



GABRIEL THE BRAVE

A Christmas Story



COPYRIGHT PAGE

Copyright © 2024 by Carter Amon.

All rights reserved.

Published by TYMBR Books.

ISBN: #####

Written by Carter Amon,

Illustrated and Designed by Darryl Erby

Printed in the United States of America. First Edition.

Disclaimer:

While this story is a work of fiction, my hope is that it will help children learn to trust in God when facing life's challenges, no matter how impossible they might seem.

Dedication:

To my own brave boys. You are my armor every time I leave for work.

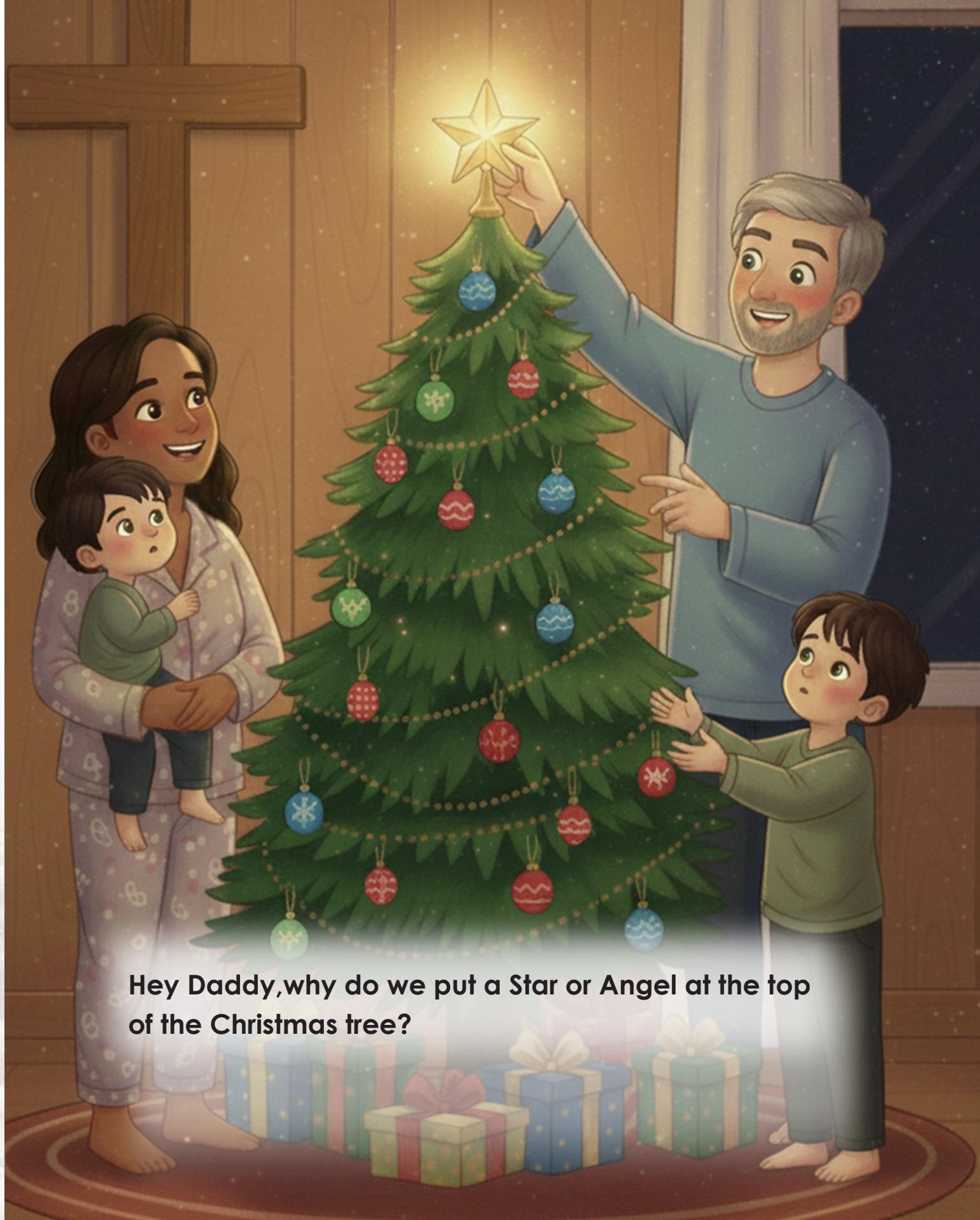
You are my smile when I am nervous. You are my shining light when I am lost. I love you.

To my wonderful wife. This story would never have happened if it wasn't for your idea for the book and constant support. With all my heart, I love you.

A Note on the Friendship:

The bond between author and illustrator runs deep, forged over 33 years of friendship. From childhood adventures to shared spiritual growth through church, their connection inspired the themes of courage and trust found in this book.

Both fathers, they hope the wisdom within Gabriel the Brave encourages all young readers to be brave in their own lives.



Hey Daddy, why do we put a Star or Angel at the top of the Christmas tree?

