



flowers  
trees for climbing

PREVIEW



## On the Way Home

God gives us good things every day. Fill this list with all the good things from God you see on the way home today. (We've added two already!) Ask your seat buddy to find some too!



# Today's Story

is full of surprises—here are two surprises for you:

- **Surprise #1:** You're the illustrator, so get ready to draw!
- **Surprise #2:** The story pictures are mixed up. After you draw the pictures, add numbers to put them in the right order.

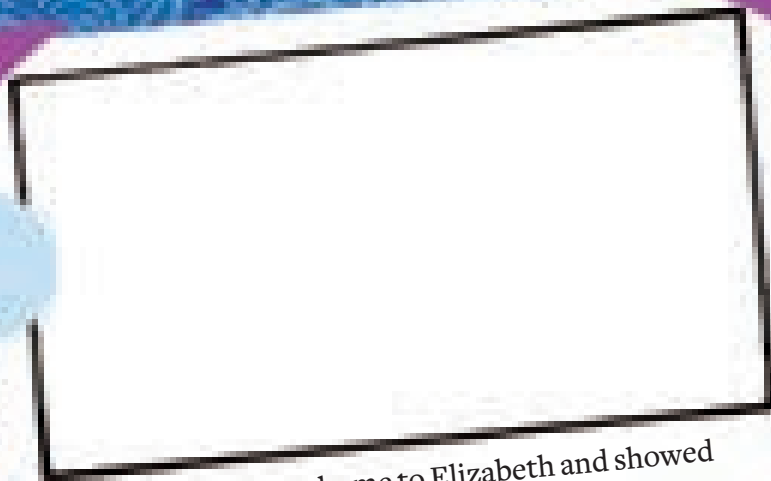


Zechariah came out of the temple and tried to show the people what had happened.

PREVIEW

Zechariah and Elizabeth were sad after waiting so long for a baby.

Zechariah wrote, "His name is John."



Zechariah went home to Elizabeth and showed her they were going to have a baby.



Zechariah and Elizabeth were so happy to have a baby.

Find somebody to show and share this story with!



Zechariah prayed to God  
in the temple.

The angel told Zechariah he was done waiting for a baby,  
and God's people were almost done waiting for a Savior.

# ORDER REVIEW



God surprised Zechariah with an angel.  
Zechariah was terrified!



After months of waiting, Zechariah got  
his voice back and praised God!



Check the order of your story pictures in Luke 1:5-25, 57-64.

Memory



Challenge:

Luke 2:8-14

# Watching and Waiting

## How many times

can you find the word *waiting* in the story sentence pictures on the previous page?

Unscramble this word to find out what all of God's people were waiting for: **I S R V A O .**

Waiting can be hard—especially when you are waiting for a promise to come true! What is the hardest thing you have ever had to wait for? Write it down here:

PREVIEW



Next time you're waiting in line for something, use some of the time to talk to God!

## Dear Family:

Welcome to Wonder! It's our hope that the story of Jesus' life on earth—and especially his reason for coming—will come alive in the heart and mind of your child in the coming weeks as we wonder together about God and God's incredible plan for the world. Wondering questions are great because they have no right or wrong answers! (You'll find lots of them in your God's Big Story Cards.) Here's something to wonder about with your child today: **I wonder what Zechariah and Elizabeth told their son John about the day they found out he was coming. . . .**

## God Loves You!

When Zechariah received good news from God, he couldn't wait to tell everyone about it! Make a pop-up card to share the good news of God's love with someone.

### Here's what you'll need:

- scissors
- tape or glue
- coloring pencils or markers
- paper to make a card

### Here's what you'll do:

- Cut the "God Loves You!" strip off of this Show and Share paper.



- Fold it back and forth about six times.



- Fold your card in half.
- Decorate the front and inside. (You could write SURPRISE! on the front if you like.)
- Tape or glue the pop-up strip inside the card.

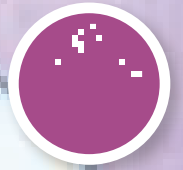


- Surprise someone!

Wonder, Year 1, Unit 1, Session 1  
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# God Loves You!

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Bath Item

Furniture

Toy

Clothes

# PREVIEW

Something to Cuddle

Book



## On the Way Home

Surprising news! The angel has just told Mary that she is going to be the mother of Jesus! Imagine the things Mary might need for her baby. Talk about it with someone riding with you. In each shape, draw a picture or write words to describe each item.

