

Welcome to Kids Corner!

Sunday, December 24, 2023

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Luke 1:5-13 [14-25], 57-80

Key Verse:

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare [God's] ways.
Luke 1:76

The Point:

God sends people to point us toward Jesus.

Making Connections:

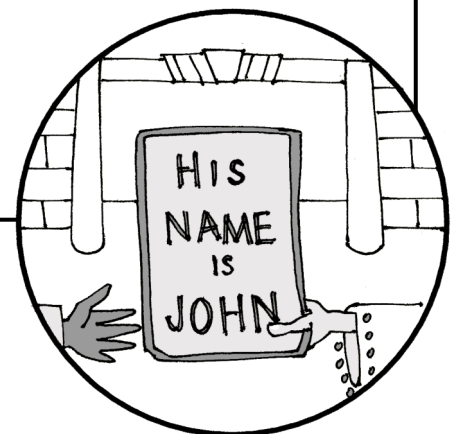
Promises Made, Promises Kept

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Between the Testaments

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



BACKGROUND:

Making Connections

Last week, we explored the story of God's people returning from exile. This week, as we continue to look at how God keeps God's promises, we will learn about John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the return of the Lord.

Story Summary:

The Birth of John the Baptist

John the Baptist, whose birth is narrated in Luke 1, begins the story of the Gospels by preparing people for the arrival of Jesus. Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, Jesus' mother, were cousins. Both women also experienced unusual pregnancies at about the same time. Zechariah, John's father, served as a priest in the temple.

Elizabeth and Zechariah, both old in age, hoped and prayed for a child. Though they thought it impossible, God answered their prayers and Elizabeth did have a son, who they named John. At the time of John's birth, Zechariah proclaimed and prophesied the things that his son would say and do. He prophesied that John would proclaim the return of God's kingdom. John did do these things. He proclaimed repentance and baptized people (this is why we call him "John the Baptist") in the Jordan River. Eventually, John even baptized Jesus.

The Point

God sends people to point us toward Jesus. It is clear that God had called John to great things that were yet to be seen. God called John to point other people to Jesus, and in the same way, God sends people to point us to Jesus today.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Between the Testaments

There are about 400 years between the end of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and the beginning of the New Testament. The Old Testament ends with Judea under Persian rule. Judea remained under Persian rule until Alexander the Great conquered Persia in the late fourth century BCE. Judea remained under Greek rule until the Seleucid Empire came into power. One of the Seleucid kings, Antiochus IV, tried to force the people of Judea to worship Greek gods. A band of Jews known as the Maccabees revolted. They drove out the occupying Seleucid forces. The Roman Empire soon took control of Judea and set up King Herod I to be king. Jesus was born around 4 BCE near the very end of King Herod's reign.

