

THE ANGEL'S CANDLE



Week Two

The Angel's Candle - Week Two

(Each day light 2 candles, pray, and say the key verse together.)

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, December 6, 7 and 8

In Bible times God used his angels to bring special messages to people on earth. The following exciting event happened a little more than a year before Jesus was born.

Luke 1:5-25

5 It all begins with a Jewish priest, Zechariah, who lived when Herod was king of Judea. Zechariah was a member of the priestly order of Abijah. His wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. 6 Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. 7 They had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and now they were both very old. 8 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. 9 As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary and burn incense in the Lord's presence. 10 While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. 11 Zechariah was in the sanctuary when an angel of the Lord appeared, standing to the right of the incense altar. 12 Zechariah was overwhelmed with fear. 13 But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! For God has heard your prayer, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son!

And you are to name him John.

14 You will have great joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice with you at his birth,
15 for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord.
He must never touch wine or hard liquor,
and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.
16 And he will persuade many Israelites to turn to the Lord their God.
17 He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah, the prophet of old.
He will precede the coming of the Lord,
preparing the people for his arrival.
He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children,
and he will change disobedient minds to accept godly wisdom."

18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." 19 Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! 20 And now, since you didn't believe what I said, you won't be able to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly come true at the proper time." 21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out, wondering why he was taking so long. 22 When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures that he must have seen a vision in the Temple sanctuary. 23 He stayed at the Temple until his term of service was over, and then he returned home. 24 Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. 25 "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children!"

You have 3 days to do this assignment. Read the story one time for each color you mark. This means you will read the story 6 times. You may want to do 3 colors on the first day and 3 colors the second day, and then answer the questions the third day.

1. Make a yellow crown around the word 'king' and color it in with yellow.
2. Make a purple triangle over the words 'God,' 'Lord,' and 'Lord's' and pronouns 'he' and 'his' that refer to God.
3. Make orange angel wings around the word 'angel' and 'Gabriel' and pronouns 'I' and 'me' and 'my.'
4. Circle in brown the words 'John,' and pronouns 'he' and 'him.'
5. Circle in brown the words 'son,' 'man,' and 'child' that refer to John.
6. Make a blue bird above the words 'Holy Spirit' and 'spirit.'

Who is the main person in this story? His name starts with 'Z.' _____

What was his wife's name? _____

We learned in the story of Samuel and David that the LORD looks at a person's thoughts and intentions. What did God's eyes see when he looked at the Zechariah and Elizabeth?
(v.6) _____

Who appeared to Zechariah? _____ named _____

What good news was brought to Zechariah? _____

Who sent this news? (v. 19) _____

Make a list of everything the angel says about the son who will be born to Zechariah and Elizabeth. . . . (vs. 13-17)

His name - _____

He will (v. 15) _____

He must (v. 15) _____

He will be filled (v. 15) _____

He will persuade (v. 16) _____

He will be a man with (v. 17) _____

He will precede (v. 17) _____

He will prepare (v. 17) _____

He will turn (v. 17) _____

He will change (v. 17) _____

Talk Together: How important do you think John would be when he grew up to be a man? God uses people to do special jobs for him here on earth. Do you think that God may have a special job for you? What do you think it might be?

Wednesday and Thursday, December 9 and 10

People might expect an angel to appear in the temple to an important person like the Priest Zechariah, but would they expect an angel to appear to a simple Jewish girl in a village in Galilee? Read this exciting story and find out how this happened.

The Birth of Jesus Foretold by the Angel Gabriel

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,

27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

30 "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to bless you!

31 You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus.

32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin."

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's already in her sixth month.

37 For nothing is impossible with God."

38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true." And then the angel left.

1. Make a purple triangle over the words 'God,' 'Lord,' and pronoun 'he' and the words 'Most High.'
2. Make orange angel wings around the word 'angel' and 'Gabriel' and pronoun 'you.'
3. Put a pink heart shape around the word 'Mary' and the pronouns 'she,' 'her,' 'woman,' 'you,' 'I,' and 'your.'
4. Make a yellow crown around the words 'king' and 'kingdom' and color them in with yellow.
5. Circle the word 'David' in green.
6. Put a red cross over the word 'Jesus' and the pronouns 'son,' 'him,' 'he,' and 'his' and the word 'baby.'
7. Make a blue bird above the word 'Spirit.'

