

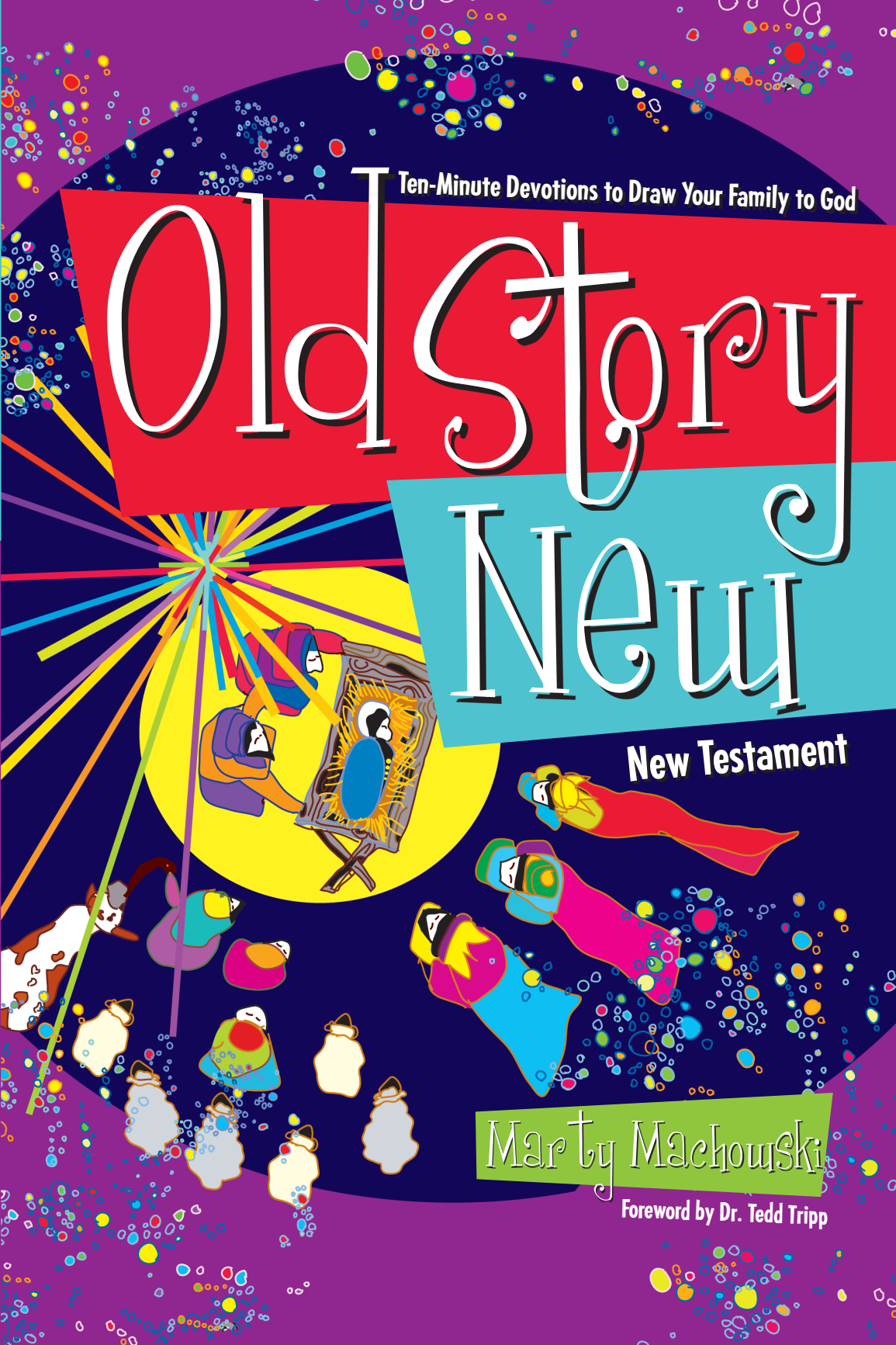
Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God

# Old Story New

New Testament

Marty Machowski

Foreword by Dr. Tedd Tripp



“Finding time for family devotions is a high hurdle. But finding something enjoyable to do as a family that also illuminates God’s Word can be an even higher impediment. In this wonderfully helpful book, you’ve found the answer to the second challenge. And Marty’s clear writing and creativity will help you make the time (even if you don’t think you have it) to clear the first hurdle. It’s my pleasure to recommend this book—and the devotional experience it provides—to you and your family.”