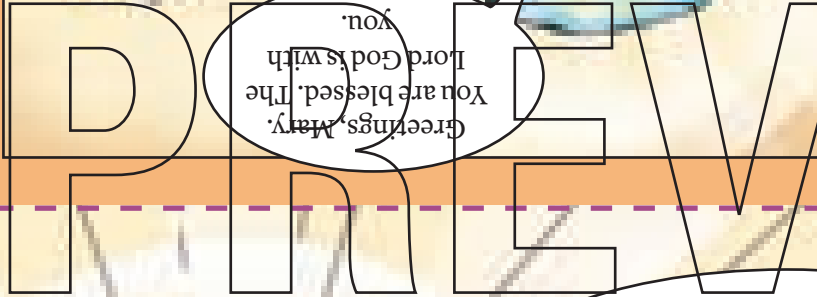
Remember— it's going to be a boy!



**Let's Make A Book!** Fold the top half of this page back along the dotted line that runs across the middle of the page. Then fold along the solid line that goes up and down in the middle.



Oh, dear, what does this mean? I don't understand it.



Greetings, Mary. You are blessed. The Lord God is with you.

For years God promised his people that he would send Jesus, the Messiah. The people waited. They wondered when that great day would be. On this day, God would make the big announcement. Gabriel would bring the news to Mary.



Luke 1: 26-38, 46-56

God's Great Big Promise



Don't be afraid, Mary. God is with you. You are going to have a baby boy and you will name him Jesus. He will be the Son of God, the promised Savior.

How can this be? I am not married yet. A baby must have a father.

I will praise the Lord.  
 God has chosen me to be his humble servant  
 Holy is God's name. His love is forever, and  
 he gives it to all who believe in him Yes! Praise  
 God! Jesus is coming, just as God  
 promised!

# PREVIEW

God will be the father. Jesus  
 will be God's Son. Never  
 forget—nothing is impossible  
 with God.

I am God's servant. I  
 will wait for it to happen just  
 as you have said.

# Celebration Chants

**Gather your family to thank and praise God for his goodness to us.**

**Leader:** Who promised to send Jesus into the world?

Give me a **G**. *(Pause for response after each.)*

Give me on **O**.

Give me a **D**.

What does it spell? *(God)*

Let's clap to celebrate God! *(Clap your hands.)*

**Leader:** God promised the Messiah would be born.

What is his name?

Give me a **J**.

Give me an **E**.

Give me an **S**.

Give me a **U**.

Give me an **S**.

What does it spell? *(Jesus)*

Let's spin in place to celebrate the Messiah! *(Do so.)*

**Leader:** Jesus' coming is a gift for whom?

Give me a **U**.

Give me an **S**.

What does it spell? *(Us)*

Let's high-five each other to thank God for Jesus! *(Do so.)*



**Memory**

**Challenge:**

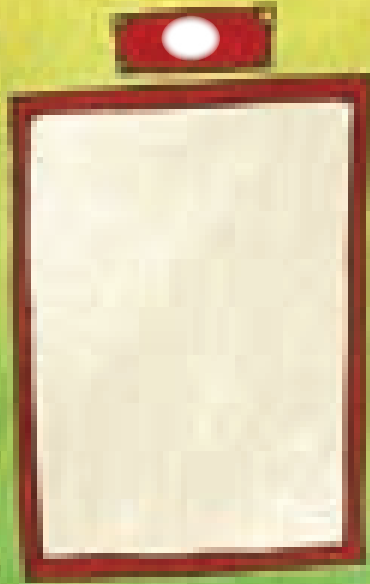
**Luke 2:8-14**

**Dear Family:**

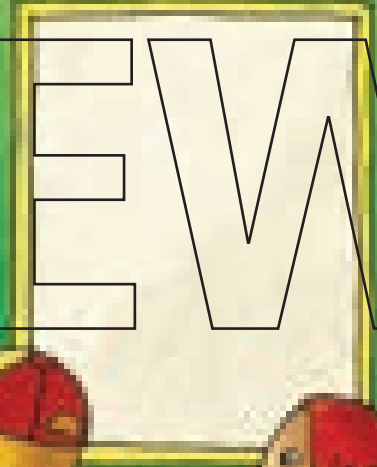
**Today your child heard** the story of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary to announce the good news that Jesus, the Messiah, was coming soon. Help your child turn this page into a mini-storybook of that story. After reading it together, celebrate God's great plan for the world by leading your child (or having your child lead you!) in the cheer at left.







PREVIEW



## On the Way Home

Whoops! Something's wrong! The art exhibit is open but the canvases are empty. Think about the story of Jesus' birth. Then, inside each canvas, draw a symbol that reminds you of a different part of the story. When you're finished, number them so they are in order. Use them to tell a friend this amazing part of God's great story.



1. At that time, Caesar ordered everyone to travel back to their home towns so they could be counted.

2. Joseph and Mary packed some things and started out for Bethlehem. It was soon time for Mary's baby to be born.

3. When they arrived in Bethlehem, no room was available. So Jesus was born in a stable. Mary wrapped him in cloths and put him in a manger.

4. There were shepherds in the field that night. Suddenly an angel appeared in the sky. The shepherds were terribly frightened.

5. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you great news. Today Jesus has been born. You will find him in a manger."

# Jesus Is Born!

Based on Luke 2:1-10

7. When the angels left, the shepherds agreed to go and find baby Jesus. They hurried away and were thrilled to find him!

8. On the way back to their sheep, the shepherds told everyone they saw the good news—Jesus is born!

6. Suddenly the sky burst open and a multitude of angels began praising God. “Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth!”

# PREVIEW

9. The shepherds praised God for everything they had seen and heard.

## Dear Family:

**Today we heard** a special part of God's big story—the story of Jesus' birth. Jesus is God's greatest gift to all people! Use the pages of this paper to reinforce the joyful truth of God's love for us. Celebrate by writing your own family song of praise that tells about God's love for you. For more activities you can do as a family, find today's story symbol in your God's Big Story cards.

# Our Song of Praise

## Based on Psalm 136

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

**God's love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods.

**God's love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

**God's love endures forever.**

God alone does great wonders.

**God's love endures forever.**

God made

**God's love endures forever.**

When we are sick, God

**God's love endures forever.**

When we are sad, God \_\_\_\_\_.

**God's love endures forever.**

God helps us when \_\_\_\_\_.

**God's love endures forever.**

Even if we are not \_\_\_\_\_, God cares for us.

**God's love endures forever.**

God gives us \_\_\_\_\_.

**God's love endures forever.**

We say it again,

**God's love endures forever.**

## You Do the Math!

What date in December is set aside for special celebrations for Jesus' birth?

How many days is that date from today? \_\_\_\_\_

It's not too early to think of an act of love you can give as a gift to each person in your family.

The Bible says a *multitude* or a *great company* of angels filled the sky the night Jesus was born.

How many angels do you think that might have been? \_\_\_\_\_

## A Word Puzzler

How many words can you make out of

### JESUS' BIRTH?

Here's a few for starters.

the his bus

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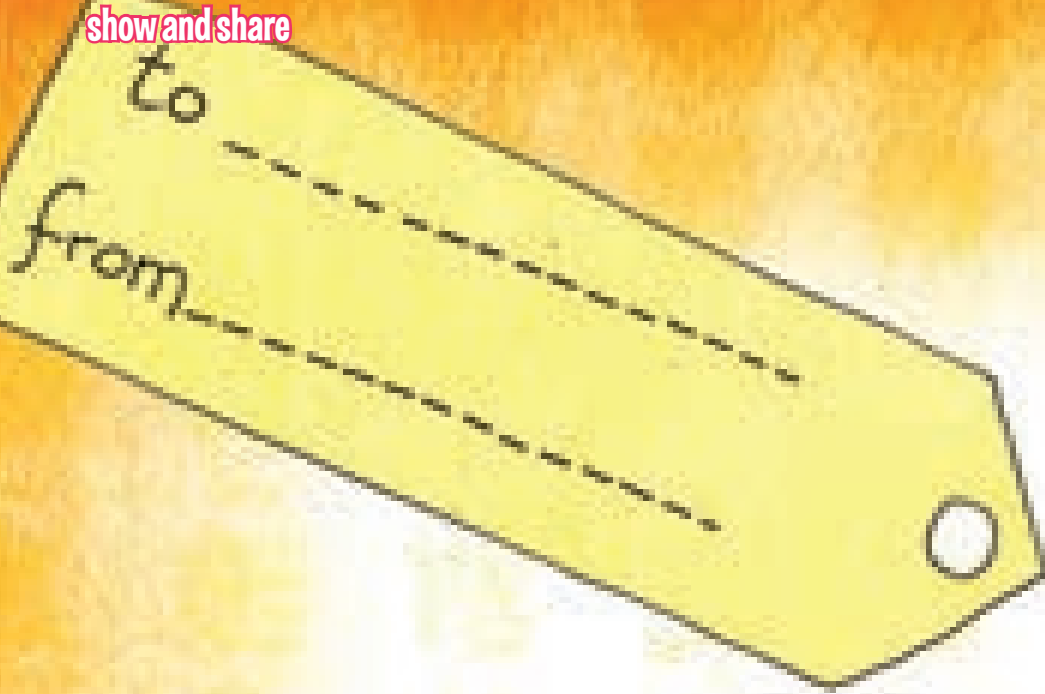
Memory



Challenge:

Luke 2:8-14



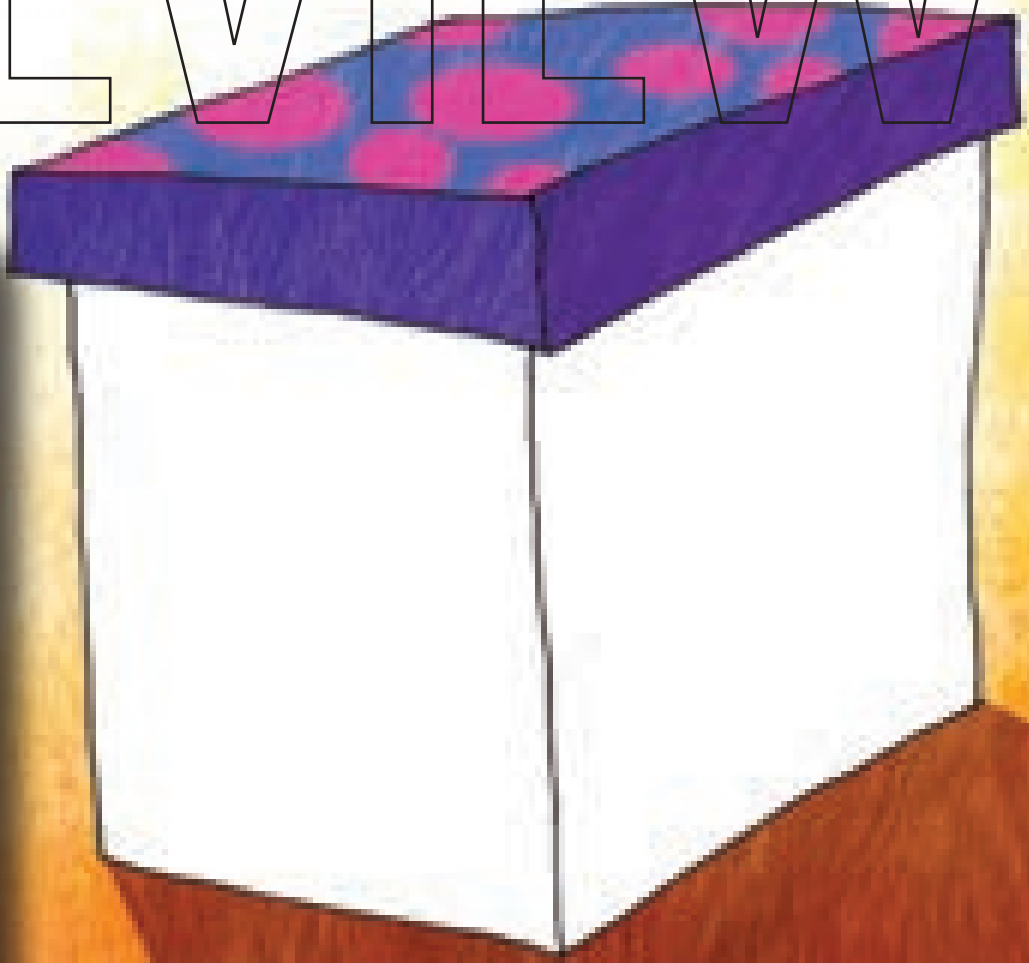


# PREVIEW



## On the Way Home

Jesus is the greatest gift God has ever given. God offers this gift to everyone—and that includes YOU! Inside the box, draw a picture of Jesus in the manger. Then draw a great big bow on the top of the box. Loop the bow through the gift tag. Fill in the gift tag with your name. As you begin to think about Christmas over the next few months, keep this picture in your mind, reminding you that God gives this gift to you.

