

## Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

*Memory Verse: Matthew 4:4*

Day 1 – Chapter 23 of “The Story”

Day 2 – Matthew 3 – 4:11

Day 3 – John 1:35 – 2:11; Mark 1:21- chapter 3

Day 4 – Luke 8

Day 5 – John 3 - 4

### Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



### ***The Story: The Birth of the King***

*February 23-24, 2013*

*“The Story” Chapter 22; John 1:1-14*

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

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[www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com).

## Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. What is your favorite part of the Christmas story and why? If you were in a Christmas pageant as a child, what part did you play?
2. These verses in the Gospel of John reveal one of the most important beliefs. How does page 309 of “The Story,” or John 1:1-14, and 18, help clarify the relationship between God and Jesus? Why is this so important?
3. God spoke to both Mary and Joseph through angels (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:19-24; “The Story,” pp. 310-312). What was the angel’s message and how did Mary and Joseph respond?
4. “*In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people,*” (p. 309, Jn. 1:4). Look up John 5:21-29, 10:10, 11:25, 14:6, 17:3, and 20:31. What does it mean, that in him was life?
5. List some of the names of Jesus and their meaning or significance (see also Isa. 9:6-7).
6. What things did Mary know about her child even before she conceived (pp. 310-311)? Why was this important?
7. In response to her situation, Mary offers a song of praise (p. 256). Compare Hannah’s praise song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. How are these songs similar? Did Mary see herself as part of God’s lower story or part of his upper story?
8. What do you suppose Joseph thought and felt about Mary’s pregnancy before and after the angelic visitation (pp. 311-312)? What is the difference between having faith in people and having faith in God?
9. In the lower story, Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to be counted in the census; it was a hard three-day journey. In the upper story God was getting them to Bethlehem because that is where the Messiah was to be born. Share with the group an event in your life that seemed inconvenient and unnecessary, only to later look back and realize God was doing something greater that you knew at the time.
10. The text tells us “*all who heard [Jesus] were amazed*” (p. 315). What do you suppose it was that surprised them?
11. Jesus is Immanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23; “The Story,” p. 312). As you walk with Jesus your Savior, how does it help you to know that he is God and that he is with you...all the time?



Close in prayer.

## Family’s with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Memory Verse: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. —Luke 2:11

1. God used angels a lot in this chapter of “The Story” to bring his message to people. Angels spoke to Mary, explained things to Joseph, and proclaimed Jesus’ birth to the shepherds. What would you say if an angel appeared to you?
2. If you saw an angel, you’d probably be scared. That’s why the angels always say, “Do not be afraid.” After you stopped being scared, what question would you want to ask an angel?
3. Why do you think the angels appeared to shepherds instead of powerful, rich people?
4. A couple of times in this chapter it says, “Mary kept these things like a secret treasure in her heart.” What do you think that means? Parents, share with your children “secret treasures in your heart” about them.
5. Not a lot is recorded about Jesus’ growing-up years. Do you think Jesus was a good kid? Why do you think that?
6. John writes that life was in Jesus and “that life was the light for all people.” What do you think that means? Is God’s light for all people? If so, why don’t all people call Jesus their Savior?

Family Activity: Any time is the perfect time to celebrate Jesus Christ’s birth. You don’t have to wait until Christmas.

Gather your family and watch a video of the “Go Fish” song “Christmas with a Capital C.” [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEojXQHd1DU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEojXQHd1DU)

This video pictures a house that has its Christmas lights timed to go with the song, which has powerful lyrics about keeping Christ in our Christmas. Society is trying to push out the miracle of Christ’s birth from the holidays. But like the song says, “Jesus came down to take the punishment for me. He did it for you, too, so maybe you can see why it’s called Christmas.” Fight the trend of taking Christ out of Christmas by putting Christ in everyday. Think of somebody you know who could use a dose of cheer. As a family pick out a present that costs less than \$10. Wrap it and give it to them. Let them know that Jesus has given you so much that you want to give a little away, too. Jesus’ love can’t be contained! And when Christmas comes around this year, make sure that everybody around you knows that Jesus loves them.



Pray together: Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son into the world as a little baby, born to set us free. Amen.