**Dr. Robert Wolgemuth**, Author of *The Most Important Place on Earth: What a Christian Home Looks Like and How to Build One*

“The church wants parents to lead their homes spiritually; the parents don’t know how. Marty Machowski’s *Old Story New* is the answer for both church and parents. Marty has invested his time in the best way possible—helping parents shepherd their children with more than stories and morals, but with the central theme of Jesus illuminated clearly in every story.”

**Scott Thomas**, Pastor, The Journey Church, St. Louis, MO;  
author of *Gospel Coach: Shepherding Leaders to Glorify God*

“Marty Machowski ‘gets’ families. Even more importantly, he knows how to connect them to the Bible with simple, relatable New Testament studies that make much of Jesus in every lesson. If you want your kids to see the Savior through his Word, spend some time in this exciting new devotional.”

**Dave Harvey**, Church Planting and Church Care, Sovereign Grace Ministries; author of *When Sinners Say I Do: Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage*

“So much of the family devotional material available today does little more than use the Bible to teach half-truths and full-out moralism. The reason my wife and I love Marty Machowski’s books and the reason they have become important resources as we seek to raise our children in ‘the discipline and instruction of the Lord,’ is their consistent focus on the big picture of the Bible’s big story. *Old Story New* is yet another wonderful resource that we gladly commend and look forward to reading with our children.”

**Tim Challies**, Author; pastor; blogger

“Marty Machowski’s *Old Story New*, like Marty’s children’s ministry curriculum and Old Testament devotional, *Long Story Short*, is a great asset to parents, pastors, and children’s ministry teachers. I am particularly excited about the way Marty connects each New Testament story to the gospel of Christ. Marty’s book will help your kids learn to see Jesus as the center of every part of the Bible. And what might God do with such a generation raised to rightly handle the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation?”

**Josh Blount**, Pastor, Living Faith Church

“Nurturing our children requires us to gain the attention of their hearts as soon as possible. So, what should we use to seize their interest? Thinly veiled morality tales that leave our children wandering in a desert of demands? In *Old Story New*, Christ is the beacon that captures the imagination of our children. Let this beautiful book lead your children out of the desert and into the oasis of Jesus, so he can quench their thirsty hearts.”

**David E. Tate**, Pastor, Manor Presbyterian Church

**Old Story New**  
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to Draw Your Family to God

*New Testament*

Marty Machowski



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I would like to dedicate this volume  
to my loving wife, LOIS,  
and my six children—

EMMA, NATHAN, MARTHA, NOAH, ANNA, and AMELIA.

They graciously supported me and provided regular  
encouragement through the many hours  
that I spent writing this devotional.

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# Foreword

By Dr. Tedd Tripp

Marty Machowski has done it again! This book, along with the earlier Old Testament devotional book, *Long Story Short*, is another masterful devotional book for families. It is simple without being shallow. It is theologically robust without being pedantic. It is comprehensive without being overwhelming. Best of all, it is doable for busy parents with children.

In an age filled with intrusive voices that speak to your children, the need for families to provide a biblical narrative for their children is profound. Remember the culture is always providing a narrative that tells your children how to interpret life. The iPod, iPad, Facebook, Little League, dance studio, and video games are all giving your kids a narrative for life. Entertainment, the arts and music, literature, manners, sports, work, leisure, and recreation all provide a false narrative for interpreting life. The culture's narrative tells your children how to think about authority, justice, honor, amusement, responsibility, service, gender, and image. Tragically, the narrative of the majority culture is a lie from the father of lies.

Marty Machowski provides us with a different narrative—the Bible broken down into doable, ten-minute family devotions. Family worship is essential for your children. In ten-minute blocks day after day, you can provide your children with a truthful narrative about themselves, God, and the world.

