

God's Story

December: God with us

Props needed: The December large purple bag includes a stable, a manger with baby Jesus, Joseph, Mary, an angel, a shepherd, a sheep, a donkey, a purple underlay, and a tan piece of felt for the road to Bethlehem.

To begin:

- Have a Bible open to Luke 2.
- Have a family member light the battery-operated candle and explain that this light represents God's presence as you tell His story.
- Pass the first 4 blocks around the table and then place them in the center of the table.

Story script (you may use this script or tell the story in your own words):

"God had been silent for 400 years. At last, the moment he had been waiting for was here! God made a covenant long ago. A covenant is a promise between God and his people and he always keeps his promises. God was coming to help his people, but how? How would he come? What would he do? Would it be a battle? When he spoke again would it be in a loud angry voice?"

pause "No, it was quiet and in the middle of darkness, when no one was looking, no one was listening, he came, the promised one."

"This night is like no other night." *Unfold the purple underlay and unroll the road*

"We are headed to a little town in the hill country about ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years, the houses have huddled there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread."

Place Bethlehem on the end of the road. "Bethlehem means 'house of bread.'"

Place the stable at one end of the purple felt. "All is still and quiet."

"As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road with their donkey. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth."

"They have walked for 6 days, to come to this place where King David was born so long ago. They have come, like so many others. The Roman emperor wants to count each one so that he can take their money in taxes." *Walk figures along the road, stopping just before Bethlehem*

"But it is late, and Mary is weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep in the stable with the animals." *Place Mary and Joseph in the stable.*

"Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath." *Dramatic pause*

Place Jesus in the manger between them.

“God, who had been silent for so long, finally spoke. Suddenly from the stable comes the cry of a newborn child. Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays Him in the straw-filled manger.” *Have a moment of silence*

“In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their sheep. All at once the dark is lost in light, and amid the light is something even brighter, an angel. He calls out to the shepherds, ‘Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born. He is Christ the Lord’ (Luke 2:11). The fearful shepherds hear more voices in the sky, an army of angels appears, and all of them are praising God and saying, “Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God” (Luke 2:14).

“The shepherds run filled with joy across the fields to find the baby.” *Move the shepherd and sheep to Bethlehem and place them with the other figures.* “There, they find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They inch forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find God himself in the center of love. The family welcomes them, and the shepherds worship baby Jesus.”

“Surely this child is Emmanuel; God is now with us.”

Wondering...

- I wonder how a baby is going to rescue God’s people
- I wonder why God didn’t come in a powerful and big way, as a King
- I wonder which of God’s people have noticed this rescuer
- I wonder what happens next

“Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.”

This has been adapted from the Godly Play Christmas story. You can read the original through this link. [Godly Play Christmas Liturgy](#)