Who sent the angel Gabriel with a message for Mary? _____

How did Mary feel when she saw the angel? (vs.29 & 30) _____

What was Mary to name the son she would have? (v.31) _____

What would Jesus be called? (v.32) _____

How long will he reign? (v.33) _____

What does the angel say about God's power? (v.37) _____

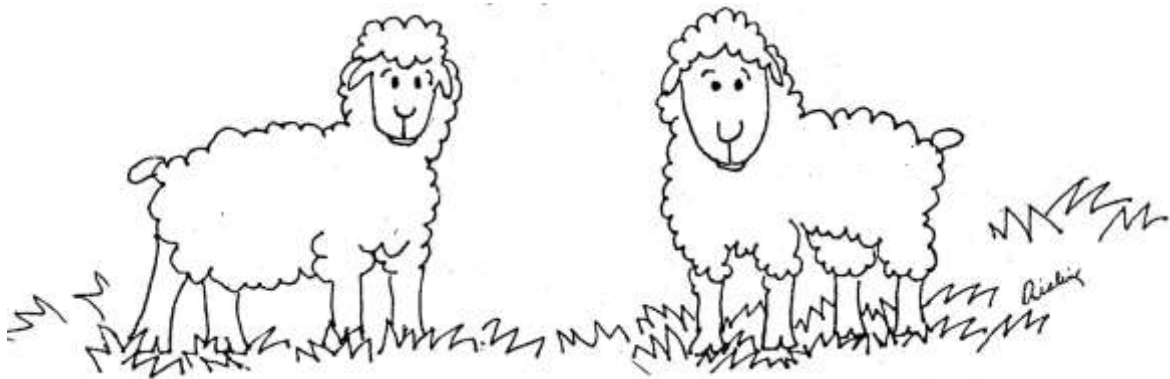
How does Mary respond to the words of the angel? (v. 38) _____

Using a yellow highlighter, highlight verse 37 and memorize it.

Talk Together: The angel told Mary that God had decided to bless her with the privilege of being the mother of his son Jesus. This was a huge responsibility. Since God knows the thoughts and intentions of a person's heart, what kind of a heart do you think Mary had that God could trust her with this amazing assignment? Does her answer in verse 38 tell us anything about her heart?

Talk Together: If God asked you to do something special for Him, could He count on you to do it? Talk about some of the things He might be asking you to do today, like being kind to your family members or helping someone with their work.

Talk Together: Talk about things that have happened in your life that seemed hard or even impossible, but when you prayed to God and asked Him for help, He made them happen.







Mary and the Angel

Friday, December 11

Can you imagine how excited Mary must have been as she thought about the visit of the angel and the news that she would be the mother of the Son of God! She really needed to talk to someone about all these amazing happenings, and because the angel had told her that her relative Elizabeth was going to have a baby by a miracle of God, she hurried to Elizabeth's house.

Luke 1:39-45

39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town

40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.

41 At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "You are blessed by God above all other women, and your child is blessed

43 What an honor this is, that the mother of my Lord should visit me!

44 When you came in and greeted me, my baby jumped for joy the instant I heard your voice!

45 You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

1. Put a pink heart shape around the word 'Mary' and the pronouns 'she,' 'you,' and 'your' and the word 'mother' that refers to Mary.
2. Make a blue bird above the word 'Spirit.'
3. In v. 42 put a red cross over the word 'child' and in v. 43 put a red cross over the word 'Lord'.
4. Make a purple triangle over the word 'God,' and in v. 45 put a purple triangle over the word 'Lord' and pronoun 'he.'
5. Make a green rectangle around the word 'believed' and color it in with yellow.