It was my privilege to be raised in a home in which we always had family worship. My dad would have benefitted from having a tool like *Old Story New*, but the value of daily family worship still shaped life for me and my brothers and sister. The primary place for your children to be taught the ways of God is not the church, it is not Christian school, not VBS or summer camp; it is the home. Psalm 78 captures this truth, “. . . things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

*He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (Psalm 78:3–7).*

The benefit of daily family worship is impossible to overstate. I recently read the story of Philip Henry, a British pastor, who faithfully led his family in daily worship. At the end of the week he would ask questions to remind them all of the daily lessons. He called it “Sweeping up the crumbs so nothing would be lost.” You might be wondering, who was Philip Henry? He was the father of Matthew Henry, whose commentaries on the Bible are perhaps the most widely read Bible commentaries of the last couple of hundred years. What kind of home produces a man with the biblical insight and understanding of Matthew Henry? It is a home where children hear the rich narrative of Scripture.

In this volume Marty Machowski has thoughtfully broken down the story of the biblical narrative into doable pieces. He has done the heavy lifting that makes family worship seem so scary to dads. Daily readings are followed by thoughtful questions—questions that do not merely rehearse the reading, but actually cull out the content (meaning) of the passage.

Take the time to read with care Machowski’s introduction to the book and how to use it with children of various ages. His observations will enhance your ability to use this book effectively with your children.

One thing more, something I always look for: the gospel is here. Machowski’s focus is not just the story, but THE story in the story. Christ and the gospel are present in each devotional. Our profound need of grace and the glorious gospel of grace meet our needs and our children’s needs at every point.

Dr. Tedd Tripp  
August 2012



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# Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Dave Harvey for his encouragement to develop and publish this material for a broader audience beyond our own church. Thank you to the pastors of Covenant Fellowship Church for their example, which taught me how to live out the gospel in my ministry and life.

My labors in writing this book rest on the shoulders of greater men whose books have influenced my thinking. Of particular note are *Living the Cross Centered Life* by C. J. Mahaney, *The Unfolding Mystery* by Edmund Clowney, *Promise and Deliverance* by S. G. De Graff, *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, and the *ESV Study Bible* by the folks at Crossway.

As I finished the manuscript for this book I grew increasingly grateful for the scores of people who worked with me in writing it. The project began ten years ago when I started to put together the *God's Story* curriculum for the children and parents of Covenant Fellowship. Through the years I sent the manuscript through a gauntlet of editors and proofreaders. This published devotional would never have made it this far if it were not for their efforts.

So, thanks to Bill Patton, Michelle Janes, Sarajane Orlando, and Janel Feldman, along with Dwayne and Toni Bennett who have served by my side in Promise Kingdom, our Sunday morning children's ministry program. More recently, I would like to thank my wife, Lois, and Jared Mellinger, who read through my draft manuscript, and Jeff Gerke for his skillful editing to help transform deep biblical truth into easy-to-understand weekly devotions. I would also like to thank Charity Imfeld for her administration and helpful skills behind the scenes.

I am very grateful for the folks at New Growth for their investment and commitment to provide solid biblical resources for families and churches. Finally, I would also like to thank the families of Covenant Fellowship Church for their example, support, and prayers through the completion of this project.



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# Introduction

The greatest hope of all Christian parents is to see their children come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Most parents would climb the highest mountain or slay the fiercest dragon should it guarantee their children's salvation. But just as our conversion was a work of grace, so the conversion of each of our children depends upon the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, not our labors. And yet we are not powerless to act, for in God's kindness he chose to partner with us in his saving work by giving us something to do.

We get to tell God's story to our children—the mighty life-transforming message of the gospel. The gospel, the Bible tells us, is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). We are sowers who plant the seeds of faith each time we speak the truth of God's story to our children. Like a farmer sprinkling the newly planted seed with his watering can, we send our prayers to God while we keep our eyes fixed upon the soil of their lives, waiting to rejoice with the first sprouting leaves. Even then, though we've sown the seeds of the gospel, we still marvel and wonder about how they sprouted (Mark 4:26–29).

The gospel story, filled with adventure, suspense, drama, and mystery, easily captures the attention of our children. A good book is said to come alive when you read it if it captures the imagination. The gospel story in the Bible goes a long step further: It *is* alive and able to cut through the hardest sinful heart, giving life to the deadest, unbelieving soul.

Like a double-edged sword cuts an apple in two, the Word of God cuts through our pride to show us our sin. Then it points us to Jesus, the only hope for our forgiveness before a holy God. As John said toward the end of his Gospel, it was written “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). We are saved, and our children are saved by the Holy Spirit as we review the story of Christ in the gospel.

