

Waiting for the King





We are God's angels. Do not be afraid.
We want to tell you about a baby that brings hope for all people.
This baby is a part of the most amazing and unexpected
love story that will ever happen.

Waiting for the King

Based on the book of Luke in the New Testament of the Bible.
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Many years ago during a dark and scary time,
in the far off nation of Israel,
people were waiting for a king that God had promised.



We watched as these people waited for their coming king.

The people waited and waited. They became impatient and began to cry,
“Where is our king that God promised?
When will he come and rescue us?” They waited and waited.

And then God gave us a message to deliver.



One of us was sent to the city of Nazareth to give God's message to a young woman named Mary. God chose her to give birth to the promised king, his son Jesus. Mary was scared, but she believed that the miracle would happen, and she celebrated.



Joseph, the carpenter she was to marry, did not believe that a miracle had happened. Mary was pregnant, and the child was not Joseph's. So he planned not to marry her.



But God sent one of us to Joseph with a message. Joseph was a good man, and finally believed that God was performing a miracle. This child would save his people from the dark time. So Mary and Joseph got married.

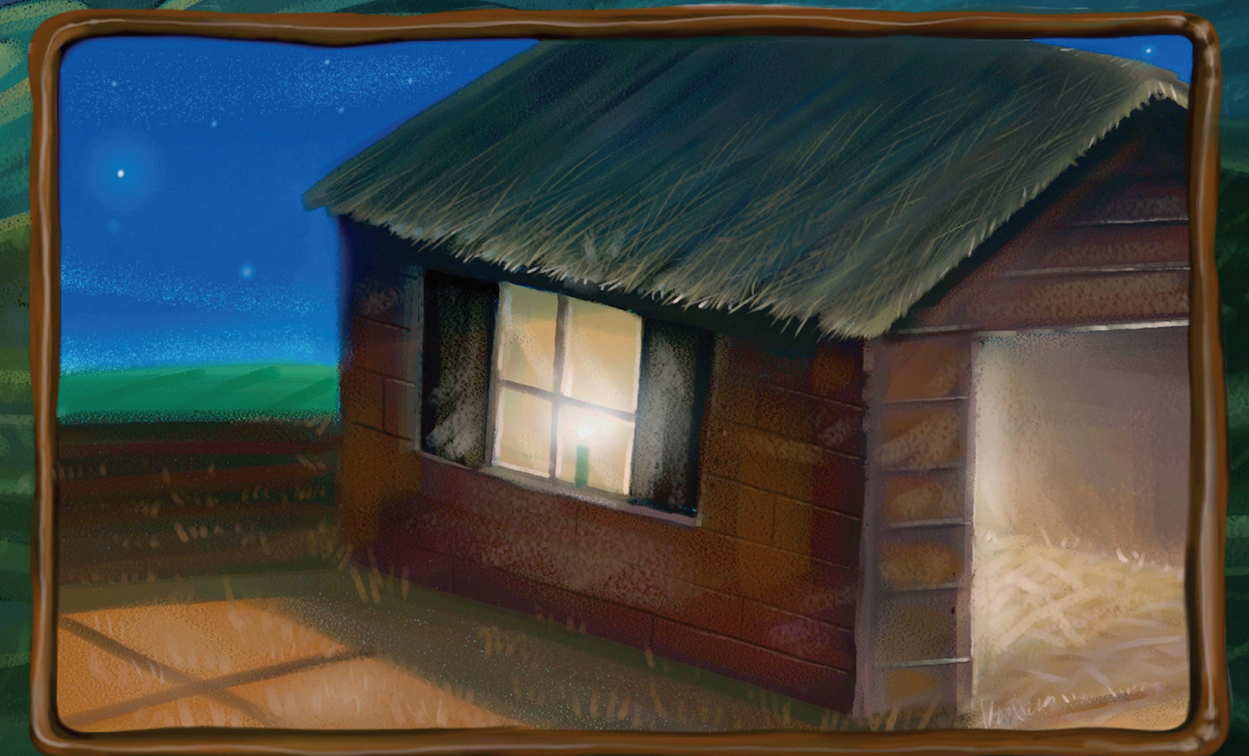


When Mary was about to give birth, they had to travel back to Joseph's home town of Bethlehem to be counted by the government.



