

**The Brightest Star:  
An Advent Children's Sermon**

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Ever wonder how many stars there are up in the sky? There are about 10 billion galaxies in the observable universe, and, on average, the number of stars in a galaxy is about 100 billion. That's a lot! So it means there are about 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 (that's 1 billion trillion) stars in the observable universe—and God created every single one of them.

God created every tree, every blade of grass, every animal, and he created you and me. He created us to be in relationship with him, but we messed it all up. Fortunately, God had a rescue plan in place from the very beginning, and he decided to use a *star* to announce this plan.

Listen to what the Bible says in Matthew chapter 2, verses 1-6:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

You see this was the greatest news ever told, and God wanted the world to know that his Son had been born, that the rescue plan was finally happening. God was coming to save his people. So he sent angels to Mary and Joseph and to shepherds—and he made one of his billion trillion stars to shine brighter than all the rest.

God was showing us that the light was coming to push away the darkness, that the little baby born in Bethlehem was the Savior of the world.

One day this little baby boy named Jesus would grow up and save God's children. Jesus even said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

This was God's plan—to send Jesus to shine as bright as that star, so that all his children would not walk in darkness but have life in him, the Light of all the world.