

*Best-Loved*  
**Christmas**  
**Stories**



CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS



**Arch® Books**

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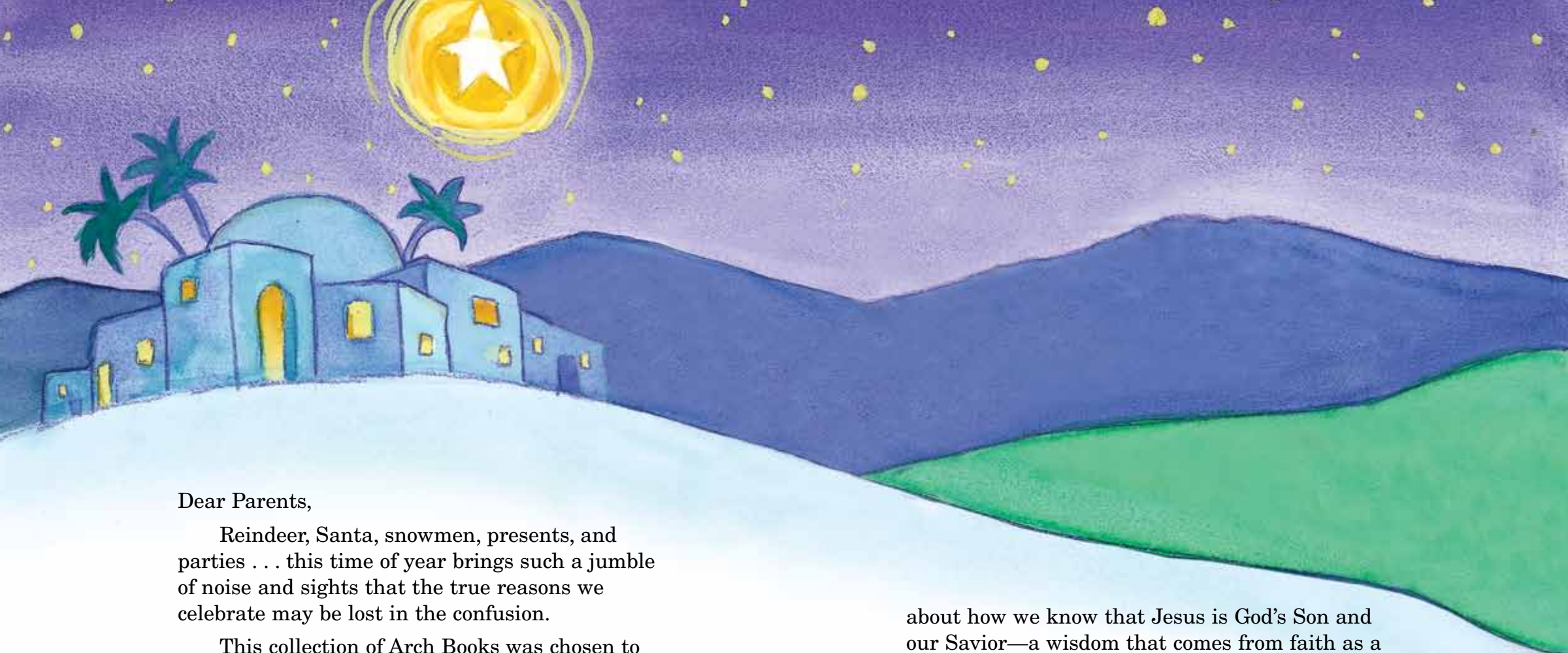
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Dear Parents,

Reindeer, Santa, snowmen, presents, and parties . . . this time of year brings such a jumble of noise and sights that the true reasons we celebrate may be lost in the confusion.

This collection of Arch Books was chosen to teach today's children about the real events of the first Christmas. Beginning with the angel's message to Mary and ending with the child's own life, these stories provide biblical context so you can help expand your child's understanding of our Savior's birth and what it means to us today.

As you read this book, talk about the whys of Christmas—our need for a Savior, God's promise fulfilled through that special baby, and the gifts of forgiveness and salvation He brings. Then talk

about how we know that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior—a wisdom that comes from faith as a gift from the Holy Spirit.

The gift of a Savior. The gift of faith in Him. These are the real reasons we celebrate.

May God bless your family with a happy Christmas season and grant that you know the joy and peace of forgiveness and salvation through the baby born at Christmas.

*To Him be the glory!*  
*The editor*

# Mary's Christmas Story

Luke 1:26–56  
Luke 2:1–20 for children

Written by Teresa Olive  
Illustrated by Nancy Munger





Young Mary lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee.  
She was a girl who tried to serve the Lord most faithfully.  
As Mary sat quietly in her home one night,  
The angel Gabriel appeared, shining oh so bright!

“Greetings!” said Gabriel. “You’re favored by the Lord!”  
Mary felt afraid and trembled at his words.  
But the angel gently said, “Mary, do not fear.  
God is very pleased with you, and He sent me here.”



“You will have a baby named Jesus, God’s own Son. He will sit on David’s throne, ruling everyone.” Mary did not understand. She asked, “How can this be? I am still a virgin. I’m not married yet, you see.”

Gabriel said, “God Himself will cause you to conceive. Nothing is impossible with God—you may believe! Your relative, Elizabeth, who is old and worn, is finally a mother—her child will soon be born.”

