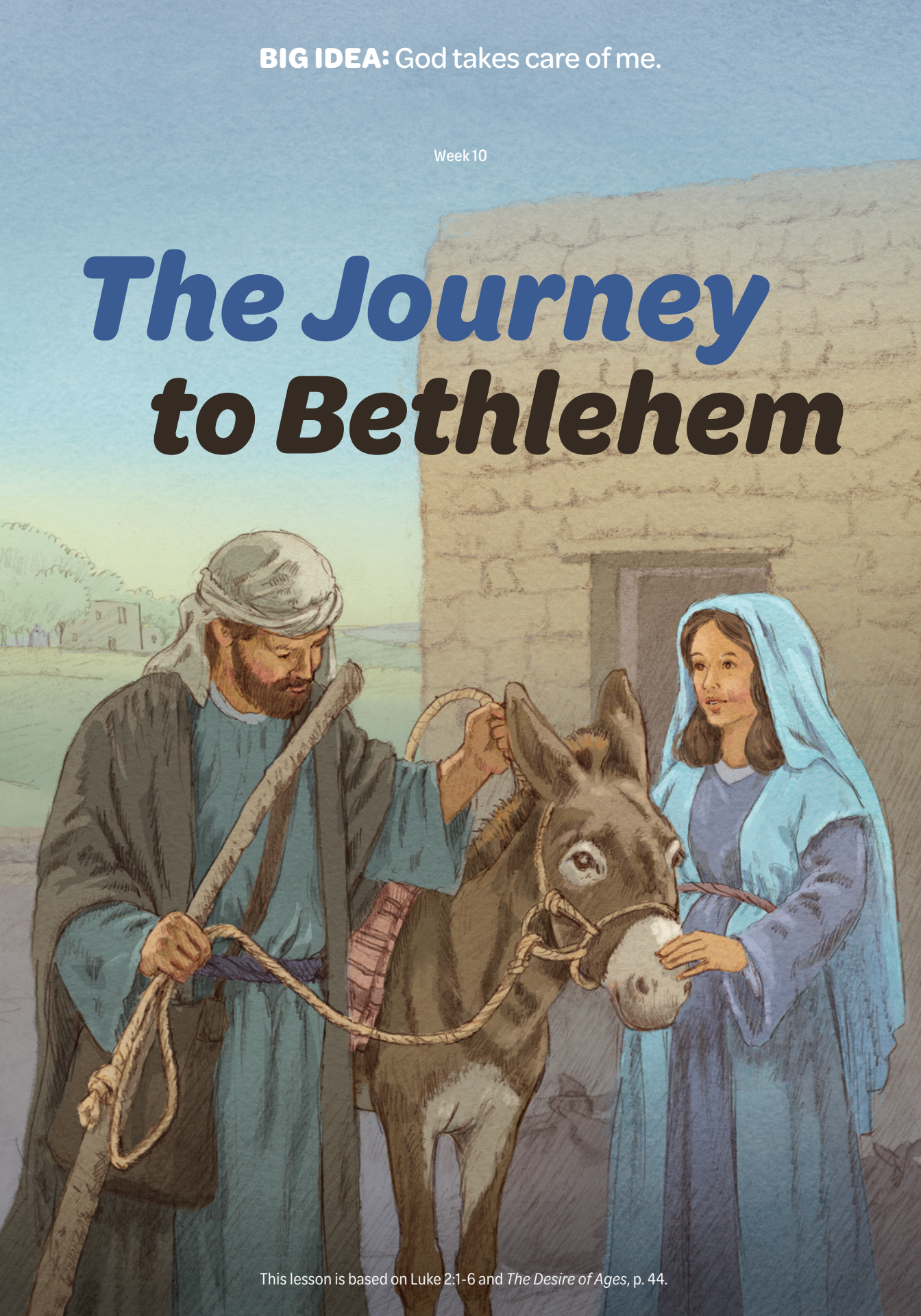
BIG IDEA: God takes care of me.