A long time ago in Heaven, lived a young angel named Gabriel. He was a bright and curious angel, always eager to learn and help. But he was also a bit shy, especially when it came to big tasks.



“GABRIEL,”

-God's voice boomed.



Gabriel jumped, his heart pounding in his chest. He was so startled by the booming voice—and so nervous about what God might need—that he squeezed his delicate harp with all his might.



A string popped, then another. Gabriel looked up at his broken harp, filling him with doubt. He thought,
'If I can't even take care of my little harp, how can I do anything right?'

"I have a task for you, a very important one. You are to travel to Earth and deliver a message to a young woman named Mary. She will give birth to my son, Jesus, who will save the world!"



Gabriel's heart pounded. He'd never been chosen for such a significant mission.

"Me, Lord?" his voice shaking.



God smiled, "You have a kind heart and a gentle spirit. You are the perfect angel for this important task." Gabriel smiled back, and stretched his wings. He knew he had to be Brave.



Still uneasy, Gabriel accepted his task. He tried to believe in himself as God believed in him.



In Nazareth lived a kind and pure young woman named Mary. She was going to marry Joseph. One day, on her way to finish her chores, she stopped by to see Joseph; he always saved the best fruit for her family.



While doing her chores, a bright light filled her room. The light felt warm, like the sunshine on her face. Mary looked up, wondering where the beautiful glow was coming from.



Mary jumped back, and a young, clumsy angel crashed through her window. It was Gabriel, knocking things over and making a mess!

"Mary! You have found favor with God. You will have a special son who will bring joy to the world, and his name will be Jesus!"



Mary was surprised to see an angel, but she trusted in God's messenger and accepted her task.



As Gabriel returned to heaven, he wondered;
“Did I do a good job?”



"Well done, Gabriel!" God's voice echoed. **"Now, you must help a special star shine brightly over Bethlehem.**

Shine your light into the Star of Bethlehem so everyone can find my son Jesus.



"I can't do it!"

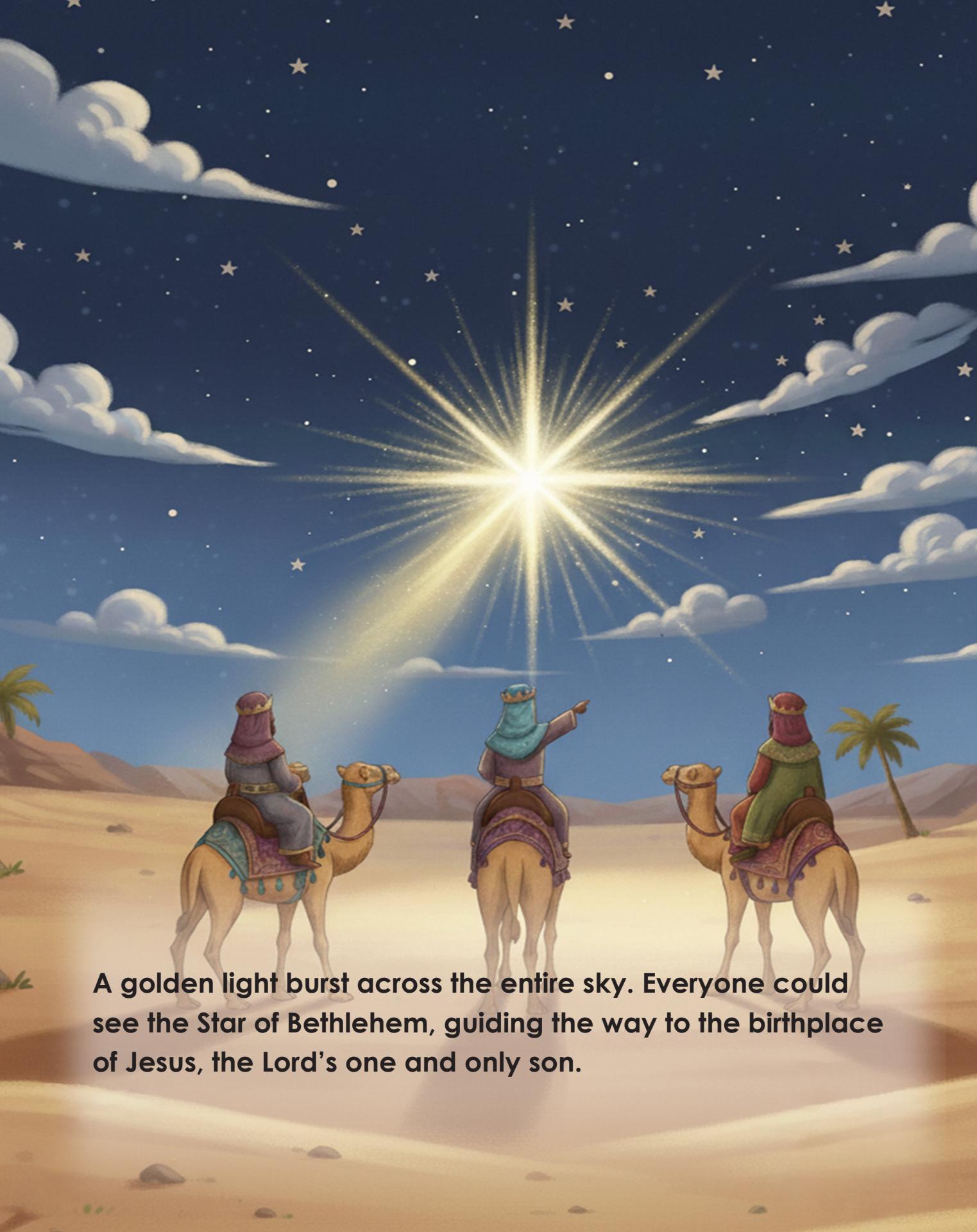
Gabriel tried with all his might, pushing his light towards it, but nothing happened. He barely made a sparkle!

