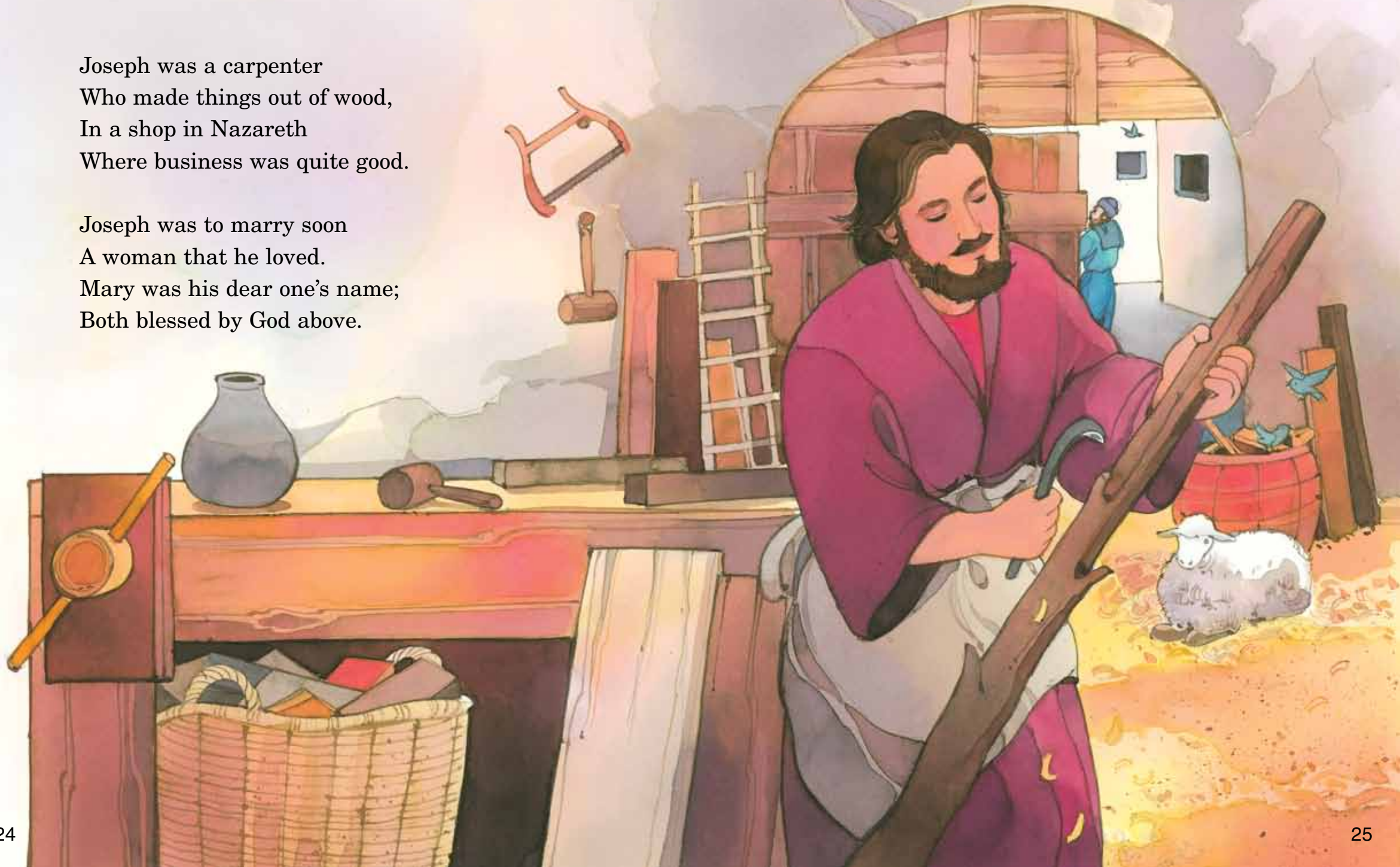


The Story of Jesus' Birth
Matthew 1:18–24 and Luke 2:1–20 for children

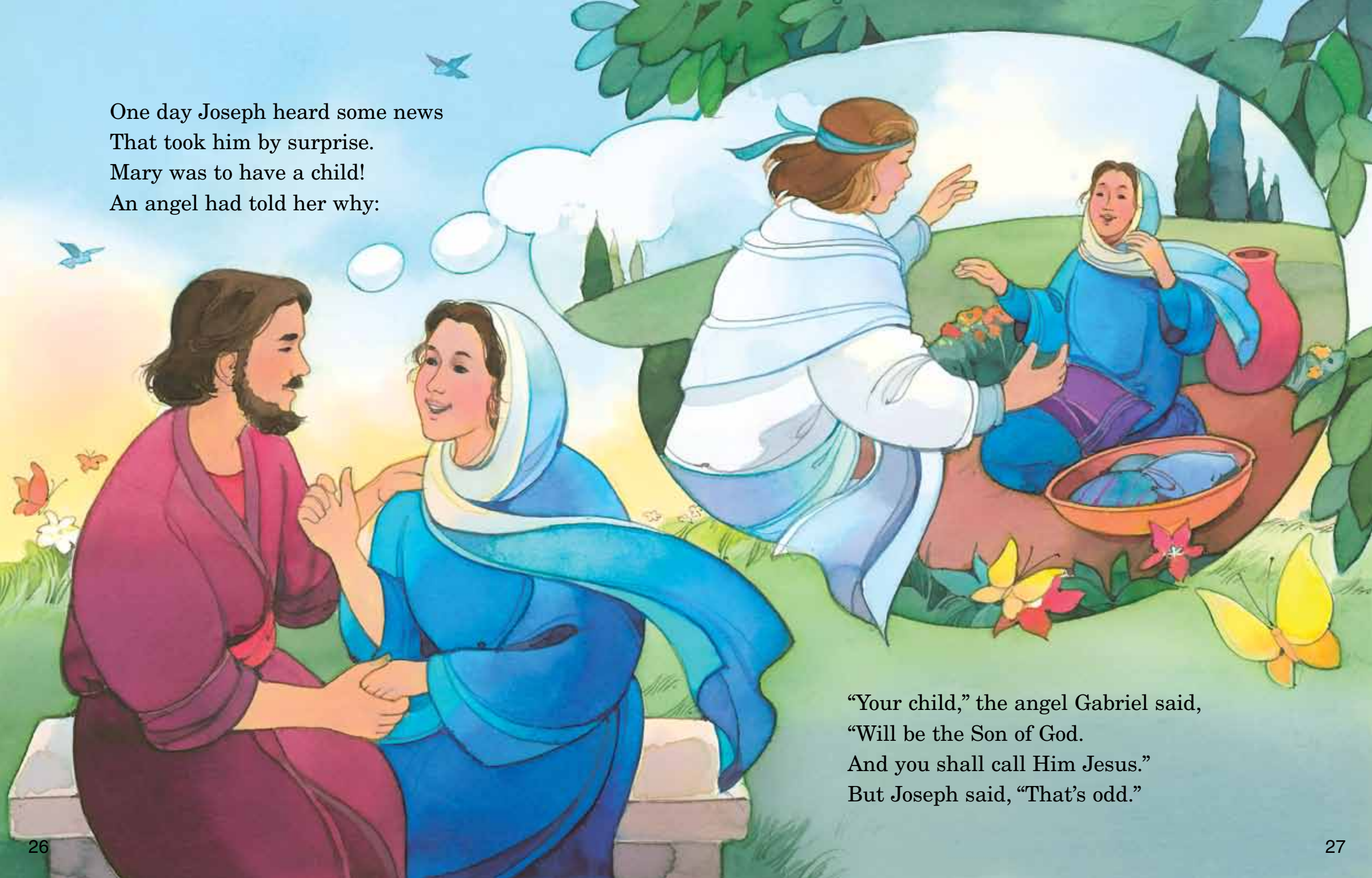
Written by Nicole E. Dreyer
Illustrated by Len Ebert

Joseph was a carpenter
Who made things out of wood,
In a shop in Nazareth
Where business was quite good.

Joseph was to marry soon
A woman that he loved.
Mary was his dear one's name;
Both blessed by God above.



One day Joseph heard some news
That took him by surprise.
Mary was to have a child!
An angel had told her why:



“Your child,” the angel Gabriel said,
“Will be the Son of God.
And you shall call Him Jesus.”
But Joseph said, “That’s odd.”

