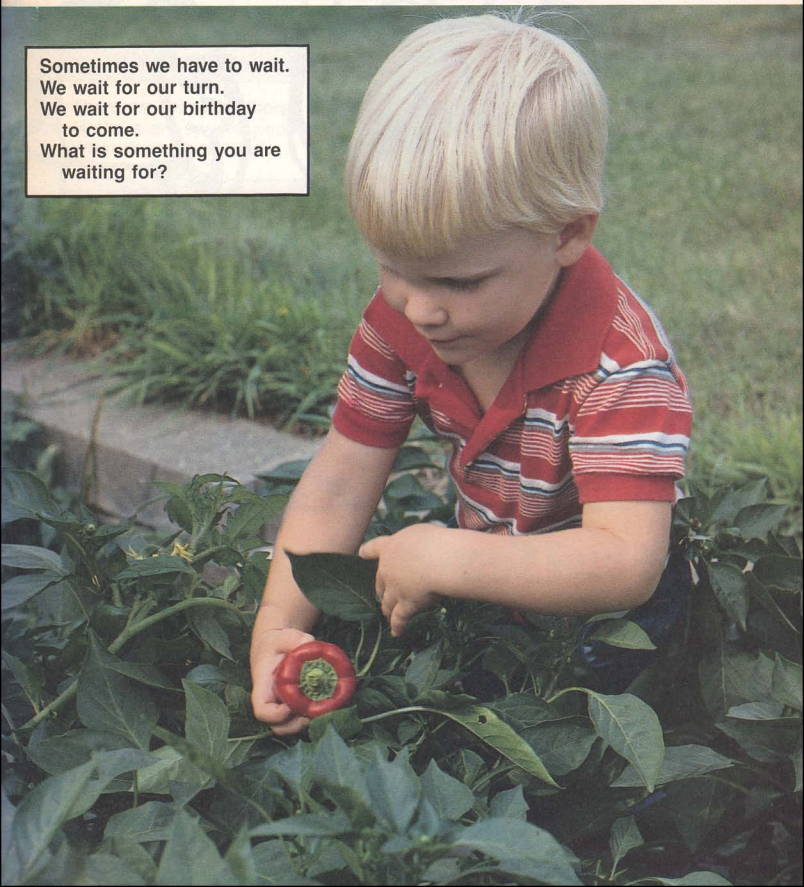


# The Jesus Story

Sometimes we have to wait.  
We wait for our turn.  
We wait for our birthday  
to come.  
What is something you are  
waiting for?





## Wait and See

A long time ago in a faraway land there lived a man named Isaiah. Isaiah traveled from town to town. Wherever he went, he talked to people about God.

"God wants you to be good," Isaiah told the people who gathered

around him, "but you are doing bad things."

The people shook their heads. "God has forgotten us," they said.

"Oh, no," Isaiah answered. "God has not forgotten you. Someone is coming who will show you how much



God loves and cares for you. Wait and see!"

"We have already waited so long," the people complained. "And still God has not sent the promised one."

"Just be patient awhile longer," Isaiah told them. "God will send the

one you are waiting for. Wait and see! Wait and see!"

Who is this special someone that God promised to send? Who is it the people are waiting for?

He is someone we will be learning about. His name is Jesus.

(Based on the Book of Isaiah)

# HIDDEN PICTURES

How many hidden pictures can you find?

These are pictures of people and things you will be learning about.



**PARENTS:** We begin the *The Jesus Story* program by introducing the prophet Isaiah who encouraged people not to give up hope in their long wait for God's promised one. That promised one is, of course, Jesus. In the weeks to come, the children will be learning about his life and teachings on their level of understanding. The children will also be singing, playing games, doing art projects, and coming to know something of God's love through the nurturing, caring experiences of their classroom. Each unit of *The Jesus Story* will have a brief message suggesting ways for parents to build upon what was done in class.

#### *The Jesus Story*

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# The Jesus Story

There are many mothers.  
Mothers are special people.  
What do mothers do?