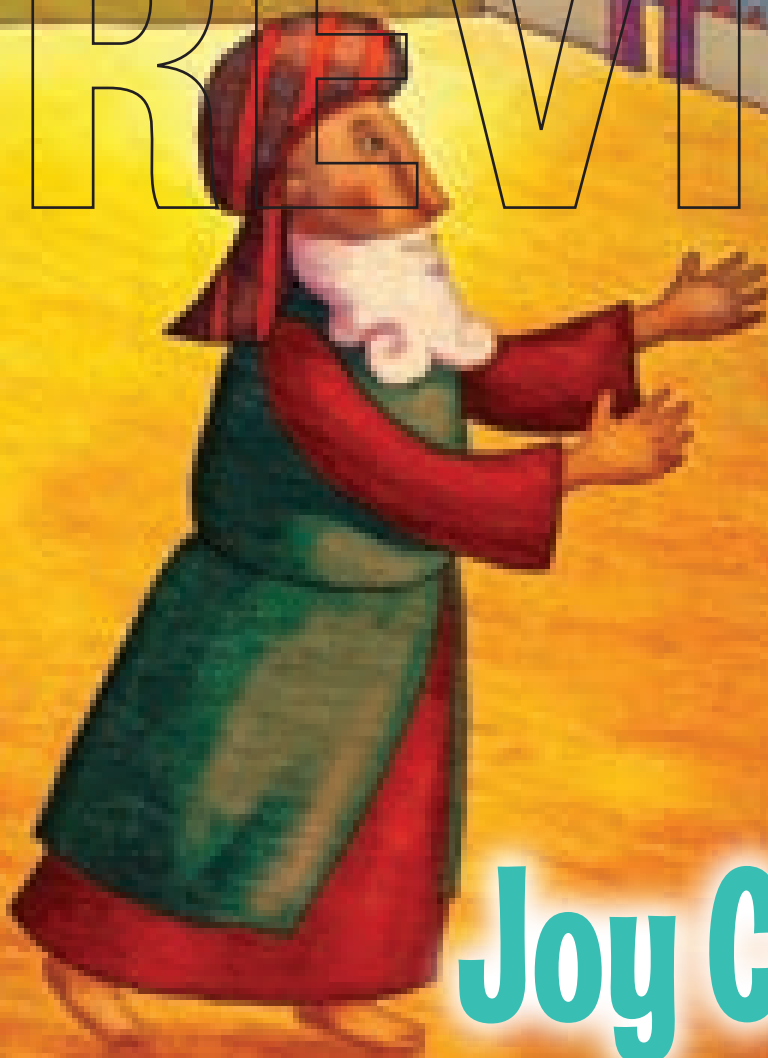


1. Many people still didn't know that Jesus had come. The shepherds did, of course, and so did the others who heard the good news from the shepherds. But most of God's people were still waiting and wondering when Jesus would come.

In those days, God asked new parents to take their babies to the temple to present them to God. And that's exactly what Mary and Joseph did. When they arrived, there were people everywhere. No one seemed to notice Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. No one knew that *he* was the promised Messiah—the Savior!

2. But old Simeon knew because God told him! Simeon had spent many years in the temple, waiting expectantly. God's Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die before he saw Jesus face to face. Through all the years, Simeon had seen many babies brought to the temple, but he had not yet seen Jesus. Until today. When he looked at Mary and Joseph, Simeon knew. He took the baby in his arms and cried happy tears. He praised God, "Now I can die in peace, Lord! I have seen the Savior. Glory to your name!"

PREVIEW



Joy Comes to Simeon

Based on

3. Old Anna knew too. Anna was in the temple every day for so many years—praying and worshiping God. When she saw Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, she knew because God told her. She praised God for sending Jesus, the promised Messiah. Then she turned and began to tell the news to everyone around them in the temple. Slowly the news began to spread—Jesus, the Messiah, had come!

PREVIEW

# Simeon and Anna!

Luke 2:21-38

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Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks on this baby book page.

Special Event:

Jesus was presented to God.

City: (SAMERUJLE)

Place: (EELMPT)

Blessing given by: (MESINO)

Prayer of thanks given by: (NANA)

PREVIEW

Special Memory of this day:

Meeting two people who knew

Jesus was sent by God—  
before we even told them!

### Dear Family:

**Today we learned** how Simeon and Anna gladly welcomed the promised Savior, Jesus. After you read the story together on the inside of this paper, thank God for always keeping promises! For more activities relating to this story that you can do at home, have your child pull today's story symbol out of your God's Big Story cards.



Memory

Challenge:

Luke 2:8-14







What games would you play?



What foods would you share?



What places in your town would you take Jesus?



What beach would you share with Jesus?



Who would you introduce Jesus to?



What words would you use to introduce Jesus to your best friend?

# PREVIEW



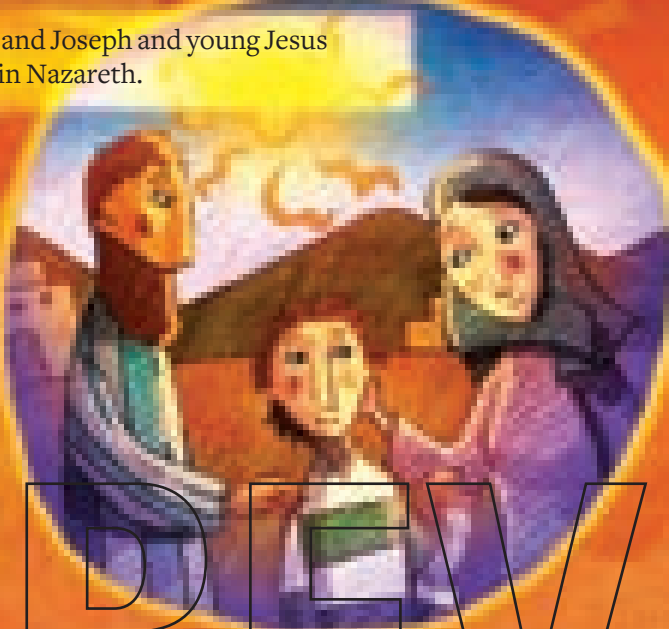
## On the Way Home

Imagine that Jesus moved in next door to you. He's about your age. You know that he is God's Son but you also know that he is a kid just like you. Imagine all the things you could do together! On the way home, ask someone the questions on this page and find out what they would do if they could spend a day with Jesus!

