

Children's Christmas Books

Compiled by Dr. Marian Fritzemeier, Ed.D. ©2017. Updated 11/30/2017

Author, Speaker, Educator

New 2017



The Legends of Christmas Treasury: Inspirational Stories of Faith and Giving

By: Dandi Daley Mackall, Lori Walburg.
Illustrated By: Richard Cowdrey, Zonderkidz, 2017,
hardcover, 96 pages. 4 to 8 years

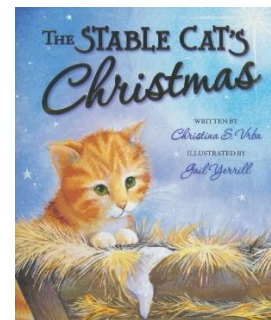
INCLUDES 3 TITLES: *The Legend of the Christmas Cookie* (cheerful giving), *The Legend of St. Nicholas* (helps the poor), & *The Legend of the Candy Cane* (symbolism of candy cane). If you don't have these stories, this is an economical way to have all three.

The Stable Cat's Christmas

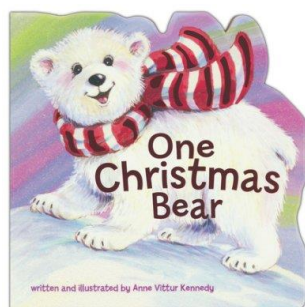
By: Christina Vrba, Gail Yerrill. Worthy Kids/Ideals, 2017, Hardcover, 32 pages, 4-7 years.

A Christmas story written from the stable cat's perspective. A number of different animals share the birth of Jesus from their view in several books but I particularly like this one because it's a kitty. You can't go wrong with that.

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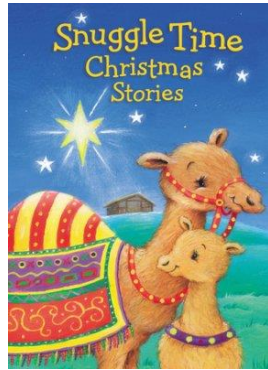


One Christmas Bear

By: Anne Vittur Kennedy. Thomas Nelson, 2017,
paperback, 20 pages, ages 1-4.

Follow this cub's adventures with glittering illustrations and rhyming words all pointing towards Jesus' birthday is the heart of Christmas.

New 2017



Snuggle Time Christmas Stories

By: Glenys Nellist. Illustrated By: Cee Biscoe.
Zonderkidz, 2017, hardcover, 26 pages, ages 4-8.

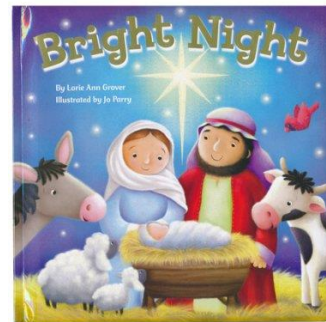
This book tells about the birth of Jesus through 13 rhyming poems.

Bright Night

By: Lorie Ann Grover. Illustrated By: Jo Parry.
Zonderkidz, 2017, hardcover, 16 pages, ages 4 – 8.

Rhymes and illustrations show the path Mary & Joseph traveled on the night Jesus was born.

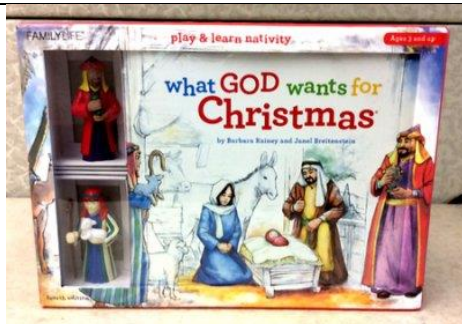
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What God Wants for Christmas

By: Barbara Rainey & Janel Breitenstein. Family Life,
2016, hardcover, ages 3 to 9.

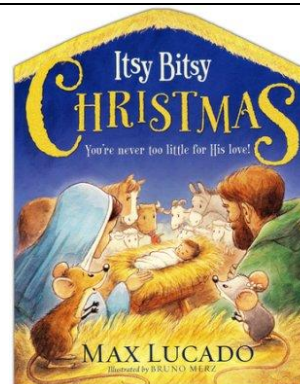
An innovative look at Christmas from God's perspective. The 7 themed boxes are designed to use throughout advent. Includes storybook, audio book, stickers, etc.



Itsy Bitsy Christmas: You're Never Too Little for His Love

By: Max Lucado. Thomas Nelson, 2016,
Hardcover, 26 pages.

Max Lucado has a way with words even for our little ones. Two small mice tell the Christmas story, a King has come for all.



