

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 20th December
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Luke 1 v 26–38

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

2 Samuel 7v1-11,16

Canticle: Magnificat or

Psalm 89v1-4,19-26

Romans 16v25-27

A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story Mary who was obedient and willing to serve you. Would you help us to be obedient and servant hearted too, listening to your instructions and living for you.

We pray for mothers all around the world who are expecting or have new-borns. In these strange times would you provide the love and support they need around them.

We lift up our own families to you and those who care for us, would you bless them this Christmas time.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How do you think Mary felt when the angel told her that she was going to have such a special baby?

Do you think Mary was a good choice?

Verse 29 tells us that even before Gabriel had told her about the baby, she was surprised by his greeting. Mary never expected to be chosen for a special task by God. Perhaps this is what made her such a good choice.

It must have been scary to be visited by an angel and to be given such a big important mission but Mary trusted in God and was obedient, saying "let this happen to me as you say." These words are very similar to the ones that Jesus spoke in the garden of Gethsemane before going to the cross, perhaps God chose Mary because he knew that she would raise her son to be obedient and servant-hearted like she was.

A question for children to ask adults

What is the best thing about being a parent?

A prayer of love

As we light the fourth Advent candle, we think of all those who we love and who love us!

We thank God for his love for the world and the sending of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us who would die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and that we could have the gift of eternal life.

We thank you for all our loved ones, family and friends – even though we may not be able to meet this Christmas may we find ways to share and show love with others.

Amen



A verse to remember

2 Samuel 7 v 16

**But your family and your kingdom will continue always before me.
Your throne will last forever.**

These words were spoken to King David through the prophet Nathan - compare them with the words of the Angel Gabriel in Luke 1 v 32-33! Jesus' birth had been part of God's plan for a very long time, the Old Testament is full of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. Joseph was a direct descendant on King David!

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.



Active Advent

God is amazing and there will always be more of God for us to experience and come to know. Why not take on these challenges during the fourth week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once, they are all about discovering more about God.

Dec 20th

Set a timer for 1 minute, how many different names and words can you think of to describe God?



Dec 21st

Read 1 Corinthians 12 v7-11, it talks about the different gifts God has for us, ask God which gift He would like to give you today through the Holy Spirit.

Dec 22nd

Stretch out as wide as you can, now stretch up as high as you can. Read Ephesians 3:18-19 and see what it says about how BIG God's love is for you.

Dec 23rd

Jesus died on a cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be saved. God's forgiveness is for everybody, take some time today to pray for a friend or family member who doesn't yet know God as their friend and saviour.

Dec 24th

We are precious children of God, spend some time listening to God today. Ask God to tell you some of the things He loves about you!

Dec 25th

Merry Christmas! As you celebrate together don't forget to stop and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus – the reason for the season!



Family Activity 1

Mary was obedient saying "I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!". Play a game of Simon says together, children might like to take it in turns to be the leader. You might like to talk together about what it means to be obedient and to commit ourselves to serving God.

Family Activity 2

Angel Craft

Use the template on the next page to make your own printable angel decorations. You could hang them on your tree or around the house as a reminder of this part of the story.



