

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH SIDE READERS

國際英文輔助讀物 *130*

NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

新約故事

著作：L FAUCETT 博士

編註：王 渝 安

800 WORD LEVEL

800 常用字範圍



遠東圖書公司

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH

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# NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

Told by

L. W. and M. G. M. FAUCETT

**800 WORD LEVEL**

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## 編輯要旨

1. 本叢書共選出日常用字1500字，均屬說話、書寫、閱讀及兒童讀物中出現率 (word frequency) 極高之本字彙。
2. 本叢書分爲十五冊，第一冊以日常用字 100 字爲度，第二冊以 200 字爲度，以此類推至第十五冊，日常用字即達 1500 字。
3. 本叢書內容包括童話、寓言、故事、戲劇、文學名著等，各種文體俱備。
4. 本叢書每冊皆附有生字表及成語註釋，以便查閱。
5. 本叢書每冊後均附有練習，以供讀者自修。
6. 凡注有星號 (\*) 之字爲超出1500字範圍以外者，書中均以插圖或文字解釋。

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This book is a Side Reader to be read with any series. It is written in simple but idiomatic language suitable for reading during the *third* year of learning English or thereafter.

Words outside the 800 WORD LEVEL are starred (\*), and illustrated or explained in the text.

**MASTER THE 800 WORD LEVEL.**

**THEN READ THE STORIES QUICKLY WITHOUT TRANSLATION TILL YOU ARE READING EASILY.**

**THEN GO ON TO THE 900 WORD LEVEL.**



## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

(Three \*shepherds' are sitting round a fire. Their sheep are lying near. Except for the stars, the night is very dark.)

### 1. In the Open Fields

*1st Shepherd.* It's cold tonight, colder than it has been any night this winter.

*2nd Shepherd.* I like to be out in the open air on a beautiful night like this. As I watch the sheep on such a night, I think of things that never come into my head when I'm at home. I wonder why that is so.



*3rd Shepherd.* Everything is so quiet out here—only a \*sheep-bell now and then and the wind in the trees. \*Heaven' seems close

1 shepherd = a keeper of sheep. 2. Heaven = God in the sky.

to a man when the stars are so bright.

*1st Shepherd.* Tonight the stars seem nearer than ever before. There's one over there which seems to be moving toward us.

*2nd Shepherd.* I've been watching the same star. It seemed to be growing larger and brighter as I watched it. But I've never known a star to do this. I thought that I had been looking into our fire so long that my eyes were imagining things that weren't really happening.

*3rd Shepherd.* Fifty years and more have I watched sheep in these fields, but never before have I seen such a star!

*1st Shepherd.* It has stopped moving, hasn't it? It must be just over the little town of Bethlehem.

*2nd Shepherd.* Look, look, friends! What's that light coming toward us?

*3rd Shepherd.* It hurts my eyes. It's too strong to look at. Let's hide before it reaches us—I'm frightened.

*1st Shepherd.* There's no place here to hide. What shall we do?

*(An \*angel<sup>1</sup> stands before them.)*

*Angel.* Be not afraid!

*2nd Shepherd.* Who are you? An angel? What can you want with three poor shepherds?

*Angel.* I come to bring joyful news to you and all men!

*1st Shepherd.* Joyful news? What can he mean?

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1 *angel* = a heavenly spirit.

*Angel.* One is born this day in Bethlehem who will save all men.

*3rd Shepherd.* Oh, good angel, tell us again this joyful news, that we may go to find him who comes to save us and all men. How shall we know him?



*Angel.* You'll find the baby lying in a \*manger with Mary, his mother, by his side. (*The angel goes.*)

*1st Shepherd.* Oh, listen, listen, friends! The air is full of \*music!<sup>1</sup>

*2nd Shepherd.* I see hundreds of angels! I can hear what they are singing! The words are, 'Peace on earth, good will among men.'

*3rd Shepherd.* He who will save all men, even us, the poor shepherds of Bethlehem, is born this night.

1. music=singing and beautiful sounds.



*1st Shepherd.* Come, the angel has gone. Let's go into Bethlehem to find the place where the child is.

