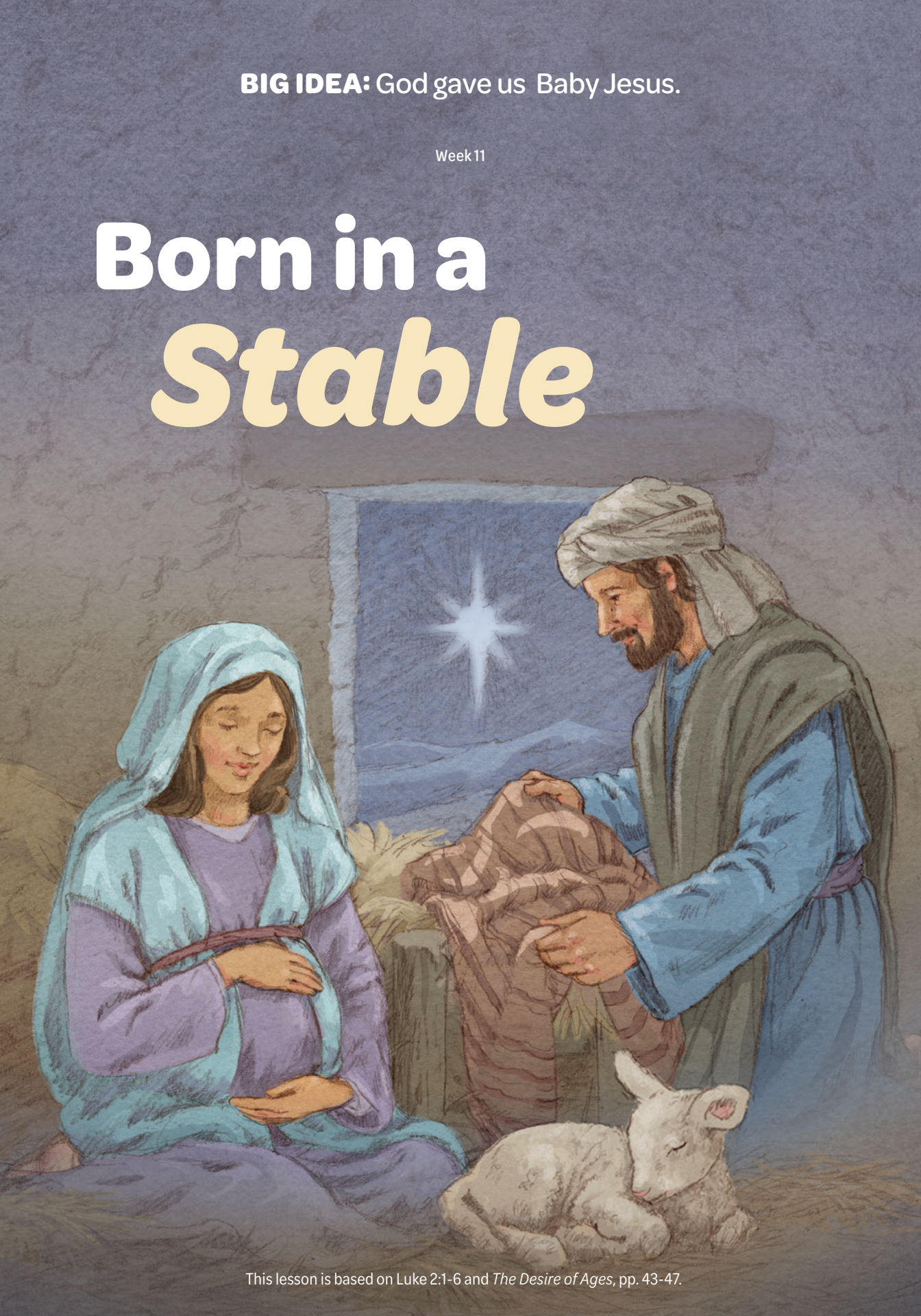
BIG IDEA: God gave us Baby Jesus.

