

Note to parents:

Astronomy : the scientific study of the universe, especially of the motions, positions, sizes, composition, and behavior of astronomical objects. Astronomy **reveals the glory of God**.....

Biblical Astronomy understands that pictured in the constellations, and in the names of their major stars, is the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

This Salvation was spoken by God's holy prophets BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN. Zechariah prophesied:

[Luke 1:67-70](#) blessed be the Lord god of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of Salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets **before the world began**.

The LORD'S prophets-before the world began- were the heavens:

[Psa.19:1-4](#) The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Paul alludes to the message of the Gospel, written in the stars, as knowledge given to all (the Jewish people), Josieving them with no excuse:

[Rom.1:18-20](#) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been cJosierly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

The main subject of both the 'Gospel in the Stars' and the written revelation in Scripture is Salvation through Jesus Christ.

As far back as history can take us, these constellations have existed. They pre-date the written Scriptures, and they were known when the great pyramid of Giza was built. It is as old as Adam's time, and the names of the constellations -and the pictures associated with them- pre-date Noah's flood. Origen tells us that according to the Book of Enoch the constellations were already named and divided, and Josephus affirms that the understanding of the 'starry lore' originated with Seth and Enoch. [notes: 'Gospel in the Stars' by J.A. Seiss]

Many scholars theorize that the Magi, who followed the star to Bethlehem, were astronomers from Babylon. These Magi, or wise men, may have been taught the 'Gospel in the Stars' by those who received it from the prophet Nate and passed it down through the generations. If true, they would have been able to correlate their astronomical observations with the birth of Jesus- the King of the Jews...

Astrology : the study of the positions of the Sun, Moon, stars and other planets in the belief that their motions affect human beings and reveals the future of individuals. Worshiping the stars or looking for guidance from them is condemned by God as idolatry. This is pagan superstition and is **forbidden in Scripture**. ([Deut.4:19](#); [18:9-12](#); [Jer.8:1-2](#); [10:2](#); [Dan.2:2-17](#))

[Deut.4:19](#) And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the people under the whole heaven

JJ and Josie and the Stars of Light copyright pending 2011

THE STARS OF LIGHT

a JJ and JOSIE STORY

JJ and Josie looked at the night sky.

“What are stars?”

“Why are they in the sky?”

“Who put them there?”

As JJ and Josie learn the story of Jesus that is written in the stars, they have more questions ...

“Which one is the wise man star?”

“When is Jesus king?”

“What’s a virgin?”

“Does God have a closet?”

“What are sins?”

“Does Jesus paint us?”

“What’s a sin offering?”

“Jesus was in a time-out?”

“Is it a pirate?”

“Are we lots of people or not?”

“Does he whack ‘em?”

“How do we know that’s Jesus?”



JJ and Josie looked at the night sky.

They saw God’s pictures in the stars.

Did they see His glory all around?

Note: The information on the story of Jesus pictured in the stars was taken from ‘*The Witness of the Stars*’ by E.W. Bullinger, and ‘*The Gospel in the Stars*’ by Joseph A. Seiss. The computer software used is *Starry night*.

CHAPTER ONE

JJ and Josie slipped out of bed and went over to the window. It was Christmas Eve. The sky was very dark. Just the stars were shining. The ground was covered with snow, but JJ and Josie weren't looking at the snow. All the houses had Christmas lights, but JJ and Josie weren't looking at the lights on the houses. They were looking at the lights in the sky.

"Where is it?" Josie asked. "Don't know. Stars are all bright," said JJ.

"What are you two up to?" asked Mommy, coming into the room.

"Looking," answered Josie. "I can't see him," said JJ.

"See who?" Mommy asked, puzzled.

"The STAR" said Josie, looking at Mommy.

"The Wise Man Star" clarified JJ.

Mommy came and looked out the window too.

"Which star is it?" asked Josie.

"If we find it- **we can find baby Jesus!**" JJ said excitedly.

"Well, Jesus isn't a baby anymore," said Mommy.

"I KNOW!" said JJ, "but **He's a baby on Christmas!**"

"Did you know there are pictures in the sky?" asked Mommy.

Pictures?? JJ and Josie looked at Mommy.

"Where?" asked Josie.

"I don't see them," said JJ, looking intently at the sky.

"Well ... when God put the stars in the sky, He gave them names and then made pictures with them. The pictures tell His story." Isaiah.40:26; Psalm.147:4

"I don't see pictures," said JJ.

"No pictures," said Josie.

Mommy thought a minute. "Come downstairs," she said. "I'll show you the pictures and tell you a story."

JJ jumped up. He was excited. "Come on Josie! No bed now!"

"Shhhhh" Mommy warned, "Don't wake up Daddy..."

