

12. What do you think Mary saw as her biggest challenge? How did God prepare her for the task of mothering the Son of God?

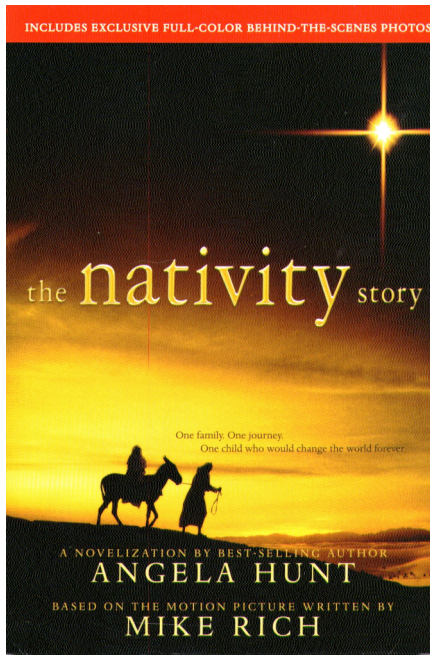


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The Nativity Story by Angela Hunt

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Compare and contrast the film version of *The Nativity Story* with the novel. What advantages does film have over the printed page? What advantages does the printed page have over film?
2. What did you learn about life in first century Judea from viewing the film or reading the novel?
3. Film relies on dialogue and images to tell a story; a novel must create dialogue and images with words. Did you find the novel as effective as the film in creating the mood and setting of the story? Was the film as effective as the novel in sharing facts of historical and cultural significance?
4. What are some of the major themes of the story?
5. Would you recommend the film and/or the novel to people who do not consider themselves Christians? What effect do you think it might have on them?
6. What did you learn about Elizabeth and Zechariah that you had not considered before reading this novel or viewing the film?
7. Why do you suppose Herod the Great was so jealous of his position?
8. What did you think about the magi? Were they true spiritual seekers or merely curious astronomers? How do you suppose the journey to Judea changed them?
9. In Mary's hymn of praise, known as the *Magnificat*, she says, "Oh, how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior!" What does this tell us about Mary's view of herself?
10. Were you surprised to read of Mary's wish for other children? Did you know Jesus had half-brothers and sisters? (Their names are listed in Matthew 13:55-65 and Mark 6:3).
11. Is there anything in Mary's life to which you can personally relate? How is she like you? How is she different?