



A MOTHER REMEMBERS HER CHILD

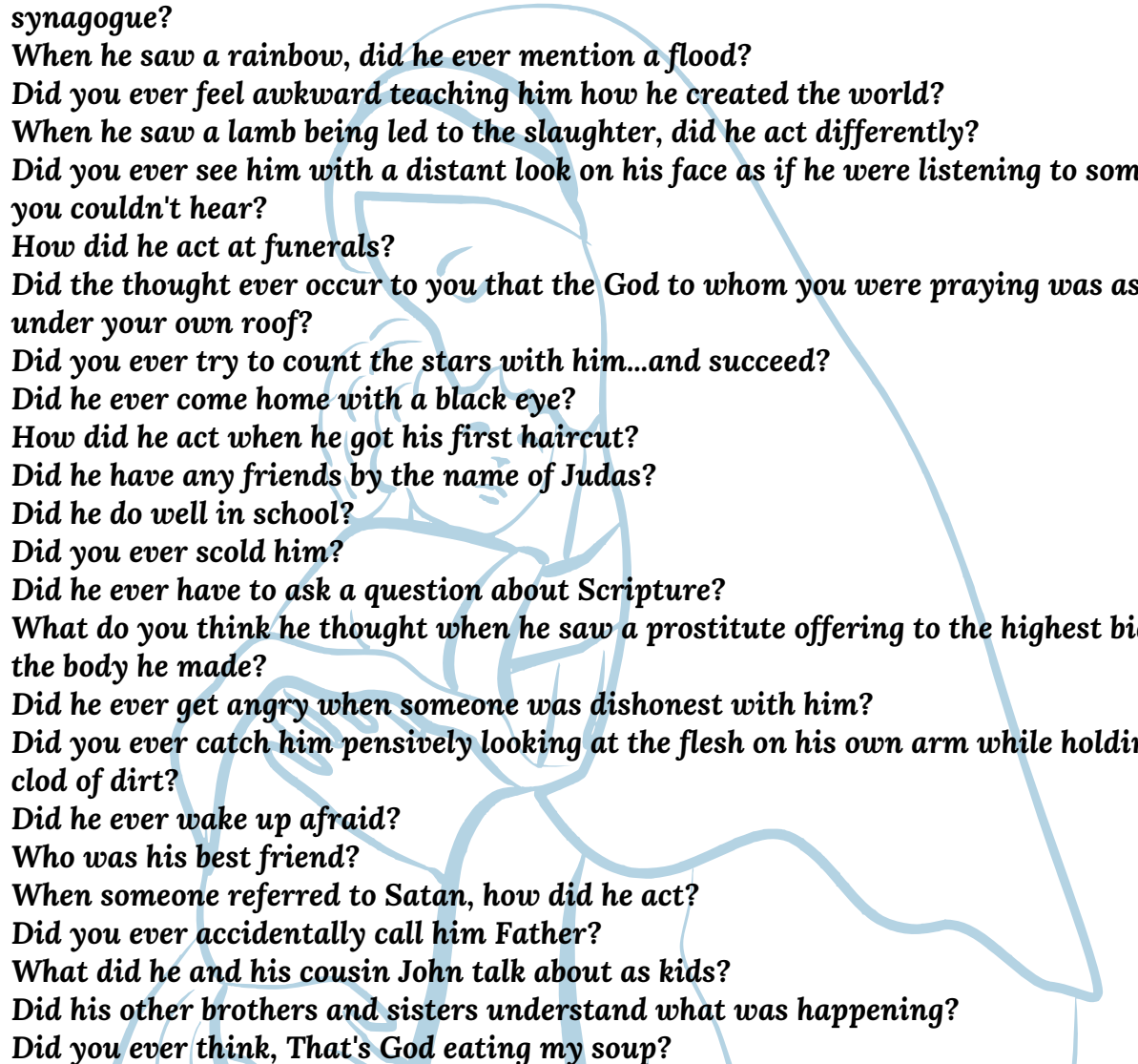
Christmas is the day in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. That is amazing. Candice Pires, an author for the online magazine, The Guardian, wrote this about birth:

Our birth stories get lost when our newborns are put into our arms. There's no time to look back as we hurtle headfirst into caregiving. But birth is a miracle, right? Another person grows inside you and then gets out of your body and lives its own life. It is objectively, painfully, hilariously awe-inspiring. As traumatic as it is hopeful.¹

Imagine sitting down with Mary, the woman who gave birth to Jesus! What would a conversation with her be like? In his book, *God Came Near*, Max Lucado lists twenty-five questions that he would have for Mary about her baby Jesus. I shared them with you a decade ago and I thought it would be good to bring them out again.



¹ Candice Pires, Pushed to the limit: six birth stories from around the world, The Guardian, at <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/nov/24/pushed-to-the-limit-six-birth-stories-from-around-the-world>, accessed on 11/14/2021.



**What was it like watching him pray?
How did he respond when he saw other kids giggling during the service at the synagogue?
When he saw a rainbow, did he ever mention a flood?
Did you ever feel awkward teaching him how he created the world?
When he saw a lamb being led to the slaughter, did he act differently?
Did you ever see him with a distant look on his face as if he were listening to someone you couldn't hear?
How did he act at funerals?
Did the thought ever occur to you that the God to whom you were praying was asleep under your own roof?
Did you ever try to count the stars with him...and succeed?
Did he ever come home with a black eye?
How did he act when he got his first haircut?
Did he have any friends by the name of Judas?
Did he do well in school?
Did you ever scold him?
Did he ever have to ask a question about Scripture?
What do you think he thought when he saw a prostitute offering to the highest bidder the body he made?
Did he ever get angry when someone was dishonest with him?
Did you ever catch him pensively looking at the flesh on his own arm while holding a clod of dirt?
Did he ever wake up afraid?
Who was his best friend?
When someone referred to Satan, how did he act?
Did you ever accidentally call him Father?
What did he and his cousin John talk about as kids?
Did his other brothers and sisters understand what was happening?
Did you ever think, That's God eating my soup?**

There they are. Let me suggest that you bring these questions up during this advent season with your family around the table. It would be fun to see how those around the table would imagine how Mary would answer these questions.

In Him and for His glory,

Pastor Art