Week 10

The Journey to Bethlehem



This lesson is based on Luke 2:1-6 and *The Desire of Ages*, p. 44.



Mary carefully rolled up their blankets. Joseph tied them onto the back of little donkey. It was time to go. Mary and Joseph were going on a trip to Bethlehem. Mary climbed onto little donkey's back. She was happy that little donkey could carry her. Baby Jesus was getting big in her tummy. It was almost time for Him to be born.

Clip-clop, clip-clop **went little donkey, down the road. The road was bumpy** *(give your child a bumpy knee ride)*. **Mary was tired. Joseph stopped in the shade to give Mary a drink. Little donkey was thirsty too. After a long time of walking, they s-l-o-w-l-y walked down the last hill. They could see the tiny lights of Bethlehem in the distance. Little donkey walked faster now. *Clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop*. Mary smiled at Joseph. Soon they would be able to rest.**

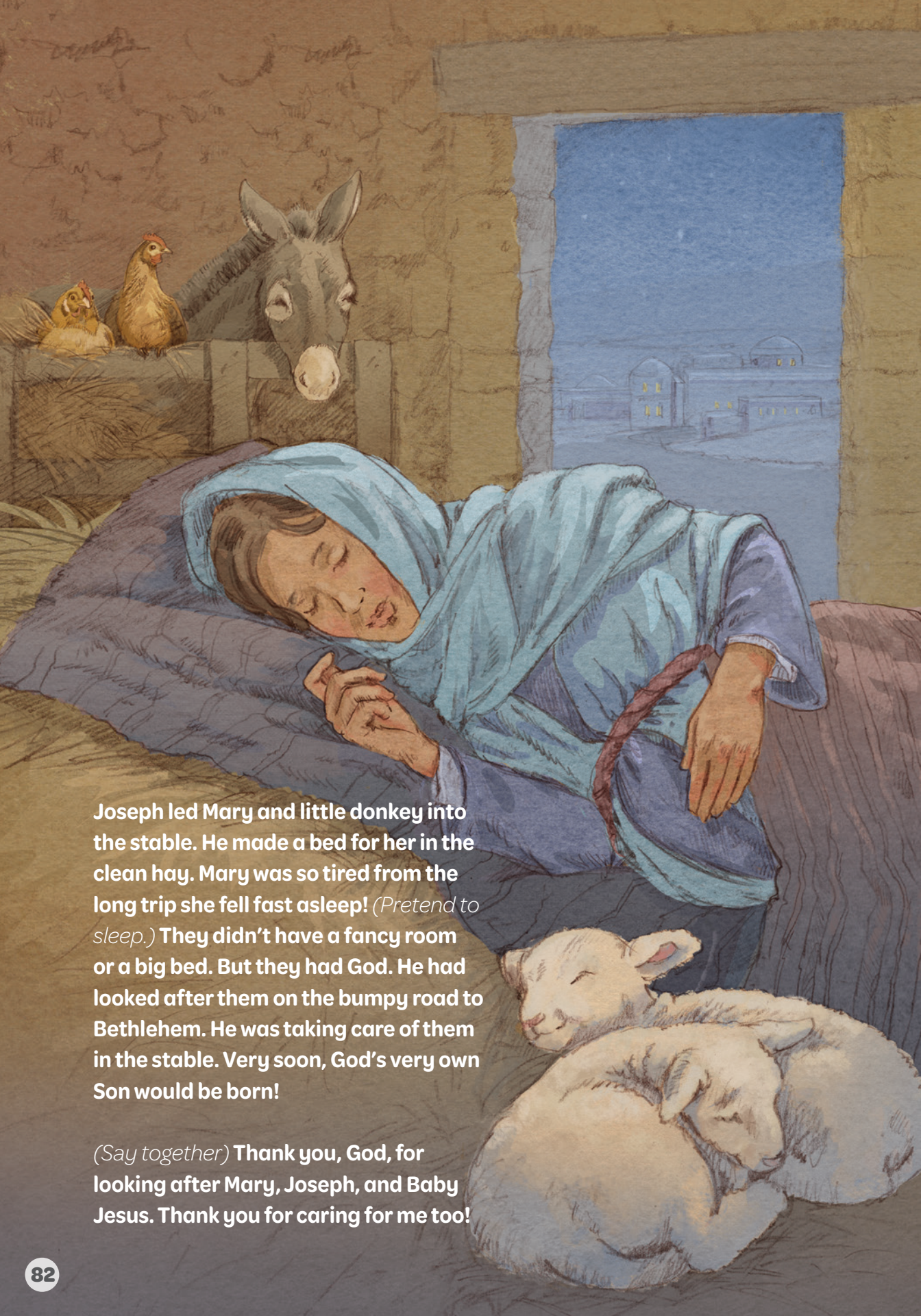


Joseph led little donkey and Mary right to the door of an inn—a place to stay. ***Knock, knock, knock.*** Joseph waited at the door. There were so many people in Bethlehem. Joseph knocked again—louder this time. ***Knock, knock, knock.*** The innkeeper answered the door. His inn was already full of visitors. He sadly shook his head *(shake head)*. **"There was no room for them in the inn"** *(Luke 2:7)*.





Joseph looked over at Mary. She was so tired. She really needed a bed! The innkeeper had an idea. He did have one little room . . . It wasn't in a house. It didn't even have a bed. But it would keep them safe and warm. He led Joseph to a stable where the animals lived. There was a gentle old cow who mooed softly *(moo)*, **a few lambs** *(baa)*, **and some chickens** *(cluck, cluck)*. **There was a spot for little donkey, and lots of soft hay.**



Joseph led Mary and little donkey into the stable. He made a bed for her in the clean hay. Mary was so tired from the long trip she fell fast asleep! *(Pretend to sleep.)* **They didn't have a fancy room or a big bed. But they had God. He had looked after them on the bumpy road to Bethlehem. He was taking care of them in the stable. Very soon, God's very own Son would be born!**

(Say together) **Thank you, God, for looking after Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. Thank you for caring for me too!**

