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Do you ever wonder why we have Christmas? We like to give each other presents and put up decorations, but there's also a reason why we like to do all that.

It's a really good story;
come back tomorrow to hear the beginning.

Mary had just gone to sleep one night when an angel appeared. He said, "Fear not, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And you will have a son, and name him Jesus." Mary understood, and knew that the angel was telling the truth.

Before Elizabeth had her baby, Mary came to visit her. When Elizabeth saw Mary, John moved around in his mother's tummy. Elizabeth knew about the baby in Mary's tummy, and she said, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."

Joseph didn't know what to do. That night, an angel came and told Joseph about the baby in Mary's tummy. Joseph understood that everything was okay, and he and Mary became husband and wife.

The city was very crowded, as many people had returned home to be counted. It was so crowded that even though Mary was pregnant, no one had any room for them to sleep in a comfortable bed.

Here's the beginning of the story of Christmas. A long, long time ago, in a place very far away from here, there was a woman named Mary.

Mary was going to be married to a man named Joseph.

The angel told Mary to go and see her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was old enough to be a Grandma, but never had any children until an angel came to her husband. They were told their own son would be named John.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for a long time before going home. She was promised to be married to Joseph, but when Joseph saw her, he saw that she was already pregnant. This made him very worried.

It was tax time in the land. It was the law that Mary and Joseph had to go to their hometown to pay their taxes and be counted. So Mary and Joseph headed to the city of Bethlehem.

One innkeeper, whose inn was all full up, told Joseph of a stable nearby. It was full of sheep, cows, and other animals, but it was quiet and warm so Mary and Joseph didn't mind resting there.

That night in the stable with the sheep and the cows, the baby Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph were so happy, and it was a beautiful, silent night. They wrapped Him up and laid Him in a manger to rest. After Jesus was born, a new star appeared in the sky.

When the angel appeared to the shepherds, it looked like a beautiful bright light. The angel said, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Suddenly more angels appeared and they all started to sing together, making a happy sound. They were singing about the birth of Jesus and that he was the Savior.

There were other people who noticed the new star, too. A group of wise men, or magi, had set out from a distant land in the Orient to find the newborn Savior.

King Herod decided to play a trick on the wise men. He told them that when they found the baby, they should let him know where Jesus was so that he could go and worship, too. The wise men agreed, because they didn't know what Herod was really planning.

A ways off, a group of shepherds was in the field, taking care of their sheep. They noticed the new star in the sky. At first they didn't know what it meant and it scared them. But soon, another angel appeared.

Then the angel said, "Let this be a sign unto you: You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." The shepherds were amazed.

The shepherds left immediately to go and find the baby. They followed the star in the sky and it led them to the stable in Bethlehem. When they found Jesus, they knelt to honor Him.

They came to a man named King Herod to ask where they might be able to find baby Jesus so that they could worship him. But Herod was a mean man. He had heard the story that a king would be born, and it worried him. He didn't want anyone else to be king.

The wise men continued on their journey, following the star to find baby Jesus. It was a custom in their homeland to give gifts to kings and other important people. They offered three gifts to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Before the wise men were ready to leave, they had dreams telling them not to return to Herod or to tell him that they had found Jesus. So they took another route home, and never went back to see Herod.

After the wise men left, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt to be safe from King Herod, who was still making plans to be the only king.

So Joseph took his wife and his son to Egypt until they were safe from Herod, and then went to a city called Nazareth, where Jesus grew up and did wonderful things.

Now you know the story of why we celebrate Christmas. We always should remember that even though the story happened so long ago, what we celebrate is the birth of Jesus. Even a tiny baby can be a King who was sent to help us all.