# The Mother of Jesus

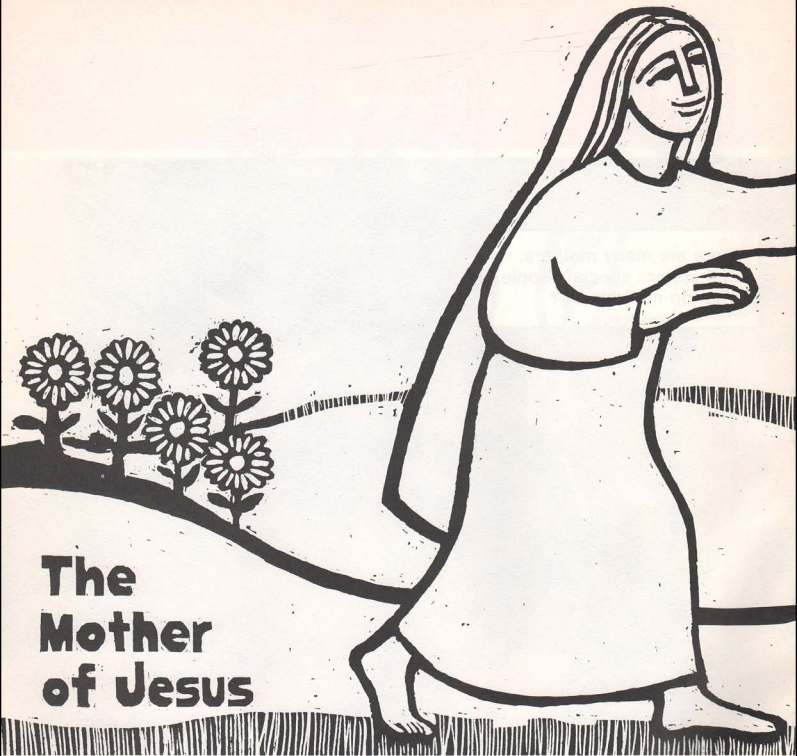
A long, long time ago there was a young woman whose name was Mary. Mary lived in a town called Nazareth. She and a man named Joseph were planning to get married.

One day something very unusual happened to Mary. She saw an angel. The angel said, "Rejoice! Be happy! God is with you."

Mary was a little bit afraid. Why would an angel come to her and say these strange things?

"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel said. "God is very pleased with you."

Then the angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby. It would be a boy. And the boy's name was to be Jesus.





Mary was very surprised to hear this news. "How can it be?" she wondered.

The angel said, "This baby will be a special and holy child. He shall be called the Son of God."

Mary wondered about all of this. Then the angel said that Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby, too. That was exciting news

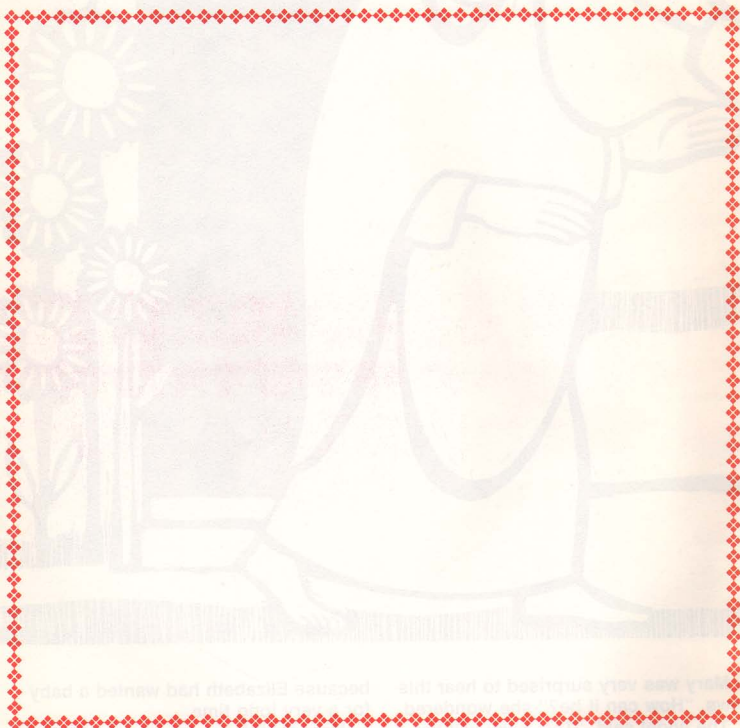
because Elizabeth had wanted a baby for a very long time.