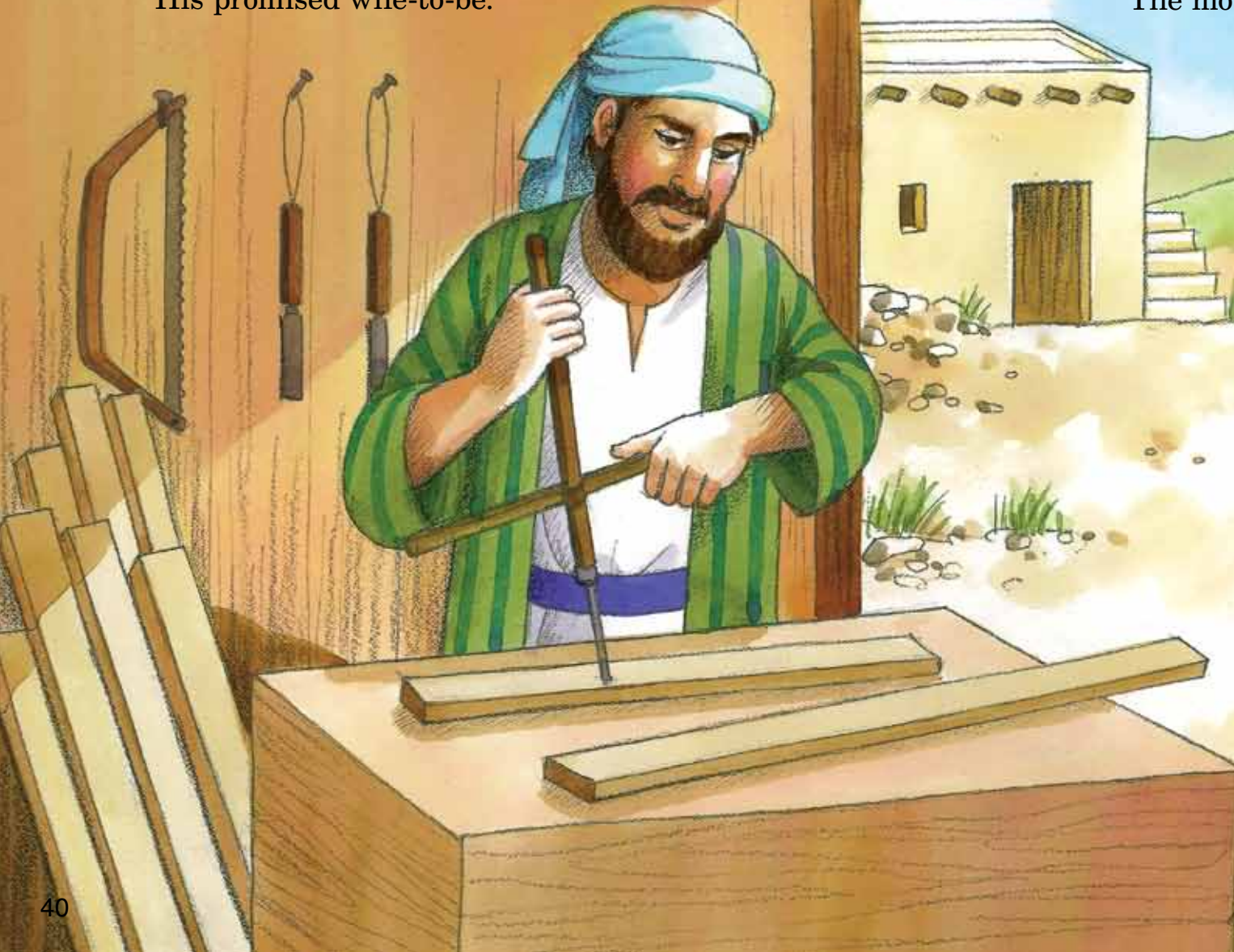
Baby Jesus is Born

Luke 2:1–20 for children

Written by Gloria A. Truitt Illustrated by Kathy Mitter



Now in the town of Nazareth—
In the land of Galilee—
There lived a man named Joseph and
His promised wife-to-be.

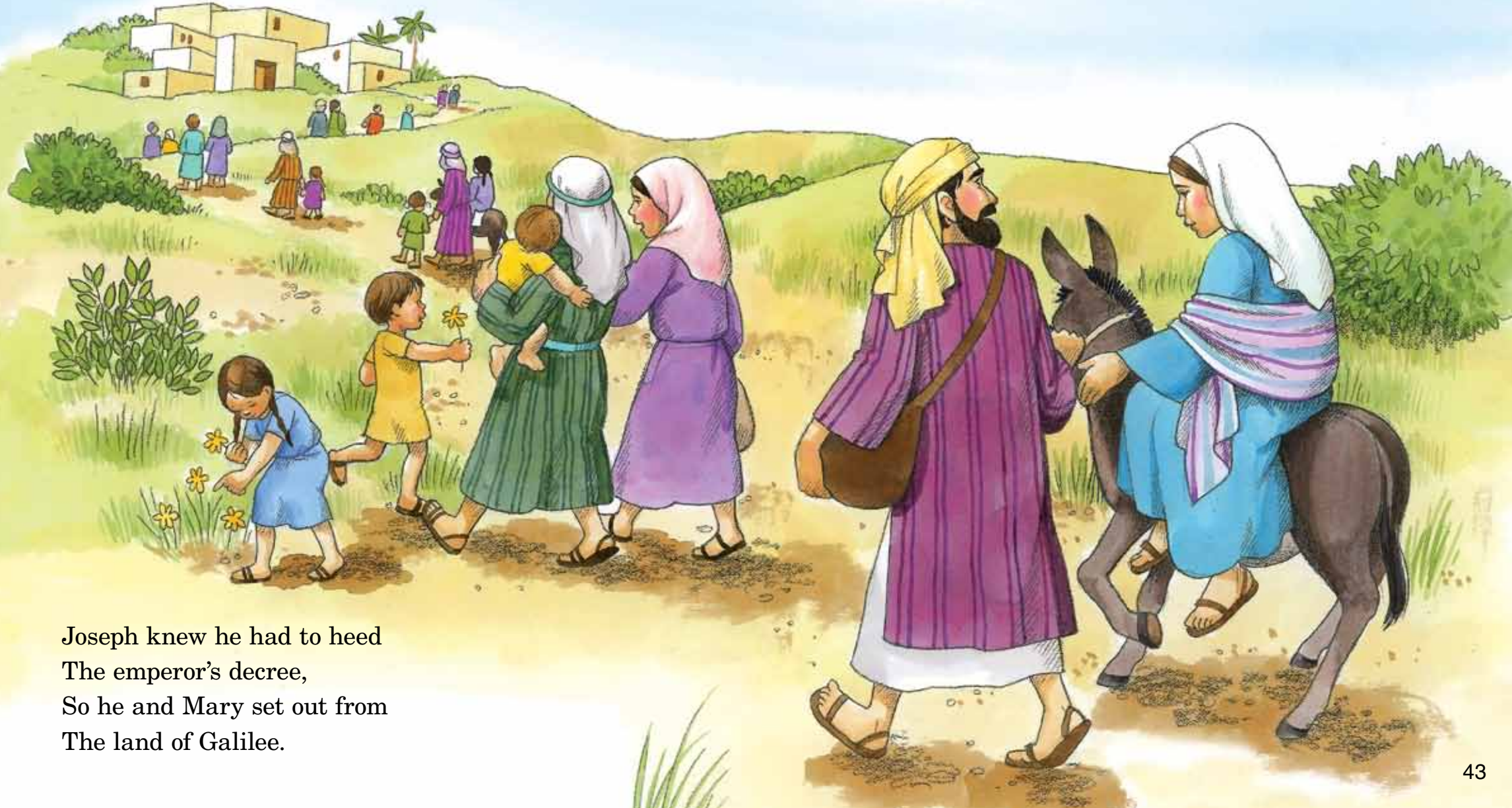


Mary was the woman's name.
She was God's *avored one*,
For God had chosen her to be
The mother of His Son.



