

Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

WEEK
2
2ND-3RD



DAY 2

Read Luke 1:38

When the angel appeared to Mary, she probably had a lot of questions. Yet even with all her questions, she still said, "I serve the Lord. May it happen to me just as you said it would."

Talk about faith. Mary trusted God. Why? Because God made Mary. God loved Mary. And God's plan for her was awesome. Just like Mary, God has a plan for you. God made you. He loves you. And you can have joy because God has a plan you.

Fill in the blanks below and write down what you hope to be doing/or what you hope your life will be like at that age. Then spend some time thanking God for His plans for you.

Five years from now, I will be _____ years old.
I hope that _____

10 years from now, I will be _____ years old. I
hope that _____

15 years from now, I will be _____ years old. I
hope that _____

DAY 1

Read Luke 1:30-31

What would you do if suddenly an angel from heaven appeared to you with a special message from God? Would you run? Would you stand there frozen, unsure what to say?

We know Mary was probably scared because the angel told her not to be afraid. God had a very special plan, just for her. She would have a baby. But not just any baby. Mary had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, our Savior.

God's plan for Mary was a plan she never could have dreamed up on her own. What a reason to have joy! The same is true for you. An angel probably won't show up in your bedroom but that doesn't mean that God doesn't have a specific plan and purpose just for you. You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

One way you can be sure you don't miss God's plan is to start praying a simple prayer like this: "God, I believe You have a plan for me and I don't want to miss it. Help me to follow You today. In Jesus' name, amen."



PARENT CUE

Read Psalm 33:11

From the very beginning, God had a plan. When God created the whole world, He knew that His creation would turn away from Him and that sin would separate people from God. So, God sent His only Son, Jesus. Jesus suffered and died to take the punishment for sin but death couldn't stop Him! Jesus rose again to make a way so that anyone who believes in Him would never be separated from God again.

That's a big plan. And there may be parts of that plan that seem confusing to you. But as you grow in faith, you'll see that God's plans are good. God loves you with a perfect, never stopping, always constant love. He showed His love for you on that first Christmas when He sent Jesus. And that should fill you with joy!

All of the consonants from today's verse are missing! Can you fill them in?

"__ u __ __ e __ a __
 o __ __ e __ o __
 __ a __ __ i __
 __ o __ e __ e __. __ a __
 __ e __ a __ __ __ o __ o __
 __ i __ __ a __ __ o __
 a __ __ __ i __ e." __ a __
 __ __ 33:11

Read Psalm 32:8

Have you ever played "Follow the Leader"? Or "Simon Says"? What's your favorite role? To be the leader or the follower?

The truth is, we could choose to be the boss or the leader. But wouldn't it be so much better to follow someone who will always lead us in the right direction? Wouldn't it be wiser to follow someone who has the best plan and knows exactly how things will turn out?

When we choose to trust in God, when we take His advice, He will guide us and show us the way to go. And He will watch over us with love all along the way. We can trust God always.

Decorate the front of your "JOY" ornament (from last week) with paint, run some ribbon through the hole and hang it on the Christmas tree. Point out the ornament to your family and tell them that you can have joy because God has a plan for you.

You can have joy because
 God has a plan for you.