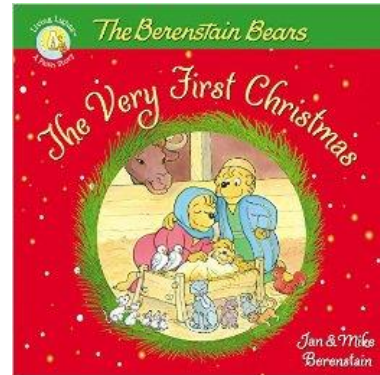
	<p><i>B is for Bethlehem: A Christmas Alphabet</i></p> <p>By: Isabel Wilner, Elisa Kleven. Ideals Children's books, 2015, Hardcover, 32 pages, 3ages 4 – 7.</p> <p>This clever alphabet book leads children through the Nativity story. Illustrations are done in a folk-art style.</p>
<p><i>M is for Manger</i></p> <p>By Crystal Bowman & Teri McKinley. Illustrator Claire Keay. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2015. Hardcover, 64 pages.</p> <p>This rhyming book begins with A is for angel and tells the true story of Jesus' birth. This book appealed to me and I purchased it.</p>	
	<p><i>The Christmas Baby</i></p> <p>By Marion Dane Bauer. Illustrator Richard Cowdrey. Ages: 2-4 years. Little Simon, 2015. Board book, 34 pages.</p> <p>The heartwarming cover draws in readers. What are the animals so intrigued by? A baby is coming. Simple story of Mary & Joseph's baby (not Jesus). Could be cute book for baby's first Christmas.</p>
<p><i>The Berenstain Bears and the Christmas Angel</i></p> <p>By: Mike Berenstain. More in Berenstain Bears Series. Zonderkidz, 2016, paperback, 24 pages.</p> <p>After the children run out in the snow they decide to make a Christmas angel. Mama and Papa give a lesson about God's messengers.</p>	

<p><i>A Very Merry Christmas Prayer</i></p> <p>By Bonnie Rickner Jensen. Series: A Time to Pray. Thomas Nelson, 2015. Board book edition, 24 pages.</p> <p>Christmas isn't just about gifts, but is also the birth of Jesus. Each page suggests ideas for children to be thankful for in their prayers.</p>	
	<p><i>When Jesus Was Born</i></p> <p>Produced by Copenhagen Publishing Company. Ages: 2 - 7 years. Tyndale Kids, 2015. Hardcover, 10 pages.</p> <p>This lift-the-flap book encourages children's participation as it tells three parts of the Christmas story. Very short - 10 pages.</p>
<p><i>The Beginner's Bible: A Christmas Celebration Sticker and Activity Book</i></p> <p>By Zondervan. Ages 4 - 8 years. Series: The Beginner's Bible. Zonderkidz, 2015. Paperback, 16 pages.</p> <p>What a great way for kids to learn more about Christmas. I bought one for each of my grandchildren.</p>	
	<p><i>The Legend of the Christmas Cookie: Sharing the True Meaning of Christmas</i></p> <p>By Dandi Daley Mackall. Illustrator Richard Cowdrey. Ages: 4 - 8 years. Zonderkidz, 2015. Hardcover, 32 pages.</p> <p>This book encourages cheerful giving. The story explains how the cookie baking tradition began to give to the needy. Recipe included.</p>

***The Berenstain Bears:
The Very First Christmas***

By Jan & Mike Berenstain. Ages: 4 - 8 years.
Series: Berenstain Bears/Living Lights,
Zonderkidz, 2015. Paperback, 24 pages.

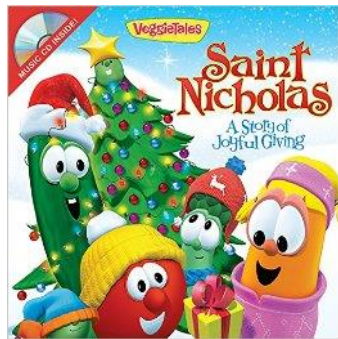
"Join the Bear cubs as they learn all about Jesus' holy birth. From the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary to the visit from the three wise men . . . as they discover the story of the very first Christmas. (amazon.com)



***Saint Nicholas (VeggieTales):
A Story of Joyful Giving***

By VeggieTales (Author, Editor). Ages: 4-8 years.
Worthy Kids, 2015. Paperback, 32 pages.

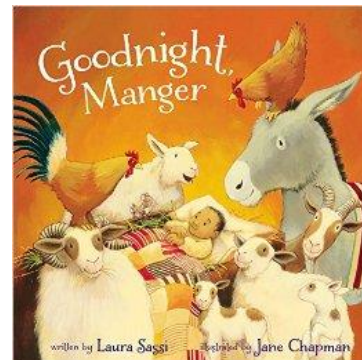
Junior wonders what Santa Claus has to do with Jesus' birth. Bob tells the story of the young boy Nicholas. Based on history & tells about God's love.