Week 11

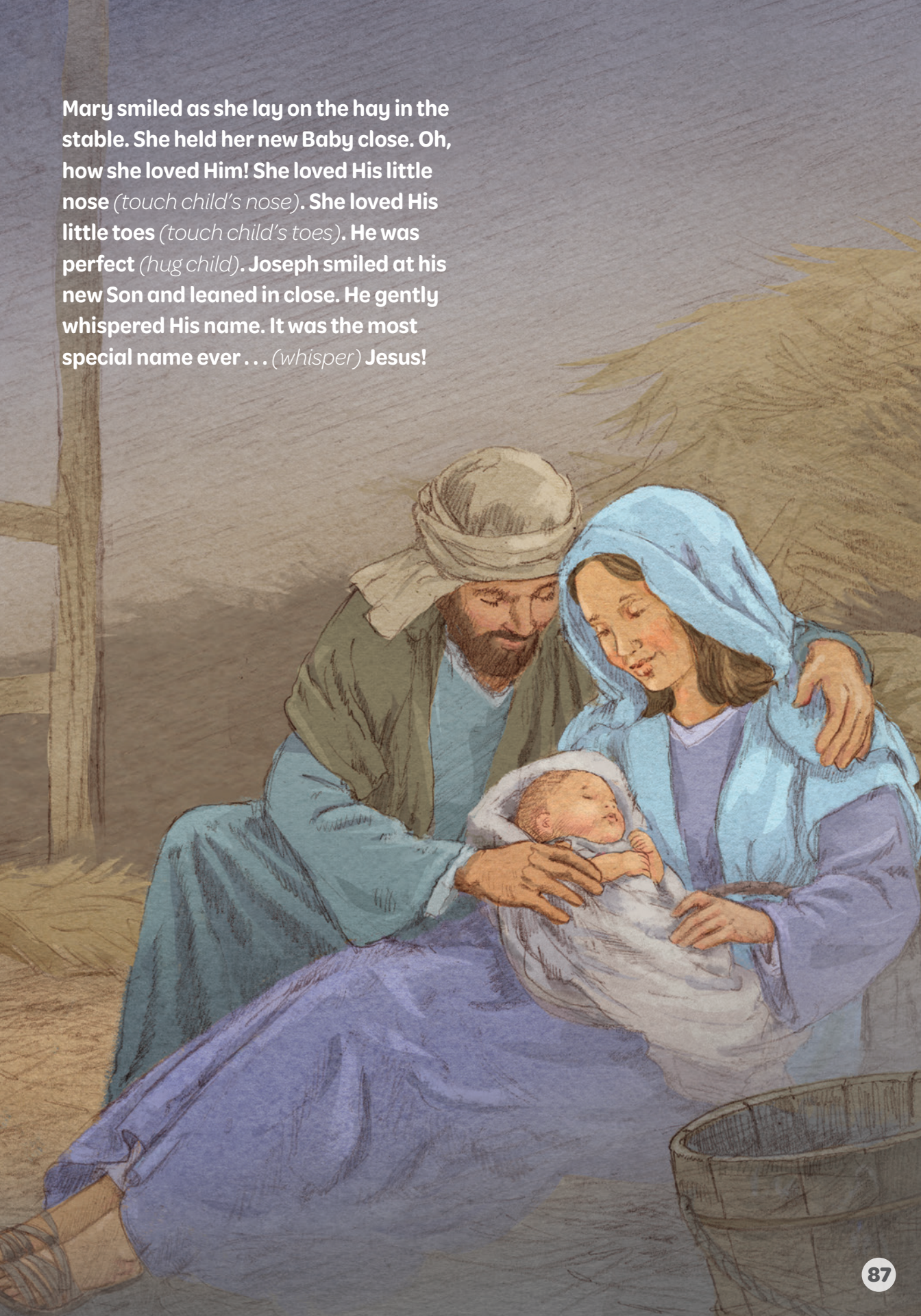
Born in a *Stable*



This lesson is based on Luke 2:1-6 and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-47.



