

What Does Christmas Really Mean to You?



Dain Ray Devon

Honor Your Father

To: Alfred Taylor

“Dad, you have shown me what perfection and beauty look like with one of your interests being in stained glass. Though I do not always understand the countless hours and sacrifice, I now know that it is in the details and creativity that you express your love! You have been willing to share your gift with people in Shelbyville and statewide! And through this channel, you connected me with L.C. Young! Thank you so much for your guidance and connections! My prayer is that I will be able to put all that dedication and sacrifice into my writing!”

A Stained-Glass Piece in Honor of Roy & Dorothy Taylor



Honor Your Mother

To: Diane Lee Taylor

“Words cannot describe the love that I have for you! You have been the best mother that a child could ever have! You have been a teacher, a tutor, and an angel to me and to the children in the Shelbyville community through countless generations! I thank you for being my editing partner and cheerleader through this process!”

ISBN 979-8-88832-878-1 (paperback)
ISBN 979-8-88832-879-8 (digital)

Copyright © 2024 by Dain Ray Devon

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods without the prior written permission of the publisher. For permission requests, solicit the publisher via the address below.

Christian Faith Publishing
832 Park Avenue
Meadville, PA 16335
www.christianfaithpublishing.com

Printed in the United States of America

The Decision to Stay

To: Archbishop Corlis Dees II and Mother Datha

“Thank you both for having an impact on my life since coming to Trinity United Methodist Church in 1997! Its doors were about to close; however, when walking in the doors, you sensed the Holy Spirit and decided to keep it open! And since that decision, a lot of lives have been changed through confirmation classes, Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, tent revivals, choir rehearsals, and most recently through the Trinity Outreach Program! And now I am seeing the fruit of your labor through the ministry of Pastor Seth and Elizabeth Taylor! Well done thy good and faithful servants!”

The Pull of the Future

To: Pastor Seth Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor

“Without a vision, the people perish! God bless you for taking over the position of pastor when it was time! I know that you have a lot of duties as a pastor, father, and husband, and I continually pray that God gives you knowledge, strength, and wisdom in these times! Elizabeth, continue to sing to the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength! Know that God is using you two as vessels to bring us into a closer relationship with Jesus!”

Joined Together in Ministry

To: Shanae Dees, Adam, Corlis III, and my church family.

“God’s desire is that all brothers and sisters work together in ministry! I am thankful that you all have encouraged me with my walk with the Lord! Continue to follow the Lord’s calling on your life! Shanae, keep molding and shaping the minds of your students both at school and at the taekwondo ministry! Bishop Corlis III, keep shining your light at your workplace and provide the best sound possible at Sunday services! Adam, use your talents in architecture and fitness to

make an impact on those around you! My nephews and nieces, keep trusting the Lord with your plans, and He will make your paths straight! And to the rest of my church family, continue to love!”

Colleagues in Education

To: Colleagues in Education

“I want to thank all the school staff that I have worked with since starting my teaching career in 2007! You all have played a part in my approach to teaching, creativity, and writing! So, continue to teach, coach, and inspire!”

Author Mentor

To: L.C. Young

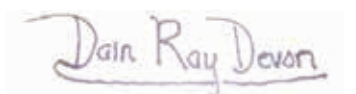
“I thank you for being a mentor for me during this process! I think we all know that my wardrobe was not up to par when I first wrote “author” next to my name; however, you and my dad, Alfred, took care of it. Most sincerely, I want to thank you for all the writing sessions and advice!”

My Readers

To: My Readers

“You all are important and precious to me! Thank you for taking the time to read my book! I pray that it makes an impact on your life! Please stay connected with me on my author website: www.dainraydevonbooks.com. I plan to have a section on it called The Jump. It is a challenge for those who want to jump to the intermediate grades in reading literacy. Your task is to read The Jump with the help of an adult, teacher, or guardian. Are you ready to take that jump? If you are, then go to my website!”

From yours truly,





Criss cross
Apple Sauce
Hands in
Your Lap

Two weeks before Christmas break, Miss Moreland has her class do a special writing task.

