

Jesus is
God's plan.



Jesus calms
our fears.



Jesus makes
everything
new.



Jesus is
God's love
for everyone.



THIS MONTH

Why are there so many Christmas songs about angels? Because angels show up all throughout the Christmas story with great news!

In this four-week series, kids will explore the foundational stories of Jesus' birth with a focus on the angels who were there to witness them!

From the city where Jesus was born, to the cities we live in today, the angels' message is just as important now as it was then! Jesus is God's plan, calms our fears, makes everything new, and is God's love for everyone.

1

Jesus is
God's plan.

An angel appeared
to Zechariah.

Luke 1:5—25
Isaiah 11:1—5

READ the Suggested
Scripture. (THE BIBLE)

READ the Recap
of this week's Lesson.

READ the Suggested Scripture
and/or supplied questions.

WORSHIP with your family!

Complete an ACTIVITY with your family!

MEMORIZE scripture with your family!



Do you know what a map is? Maps tell us how to get around and where to find things all over the world. To create a city or town, a tremendous plan has to be made. A map shows us what that plan was and how it looks now.

In fact, to do any big project, you need a solid plan!

Every city has planners who have great ideas for how cities should be built. These planners make decisions about where the parks are, which streets are busiest, and where's a good place to walk your dog.

READ LUKE 1:5—25

Before all of our technology like YouTube, phones, and the internet existed, news and stories had to be communicated in a different way. People would tell stories to each other in markets and in city centers to pass on information that would spread out from there.

The story's details were filled in with new words, art, poetry, and songs! These tactics make stories super memorable.

It wasn't weird to hear announcements from all kinds of people. What was strange was hearing announcements from people who weren't, well, people! I'm, of course, talking about angels.

Angels have always been important players in Bible stories, but we never really get to hear their side of the story.

Zechariah was this priest guy who worked in the temple. One night he was working and an angel paid him a visit and he freaked out! In fact, Zechariah wasn't able to speak for months until he finally believed what he'd heard.

Zechariah was told that God heard his prayers and that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby. Zechariah and his wife were considered way too old to have a baby. Of course, they wanted one for a long time, but by that point, they were sure it was too late.

By God's calculations, they would have a baby at exactly the right time. The baby's name was to be John. John would belong to God and would be led by God's helper, the Holy Spirit. Most importantly, John would prepare the way for the greatest person we've all been waiting for. (JESUS!)

Little did Zechariah know, his wife, Elizabeth, would soon give birth to John, who would later be known as John the Baptist.

As a grownup, John would point everyone toward Jesus, who will change the world forever!

God's plan to save us all started with the birth of John, who would be the one to point the way to Jesus and ultimately, God!

- What did the angel say would happen because Zechariah didn't trust right away?
- Read Isaiah 11:1—2. Who is this "branch" from Jesse that the passage is talking about?
- Do you like to plan or do you like to be spontaneous? Do you think one is better than the other? How do you know God planned to send Jesus long before Jesus was born?
- What does it mean for us that Jesus is God's plan?

Worship

"Jesus is the Reason"
(Ark Kids)

"Christmas is Jesus"
(Go Kids Music)

Memorization

This month, your kids are memorizing the Bible verse Luke 2:10 (NIV) in case you want to work on them together.

if you could be on a city planning team and you got to change one thing in a real or made-up city, what would it be?

As a family come up with a plan for a new city!

Then, how would you tell people about the plan you made?

Would you send an email?

Would you have a parade?

Would you send carrier puppies to everyone's houses with a note about the plan?

PRAYER

God, we thank you for your plan to send your only son, Jesus, to us. You even planned for someone like John the Baptist to come into this world to help people turn to Jesus — and you put people in our lives today who help us do that, too.

Help us to trust your plans because they are always good. Amen.



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2

Jesus calms
our fears.

An angel appeared
to Mary.

Luke 1:26—38, 46b—55
Isaiah 35:1—4

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READ the Recap
of this week's Lesson.

READ the Suggested Scripture
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WORSHIP with your family!

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Welcome back to City of Angels! This month, we're hearing some remarkable messages that angels shared with God's people. Their messages all have one thing in common: They're all about Jesus! Let's see what the angels are telling us today.