Mary told the angel, "I will do what God wants." After the angel left, Mary went to visit her cousin. She found out that what the angel had said was true. Elizabeth was going to have a baby, too. Both Elizabeth and Mary were very happy.

(Based on Luke 1:26-38)

# MOTHER

Draw a picture of a mother or make a collage about mothers out of pictures cut from magazines and newspapers.



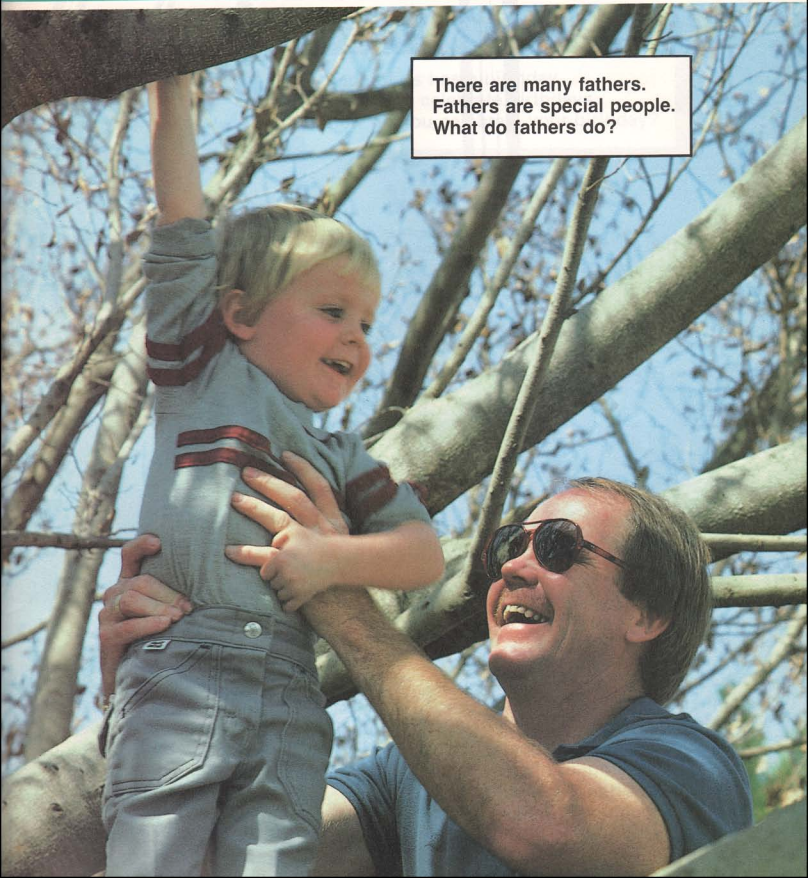
**PARENTS:** We begin the story of Jesus' life by telling about the angel's appearance to Mary. Introducing children to Jesus through his mother helps them see God's Son as someone unique, yet like themselves. They, too, have a mother and were once babies. Recall with your child the happy moments of his or her babyhood. Talk about your child's name and why you chose it. Children enjoy

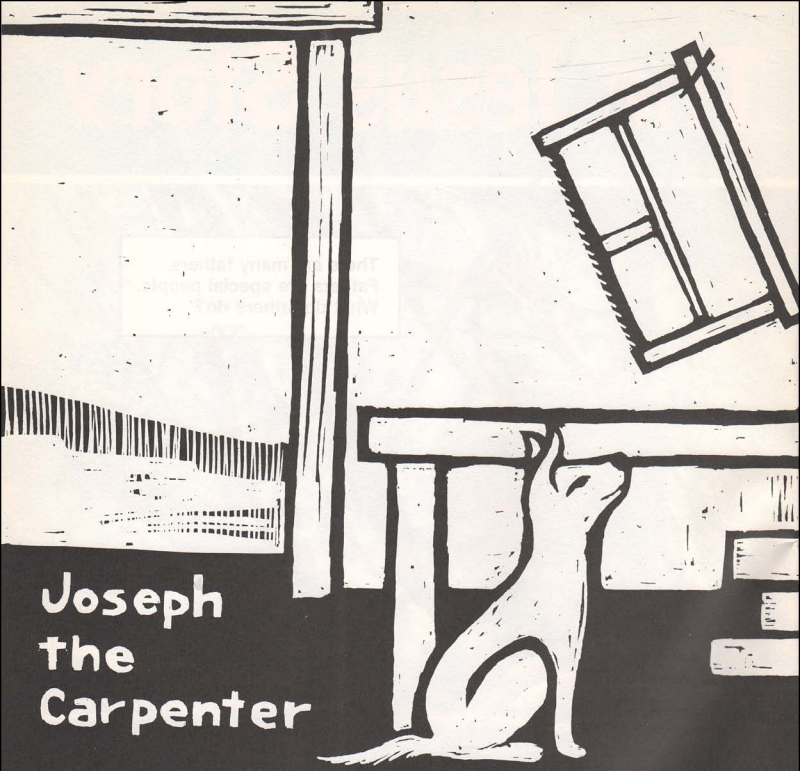
looking at their baby pictures and hearing you tell them how they have grown and how special they are to you.