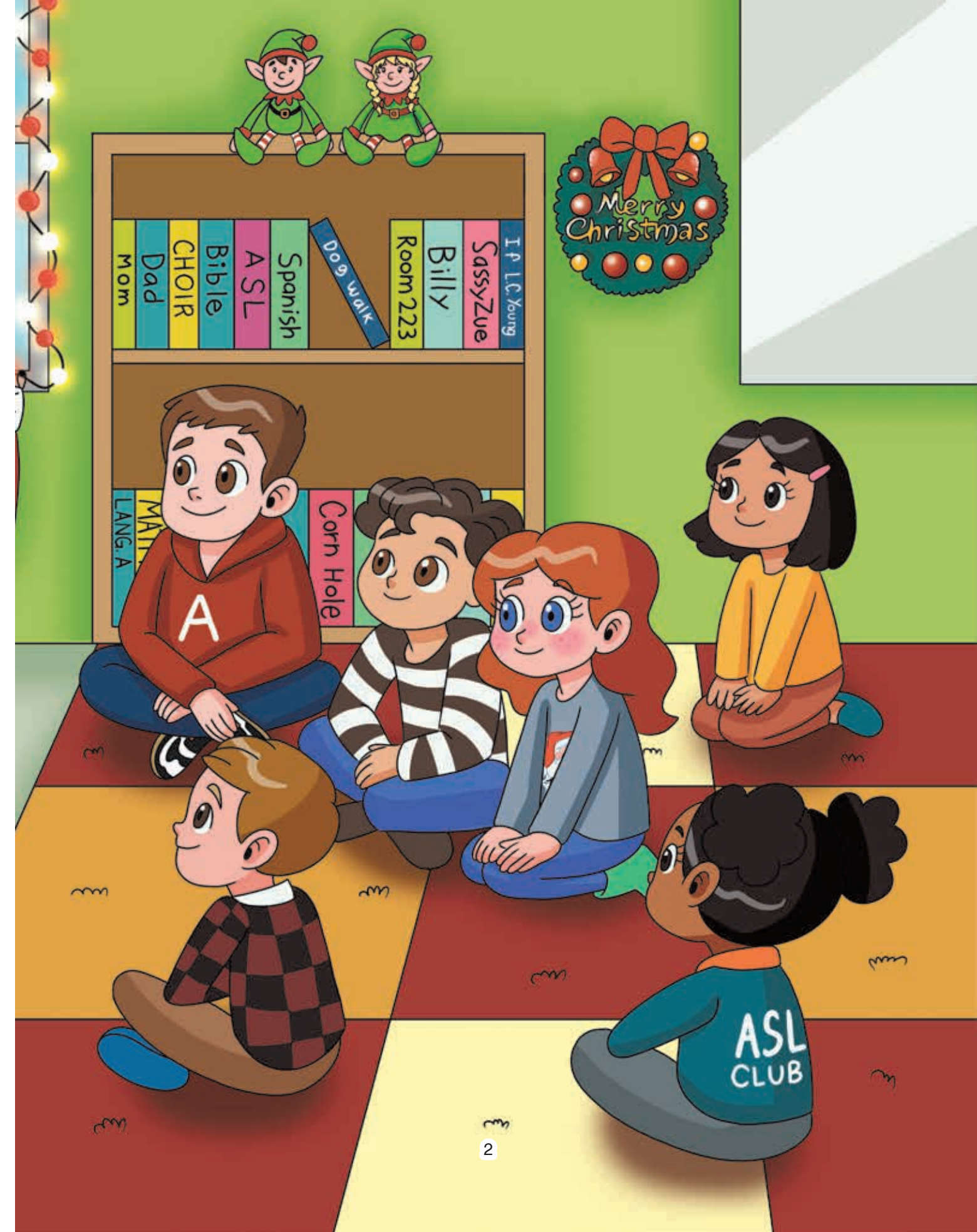
“Classy Class, Class?”

“Yessy, yes yes!”

“Are you ready to write?”

“Yessy, yes, yes! We are ready to write!”

“Excellent! But before I have you guys go back to your writing spots, I have a special writing task! I would like you to write one paragraph about what Christmas is all about!”



Merry
Christmas

ASL
CLUB



“Now, I know that you guys have some great ideas! Would anyone like to share?”

“I know!” yelled Jack. “It is about Santa Clause, his sleigh, and elves! We have read books about elves and Santa in class!”

“That is not what Christmas is all about!” Cynthia remarked. “Hello! It is about Kris Kringle who brings a lot of gifts to kids who behave well at home and school!”