play
Throughout the Day

Create
Create a little stable by gluing craft sticks around a small cardboard box. Make little animals peek out of the stable.

Play
Act out the story in your living room. Pretend to be the donkey and have your child ride on your back. *Clip-clop* went little donkey all the way to Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary were trusting God to care for them.

Explore
Go for a long walk somewhere in nature, if possible. Share how tired Mary must have been. Put down a blanket to sit on. Talk about how they would have slept under the stars on their way. It may have taken at least four days to walk there. God took care of them.

Create
Make a heart out of paper or cardstock. Cut two doors that open in the middle of the heart. Behind the doors, glue a picture of Jesus. Place this somewhere where your child can see it often.

Pray
Sing your favorite Christmas song together, then pray. Thank God for sending Baby Jesus, and for taking care of Him. Thank Him for taking care of you.



Extension weekly memory verse: "He will be called the Son of the Highest" (Luke 1:32).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents



What would you do if Jesus knocked on your front door today? Would you ask Him to come back later? Would you politely host Him as you would a stranger, or would you invite Him to help himself to the fridge and the comfy couch, as you would a dear, faithful friend?

There was no room for Jesus in Bethlehem. But He wants you to make room in your heart for Him.

If there are things that are stopping you from spending time with God, let them go. Create a new routine. Ask God to show you what you need to give up in order to be totally free for Him.

Find a time that works best to enjoy quiet time with Jesus. Commit to making this a habit every day. Pray for God to take center-stage in your life.

Jesus doesn't want to only be included in our lives during our devotion time—He wants a place in our hearts all day, every day! When you are happy—praise Him! When you are worried or frustrated—come to Him with your burdens. Talk with Him throughout your day. Sing to Him in the car. Let your everyday life be an offering to Him.

Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