*2nd Shepherd.* Let us take a little 'lamb' with us for the child to play with.

*3rd Shepherd.* A lamb is a small present, but we can give it to the mother with great love in our hearts.

*1st Shepherd.* Come, friends, let's go quickly. We must tell the people of Bethlehem what we've seen and heard in the fields tonight.

*2nd Shepherd.* Listen! Far away I can still hear the voices of the angels singing, 'Peace on earth, good will among men.'

## 2. In Bethlehem

*1st Shepherd.* Which way shall we go, friends?

*2nd Shepherd.* Let's ask at that house if the child is there.

*3rd Shepherd.* I have asked. The man there tells me that a man called Joseph came to his house, wanting a place for the night, but there was no room.

*1st Shepherd.* Then where shall we look? There are no other houses in Bethlehem where strangers can get rooms.

*2nd Shepherd.* Didn't the angel say we'd find the child sleeping in a manger?

*3rd Shepherd.* Yes, the angel did say that.

*1st Shepherd.* Look! There's the star straight

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1 *lamb* = young sheep, as in the picture on page 5.

in front of us. Perhaps it's over the place where the mother and child are lying. Let's follow the star.

*2nd Shepherd.* It seems to be over that \*stable<sup>1</sup> where the cows are kept.

*3rd Shepherd.* There's a light coming from the doorway just like the light which we saw when the angel was speaking to us.

*1st Shepherd.* Once again I hear the sound of music in the air. Come, my friend, come! This must be the place where the child is lying. Bring the little lamb, that the good people inside may know that we come in peace, to honor the child.

### 3. *Inside the Stable*

*(Mary and Joseph are there, looking at the child sleeping in the manger; on either side of the manger, the animals are quietly eating their food.)*

*Joseph.* How beautiful he is! He sleeps peacefully, Mary, even though he's in a manger.

*Mary.* There's a light from heaven in his face, Joseph. Do you hear angel voices, too? The whole air seems full of music tonight.

*(The shepherds come and stand at the door.)*

*Joseph (seeing them).* Come in, friends.

*1st Shepherd.* We've come to find the little child who was born this night.

*2nd Shepherd.* With peace and love in our hearts, we come to see the child.

*3rd Shepherd.* We are only poor shepherds of

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1 See the picture of the inside of a stable on page 5.

the fields, but we bring this little white lamb, that the child may have it to play with, when he's a little older.

*Joseph.* Kind friends, come in out of the night air. (*They enter the stable.*) The child is sleeping now. His mother is sitting by the manger.

*1st Shepherd.* Are you Mary, the mother of whom the angel spoke?

*Mary.* I am Mary, and this is the child. You may come closer to see him if you wish. See how he smiles in his sleep.

*2nd Shepherd.* How peaceful is his face!

*3rd Shepherd.* I'm an old man and my life is nearly ended. I thank God that I have lived to see this wonderful night. The stars above us and the voices of angels in the air tell us that this is indeed the child for whom we have waited.

*1st Shepherd.* Let's go and tell all men what we have seen and heard tonight. The one who has come to save men is born! Thanks be to God! Peace on earth, good will to all men!

## THE YOUNGER SON

### A STORY WHICH JESUS TOLD

#### 1. *In a Rich Man's House*

*(The Rich Man is sitting at a table. His younger son is standing before him.)*

*Father.* My son, you wish to speak with me?

*Son.* Yes, Father. I'm sorry to say that I'm tired of living in this place. I want to go out into the world, to see other places and peoples.

*Father.* My son, I know that there's little here to keep you except the love which we, your family, have for you.

*Son.* Father, I know that you love me, but I feel that I shall never be happy so long as this wish is strong in my heart. Give me the money that's to be mine, and let me go.

*Father.* Ah, my dear son, I see that there's only one way to make you happy, and that's to let you go. Tomorrow I'll have your money ready for you. When you're far away in foreign lands among strange peoples, always remember that at home there's love and a welcome waiting for you.

*Son.* Thank you, Father. You are indeed good to me. I'll never forget the loving way in which you have understood my wish to travel. When I've seen the world, I'll return home.