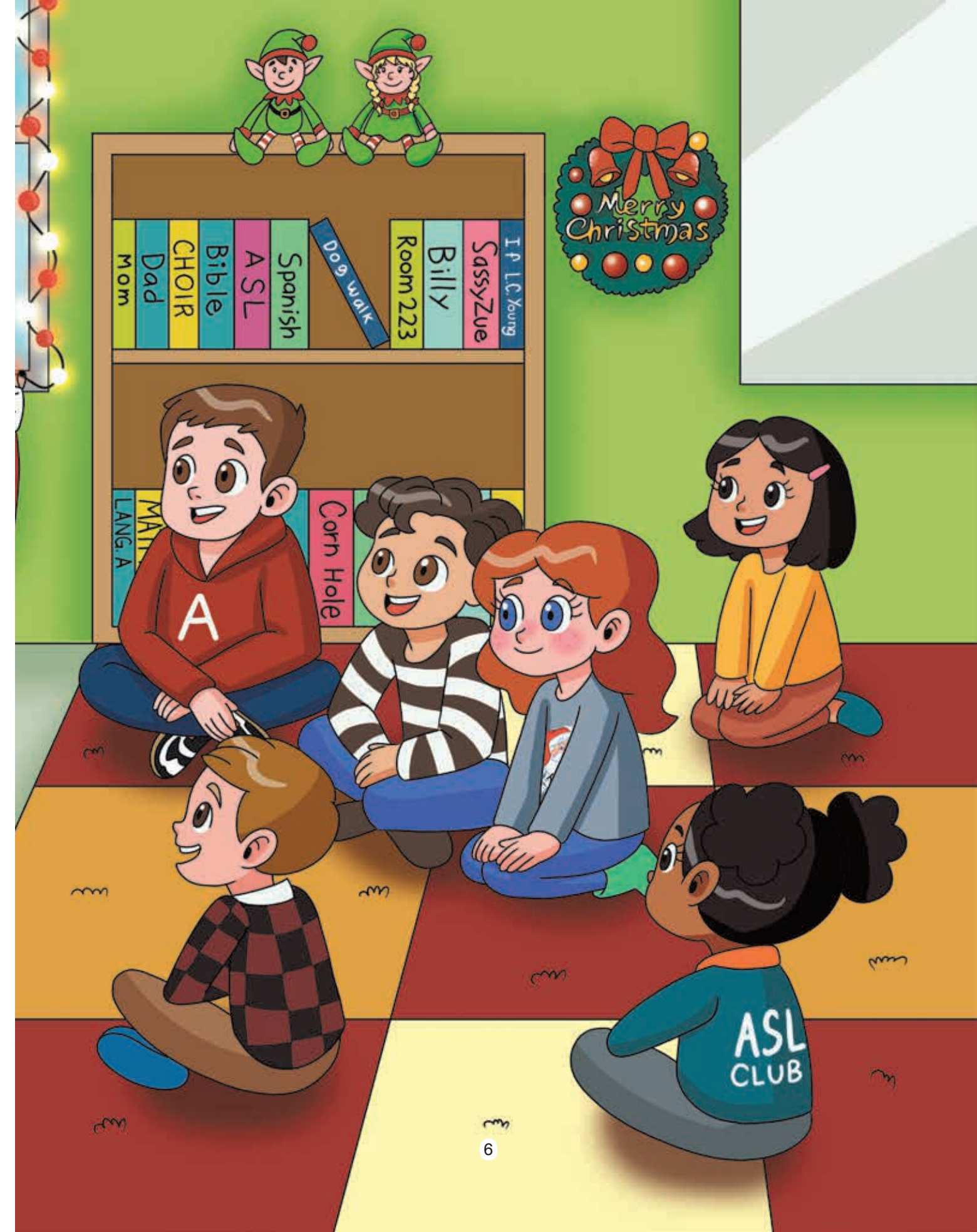
Ray chimes in, “Well, I believe Christmas is only about a tree, lights, and presents and being good to everyone!”

A few more hands go up.

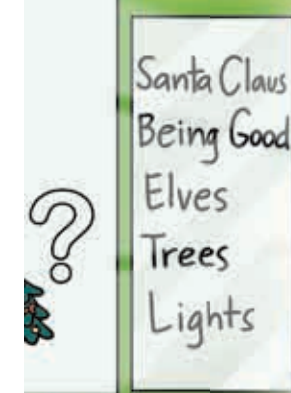




“Guys, guys, guys! I believe that we have a lot of ideas about what Christmas is all about! Now make sure that your paragraph has a topic sentence, three details, and a good sentence at the end. You can use your writer’s guide to help you. If anybody needs help with this, please raise your hand.”



? What is ? ? Christmas All About ?