Just then, he felt a warm, gentle hand on his shoulder.



"Through me, all things are possible. Now, shine!"

As God spoke, a warmth spread through Gabriel's body. All his fear and doubt melted away. He felt strong, confident, and BRAVE!



A golden light burst across the entire sky. Everyone could see the Star of Bethlehem, guiding the way to the birthplace of Jesus, the Lord's one and only son.



Gabriel gathered the shepherds, and with a joyful heart, guided them to Bethlehem. There, in a stable, they found Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus.

That's why, every year, we place an angel or star at the top of our Christmas tree. It is a reminder of Gabriel's bravery. Who helped light the way to the birth of Jesus Christ, and a reminder that through God, all things are possible!





Have you ever wondered why we place an angel or a shining star at the top of our Christmas tree? Find out why in Gabriel the Brave, a heartwarming Christmas story!

Carter Amon (Author) Carter Amon is a Marine Corps veteran with a bachelor's degree in business. He resides in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Texas with his wife, Sarah, a Nurse Practitioner, and their two boys, Hank and Dean. Gabriel the Brave is Carter's first authored book and a passion project born of Sarah's inspiration from a simple question their sons asked one year. *"Why do we put an angel at the top of the tree?"*

Darryl Erby (Illustrator & Designer) Darryl Erby is a software sales executive with an MBA in Data Analytics and a deep-seated passion for technology. He and his wife, Jessica, live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with their two sons, Nigel and Isaac. Darryl utilized an AI-driven approach to create consistent and vibrant illustrations and design elements in Gabriel the Brave.



Why do we put a Star or Angel at the top of the Christmas tree?



Still uneasy, Gabriel accepted his task. He knew it was a great honor, but the thought of facing such a big task made him a little scared. As he prepared for his journey, he tried to believe in himself as God believed in him.

In the small town of Nazareth lived a kind and pure young woman named Mary. One night, as Mary was going about her daily chores, a bright light filled her room. Mary jumped back, standing before her was Gabriel, his wings shimmering with celestial light.

"M-m Mary?" Gabriel's voice shook. "You have found favor with God. You will have a special son who will bring joy to the world, and his name will be Jesus!"

She had never seen an angel before, and the news was overwhelming. But she trusted in God and accepted her task.

As Gabriel returned to heaven, he felt relieved. He had completed his task, but he wondered, "Did I do a good job on that message?"

God Said, "Gabriel, you have done well! Now you must go and help a star shine the way for people to find my son Jesus.

Shine your light into the star. Shine as bright as you can to show everyone that Jesus has been born!"

Gabriel was nervous. He had never shined his light in the way that God was asking for. What if he wasn't bright enough? As he tried to shine his light in the star over Bethlehem, the night baby Jesus was born, he barely made any light at all. It was God, but his voice

didn't boom this time as he said, His stomach began to sink, and his throat tightened, but he felt a hand on his shoulder.

"Through me all things are possible. Now, shine." Gabriel felt warmth like a flash through his body and out of his wings, he BURST into light and reignited the brightest star in the sky.

Everyone for miles around could see the star above Bethlehem. It was Gabriel guiding them to the birthplace of Jesus Christ the Lord's one and only son.

"Well done, Gabriel," God said, his voice filled with love. "You have done so well. You faced your fears with courage and believed in Me."

Now hurry and tell the shepherds that Jesus has come!" Gabriel's heart jumped! He realized that God had chosen him **not?** because he was perfect, **but** because he was willing to trust in **Him.**

From that day on, Gabriel carried himself with newfound confidence, knowing that with God's guidance, he could overcome any challenge.

He joyfully went as fast as he could to watch the birth of Jesus.

And so, Gabriel's role in the Christmas story unfolded, a tale of courage, faith, and the power of divine love. It is a reminder that even the smallest among us can make a difference, and that is why we place an angel or a star at the top of the tree every year.

Now, Before you go to sleep tonight, look at the star on top of your tree. Remember that all things are possible with God

and that He is always with you.

Page 24—Dedication / author and illustrator bios

To my own brave boys. You are my armor every time I leave for work.
You are my smile when I am nervous. You are my shining light when I
am lost. I love you.

The dedication is usually found at the top of the copyright page.
This would be the bio page only. It would be good to include a QR code
leading people to your website, but that's not required.

