

Bible Stories, Devotions, & Prayers About the Names of God

I AM

40 REASONS to TRUST GOD

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EL SHADDAI

| EL shad-EYE | God All-Powerful

Promises for Abraham

FROM GENESIS 12-21

I am God All-Powerful. Obey me and do what is right.

—Genesis 17:1 ICB

“Abraham,” God said, “I want you to leave the town where you live and go to a land I will show you. I will bless you and make you great so you can bless all the people of the earth.”

“Let’s pack up!” Abraham told his wife, Sarah, and his servants. “We need our bedrolls, tents, and cooking pots, our water jugs and lanterns. It’s time for us to leave this place and go where God wants us to go.”

“Yes,” said Sarah, “but where *is* that?”

“God will show us,” Abraham said.

And God did. God led Abraham and Sarah to the land of Canaan.

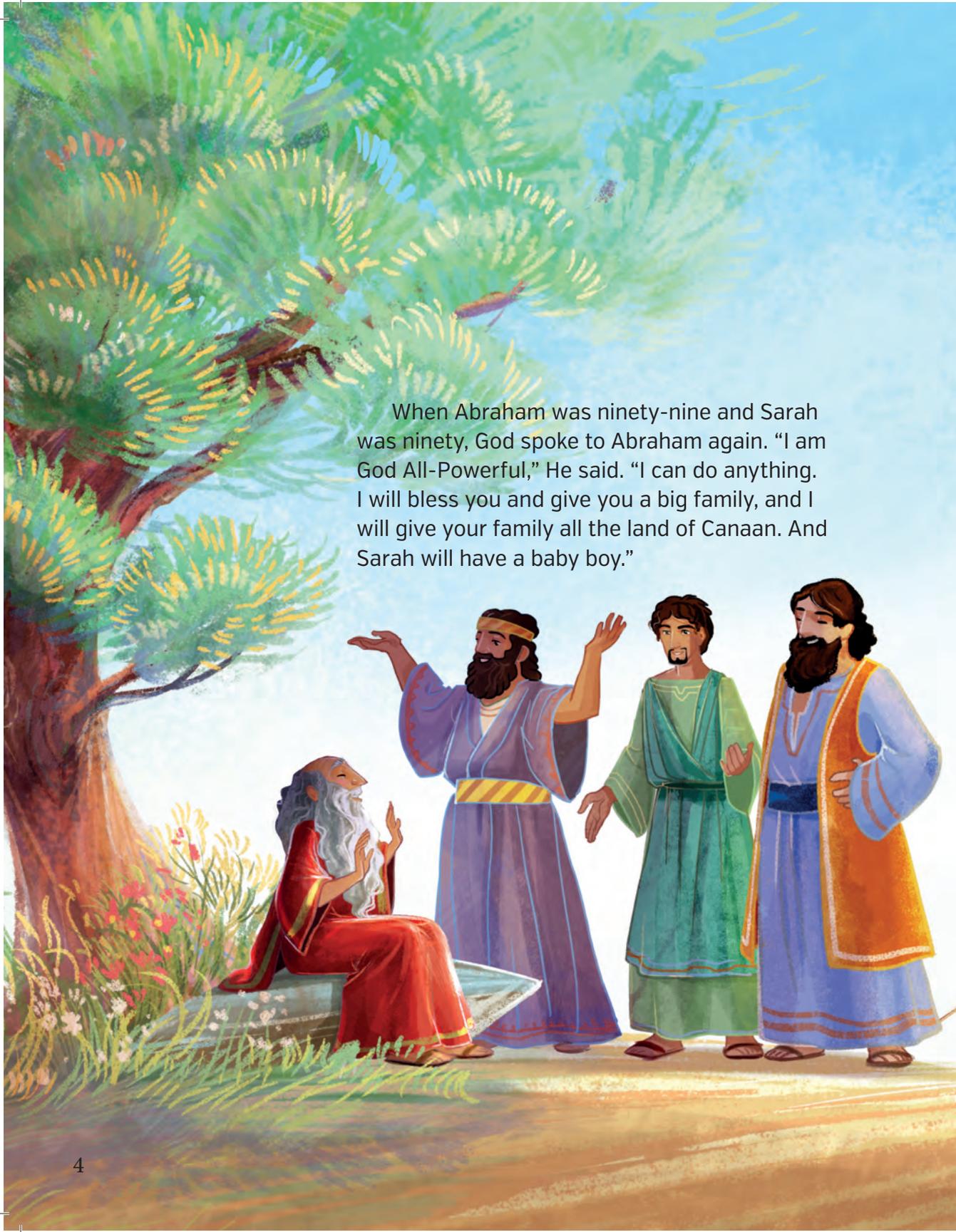
“I will give this land to your family someday,” God said.