READ LUKE 1:26—38, 46B—55

A short while after Gabriel met with Zechariah, God sent his Angel on another messenger errand. This time, it was to Zechariah's wife Elizabeth's cousin. Cousin Mary.

arrived unannounced again, but it's because it was a really important message and I wanted to deliver it super quick. So, yeah . . . Mary was terrified, just like Zechariah was. Gabriel told her not to be afraid because God saw greatness in her and because of that she was going to give birth to a baby boy! It was the baby. The son of God, baby! Mary was going to be the mother of Jesus.

However, Mary was engaged to a guy named Joseph. Mary was probably scared about taking on this huge responsibility and also about what people would say about her if they found out she was going to have a baby that wasn't Joseph's.

Once she got over the initial fear, she was filled with so much joy, she even sang a song to show how blessed she was that God had chosen her to bring someone as important as Jesus into the world.

Mary was afraid when she first heard God wanted her to be the mother of Jesus. It's easy to feel scared when God chooses us to be a part of something big. But when that something involves Jesus, we have nothing to fear!

Even though Jesus wasn't born yet, just the thought of being a part of God's plan to bring Jesus into the world made Mary glad. Her joy was greater than any fear she had.

We all have fears . . . it's part of being human! But we aren't meant to live fearfully. We know we can go to Jesus to calm our fears.

- How did Mary react when she saw the angel, Gabriel?
- What reason did the angel give to Mary about why she was chosen to be Jesus' mother?
 - What did the angel say Jesus would be like?
- Why do you think Mary stopped being afraid about the message the angel brought her?
 - What is one way you normally handle fear?
- In what ways does Jesus calm our fears?

Worship

"Hark the Herald
Angels Sing"
(Lifetree Kids)

"Go Tell It on the
Mountain"
(Love to Sing)

Memorization

This month, your kids are memorizing the Bible verse Luke 2:10 (NIV) in case you want to work on them together.

Gather jars with lids, glitter, glitter glue, and food coloring for kids to make their own calming jars
(Scan QR code to learn how to make one).

Today's Big Idea reminds us that Jesus calms our fears. Let's make our own calming jars to help us remember this Big Idea throughout the week.

Whenever life shakes you up and causes you to be afraid, remember Jesus is there with you. Turn your attention to Jesus instead of your fear, allowing Jesus to calm you down and give you peace and comfort.



PRAYER

God, thank you for giving us Jesus, who calms our fears. Just like Mary did when she knew Jesus would be coming soon, help us to turn our fears into joy by trusting in you.

Because of Jesus, we know we can stay calm when we get scared. Amen.



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3

Jesus makes
everything
new.

An angel appeared
to Joseph in a dream.

Matthew 1:18—25
Isaiah 43:16—19

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WORSHIP with your family!

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Welcome to our third week of City of Angels!
In our series this month, we've heard God-given messages about Jesus through God's special messengers, angels!

READ MATTHEW 1:18—25

If you remember, the message Gabriel gave Mary was that she was going to have a baby. Which was great news. But not so much for Joseph, because it wasn't his baby. He and Mary weren't even officially married yet. They were only engaged.

But he cared about Mary and he didn't want her to get hurt. So, he was thinking about calling off the engagement quietly so nobody would have the chance to start any wild rumors.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and give him this message: Don't be afraid to marry Mary. What's happening to her is God's plan and she is going to give birth to the child of God. This child will one day grow up and is going to save all people. This child will be called "God with us," or Immanuel.

It seems like God knew all along that Mary and Joseph would be the perfect couple for the job. They obeyed God instead of being swayed by their confusing situation.

Wasn't that neat? Even though Joseph was confused and things looked broken, when Joseph was shown God's way, he found out he could be a part of something new and much better!

This doesn't mean Jesus will take your old toys and make them all shiny again. It means when we have Jesus in our lives, our lives are no longer the same. Because of Jesus, we are made new.

- How did Joseph hear from the angel?
- What did the angel tell Joseph he needed to do?
- What did the angel tell Joseph Jesus would do?
- What are some things in this world that are broken or old that could be made new?
- What is something new that God might want you to do that you're unsure of?
- How does Jesus make things new?

