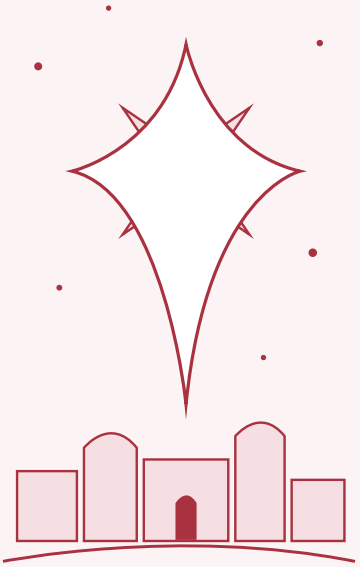
FAMILY READING

The Christmas story in the Bible

Five readings from December 20 to 24, each with a child's question and its answer.



THE READINGS

The angel visits Mary: Luke 1:26-38 *Sunday, December 20, 2026* 2

Joseph's dream: Matthew 1:18-25 *Monday, December 21, 2026* 3

The birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-7 *Tuesday, December 22, 2026* 4

The shepherds and the angels: Luke 2:8-20 *Wednesday, December 23, 2026* 5

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churchposting.com/resources/worship/christmas-story-bible/

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2026

The angel visits Mary: Luke 1:26-38

READ LUKE 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee called
Nazareth, 27 to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was of
the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel appeared to
her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting
this might be. 30 So the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have
found favor with God. 31 Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and
you are to give Him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son
of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David,
33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never
end!" 34 "How can this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The
angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most
High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of
God. 36 Look, even Elizabeth your relative has conceived a son in her old age,
and she who was called barren is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God
will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it happen to
me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **What name did the angel say the child would have?**

A PARENT SAYS Jesus. The angel said, "Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2026

Joseph's dream: Matthew 1:18-25

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was
pledged in marriage to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to
be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a
righteous man and was unwilling to disgrace her publicly, he resolved to divorce
her quietly. 20 But after he had pondered these things, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to
embrace Mary as your wife, for the One conceived in her is from the Holy
Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus,
because He will save His people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill
what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin will be with
child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” (which
means, “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord
had commanded him and embraced Mary as his wife. 25 But he had no union
with her until she gave birth to a Son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Why did the angel tell Joseph to name the child Jesus?**

A PARENT SAYS Because “He will save His people from their sins.”

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2026

The birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-7

READ LUKE 2:1-7

[1]Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census
should be taken of the whole empire. [2]This was the first census to take place
while Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3]And everyone went to his own town to
register. [4]So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city
of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. [5]He
went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was
expecting a child. [6]While they were there, the time came for her Child to be
born. [7]And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in
swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them
in the inn.

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Where did Mary lay the child?**

A PARENT SAYS In a manger, “because there was no room for them in the inn.”

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2026

The shepherds and the angels: Luke 2:8-20

READ LUKE 2:8-20

8 And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over
their flocks by night. 9 Just then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel
said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a Savior has been born
to you. He is Christ the Lord! 12 And this will be a sign to you: You will find a
baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there
appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God
and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom
His favor rests!” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the
shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that
has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they hurried off and
found Mary and Joseph and the Baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 After they
had seen the Child, they spread the message they had received about Him. 18 And
all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary
treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds
returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, which
was just as the angel had told them.

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Who did the angel say the baby is?**

A PARENT SAYS A Savior. “He is Christ the Lord!”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2026

The wise men: Matthew 2:1-12

READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

[1]After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod,
Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, [2]asking, “Where is the One who has
been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to
worship Him.” [3]When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all
Jerusalem with him. [4]And when he had assembled all the chief priests and
scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. [5]“In
Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:
[6]‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the
rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of My
people Israel.’” [7]Then Herod called the Magi secretly and learned from them the
exact time the star had appeared. [8]And sending them to Bethlehem, he said: “Go
and search carefully for the Child, and when you find Him, report to me, so that
I too may go and worship Him.” [9]After they had heard the king, they went on
their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it
stood over the place where the Child was. [10]When they saw the star, they
rejoiced with great delight. [11]On coming to the house, they saw the Child with
His mother Mary, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened
their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and frankincense and
myrrh. [12]And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they
withdrew to their country by another route.

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Where did the wise men see the child?**

A PARENT SAYS In the house, with His mother Mary. They “fell down and worshiped Him.”