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## 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 one 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 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. Fit for the king Jesus was!

## A Message for Mary

Mary was busy in her house. She was soon 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' 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 by God to be his mother. How amazing!



## 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 her 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. Mary wrapped him up to keep him warm. Joseph made a soft bed in the hay. Mary and Joseph were very excited. Jesus had been born!



## 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 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!'