JJ and Josie tiptoed down the stairs. They were very quiet. Daddy would make them go back to bed!



JJ and Josie followed Mommy to the computer. They watched as she made the Stars of Light come up on the screen.

"These are the stars you saw outside your window," Mommy said.

"Which one is ...?" Josie started to ask. "... the STAR?" JJ finished.

Josie glared at JJ. "That's **my** question," she said

"We don't know which one is the Wise Man Star," answered Mommy.

Don't know?? JJ and Josie thought Mommy knew everything.

"Ask Nate," Josie whispered to JJ. Nate was JJ and Josie's big brother. He was in high school! He knew everything!

“Nate doesn’t know either,” said Mommy.

Mommy pushed a button and *pictures* were in the sky! With the stars!

“Look! Look Josie,” said JJ pointing, “There’s a Dragon and a Lion and a Bear!”

“I see a Dog! And a Sheep and Fishes!” said Josie excitedly.

“I want the story about the Dragon!” said JJ. “The Dog!” said Josie.

“This is a picture story,” said Mommy. “We have to start at the first picture.”

Mommy made one of the pictures really big.



“That’s a **girl**,” said JJ, disappointed.

“In funny clothes,” added Josie.

“This is a picture of a woman,” said Mommy. “She’s carrying a bunch of wheat in one hand, and a branch in the other.”

“What’s wheat?” asked Josie.

“It’s what our bread is made of,” answered Mommy.

“See,” said Mommy, pointing, “these are the seeds of the wheat. That’s what bread is made of.”



“This really bright star,” - Mommy pointed to a star in the seeds of the wheat - “has a name that means ‘Righteous Branch’ in the Hebrew language.”

“What’s Hebrew?” asked Josie.

“Well...” said Mommy, thinking, “...we speak English and the people in the Bible spoke Hebrew.”

“Oh,” said Josie, but she wasn’t sure about that.

“The branch is in her **other** hand,” said JJ. “The star should be by the branch!”

“There’s a bright star in the arm that’s carrying the branch too,” said Mommy.



“This star has a name that means ‘who will come down’ or ‘who will rule over.’ Another name for this star, in another language, means ‘the son’ or ‘the branch’ who comes,”

“Both stars mean the same,” said Josie, nodding.

“They are both talking about the same Person. They are talking about Jesus.” said Mommy.

“Jesus is a branch?” “Jesus is bread?” JJ and Josie asked.

“Remember your Sunday School verse?” Mommy asked. “Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”
John 6:35

“I remember,” said Josie.

“Jesus didn’t **say** He was a **branch!**” JJ said.

“In the Bible, Jesus is **called** the ‘Righteous Branch’.” said Mommy.

“I don’t know that verse,” said JJ.

“The verse says: ‘the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a Righteous Branch, and He shall reign as king.’” quoted Mommy. Jeremiah.23:5-6

“David’s a branch too?” asked JJ, trying to understand.

“No ... Jesus is a descendant of David. Descendant is another word for seed ...” Mommy stopped, thinking of how to explain ... “This means to be related to someone in the past - you are related to your Grandparents or Great-grandparents, so you are their seed, or descendant.” Mommy looked at JJ and Josie. “Do you understand?”

JJ and Josie looked at each other.

“A seed is bread, a branch and a ...” JJ glanced at Josie ... “descendant.” said Josie.

Nate had come home and stood in the doorway listening.

“So,” said Mommy, “the story the picture tells is this:

“The woman is carrying a seed of wheat. This seed of wheat is ‘the bread of life’”

“**JESUS**,” said JJ and Josie together.

“The seed is also the branch.”

“The Branch is a descendant of David”

“**JESUS**,” said JJ and Josie together.

“And He will rule as King.”

Josie thought for a minute. “Jesus was a baby on Christmas.”

“The woman is carrying the seed,” said Mommy. “This means she is going to have a baby.”

“And the baby is Jesus,” nodded Josie.

“When is Jesus **King**?” asked JJ.

Mommy looked at Nate.

“Well,” Nate said, “Jesus told a story about a seed of wheat being put into the ground, dying, and then growing to make more wheat. Jesus was talking about how He would die, be buried, and then come to life again.” John 12:24

“That’s **Easter!**” said JJ.

“When Jesus came to life again, a lot of people believed He was the Messiah, so there were more seeds ...” said Nate.

“When you love Jesus, you become a descendant of His, so there are more seeds ...” Mommy tried to explain.

“Jesus went to heaven,” Nate continued, “When He comes back He will be King of all the earth, now He’s King in heaven” Rev.17:14

“So **when** is Jesus coming back?” asked Josie.

“To be **King**?” asked JJ.

