

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KIDS

JOSHUA: THANK YOU, GUYS, SO MUCH FOR THIS NEW SPACE BOOK.

NORAH: HE SAW IT AND KNEW YOU HAD TO ADD IT TO YOUR COLLECTION.

JOSHUA: YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST FRIENDS A GUY COULD ASK FOR. IT'S THE PERFECT GIFT.

EVYN: HONESTLY, ALL OUR GIFTS ARE SO GREAT. I LOVE MY NEW HIKING BOOTS.

RAZ: AND MY NEW BUG COLLECTION KIT IS REALLY GOING TO HELP ME UP MY BEETLE-FINDING GAME.

NORAH: MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE.

JOSHUA: NORA, BE SURE TO TELL YOUR MOM THAT THESE COOKIES ARE DELICIOUS.

EVYN: WAIT. THERE WERE COOKIES?

JOSHUA: HUH? WHAT? NO...

RAZ: I JUST LOVE CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS.

EVYN: ME TOO, WHAT'S EVERYONE'S FAVORITE PART OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

RAZ: I REALLY LIKE THE SHEPHERDS HEARING ABOUT JESUS FROM THE BOOK OF LUKE. THEY WERE THE LEAST LIKELY PEOPLE TO BE TOLD ABOUT SOMETHING SO AMAZING. AND GOD CHOSE TO SEND HIS ANGELS TO TELL THEM.

NORAH: YEAH, IMAGINE JUST HANGING OUT IN A FIELD AT NIGHT WITH YOUR SHEEP FRIENDS, AND SUDDENLY A BUNCH OF ANGELS APPEAR AND TELL YOU ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

RAZ: PRETTY AWESOME.

JOSHUA: I THINK YOU GUYS KNOW MY FAVORITE PART.

EVYN: TELL US!

JOSHUA: THE PART ABOUT THE STAR!

EVYN: THE STAR?

JOSHUA: YEAH. AFTER JESUS IS BORN, THREE MAGI, OR WISE MEN, SEE A BRIGHT STAR IN THE SKY AND KNOW THAT IT WAS TO SHOW THEM WHERE THE NEWBORN MESSIAH WOULD BE.

RAZ: WHAT DOES MESSIAH MEAN?



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JOSHUA: IT MEANS PROMISED SAVIOR. THE ONE THAT THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO MEET.

EVYN: THE WISE MEN FOLLOWED THE STAR. RIGHT?

JOSHUA: YES, THEY WANTED TO WORSHIP THE NEWBORN KING, SO THEY FOLLOW THE STAR UNTIL IT WAS RIGHT ABOVE WHERE THEY COULD FIND JESUS. THEY WERE OVERJOYED. THEY SAW BABY JESUS WITH HIS MOTHER MARY AND WORSHIPPED.

EVYN: AND GAVE HIM GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH. BASICALLY REALLY, REALLY NICE GIFTS.

NORAH: I WONDER IF THAT STAR WAS POLLUX.

JOSHUA: OH YEAH, IT COULD HAVE BEEN.

EVYN: WHAT'S A POLLUX?

NORAH: IT'S A REALLY BRIGHT STAR, ABOUT 33 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY FROM EARTH.

JOSHUA: JUST ONE LAYER IS ALMOST SIX TRILLION MILES. SO POLLUX IS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY FAR AWAY.

NORAH: AND POLLUX IS A STAR THAT SCIENTISTS CALL A RED GIANT. GIANT BECAUSE IT'S SO HUGE, ABOUT IO TIMES BIGGER THAN OUR SUN. IT EVEN HAS ITS OWN PLANET ORBITING AROUND IT.

JOSHUA: AND RED. BECAUSE IT'S SLOWLY BURNING UP. WHICH MEANS IT GIVES OFF A REDDISH-ORANGE LIGHT.

RAZ: IT SOUNDS REALLY BRIGHT, IT HAS TO BE IF IT'S THAT FAR AWAY.

JOSHUA: THAT'S WHAT IT'S KNOWN FOR. FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, SAILORS HAVE USED THIS BRIGHT SHINING LIGHT IN THE SKY TO GUIDE THEM.

EVYN: IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT WAS CREATED TO SHINE, JUST LIKE US.

NORAH: IT CAN BE REALLY EASY TO THINK SOMETHING ABOUT YOU ISN'T SO BEAUTIFUL OR PURPOSEFUL, BUT TRY TO THINK OF IT THIS WAY. GOD CREATED YOU ON PURPOSE JUST THE WAY HE WANTED YOU, FROM YOUR HEAD DOWN TO YOUR TOES. AND HE STEPPED BACK AND SAID, MAGNIFICENT, FANTASTIC, BEAUTIFUL.

RAZ: JUST LIKE POLLUX, GOD CREATED US TO SHINE.

JOSHUA: AND WE CAN SHINE GOD'S LOVE TO EVERYONE.

EVYN: THAT'S RIGHT. AT CHRISTMAS, WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF GOD'S SON. JESUS CAME TO EARTH AS A BABY AND LIVED A PERFECT LIFE SO THAT HE COULD DIE ON THE CROSS FOR US.