

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and you can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD IS A PROMISE KEEPER

Mary and the Angel

Luke 1:26–38; 46–55

God loves His people so much that He promised to send a Savior who would heal our broken world. God fulfilled His promise by sending His Son, Jesus. God's angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to declare that she had been chosen to bear God's Son. Gabriel told her that Jesus would fulfill the promises and prophecies God made.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD IS LOVE

Mary and Joseph

Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–5

Joseph was confused about what he should do once he knew Mary was expecting a child. God spoke to Joseph in a dream. After this, Joseph knew that everything they were experiencing was part of God's big plan! God's love gave Joseph and Mary the strength they needed throughout Mary's pregnancy and as they traveled to Bethlehem.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Joseph and Mary were betrothed when they learned that Mary was carrying Jesus.
- A betrothal was a formal engagement that could only be broken with a divorce. When Joseph discovered Mary was pregnant, he considered divorcing her quietly so as to protect her reputation.
- An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. This encounter gave Joseph the confidence to continue with his plans to wed Mary.
- Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because they were to take part in a census that required them to register in Joseph's ancestral home.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Encourage your children to draw what they know to be true about God. Be sure to join them! Then, read **Matthew 1:18–25** together. Ask your children, "What does this part of The Big God Story tell you about God?" Talk to them about how much God loved Joseph. God sent the angel to reassure Joseph and to give him the strength to do what was right. Remind your children that sending Jesus was the most important way that God shows His love to each of us.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- How do you think Joseph felt after God spoke to him in his dream?
- How do you feel when you think about how much God loves you?
- What are some of the ways God shows His love to you?

Extend these questions into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Is Love into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Isaiah 25:1

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you know God is love today and every day. May His great love bring you peace and joy.**

For more information about blessing your child, go to tru ministry.com to the Parenting tab. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.