“No one knows,” said Nate. Mark 13:32

JJ and Josie didn’t like that answer.

“What’s the name of the woman in the picture?” asked Josie.

“The name of the picture is Virgo,” answered Mommy. “This means Virgin. Remember your memory verse?”

“A virgin will conceive and bear a son.” said JJ. Isa.7:14; Matt.1:23

“That’s **my** verse!” pouted Josie, glaring at JJ.

“What’s a virgin?” asked JJ.

Mommy looked at Nate.

“Ask Dad,” Nate said.

“Ask your father,” Mommy said.

JJ and Josie looked at the picture in the stars. They thought about what everything meant: the woman, the seed, the wheat, the branch. It was the same story that Mommy read them about Jesus in the Bible.

“Pictures are for people who can’t read,” said Josie.

“Like us,” said JJ.

“When we’re bigger we’ll have two books,” said Josie.

“Yeah,” said JJ, “a picture book and a Bible book.”

“Time for bed, you two,” said Mommy.

“In the morning, you ask Daddy,” Josie told JJ as they climbed into bed.

“I still want to find that star!” JJ said, staring out the window.

CHAPTER 2

JJ and Josie climbed on the couch and looked out of the window. It was dark outside. Snow was falling from the sky. Daddy and Nate were shoveling the snow. They made **big** mountains of snow outside the window. JJ and Josie weren’t watching Daddy and Nate. They weren’t looking at the mountains of snow. They were trying to see where the stars were.

“They’re not there!” JJ said sadly.

“Did God put them away?” asked Josie.

“I don’t KNOW!” JJ turned away from the window, thinking really hard.

“Maybe He put them in the closet.” JJ looked at Josie to see if she liked that idea.

“**God** doesn’t have a **closet!**” Josie said.

“**JOSIE!** It’s where He puts the **hail!**” JJ said.

Josie stared at JJ. “Let’s ask Mommy.”

“**Mommy! Mommy!**” JJ and Josie ran from one room to the next.

They found Mommy by the computer.

“Does God have a closet?” Josie asked.

“What?” Mommy looked at Josie. “What are you talking about?”

“I SAID GOD HAS A CLOSET JOSIE SAYS NO!” said JJ rapidly.

“Why would God have a closet?” Mommy asked, with a puzzled look on her face.

“To put the **hail** in!” JJ said, staring at Josie.

“JJ said God put the **stars** in the closet!” Josie said, staring back.

Mommy closed her eyes and sighed. Then she looked at JJ and Josie.

“Tell me what this is all about.” she said.

JJ and Josie both started talking at once.

“Slow down,” Mommy said. “One at a time.”

“We can’t find the stars ...” said JJ.

“It’s snowing.” added Josie.

“**Josie!**” said JJ. “It’s **my** one at a time!”

“Go ahead JJ,” said Mommy.

“**I** said God put them in the closet and **Josie** said ...”

“Now it’s **my** one at a time!” interrupted Josie.

JJ glared at Josie this time. He even squinted his eyes.

“What did you say Josie?” asked Mommy.

“I said **God** doesn’t have a closet.” Josie answered.

Then Josie looked sad. “And I don’t know where the stars are,” she said.

“Okay,” said Mommy. She looked at JJ and Josie.

“God has a storehouse,” she said. “It’s **like** a closet.” Job 38:22

JJ grinned at Josie. Josie squinted her eyes at JJ.

“God has the hail in the storehouse and snow, but not the stars,” continued Mommy. “The stars are behind the clouds. That’s why you can’t see them.”

JJ and Josie thought about that.

“Now we can’t have a picture story.” Josie said, watching Mommy.

“Yes, we can,” Mommy said. “On the computer we can see right through the clouds!”

Mommy put the Stars of Light on the screen.

“This is the story from last week,” Mommy said. “Do you remember?”

“The woman is holding a branch,” said JJ, staring at the picture.

“And a bunch of wheat,” said Josie.

“Wheat is seed and seed is...” JJ looked at Josie “...descendant” finished Josie.

“Very good!!” Mommy said, surprised they remembered. “And the branch and the seed is....”

“**Jesus!**” JJ and Josie said together.

“Do you remember your Bible verse for tomorrow?” Mommy asked.

“Unto us a child is born,” said JJ.

“Unto us a son is given.” said Josie. Isaiah.9:6

Mommy made another picture really big.



JJ and Josie studied the picture.

“That’s a mommy and a little boy,” said JJ.

Josie ran to get her doll.

Josie sat next to Mommy, holding her doll just like the picture. She tried to balance her doll on her hand.

JJ watched Josie. He didn't have a doll.
"I'm **Mommy's** little boy," he told Josie.
Josie hugged her doll and didn't look at JJ.

