



SERIES THREE  
BOOK 2

# JOSEPH AND MARY

## AND THE VERY SPECIAL BABY

AMY FLATTERY

WITH  
CLAIR  
THE CAMEL

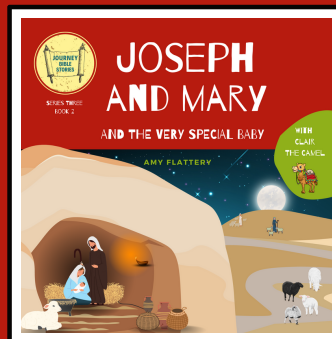
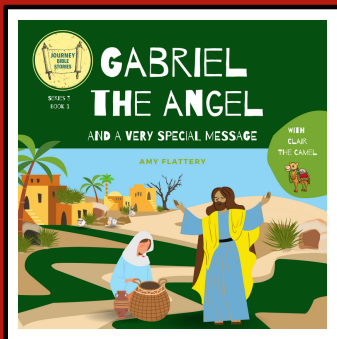


# JOSEPH AND MARY

## AND THE VERY SPECIAL BABY

AMY FLATTERY

THE BIRTH OF JESUS  
SERIES THREE  
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Joseph and Mary and the Very Special Baby  
Journey Bible Stories

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**THIS BOOK  
BELONGS TO:**

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**DEDICATED TO CHILDREN SO THEY KNOW JESUS LOVES THEM  
SO MUCH THAT HE CAME TO EARTH TO GIVE HOPE AND LIFE.**



# JOSEPH AND MARY

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Hi! There you are! I have been looking for you everywhere!

I am so excited to see you that I can hardly stand still!

Why? Something very special happens in this story I am going to tell you, and it changes the world forever!

But first! As you may already know, I live in Israel. Israel is a very special place. I hope that someday you can get on a plane and come see me! Or a boat. But, a boat might take a long time.

God chose my land to be a place where the people of Israel lived and still live! It is a neat place.

I like to sit in the Jordan River and try to catch fish in my mouth when they swim by.

Don't worry, I let them go.

I HAVE MANY FRIENDS  
WHO ARE SHEEP.  
YOU MAY SEE  
SOME OF THEM!



This is a map of Israel. Before I tell you the Bible story, I want to show you where the story happened.

If you look on the map, you will see a place called Nazareth. and a place called Bethlehem. The Bible story I want to tell you about began in Nazareth, but a big part of this story happened in Bethlehem.

Bethlehem is a pretty place with a lot of hills and valleys. Whenever I visit Bethlehem, I have to walk up a hill, down a hill, back up a hill, and down another hill! I get very tired!

When I visit Bethlehem, I like to visit my friends. Most of my friends in Bethlehem are sheep. There are a lot of sheep and shepherds in the fields in Bethlehem.

Okay! I can't wait anymore!

Let's get to the story! Yay! This story is about Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus!





Sea of Galilee

Nazareth

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Dead Sea

ISRAEL



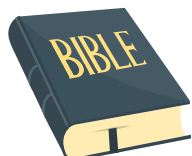
After Mary and Joseph received a very special message from the angel Gabriel, they were soon married! They were happy in Nazareth. Joseph had an important job. He was a builder and designer in a nearby city.

Even though Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, Joseph grew up in a little town called Bethlehem. Later, when he was older, he moved to Nazareth.

When Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, a ruler of the land wanted to know how many people he was ruling over. He told everyone to go to the place where they were born so he could count them.

So, Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem. They gathered their belongings and enough food for their trip and began their long walk to Bethlehem.

I decided to join them for their walk!



Luke 2









Mary and Joseph knew they would be away from Nazareth for a long time.

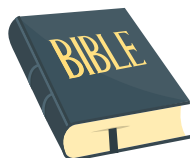
They knew they would live in a home in Bethlehem for a few years. This is because counting everyone in the town or city takes a long time. The ruler had to count people one by one.

Mary and Joseph knew they would spend time with Joseph's family. How exciting!

Their walk took them about seven days.

Mary was carrying a very special baby in her body, so she had to stop and rest every now and then.

We also stopped to sleep at night.



Luke 2









After a long walk, Mary and Joseph finally made it to Bethlehem! They took a long nap!

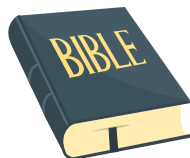
Their family was excited to see them. Mary and Joseph moved into a home with other family members.

Homes in Bethlehem were special, just like they were in Nazareth. In Bethlehem and Nazareth, there were many caves.

The people living in these little towns used these caves for their homes.

Sometimes, people would cut into the stone and make an upper area and a lower area. They slept in the upper area at night. The lower area was where they lived, cooked food, and kept their animals.

Do you live in a cave?!



Luke 2





WELCOME  
HOME!

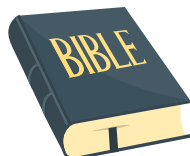
The baby in Mary's body grew until it was time for baby Jesus to be born!

When it was time for baby Jesus to be born, Mary went down to the lower part of the cave. It had much more room.

