

## The Christmas Story

Here is the version of the story we used for the Foothills Drive-through Nativity Story this year. Your family can choose to act out the story or use nativity figurines as you read it aloud, or choose to instead take turns reading sections of the story aloud to one another.

### READ THIS ALOUD:

On a night long ago, in a place far away,  
a baby was born on the first Christmas Day.  
His name was Jesus, a tiny wee king,  
who came to the world to change everything.  
We invite you to experience this story  
of a tiny baby who would grow into a King of Glory.  
Mary and Joseph were tired and sore;  
they had traveled all day and then some more.  
Finally, they arrived in Bethlehem town  
only to find there was nowhere to lie down.  
They asked a kind man if they,  
could sleep in the place where cows lay.  
The man showed them a spot that was warm and dry,  
and Mary and Joseph sat down with a sigh.  
[Enter Mary, Joseph, and the Inn Keeper]

### READ THIS ALOUD:

While it was still dark, Mary woke with a start;  
the baby was coming, she knew in her heart.  
It was in that barn, on that cold, dark night  
that Jesus was born, and then wrapped up tight.  
As he lay in the manger, a makeshift bed,  
the light of a star shone brightly overhead.  
[Enter baby Jesus and the manger animals]

### READ THIS ALOUD:

An angel appeared to the shepherds at night,  
which caused them quite the fright.  
I bring good news for all to hear,  
Christ is born, the Lord is near.  
A multitude of angels joined in to share the good news,  
and encouraged the shepherds to go see, if they choose.  
The shepherds went to see and their sheep came too,  
and they saw for themselves that the good news was true.  
When angels appear, the good news is clear --  
the beautiful little savior of the world is here.  
The shepherds chose not to be afraid  
and trusted that everything would be okay.  
Once they saw the baby Jesus, whom they came to greet,  
they knew they had to share this joy with all they meet.  
[Enter the angels and shepherds]

**(see other side)**

## The Christmas Story (continued)

### READ THIS ALOUD

The star that shone brightly, led wise men at night  
to visit the Christ child's glowing bright light.  
When they found the new babe with his mother, Mary,  
they kneeled down to worship, but did not tarry.  
After giving their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,  
they took the good news out into the world.  
[Enter the star and the Wise Men]

### READ THIS ALOUD:

The star kept on shining so the whole world could see  
that God loves everyone, including you and me!  
Shepherds saw angels, and wise men, and a star.  
They came to see Jesus; they came from afar.  
They knew he was special—God's very own son.  
He came to the earth to love everyone.  
So now at Christmas, we all take delight  
in the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night.

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As you spend this special Christmas time with your family, we encourage you to reflect on what the story means to you.

Here are some conversation starters:

- What is your favorite part of this story?
- This story is about love. Share a story of a time when someone has shown you love.
- The angels sang songs to praise God. What is your favorite Christmas carol? Sing the first verse.
- The shepherds could have been too scared to search for Jesus. Have you ever let fear keep you from doing something important? Share a time when you overcame fear and received something good.
- The wise men brought gifts to Jesus. What is the most memorable Christmas gift you received? What kind of gift can you offer Jesus?
- What can you do to make Christmas better for someone in need?
- What can you do personally to help bring peace on earth?