

A Story of Jesus' Birth  
Submitted by Emily Hollingshead (Cedar City, UT) and Arlene Jacobs (Florida)

Primary: The Nativity Song (Primary Book)

Father: Do you wonder how it was that first Christmas Night, so long ago in a place so far away? Do you know what is the miracle that we celebrate tonight?"

Children: Tell us, tell us!

Mother: We are so grateful for the scriptures – the Book of Mormon and the Holy Bible, which tell us the true story of Jesus' Christ's birth. It is our yearly tradition to join as a family around the Christmas tree and read the story which reminds us of His sacrifice for us.

Father : And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. (Luke 1:26-27)

Child 1: That was Jesus' parents!

Mother: His earthly parents, yes.

Father: But we know that Jesus had a Heavenly Father,

“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:30-31,34-35)

Child 2: Our Heavenly Father is Jesus' Father!

Father: Yes! The Book of Mormon also teaches us that Heavenly Father is Jesus' Father: And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, even the Son of God. (Alma 9:10)

Child 1: But what about Joseph?

Mother: God knew that Mary needed someone to help her raise His Son.

Father: (reading) Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. (Matthew 1:19-21,24-25)

CHOIR: Guard Him, Joseph (4 minutes) (Sally DeFord)

Child 2: But Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Not Nazareth.

Father: That was because of King Herod. He wanted to count all the people of the land, so he could tax them.

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.” (Luke 2:4-5)

CHOIR: O Little Town of Bethlehem (3 minutes) (Beebe)

Child 1: So, that's how Jesus was born in Bethlehem!

Mother: Yes, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but because it was so crowded in the city, and it took so long for Joseph and Mary to get there that there were no rooms left in any of the inns. Do you remember where Jesus was born?"

Child 2: In a Stable!

Child 1: And he slept in a manger!!

Primary: Away In A Manger ( 2 ½ minutes) – (Primary Book)

Child 1: And Jesus' star! Tell us about Jesus' star in the sky!

Father: “And behold, there shall be a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you. And behold, this is not all, there shall be many signs and wonders in heaven. And it shall come to pass that ye shall be amazed, and wonder, insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth. And it shall come to pass that whosoever believe in the son of God, the same shall have everlasting life. (Helaman 14:2-9)

CHOIR: One Star, One Savior (3-4 minutes) – (Webb)

Mother: God wanted witnesses to tell others about this miraculous birth. Do you know who they were?

Children: The Shepherds.

Father: Yes! “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

CHOIR: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (2 ½ minutes) (Sally DeFord)

Father: The angels announced the birth of the King. First to the shepherds,

Mother: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" and then angels declared it to all the world! Father: "For behold, God knowing all things, being from everlasting to everlasting, behold, he sent angels to minister unto the children of men, to make manifest concerning the coming of Christ; and in Christ there should come every good thing. (Moroni 7:22)

Congregation: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (2 minutes)

Mother: And when the angels left them, the shepherds rushed to Bethlehem so that they could see the baby Jesus.

Child 1: What about the 3 Wise Men. Didn't they come, too?

Father: Yes, the Wise Men came from far way in the East, to Judea. "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12)

CHOIR: With Wondering Awe (Congregation joins in) ( 2 ½ minutes) (Beebe)

Father: The shepherds spread the word of the baby Jesus, and told everyone all that the angels had said to them. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:18-19)

CHOIR: Silent Night (3 minutes) (Traditional)

Father: The people who understood the miracle of Jesus' birth, and the significance of the Savior's coming, were so glad!

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (Luke 2:20)

Child 2: What do you mean by the significance?

Father: But behold, the spirit hath said this much unto me, saying: Cry unto this people, saying – Repent ye, and prepare the way of the Lord, and walk in his paths, which are straight; for behold, the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and the Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth. (Alma 9:9)

Congregation: Joy To the World (2 minutes) (Organ and Piano, together) (Beebe)