Why is it, then, that, for so many Christian families, the Bible sits on a table unopened or remains hidden on a shelf, sandwiched between storybooks and a dictionary? One common explanation that some good Christian parents offer is that they don't know where to begin. The Bible seems long and sometimes complicated. They are not sure how much to read at one time or what to say to their children about what they just read. They are not sure where to begin or how much to share and, if they give it a try only to be met at the end by their children's blank stares, they get discouraged.

Many parents have burst out of the gate running like a racehorse with all the excitement of how the Bible was going to transform their children, only to tire after the first bend in the track. Somehow their Bible ends up back on the shelf with the other books. Discouraged, they say to themselves, I guess I must not be one of the super-parents who can explain the Bible with commentaries and teach their children words from the original Greek.

There are no super-parents. We all struggle, and we all need help to stay on course. That is where I hope *Old Story New* can help make sharing the Bible with your children a whole lot easier. By dividing the Bible story into shorter parts and giving you everything you need to lead a ten-minute family devotion, *Old Story New* does the hard work for you. Simple discussion questions (and answers!) for each day's devotion help you interact with your children over what you read to them. You'll get fewer blank stares, and you will be surprised at how much they understand and remember from day to day.

As you read and discuss God's Word, you can be sure the Holy Spirit is also at work drawing your children closer to God and opening their minds to understand the life-giving message of the gospel. Remember, our job is to plant the seeds and water—God is the one who makes the seeds grow.

## All You Need Is Ten Minutes a Day!

If you can find ten minutes a day, you can use this tool to pass on the most valuable treasure the world has ever known. Contrary to what many believe, daily family Bible study need not take a lot of time. God can use a short, simple family devotion consistently practiced over time to yield more fruit in the lives of our children than we realize—a quick

daily devotion not as easily derailed by our busy schedules. Each day as the gospel is presented, God is at work.

Our hope in God is to see our children reading their Bibles and having devotions on their own, not because they have to, but because they want to. The truth of God's Word brings us to Christ and is effective to sustain us and help us to grow all of our days. There is simply no greater delight for Christian parents than watching the Spirit of God guiding their children through faith-filled study of God's Word. No earthly treasure compares.

God's Word, when hidden in our hearts as children, is used again and again in our lives later on. The Spirit of God will bring it back to our minds to help us in our walk with God and to enable us to encourage others we meet along the way.

Every family can find a few minutes in the daily routine. Some families gather for their devotional at the start of their day; others try the dinnertime approach. Lay the devotional book and your Bible(s) beside your plate at the dinner table. As soon as everyone is finished eating, take ten minutes for family Bible study. *Old Story New* does the work for you! All you need to do is read the passage of Scripture for the day, follow that with the short commentary, and then ask the listed questions. Finish it all up by inviting one of your children to pray.

## It's Simple to Use

*Old Story New* when used with *Long Story Short* is a family devotional program designed to explain God's plan of salvation from Genesis through Revelation. *Long Story Short* covers the Old Testament, and this volume, *Old Story New*, covers the New Testament. Together, they provide three years of family Bible study! For every Old Testament lesson your family will learn the answer to the question, "How does this passage point forward to Jesus?" For every New Testament lesson the question is, "Where is the gospel?" Since the Bible is the story of God's unfolding plan of redemption, every passage of Scripture points forward or back to Calvary.

Each week starts off with a creative activity, exercise, or bit of trivia to introduce the passage. On days one through four you review a portion of the week's Scripture passage. Special attention is given on day three to connect the current passage to the gospel. On day four

we've added a question for your older children to ask *you*, and on day five you and your family will investigate a Bible passage from the book of Psalms or an excerpt from one of the prophets to discover how the passage points forward to Christ.

This devotional book can be used differently depending on the ages of your children. Since this book is rich in gospel truth, it works for families with children of all ages. Take a look at the following categories to find the one that best describes your family.

