

**Sunday, November 29**



**God prepares the way  
for Jesus' birth!**

**Scripture:**

Isaiah 7:14, 9:107, 11:1-5; Micah 5:3; Luke 1:5-25, 26-56; Matthew 1:18-24

**Story Point:**

God prepares the way for Jesus' birth!

**Christ Connection:**

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The baby Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, as well as other prophecies of the coming Savior through the Old Testament. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God planned from the beginning of the world.

- **Read Luke 1:5-7. Read verse 6 again. What does it say about Zechariah and Elizabeth?** (They were both righteous in the sight of God, remember that means they were “doing right” for God or obedient.) **Now read verse 7.** They were both very old and they were unable to have children. **Does that remind you of anyone else that God used in His story who we have learned about this year?**
- **Read Luke 1:8-20. What did Zechariah think when the angel told him his wife would have a child?** (He didn’t believe him!) **What were the consequences for not believing the words of the angel?** (He was unable to speak until “the day this happens” - until the baby was born.) **Reread verses 13-17. What do we learn is so special about this child? Why is it important that this baby is born first?**
- **Read Luke 1:21-25. What happened?** (His wife got pregnant! Just as the angel said she would!)
- Remember how we talked about how it was impossible by human means for two women to get pregnant? The first woman was Elizabeth, who became the mother to John the Baptist. Elizabeth was very old, much too old to become pregnant. Plus she was barren, which means it was physically impossible for her to get pregnant and have babies. But that didn’t stop God. God wanted Elizabeth and Zechariah to be the parents of John the Baptist, so He did just that. Even though she was much too old, and her body said ‘NO,’ Elizabeth got pregnant and gave birth to a healthy baby boy!
- But that’s not all. God chose Mary, too. God wanted Mary to get pregnant and give birth to baby Jesus, so He did just that. Mary wasn’t too old – she was just the opposite – Mary was too young, and it was physically impossible for her to get pregnant yet. That didn’t stop God though; God wanted Mary pregnant, so that is what happened!
- **Read Luke 1:26-33. What do we know about Mary so far?** (She was a virgin, never been married before or been with a man. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. She was troubled at the greeting of the angel.) **What did the angel tell us about the baby?** (He is to be called Jesus, He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, He will be given the throne of David, He will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever, and His kingdom will never end.)
- **Read Luke 1:34-38.** Mary seems to be a little confused, and for good reason. **How will she have a baby if she has never been with a man before and not yet married? Reread verses 35-37 to hear how the angel answers and assures her. Verse 37 says, “For no word from God will ever fail.”** The angel also assures Mary by telling her that her cousin, Elizabeth, is going to have a child in her old age, as an act of the Lord! **Mary’s final response to the angel in verse 38 is incredible. Read it again. “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”** She is obedient and submits to God’s will!
- Think about a time in your life when you were told to do something maybe by a parent, grandparent, or teacher, or you were told the way something was going to happen. Maybe it went something like this, “By the end of the day, your room is going to be cleaned and you are going to

have helped wash the dishes.” Would you respond like Mary did with obedience? I know sometimes it is hard to do, but God has blessed us with authority (people to guide us and help us along the way). The main figures of authority in your life right now are the Lord, your parents, and your teachers. God tells us in His word to honor your father and mother and to respect authority. Take Mary’s response to the angel as a challenge to be obedient to authority!