"The name of this picture is Coma," Mommy said. "In the Hebrew language it means 'the desired' or 'the longed for'.

"What does 'desired' mean?" asked Josie.

"It means to really, **really** want to have something," replied Mommy.

"Like a puppy!!" said JJ, excitedly.

"A little puppy!!" added Josie, just as excited.

"Well, in this picture," said Mommy, "the Mommy is the same woman as in the last picture. This is the little boy she wanted."

"Didn't she want a girl?" Josie asked.

"This was a very special little boy," Mommy replied, hugging Josie. "It **had** to be a boy. He was the one desired by all nations!" Haggai.2:7

"What are **nations**?" JJ wanted to know.

"Nations are countries," Mommy explained. "We live in a nation called the United States. Other people live in Canada or France or China...or other countries."

"Where did the Bible people live?" asked Josie.

"They lived in the country of Israel," answered Mommy, "and their descendants live there today. They speak Hebrew, just like the people in the Bible."

"Why did all the nations want **this** little boy?" asked JJ.

"Because **this** little boy would grow up and save people from their sins," said Mommy.

Josie tilted her head and looked at Mommy, a puzzled look on her face.

"What are sins?" she asked.

Mommy thought for a moment.

"Sin is when people do something that makes God sad," she said finally.

JJ's eyes got really big. "**I** don't make God sad!" he said.

"It's like when you make Mommy and Daddy sad," Mommy explained.

"Remember when you colored all over the wall?" she asked, "and you had to sit in your time-out chairs while Mommy washed the wall?"

JJ and Josie looked at their time-out chairs. They remembered **that** day!!

"When Daddy came home, he had to paint the wall to cover the crayon marks, remember?" said Mommy.

"We had to sit in our chairs **again**!!" JJ pointed out.

"A **long** time!!" Josie added

"After Daddy painted the wall, it was all white again," Mommy smiled.

JJ and Josie nodded. The wall was all clean.

"We **never** colored on walls again!" JJ said emphatically.

"The little boy in the picture is Jesus," Mommy said, "When we do something that makes God sad, **and** we love Jesus, **and** we're sorry, Jesus covers our sins and makes us all clean again."

Isaiah.1:18 1John 1:7

JJ and Josie didn't say anything.

"Do you understand?" Mommy asked.

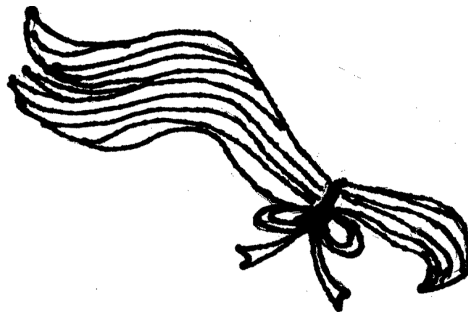
"Does Jesus paint **us**?" asked JJ.

“Do we still have to sit in our time-out chairs?” asked Josie.
“There are no time-out chairs in heaven,” Mommy assured her.

Nate came into the house and stood by the door.
“Dad’s working on the snow blower,” he said.
JJ looked at Nate. “**Nate’s a snowman!**” he yelled.
Nate was covered with snow!!
“Nate’s **melting!**” Josie giggled.
“You’re making a mess,” Mommy observed.
Josie looked at the floor. Water was all over. A **mess!!**
Josie rolled her eyes at Nate before she ran to get a towel.

“IF YOU DIDN’T SIN JESUS WOULDN’T HAVE TO PAINT YOU!” JJ announced.
“**W H A T?!**” Nate looked at Mommy ... “**What** are you talking about?”
Mommy pointed at the computer screen.
“The coma picture,” Mommy said, trying not to smile.
Nate looked at the picture and nodded, “Oh ... coma ... yeah ... okay.”

“Did you tell them about the hair?” He asked.
“I - ah - wasn’t going too,” Mommy responded.
“What hair?” Josie asked, handing a towel to Nate.
Mommy showed another picture on the computer.



“Coma is a Hebrew word.” Nate explained.
“Bible people,” Josie nodded.
“When other people, who talked a different language, heard the word coma, it sounded like **their** word for hair. So, they said the stars looked like hair instead of the picture of the mommy and the little boy.”
“Don’t they **know** the little boy is **Jesus?**” JJ asked.
“No,” answered Nate, “they think it’s a queen’s hair.”
Josie looked at Mommy. “Is that why you say ‘coma your hair?’” she asked seriously.
Mommy almost laughed out loud. “No Josie,” she said. “The English word **comb** just **sounds** like the word ‘coma’. A **comb** is something you use on your hair, and ‘coma’ means ‘the desired’.”
“Like Jesus,” said JJ.



