

3 The Great Savior

Know the Gospel

God loves us and sent Jesus to rescue us from our sin.

Have you ever been in so much trouble you thought you might die? If not, then imagine what it would be like. Maybe you are caught in flood waters or have to hide under a tree in a huge storm. While you are deciding what to do and thinking that this might be the end, you see someone stronger and wiser than you who can help. You hope they will see you. You call out to them and wait for them to find you, and they do. Instead of feeling despair and worry, you are now hopeful. They will save you! You know they will!

In Lesson 2, we learned about the problem of sin and how the punishment we deserve for sin is death and separation from God. God promised He would solve the problem so we could be friends with Him again. For a long time people did not know how God would do this. Would He send a warrior to lead an army or send a rich and powerful king?

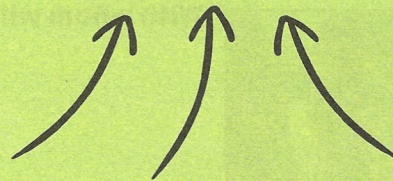
God had His own plan though. His plan was to send His Son to save us from the punishment for sin. Let us read the story and find out more! The different parts of this story can be found in Matthew 1:18–25 and Luke 2:6–16.



Using the Bible

How to find verses in the Bible:

John 3:16



Find the name of the **book**—find John in the index and look up the page.

The first number is the **chapter**; now turn pages until you find chapter 3.

The second number is the **verse**; look through the chapter until you find the number 16.



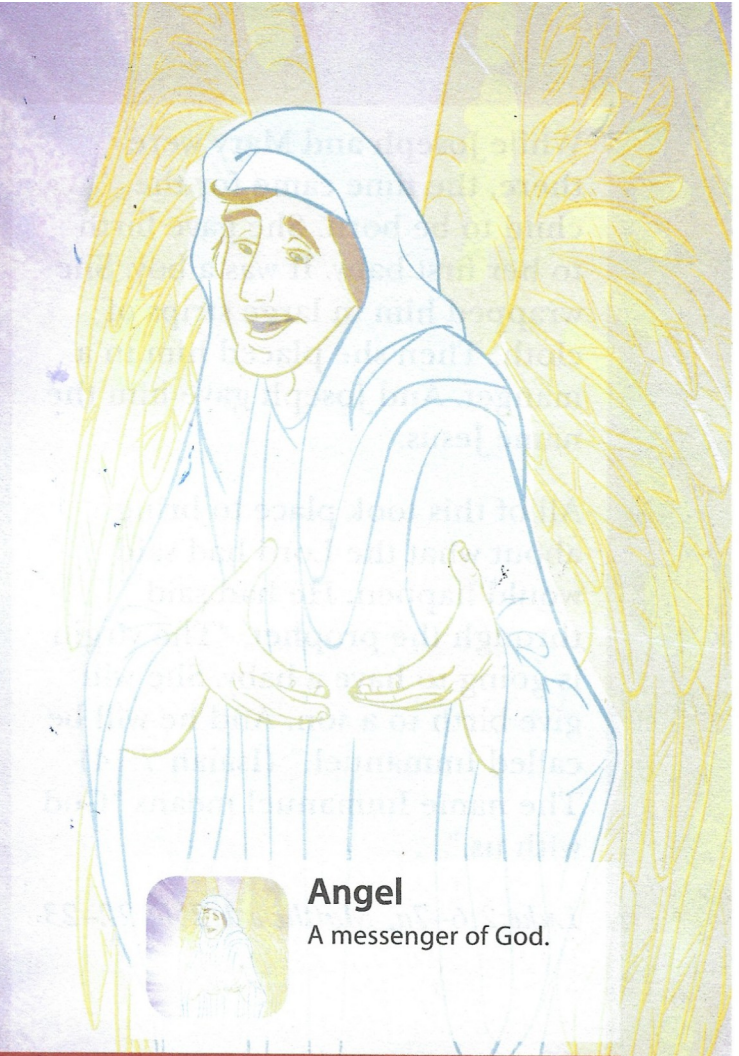
Memory Verse

This verse reminds us how much God loves us. **God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. John 3:16**



Holy Spirit

We first read about the Spirit in the creation story on page 5. We know God in three persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Together, they are all one God! The Holy Spirit helps us to know God, read the Bible, and become more like Jesus.