# The Jesus Story

There are many fathers.  
Fathers are special people.  
What do fathers do?





# Joseph the Carpenter

Joseph was a man who worked with wood. He made tables and chairs and other useful things. He and Mary were planning to get married.

Something unusual happened to Mary. An angel brought her a message from God. The angel told her that she was going to have a baby.

Joseph was a kind and good person. But when he learned that Mary was going to have a baby, he decided not to marry her.

Then something unusual happened to Joseph, too. An angel talked to Joseph in a dream.

The angel said, "Joseph, do not be



afraid to take Mary home as your wife. She is going to have a baby boy. The boy will grow up to be a very special person. You must name him Jesus."

When Joseph got up in the morning, he remembered his dream. In a short while, he did what the

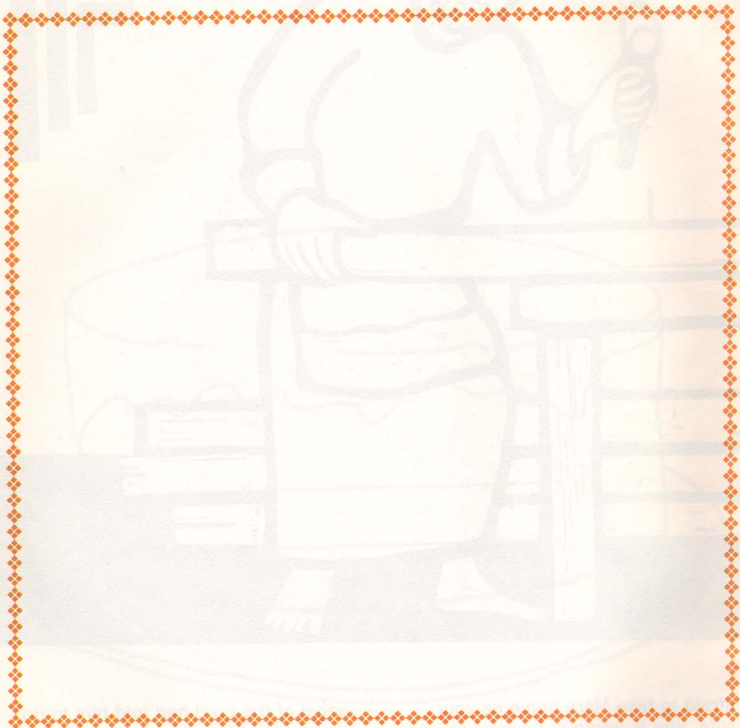
angel of the Lord had told him to do. He married Mary.

After that, Mary and Joseph made a happy home and waited for Jesus to be born.

(Based on Matthew 1:18-25)

## FATHER

Draw a picture of a father or make a collage about fathers out of pictures cut from magazines and newspapers.



**PARENTS:** Through the story about Joseph, we introduce children to the man who was to be Jesus' father on earth. What little Scripture says about Joseph portrays him as kind, hardworking, and loyal. Recall some happy moments your child has shared with his or her father or another adult male who takes a kindly interest in the child's life. Plan activities that father and child can share. A child

who has a close, loving relationship with his or her earthly father is prepared to see God as a kind of heavenly parent, protective and loving.