

FIONA PALOMO MILO MANHEIM LECRAE JOEL SMALLBONE AND ANTONIO BANDERAS

ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE

AND ANTONIO BANDERAS

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

THE GREATEST STORY EVER
COMES ALIVE!

ONLY IN CINEMAS FROM NOVEMBER 30

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE



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On separate index cards or slips of paper, write one interesting fact about the birth or adoption story of each family member. For smaller families, use several cards and write two or three facts for each person. Get creative! Try to name lesser-known facts so that younger family members learn something new about themselves. Shuffle the cards, and then read each one aloud. As you read each one, invite the group to guess who the fact is about.

- Do the facts surrounding your birth (or adoption) affect the way you think about yourself? How so?

No matter what circumstances surround our births, they inform us similarly about who we are. We are created beings. None of us had anything to do with bringing about our own existence. On top of that, we couldn't take care of ourselves. We all need someone to take care of us. We couldn't do anything special to earn our place in this family, but we were all loved from the start and included in this family.

TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR TEENS:

- In **JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**, Mary and Joseph struggle to understand who they are in relationship to family. Mary is told that "love is secondary." Joseph feels stuck by family expectations and just wants to make the best of a hard situation. When did those viewpoints begin to change? Why?
- What have experienced that caused you to have questions or doubts about who you are and your place in this world? How has God used that circumstance to help you understand His love for you more fully?
- King Herod completely fails to understand who he is. In the film, he says "A king doesn't need to be loved, only obeyed and feared." How does that perspective influence his response to the news about King Jesus?

Read Luke 1:26-33:

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

- What words and phrases did the angel use to describe Jesus?
- Does knowing who Jesus is change the way you see yourself? How so?

Read Matthew 2:1-3, 7-12:

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ... ⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him." ⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

- Contrast Herod's response to Jesus with the wise men's response.
- What steps can you take to worship Jesus this Christmas like Mary, Joseph, and the wise men did—seeking to understand more deeply who Jesus is and who you are in Him?



TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR YOUNGER KIDS:

Read Luke 1:26-33.

- How did the angel describe Jesus? (Great, Son of Most High, He will reign forever)
How would you describe Jesus?

Now read John 3:16.

- What does this verse say about how God feels about us? (He loves us.)

Finally, read Matthew 2:1-3, 7-12.

- How did the wise men respond when they saw Jesus?
(Overjoyed, gave gifts, worshiped Him)
- How can our family honor Jesus this Christmas season?

WRAP IT UP

Jesus's birth teaches us about who He is. And who Jesus is teaches us who we are—not just when we're babies and young children, but our whole lives, no matter what circumstances we face. He is the King who came to show us God's great love. Be sure to let your children know they are loved from the start and invited into His family.

Offer them the opportunity to pray to receive Christ.

If any of your family has not yet done so, offer them the opportunity to pray to receive Christ. *Lord Jesus, sometimes I get confused about who I am. But I know I am a sinner, and I need a Savior. I know I can't do anything to earn your love. Your love is a free gift—shown most plainly when you died to save me from my sins. So today, I place faith in You alone to forgive my sins. Come live in me.*

*In Jesus's Name,
Amen*

Throughout the week

Keep the conversation going this week. Share the following devotions with your teenager, or if you have younger kids, talk through each devotion together as a family.

