A vibrant illustration of the Nativity scene. In the foreground, Mary, wearing a blue headscarf and a white robe with a blue sash, kneels on the left, looking down at the infant Jesus who lies in a manger. A donkey is visible on the right, looking towards the baby. The manger is illuminated from below, casting a warm glow. In the background, a desert landscape unfolds at night under a dark blue sky. A bright, multi-pointed star shines in the sky, with rays of light extending downwards. Silhouettes of palm trees and a caravan of camels with riders are visible against the horizon. In the distance, a town with buildings that have glowing windows is nestled in a valley. The overall scene is peaceful and reverent.

The Birth of
JESUS
and a modern lesson

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Illustrations by Jonanda Kannemeyer

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

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NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE STORY

LUKE 1-2 and MATTHEW 1-2

The Birth of JESUS

The background is a dark, textured image, possibly a painting or a photograph of a building facade. It features a window with a dark frame and a string of purple hearts or flowers draped across the scene. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Joseph was engaged to Mary. One day an angel appeared to Mary and told her that she would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

She told Joseph and he was worried because they were not married yet.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The Angel said to him, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus. Since the prophet Isaiah mentioned the name Emmanuel, it means that God is with us."





Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered with Mary. He went there because his family came from Bethlehem.

The time came for Mary to give birth. She gave birth to a baby boy, wrapped him in cloths, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.





During that time, three wise men saw a star. They went and asked King Herod where the newborn king of the Jews was.

They told him, "We saw His star in the east, and we have come to worship Him." King Herod was jealous because he was afraid his kingdom would be taken away from him. He commanded them to go and find the newborn baby. So they followed the star to Bethlehem.



At the same time, there were shepherds keeping watch over their flocks at night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them. Glory surrounded them.

They were terrified, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will make all people joyful. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths in a manger."



The shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let us go and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us."

The wise men also arrived and found baby Jesus. They all bowed down and worshipped Him and the wise men presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.





Prayer

Dear Lord please help us to tell others the good news of Your Son's birth on earth.

Questions

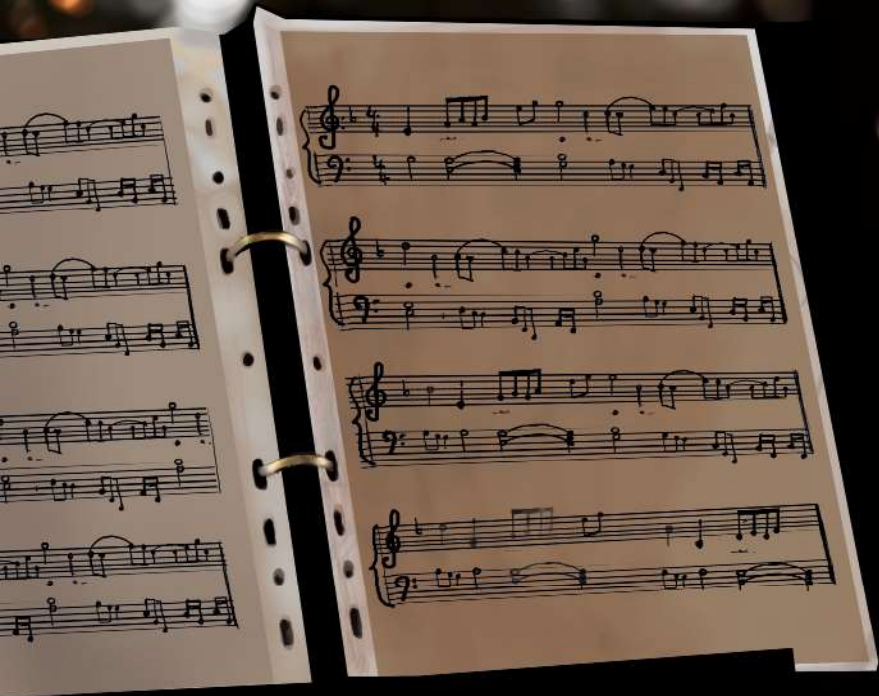
1. Who visited Joseph and Mary to talk about the birth of Jesus?
2. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?
3. Why was the baby Jesus lying in a manger?
4. What did the angels say to the shepherds?
5. Who went to see Jesus when He was born?
6. Do you celebrate the birth of Jesus? Why?

THE VISITORS

In a church in Makhado in Limpopo, missionary visitors arrived from another country. One of the visitors asked to speak to the Sunday school children.