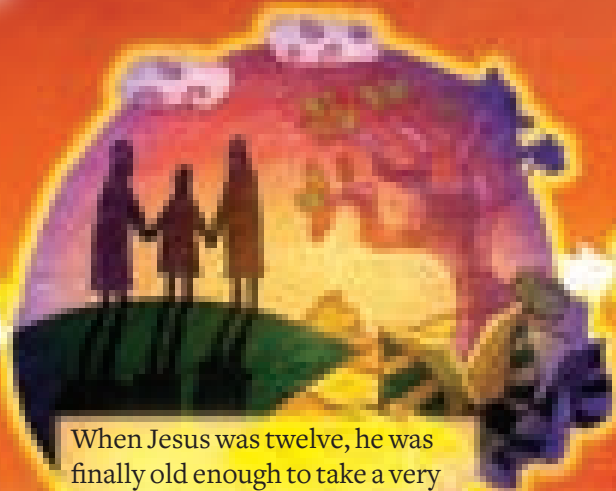
# Jesus in the Temple

Based on Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph and young Jesus lived in Nazareth.



When Jesus was twelve, he was finally old enough to take a very special trip with his parents.



Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem. For three days they looked for him. Where could he be?

Finally they found him. Imagine this—  
Jesus was in the temple. He was teaching!

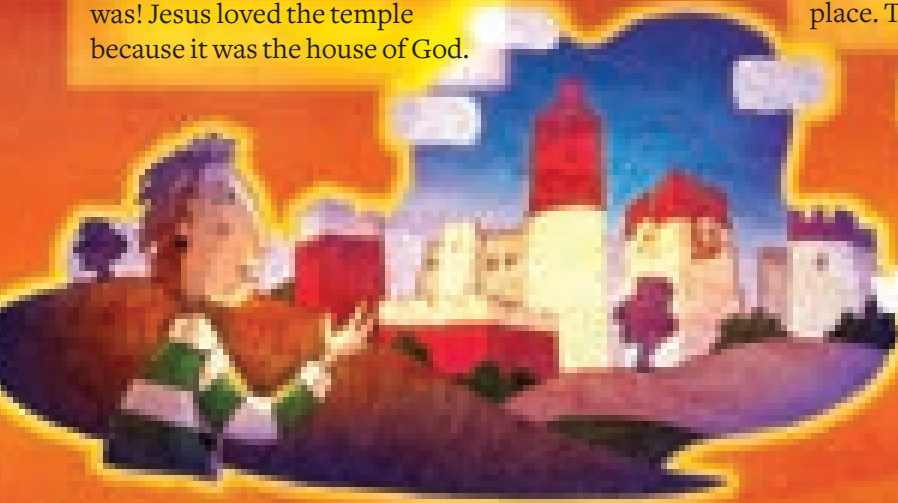


Even the wise old teachers listened to Jesus. They were amazed at his questions—and his answers! Everyone wondered, Who could this boy be?



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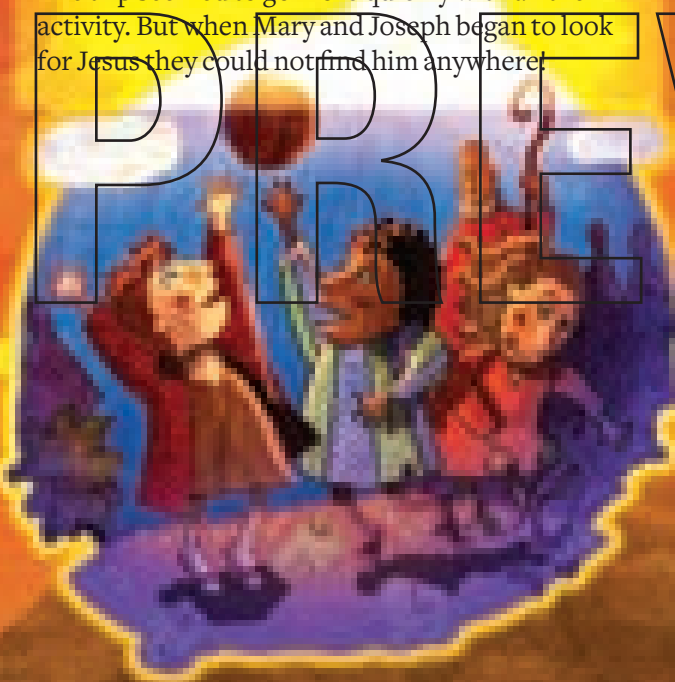
What an exciting city Jerusalem was! Jesus loved the temple because it was the house of God.