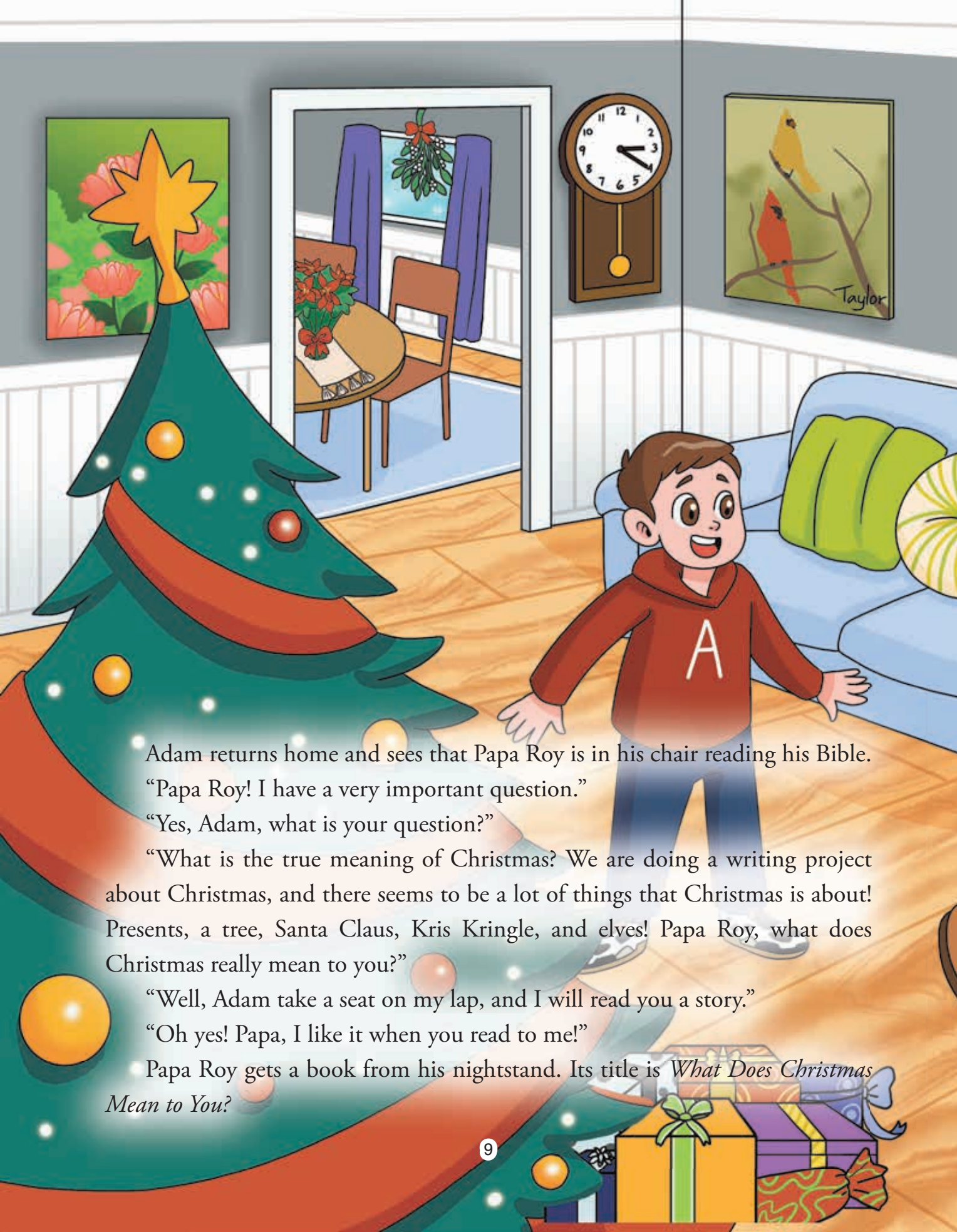


Miss Moreland has the children go to their writing spots. Adam decides to raise his hand; Miss Mooreland has him come to her desk.

“Yes Adam, was there something that you needed help with?”

“Miss Moreland, I do not know what to write! There are so many things that Christmas is all about! Should I write about Santa, Kris Kringle, the elves, the gifts, the lights, or the tree?”

“Adam, that is up to you! Why don't you talk to your grandfather when you get home?” Adam, confused at the time, agrees with Miss Moreland's advice. The clock strikes three and the whole class gets ready to go home.



Adam returns home and sees that Papa Roy is in his chair reading his Bible.

“Papa Roy! I have a very important question.”

“Yes, Adam, what is your question?”

“What is the true meaning of Christmas? We are doing a writing project about Christmas, and there seems to be a lot of things that Christmas is about! Presents, a tree, Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, and elves! Papa Roy, what does Christmas really mean to you?”

“Well, Adam take a seat on my lap, and I will read you a story.”

“Oh yes! Papa, I like it when you read to me!”

Papa Roy gets a book from his nightstand. Its title is *What Does Christmas Mean to You?*



As Adam gets on Papa Roy's lap, he yells, "Grandpa! Where are the pictures? I thought I was going to see Santa, his sleigh, and his reindeer! Where are they?"