Mary could not have baby Jesus by herself. She needed a lot of help!

Many women helped Mary have baby Jesus. They would hold her hand and wipe her head with a cloth.

It can take a long time to have a baby.  
And, remember, Mary was not very old.  
She was still a very young woman.



Luke 2







Joseph would have waited outside the cave. Men did not help babies be born. Only the women.

Joseph finally heard the cry of baby Jesus! The very special baby was born!

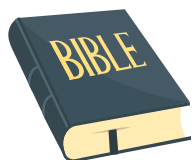
Hallelujah (Ha-ley-lu-ya)! Hallelujah means praise! Can you say Hallelujah?

Jesus was born! God sent Jesus to earth to teach us how to love God and how to love each other! God sent Jesus to earth because God loves us so much! God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

The women cleaned up and made sure Mary and baby Jesus were comfortable.

Joseph went in and was so happy to see both of them.

Joseph knew he had a big job to be a good husband and dad!



Luke 2





Mary wrapped baby Jesus up in cloth and put him in a manger.

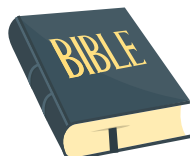
Hold on!? A manger in the house? A manger holds the food for animals when they eat.

Are you wondering why there were mangers in the house?

Guess what?!

When baby Jesus was born, animals were kept in the lower part of the cave. They were kept safe inside and would have kept the home warm.

Do you know what a garage is? A garage is where people put cars inside their homes to keep them safe. That is what people in the time when Jesus was born did with their animals!



Luke 2









Baby Jesus fell asleep and Mary was tired. So, Mary laid baby Jesus in the manger.

There was not enough room for them to go to the place where they slept, so they stayed in the lower area of the home to rest.

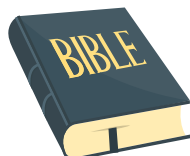
Also, some very special visitors would soon arrive. Who do you think the visitors were?

Mary and Joseph needed plenty of room for the visitors who would come to see the most special baby in all the world, Jesus!

Hallelujah, Jesus is born!

Hallelujah!

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to earth to be my Friend, Teacher, and Savior.



Luke 2





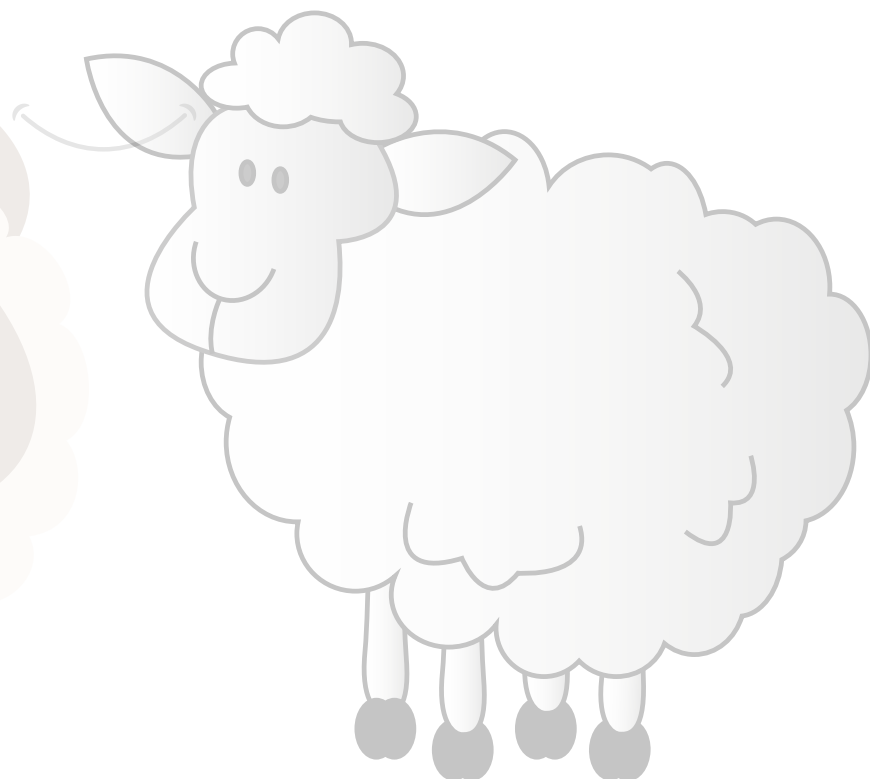
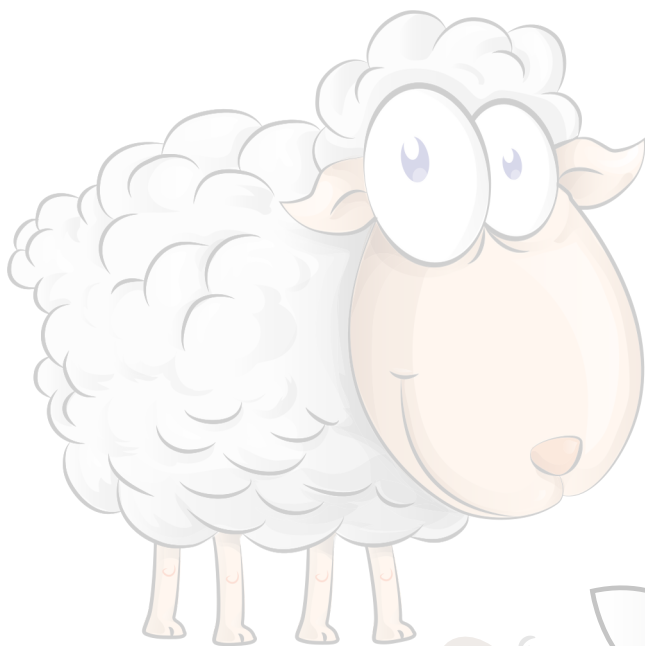


