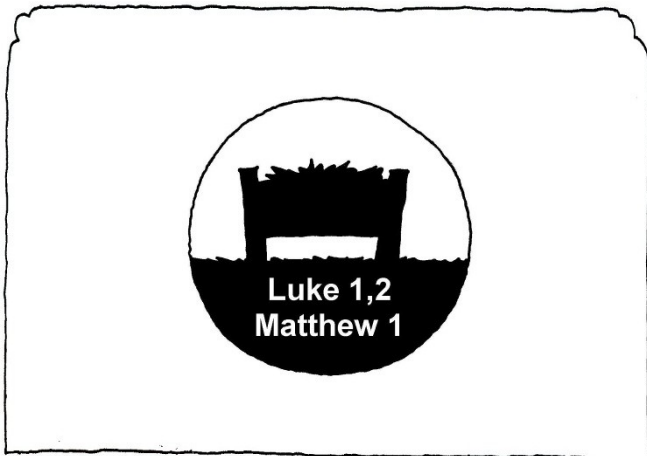


MARY and the angel Gabriel

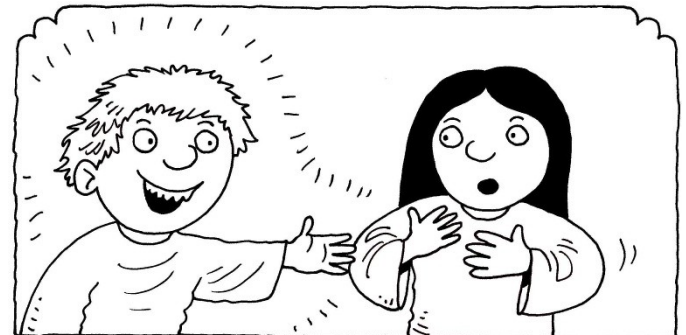
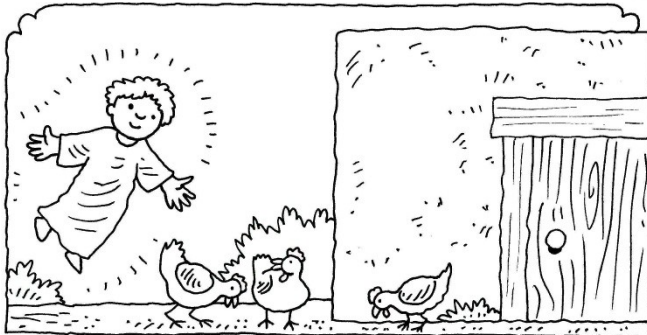
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By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther

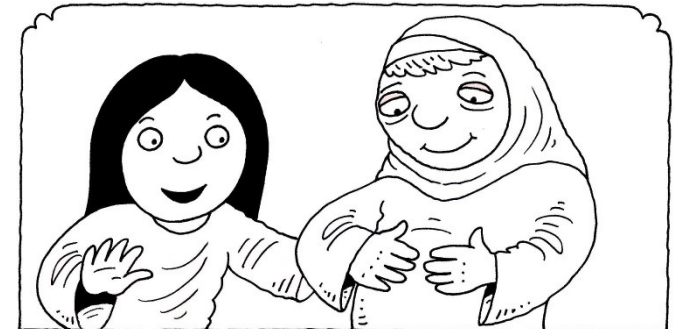
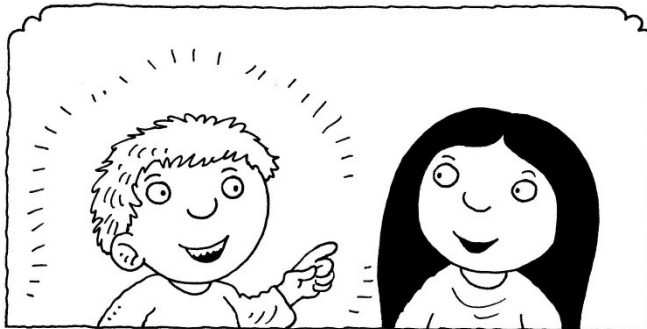


For a long, long time people had read God's promises that one day He would send His own Son from heaven to rule the earth and bring hope and peace, so people waited and prayed.



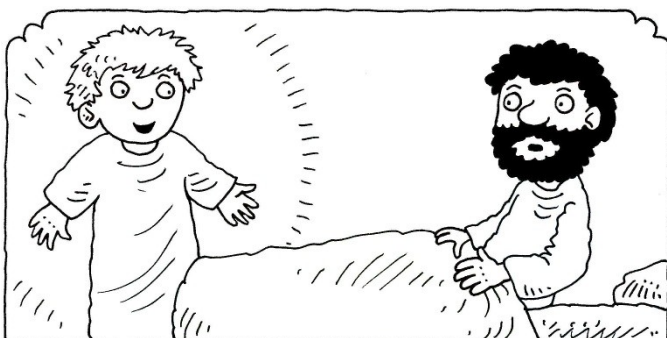
A young unmarried girl called Mary lived in the town of Nazareth. She loved God with all her heart and was kind and good. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell her she was to be the promised Savior's mother.

"Don't be frightened," Gabriel said. "You are special and God has chosen you. God's Holy Spirit will touch you and the baby boy you have will be the Promised One people have been waiting for. You will call him Jesus."



"In three months time your cousin Elizabeth will also have a baby boy, even though she is now far too old to be a mother. With God nothing shall be impossible. Go and see her," said the angel.

"I will do everything God wants me to do," replied Mary and left as soon as she could to visit her cousin in Judea. Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant like the angel had said! It was a miracle and the two mothers thanked God!



Joseph had promised to marry Mary one day. He was a good man, but didn't know what to do about Mary being pregnant, knowing it wasn't his baby. One night angel Gabriel visited Joseph and said not to be afraid.



The angel said, "Joseph, marry Mary and take good care of her. She is the pure young girl chosen as part of God's wonderful plan to be the mother of the Savior of the world. His name shall be called JESUS."