“But I don’t have any children,” Abraham said.

“You will have a son,” God said. “And you will have a *big* family. Look up at the stars. Can you count them all? No, there are too many to count. That is how big your family will be. And I will give your family all this land.”

Abraham believed what God said. So he waited . . . and waited . . . and waited.

God can do anything, and
He keeps all His promises.
Nothing is too hard for Him!

An illustration of Abraham, an elderly man with a long white beard wearing a red robe, sitting on a stone ledge under a large, leafy green tree. He is looking up at three standing visitors. The first visitor is a man with a beard wearing a purple robe with a yellow sash, gesturing with both hands raised. The second visitor is a man with a beard wearing a green robe. The third visitor is a man with a beard wearing a blue robe with a yellow sash. The background is a clear blue sky with a few birds flying. The scene is set in a lush, green landscape with flowers and grass.

When Abraham was ninety-nine and Sarah was ninety, God spoke to Abraham again. "I am God All-Powerful," He said. "I can do anything. I will bless you and give you a big family, and I will give your family all the land of Canaan. And Sarah will have a baby boy."

Abraham laughed! He and Sarah were *far* too old to have a baby now!

"It will happen about this time next year," God told Abraham. And Abraham believed what God said. So he waited.

Three visitors came to see Abraham one day as he sat outside his tent under a big oak tree. Two of the visitors were angels, and one was the Lord! Abraham hurried to fix a meal for them, and while they ate, he stood under the big oak tree and waited. Sarah watched and waited inside the tent.

"Sarah will have a son by this time next year," the Lord told Abraham.

This time Sarah was the one who laughed! *I'm too old to have a baby!* she thought to herself.

But God is *God All-Powerful*, and nothing is too hard for Him. Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy, just as God had told them. They named him Isaac. He was the beginning of the very big family God had promised to Abraham, a family that would live in the land of Canaan and bless all the people of the world.

WHAT DOES EL SHADDAI MEAN?

Have you ever tried hard to do something but you didn't have the power to do it? Maybe you wanted to win a race but your legs got tired and you had to slow down—so someone else got to the finish line before you. Maybe you wanted to hit a home run, but you could send the ball only far enough to get you to first base. Some things need power to make them happen!

Anyone can make a promise. But people don't always have the power to keep a promise—to do what they say they will do. Only God All-Powerful always keeps His promises—because He has the power to do it, because He is God.

God never gets tired. Psalm 121:3–4 says, “The one who watches over you . . . never slumbers or sleeps” [NLT]. Nothing is too hard for Him [Genesis 18:14; Matthew 19:26]. And no one else has power like God's power: “LORD, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power” [Jeremiah 10:6 NLT].

Dear God, I feel safe because You are strong and full of power and You always keep Your promises! Thank You, God. Amen.

LEARN MORE

- Many years later, Jesus came from Abraham's big family (Matthew 1).
- One way God kept His promise to Abraham was by sending Jesus. You can find the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Abraham's son, Isaac, married Rebekah, and they had twin sons, Esau and Jacob.

