

**GOD IS
LORD AND KING
Christmas
Term 4**

God is Lord and King

The true story of how Jesus came to live on earth

About 2,000 years ago there lived a young woman named Mary. She lived in the small town of Nazareth in what is now the country of Israel.

She wasn't married, but she was engaged to a man named Joseph. They were planning on getting married.

One night, while Mary was sleeping, an angel came to her with a special message. At that time they didn't have a Bible like we do. God sent His messages through people and angels instead.

The angel that came to Mary was named Gabriel. God had a special message for Mary.

He said, "God has chosen you. The Lord is with you."

Mary was frightened and didn't understand what was going on. So the angel told her more.

"Don't be afraid, Mary. God is with you. You will have a baby boy. You are to name him Jesus. He will be a great man and will be called the Son of God.

Mary asked Gabriel how she could have a baby when she was not married. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would make it happen.

Mary trusted God and said that she would serve Him.

An angel came to Joseph at night too! The angel of the Lord said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby within her is from the Holy Spirit. 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."

So Joseph did as the angel told him. He married Mary.

But they had to soon go on a trip. The emperor, Ceasar Augustus wanted a list of all the people in his empire because he wanted to make sure everyone paid taxes. That is called a census.

So everyone had to go to the town that their family first came from. That meant Joseph and Mary had to travel a long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

They didn't have cars or even bicycles back then! They had to walk or ride on donkeys. It took them a long time to get to Bethlehem.

Once they were in Bethlehem, they had a hard time finding a place to stay. The town was full of people who had come for the census.

All the guest rooms and inns were full. Mary and Joseph needed a place to stay because Mary was about to have her baby.

They finally stopped at an inn where the innkeeper said they could stay in the stable where the animals were kept. That night Jesus was born right next to the animals!

Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloths that she had brought with her so the baby wouldn't get cold. Then she laid him in a manger. A manger is a feeding trough for the animals. Mary laid Jesus on the hay.

That same night, there were shepherds watching their flocks of sheep out on a hillside near Bethlehem and an angel appeared to them. They saw a bright light all around the. It was the light of God. They were scared.

But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news for all the people. Today in the town of Bethlehem a special baby has been born. He will be the Saviour of the world. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Then all of a sudden many angels appeared along with the first angel and they all said together, "Glory to God".

Then the angels left the shepherds and the shepherds quickly went into the town of Bethlehem to find Jesus.

They found Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the stable and then they told everyone the news that Jesus was born! Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Something special had happened when Jesus was born. A bright star appeared in the sky that had never been there before.

There were wise men that came from far away in the East to see Jesus. When they saw the star in the sky, they followed it all the way to Jerusalem. This was a couple of years after Jesus was born.

When they got to Jerusalem, they asked King Herod, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

King Herod was not happy with this news. He was afraid that Jesus would take his place. So he told the wise men to go and find the baby, and then come back and tell him where Jesus was so he could worship him too.

But King Herod was lying. He didn’t really want to worship Jesus.

The wise men followed the star to the exact home that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were living in.

They were so happy to find Jesus! When they got to the home, they bowed down and worshiped Jesus.

Then they gave him gifts of gold, special oil and spices. While they were there, they were told by God in a dream not to go back to King Herod. Instead, they went home a different way.

After they left, King Herod found out that the wise men weren’t coming back to him and he was very angry. He wanted to kill Jesus!

But God told Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem and go to Egypt so that Jesus would be safe.

They stayed in Egypt until King Herod died. Then when it was safe they returned to Nazareth.

