

Jesus Our Savior

The Story of God's Son for Children



Jesus Our Savior

The Story God's Son for Children



Adapted by Patricia Szczebak

Illustrated by Mary Joseph Peterson, FSP

Nihil Obstat:

Reverend Thomas W. Buckley, S.T.D., S.S.L.

Imprimatur:

✠ Seán Cardinal O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Boston

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017959726

CIP data is available.

ISBN 10: 0-8198-4023-8

ISBN 13: 978-0-8198-4023-3

Adapted from *My First Book about Jesus* written by Mary Elizabeth Tebo, FSP
© 2008, Daughters of St. Paul

Adapted by Patricia Szczebak

Cover design and illustrations by Mary Joseph Peterson, FSP

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

“P” and PAULINE are registered trademarks of the Daughters of St. Paul.

Copyright © 2018, Daughters of St. Paul

Published by Pauline Books & Media, 50 Saint Pauls Avenue, Boston, MA
02130-3491

Printed in the U.S.A.

JOS VSAUSAPEOILL11-2110105 4023-8

www.pauline.org

Pauline Books & Media is the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul, an international congregation of women religious serving the Church with the communications media.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

22 21 20 19 18

Contents

Introduction.....	iv
Mother of God.....	1
Jesus Is Born.....	4
The Promised Messiah.....	7
My Father's House	10
This Is My Son	12
Follow Me	15
The First Miracle.....	18
Jesus Teaches.....	20
Blessed Are You	22
Jesus Heals	25
Crowds and Miracles.....	28
Transfiguration	31
Hosanna!	33
The Last Supper.....	36
Arrested.....	38
Condemned to Death.....	41
Carrying the Cross.....	43
Death on a Cross	45
Alive!	49
A Mysterious Companion.....	51
Jesus Returns to the Father.....	53
The Church Is Born.....	56
Conclusion	58

Introduction

Did you know that the Bible is really a collection of many books? Long ago, God inspired writers to record the story of God's love for all people. Each of these inspired writings forms a book in the Bible, or Scripture. Pick up any Bible and you will find many different types of writing. Scripture includes myths, history, poems, laws, songs, letters, visions, dreams, and even building instructions!

The Bible has two parts. The Old Testament tells the story of God's Chosen People learning about God's love and waiting for the birth of the Savior. The New Testament tells the story of the life of Jesus and the early Church. We can read about many things that Jesus said and did in the books of the New Testament that we call the Gospels. There are four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The story of Jesus really begins at the beginning of the Bible. In the first book of the Old Testament, we learn God's plan for us to live in friendship with him and enjoy the beautiful world he created. But when the first man and woman disobeyed God, they broke this friendship. Their actions brought sin and death into the world.

Because he loves us, God promised that one day he would send us a Savior who would repair that friendship. After many, many years, God the Father sent his Son to Earth. His name is Jesus, and he came to free us from our sinfulness. This is his story.



Mother of God

A long time ago there was a young Jewish woman named Mary. She lived in the land of Israel in the city of Nazareth. Mary loved God very much. She was very happy and was engaged to a good man named Joseph.

One day, God sent the Archangel Gabriel to her. “Hail Mary,” Gabriel greeted her. “God has chosen you to be the mother of his Son.”

“How can this happen?” Mary asked in surprise. “I am not married yet.”

“The Holy Spirit will come to you,” Gabriel explained. “Your child will be the Messiah—the Savior God has promised to Israel.”

Mary wanted to do whatever God wanted. She closed her eyes and said, “May God’s will be done in me.” At that



moment, the Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and Jesus began to grow within her as all babies grow within their mothers.

“Mary,” the angel continued. “Nothing is impossible for the Lord. Your cousin Elizabeth, who is very old, is going to have a baby, too.”

After Gabriel left, Mary traveled to visit her cousin. She wanted to help Elizabeth in any way she could.

When Elizabeth saw her cousin, she went out to greet Mary.

“Blessed are you, Mary,” Elizabeth said. “And blessed is the baby in your womb!”

Elizabeth was so happy that Mary and the unborn Jesus were visiting her—even Elizabeth’s unborn baby was joyful. He leaped in Elizabeth’s womb when he heard Mary speak! Mary stayed with her cousin for three months. Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy and named him John. Then Mary returned to Nazareth.

When Mary arrived home, Joseph was very glad. His bride-to-be was back! Then he saw that she was pregnant. *What shall I do?* he wondered. *I am not the baby’s father. How can I marry her?*

That night God sent an angel to appear to Joseph in a dream.

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said. “Mary’s baby is from God the Holy Spirit. Make Mary your wife and name the child Jesus.” Joseph trusted God and did what the angel commanded.



Jesus Is Born

Some months after Joseph and Mary became husband and wife, the Roman emperor announced that he wanted all the people in the empire counted. He ordered everyone to return to their hometowns for the census. Mary and Joseph had to leave immediately for the city of Bethlehem. Mary rode on a little donkey. It was a long and difficult trip.

When they reached Bethlehem, Mary said, “Joseph, I think the baby will be born tonight. We need to find a place to stay.”

Joseph was very worried. There were so many people there for the census. They could not find a place to stay.

Finally, Joseph knocked on the door of an inn, and the innkeeper answered.

“You must be looking for shelter,” said the friendly man. “There are no rooms here. There are no rooms

available anywhere. But, you can stay in a cave not far from here. I use it as a stable for animals. It's not very nice, but at least it's warm and dry."

Mary and Joseph followed the kind man to the cave. That very night, Jesus was born! Mary wrapped her son in soft cloths. Then she laid him in the manger filled with hay.

That night, on nearby hills, there were some shepherds. They were taking care of their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared to the shepherds. They were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you and for all people. The Savior has been born today. It is the Lord! You will find him in a cave lying in a manger."

Then many angels filled the sky. They sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth."

The shepherds went at once to Bethlehem. They found Jesus lying in the manger, just as the angel had said.

"Praise God!" said one of the shepherds as he knelt before Jesus. Filled with awe, the shepherds bowed their heads.





Later three wise men from the East arrived. They had followed a bright star that had suddenly appeared in the sky. They believed that this was a sign that a new king had been born. The wise men went to Jerusalem first. After speaking with King Herod, they followed the star to the place where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were.

The first wise man said to Mary and Joseph, “We have come to worship the Savior.” He knelt before the sleeping baby. Then he put a gift in the hay. He said, “I offer precious gold to the newborn King.”

The second wise man came forward. “I give the gift of frankincense for the King who is also God.”

The third wise man knelt and said, “I bring myrrh to the newborn King who will suffer to save his people.”

Mary looked at her sleeping baby with love and marveled at all God had done.