Family Activity 3

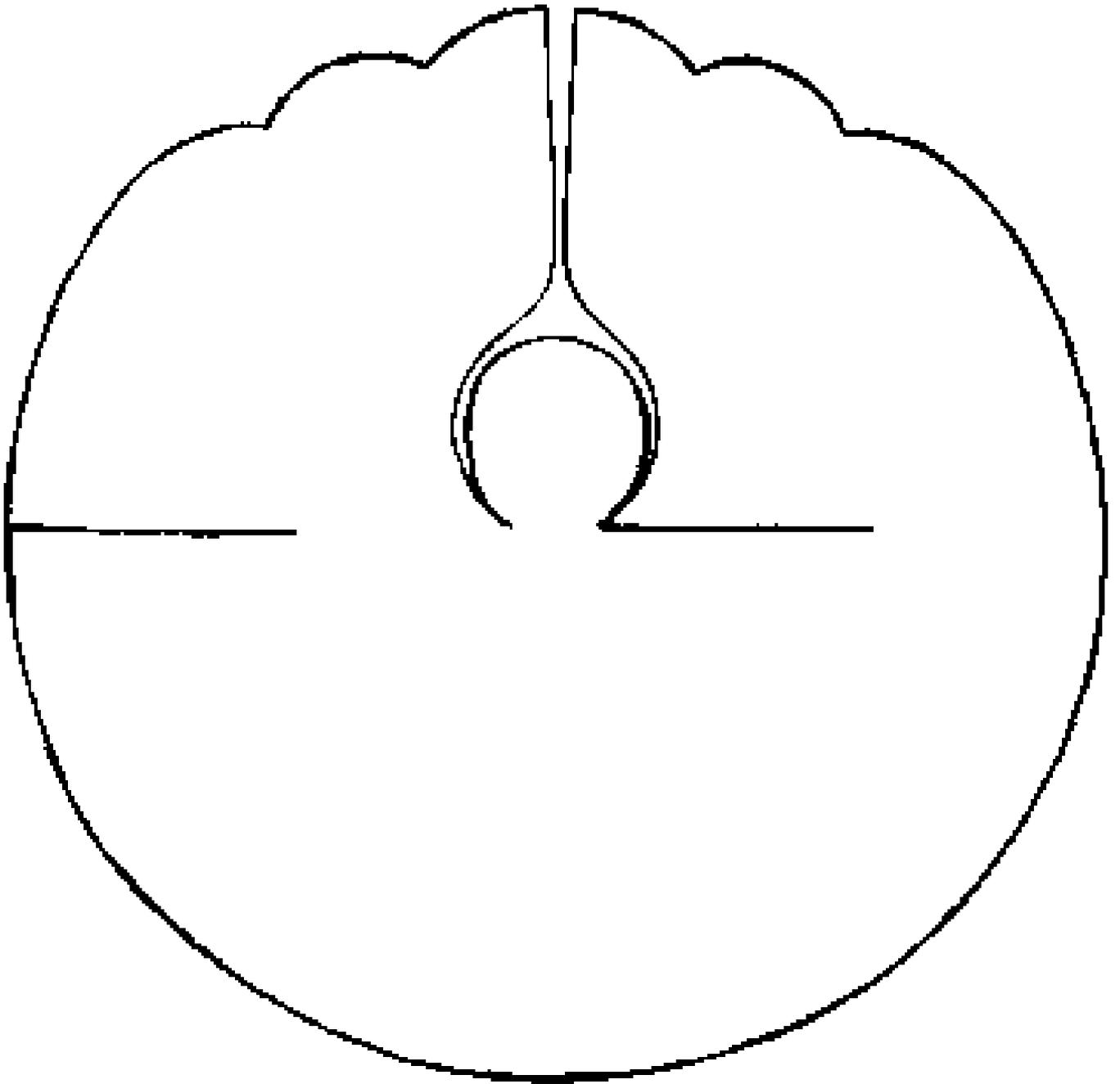
Magnificent Magnificat

Mary's song of praise is known as the 'Magnificat'.

Work together as a family to write your own song of praise together. You could use Mary's song as a template.