Caesar was the emperor
Two thousand years ago.
He told the folks he ruled to make
A trip quite hard and slow.

At last they came to Bethlehem,
A town of little size.
Now the streets were crowded, which
Was not a great surprise!



Joseph knew he had to heed
The emperor's decree,
So he and Mary set out from
The land of Galilee.

THE SHEPHERDS SHOOK IN THEIR SHOES

Luke 2 for Children

Written by Michelle Medlock Adams
Illustrated by Dana Regan

One night while shepherds did their jobs
And watched their sheep with care,
An angel of the Lord appeared
And gave them quite a scare!

The shepherds' hearts were full of fear.
They shook right in their shoes!
But then the angel called to them,
“Fear not, I’ve got good news!”

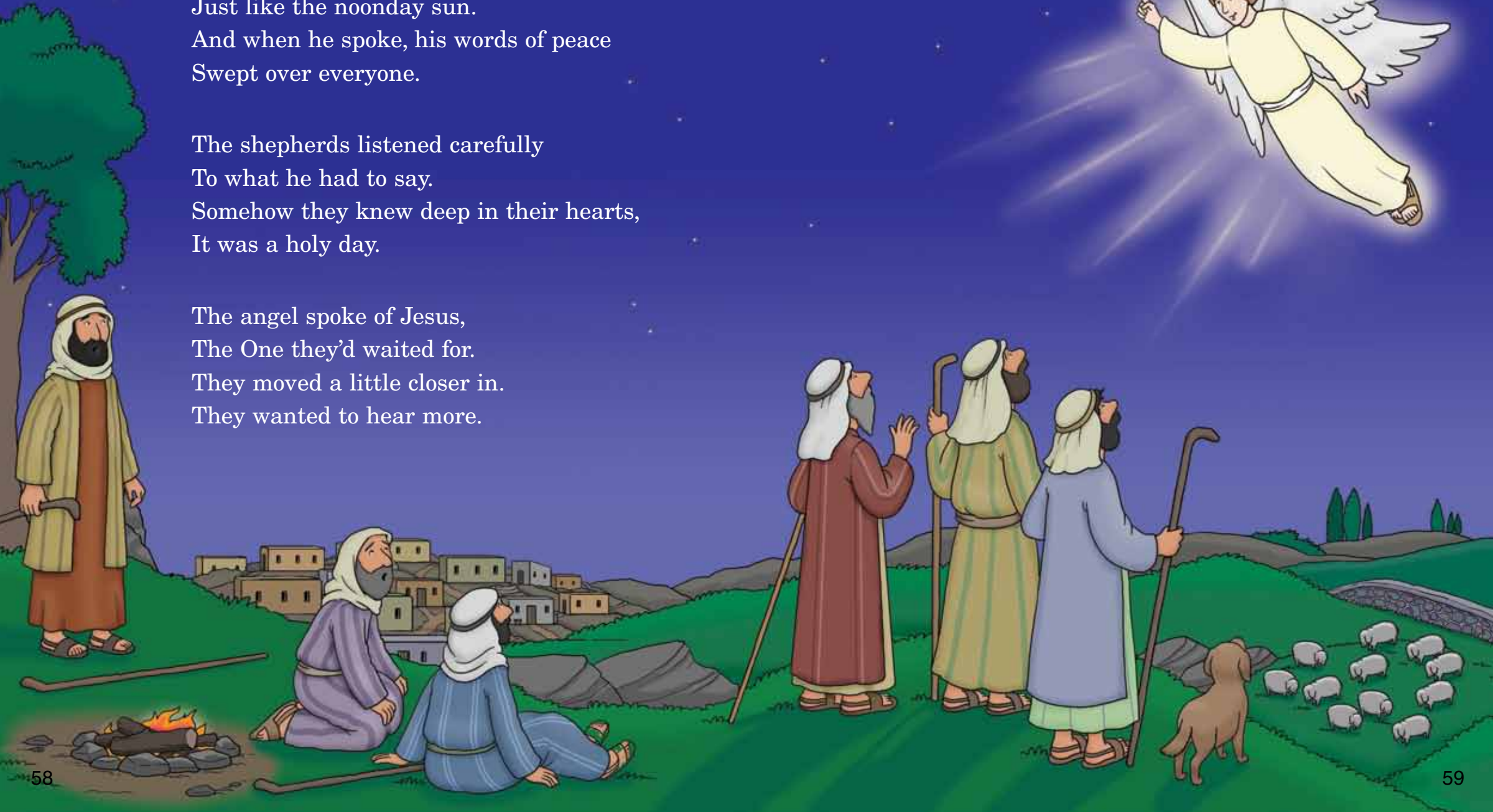
The shepherds didn’t speak a word.
The sheep were quiet too.
They tried to “fear not” like he said,
But that was hard to do.



The angel was extremely bright—
Just like the noonday sun.
And when he spoke, his words of peace
Swept over everyone.

The shepherds listened carefully
To what he had to say.
Somehow they knew deep in their hearts,
It was a holy day.

The angel spoke of Jesus,
The One they'd waited for.
They moved a little closer in.
They wanted to hear more.