All was quiet in Bethlehem. Little children were tucked in their beds, asleep. Big sisters and brothers were sleeping too. *(Shh!)* **Even mommies and daddies were asleep.** *(Shh!)* **Inside the stable, old cow, woolly sheep, and little donkey were sleeping too. All was quiet and still. Until . . . What's that sound? It was the cry of Mary's newborn Baby!** *(Wah, wah!)*



Mary smiled as she lay on the hay in the stable. She held her new Baby close. Oh, how she loved Him! She loved His little nose *(touch child's nose)***. She loved His little toes** *(touch child's toes)***. He was perfect** *(hug child)***. Joseph smiled at his new Son and leaned in close. He gently whispered His name. It was the most special name ever . . .** *(whisper)* **Jesus!**

Mary wrapped little Baby Jesus in cloth. He needed a bed. Where would Baby Jesus, God's Son, sleep? Joseph looked around the stable. He found a manger, the animal's feeding tray. He filled the manger with fresh hay. The manger would hold precious Baby Jesus while He slept.



Mary kissed Baby Jesus good night. Joseph squeezed His little hand. Old cow mooed softly *(moo, moo)***, and little donkey nuzzled Joseph's arm. Woolly lamb baaed her welcome to Baby Jesus** *(baa, baa)***. Angels watched the little Baby from above. God had sent Baby Jesus to the world! Mary cried happy tears.**



Sleep sweetly, Baby Jesus. Angels are watching over you. Sleep sweetly, Baby Jesus. God the Father is always with you. Sleep sweetly, Baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph will love and care for you. Sleep sweetly, Baby Jesus. We will love you too!

(Say together) **Thank you, God for sending Baby Jesus.**



play
Throughout the Day

Create
Using clay or play-dough, create a little Nativity scene. Make a stable, manger, animals, and Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. If using clay, let it dry and then place it somewhere in the house where you can see it for this season.

Play
Act out the story using a doll and stuffed animals that you have at home. Ask your child how to hold a brand-new baby. Wrap up your "Baby Jesus" in a blanket and sing Him to sleep. Set up the animals around Baby Jesus. Holding your "baby," read the lesson story again together.

Serve
Put together a little newborn package with your child. You could write a card, buy an outfit or some diapers and wipes, and deliver them to someone who has just had a baby. If you don't know anyone in this situation, you could drop it off at your local maternity ward or shelter. Share with your child how Jesus came to serve others.

Sing
Learn and sing "Away in a Manger" and/or "Silent Night" together as a family for worship. Talk about the place where Jesus was born. Talk also about the silent night Jesus was born into. What might you have heard? What might you have smelled? What might you have seen?

Pray
Thank God for sending Baby Jesus so that everyone could know Him.



Extension weekly memory verse: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Our God wants to be known by us, and so He sent Jesus to reveal His loving, merciful, true, and just character to humanity, to restore us back into a close relationship with Him. Jesus came down to change the trajectory of our future. No matter what our circumstances or backgrounds, nothing should stop us from knowing Jesus personally. He didn't come just for the rich or educated. He came for us all!

"The King of glory stooped low to take humanity. . . . His glory was veiled, that the majesty of His outward form might not become an object of attraction. He shunned all outward display. Riches, worldly honor, and human greatness can never save a soul from death; Jesus purposed that no attraction of an earthly nature should call men to His side. Only the beauty of heavenly truth must draw those who would follow Him. The character of the Messiah had long been foretold in prophecy, and He desired men to accept Him upon the testimony of the word of God" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 43).

How true that the beauty of Jesus' heavenly truth drew men to Him. His kind eyes, warm smile, and gentle touch spoke of true love to so many. He really *did* come to serve and not be served (Mark 10:45). The evidence of His humble, servant heart is clear in that stable; for the God of all glory met with His created beings in the form of an innocent and helpless babe. What an amazing God!

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:10, 11).

