The illustration depicts a scene from the Bible. On the left, a man with a beard and a headband, likely Jesus, stands in a brown robe. In the center, a woman in a yellow robe holds a young child in a striped tunic. On the right, two men in ornate, colorful robes and turbans, likely the Magi, are shown in profile, holding golden gifts. The background features a stone wall with an arched niche containing a small object. The entire scene is rendered in a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes.

JESUS
Is Most
SPECIAL

Sally Michael

Illustrated by
Fred Apps

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P U B L I S H I N G
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You shall call his name Jesus, for he
will save his people from their sins.

—Matthew 1:21

❖ A WORD TO PARENTS ❖

This book was written to help parents share the wonderful story of the birth of the Savior with their children so that they, in turn, will be able to retell it to others. Though the facts are important for children to remember, it is even more important for them to understand the message of the birth of Christ, God's Son, the Savior of the world, the King of all Kings, who is most special of all.

How to Use This Book

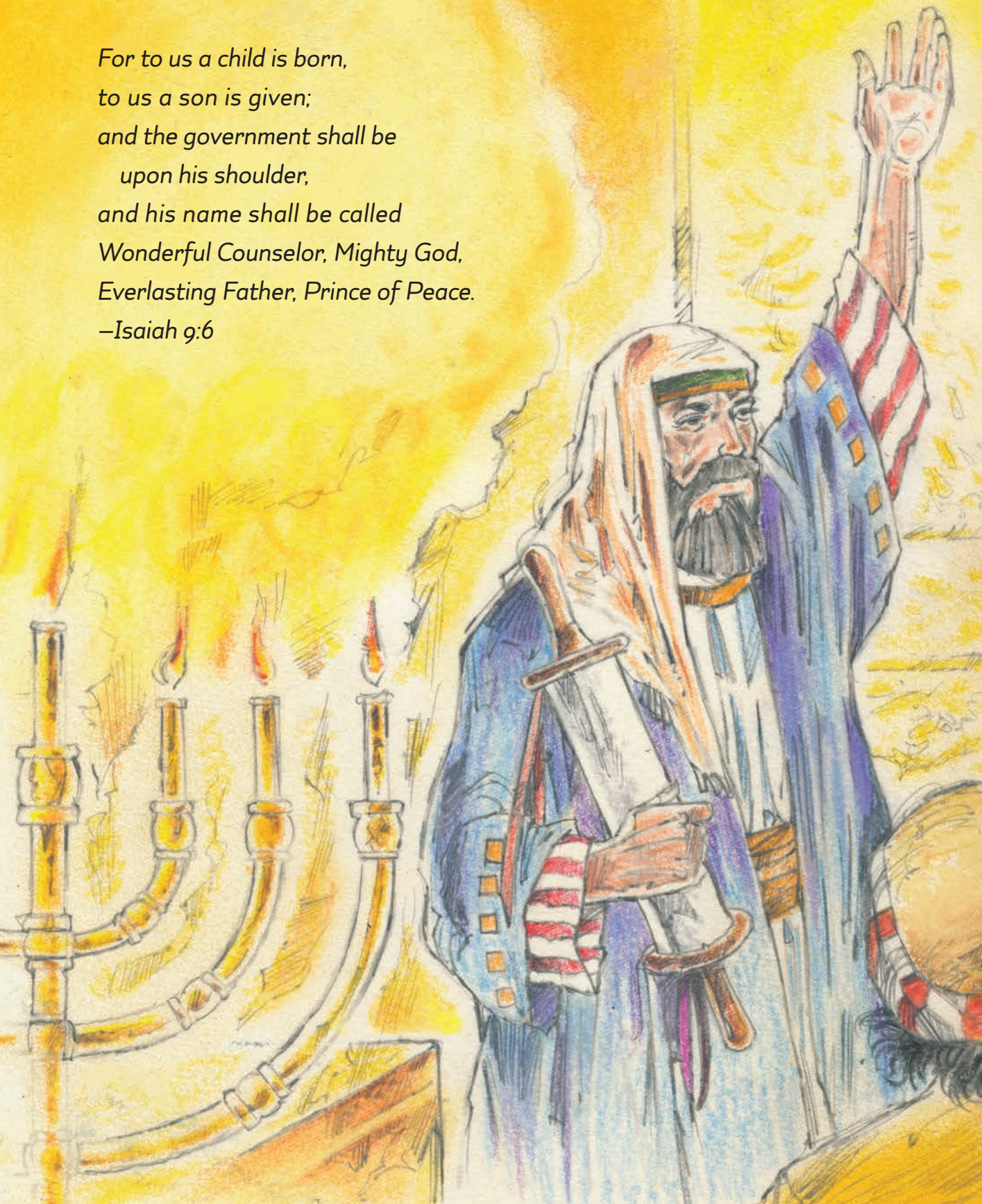
- Read the story several times to your child.
- Start with the title and main story text on each right-hand page. After you have read this section of the story with your child, use the Scripture or song quotation on the opposite page to further reinforce what you have learned, to reflect on its meaning, and to stir your heart to worship.
- Practice the story over a period of days. Read the title of each section and encourage your child to tell you the text of that section, at first with your help.
- Practice the story until your child is able to tell the story without help, or with minimal help. The story may be told using the book or using a nativity set. Each figure, in turn, can be added to the nativity set at the point in the story indicated by this symbol: ❖. A note at the bottom of each

story will indicate which figure or figures correspond with the symbol.

- Encourage your child to tell the Christmas story to the family on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day as you celebrate the birth of the Savior and the true meaning of Christmas.

This Christmas, may you and your children worship Jesus, the Savior of the world, the King of Kings, who is most special of all.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be
upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
—Isaiah 9:6



❖ PROMISE ❖

God made a promise to His people. He would send a Savior to take the punishment for their sin.



*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*



❖ WAITING ❖

So the Jews were waiting and waiting and waiting . . . for a long, long time. Waiting for a Savior. Waiting for a King. Waiting for the “Lamb of God” to take away their sins. Waiting for . . . Jesus.



And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

—Luke 1:31-33



✧ MARY ✧

Mary was waiting, too. ✧ But then an angel came and said that the time had come—Jesus would be born! Mary would have a baby—a special baby, God’s Son.

✧ *Mary* (Note: see “A Word to Parents” for the best approach to reading each story)



Our children are special to us, and Christmas is a special time for them, captivating them with its joy and wonder.

What better time for parents to introduce their young children to the most special child ever born—the child who is also the Savior of the world and the King of all Kings?

Sally Michael helps parents to share the story of the birth of Jesus with their children and goes a step further by placing the Christmas story in the larger context of the Bible—what comes before and after. She motivates even the youngest children to teach this all-important story to others after they have learned it for themselves.

Through its large, full-color illustrated pages and its suggestions for accompanying songs and visuals, this book will help children to learn by heart the most special story ever told.

“The simplicity of this book mirrors the plainness of the biblical story. Carol lyrics waft beside the brief, deep Scriptures that inspired them. In these pages the Savior is clearly worshiped—the story of his arrival touched me yet again.”

—**Steve Estes**, Author of *A Better December*

SALLY MICHAEL is the cofounder and publishing consultant of Children Desiring God, and she developed their widely used Sunday school curriculum for young people. She is also an author and a speaker, and she served as Minister for Children at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for sixteen years.

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