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# CHRISTMAS

## AT CENTER GROVE

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SCRIPTURE BOOKLET

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## THE PROMISE

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### ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7A NIV

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

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## THE PLAN

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### LUKE 1:26-28, 30-32 NIV

<sup>26</sup>...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, <sup>30</sup>..."Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

### MATTHEW 1:20-21 NIV

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> 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."

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## THE PLACE

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### LUKE 2:1, 3-6, NIV / VERSE 7 ESV

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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## THE PROCLAMATION

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### LUKE 2:8-14 NIV

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

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## THE PURPOSE

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### MATTHEW 4:16 NIV

<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

### JOHN 1:9-12 NIV

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

### JOHN 8:12 NIV

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

### 1 JOHN 1:7 NIV

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.





## CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

*Spend some time reflecting on the questions below. You might journal, take a walk or sit in a quiet space to really pause and consider the reality of Christmas.*

*Close your time of reflection in prayer, humbling yourself before the Lord, thanking Him and asking Him to work in your life where most needed.*

- 1.** A central theme of the Old Testament is that a Messiah from God was coming to save and rule. There are some 127 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament that find their fulfillment in the New Testament. What impact do those prophecies made and fulfilled have on your understanding or opinion of the whole Bible? What about your understanding or opinion of Jesus? What about God?
- 2.** At Christmas, God kept His long-made promise by sending us the Savior and King that we desperately needed - and still need. If you're a follower of Jesus, where in your life do you desperately need Him? Have you let go & given Him control of that area? If you're not a follower of Jesus, what's holding you back from this Savior & King that you need?
- 3.** Because of Jesus, life now can be full, extraordinary and meaningful. Do those words describe your life? If not, what's in the way?
- 4.** God's promise for a Messiah was not just for a Savior, but also for a King to rule & reign forever. Jesus coming again to rule is a promise we still await! How does the faithfulness we see at Christmas give you hope for Jesus' second coming? How are you resting in & living out that hope in everyday life?



# PROPHECY & FULFILLMENT

Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of all that was spoken through the prophets about the Messiah. Below is a list of some of the Messianic prophecies fulfilled in Jesus' coming. They serve as a reminder of God's perfect faithfulness to do all that He has promised.

	OT PROPHECY	NT FULFILLMENT
The Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:17; Luke 1:32, 35
The seed of woman	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
The seed of Abraham	Genesis 17:7; 22:18	Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16
The tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33; Revelation 5:5
The seed of David	Psalms 132:11; Isaiah 9:6	Acts 13:23; Romans 1:3
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-6
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23
Called Immanuel	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23
Children of Bethlehem slain	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
Being called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:15
Being anointed with the Spirit	Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 61:1	Matthew 3:16; John 3:34
Being a Prophet likened to Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15-18	Acts 3:20-22; John 6:14
A Priest in the order of Melchizedek	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6
Public entry into ministry	Isaiah 61:1-2	Luke 4:16-21, 43
Ministry beginning in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:12-16, 23
Entering publicly into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-5
A Shepherd for God's people	Ezekiel 34:1-31	John 10:1-18

## FOR FAMILIES

*Set aside time this week with your children to focus on the story of Christmas and God's great plan for Jesus' birth. Below are some questions to reflect on as a family with a corresponding Bible story from the Jesus Storybook Bible.*

### **"OPERATION NO MORE TEARS" (PG 144)**

- 1.** What special job did God have for Isaiah?
- 2.** Have you ever walked into a dark room and tried to find your way without a light? What was that like?
- 3.** Does anything in God's message from this story sound familiar?

### **"HE'S HERE!" (PG 176)**

- 1.** What would you do if an angel appeared in your room out of nowhere?
- 2.** Is there anything in this story that we heard in the first one about God's message to Isaiah?
- 3.** What amazes you most about this story? What's hard for you to understand?

## **"THE LIGHT OF THE WHOLE WORD" (PG 184)**

- 1.** Why do you think God wanted the shepherds to know about Jesus and go see him? How would you feel if you were one of the shepherds?
- 2.** This story says "the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine" - talk together about what that meant not just for the people in the Bible, but for us now.

## **"THE KING OF ALL KINGS" (PG 192)**

- 1.** Did you know that the wise men traveled for months to see Jesus? What do you think that was like?
- 2.** Why do you think the wise men take off their royal clothes and give gifts when they met Jesus?
- 3.** Go back and read "Operation No More Tears" and talk about how the promises God made to Isaiah hundreds of years before came true in these stories of the birth of Jesus.

