



# Birth of a Saviour

**Matthew 1:18—  
2:11; Luke 2:1-20**

## EXPLORE

As a family, read *The Action Bible* story on pages 532–537 or the *Action Bible New Testament* on pages 22–27. Read the true story found in Matthew 1:18–2:11 and Luke 2:1–20.

Here is what the story is about:

An angel appeared to a young woman named Mary. He told her that she would soon have a baby. The baby would be the Saviour of the world. The angel then appeared to Joseph, the man Mary was engaged to marry, and told him the baby was from God. The angel told him to name the baby Jesus, which means “God saves.” When it was almost time for the baby to be born, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. The emperor had requested a census, so all the people of Israel went to their hometowns to be counted. Bethlehem was full of travellers, so there was no room for them. So, they stayed in a place intended for animals. When Jesus was born, He was placed in a manger, which is an animal feeding trough. The same night, some shepherds were watching their sheep. A large group of angels appeared to them and announced the birth of Jesus. Some wise men looked to the sky and saw a special star. They knew it meant that the promised King had been born. The Saviour of the world was born!

## REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, away from his family’s home? Joseph and Mary returned to Bethlehem, Joseph’s hometown, because the emperor ordered a census.
- › What is the meaning of Jesus’ name?  
Jesus means “God saves.”
- › How did the shepherds learn about the birth of Jesus?  
An angel told them that the Saviour had been born.

## **DISCUSS**

Sometimes things do not go as we have planned. Mary and Joseph probably did not think they would need to travel before Jesus was born. They did not plan to place God's Son in a feeding trough. But God knew what was going to happen. He had a wonderful plan, even if it was not what Mary and Joseph expected.

- › Think of a time in your life where things did not go as planned. What did you do?

## **PRAY**

Read the prayer below aloud or pray your own prayer based on Deuteronomy 31:8.

**God, we love You. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to become human. Thank You for being with us and for Your promise to never leave us. Help us to be strong and to trust that You go before us. Show us that You are with us. Amen.**

## **ACT**

God is all powerful and He protects us. There are times when we are afraid or unsure, and we need to remember God's care for us. Memorize this verse and say it whenever you are afraid.

**The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you;  
he will never leave you nor forsake you.  
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.  
Deuteronomy 31:8**