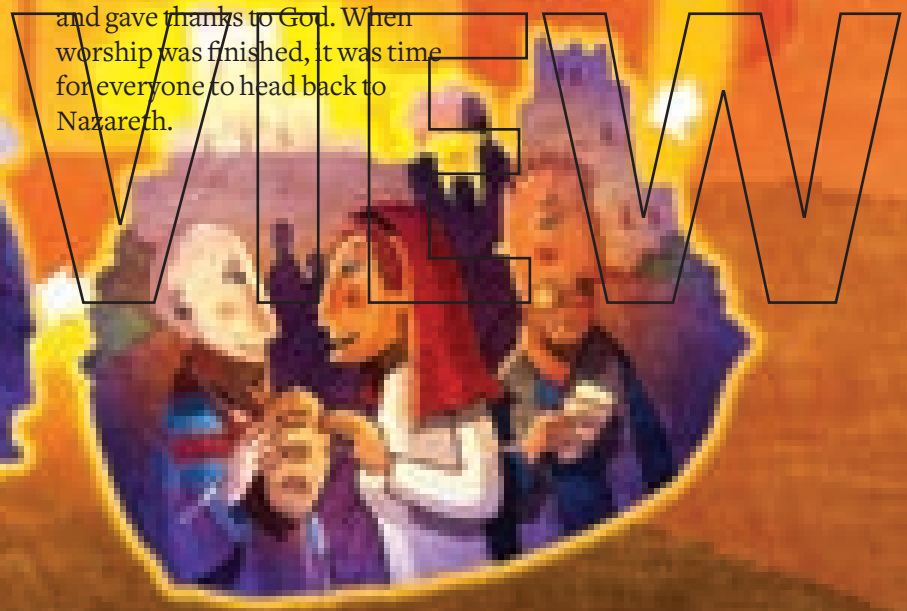
It was time to celebrate the Passover. Families and friends made the trip to Jerusalem where the celebration would take place. There was a great crowd traveling together.



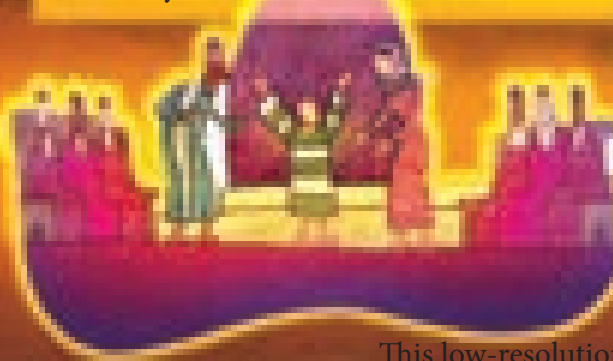
As they walked the kids played. The adults talked. The trip seemed to go more quickly with all the activity. But when Mary and Joseph began to look for Jesus they could not find him anywhere.



Everyone ate the Passover meal and gave thanks to God. When worship was finished, it was time for everyone to head back to Nazareth.



Mary blurted out: "Where have you been? We were so worried." Jesus answered, "Didn't you know that I have to be in my Father's house?"



Jesus went back home with Mary and Joseph. But Mary kept wondering about Jesus' answer.



## Dear Family

Today your child heard a story about Jesus that showed how Jesus was human—a child, just like them—in addition to being God’s Son. You’ll be able to reinforce both of these truths as you talk about what your child wrote on page 1 and as you read the story together. For more activities around this story, have your child find today’s symbol in your God’s Big Story cards.

# Puzzler Page

Grab a pencil and put on your thinking cap.

**1** Start with the Word Search Puzzle. Find all twelve words in it. Look up and down each row and also on the diagonal. Circle each word when you find it.

**2** When you finish that, list each word in alphabetical order. you’ll see that the first and last ones are already done for you.

**3** Finally, give yourself a quiz. For each of the twelve words, tell a few things from God’s great story about each one. If you finish all three puzzlers and get most of them right, name yourself: The World’s Brightest Brainiac!



**Word Search**

GOD  
JESUS  
MARY  
JOSEPH  
TEMPLE  
GABRIEL  
SHEPHERDS  
ZECHARIAH  
ANGEL  
SIMEON  
ANNA  
MANGER

Q	W	S	I	M	E	O	N	W	O	P	A	S	D
F	G	H	J	E	S	U	S	C	V	B	N	M	Q
W	O	R	T	Y	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	A	G
H	D	K	L	E	N	V	C	X	S	Q	W	R	S
R	T	Y	U	O	M	L	K	D	H	G	F	Y	S
A	N	N	A	V	B	P	R	K	J	H	H	G	M
N	S	A	Q	W	T	E	L	I	O	P	L	S	A
G	H	G	F	D	H	X	S	E	S	D	C	V	N
E	J	M	W	P	O	P	J	Y	E	C	R	D	G
L	S	E	E	F	G	V	B	Y	P	H	B	J	E
M	D	H	D	W	Q	A	Z	X	H	W	E	D	R
S	S	Y	U	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	L

**Alphabetical Order**

Angel

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Zechariah



**Memory Challenge:**

**Luke 2:8-14**

# Let's Have Lunch!

John ate a lot of locusts and wild honey because he could find it in the wilderness. Draw a picture of a locust. It was similar to a grasshopper with a long body and long legs for hopping. It was the only insect that the Jews were allowed to eat. It is a good source of protein. When John thought "locust"—he thought "meat"!

