

Here is a simple guide to help your family pray together.



Pray for **FAMILY MEMBERS.**



Pray for your **NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.**



Pray for **OUR CHURCH.**



Pray for **OUR MISSIONARIES.**



Pray for **PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS.**



Pray for **OUR GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.**



Pray for **OTHER CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD**—especially those who are treated badly because they are followers of Jesus.

For questions, contact:

Wheaton Bible Church Director of Children's Ministry Ginny Stair
gstair@wheatonbible.org, 630.876.6636

Tri-Village Church Children's Ministry Coordinator
Jennifer Westering, jwestering@trivillagechurch.org, 630.876.6657



Church and Family Partnering Together



Today's Big Idea

Mary Praised God
Read about it: Luke 1:26–56



The Main Point

God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother.



What Did We Learn?

- ▶ The angel Gabriel told Mary she was going to have a baby.
- ▶ Mary's baby would be God's Son.
- ▶ Jesus had a family.
- ▶ Mary praised God with a song.
- ▶ Jesus' mother was Mary.

TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION

Mary was willing to follow God's plan, even though being Jesus' mother would not be easy. Mary wanted to bring praise to God. Likewise, Jesus brought praise to His Father by willingly dying on the cross to save people from sin.



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:1–12; Luke 2:1–20 and read together as a family about when Jesus was born. Or read the children’s version of the passage below.

The Roman emperor announced that everyone needed to be registered for a census. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place for Mary to have her baby, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby, Jesus. She wrapped Him snugly in cloth, and she laid him in a feeding trough.

In the same region, some shepherds were out in the fields watching their sheep. All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them.

The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I have very good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.” Then a whole army of angels appeared, praising God.

The shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby. The shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God.

Some time later, wise men came to visit Jesus. They had seen a star in the east—a sign from God that Jesus had been born. When the wise men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshiped Him.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ Why was Herod so upset when he heard about a new King?
- ▶ Name some ways God showed His power over all circumstances.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Celebrate a “mini-Christmas” party. Get small presents for your kids, wrap them, and surprise them when they wake up. Discuss how much of a surprise the first Christmas would have been for the shepherds.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God’s Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from sin and to be their King forever.

BIBLE READING THROUGH THE WEEK

Take time this week to read the Bible together as a family. Breakfast, dinner, or bedtime—you choose when and where.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Matthew 2:1–6	Matthew 2:7–12	Luke 2:1–7	Luke 2:8–14	Luke 2:15–20

As you read, ask these questions:

- ▶ What is God teaching us?
- ▶ What does this show us about who God is?
- ▶ What do we need to ask God’s help for to change?
- ▶ How would you share this with a friend?

UNIT MEMORY VERSE

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

—1 Timothy 1:15