JEHOVAH

| jeh-HO-vuh | I Am

At the Burning Bush

FROM EXODUS 3-4

God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, 'I Am sent me to you.'"

—Exodus 3:14 ICB

"Come, sheep!" Moses called to his flock. "It's time to move on." Moses' sheep followed him through the wilderness, *baa-baa-baa-ing* all the way.

Near Mount Sinai, Moses heard a different sound—a crackling sound, like a fire. He looked around. Yes, over there! Moses saw a bush on fire—but the bush wasn't burning up!

Moses turned toward the bush. "I want to see this amazing sight up close," he said, "and find out why the bush is not burning up."

Then Moses heard another sound, a voice calling his name. "Moses! Moses!"

Who could it be? "Here I am," Moses said.

God answered Moses from the burning bush!



God had no beginning, and He has no end. He never changes.

"Take off your sandals," God said. "This place is holy. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

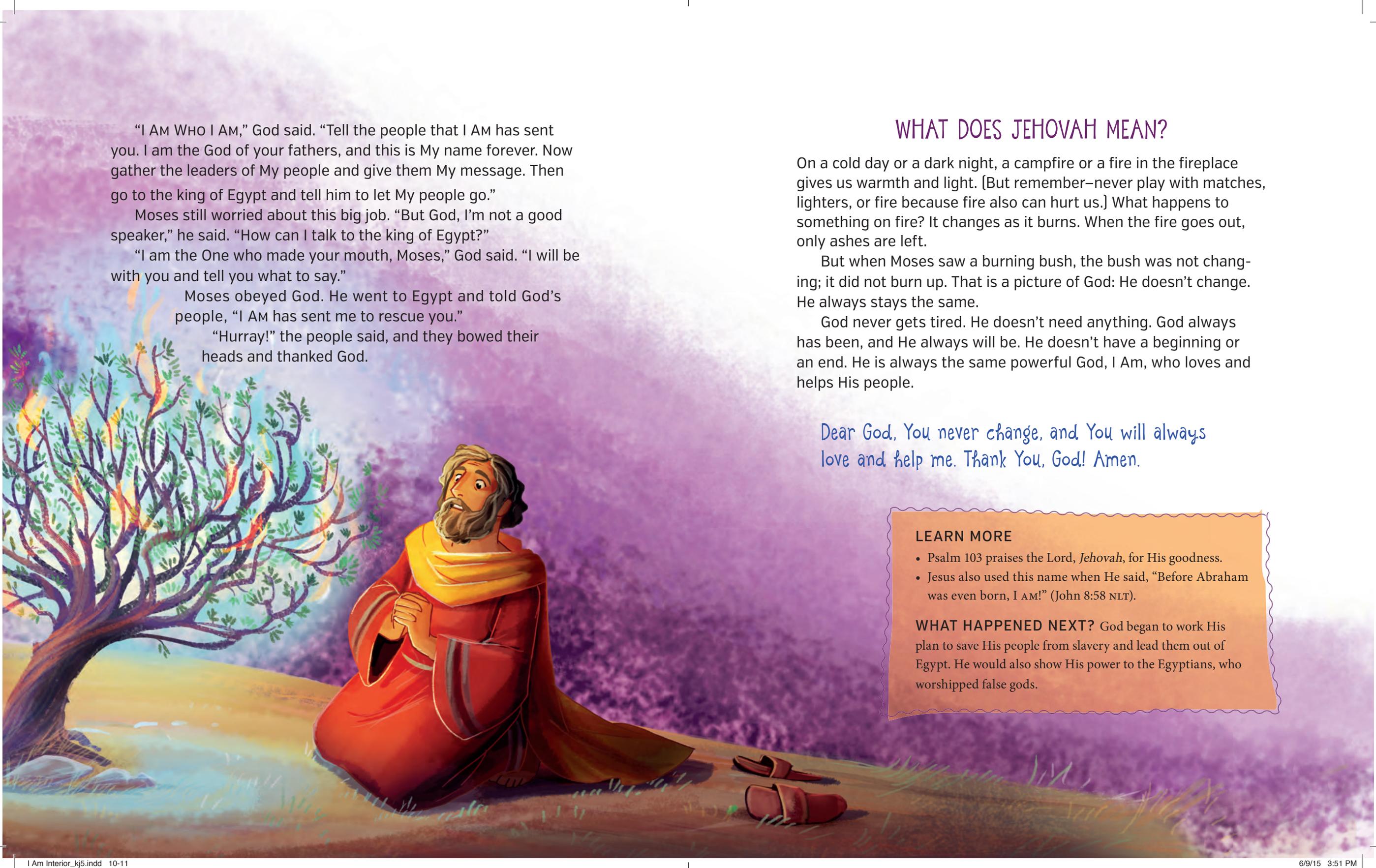
Oh my! Moses took off his sandals and covered his face.

