



THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these stories:

- **The Lord Saves Esther**, page 256
- **Waiting for God's Messenger**, page 258
- **The Birth of John Foretold**, page 267
- **The Birth of Jesus Foretold, Mary Visits Elizabeth**, pages 269, 272
- **The Birth of John**, page 275

Over the course of a child's life, parents will teach him or her many things: how to use a spoon, how to walk, how to throw a ball, how to eat vegetables, how to sing a song—the list is endless. But the very most important thing they can teach their child is that Jesus loves him or her so much that He died on a cross and rose again victorious to give the child forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Jesus did all this because He loves this child so very much. Remember that you are also God's child and He loves YOU very much as well!

Know the Bible Now (including Scripture references)

GOD SAVES HIS PEOPLE — [Esther 3-8](#) | KtBN page 198

- Mordecai said, "Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" What opportunity do you think God is giving you, right now, to show God's mercy and grace in someone's life?
- Esther prepared for approaching the King by having the people fast, and we can also infer, "pray." What opportunity to show God's mercy to someone else could you pray for right now?

Prayer: *Lord, give us an opportunity to show Your mercy and love to someone in our community. Give me the strength to carry through with it.. Amen.*

WAITING FOR GOD'S MESSENGER — [Malachi](#) | KtBN page 202

- Malachi's words call us to examine how we are living. It is a call to repentance (which literally means "turn 180 degree"). Where is God calling you to repent?
- Jesus offers us forgiveness of our sins. How can His power and grace help us live in a way that is repentant?

Prayer: *Dear Father, lead me to repentance and faith. Guide me in your paths, and keep my eyes fixed on your mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

THE BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD — Luke 1 | KtBN page 214

- In these days, children were their parents' retirement plan, as well as their pride and joy. How would their son, John, be a blessing to everyone around him?
- Talk to someone else about how your family/children are a blessing to you.

Prayer: *Lord, we are thankful for children and families. Keep us ever mindful of your blessings upon our lives each and every day. Amen.*

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD — [Luke 1:5-56](#) & [Matthew 1:18-25](#) | KtBN page 216

- What does the name "Jesus" mean?
- Think of the worst sin you have thought, said, or done. Now read about the meaning of Jesus' name again. What does this promise mean to you? How does it give you hope today??

Prayer: *Lord, you were born to give us hope - to make every day a new day in the power of your forgiveness. Keep us ever mindful of your grace and favor for us. We love you. Amen.*

THE BIRTH OF JOHN — [Luke 1:57-80](#) | KtBN page 218

- John the Baptist was to prepare the way for the Lord (Jesus). How do you think he will prepare people?
- This passage tells us that Zechariah began to prophecy (which means "preach"). What are some things he preached about his son's upcoming ministry?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for sending John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare our hearts by faith to receive our Savior and King, Jesus Christ, Amen.*