Worship

"Angels We Have Heard On High"
(Family Force 5)

"Jesus, Savior of the World" (KidSpring Children's Ministry)

Memorization

This month, your kids are memorizing the Bible verse Luke 2:10 (NIV) in case you want to work on them together.

Make tree ornaments using recycled, "old" materials like paper plates, popsicle sticks, cotton balls, mismatched buttons, and anything else you decide. When the kids are finished designing their ornament, glue a paperclip on the back to use as a hook.

Glue a piece of paper that says, "Jesus makes everything new" on the front of the ornament. Let's be reminded that Jesus makes everything new throughout Christmas by making beautiful tree ornaments out of recycled materials.

If we can turn these old items into something festive for our Christmas trees, imagine what Jesus can do with our hearts! The possibilities are endless!

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus into our broken world to make everything new. You make us new when we talk, act, and live the way you want us to.

We know you're the only one who can restore everything that you've made, including us and everyone around us. Please make us newer and better every day. Amen.



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4

Jesus is
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for everyone.

An angel appeared
to the shepherds.

Luke 2:1—20
Hebrews 1:1—6

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READ the Recap
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READ the Suggested Scripture
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WORSHIP with your family!

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Welcome to our final week of City of Angels! We've had a blast this month getting to hear all about the amazing messages about Jesus angels delivered to special people.

The message we'll hear about during this last week was given to an unlikely group, but just like everyone else, they played an important part in Jesus' story. Let's get into it!

READ LUKE 2:1—20

Mary and Joseph did get married, and then not long after, they had to travel to Bethlehem.

It was there that Jesus was born, right?

Right! The place where Jesus was born was not the place many expected. Knowing who Jesus really is, you would think Mary and Joseph would travel throughout Bethlehem and then be invited into the palace or something. That would've been something, for sure. But no, the city was crowded and there was no room to be found. So, Mary and Joseph ended up holing up in a space shared with animals!

Our Jesus was born and placed inside a manger.

Surrounded by animals and animal smells.

But do you know what matters?

Jesus was in the world and it was all according to God's plan.

Now this is where the Shepherds come into the scene! God told them (Angels) to make the announcement to a few shepherds who were watching sheep in the middle of the night.

The first angel that showed up told the shepherds right away that they were coming to them with good news and the good news would bring great joy for everyone.

They probably never got news that way before.

The news that Jesus, the savior of the world, was born in the town of Bethlehem? Delivered by angels? Then, followed up by a whole bunch of angels singing and praising God? Yeah, that's on a whole different level right there.

Such an amazing message to give and an amazing way to deliver that message to people who weren't rich or famous, but were ordinary like you and me!

This is so true. No matter what you look like, where you come from, or what you've done, God loves us through Jesus!

- Who were the first people who got to hear the good news about Jesus' birth?
- What did the angels do after they delivered the message?
- If the angels were to deliver a message from God today, where in the city do you think they'd go? Why?
- How do we worship today? Are there any new ways we can worship?
- What's one thing you can do to show God's love is for everyone?

Worship

"Star of the Morning"
(Hillsong Kids)

"Joy to the World"
(Love to Sing)

Memorization

This month, your kids are memorizing the Bible verse Luke 2:10 (NIV) in case you want to work on them together.

Provide kids with cardstock paper and various colors of craft paint. Give each kid a paper plate and allow them to mix and swirl the colors on their plate however they'd like. Afterward, have them stamp both their hands on the plate then on their paper, arranging them to resemble angel wings. Allow them to be creative with how their wings look.

Scan the QR code for a basic idea of what it might look like.

All month, we've heard how angels delivered lots of messages to show Jesus is God's love for everyone.

We can deliver that message, too, in the way we treat others.

Let's make an art piece that will remind us that we're God's hands and feet — and maybe even wings — to let the world know how much God loves them!



PRAYER

Dear God, we are so happy we get to celebrate Jesus being born. We're grateful that sending Jesus to Earth is a clear sign of how much you love and care for us.

Help us to show kindness and share the good news with others because Jesus and your love is for everyone. Amen.