

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **December 19, 2021** Family Theme | **Peace on Earth** Study Text | **Luke 1:26-45; Luke 2:1-7**

Objective: Family members understand that Jesus's birth was miraculous and happened just as God had promised in His Word. They choose to obey God no matter the cost, just as Mary did.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson marks the transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament as the long-awaited Messiah was born of a virgin just as promised.

Bible Basics: Review John 14:27 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-7

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that Jesus' birth was miraculous and happened just as God had said it would. Encourage them to follow Mary's example and obey God no matter what He asks.



Key Truth: Jesus' Birth Was Miraculous (Luke 1:26-38)

The angel Gabriel visited Nazareth to meet with a young woman named Mary who was a virgin. Imagine her emotions when the angel told her that God favored her and that she was going to bear a son to be named Jesus. He would be called the Son of God and would reign over a never-ending kingdom on the throne of His ancestor David. She knew there was no way she could have become pregnant, so she asked how the angel's words might come to pass. She learned that the power of the Holy Spirit would accomplish it. She submitted to God's will, willing to do whatever He asked of her.



Key Truth: Mary and Elizabeth Believed God Would Do as He Said (Luke 1:39-45)

After the announcement from the angel, Mary quickly went to visit her relative Elizabeth in Judea. Unlike Mary, Elizabeth was older, beyond childbearing age. Yet, she too was carrying a child. Her child was the product of God's gracious intervention and promise, as was Mary's. Her unborn baby, John the Baptist, recognized the unborn Jesus and leapt in her womb. The Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and seems to have helped her understand that Mary's child was special above all others. She then drew attention to Mary's faith and to God's faithfulness to accomplish what He said He would do. God's promises to us are just as sure as were His words to Mary and to Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. Blessed are we, too, as we believe in His faithfulness!



Key Truth: God Used World Events to Ensure Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)

Luke 2 provides us with a brief account of the birth of Jesus. We observe in his words how God keeps His promises. He used a seemingly unrelated edict of the imperial government to get Mary and Joseph down to Bethlehem where God had promised the Messiah would come (Micah 5:2). Joseph complied with the imperial decree, taking Mary with him to Bethlehem, the home of his ancestor David. While in Bethlehem the time

came and Mary delivered her firstborn. Little did Caesar understand that his seemingly mundane order for an empire-wide census would place his empire on a collision course with the baby who would become King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why is it important that Mary was still a virgin when she gave birth? How was this possible?
- Why would it be risky for Mary to obey God in this? How would Joseph, her family, and her community likely respond when they found she was pregnant?
- What might be the significance of Elizabeth's unborn baby leaping for joy in the womb?
- How did God arrange for Joseph and Mary to be in Bethlehem when the child was to be born? Why was this important?
- How do you tend to react when God asks you to do something risky or that doesn't seem to make sense?
- How could you obey God this week in an area that seems difficult to obey in?
- **For Elementary:** How can knowing Jesus' birth was foretold in the Old Testament reinforce your faith?
- **For Elementary:** What can you do to keep your focus on the true reason for celebrating Christmas?

Everyday Extras

Help your family enjoy more than presents and extra cookies during the holidays. Keep the focus on Jesus and His birth. Here are a couple of ideas.

Ornament parade: Have each member of the family find a favorite Christmas tree ornament and then tell others why that ornament makes them praise Jesus. That is easy with typical nativity ornaments like stars and mangers, but it is also valuable with photo ornaments and favorites like ballerinas and candy canes.

Secret Word: Take turns thinking of a secret word about Christmas each day. (Young children may need some coaching.) One person writes down the secret word early in the morning. When someone says that word, everyone must stop whatever they are doing, march to the nativity scene, sing a Christmas carol, and have a piece of Christmas candy to celebrate!

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned an angel told shepherds about the birth of Jesus. They quickly went to worship the newborn baby. Wise men also discovered a new star in the sky. They followed the star and traveled a very long time before arriving to see Jesus. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They all knew **Jesus Is a Special Gift** and should be worshiped.