

Jesus Calling[®]

The Story of Christmas

Sarah Young



Illustrated by Katya Longhi



An Imprint of Thomas Nelson

Special thanks to Mackenzie Howard for
her extensive work in shaping this manuscript.

© 2018 Sarah Young

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or other—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Published in Nashville, Tennessee, by Tommy Nelson. Tommy Nelson is an imprint of Thomas Nelson. Thomas Nelson is a registered trademark of HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc.

Tommy Nelson titles may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, fund-raising, or sales promotional use. For information, please e-mail SpecialMarkets@ThomasNelson.com.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.Zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.® Scripture quotations marked ICB are from the International Children’s Bible®. Copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NASB are from the New American Standard Bible®. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org) Scripture quotations marked NKJV are from the New King James Version®. © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NLT are from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. © 1996, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-4002-1029-9

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is on file.

Printed in China

18 19 20 21 22 DSC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Mfr: DSC / Shenzhen, China / September 2018 / PO#9503665

*I dedicate this book to our grandchildren:
Elie, John, Caleb, Esther Grace, Joel, and Lawrence.
May you—and all who read this book—know
Jesus as your Savior and Friend.*



The background of the page is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright white stars. At the bottom of the page, there is a stylized illustration of rolling green hills with some darker green tufts of grass. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Dear Parents and Grandparents,

When our children were young, our family was living in Japan, where Christmas wasn't even a holiday. People went to work and to school as usual. This actually made it easier for us to keep the emphasis in our home on Jesus' birth. On Christmas Eve, we would make a birthday cake for Jesus. Then on Christmas morning, before we opened presents, my husband would read the Christmas story to our children. Later, we'd sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and eat the cake we'd made to celebrate His birth.

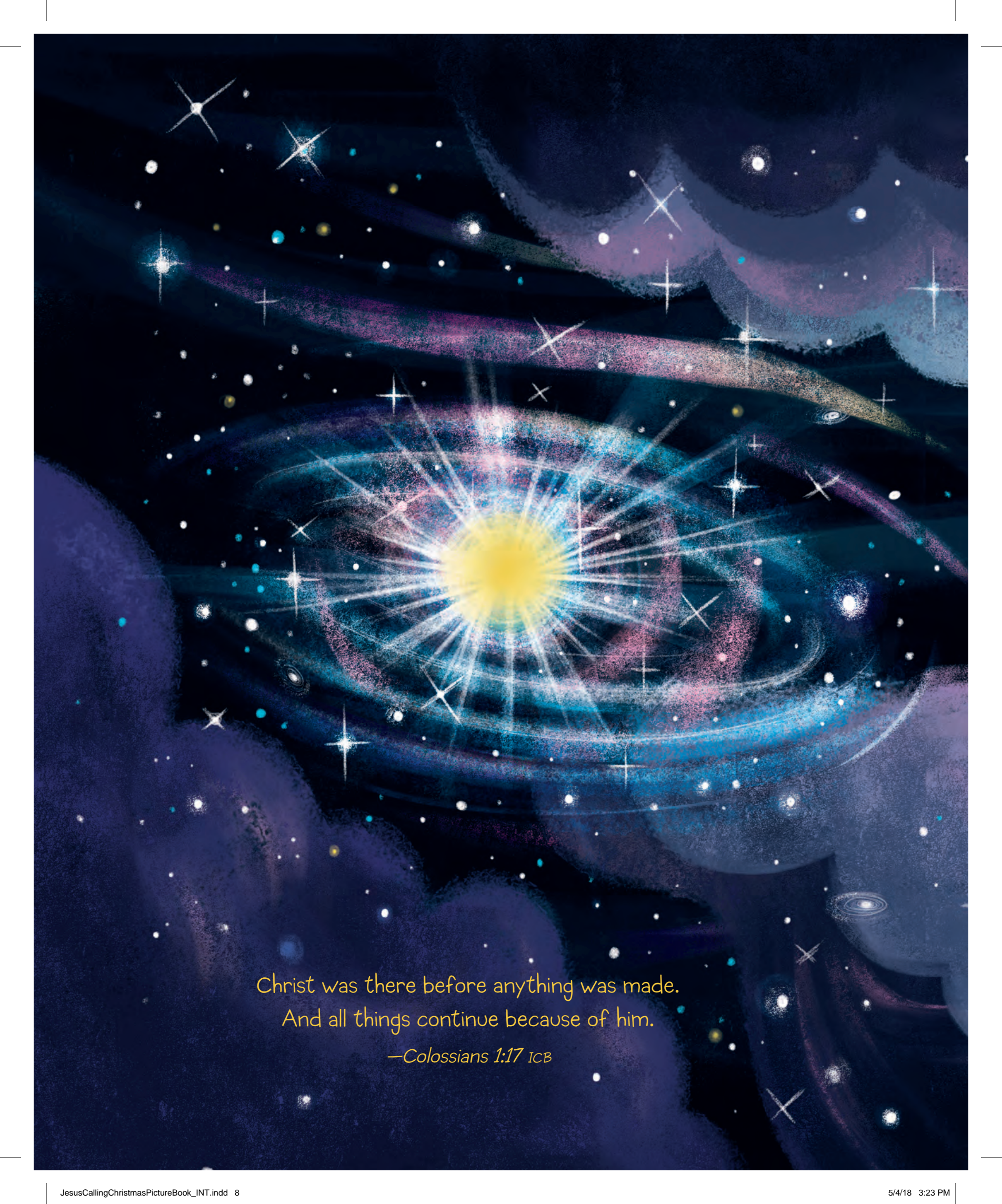
Now we have six precious grandchildren, and we care deeply about their spiritual well-being. Christmas in the US is a whirlwind of parties and activities. The attention on giving and getting presents often takes the focus off Jesus.