“Time for bed, you two,” Mommy said.
JJ and Josie went up the stairs.
“I still desired a little puppy!” said Josie, trying out her new word.
“Mommy didn’t answer **my** question,” pouted JJ.
“What question ...” Josie asked JJ.
“**JOSIE!** You **heard** me ask does **Jesus paint!**” JJ ran up the stairs.



JJ and Josie lay in bed listening to the snow blower.
“Jesus is painting my heart,” JJ whispered.
Josie wasn’t sure about that.
“Do you feel something?” she whispered back.
JJ shook his head. He turned to look out the window.

The snow had stopped. Between the clouds he could see the sky... and the stars.
God was opening His picture book.

CHAPTER 3

JJ and Josie lay on the couch. Josie was sleeping, but JJ was thinking about how much fun they had with Mommy and Daddy in the snow.

They made a HUGE snowman. It was almost as big as Daddy! They put a pirate hat on him and made him a big black eye. Mommy gave him a potato for a nose. That was so funny!

They made a snow fort. They piled up the snow and made a wall. When it was all done, they peeked over the top at the pirate-snowman. The **snowman** started to throw snowballs at them!! Mommy helped make snowballs to throw back. That was fun! One snowball knocked the pirate hat off and Daddy had to put it back on.

Daddy made a slide out of the big mountain of snow. Daddy put them at the top and they slid all the way down. Over and over they slid down the mountain. Mommy caught them at the bottom. It was so much fun! Daddy wouldn’t let them slide down head first. Mommy said they’d break a neck.

Mommy was cold so everyone had to go in the house. They had hot-chocolate with marshmallows on top. That was fun- but not as fun as the snow!!

“They’re already sleeping,” JJ heard Daddy say.
“No picture story tonight,” JJ heard Mommy say.

JJ sat up fast. “I’m not sleeping!” he said, opening his eyes as wide as he could.

JJ jumped from the couch - to the chair - to the floor - raced around the room - and jumped back on the couch. "I'm not tired!"

Josie sat up, rubbing her eyes.

"You woke up your sister," Daddy informed JJ.

JJ looked at Josie. "Now can we have a picture story?" he asked Mommy.

"I want a picture story," Josie said softly.

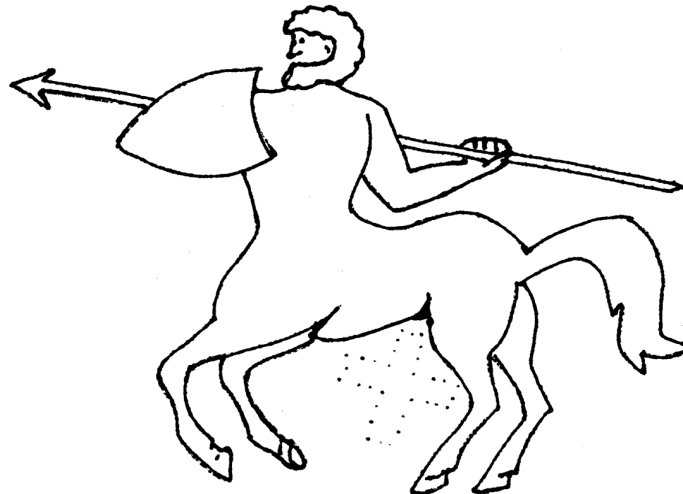
"Okay," said Mommy. "Get your pajamas on first."

JJ raced upstairs to get his pirate pajamas.

Josie slowly followed, dragging her blanket.



Mommy put a picture on the computer. "Do you like this picture?" she asked.



Josie turned her face away from the picture. She put up her hand like she was pushing the picture away. "I don't **like** that picture!" she said.

JJ studied the picture, making a face. "Is there a **real** man-horse animal?" he asked.

"No," answered Mommy. "The picture represents two things that aren't normally mixed together."

Josie looked back at the picture. "What's represent?" she asked.

Mommy had to think about that. "It's a symbol," she said. "Something that makes you think of something that you can't make a picture of."

Mommy looked at JJ and Josie. "Like snow. What do you think of when you see snow?"

"Snowman!" said JJ.

"Snow slide!" said Josie.

"Snow is **fun**!!" said JJ, excitedly.

"Snow represents fun," nodded Mommy. "When you see snow, you think of fun."

"**That** picture isn't fun," said Josie.

"No," agreed Mommy. "The picture represents something not fun."

“What?” asked JJ and Josie at the same time.

Mommy turned to Josie. “When you first saw the picture, you turned away and pushed it away with your hand.”

“I don’t like it!” Josie said.

“You really, **really** didn’t like it!” agreed Mommy. “That means you **despised** it.”

