



The Easter STORYBOOK

40 Bible Stories
Showing Who Jesus Is

Laura Richie

Illustrated by Ian Dale

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 CHASING HOPE | PRESS

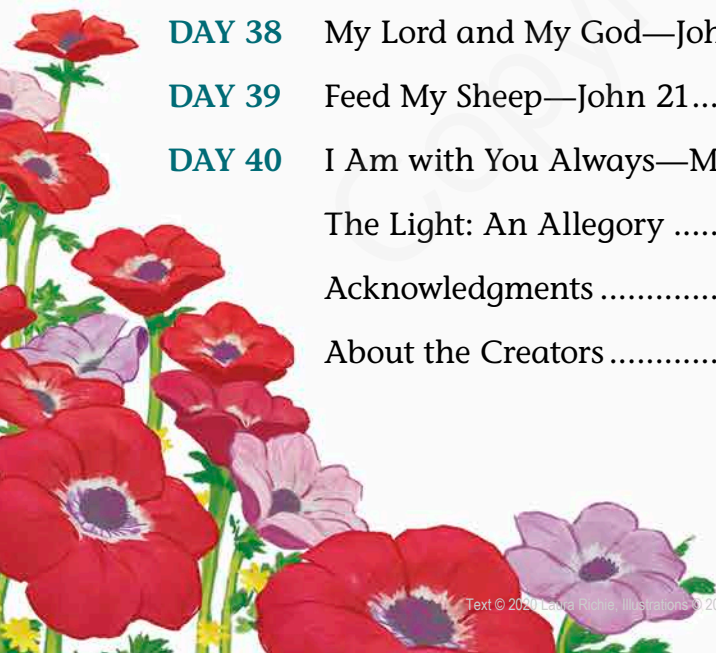
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Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

JOHN 1:14

Right from the start, Jesus was not like other little Jewish boys. Angels filled the sky and shepherds praised God when He was born in Bethlehem to a Jewish family—to a young woman, Mary, and her husband, Joseph. Later, wise men traveled to honor the new King of Kings. They all told the good news of the birth of the Messiah—the Savior sent by God to rescue His people.

When Mary took her baby to the Temple for the first time, a prophet of God named Simeon was there. Simeon held the baby in his arms and praised God. “Lord, now I may leave this world in peace, for I have seen your salvation—a light for all people!”

As time passed, Jesus grew strong and was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with Him. Like other Jewish families, Jesus and His parents traveled to Jerusalem every year to celebrate Passover, a time to remember when God rescued the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt.

When the festival ended, Jesus’ family and friends all started the long journey home. Suddenly, Mary and Joseph realized Jesus was not with their group. Mary was worried! Jesus was twelve years old, but this wasn’t like Him. Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem, searching for Jesus. Three days later, they finally found Him. Where was He? Sitting with the teachers in the Temple, listening and asking questions and teaching. Everyone who heard Jesus was amazed at His wisdom and understanding. How could a boy know so much about God and His law?

But Mary was upset. “Son, why have you treated us so? ... Your father and I have been searching for you!” (Luke 2:48).

Jesus said, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I would be here, in my Father’s house?” Then the boy, the Son of God, went with His family. It was time to leave the Temple for now, but Jesus would be back.

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Why did Jesus know so much about God? Who was the Messiah?



Beloved Son

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

“You will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God.”

LUKE 1:76–78

John, the son of Zechariah, had been born about the same time as Jesus. When he grew up, he became a prophet. Prophets spoke messages from God, and John had a very important message. He told everyone the Messiah was coming to rescue them from their sins.

Many people came to hear John’s message, and he baptized those who wanted to be clean and free from their sins, putting them under the waters of the Jordan River and pulling them back up again. John told everyone that people are broken and can’t love, but the Messiah was coming to help people love.

Jesus was more than a prophet—He was the Messiah. And when the time was right, Jesus went to see John. John saw Jesus coming and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

John believed.

Jesus asked John to baptize Him. John refused at first, because he knew Jesus was holy—He was all good with no bad. Jesus didn’t need to be baptized and cleaned from sin! But Jesus knew God’s plan that one day, Jesus would take all of our sin onto Himself. He would die in our place, like a lamb given as a sacrifice. John baptized and cleaned with water, but Jesus would make people new with God’s Spirit.

So John baptized Jesus. And when he did, the heavens were opened. John saw God’s Spirit come down to rest on Jesus like a dove. And he heard God’s voice say, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus, the Promised Son, came to make all things good and new again. He came to heal broken friendships and free us from sin. The Messiah came to help us love God, love each other, and love all of creation—because that’s what we were created to do.

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What does sin do? Sin breaks your friendship with God and with others.