## If Your Children Are Preschoolers

The best time to start consistent daily Bible study is with children in the four- through six-year-old age group. *Long Story Short* and *Old Story New* work wonderfully with children in this age group. Don't be fooled by your five-year-old's inability to answer the listed questions. Children at this age can often understand much more than they can express. Consider some of the following techniques:

- ∴ Feel free to skip the discussion questions and just read the answers, most of which are in complete sentences. The first time through, use the study to familiarize children with the Bible. If your child starts the program at age four, he or she will finish three years later at age seven with a tremendous foundation of gospel truth that has accumulated day by day and week by week.
- ∴ You can also skip over the creative introductions and save them for a second time through when your children reach grade school.
- ∴ Try rephrasing the questions to make them very simple or by making them multiple choice.
- ∴ Another parent can be the helper, actually whispering the answers to your children. This might sound dishonest but in reality it is the repetition that helps them remember the material.
- ∴ You can make up simple questions for your toddlers yourself. Basic questions about the characters such as, "How did Jesus heal the man?" are great for younger children.

## If Your Children Are in Grade School

Elementary school is the time to call for your children to participate with you in family Bible study. Don't be afraid to call them to that

participation. Some children might be reluctant at first, but persistence soon pays off. Even the most challenging child is able to handle ten minutes a day. Remember, day by day they are being exposed to the gospel truth God uses to transform lives. The creative introductions at the beginning of each week will pique the interest of your children. Read them yourself a day or so ahead to give you time to gather any objects needed for the lesson.

Start by making sure all your children have a Bible. You might have toddlers mixed in with your grade school students. That's okay. Just have them open up their toddler Bibles to the right page (that means anywhere close). Read through the passage for the day. On days when the passage is shorter, try having your older children read. (Remember, labored reading won't encourage them or the others, so wait until your children can read well before passing that responsibility to them.) If you have toddlers in the mix, let them come along for the ride but don't cater to their lower learning level. All day long they are learning by watching the older children in their daily routines. They learn about God the same way.

Read the passage, the short paragraph summary, and then move to the questions. Here are a few ideas to consider to make your discussion time work well:

- ∴ After asking a question of your family, look back in the passage and tell them which verse to look for to find the answer.
- ∴ Encourage all attempts to answer the question even if they miss the answer.
- ∴ Consider inviting children to add to their brothers' and sisters' answers. Sometimes children who are reluctant to start an answer can add to an answer to expand it.
- ∴ Don't be afraid to call on your older children. If they seem stumped even after you tell them which verse they can find the answer in, give them clues.

Finish by asking your children to pray. Help your youngest children by having them repeat after you. As your children grow older, encourage them to pray on their own. Always help them along if they get stuck. Soon, they will be praying on their own without your help.



## If Your Children Are Moving Out of Grade School

*Long Story Short* and *Old Story New* work well with older grade school children and young teens too! They set a wonderful example for their younger brothers and sisters in answering the questions and even leading the devotions themselves.

If you have a teen who thinks the Bible studies are too easy or boring, try this exercise. Open up randomly to one of the Bible studies and start asking her a few questions. She is sure to find out like we all have in our lives that everybody needs to review.

Try some of the following ideas with your older children:

- ∴ Use your older children to lead the creative introductions at the beginning of each week with their younger brothers and sisters.
- ∴ Try holding your older children in reserve, allowing the younger children to answer first. Then, have the older children amplify the answers their younger siblings gave.
- ∴ Pair up a younger child with an older child and allow the older child to help give the answer to his younger brother or sister. This might sound like cheating but the value is in hearing and remembering the details of the gospel over and over.
- ∴ Consider where your children are in their lives on a given day. Feel the freedom to add a more subjective question to draw them out about how the passage relates to their lives personally. Questions like, “What does God want to teach you from reading this passage?” can be used for any lesson.
- ∴ If your mix of children includes a teen, assign her to lead the Bible study once a week. Encourage her to read the passage and the devotion a day in advance to become familiar with what is being asked. If you pull her aside later and offer some encouragement, she will be all the more eager to lead Bible study again.

Remember, the devotional is designed to work through simple repetition over time. If you skip a day, that’s okay, just pick up where you left off.

## Reaping the Harvest

So, there is no need to climb a tall mountain or go toe-to-toe with a dragon to battle for your children's salvation—God will do that work. Remember, we plant the seed, do a little watering, and then God makes it grow—that is his promise! Consider these words from Isaiah:

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:9–12)

God's Word will accomplish his purpose and will not return empty. So, as you faithfully lead your children through the devotions in this book, don't just read it as history. It is history, but it is so much more! Lead with expectation that the God of history will visit with your family. Wait and watch to see what God will do. Cling with faith to this hope: that through the gospel proclamation in your home, the Holy Spirit will regenerate the hearts of your children and lead them to faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone!