This Christmas storybook is designed to help you put the emphasis on Jesus, not only as a baby in a manger, but as our Lord from the beginning of time to the end of time. It will show children that God always had a plan for Christmas, and that plan was Jesus.

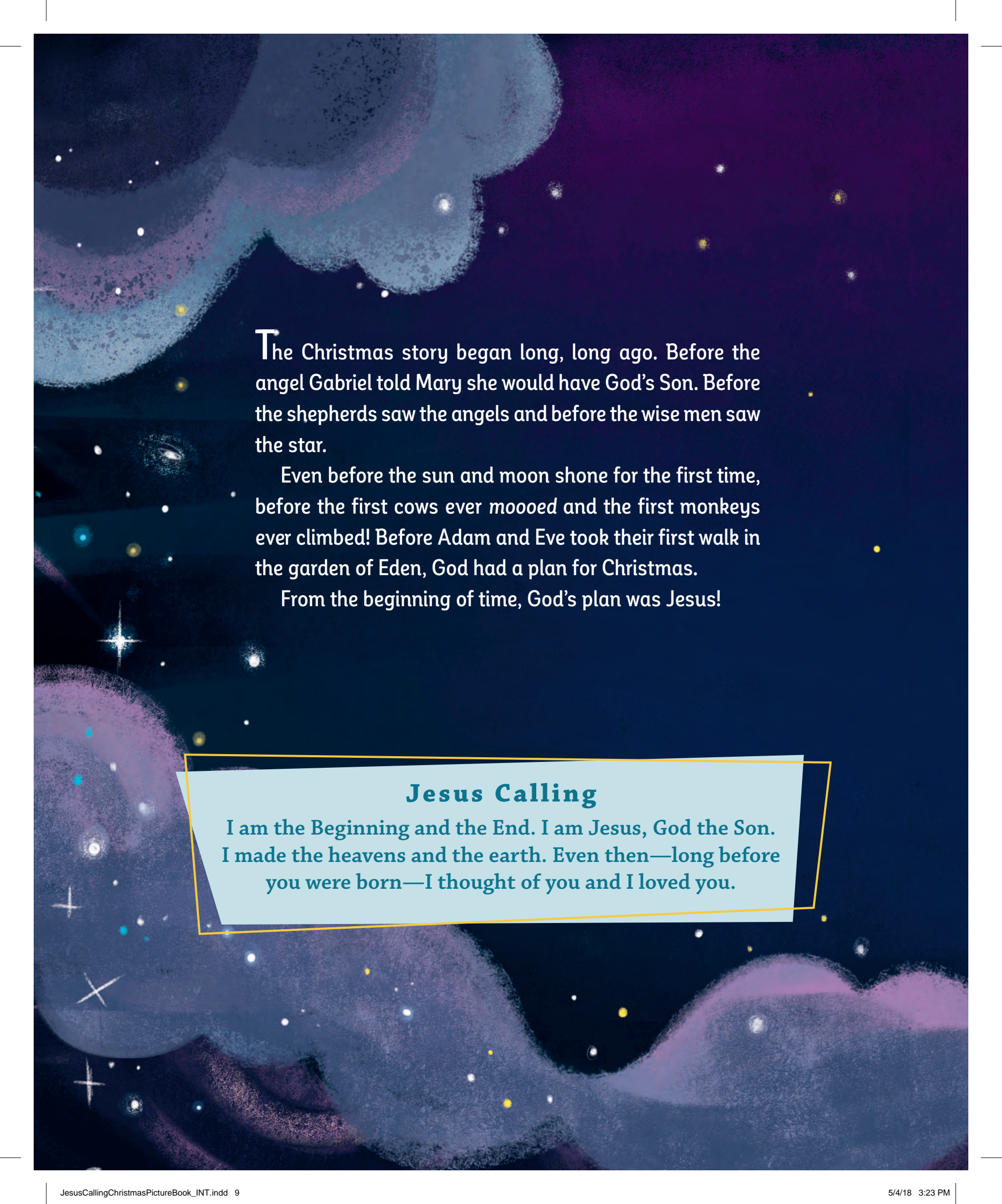
I pray that this book will provide a delightful way for you to teach the children in your life about the real meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus, our Savior who loves us more than we can imagine!

I wish you and your family a wonderful, meaningful Christmas!

Sarah Young



Christ was there before anything was made.
And all things continue because of him.
—Colossians 1:17 ICB



The Christmas story began long, long ago. Before the angel Gabriel told Mary she would have God's Son. Before the shepherds saw the angels and before the wise men saw the star.

Even before the sun and moon shone for the first time, before the first cows ever *mooed* and the first monkeys ever climbed! Before Adam and Eve took their first walk in the garden of Eden, God had a plan for Christmas.

From the beginning of time, God's plan was Jesus!

Jesus Calling

I am the Beginning and the End. I am Jesus, God the Son. I made the heavens and the earth. Even then—long before you were born—I thought of you and I loved you.