

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:**

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**Church and Family Partnering Together**



**Today's Big Idea**

Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph  
Read about it: Matthew 1:18–24; Luke 1:26–56



**The Main Point**

God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' earthly parents.



**What Did We Learn?**

- ▶ An angel told Mary that she would be Jesus' mother.
- ▶ She visited her cousin, whose baby jumped in her belly!
- ▶ God gave Joseph a dream explaining that Mary's baby was from God.
- ▶ Joseph obeyed God and became Mary's husband.

**TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION**

The baby Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, as well as other Old Testament prophecies, about the coming Savior. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God planned before the world began.



# LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY

## PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

*Open your Bible to Luke 2:1–20 and read together as a family about when angels spoke to Mary and Joseph. Or read the children’s version of the passage below.*

During the time Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus, 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. She wrapped Baby Jesus snugly in cloth, and she laid Him in a manger.

In the same region, some shepherds were staying out in the fields and watching their sheep. All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were terrified!

But the angel said to them, “Do not 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 the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

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 because everything had happened just as the angel had said.

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ What is your favorite part about Christmas?
- ▶ Why do you think the angels appeared to shepherds, instead of important rulers or religious leaders?
- ▶ Why is Jesus’ birth still celebrated today

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Take your family to hear a Christmas choir. Talk to your kids about what it might have been like to hear the angels singing about Jesus’ birth.
- ▶ Box up unused toys to donate.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

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

## 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
Luke 2:1–5	Luke 2:6–7	Luke 2:8–12	Luke 2:13–14	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

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

—1 John 4:9