"I have a job for you, Moses," God said. "My people are slaves in Egypt. I know they are in trouble, and I will rescue them. I want you to lead my people out of Egypt and into a good land."

"That's a big job!" Moses said. "How can someone like me do a big job like that?"

"I will be with you, Moses," God said.

Moses had another question for God. "When I tell the people that You sent me, they will want to know Your name. What should I tell them?"



“I AM WHO I AM,” God said. “Tell the people that I AM has sent you. I am the God of your fathers, and this is My name forever. Now gather the leaders of My people and give them My message. Then go to the king of Egypt and tell him to let My people go.”

Moses still worried about this big job. “But God, I’m not a good speaker,” he said. “How can I talk to the king of Egypt?”

“I am the One who made your mouth, Moses,” God said. “I will be with you and tell you what to say.”

Moses obeyed God. He went to Egypt and told God’s people, “I AM has sent me to rescue you.”

“Hurray!” the people said, and they bowed their heads and thanked God.

WHAT DOES JEHOVAH MEAN?

On a cold day or a dark night, a campfire or a fire in the fireplace gives us warmth and light. (But remember—never play with matches, lighters, or fire because fire also can hurt us.) What happens to something on fire? It changes as it burns. When the fire goes out, only ashes are left.

But when Moses saw a burning bush, the bush was not changing; it did not burn up. That is a picture of God: He doesn’t change. He always stays the same.

God never gets tired. He doesn’t need anything. God always has been, and He always will be. He doesn’t have a beginning or an end. He is always the same powerful God, I Am, who loves and helps His people.

Dear God, You never change, and You will always love and help me. Thank You, God! Amen.

LEARN MORE

- Psalm 103 praises the Lord, *Jehovah*, for His goodness.
- Jesus also used this name when He said, “Before Abraham was even born, I AM!” (John 8:58 NLT).

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? God began to work His plan to save His people from slavery and lead them out of Egypt. He would also show His power to the Egyptians, who worshipped false gods.

IMMANUEL

| ih-MAN-u-el | God with Us

Good News!