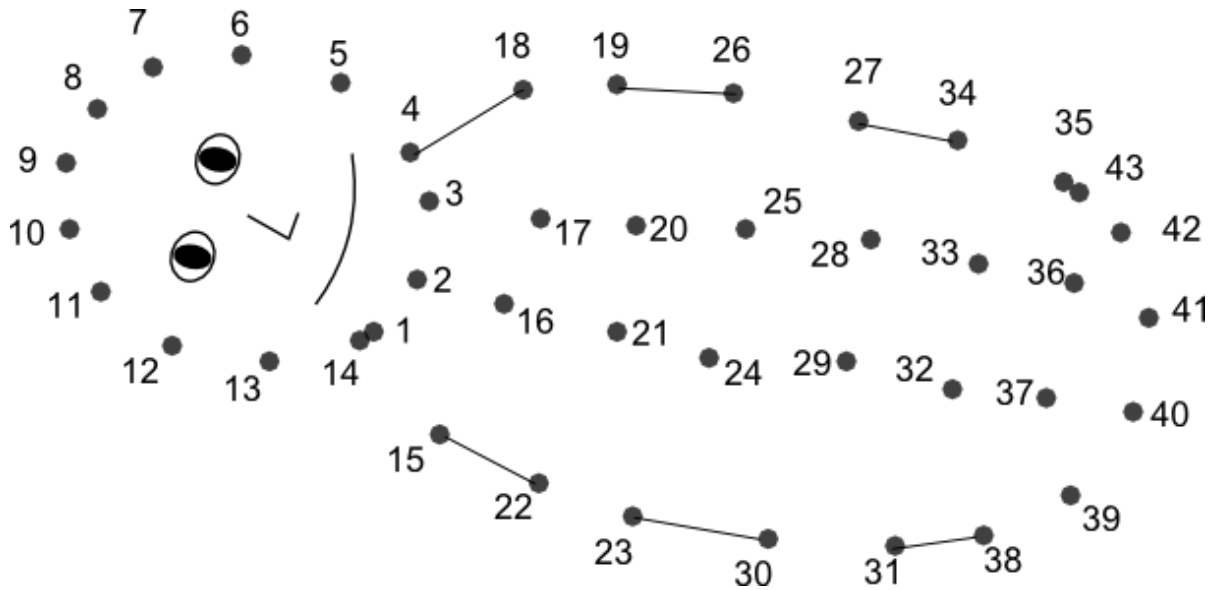
Spiritual Practice: Worship

As Christians, we live lives of worship and prayer. In our times of worship, we pray for many things—for comfort, for peace, and for healing—for ourselves and for other people. As people of faith, we know that God listens to us when we gather and will answer our prayers, even if the answer comes in an impossible way. Through our faith we know that nothing is impossible with God.

Jesus is Born

A Christmas activity worksheet from ministry-to-children.com

Connect the dots to see who was born in Bethlehem.



Finish the story with the words at the right.

M _____ and J _____ traveled to

B _____.

M _____ had a baby and named him

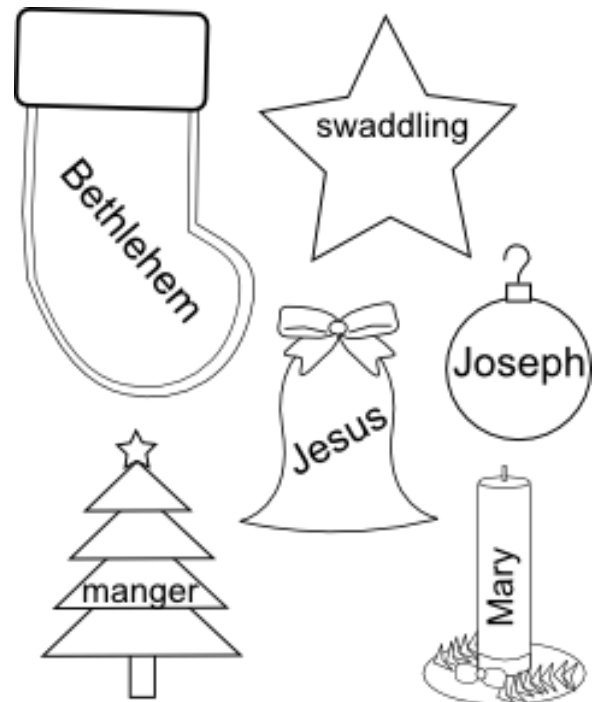
J _____. He was God's Son.

She placed J _____ in a m _____,

which was a place for animals to eat.

He was wrapped in s _____

clothes, which were strips of cloth.



Why Did Jesus Come?

Unscramble the words to complete the Bible verse and learn why God sent Jesus.

The _____ sent his _____ to be the _____ of the _____.

A E H T R F

O N S

R A S O I V

D R O W L

1 John 4:14

God showed his love for us by sending Jesus. How can you show God's love to other people? Put a check mark by each thing you will do.



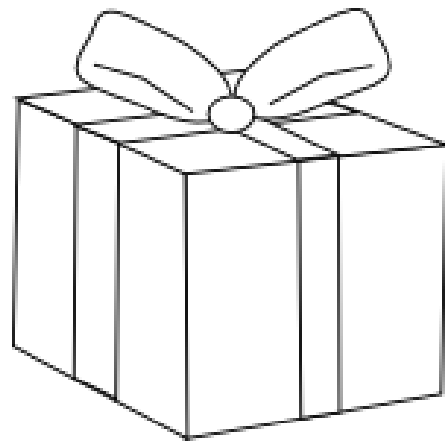
tell a friend about Jesus



obey your parents



send a card



give a present



Angels

An activity worksheet from ministry-to-children.com

Here is a story for you to read.



Mary



Gabriel



baby



was a young woman who loved God. The angel



visited



said to



“You will have a



.”

You will name the  Jesus.”

All about Angels

Find these words in the puzzle.

