

Talk About It:

- Sometimes it is hard to obey rules or what grownups tell us to do. What makes it hard?
 - If you could send a special message to someone right now, who would it be? What would you say to them?
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Read About It:

This story comes from Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25.

Mary was a young woman who lived in a town called Nazareth. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. One day, God sent the angel Gabriel to give Mary a special message. At first, Mary was afraid and confused. But the angel told her not to be afraid because God was very pleased with her. Then the angel gave Mary the special message: She would become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she was to give him the name Jesus. Mary told the angel that she would do whatever God asked her to do.

Meanwhile, Joseph had no idea what was going on at Mary's house. When he found out Mary was pregnant, he thought it would be best to break their engagement and not be married. But then, Joseph had a dream where an angel gave him a special message, too. The angel told Joseph that he should become Mary's husband because she was pregnant with God's special son who they would name Jesus. Joseph woke up and did what the angel told him to do. Joseph and Mary became husband and wife.

A few months later, Mary and Joseph had to travel many miles away to a town called Bethlehem. The town was so crowded, there was nowhere for them to stay except in the room where the animals were kept. While they were there, Mary had her baby boy! Just like the angel told them, Mary and Joseph named their baby Jesus. Mary wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger - the animals' feeding bin. The promised Savior came in a very unexpected way!

- How would you feel if an angel came to give you a special message?
 - Why do you think God was pleased with Mary?
 - The name Jesus means, "God is salvation." Why do you think this name was chosen for Jesus?
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Sing About It:

What Child Is This is a Christmas carol written over 150 years ago. Part of the song says, "Haste, haste to bring him laud." This is a way of saying "Hurry! Hurry! Come celebrate him!" Celebrate the birth of Jesus by singing along with this song on YouTube:

[What Child Is This](#) (Lifetree Kids, More Songs of the Christmas Story, Group Publishing)

Think About It:

- God asked Mary and Joseph to do some really hard things, but because they obeyed God, we got the greatest gift of all – Jesus! Obeying God isn't always easy, but it's always worth it.
 - Why is it sometimes hard to obey God?
 - How hard do you think it was for Mary and Joseph to say "yes" to what God wanted them to do?
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Make It:

For the next few weeks, our lessons are about the birth of Jesus. Create your own nativity scene using craft pages for this lesson. Print out both pages. Color and cut out the stable, Mary, and Joseph. Glue onto a large sheet of construction paper, leaving room to add more people and animals in the coming weeks.

Do It:

Mary and Joseph loved and obeyed God, which means we got the greatest gift of all – Jesus! Good things happen when we obey God, too. Here are some ways you can put your obedience to God into action this week:

- God tells us to obey our parents. This week, do your best to listen to your parents the first time they ask you to do something.
 - God tells us worship Him. Spend time this week to singing songs to God, reading the Bible, and talking to God.
 - Jesus is the best gift we have been given, and God tells us to share this gift with others. This week, tell someone else about the wonderful gift of Jesus who was born for us.
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Pray About It:

Ask God to help you obey him. Thank God for others, like Mary and Joseph, who do what He asks them to do. Thank God for Jesus, the greatest gift!

Memorize It:

She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.
Matthew 1:23



