

# The Manger on the Mantel™

Sharing the  
True Gift of  
Christmas



written by David Mead • Illustrated by Ed Koehler

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The manger on the mantel  
holds a wonderful surprise ...

Before we light the Christmas tree  
and decorate the halls,  
My mother clears the mantelpiece  
for something dear and small.

She takes it from a special box marked  
"Handle Me With Care,"  
And sets it on the mantel  
in the place she has prepared.



What is this precious item  
that is first to be displayed?  
Why does my mother always start  
the season in this way?



It is the tiny manger  
from my family's manger scene,  
The manger on the mantel,  
and I'll tell you what it means.

**M**y parents shared the story with me  
when I was quite young.  
They told me that God promised  
he would send the world his Son.



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Sharing the True Gift  
of Christmas

As a young child watches his mother unpack the family Nativity scene, he reflects on the events of the first Christmas night and the precious gift God put on display in the Bethlehem manger.

Start a new tradition this year as you share the joyful message discovered in the Manger on the Mantel. Find the Manger on the Mantel activity sheet at the center of this book and follow the instructions for assembly. Put your manger on display.

Each day of December, pick a present from the manger. Follow the directions for the day, remembering that the good and loving things we do are done because God gives us the good and loving gift of Jesus!