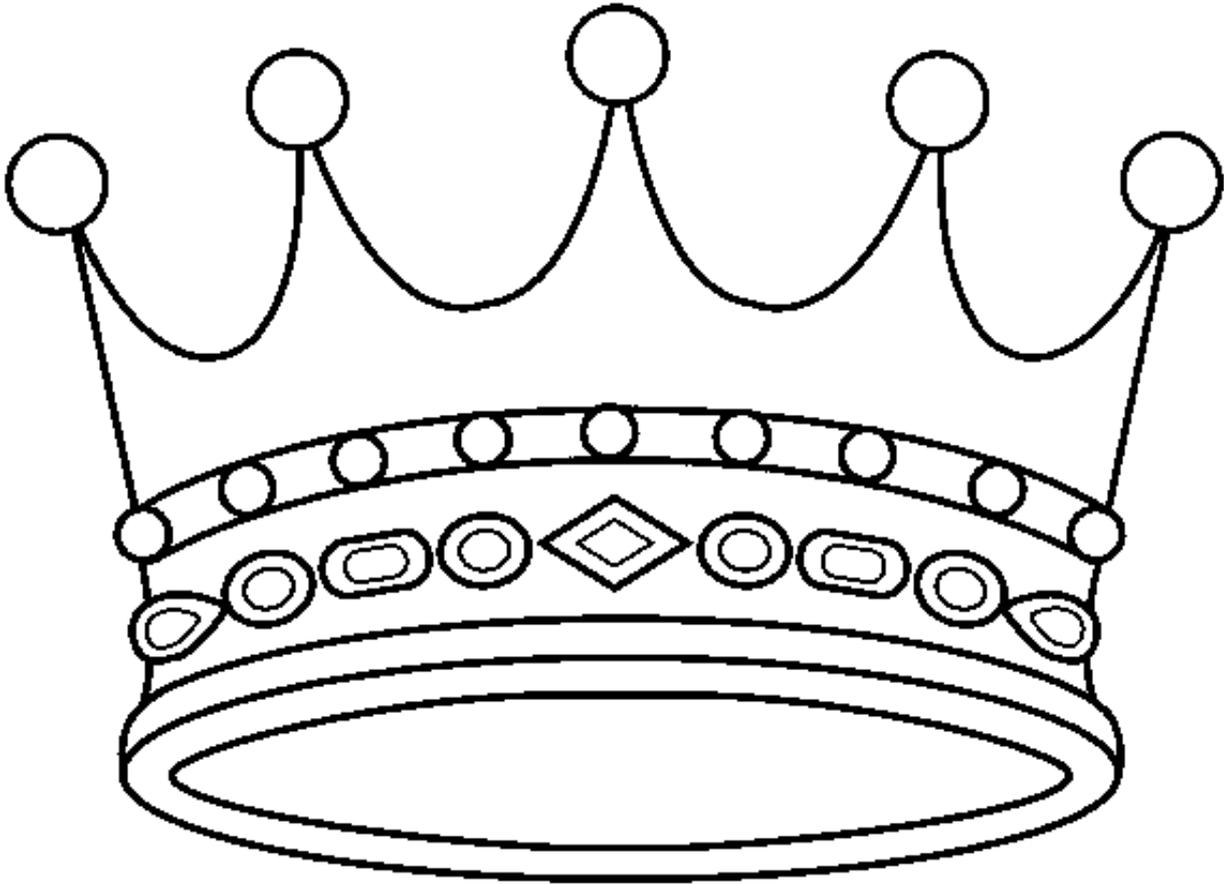


Cone Angel Template



A colouring page you could print and colour together

2 Samuel 7 v 16

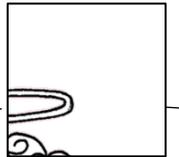
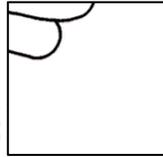
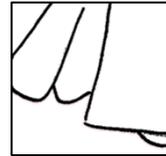
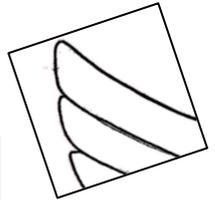
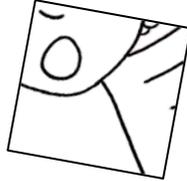
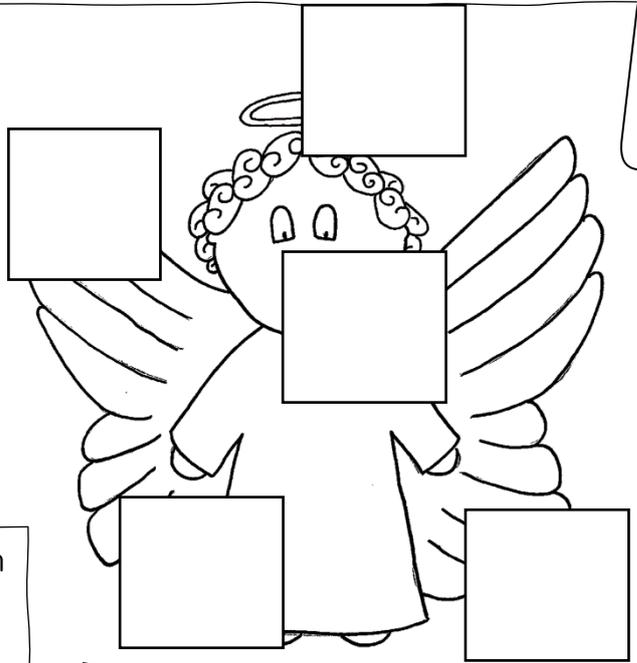


But your family and your
kingdom will continue
always before me Your
throne will last forever.

h P U Z Z L E S H E E T

a

Copy the picture from the fallen files to complete the angel.



z

E

Can you find these words in the word search?

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| Mary | baby |
| Gabriel | Nazareth |
| angel | Joseph |
| Jesus | blessed |

q i j v q n i b m l r c l q h
j o p o r d y m e w d r n l t
q p o z s z q i o d o j d f e
e h p r o e r u b j j j z b r
d b y d b b p u j e z p d t a
v i a b a m j h s y r a m c z
n h n g a a b u v x q y f x a
r e g a h b s a t s i c f f n
f g e o f l d m d b r y p h f
x h l o q k u l d r t f y x l
m l s j z m j h t y a j n q e
s l f l y w t p h n c x q x u
m e y f d w v r m r g j a m q
v v u a g e f r s q o m t j c
b l e s s e d e h m u y n b f

Find the letters hidden on the page. Rearrange them to give the name of the relative visited by Mary.

Solve the code to reveal something which Gabriel said to Mary.

a c d g h i n o t y

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