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Opening extract from

First Christmas

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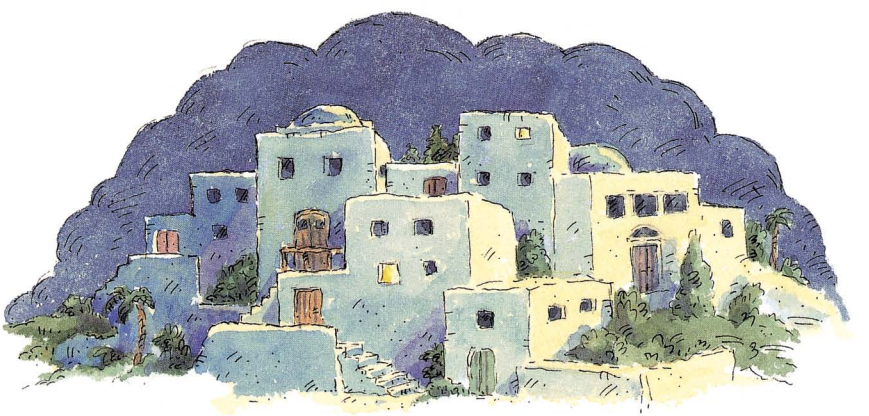
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The story of Christmas is about a special birthday, which happened in a place called Palestine a very long time ago.



It all began when an angel came to see a young woman called Mary. The angel's name was Gabriel and he came to give Mary a message from God.



Mary had heard all about angels but she had never seen one before. When Mary saw Gabriel, she was frightened.



"Don't be frightened," said Gabriel. "God wants you to be the mother of his son.



He will be the most important baby ever born, and you will name him Jesus."



Soon after that, Mary married a man called Joseph.