SHEEP!





# COLOR THE SHEEP



CLAIR



**COLOR CLAIR!**



## MEMORY VERSE

TODAY IN BETHLEHEM A SAVIOR HAS  
BEEN BORN. HE IS JESUS THE MESSIAH!

(TAKEN FROM LUKE 2:11)

## PRAY WITH CLAIR

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR COMING TO  
EARTH TO GIVE ME HOPE AND LIFE.



# DO YOU REMEMBER?

WHERE DID JOSEPH AND MARY LIVE  
BEFORE BETHLEHEM?

WHERE DID ANIMALS LIVE IN THE TIME  
OF JESUS?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HALLELUJAH  
MEANS?

DO YOU KNOW GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH  
THAT HE SENT JESUS TO EARTH?

HOW MANY SHEEP CAN YOU COUNT IN  
THE WHOLE BOOK?



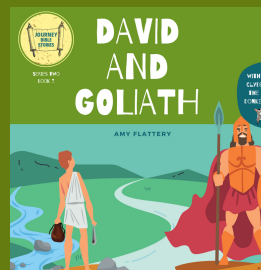
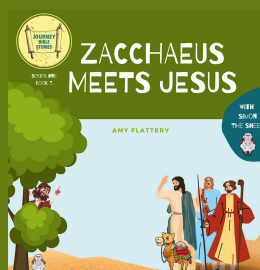
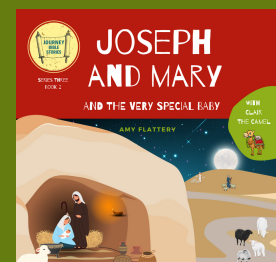
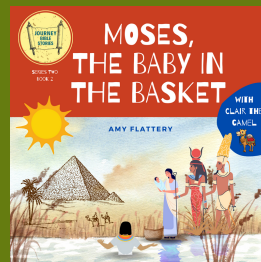
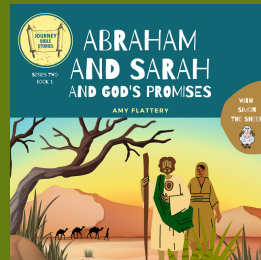
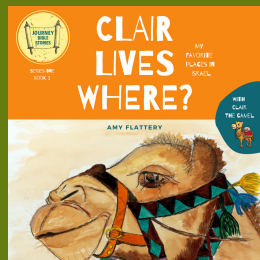




## SERIES ONE

## SERIES TWO

## SERIES THREE



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amy Flattery grew up in Lynden, Washington. She earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies and Theology at Calvin College. In 1997, she moved to Jerusalem, Israel, to pursue an M.A. at Jerusalem University College. Amy is the director of the Center for Holy Lands Studies. As an author and public speaker, she presents at events around the world and teaches on several programs to the lands of the Bible each year. Amy is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. She is married to Dr. Mark Flattery, President of Network211. Together they also serve as Assemblies of God World Missionaries. Most importantly, they have six amazing kids.

## FOR THE READER

Sometimes we find that our traditions hold to ideas that only sometimes match the biblical text. I have realized this many times in my own study. For example, I grew up learning that Mary was on a donkey, nine months pregnant, hurrying to Bethlehem. I often imagined Mary and Joseph running door to door, looking for a place to have Jesus. When we read the text, this is not the case. Let me explain.

Our biblical text explains that Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem well before the time of the birth of Jesus. It tells us " While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born... (Luke 2:6).

At times, the word used for inn can confuse us. The translation of the word we use for "inn" is the word (Kataluma) in Greek. It means "upper living area." This is a different word than what is used when referring to, for example, the inn in the story of the good Samaritan, which is (pandexion in Greek).

Many Bible translations are beginning to refer to it correctly as an upper living area of the cave, like an upstairs bedroom.

The event of the birth of Jesus was very normal, natural, and beautiful, as any birth should be. It was also miraculous! It brings me so much thankfulness and joy when I realize that God allowed his Son to be born in such a simple way. It reflects God drawing near in every way.

Teach your children to read carefully. It will be the most wondrous experience they could ever have.





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In this second book of three, "Joseph and Mary and the Very Special Baby," you will meet Clair, the camel as, she explains the birth of our Savior, Jesus! Children will learn about why and where Jesus was born.

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