

Good news for everyone

Maggie says,
“Sharing a Bible story with children does not have to be a passive activity – and their listening does not need to be passive either.”

Involve them as you tell the story; ask questions about the pictures; discuss what might happen next. Chat afterwards about what happened and encourage your child to tell the Bible story back to you. Use plenty of expression as you read and make voices for the different characters. Children can get very involved with the people and events in stories. A well-told story can help children face big issues through even very simple text.”

Use these stories with Bubbles Sheets 41–45.



4.3 A message for Mary

Mary was busy at her house. She was soon going to be married to Joseph and there was so much to do. Mary was very excited about the wedding.

Suddenly, she looked up. An angel was standing there. Mary was surprised. She had never seen an angel before.

“Don’t be frightened, Mary,” the angel said. “I have brought you an important message. God has chosen you to have a very special baby. The baby boy will be God’s own Son.”

Mary was puzzled. “But what about our wedding?” she asked. The angel smiled. “Don’t worry. God knows all about it,” he said. Then the angel disappeared.

Mary thought about the message the angel had brought. God’s Son would soon be born, and she had been chosen to be his mother. How amazing! Mary sang happily as she worked. What would Joseph say when he heard her news?

Luke 1:26–38

4.1 A message for Joseph

One night, Joseph had a dream. “It’s true,” an angel told him. “Mary is going to have a very special baby. The baby is God’s own Son. You must call him Jesus.”

Joseph loved Mary. He was happy to marry her and help look after the special baby.

The Roman emperor wanted to find out how many people lived in the country where Mary and Joseph lived. So, he ordered everybody to travel back to the place where they had been born.



Joseph and Mary went on a long journey from their home to a town called Bethlehem. Mary was very tired. Her baby would soon be born. But lots of other people had got there first. All the hotels were full. There was nowhere for Joseph and Mary to stay.

A kind hotel-keeper let them rest in his stable. And that is where Jesus, God’s Son, was born.

Matthew 1:18–23; Luke 2:1–6

4.4 A message for the shepherds

One night, some shepherds were on the hillside outside Bethlehem. Suddenly, there was a dazzling light and an angel appeared. The shepherds were very scared. “Don’t be frightened,” the angel said. “I have brought you some wonderful news. God’s Son has been born tonight.”

Lots more angels appeared in the sky. They sang, “Praise to God in heaven. Peace to everyone on earth.”

When the angels had gone, the shepherds said to each other, “Come on, let’s go and find this special baby.” They left their sheep. They ran down the hillside to Bethlehem. They found baby Jesus lying on a bed of straw, just as the angels had said. The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all about the angel’s message.

The shepherds were so excited they told everyone they met the good news, “God’s Son has been born!”

Luke 2:7–21



4.2 A message for the wise men

A long way from Bethlehem, there were some wise men. They were looking at the stars. “Look at that big, bright star up there,” one said. “It’s telling us a king has been born,” said another. “How exciting! Let’s go and find him.”

The wise men chose some special presents to give the baby king. They began a long journey. They followed the star to King Herod’s palace. “We’ve come to see the special baby,” they told him. “What baby?” he asked.



“The new king,” the wise men answered.

“But I’m the only king here,” said Herod, angrily.

“You will probably find the baby you are looking for in Bethlehem,” the king’s advisers said. And they were right. The wise men knelt down. They knew Jesus was very special. They gave him the expensive presents they had brought – gold and rich perfumes.

Matthew 2:1–12



4.5 Happy birthday, Jesus!

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. There was nowhere for them to stay. Mary was going to have a baby soon.

A kind man said that Mary and Joseph could stay in the animal shed by his house. Very soon, the baby was born. Mary and Joseph called him “Jesus”.

Some shepherds saw an angel. The angel said, “God’s Son has been born.” Lots more angels appeared. They sang, “Praise to God. Peace to everyone.” The shepherds went to see the baby. “Angels told us about him,” they said. The shepherds went home very happy because they had seen Jesus, God’s Son.

A long way away, wise men saw a new star in the sky.

“A new baby king has been born,” they said. They set off to find him. The star showed them the way. At last, they found Mary, Joseph and Jesus. They saw Jesus and knelt down. They gave him wonderful presents. The wise men went home, very happy because they had seen Jesus, God’s Son.

Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–21