## Week 1

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# The Birth of Jesus Foretold

## Story 79 – *The Gospel Story Bible*

*Prior to Bible study, find a photograph of some people (in a magazine or online) that has a lot of detail. Make a list of questions to ask your children that will test their skills of observation. The children will look closely at the photo and then answer questions to see how well they remember the details. Questions like, “What color shirt was the man wearing?” or “What was sitting on the table?” will work well to test the skill of your eyewitnesses. During Bible study, give everyone one minute to study the photograph taking in as much detail as they can. Then ask the questions from your list to see how observant they are. Explain to your children that this week you will be reading from Luke’s Gospel, which was written from eyewitness accounts.*

## DAY ONE

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### Picture It

Can you remember a time when you were startled? Perhaps someone walked up behind you in a quiet room, and you didn’t know anyone was there until you felt a hand on your shoulder. If something like that can scare us, imagine what it would be like to be alone in your room and suddenly see an angel appear out of nowhere. Probably you would either scream in fright or be scared into silence. Let’s see what happened to Zechariah and Mary in our story today when angels suddenly appeared to them.



Read Luke 1:1–38.

## Think about It Some More

When we read the story it can seem like seeing angels was a normal part of life, but it wasn't. Zechariah had been a priest all his life but he'd never seen an angel before. Serving in the temple was scary enough, for God's presence lived inside the temple. Even before he saw the angel, Zechariah would have walked very cautiously into the temple's inner room. He knew God was holy and that he was a sinner. If he made a mistake, he could die—like Uzzah, who had touched the holy ark with his hand and been killed (2 Samuel 6:6–7). So when the angel suddenly appeared, fear must've shot through him like a lightning bolt. Similarly, when the angel appeared to Mary, she also was afraid. Angels had to calm people's fears before speaking their messages.

## Talk about It

- ∴ Why did Zechariah lose his voice? (*Zechariah lost his voice because he didn't believe the angel's words to him.*)
- ∴ How was Mary's answer to the angel different from Zechariah's answer? (*Mary trusted that what the angel said to her was true. She had faith and did not doubt.*)
- ∴ Whose throne was Jesus going to sit on? (*Verse 32 tells us that Jesus would sit upon David's throne. If you have smaller children, you can read verse 32 and ask them to raise their hands when they hear whose throne Jesus would be sitting upon.*)



## Pray about It

Thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, to the earth to die on the cross for our sins.

## DAY TWO

---

## Remember It

What do you remember about yesterday's story? What do you think is going to happen today?



Read Luke 1:39–45.

## Think about It Some More

After the angel told Mary about God's plan, Mary went to see Elizabeth, a relative of hers. When Mary arrived and walked through Elizabeth's front door, the little baby growing in Elizabeth's tummy jumped, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Even before Mary could tell Elizabeth that she was pregnant, Elizabeth already knew. The Holy Spirit told her that Mary was going to have a baby, a very special baby. She said that Mary's baby would be her Lord! That means that she knew Mary's baby was God and would rule over her life.

## Talk about It

- ∴ What was amazing about Elizabeth's greeting? *(She knew what happened to Mary even though Mary didn't tell her.)*
- ∴ What did Elizabeth's baby do when Mary arrived? *(Elizabeth's baby, who was later to be known as John the Baptist, jumped inside of her.)*
- ∴ Why did Elizabeth's baby jump inside her? What was so special about Mary's baby? *(Jesus was no ordinary baby; he was the Son of God. Jesus came to earth so that he could die on the cross for our sins. He is only a little baby in our story, but he is still the Savior of the world.)*



## Pray about It

Thank God for the way he used Mary and Elizabeth to work out his plan to send us Jesus.

# DAY THREE

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## Connect It to the Gospel

Today is the day we connect this week's Bible story to the gospel. The gospel is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation. Can anyone guess how our story this week looks forward to or back at the gospel?



Read Luke 1:46–56.

## Think about It Some More

When Mary saw that Elizabeth was also going to have a baby, she realized that all that the angel Gabriel had told her was true, and she began to praise God. Mary understood that the baby inside of her was no ordinary baby. He was going to grow up to become her Savior—the one who would save her from her sins. Although Mary was very special to be chosen to give birth to Jesus, she was a sinner like you and me. She needed to be forgiven and saved from her sins too.