Star of Wonder

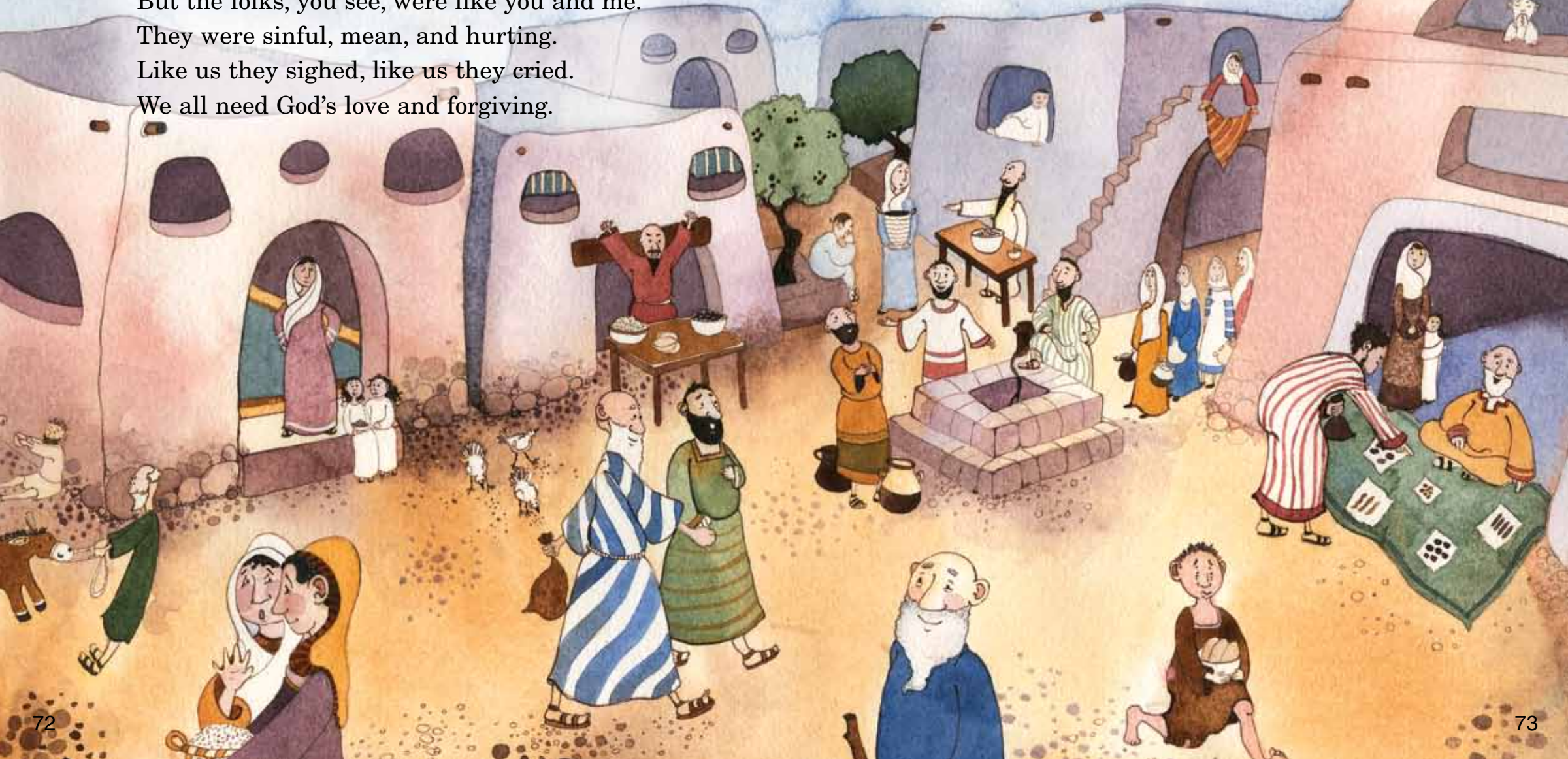
The Story of the Wise Men
Matthew 2:1–11 and Luke 2:1–18, and
Numbers 24:17 and Revelation 22:16,
for children