What foods grow in your area? If you lived outdoors in the summer, what foods could you eat? Draw pictures of those things.

Wild honey—yummy! It was easy for John to find. He found it in holes in the trees and hidden amongst the rocks. It was a special wilderness treat. Dessert! Draw some honey in trees and in the rocks.

# PREVIEW



## On the Way Home

Stomach growling a little? As you head for home you might be a little hungry. You might also be wondering what's to eat. John must have wondered too. Because he lived in the wilderness, he ate whatever he could find. Draw pictures to show what John ate for lunch and what you might eat if you lived outdoors like he did.

**When you're finished,  
look at both meals—yours and John's.**

**Which do you prefer?**

**Ask your family that question.**

# Jesus Is

Based on L

**Instructions:** Whoops! Some of the words are missing in the  
When you come to a missing word, choose one from the bottom  
write the words on the lines or

“The Messiah is coming! Repent!” warned \_\_\_\_\_.

unusual \_\_\_\_\_ and ate locusts and wild honey. “What shall we do

Share your food with the hungry. Treat \_\_\_\_\_ with

PREVIEW

Then he baptized \_\_\_\_\_ in the

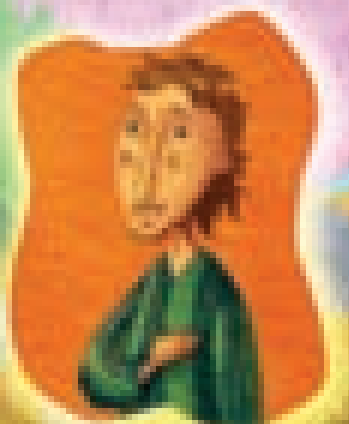
“I want to be baptized too,” said \_\_\_\_\_. “Oh no!” said \_\_\_\_\_

said, “This is what God wants.” As the \_\_\_\_\_ watched, \_\_\_\_\_

dove came down and rested on \_\_\_\_\_. God’s voice was heard fr



**John the Baptist**



**Jesus**

# Baptized

Luke 3:1-22

story. You'll have to be the editor and put in the right words.  
om of the page. Each word will be used several times. You can  
just say them. Happy editing!

\_\_\_\_\_ came from everywhere to listen to this strange man who wore

o?" asked the \_\_\_\_\_. "Share your \_\_\_\_\_ with the needy.

h kindness. And be baptized," said \_\_\_\_\_.

PREVIEW

. One day \_\_\_\_\_ came to the \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. "You are the one who should baptize me!" But \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ baptized \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. As he did, a

rom heaven saying, "You are my Son whom I love. I am pleased with you."



people



river



clothes

## Dear Family:

**Today's session continued** last week's theme—that Jesus was a person like us, yet was God's perfect Son. Jesus' baptism reveals Jesus as the Messiah, the Son who came to fulfill God's promise to save us. Emphasize that as you read the story on pages 2 and 3. Then, have your child lead you in the Family Litany. For more activities around this story, have your child find today's symbol in your God's Big Story cards.

# Family Litany

(Teach the family the response line.  
Touch your ear when it's time for the response.)

Prepare the way! Prepare the way!

The King is coming—repent today!

### What shall we do?

Go share your shirts.

### What shall we do?

Don't bully or hurt.

### What shall we do?

Don't cheat or steal.

### What shall we do?

Go share a meal.

### What shall we do?

Don't lie or fight.

### What shall we do?

Go do what's right.

Prepare the way! Prepare the way!

The King is coming—repent today!

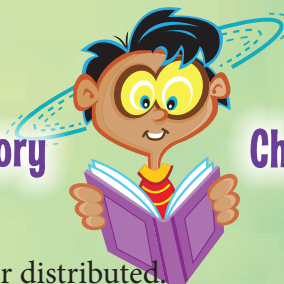
B \_ \_ \_ \_  
R \_ \_ \_ \_  
P \_ \_ \_ \_  
Z \_ \_ \_ \_

Y

P R E P A R E  
W E N T

- John preached in the desert, beside the Jordan R\_\_\_\_\_.
- One day \_\_\_\_\_, the Messiah, came to see John.
- "B \_\_\_ P \_\_\_ Z \_\_\_ me," said Jesus.
- Then God sent a white \_\_\_\_\_ to rest on Jesus.
- And God said, "This is my \_\_\_\_\_. He pleases me."
- The Messiah had come! No more W \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_!

Memory



Challenge:

Luke 2:8-14