



Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.



DAY 1

Read Luke 1:30–31

What would you do if an ANGEL suddenly appeared in your bedroom? You'd probably freak out, right? When it happened to Mary, she was terrified. But the angel told her not to fear—that Mary had been chosen to help complete God's big rescue plan. Though she was scared and unsure, Mary said to the angel, "May it happen to me just as you have said." She was ready to take on the challenge ahead because Mary knew that God had chosen her to carry out the plan to save the world!

The Angel and Mary

Grab the angel and Mary from your nativity scene, if you have one. (If not, any action figures or even plush animals will work!) Read Luke 1:26–38. Write out a script retelling this part of the Christmas story in a funny way. Select different voices for each character (Mary and the angel). Use the nativity characters to act out the scene you've written. Have an older sibling or family member record it on video to share with your family. If you are able, add music or sound effects too.

DAY 2

Read Luke 1:38

When the angel appeared to Mary, she probably had a LOT of questions.

"A baby? But I'm too young!"

"Wait, Joseph and I aren't married yet, what will he say?"

"But I don't have a crib. Or a car seat. Or any of those onesie things with snaps."

Okay, so maybe Mary didn't ask about car seats or onesies. Even with all her questions, she still said, "I serve the Lord. May it happen to me just as you said it would." Though she was nervous and unsure, Mary trusted that God would be with her and help her. And you can too.

Is there something happening in your world that you're anxious about? Have you stopped to talk to God about it? As you pray today, remember that God loves you and that God is with you, always. Tell God about how you're feeling and thank God for loving you, always.





DAY 3

Read Matthew 1:20-21

Do you like surprises? Have you ever been surprised by something or someone? Was it a good surprise or a not so good one?

When Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, he began thinking about what it all meant and what he should do. After all, they weren't even married yet. The angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream to tell him that this baby was VERY special. The baby Mary was carrying was Jesus, the one that the prophets had spoken about so long ago. Jesus would be born because of the promise God made. God's plan was moving fast, and Mary and Joseph had been chosen to play a huge part! Talk about a big AMAZING surprise!

Can you imagine the conversations Joseph and Mary must have had about this little baby and their future? Even though they may have been anxious and very nervous, they also trusted God. Why? Because they knew that God was with them!



DAY 4

Read Matthew 1:23

What does "Immanuel" mean? God with us. Jesus left heaven, where nothing bad or sad ever happens, and came to earth to live with us. He experienced all the bad and all the sad things we experience so that we could KNOW Him.

That's why Christmas is such a big celebration. Jesus was God's one and only Son. God didn't HAVE to send Him. But God sent Jesus out of great love for us. God wanted to know us, and because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God.

Draw a picture of Jesus in the manger and put it in your backpack or in the car. Every time you look at the picture you've drawn, thank God for the reminder that because of Jesus, God is with you, always.



Celebrate because
God is with you.