

# **The Christmas Story**

Based on Matthew 2:1-12

**Narrator:** This is what happened when Jesus was born.

**Narrator:** His mother, Mary, (wave *Mary!*) was engaged to be married to Joseph (wave *Joseph!*). But before the marriage took place, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Narrator:** Joseph didn't know what to do, but then while he was sleeping, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

**Angel:** Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her is from the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

**Narrator:** All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

"Look! The virgin will have a child!

She will give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel,  
which means '*God is with us.*'"

**Narrator:** When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and married Mary.

**Joseph:** Mary, our son is going to be named Jesus!

**Narrator:** Joseph and Mary had to travel a long distance to be counted as part of the land that Joseph was from. While they were there, in a town called Bethlehem, Jesus was born. They didn't have a room in an inn so he was born in a place that kept animals.

**Narrator:** About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,

**Wise Men:** "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

**Narrator:** King Herod was really mad when he heard this. He called a meeting of the priests and teachers of religious law and asked,

**King Herod:** Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?

**Religious Leaders:** In Bethlehem! That's what the prophet wrote!

**Narrator:** Then Herod called for a meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them,

**King Herod:** Go to Bethlehem and search for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!

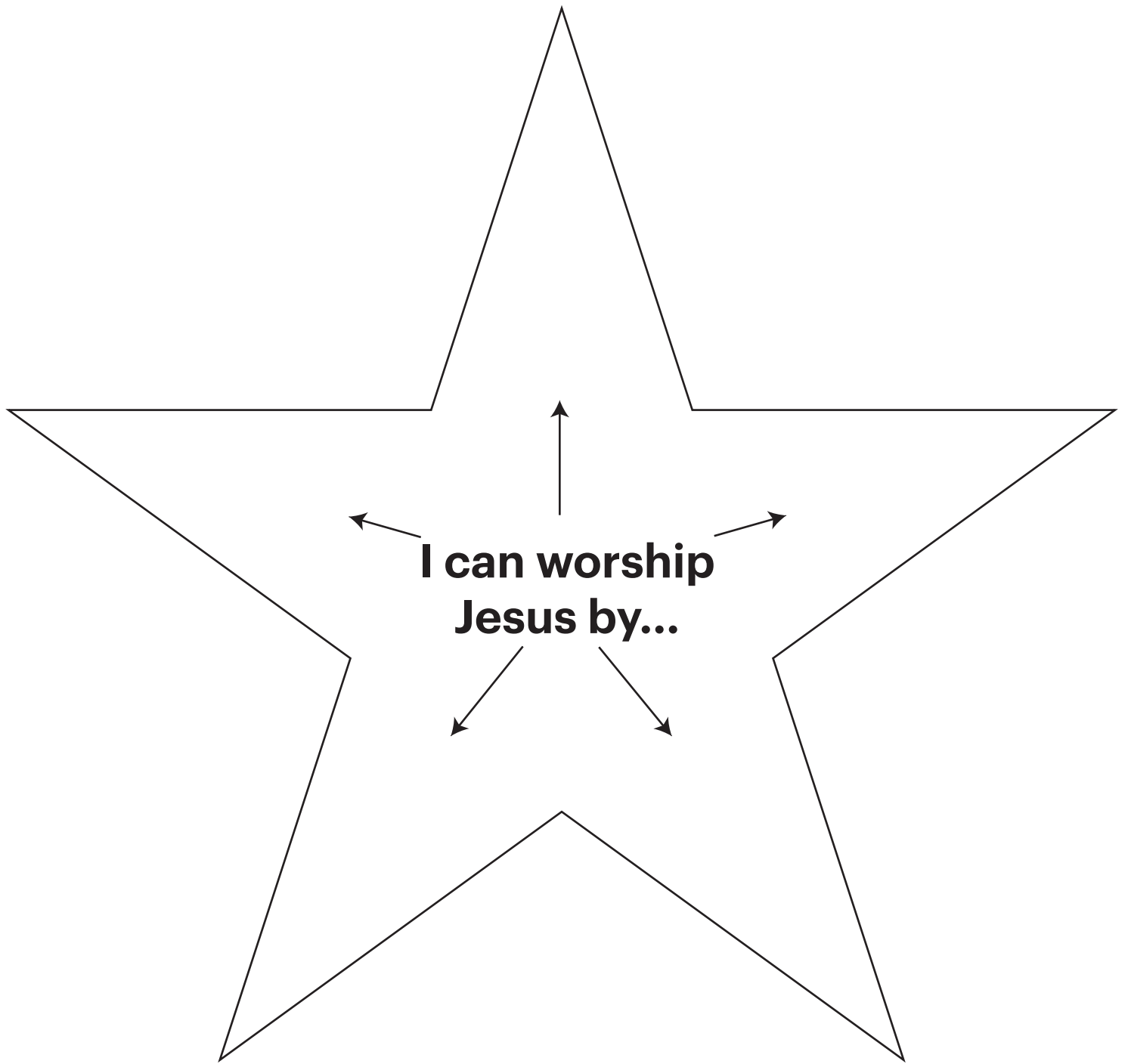
**Narrator:** After this, the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where Jesus was.

**Narrator:** When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They went into the house and saw Jesus with Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Then they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Narrator:** When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by a different way because God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

**Narrator:** And that is the story of the birth of Jesus and the wise men that went to worship him. And we can worship Jesus with what we have too!



**“I** *[point to self]*

**have loved** *[cross hands over heart]*

**you** *[point to someone]*

**with a love** *[cross hands over heart]*

**that lasts forever.** *[stretch arms as wide as possible]*

**I** *[point to self]*

**have kept on loving** *[cross hands over heart]*

**you** *[point to someone]*

**with a kindness** *[smile and point to your smile]*

**that never** *[wag finger]*

**fails.”** *[thumbs down]*

**Jeremiah 31:3** *[open hands like a book]*