Goodnight, Manger

By Laura Sassi; Illustrator Jane Chapman.
Ages: 4 - 8 years. Zonderkidz, 2015. Hardcover,
Kindle, 32 pages.

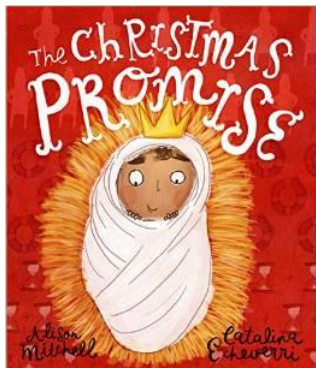
I was drawn to this adorable book, but after reading reviews, I can't recommend it. Though published by a well-respected publisher, the story mis-represents the manger in several ways.

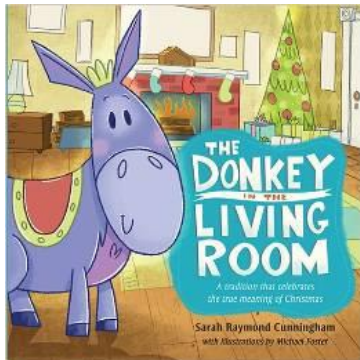


The Christmas Promise

By Alison Mitchell. Illustrator Catalina Echeverri.
Ages: 3 - 6 years. The Good Book Company, 2014.
Limited edition hardback, 32 pages.

A re-telling of the Christmas story shares how God kept his promise to send a King. Also available The Christmas Promise Advent Calendar. I just bought this for my youngest grandchild.





The Donkey in the Living Room

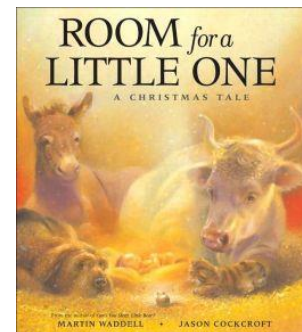
By Sarah Cunningham. Illustrator Michael K. Foster. Ages: 4 - 8 years. B & H Kids, 2014. Hardcover, 32 pages. Kindle.

This book features nine stories each from a different perspective. Also available The Nativity Play Set by Tales of Glory or you can purchase as a set.

Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale

By Martin Waddell. Illustrator Jason Cockcroft. Ages: 3 - 7 years. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2006. Hardcover & paperback, 32 pages; board book, 26 pages.

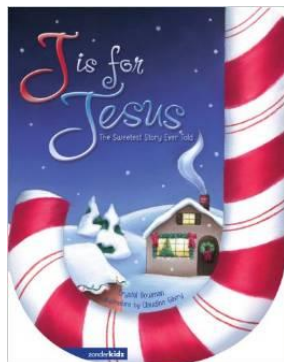
A kind ox invites visitors including a donkey who arrives with Mary & Joseph. Short, simple text & catchy refrain.



J Is for Jesus: The Sweetest Story Ever Told

By Crystal Bowman. Illustrator Claudine Gevry. Ages: 2 to 5 years. ZonderKidz, 2005. Board book & hardcover, 20 pages.

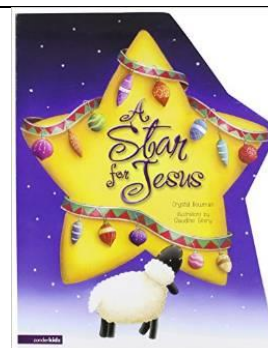
"This sweet story reminds little ones that the candy cane represents Jesus' birth and the gospel message too." (amazon.com)



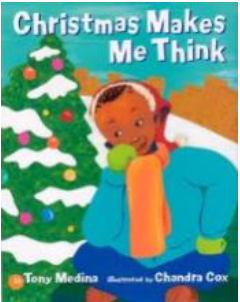
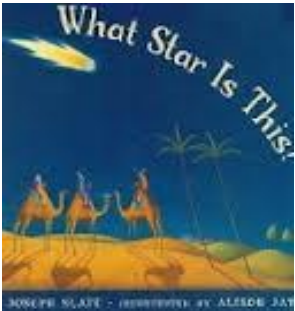
A Star for Jesus

By Crystal Bowman. Editor Bruce Nuffer. Illustrator Claudine Gévry. Ages: 2 to 5 years. ZonderKidz, 2006. Board book, 14 pages.

A special star leads the wise men to visit toddler Jesus.