FROM MATTHEW 1; LUKE 1-2

“They shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

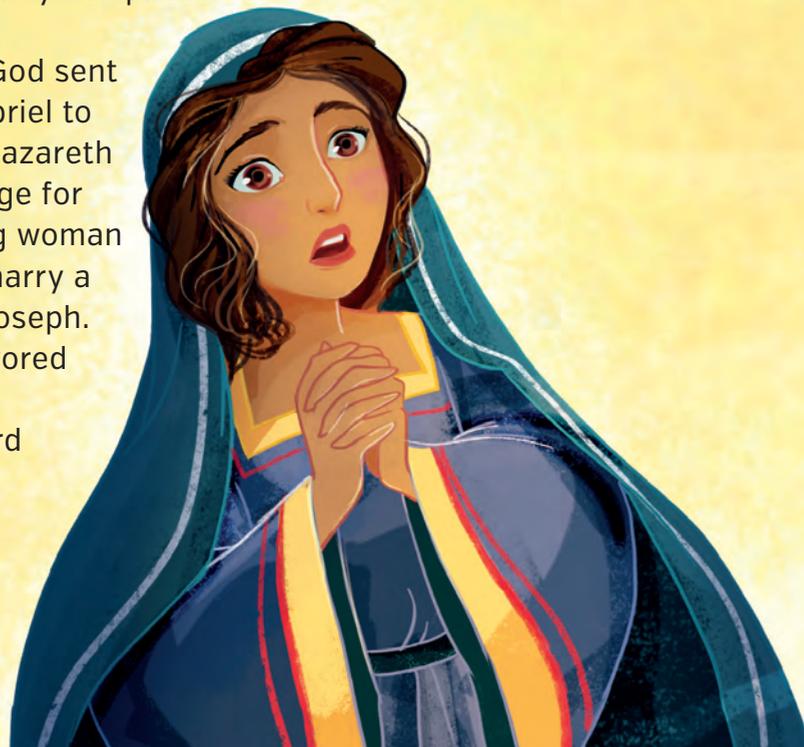
–Matthew 1:23

Long ago, before He made the world, God made a wonderful plan. At just the right time, He would send Someone to help all the people of the world. God promised He would do this. Some people believed God, and they waited patiently. Some people forgot about God’s promise. Many years went by.

But God always keeps His promises!

One day, God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth with a message for Mary, a young woman engaged to marry a man named Joseph.

“Hello, favored one!” Gabriel said. “The Lord is with you!”



Oh! Mary had never seen an angel before! Why had he come? What was he talking about?

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” Gabriel said. “God is pleased with you. You are going to have a very special baby boy, and you must name Him Jesus. He will be very great, and He will be called the Son of God. He will reign over God’s kingdom forever.”

“I am not married yet, so how will this happen?” Mary asked.