"Adam, calm down! Let's open the book first and start reading because we all know that you cannot judge a book by its cover!" *Papa Roy opens the book and reads.*

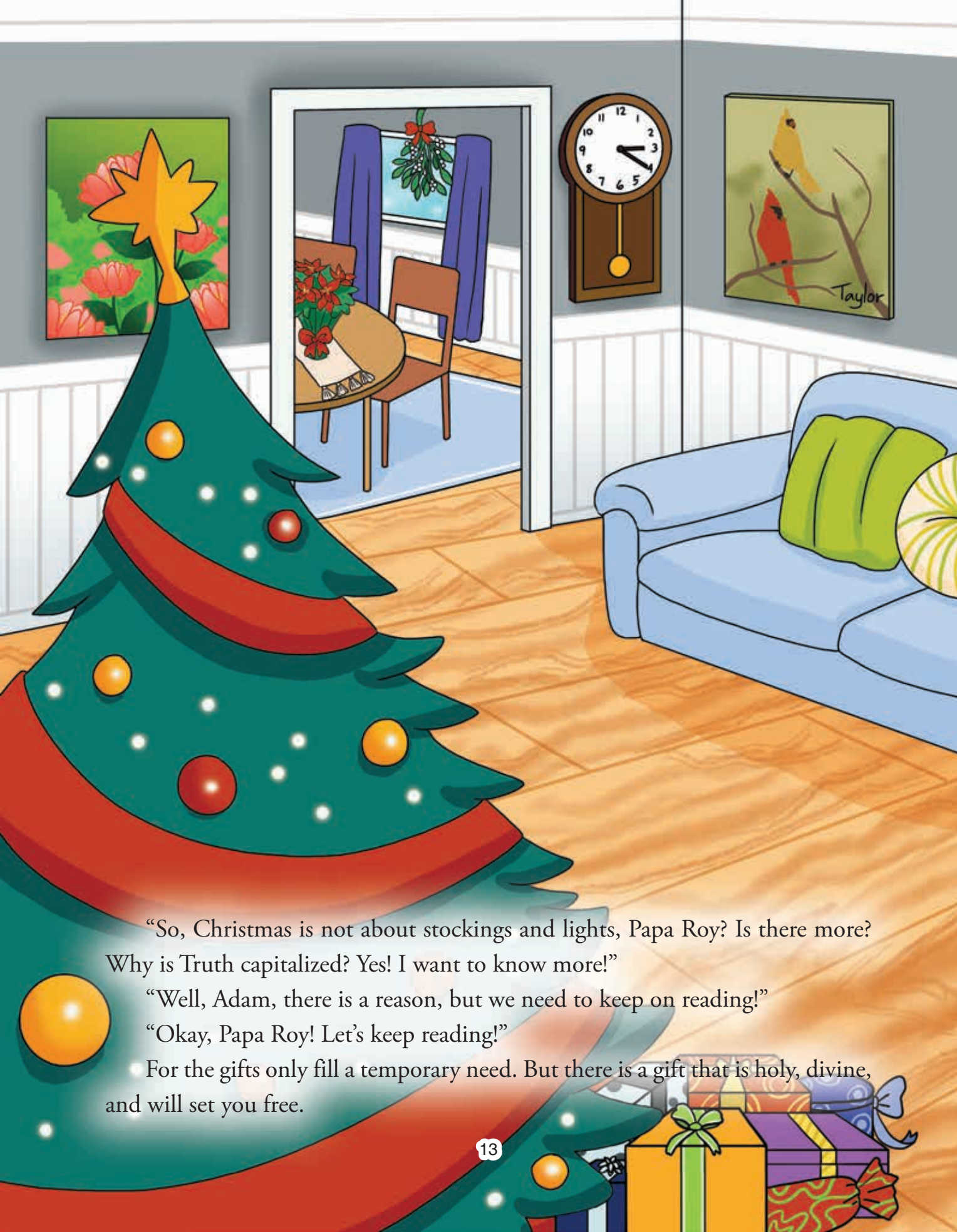
So, what does Christmas really mean to you? Is it all about Santa, his sleigh, and his reindeer, too?

"Wait a minute, Papa Roy! What about the snow, the gifts, the tree, and the elves?"

"Adam, Adam, Adam, let us get back to the book!" "Okay Papa Roy! Read on!"

There has to be more to Christmas instead of stockings and lights galore! Do you feel like you are missing out on the Truth?¹ Would you like to know some more?





“So, Christmas is not about stockings and lights, Papa Roy? Is there more? Why is Truth capitalized? Yes! I want to know more!”

“Well, Adam, there is a reason, but we need to keep on reading!”

“Okay, Papa Roy! Let’s keep reading!”

- For the gifts only fill a temporary need. But there is a gift that is holy, divine, and will set you free.



“Papa, what does the word *holy* mean?”

“Adam, holy means to be perfect and good!”

“Papa, one boy at school said that Christmas is all about being good! Am I a good person?”

“Adam, you have a lot of questions about Christmas, which is awesome! Let me ask you the questions as we read!”

“Yes, Papa! But you should know that if I have a question, I just have to get it out!”