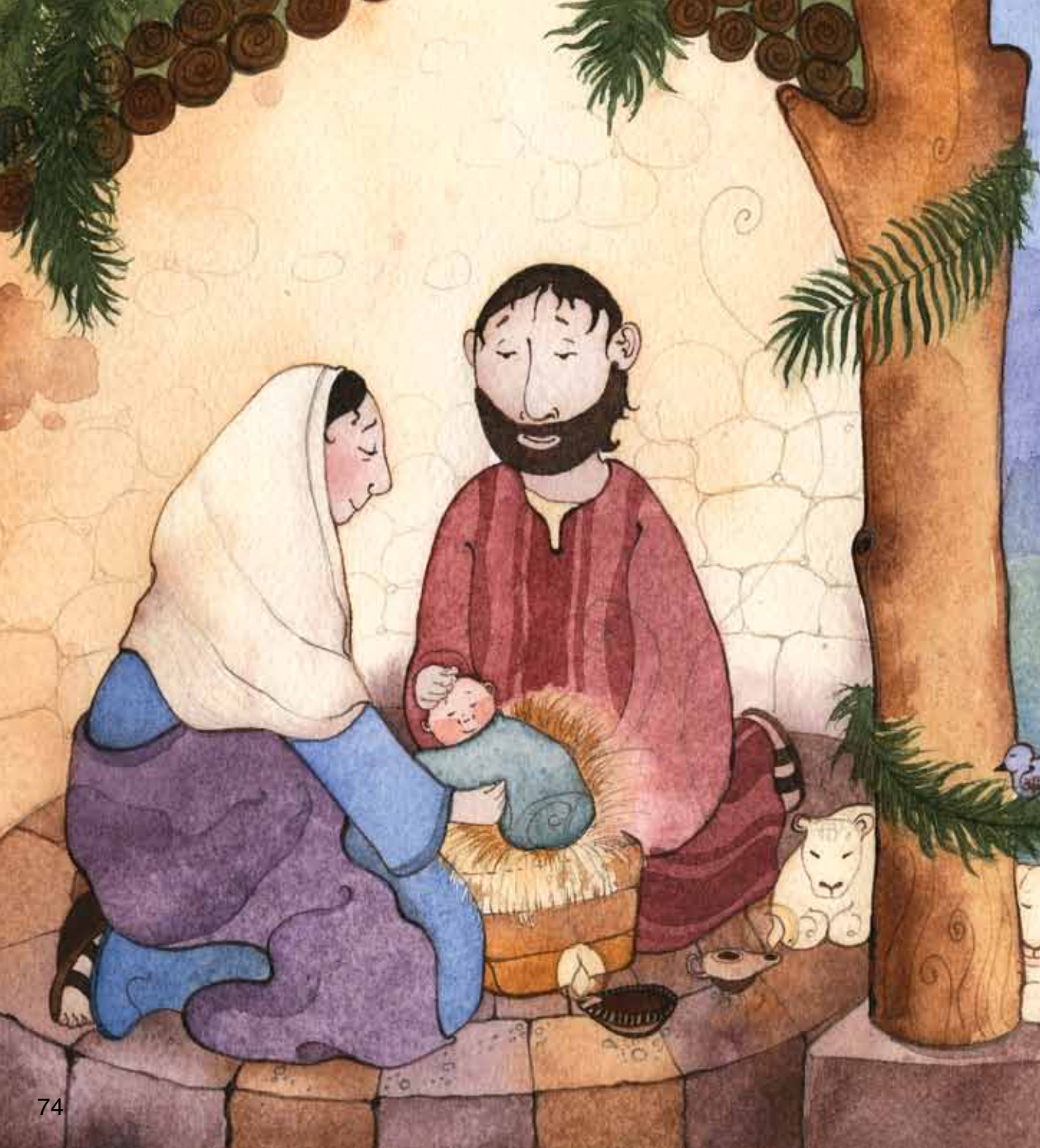
Written by Cynthia A. Hinkle
Illustrated by Johanna van der Sterre

Long, long ago, Christmas had no snow;
Folks wore flowing robes and sandals.
In a land of spices, cinnamon, and rice,
People rode donkeys and camels.

But the folks, you see, were like you and me.
They were sinful, mean, and hurting.
Like us they sighed, like us they cried.
We all need God's love and forgiving.

So God had a plan that was bold and grand.
He would send us a loving Savior
To old Bethlehem. To point to Him,
God lit the bright Star of Wonder.





A state's decree counting folks 1-2-3
Brought Mary and Joseph to town.
In the small city, a place not pretty,
Love's perfect, sweet starlight came down.

Happy and weepy, Mary, quite sleepy,
Placed sweet Baby in a hay nest.
Jesus, the Newborn, was safe and warm.
Now, perhaps, Mom can rest.