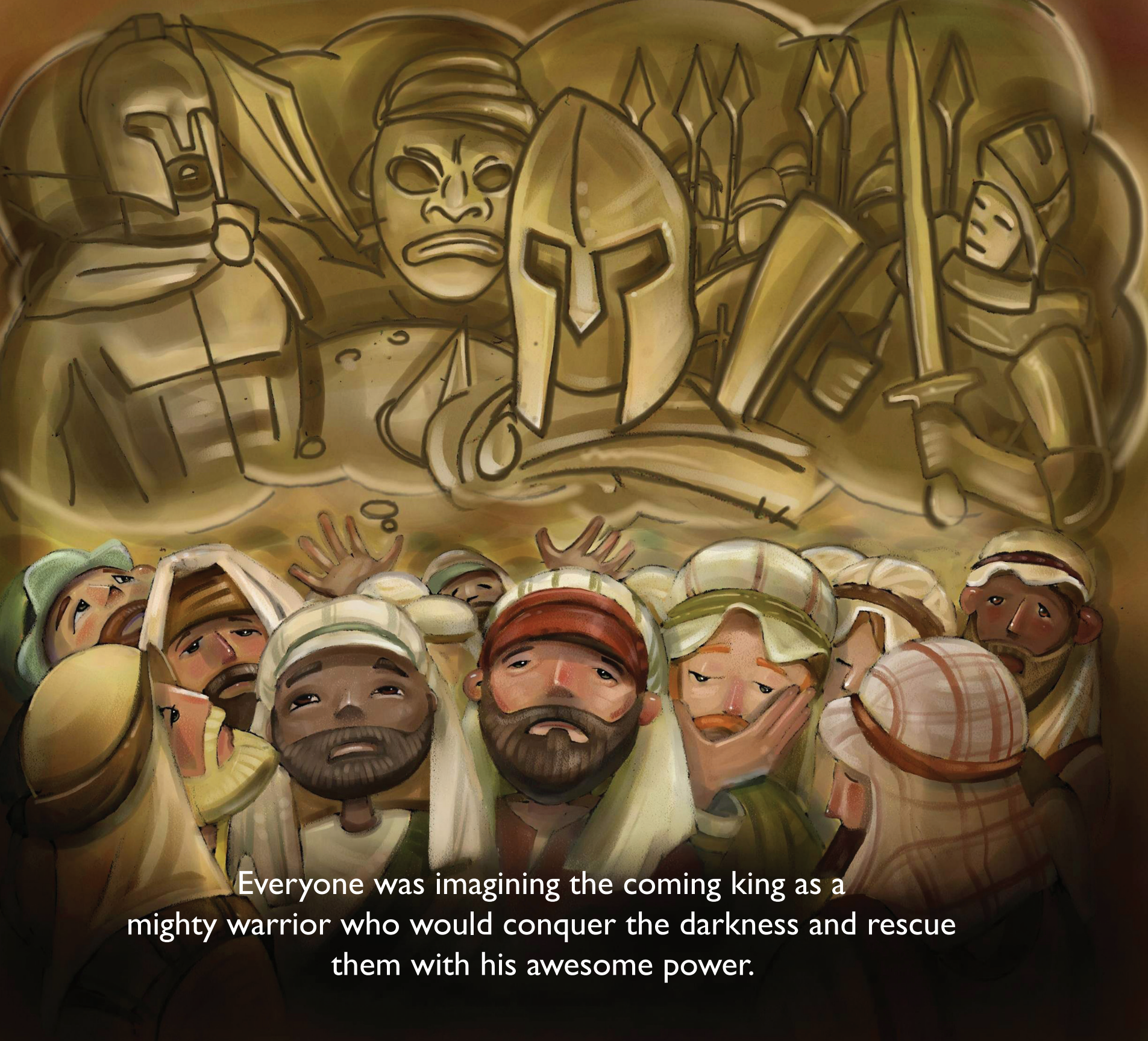
They traveled a long and dangerous way through rugged lands.
Finally they arrived. The little town of Bethlehem
is where the most important king would be born.

But in the crowded town,
Joseph had trouble finding a place for them to stay.



The greatest king was going to be born in the lowest place,
an old barn full of smelly animals and hay.





Everyone was imagining the coming king as a mighty warrior who would conquer the darkness and rescue them with his awesome power.



The baby Jesus was the most unexpected answer to God's promise. God chose to send his only son, Jesus, to show how much he loves us.

We told the shepherds in the fields nearby about the king of the world. They began to worship and sing and dance, even though it was illegal to worship anyone but the king of their country.



The shepherds were so happy that they left their fields and hurried to see the baby Jesus.



At the same time, three wise men began their long journey to meet Jesus.
The brightest star in the sky would lead them to the promised king.





The story of God's loving rescue of
all people from darkness began that day.



Everyone was happy and rejoiced! The long awaited king had come!





Jesus went on to share a message of love and forgiveness that continues to spread to this day. God wants to win all of our hearts, not through power, but with love. So God shows his love for us by sending his only son Jesus. The waiting is over! This king is ours!

The Christmas season provides unique opportunities for children to explore their faith. Make a point to let your children experience the meaning of the Christmas story instead of just telling them.

Here are a few ideas to get you started. Make these Christmas experiences a tradition in your family that your children will not soon forget.

Stars

Bundle up and go outside on a starry night. Take a blanket, lie down and look at the sky. What would it have looked like when the angels appeared in the sky to the shepherds? What would it be like as Mary and Joseph traveled through the desert? What do you think the wise men saw in the sky as they traveled to see Jesus?

Waiting

The people of Israel were waiting for a king for a long time. Talk with your kids about what it was like to wait for them to arrive in your family. To help your kids understand what it means to wait, let your child pick out a favorite small toy or candy bar. Put it somewhere they can see it, but don't let them touch it until Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, enjoy the treat as you read this book, and talk about what it feels like when you receive what you have been waiting for.

Angels

The angels we see in pictures and books are often cute babies with soft, feathery wings. But those aren't the kind of angels we read about in the Bible. Angels are God's messengers. They are warriors. You can read about angels in the first and second chapters of Luke in the Bible. Talk about what you think angels are like, based on what the Bible says about them. Why do you think people were afraid of the angels?