“Oh, my grandson! How much growing you have to do! Let me read the next few lines, and then I will ask you a question!”

“Okey dokey Papa Roy!”



Papa Roy keeps on reading.

He was with our Heavenly Father in the beginning before the world began.
God saw His unformed substance made without human hands. ²

“Adam, do you know who this person is holding Earth in the palm of his hands?”

“Yes, Papa Roy, it is Jesus! I learned about Jesus in Sunday school a few weeks ago!”

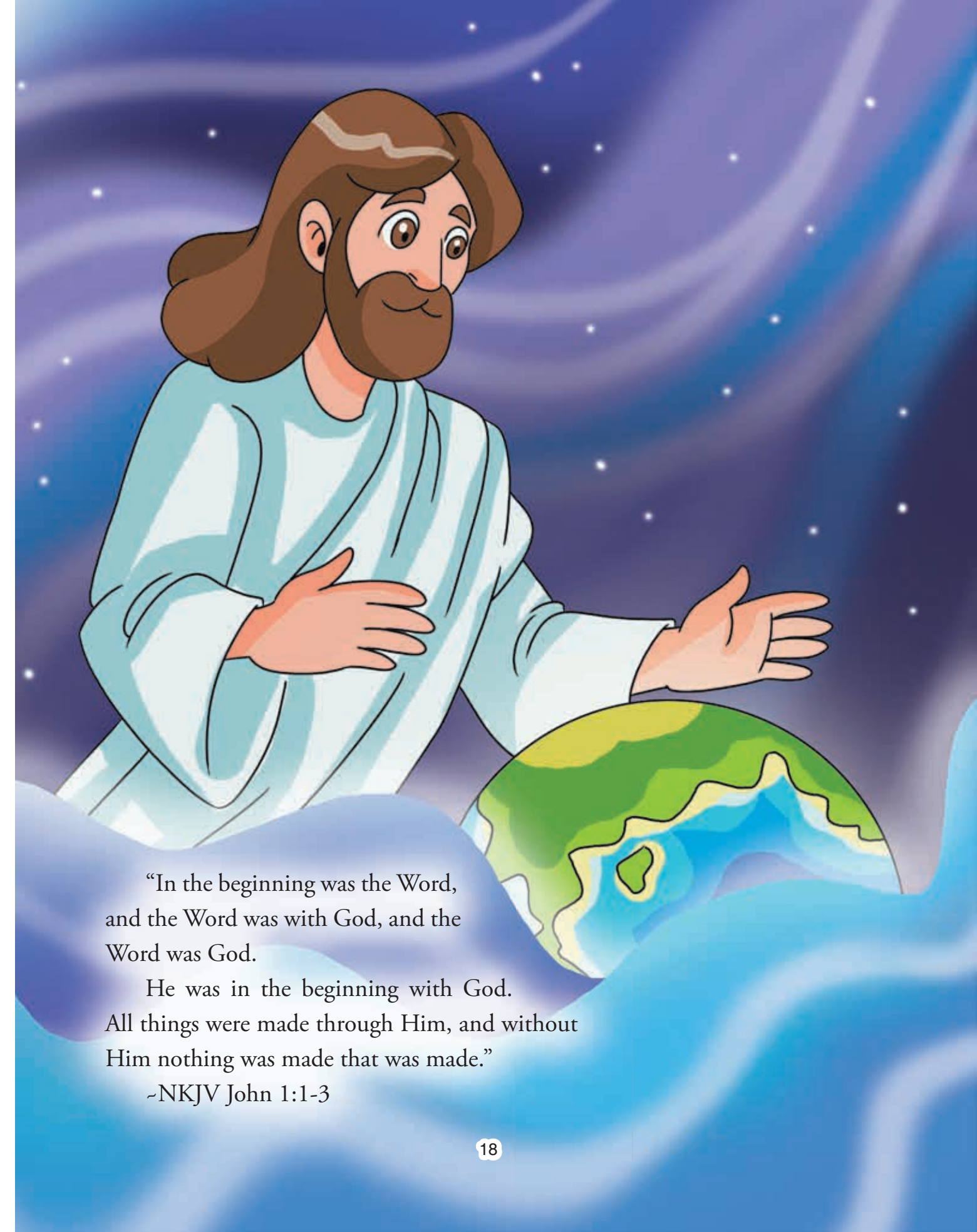
“Well, Adam, who is Jesus?”

“Jesus is the person that made you and me and created the Earth! Papa, was Jesus born in a manger?”

“Well, my grandson. Let’s keep on reading but there are a few more words on the next page! Do you want me to read them?”

“No Papa! Let’s go on to the next page!”

“Okay Adam!”



“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through Him, and without
Him nothing was made that was made.”