What did Elizabeth say about Mary in v. 42? _____

What did Elizabeth say about Mary's child in v. 42? _____

What did Elizabeth say was the reason Mary was blessed? (v.45) _____

How did Elizabeth feel about Mary's visit? (v.43) _____

Talk Together: Because Elizabeth had been studying and obeying all the Lord's commandments, she also knew the promises of God that He had put with His commandments. She knew that the promised Messiah was going to come very soon. The Bible is full of the promises of God. Mary and Elizabeth both believed God's promises. Do you believe God's promises? What are some of the promises of God that are special to you?



Elizabeth and Mary

Saturday, December 12

Yesterday we read how Mary hurried over to visit her relative Elizabeth, and that Elizabeth was very excited to see her. Elizabeth said some very kind words to Mary, and today we will read how Mary responds. These words that Mary speaks have been given the title “The Magnificat,” and they have been made into songs in many languages, and have been sung by great soloists and choirs around the world for centuries.

Mary's Song of Praise - “The Magnificat”

Luke 1:46-56

46 Mary responded,

 "Oh, how I praise the Lord.

47 How I rejoice in God my Savior!

48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and now generation after generation
will call me blessed.

49 For he, the Mighty One, is holy,
and he has done great things for me.

50 His mercy goes on from generation to generation,
to all who fear him.

51 His mighty arm does tremendous things!
How he scatters the proud and haughty ones!

52 He has taken princes from their thrones
and exalted the lowly.

53 He has satisfied the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

54 And how he has helped his servant Israel!
He has not forgotten his promise to be merciful.

55 For he promised our ancestors—Abraham and his children—
to be merciful to them forever."

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.

1. Make a purple triangle over the words 'Lord,' 'God,' and 'Mighty One,' and pronouns 'he,' 'his,' and 'him.'
2. Put a pink heart shape around the word 'Mary' and the word 'girl' and the pronouns 'I,' 'my,' 'me.'
3. Put a blue rectangle over the words 'mercy' and 'merciful' and color the rectangle in with green.

What two words in verses 46 and 47 describe how Mary feels about becoming the mother of the Son of God? _____

How does Mary describe herself in verse 48? _____

How does Mary describe God in verse 49? _____

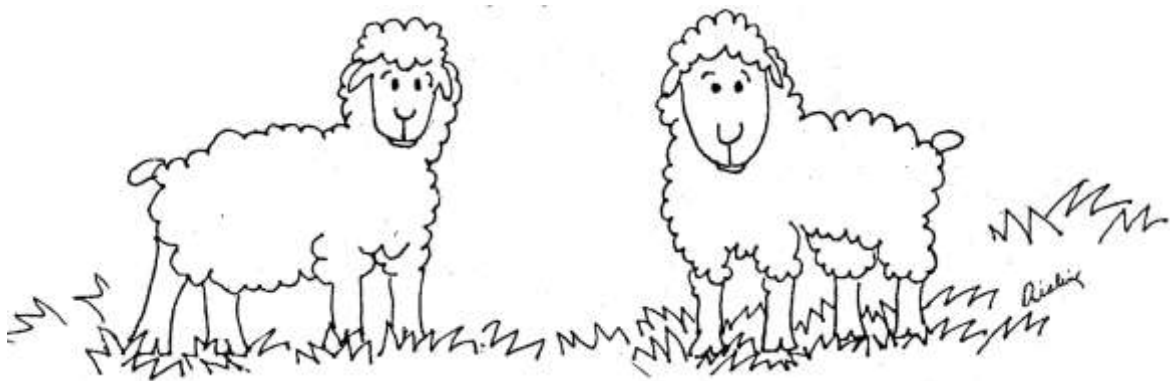
What promise has God not forgotten? (v.54) _____

To whom was this promise from God made? (v.55) _____

How long was this promise for? (v.55) _____

Talk Together: Do you wonder how Mary could compose such a beautiful poem ‘on the spot?’ These words are from Old Testament passages of Scripture that Mary had memorized. What do you think this shows about Mary? Do you think God knew that Mary had memorized all these verses and that she loved His Word? Do you think this had anything to do with why she was chosen to be the mother of the Son of God?

Talk Together: Abraham had received a promise from God that one of his descendants would be the Savior. This was about 2000 years before Jesus was born. What does this tell us about the promises of God?





Mary's Song