My Merry Christmas

ARCH® BOOK

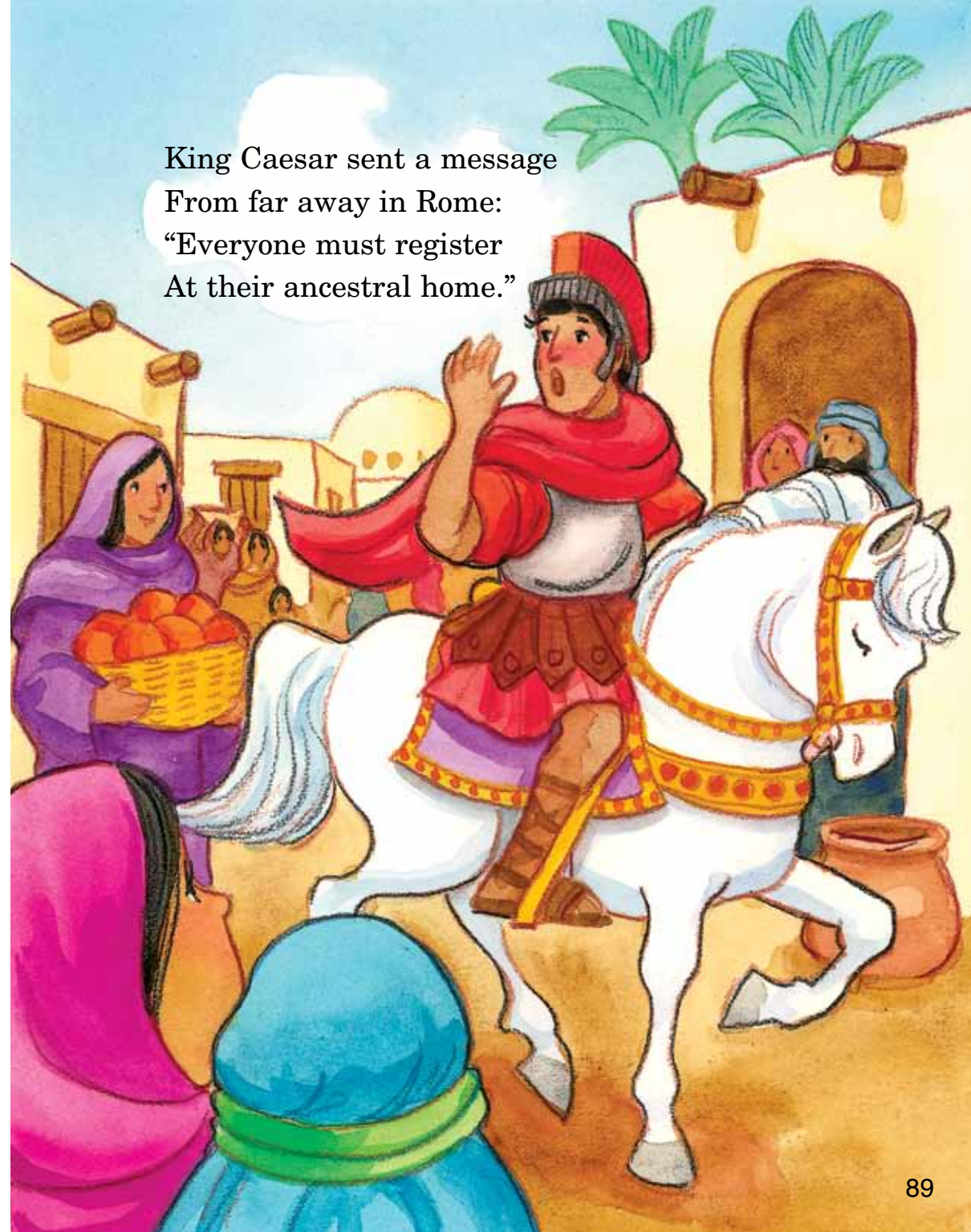


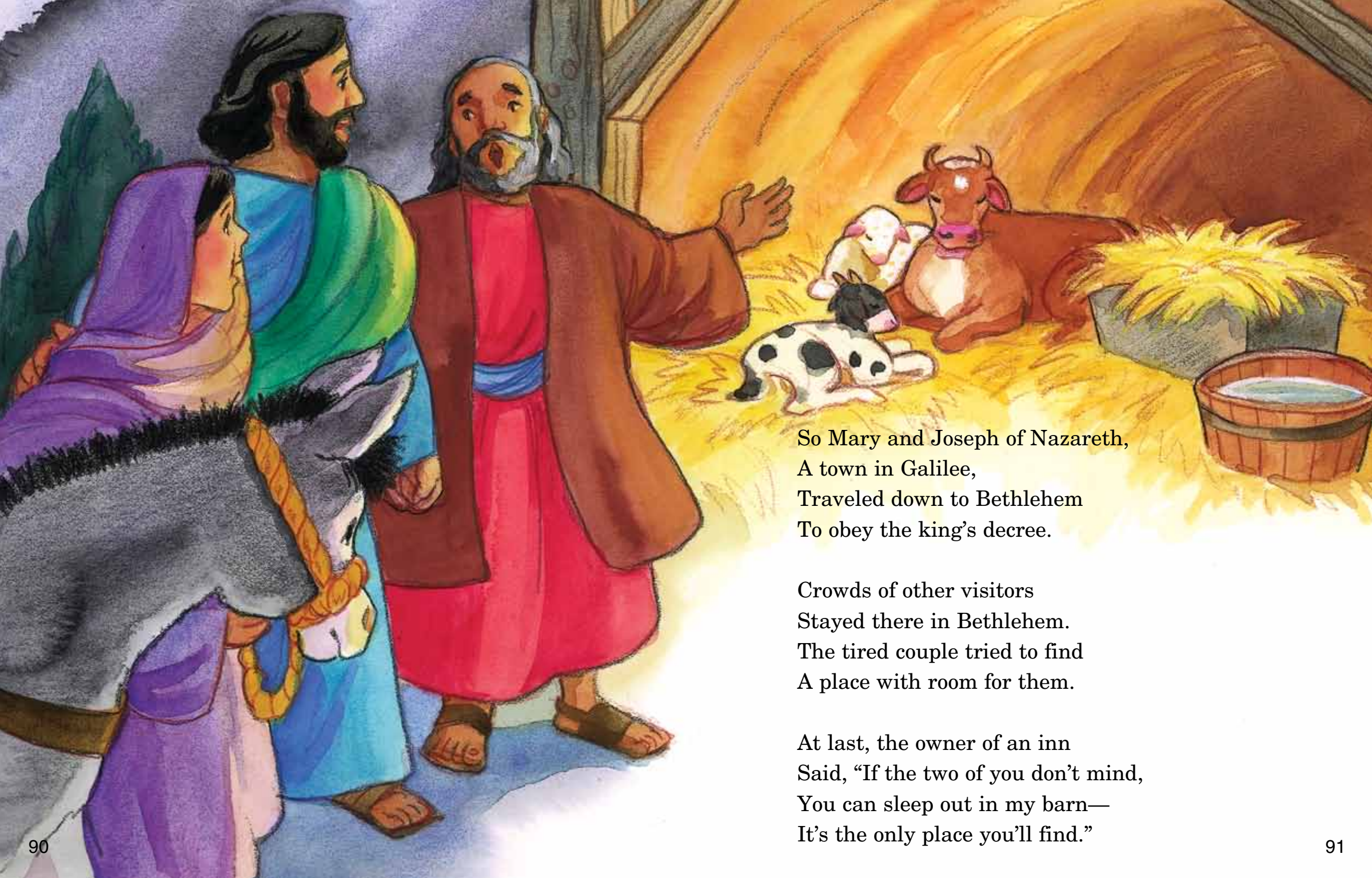
Luke 2:1–20 for children

Written by Theresa Olive
Illustrated by Nancy Munger



King Caesar sent a message
From far away in Rome:
“Everyone must register
At their ancestral home.”