	<p><i>The First Christmas Night</i></p> <p>By Keith Christopher. Oil illustrations by Christine Kornacki. Ideals Children's Books, 2013. Hardcover & paperback, 32 pages.</p> <p>"A lyrical retelling of the birth of Christ modeled after 'Twas the Night Before Christmas." (Amazon.com)</p>
<p><i>The Story of Christmas</i></p> <p>By Patricia A. Pingry. Illustrator Rebecca Thornburgh. Ages: 3 and up. Candy Cane Press, 2010. Board book, 22 pages.</p> <p>This is one of the books we share with our preschool grandchildren. Perfect for little ones.</p>	
	<p><i>The Ox and the Donkey</i></p> <p>By Gunter Spang. Illustrator Loek Koopmans. Ages: 4 and up. North South, 2001. Hardcover & paperback, 32 pages.</p> <p>The ox and donkey that live in a Bethlehem stable do not get along. The ox bullies the donkey until Jesus is born and he learns to be kind & generous.</p>
<p><i>The First Night</i></p> <p>By B. G. Hennessy. Paintings by Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher. Ages: 3 - 5 years. Viking Juvenile, reissue edition, 2008. Hardcover & paperback, 32 pages.</p> <p>Jesus' first few hours of life as seen before the angels, shepherds, and the kings.</p>	

<p><i>Mystery in the Stable</i> By Lisa Flinn & Barbara Younger. Illustrator Judi Niernberger. Abingdon Press, 2006. Hardcover & paperback, 32 pages.</p> <p>Two children observe changes around Bethlehem from their rooftop. Something mysterious is happening in a stable with a young family.</p>	
	<p><i>Happy Birthday Jesus</i> By Michelle Medlock Adams. Ages: 2 and up. Ideals Children's Books, 2011. Board book, 22 pages.</p> <p>This book received mixed reviews. Many families celebrate with a birthday party for Jesus; includes various party activities.</p>
<p><i>Christmas Makes Me Think</i> By Tony Medino. Illustrator Chandra Cox. Ages: 5 - 9 years. Lee & Low Books, Inc., 2001. Hardcover & paperback, 32 pages.</p> <p>Suggests visiting a tree, turkey or a pig. Collecting food and clothes for the homeless in Harlem.</p>	
	<p><i>What Star Is This?</i> By Joseph Slate. Illustrator Alison Jay. Ages: 4 - 8 years. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2005. Hardcover & paperback, 32 pages. Audio CD.</p> <p>Tracks a comet star from far off in space to light the sky for wise men. (Debate: is a star a comet?)</p>

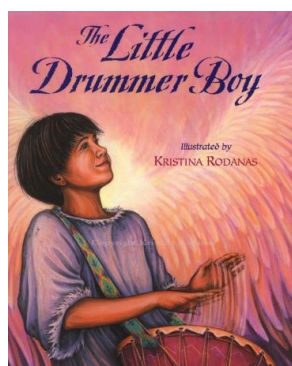
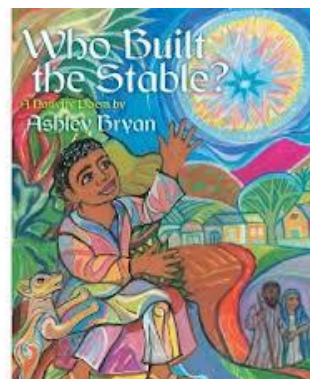
Who Built the Stable?

A nativity poem by Ashley Bryan. Ages: 4 - 8 years.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2012.

Hardcover, 40 pages. Kindle.

"*Who Built the Stable?* is a celebration of Christmas, of the kindness of children, and of the new hope born with each new baby."
(amazon.com)



The Little Drummer Boy

Illustrator Kristina Rodanas. 1958 Words and Music by Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati, & Harry Simeone. Ages: 5 - 8 years. Clarion Books, 2001. Hardcover, 32 pages.

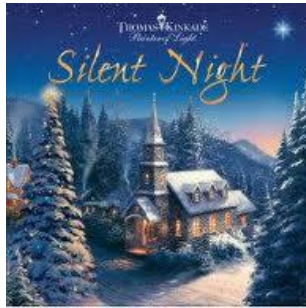
Illustrates words only to familiar song. "Her rich paintings cast an exotic, magical glow over the beloved words. Give from your heart, always march to the rhythm of your own drum."

The Christmas Pageant

By Jacqueline Rogers. Ages: 5 - 7 years. Scholastic, 1990. Hardback & paperback, 32 pages.

Two stories at one time. The bible's version and present day annual Christmas play in a rural village.





Silent Night

This one's for parents!

By Joseph Mohr. Illustrator Thomas Kinkadee, Painter of Light. Ages: 18 and up. HarperOne, 2006. Hardcover, 32 pages.

Powerful theme of faith and tenderness. Find fresh spirit through the heartfelt renderings aglow in the Kinkadee light.