



Week 1
Mary and Joseph
Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Talk about it

Christmas is almost here! As we get closer to Christmas, sometimes life can feel a little bit crazy, and we may be wishing for peace. Do you know what peace is? (Invite your kids to share what they think the word peace means.) Peace is a time of calm when we trust that God is in control. Let's open the Bible and see how God gave peace to two people who were afraid and didn't understand what was going on. We are going to read from the New Testament, the second part of the Bible, from the books Luke and Matthew.

Read it

Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Ask it

Have you ever been afraid or didn't understand what was going on? (Invite your child to share a time when they may have felt afraid.) What happened to help you get through that time? (Ask your child to share how the situation they were in was resolved and how they were able to get through that tough time.)

In these Bible verses today, we learned that Mary and Joseph had moments where they were afraid and didn't know what would happen.

When the angel appeared to Mary and Joseph, he said, "Peace be with you." The angel told them that, even though they were afraid, God was with them. God had a plan for Jesus to be born. Everything may have felt crazy or unsettling for Mary and Joseph, but they could have peace knowing that God is always in control.

How can we ask God to give us peace? (Remind kids that we can pray and ask God for peace, no matter what is going on. We can trust that He is in control, and that He has a plan for them.) God sent Jesus to earth so that we can have a relationship with Him. Through Jesus we can know God and have peace!

Sing it

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

You're getting shakers for each of your children. Encourage them to make a joyful noise to the LORD by singing and shaking their shaker. Keep these egg shakers handy--you can use them each week!

Do it

Get the Advent wreath out of the box. Decide where you are going to place it (maybe the refrigerator?). Add the first (purple) candle to it (you'll get the other candles in subsequent boxes). You can also color the included paper Advent wreath. Remind your children that the first purple candle is to remind us of the PEACE that God gives us.

Pray it

Take some time to pray as a family. Ask God that as you enter this season, He would give you peace.

God, thank You for giving us peace through Jesus. Please help us trust You and know that You have an amazing plan for our lives. When things feel crazy in our lives, help us to remember that You are always in control. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Devotion taken from Lifeway Kids Advent Guide 2022



Extension Activities

- As Christmas cards arrive in your mailbox, take turns praying for peace and the joy of Jesus for the senders of the cards each day as you receive them.
- Listen to Handel's Messiah song "Glory to God"
 - Listen for when the singers sing the word "peace" and raise your hand when you hear it
 - Who can sing the low part "and peace on earth?"
- Wrap all of your Christmas books and unwrap one each day
- Read 1 story from the Jesus Storybook Bible everyday (see reading plan below)
- Set out a child-friendly nativity. Help your children name the characters in the nativity.

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Advent Reading Plan

- Dec 1: The Story and The Song
- Dec 2: The Beginning: A Perfect Home
- Dec 3: The Terrible Lie
- Dec 4: A New Beginning
- Dec 5: A Giant Staircase to Heaven
- Dec 6: Son of Laughter
- Dec 7: The Present
- Dec 8: The girl no one wanted
- Dec 9: The Forgiving Prince
- Dec 10: God To the Rescue!
- Dec 11: God Makes a Way
- Dec 12: Ten ways to be perfect
- Dec 13: The warrior leader
- Dec 14: The Teeny, Weenie... True King
- Dec 15: The Young Hero and the horrible giant
- Dec 16: The Good Shepherd
- Dec 17: A little servant girl and the proud general
- Dec 18: Operation "No More Tears!"
- Dec 19: Daniel and the Scary Sleepover
- Dec 20: God's messenger
- Dec 21: Get ready!
- Dec 22: He's here!
- Dec 23: The Light of the whole world
- Dec 24: The King of all Kings