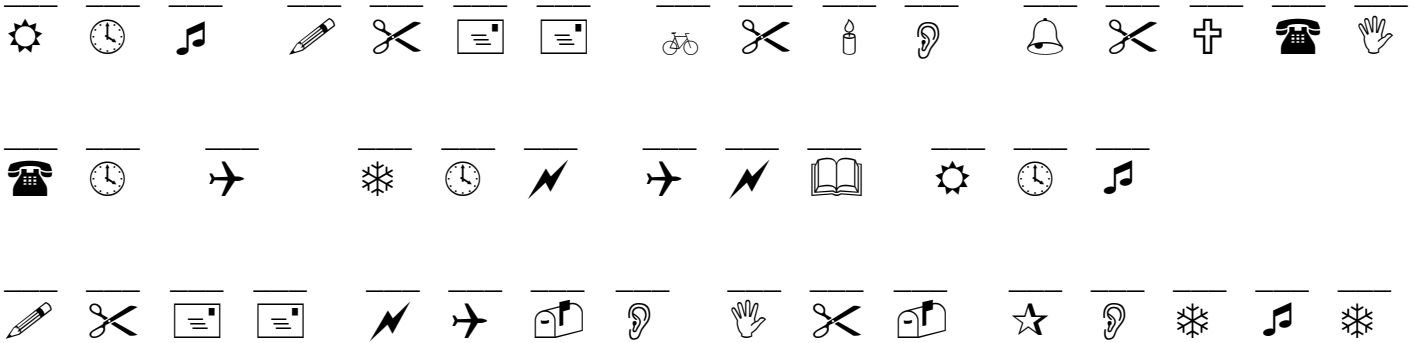
Angels come from **HEAVEN** to bring a **MESSAGE** from **GOD**.

CHERUBIM, **SERAPHIM**, and **ARCHANGELS** are kinds of angels.

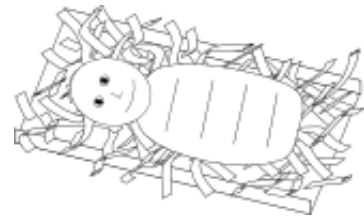
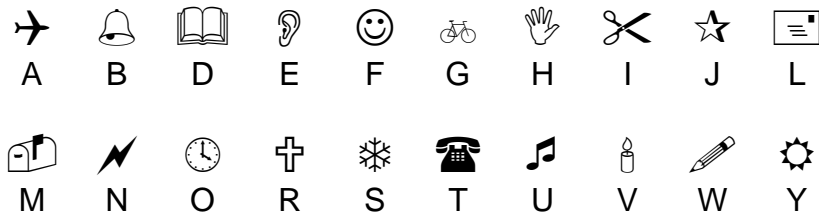
GABRIEL and **MICHAEL** are two angels who are mentioned in the Bible.

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

What did Gabriel say to Mary? Use the code to find out.



Luke 1:31



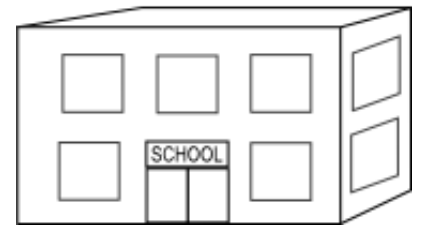
Gabriel came to Mary to bring a message from God. Circle each place where you can share God's message.



home



church



school

I will share God's message with _____.

**C
H
R
I
S
T
M
A
S**

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme of Promises Made, Promises Kept?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Week 1:

Sunday—Read Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

John is born.

Birth stories are exciting! Tell the birth stories of your family members.

Monday—Read Luke 2:1-20

The promised Messiah arrives.

If you have a nativity scene in your home, act out this story with the characters. If not, draw what you imagine the scene looked like.

Tuesday—Read Luke 2:21-24

A trip to Jerusalem.

Share memories of your favorite trip.

Wednesday—Read Luke 2:25-40

Songs in the temple.

Write a simple song praising Jesus.

Thursday—Read Luke 2:41-52

Boy Jesus in the temple.

Has anyone you know (including yourself) wandered off or got lost as a child? Who was more scared, the person lost or the adult looking for them?

Friday—Read Mark 1:1-8

The Baptist prepares the way.

Make a paper megaphone and take turns reading John's announcement in verses 7 and 8.

Saturday—Read Mark 1:9-13

Baptized and tempted.

Take out memorabilia and tell stories about your baptisms.

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Week 2:

Sunday—Read Mark 1:14-20

Jesus' ministry begins.

Pretend to be John. What message would you have shouted about Jesus?

Monday—Read Mark 1:21-28

As one with authority.

Think of someone who has authority in your life. What are traits that you admire about that person?

Tuesday—Read Mark 1:29-39

Simon's mother-in-law.

End your time together by going to your own quiet place to pray.

Wednesday—Read Mark 1:40-45

Jesus heals a man with leprosy.

Wrap yourselves in "bandages" (towels, sheets, gauze, etc.) as you read this story.

Thursday—Read Luke 7:1-10

Jesus heals a centurion's servant.

Talk about the things in this story that demonstrate the centurion's great faith.

Friday—Read Mark 2:1-12

Jesus heals a man who was paralyzed.

Use a towel or blanket to carry the man who was paralyzed, and act out this story.

Saturday—Read Mark 2:13-17

Tax collectors and sinners.

Make a list of people that are the modern-day version of tax collectors and sinners.