Her prayer tells us that she understood that God's promise to Abraham was connected to the baby growing inside of her. When God told Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:3), he was pointing to Jesus. Jesus was born into the family of Abraham and died on the cross so that people from every nation could be saved.

## Talk about It

- ∴ What does the word *savior* mean? (*A savior is someone who rescues. Jesus is our Savior because he rescues us from our sins.*)
- ∴ Why did Mary call God her Savior? (*Mary called God her Savior because she knew that she was a sinner and that only God could save her from her sin.*)
- ∴ Do we also need a Savior? Why? (*Yes, we also need a Savior. Our sin separates us from God. As sinners, we can never save ourselves. It is only by God's mercy in sending Jesus that we can be saved.*)



## Pray about It

Thank Jesus for coming to earth to save us from our sin.

## DAY FOUR

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## Remember It

What has God been teaching you this week through our Bible story?



Read Luke 1:57–80.

## Think about It Some More

Can you imagine losing your voice for almost a year? That is what happened to Zechariah. From the day the angel appeared to him until the day his newborn son was named John, he could not speak. It all happened just as the angel of the Lord said it would. Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and as soon as Zechariah wrote on a tablet that the child's name was John, he was able to talk again. And when he spoke, God used Zechariah as a prophet to announce that the time had come for God's people to be saved.

He said that God was raising up a "horn of salvation" from the house of David to save them (v. 69). The people listening didn't know it yet, but Zechariah was talking about the baby Jesus, who was soon to be born as the Savior of the world. Zechariah's son John grew up to be the man God used to announce the start of Jesus' ministry.

## Talk about It

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● ● KIDS, ask your parents if they can remember why</li><li>● ● they picked your name for you when you were born.</li></ul> |
|---|

*(Parents, let your children know why you picked the names you did for them.)*

- ∴ Do you remember why Zechariah and Elizabeth named their baby John? *(The angel told them to call him John [Luke 1:13].)*
- ∴ After Zechariah could talk again, he spoke a prophecy about Jesus. What do we learn about Jesus from what he said? *(Parents, if you have younger children, reread verses 68–79, and instruct them to raise their hands when they hear something about Jesus. Jesus is the "horn of salvation" [v. 69] from the house of David. Jesus will bring "holiness and righteousness" [v. 75] to God's people, and will save us from our enemies [v. 71]. "Holiness and righteousness" speaks of Jesus' perfect, sinless life that he would give all of us in exchange for our sins when he died for us on the cross.)*
- ∴ What did Zechariah say about his own son? *(Zechariah said his son, John, would become a prophet and go before the Lord to prepare a way for him [v. 76].)*



## Pray about It

Praise God for his wonderful plan of salvation. God had a plan to save us through Jesus long before Jesus was even born.

## DAY FIVE

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### Discover It

Today is the day we look at a different Bible passage—from the book of Psalms or one of the prophets—to see what we can learn from it about Jesus or our salvation.



Read Isaiah 4:2–3.

### Think about It Some More

After God gave Zechariah his voice back, Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak words that God gave him—he began to prophesy—about what was going to happen in the future. He said that God was bringing salvation out of King David’s family line, just as the prophets of old had foretold. Isaiah was one of the prophets who talked about Jesus long before Jesus was ever born, and he wrote the Scripture we read today.

In his prophecy, Isaiah talked about a “branch” that will be “beautiful and glorious.” The word *branch* is something like a code word the prophets used in their prophecies to describe the Savior. Jeremiah and Zechariah also called the coming Messiah the branch. We know that Jesus is the branch Isaiah is talking about. This branch, Isaiah said, was going to grow out of the family tree of King David and Jesse, David’s father (see Isaiah 11:1, 10), and become a king who would rule forever.

### Talk about It

- ∴ What words did Isaiah use to describe the branch? (*Isaiah said the branch was beautiful and glorious.*)
- ∴ What are all the people left in Jerusalem going to be called? (*The people left in Jerusalem—all of God’s people—will be called holy.*)
- ∴ How do you think sinners—who are not holy because they sin against God—will become holy? (*Jesus, the branch, is*



*going to die on the cross to take their sins away and then give them, as their own, his perfect, obedient life to make them holy.)*



## Pray about It

Thank God for sending the branch—his Son, Jesus—to die on the cross so we could be forgiven and have our sins taken away.