The visitor greeted the children and told them that she wanted to teach them one of her favorite songs. She told them that the song was popular with many children in her country and that she hoped they would like it too. She told them that the song was about the birth of Jesus.

She told them the song goes like this,
“People, look what God has done. Over sin and death, Christ has won. Mary gave birth to a Lamb in a manger. The Lamb of Christ is our Redeemer and Saviour. Rejoice and be glad, for the promise of God has come.”



The song continued, “King Jesus came to earth to save us. When we are sad, we can call on the Saviour. The name of Jesus is powerful and true. Jesus died for me and you.”

The visitor told the children to trust the Lord Jesus with all their hearts. She encouraged them to sing the song and to let the others know about Jesus the Saviour.



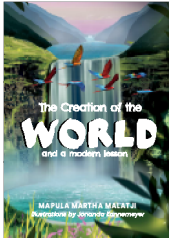
Prayer

Thank You, Lord for people who share the good news of Jesus with others. Please help me to trust in Jesus with all of my heart.

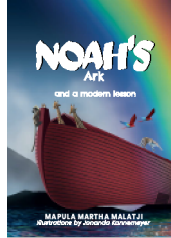
Questions

1. Who were the guests from overseas?
2. What did they teach the children?
3. Can you imagine how the song would sound?
4. Who can we go to when we are sad?
5. Do you believe in Jesus? Explain your answer.

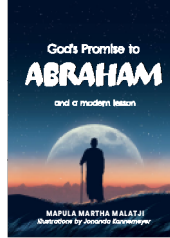
The Birth of Jesus is one of 20 books featuring 10 Old Testament (OT) and 10 New Testament (NT) stories, each with a practical reflection story based on the Bible story.



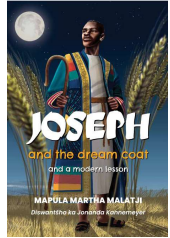
OT Book_1



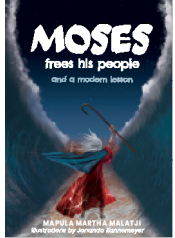
OT Book_2



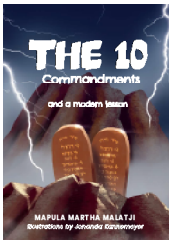
OT Book_3



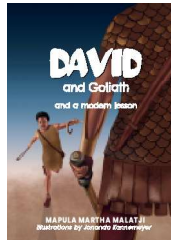
OT Book_4



OT Book_5



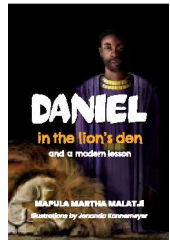
OT Book_6



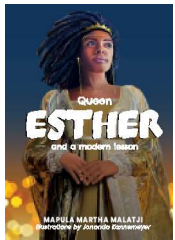
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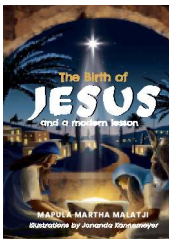
OT Book_8



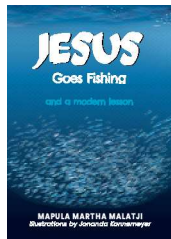
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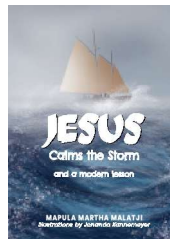
OT Book_10



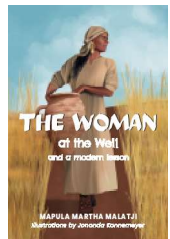
NT Book_1



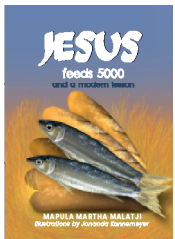
NT Book_2



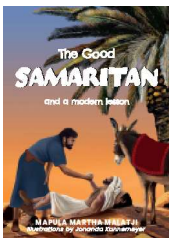
NT Book_3



NT Book_4



NT Book_5



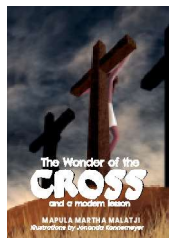
NT Book_6



NT Book_7



NT Book_8



NT Book_9



NT Book_10

The Birth of Jesus

In this story we'll learn that angels visited Mary and Joseph to tell them about the birth of Jesus. We'll also learn about the birth place of Christ, and how shepherds and wise men came to see Him to worship Him and bring Him special gifts.

The Visitors

We will also learn about overseas visitors who teach Sunday school children a new song about the Birth of Christ, and how these visitors encouraged the children to share the story of Jesus with others.



9781776475964

English