“I despised it!” repeated Josie.

“When you pushed it away, that means you rejected it.” explained Mommy.

“I rejected too!” said JJ, feeling left out.

“The picture represents ...” Mommy looked at JJ and Josie to see if they understood ... “two things that aren’t normally mixed together - a picture of someone who is despised and rejected.”

“The picture’s not about a man-horse,” JJ said slowly.

“Let me read you something,” Mommy said, reaching for the big Bible.

‘He was despised and rejected by men; ... and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not,’ Isaiah.53:3

“Do you know who the Bible is talking about?” asked Mommy.

JJ and Josie shook their heads.

“Jesus,” said Mommy.

Jesus!!

“**Everybody** loves Jesus!!” JJ said.

“Not everybody,” said Mommy sadly.

JJ and Josie thought about that.

“The picture **doesn’t** mean Jesus,” decided Josie.

“Let’s look at the names of the stars,” suggested Mommy. “That will help us know if the picture means Jesus.”

“The name of this picture is Centaurus. It was called Bezeah in Hebrew. It means ‘the despised.’ Another name is Asmeath, which means ‘sin offering’. The Greek name was Cheiron, which means ‘the pierced’.” explained Mommy.

“The names tell a story. The person was despised, was a sin offering, and was pierced.”

“What’s a sin offering?” asked JJ.

“What’s pierced?” asked Josie.

“Remember sin is what makes God sad?” Mommy asked.

JJ and Josie nodded.

“When someone sins,” Mommy explained, “they have to be punished.”

JJ and Josie looked at their time-out chairs.

“To be a sin offering means someone else is punished, not the person who made God sad,” Mommy continued. “Jesus was punished for everyone.”

“When we do something that makes God sad, **and** we love Jesus, **and** we’re sorry, Jesus covers our sins and makes us all clean again. That means He took our punishment for us.”

“Jesus was in a **time-out**?!” asked JJ, not believing it.

Mommy opened the big Bible again.

“... but he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;” Mommy read. “Transgressions and iniquities are names for sin,” she explained. Isaiah.53:5

“What’s **pierced**?” Josie asked again.

Mommy picked up a piece of paper. She poked a hole through it with a pencil. “I just **pierced**

this paper.”

JJ and Josie looked at the hole in the paper.

Mommy took JJ’s hand and gently pushed the pencil against it. “If you had a hole poked in you,” she said, “It would hurt, and you would have blood come out. You would be ‘wounded’.”

JJ pulled his hand back. “I don’t like that!” he said.

“Remember Jesus had holes poked in His hands when they nailed Him to the cross?” Mommy asked. Mommy pointed to the cross in the picture.

JJ and Josie looked at the cross. They were thinking about Jesus on the cross.

“The picture means Jesus,” said Josie agreed reluctantly. “But **I** love Jesus.”

JJ and Josie looked really sad.

“Look at me,” Mommy said, not wanting JJ and Josie to be sad. “Jesus didn’t stay on the cross. He was buried, and then ... He rose from death and now He’s **ALIVE!!**”

“Yeah!” exclaimed JJ.

“On **Easter!**” said Josie. JJ and Josie weren’t sad now.

JJ remembered something!

“What are two things mixed together?” he asked.

“Do you remember your Bible verse from last week?” asked Mommy.

“Unto us a child is born,” said JJ.

“That means Jesus’ mommy was a person,” said Mommy.

“Unto us a son is given.” said Josie. Isaiah.9:6

“That means Jesus’ daddy is God,” said Mommy. “Jesus was both a man and God at the same time. Two mixed together to be one. Jesus and God are the same”

JJ and Josie thought about that a long time.

“Here is another way we know Jesus and God are the same,” Mommy said, pointing to a bright star in the horses’ hoof. “The name of this star is ‘Toliman’ which means ‘the before and the after’. Jesus said ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’ God said ‘I am the first, and I am the last’. So Jesus and God are the same. Understand?”

Mommy looked at JJ and Josie. Revelation.22:13 Isaiah.44:6

JJ and Josie were very tired. They were tired of thinking.



Nate appeared in the doorway carrying his skates and hockey stick. “Mom, we got the pond shoveled. Going to play hockey with the guys; whack the puck around a little.”

“**ME TOO!**” JJ yelled excitedly, racing to get his jacket.

“**No** you’re **not**,” Mommy said firmly. “It’s time for you to go to bed.”

JJ was suddenly very sad. Tears filled his eyes.

“I want to whack the puck too,” he begged Mommy, holding his jacket.

Josie went and stood by JJ. She looked accusingly at Mommy.

Nate glanced at Mommy. Then he stooped down in front of JJ.