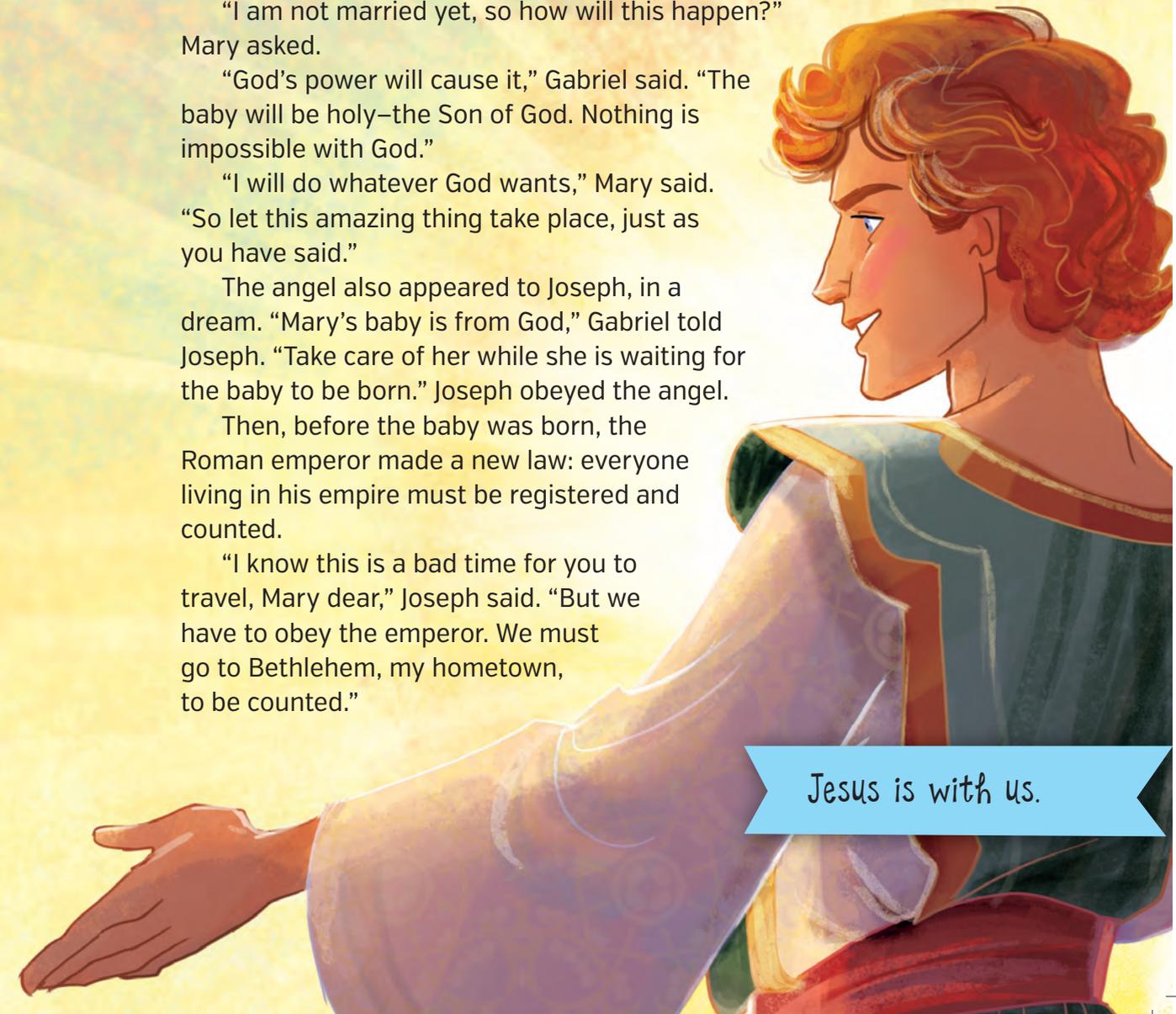
“God’s power will cause it,” Gabriel said. “The baby will be holy—the Son of God. Nothing is impossible with God.”

“I will do whatever God wants,” Mary said. “So let this amazing thing take place, just as you have said.”

The angel also appeared to Joseph, in a dream. “Mary’s baby is from God,” Gabriel told Joseph. “Take care of her while she is waiting for the baby to be born.” Joseph obeyed the angel.

Then, before the baby was born, the Roman emperor made a new law: everyone living in his empire must be registered and counted.

“I know this is a bad time for you to travel, Mary dear,” Joseph said. “But we have to obey the emperor. We must go to Bethlehem, my hometown, to be counted.”



Jesus is with us.



While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary's baby to be born—a sweet, beautiful baby boy! Mary wrapped Him in swaddling cloths to keep Him warm and cozy.

But all the rooms in the Bethlehem inn had been filled by other travelers. So where did baby Jesus sleep? Mary laid baby Jesus in a manger, an animals' feeding trough, filled with hay. Then she and Joseph rested and took care of the baby and kept Him safe.

WHAT DOES IMMANUEL MEAN?

If a storm with loud thunder and lightning wakes you up, do you run to find your mom and dad or climb in bed with your sister or brother? Sometimes we don't want to be alone—we want somebody else to be with us!

One of Jesus' names is *Immanuel*, which means "God with us." God came to live with people on earth when Jesus was born! Jesus came to show us that God loves us and doesn't want us to be alone! So even in the middle of a storm, we don't ever have to feel alone or be afraid—God is with us!

Dear God, I'm so glad You want to be with us! Thank You for sending Jesus to show us Your love. Amen.



LEARN MORE

- Do you remember reading about Joshua and the battle of Jericho? When Joshua became the leader of the Israelites, God told him, "Don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 ICB).

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? When Jesus was born, wise men in the East saw a new star in the sky. They knew it was the star of the newborn king of the Jews, and they set out on a long journey to find and worship Him.