Angel

A messenger of God.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was a godly man. He did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:18–21

While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

All of this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

Luke 2:6-7a, Matthew 1:25b, 22-23



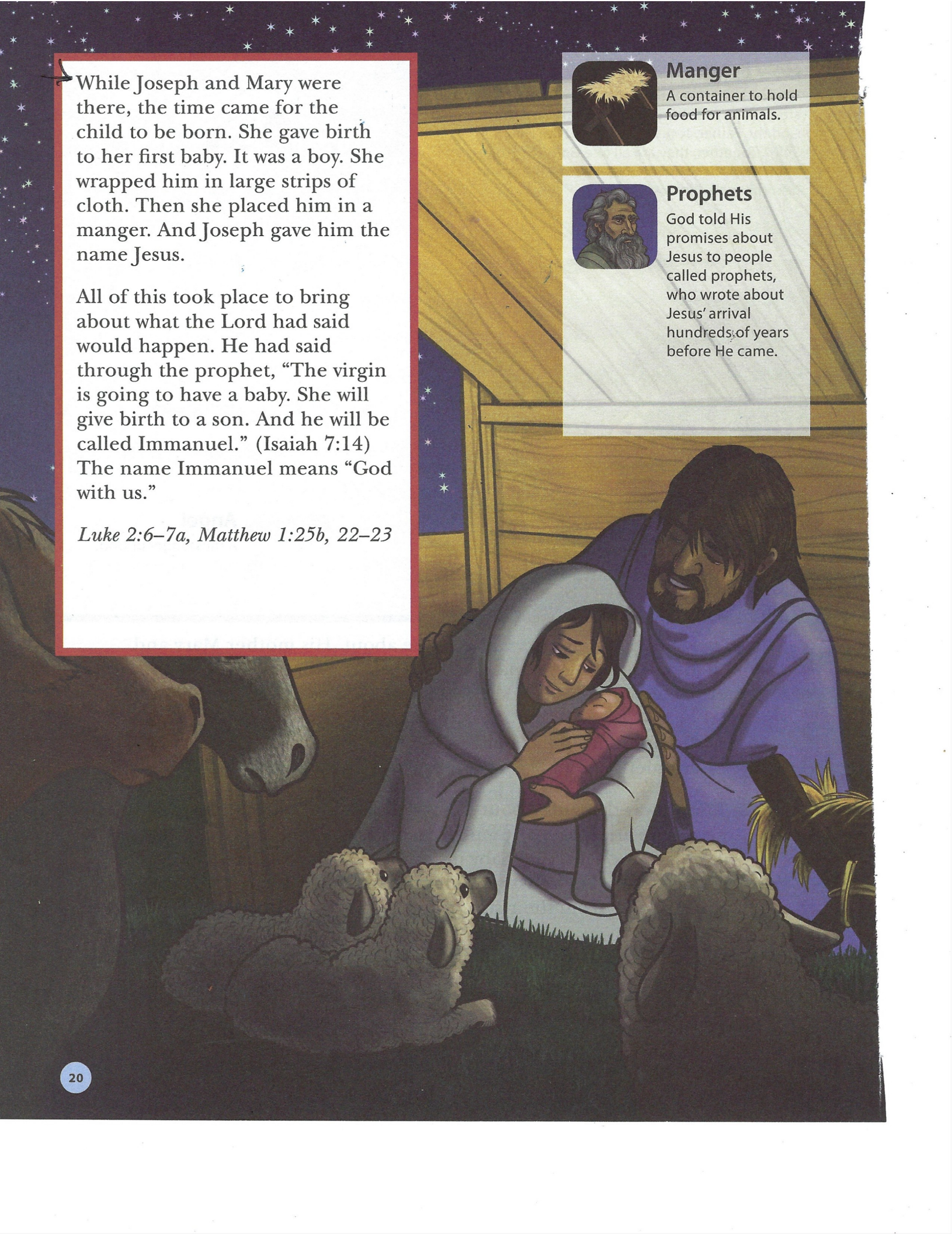
Manger

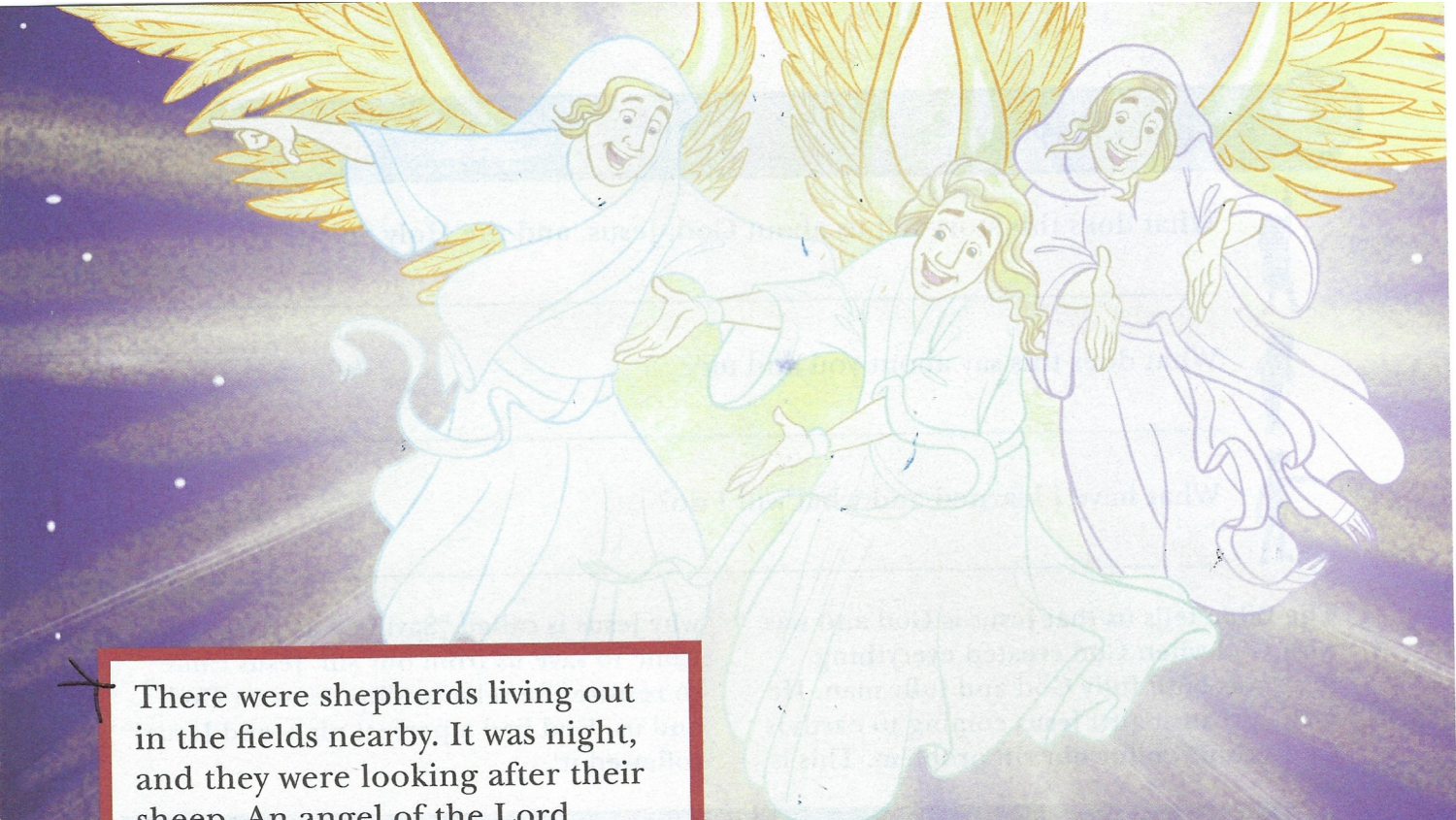
A container to hold food for animals.



Prophets

God told His promises about Jesus to people called prophets, who wrote about Jesus' arrival hundreds of years before He came.





There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.

Luke 2:8–12, 16



Messiah

This is another name for Jesus. It means promised Savior.



Bible Discovery



What does this story tell us about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?



What does this say about you and me?



What have I learned and what will I do?

The Bible tells us that Jesus is God and was with God when God created everything. Jesus was both fully God and fully man. He is the greatest gift! Jesus coming to earth is God's solution for our sin problem. This is