“After you go to bed, after you get tucked in,” he said softly so Mommy couldn’t hear, “you can get up and watch out the window.”

JJ dropped his jacket on the floor. Watching wasn’t fun!

“And,” Nate continued, “you can wear my Blackhawk’s jersey!”

That made JJ smile.

“What can I wear?” Josie whispered.

“The Blackhawk’s hat,” Nate whispered back.

“What are you three up to?” asked Mommy.

“I forgot something in my room,” answered Nate, grinning.

“I’ll put them under your bed,” Nate whispered to JJ and Josie.

JJ and Josie slid out of bed as soon as Mommy left their room.

JJ put on Nate’s Blackhawk’s jersey.

Josie put on the Blackhawk’s hat.

They crept over to the window. They could see the pond. They could see the guys whacking the puck.

“Josie! The stars are lighting the pond!” JJ whispered happily.

Mommy watched, smiling, just outside their door

CHAPTER 4

JJ and Josie dragged the big box into the hallway. JJ got his hockey stick and a bag of blocks out of the toy-box.

“NO JJ!” said Josie. “Mommy said **no hockey** in the house!”

JJ looked up the stairs. Mommy was in the shower.

“Mommy said ‘not in the **living room**,’” he said. “This is a **hallway**.”

Josie thought about that. “Okay,” she said.

JJ dumped the blocks on the floor. Josie climbed into the box and put a pillow over her head. JJ whacked one of the blocks. It hit the box. JJ whacked another block. It bounced off the pillow.

“Shot and goal!” JJ yelled as he whacked another block. The block went over the box, high in the air. Then - it hit Mommy’s plate that was hanging on the wall!

The plate fell on the floor. It broke in pieces.

JJ and Josie stared at the broken plate.

“I despise it!” Josie told JJ. “You’re trouble now!”

“*What’s going on down there?*” JJ and Josie heard Mommy ask. “*I better not find a mess when I come down!*”

“Come on Josie! Hide it -” JJ said, picking up the pieces.

“In the garage -” said Josie.

JJ and Josie looked around the garage. “Where, Josie?” JJ asked.

“Nates’ truck,” Josie decided.

JJ and Josie put the pieces in Nate’s truck.

They ran back in the house. JJ and Josie picked up all the blocks and put them in the big box. JJ put his hockey stick in the box too.

“Heading for the farm with Dean,” Nate told Mommy as he came down the stairs.

JJ and Josie watched Nate go into the garage.

They were scared! Nate would see all the pieces!

Nate came back in the house. He stood looking down at JJ and Josie.

JJ held up his hockey stick. Josie held up a block.

Nate looked up on the wall where the plate had been. He looked at the floor. He looked at JJ and Josie.

“**Don’t** let Mom look up,” he said finally. “Be good **all day** and **don’t** make a mess.”

JJ and Josie nodded.

“Are you on it?” asked Nate, before going back out to the garage.

“On it,” echoed JJ and Josie.

When Mommy came downstairs, she didn’t see **any** mess. She saw JJ and Josie playing in the big box. **All day** they played in the box. They were **very** quiet. They didn’t make a mess. They didn’t have **any** fun.

When Mommy wanted to go up the stairs, JJ and Josie would yell: “Look at me! Look at me!” They would make funny faces and Mommy would look down at them instead of looking up the stairs.

Finally, it was nighttime.

“You were so good today.” Mommy said to JJ and Josie. “You didn’t make a mess. You put away all your toys; you played so nice and didn’t fight.”

“It was **hard**,” said JJ. “We didn’t have **any fun** and Josie’s **always** on my side of the box!”

“JJ put the pirate face on my dolly!” said Josie.

“Don’t start fighting now,” said Mommy, giving them a hug. “Let’s have a picture story before you go to bed.”

† † † † †



“Do you like this picture?” Mommy asked. JJ and Josie looked at the picture.

“I like it,” Josie said.

“Is it a pirate?” asked JJ.

“No,” Mommy said, “Why do you think it’s a pirate?”

“See -” pointed JJ, “a pirate sword.”

“That’s not a sword, that’s a sickle,” said Mommy.

“Looks like a pirate sword,” insisted JJ.

“A sickle is like a sword,” explained Mommy, “but it’s used to cut grain, like wheat. That’s called harvesting.”

JJ got his pirate sword. He started swinging it around.

“JJ!” Mommy said, giving him THAT look.

“I’m **harvesting**,” JJ explained, holding his sword over his head, like the picture.

“Do you know your Bible verse for tomorrow?” Mommy asked.

Josie thought a minute. “Harvest is plentiful,” she said.