## 2. In a Foreign Land

*1st Man.* Look over there! That's the young foreigner who came here not long ago with so much money.

*2nd Man.* Where? Those people look poor, every one of them. I don't see any young man who looks rich.

*1st Man.* They *are* poor, and the poorest among them is the man I'm speaking about.

*2nd Man.* Do you mean that young man who looks so hungry, and whose clothes look as if they might fall off his back?

*1st Man.* Yes, that's the man. When he came, he was dressed in the finest clothes, and he had many servants to wait on him.

*2nd Man.* Then what has happened to him?

*1st Man.* Oh, he was a foolish young man. He bought a large house, made friends with many young people as foolish as he, and kept his house full of such persons. Of course the young people were willing to stay with him as long as he gave them expensive food and drink and a good time. But they were not true friends and had a bad influence on him. They simply wasted his money and his goods, so that it was not long before his money bags were empty.

*2nd Man.* Surely the young man has a good father to advise him against such a wasteful way of living?

*1st Man.* I believe he has. He told a friend

of mine, for whom he's working now, that his father was a gentle and good man, who would gladly send for him to return home if he knew how poor he was. But he feels guilty and is proud;



he's unwilling to return home because he has wasted all his money in wild living.

*2nd Man.* What kind of work is he doing?

*1st Man.* He's a keeper of \*pigs. It's the only kind of work that he could find to do.

*2nd Man.* What has happened to all his friends? Can't they help him?

*1st Man.* They only laugh at him. The fact is they weren't really his friends. Indeed he would have been better off if he had never met them.

*2nd Man.* I'm sorry for him, and don't blame him. He's learning a hard lesson. I hope he'll return to his home soon.

*(They go out talking.)*

### 3. *In the Fields*

*(The younger son is seen sitting in a field, looking sadly toward the land where his home is.)*

*Younger Son.* My father's many servants have enough food, while I sit here dying of hunger! I'll get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have done wrong before God. I'm no longer good enough to be called your son. Let me then return home, and work for you as a paid servant.'

*(He rises as he says this, and walks quickly away.)*

### 4. *In the Home of the Father*

*(The old father is sitting at a window, looking out over a road that leads to the city. A servant stands near.)*

*Father.* It's a long time since I heard any news of my dear son. I am worried about him. Many months have passed since his last letter came.

*Servant.* Yes, sir, it was more than nine months ago that the merchant brought you a letter.

*Father.* Nine months—is that all? To me it seems more than that. But come closer, look out of this window. Isn't that my son, walking so slowly toward the house?

*Servant.* Indeed, master, it seems to be. Yet this man is walking as one who fears he will not be welcome.

*Father.* Oh, my son, my poor son! I must go

to meet him. Come with me to welcome my long absent son.

*(They go out.)*



### **5. The Same Room. A Few Minutes Later**

*(The father enters, helping his son, who is weak and very tired, worn out by hunger and his hard trip.)*

**Father.** My son, my son! Thank God that you've returned safely at last!

**Son** *(falling at his father's feet).* Father, I have done wrong against God and you. I'm no longer good enough to be called your son.

**Father** *(raising him to his feet).* My son, all that is past. You are and always will be my dear son. *(He calls for his servants. Two of them enter.)* Take the finest clothes to the room of my son, that he



may put them on. Bring a \*ring for his hand

and shoes for his feet. And prepare the fatted \*calf to be killed. We must eat and be happy tonight because this, my son, was dead, but he has come back to life; he was lost, but he has been found.

*Servants.* Thanks be to God that your son has returned again. We'll go at once to prepare the fatted calf.

## **6. In the Garden outside the House**

*(People are singing inside the house. Servants are going in and out of the house, carrying fine foods of all kinds. The Rich Man's other son enters, hears the noise, then calls to a servant who is passing.)*

*The Brother.* What's the meaning of all this? Why is there singing and dancing in my father's house?

*Servant.* Your young brother has returned, and we are full of joy.

*The Brother.* My brother?

*Servant.* Yes, he came this afternoon. Your father has ordered us to kill and cook the fatted calf. Tonight there is dancing and singing because he has come home safely at last.