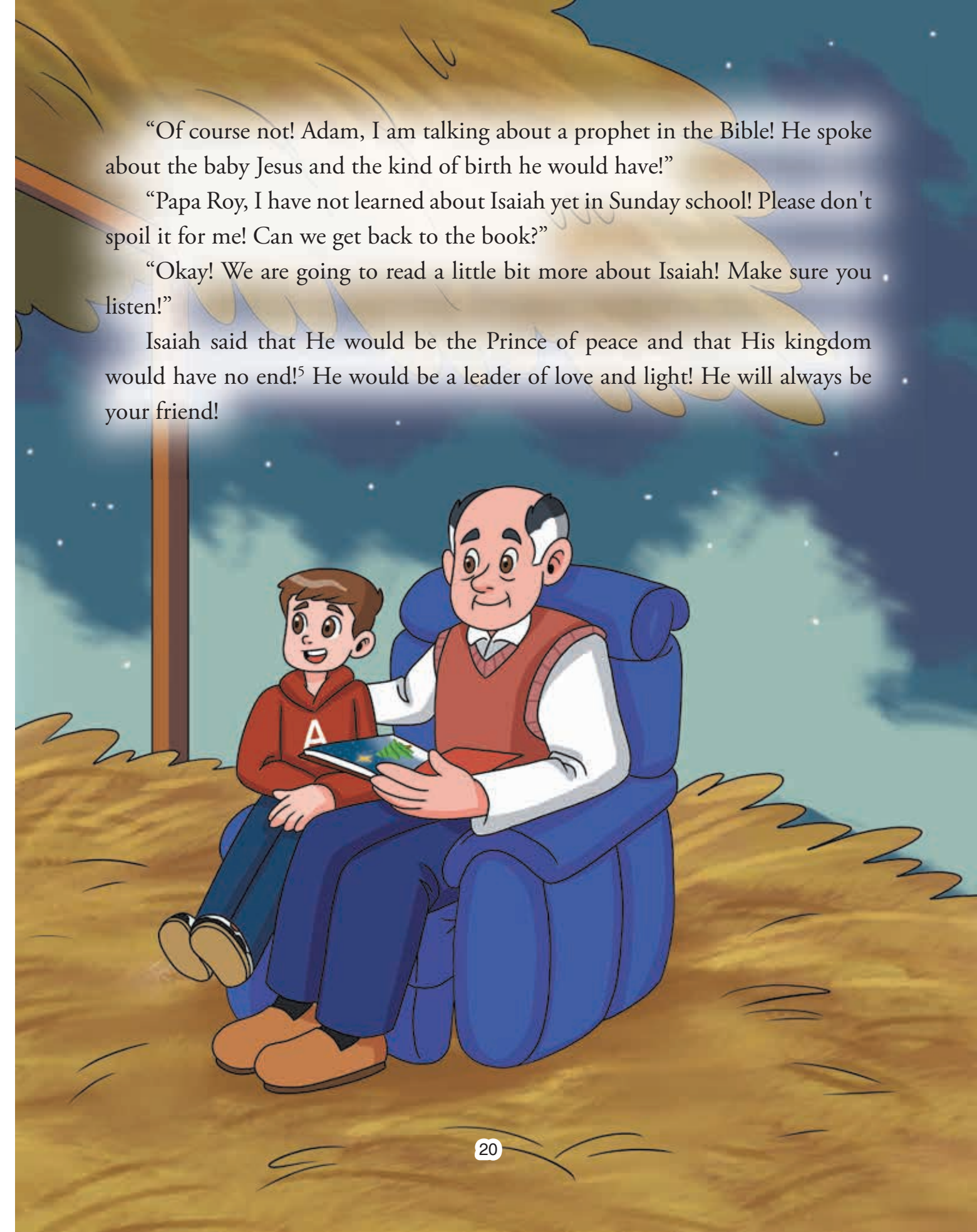
-NKJV John 1:1-3



Isaiah said that the Virgin Mary would conceive³ and place Him in a manger⁴ where ox and sheep would be present, along with some friends and faraway strangers.

“Now Adam, do you know who Isaiah is?”

“Papa, are you talking about our family cat, Isaiah?”



“Of course not! Adam, I am talking about a prophet in the Bible! He spoke about the baby Jesus and the kind of birth he would have!”

“Papa Roy, I have not learned about Isaiah yet in Sunday school! Please don't spoil it for me! Can we get back to the book?”

“Okay! We are going to read a little bit more about Isaiah! Make sure you listen!”

Isaiah said that He would be the Prince of peace and that His kingdom would have no end!⁵ He would be a leader of love and light! He will always be your friend!