why Jesus is called "Savior"—it means He came to save us from our sin. Jesus came to restore the relationship between God and us. God had a perfect plan—and Jesus followed it!



Jesus Grows Up

Color these pictures of Jesus growing up.



Jesus' birth. "She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel."

Matthew 1:23b



Jesus' family escapes to Egypt because of danger. *Matthew 2:13*



Jesus as a twelve-year-old. "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." *Luke 2:52*



Jesus at His baptism. "A voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.'" *Matthew 3:17*



Jesus Has Many Names

Here are a few of the ways the Bible describes Jesus.

Messiah

"Promised Savior"

John 1:41

Savior

"Who Rescues Us"

Luke 2:11

Lamb of God

"Brings Peace with God"

John 1:29



Son of God

"All authority and power, God"

Hebrews 4:14

Christ

"Chosen by God"

John 1:17

Son of Man

"Our Representative before God"

Acts 7:56



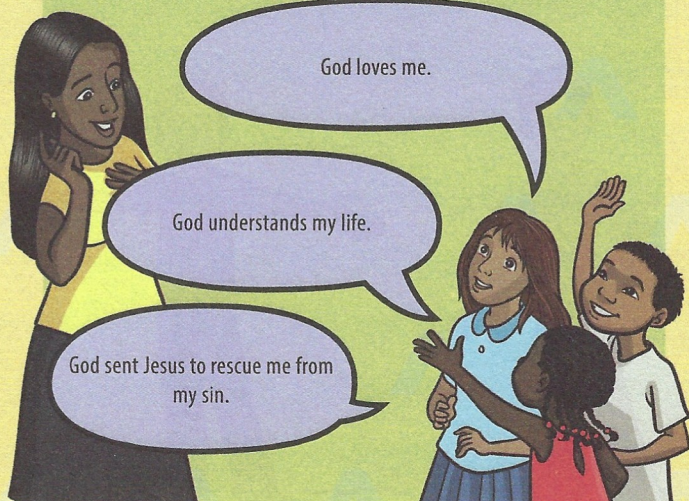
Challenge



With whom will you share this story? Draw a picture or write the names here.



Remember



Talk with God

Dear God,
Thank You for loving me and
sending Jesus to save me. Thank You
that Jesus showed us what You are
like. Help us to remember that He
is Your special gift to us. In Jesus'
name, amen.