So Mary and Joseph of Nazareth,
A town in Galilee,
Traveled down to Bethlehem
To obey the king's decree.

Crowds of other visitors
Stayed there in Bethlehem.
The tired couple tried to find
A place with room for them.

At last, the owner of an inn
Said, "If the two of you don't mind,
You can sleep out in my barn—
It's the only place you'll find."

The Arch® Book Bible Story Library

Bible Beginnings

- 59-1577** The Fall into Sin
- 59-1534** The First Brothers
- 59-2206** A Man Named Noah
- 59-1511** Noah's 2-by-2 Adventure
- 59-1560** The Story of Creation
- 59-2239** Where Did the World Come From?

The Old Testament

- 59-1502** Abraham's Big Test
- 59-2244** Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac
- 59-2229** Daniel and the Lions
- 59-1559** David and Goliath
- 59-1593** David and His Friend Jonathan
- 59-2220** Deborah Saves the Day
- 59-1543** Elijah Helps the Widow
- 59-2251** Ezekiel and the Dry Bones
- 59-1567** The Fiery Furnace
- 59-1570** God Calls Abraham . . .
God Calls You!
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through Gideon
- 59-1523** God's Fire for Elijah
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- 59-2223** How Enemies Became Friends
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- 59-2246** Jonah, the Runaway Prophet
- 59-1514** Jonah and the Very Big Fish
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- 59-1588** Jesus Calls His Disciples
- 59-2215** Jesus Shows His Glory
- 59-1521** Mary and Martha's Dinner Guest
- 59-2227** Paul's Great Basket Caper
- 59-2267** The Pentecost Story
- 59-1578** Philip and the Ethiopian
- 59-1601** Saul's Conversion
- 59-1574** Timothy Joins Paul
- 59-2222** Twelve Ordinary Men
- 59-1599** Zacchaeus

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- 59-1609** God, I've Gotta Talk to You
- 59-1575** The Lord's Prayer
- 59-1562** My Happy Birthday Book

Christmas Arch® Books

- 59-1579** Baby Jesus Is Born
- 59-1544** Baby Jesus Visits the Temple
- 59-1553** Born on Christmas Morn
- 59-2261** The Christmas Angels
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- 59-2225** The Christmas Promise
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- 59-1499** Mary's Christmas Story
- 59-1584** My Merry Christmas Arch® Book
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- 59-1537** On a Silent Night
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- 59-1594** Star of Wonder
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- 59-1551** Barabbas Goes Free
- 59-2205** The Centurion at the Cross
- 59-1516** The Day Jesus Died
- 59-2213** The Easter Gift
- 59-2221** The Easter Stranger
- 59-1602** The Easter Victory
- 59-2265** From Adam to Easter
- 59-1582** Good Friday
- 59-1585** Jesus Enters Jerusalem
- 59-1561** Jesus Returns to Heaven
- 59-2248** John's Easter Story
- 59-1592** Mary Magdalene's Easter Story
- 59-1564** My Happy Easter Arch® Book
- 59-2258** The Gardens of Easter
- 59-2231** The Resurrection
- 59-1517** The Story of the Empty Tomb
- 59-1504** Thomas, the Doubting Disciple
- 59-1501** The Very First Lord's Supper
- 59-1541** The Week That Led to Easter

Parables and Lessons of Jesus

- 59-2257** Jesus and the Canaanite Woman
- 59-1589** Jesus and the Woman at the Well
- 59-1500** Jesus Blesses the Children
- 59-1595** Jesus, My Good Shepherd
- 59-2245** Jesus Teaches Us Not to Worry
- 59-1540** Jesus Washes Peter's Feet
- 59-2264** The Lesson of the Tree and its Fruit
- 59-1606** The Lost Coin
- 59-2235** The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids
- 59-2218** The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- 59-2224** The Parable of the Prodigal Son
- 59-2262** The Parable of the Seeds
- 59-2210** The Parable of the Talents
- 59-2254** The Parable of the Woman and the Judge
- 59-2250** The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
- 59-1512** The Seeds That Grew and Grew
- 59-1503** The Story of Jesus' Baptism and Temptation
- 59-1596** The Story of the Good Samaritan
- 59-2214** The Widow's Offering
- 59-2208** The Wise and Foolish Builders

Miracles Jesus Performed

- 59-1531** Down through the Roof
- 59-1568** Get Up, Lazarus!
- 59-1604** The Great Catch of Fish
- 59-1581** Jesus Calms the Storm
- 59-1598** Jesus' First Miracle
- 59-2230** Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus
- 59-2255** Jesus Heals the Man at the Pool
- 59-2236** Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant
- 59-2226** Jesus Wakes the Little Girl
- 59-1597** Jesus Walks on the Water
- 59-1558** A Meal for Many
- 59-2212** The Thankful Leper
- 59-1510** What's for Lunch?