If you do not have a clue about who I am referring to on this festive day, let me tell you what happened at TUMC⁶ on Sunday! You see twelve people re-enacted what happened that very night with the angel, Gabriel, a few shepherds, Mary, and Joseph. And most importantly, Jesus, our savior, who was born that starry night!

“Stop it right there! Grandpa, is Isaiah talking about the birth of Jesus?”

“You are right on the nose, Adam, but did you know what TUMC stands for?”

“Does that stand for Trinity United Methodist Church?”

“You are right! That church is such a friendly church! It has a VBS, a food pantry, a taekwondo ministry and so much more!”

“Nice to know Papa Roy but can we get back to the story?”

“Yes, my grandson!”

You see, Adam, Joseph and Mary had to depart for Bethlehem. Though the journey was tough and lasted five days, they finally reached the promised land. While in the city, there was no room for Mary to rest, give birth, and spend the night. So, they took refuge in a barn with cows, donkeys, and lambs inside. ⁷

“Papa Roy! That is so crazy! Why would Jesus be born in a barn and not in a castle? Was He not also a king?”

“Well, Adam, Jesus was a king! He was not a king of this world though. His Father, God, had a different plan just for him. Simply put Adam, it was not God’s plan for Jesus to be born in a castle.”

“Well, I still cannot believe that happened! Papa Roy, can we finish reading the rest of this story? I am wondering what kind of plan God had!”



Papa Roy returns to his spot and keeps on reading.

With groaning and laboring, now was the time for Mary to give birth. On that starry night in Bethlehem, we welcomed God's Son to Earth. He was sinless, perfect, and Holy. He was (God with Us) Emmanuel.⁸ He was the precious Lamb of God who would save us from shame and hell.⁹

"Now Papa Roy, how was Jesus perfect and holy, and how did he save us from hell? I thought we were good people!"

"Well, Adam, Jesus never did anything wrong! He didn't lie or roll his eyes at his parents! Adam, you and I have done bad things! We have broken God's law, so we deserve to be punished. Jesus, however, took our place by dying on the cross, and now we can go to heaven!"

"That's awesome news, Papa Roy! Let's keep going with the story!"

This news had to be spread far, near, and wide!

So, God sent Gabriel and His angels to appear to shepherds outside. The shepherds were afraid to see their presence and power! They, however, rejoiced when they heard the news and found the child at the right hour!¹⁰

"Adam, do you know why God would use shepherds to spread the birth of Jesus Christ?"

"Was it part of God's plan?"

"You are spot on, sport! It was another part of God's plan!"

"Papa Roy, but what about the three magi and the star? Is that in the book?"

"Well Adam, let's keep on reading. Hmmm? Here it is!"

Every year, Adam, you have heard this story from the beginning to the end! Let's now fill in the missing details about the Magi and the star so you can share it with your friends! You see the star was a sign by God that led the Magi day and night! They started their journey from the east using the star and understanding scripture with great insight.¹¹

Two years passed until they arrived in Bethlehem with gold, frankincense, and myrrh ready to present.¹² Jesus Christ, the newborn King, however, was the true gift already sent!

Jesus Christ is the center, the core, and the true gift of the Christmas season! Share Jesus (love) with everyone you know and let Him be the reason!

“So, Jesus is the true meaning of Christmas! This answers a lot of questions, Papa Roy! Now, I am ready to write! I’m going to call it *The Truth!*”



End Notes

- ¹ NIV John 14:6 I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Nobody comes to the Father except through me.
- ² NIV Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
- ³ NIV Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
- ⁴ NIV Luke 2:12 This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.
- ⁵ NIV Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁶ Trinity United Methodist Church, <https://tumcshelby.com/>
- ⁷ NIV Luke 2:1-7 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.
- ⁸ NIV Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.
- ⁹ NIV John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”
- ¹⁰ NIV Luke 2:8-9 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- ¹¹ NIV Matthew 2:1-2 “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
- ¹² NIV Matthew 2:11 Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

About the Author



Dain Ray Devon is a bilingual educator and divine imprint southpaw. His passion for writing and creativity has brought him to further his literary work in Christian poetry. Dain's YouTube channel (Dain Ray Devon) showcases more of his work and daily posts of his poetry and videos for parents and children to glean from. Something the entire family will enjoy!

As anyone can notice, Dain is heavily influenced by Jesus Christ, his love for the Spanish language, and the patriotic spirit. Of course, the people responsible for this fruit are his parents: Alfred and Diane Taylor. These two strong pillars have imparted to Dain the importance of love, family, education, and diligence. Of course, education did not come easy to Dain since being diagnosed with a language delay in elementary school. Nevertheless, the continued support of his parents and home church helped him reach goals beyond his imagination.

DAINRAYDEVONBOOKS.COM



Dain Ray Devon



dainraydevon



dainraydevonbooks