- **Read Luke 1:39-45.** In verse 39, scripture says that Mary “hurried” to see Elizabeth. This shows us that Mary was responding excitedly to the angel’s message! When Mary greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth’s child moved with such force it was as though he “leaped in her womb.” Elizabeth recognized that the child Mary was carrying was the promised Messiah. Elizabeth’s joy at that revelation was expressed in words of praise in verses 42-45.
- **Read Luke 1:46-55.** Elizabeth’s words gave assurance to Mary. They were confirmation that Elizabeth was pregnant and that Mary’s child was the promised Messiah. Overcome with joy, Mary responded with a song! Mary’s song is divided into two parts.
  - The first part is verses 46-50. This part was a personal song of praise to God because he chose her to be the mother of the Messiah. Her words came from an overflowing heart. The words are not boastful or do not brag on herself. They are words of amazement that God had chosen one so lowly to be the mother of His Son.
  - The second part is verses 51-55. This part describes the significance of the Messiah’s birth to Israel. Her words look forward at the Messiah’s ministry. We know Jesus fulfilled and is fulfilling Mary’s words.
- The story of Mary sharing her good news with Elizabeth can help your kids understand they can share with others the good news of Jesus’ birth.
- It can be difficult to understand sometimes how something that is impossible can suddenly become possible. When we think about the impossible, that’s it; our thinking ends right there. I cannot run 100 mph. You cannot sprout feathers and fly home. But there is something very important missing there. Do you know what it is?
- God! Mary didn’t just get pregnant – GOD made it that way. Elizabeth didn’t just get pregnant – GOD made it that way.
- If God wanted you to sprout feathers, you would. And if God wanted me to run 100 mph, I would be getting ready for the Olympics. Because if God if wants it that way, God will make it that way.
- Because NOTHING is impossible with God.
- Before we talk about how Mary’s fiancé, Joseph, found out, we learn from scripture that Elizabeth and Zechariah’s baby is born! **Read Luke 1:57-66. Reread verses 59-61 again.** When we are confident that God has told us to do something or called us to something, we need to be obedient even when other people, sometimes even Godly people, try to discourage us from doing so.

Despite the disagreement from their friends and family, they obeyed God and named the baby John. From the instant they named him John, Zechariah was able to speak again. **Read verse 66 again.** John was going to do incredible things, and now everyone was paying attention because “... the Lord’s hand was with him.”

- After he was able to begin speaking again, Zechariah prophesied about the birth of the Messiah and his own son, John, and how he would make a way for the Messiah! **Read Luke 1:67-80.**
- **This is incredible!** God was preparing the way for His Son to be born into the world and continued the rescue plan that began at creation! Zechariah and Elizabeth’s son, John, was born. His birth reaffirmed the angel’s announcement to Mary. Mary fully believed that what the angel, Gabriel, had told her was true and was going to happen. What more is there to know?? It sounds like a happy ending to me! Not quite yet.
- Remember, Mary had never been married before or been with a man. So although she believed that the Holy Spirit was going to place the baby in her womb, what would the people in her town and village believe? What would her fiancé believe? What would her family believe? Mary faced a hard road, but she was fully on board with the plan God had for her.
- **Read Matthew 1:18-19.** Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph (engaged in today’s terms), but she was found to be pregnant. Uh oh. This did not look good on Mary! Scripture tells us that Joseph was faithful to the law which gave Joseph permission to break their agreement of marriage, and even go as far as having her stoned. But scripture also tells us that Joseph was a righteous man. **Read verse 19 again and see what Joseph had decided to do.**
- **Read Matthew 1:20-21. What did the angel say to Joseph? What do these verses tell us about Jesus?**
- **Read Matthew 1:22-23.** All of this happened to fulfill the prophecies that were made about Jesus hundreds of years ago! How incredible!!
- When Joseph woke from his dream, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and he took Mary home to be his wife.
- What an incredible story of God making the seemingly impossible things possible! Praise God for the long awaited Messiah!
- **Did you see how time and time again that God was with Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Joseph? God is also with us!** Now God is about to send His Son to be with His people in the flesh! What an incredible story to be a part of!

# Hands-On Activities

## Possible or Impossible?

- The following tasks are considered (nearly) impossible for humans to complete - try out these 'simple' tests to see if anyone can succeed.
- Twitch your nose (without moving the rest of your face)
- Lick your elbow
- Rotate your right leg in a clockwise motion, while drawing a '6' in the air with your right hand
- Wiggle your ears
- Place your palm on a flat surface with your middle finger curled underneath, then raise (only) your ring finger
- Can you think of anything that is impossible? Like flying, or running 100 mph, there are many things that just aren't possible for us to do.
- But, did you know, that if God wanted you to fly, or needed you to wiggle your ears, He could and would do it.
- Before Jesus was born, God made two things that weren't possible, become possible. God chose two special women to become pregnant and have babies.
- Now, I know this might not sound impossible - I mean, women get pregnant and have babies all the time, right? But for these women, it really was impossible.

## Talk About It

While your family is gathered around the table for lunch or dinner, talk about the lesson again and talk through these questions:

**What did God make possible that was impossible?**

**How did God prove to Mary that He could do impossible things?**

**Who prepared the way for Jesus' birth?**

**How can you tell others about Jesus?**