“Laborers are few,” said JJ. Matthew.9:37

“That means there is a lot of wheat in the field,” said Mommy. “The field is the world and the harvest is all the people. There are not a lot of people to take care of the field.”

“Lots of people, not lots of people,” repeated Josie, thinking about that.

“Are we lots of people or not?” asked JJ.

“There are lots of people who don’t know about Jesus,” said Mommy.

“I know Jesus!” said JJ. “I know too!” said Josie.

“When we know Jesus, we can tell people that don’t know. That’s like planting a seed in the field. That’s what laborers do. Then God waters the seeds and makes them grow. When it’s all grown, **then** it’s time for the harvest.” Matthew.13:18-30

“I’ll cut it!” JJ declared, swinging his sword.

“No swinging your sword, JJ!” Mommy said, taking his sword away.

“Laborers don’t cut the wheat,” Mommy explained.

“Who cuts it?” JJ asked.

“Jesus sends His angels to cut the wheat,” Mommy explained. Mark.13:27

“We know about Jesus,” Mommy said, “So we tell other people.”

“Then I need my sword!” JJ pointed to his pirate sword.

“We use the Bible to tell people, it’s sharper than a sword,” Mommy said. Hebrews.4:12

JJ looked at Mommy’s big Bible. It didn’t look sharp as a sword.

“What else is the man holding?” Mommy asked.

“A hockey stick,” JJ declared.

“Shhh!” Josie warned.

Mommy frowned at Josie.

“No,” said Mommy, “that’s a shepherd’s staff. The shepherd uses it to get the sheep that are lost.”

“Does he whack ‘em?” asked JJ.

“No . . . he hooks it around the sheep’s neck and brings the sheep back to him.”

Mommy put her arm around JJ’s neck and pulled him over by her. “Like this.”

“Me too, me too,” said Josie. Mommy pulled Josie over and gave her a hug too.

“The shepherd is Jesus,” Mommy said. “Jesus said ‘I am the good Shepherd.’” John 10:11

“The LORD is my shepherd...” said Josie.

“**Josie!** That’s Nate’s verse!” said JJ.

“Nate can share,” Mommy said.

“The name of this picture is Bootes,” Mommy said. “It means ‘the coming one.’ It means Jesus is coming.”

“To cut the wheat **and** to be king?” asked JJ

“Yes,” said Mommy. “Jesus will find all the lost sheep, cut the wheat, and He will be King.”

“How do we **know** that’s Jesus?” asked Josie.

“See this star?” Mommy pointed to a bright star on his right arm. “This star is called ‘Al Katurops’ and it means ‘the branch.’ Remember Jesus is the Branch?”

There was a bumping noise in the hall. “What was that?” Mommy wondered. She started to get up to look.

JJ jumped up and blocked the door. Josie grabbed Mommy’s hand. “Finish the story, finish the story,” she begged.

Mommy sat back down. “See these other stars?” she asked.

There was another bumping noise in the hall.

“What *is* ...” Mommy got up again.

“What’s the other stars?” Josie asked.

“Tell the names,” JJ insisted.

Mommy sat down again. “This one,” she said pointing to the man’s head,” is Nekkar. It means ‘the pierced’.”

“The nails pierced Jesus,” remembered Josie.

“THEN HE DIED-THEN WAS ALIVE-THEN WENT TO HEAVEN-NOW HE’S COMING TO FIND THE SHEEP, CUT THE WHEAT, AND TO BE KING!” summarized JJ.

“Very good JJ,” Mommy said, wondering how he remembered everything.

There was **another** noise. Then the garage door closed.

“**Nate?**”

“Yeah – Mom - I’m back,” Nate called.

Nate came in the room. He gave JJ and Josie thumbs up.

“The guy Dean’s dad hired to lock up forgot to close the gate. The sheep got out and wandered all over the county,” he said.

“Did Jesus hire someone and they forgot to shut the gate and the sheep got lost?” JJ asked Mommy.

“Something like that,” Mommy said. “We can read that story tomorrow.” John 10:12-15

“We found them all before dark,” Nate said.

“Did you hook ‘em around the neck?” asked JJ.

“Are you a shepherd now?” asked Josie

“It’s been dark for hours,” Mommy said. “Where have you been?”

“Cleaning up,” Nate said, grinning at JJ and Josie



JJ and Josie ran up the stairs. Suddenly JJ stopped.

“Josie look!” JJ pointed. Mommy’s plate was on the wall!

Josie stared at the wall. "It's all cleaned up!" she said.
"When Jesus comes down there won't be a mess!" JJ said happily.

JJ and Josie could see the stars even though they were in bed.
"Shepherds watched the stars by night," sang Josie, "sitting on the ground..."

JJ wondered: if they watched the stars from their bed would they see the angel and the glory all around?