

# God's Story

## Our Story

Dec. 18, 2016



5 simple steps to help bring your household closer to God and each other



**SHARE**  
your highs and lows

During this season of Advent you may want to use an advent wreath with four candles. If so light all four candles this week.



**READ**

a Bible verse or story

**A verse for the week:** *The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."* —Luke 1:30-31.

*If your household includes younger children you may want to use a children's Bible story book. If the assigned reading is not in your storybook, just choose another.*

**Sun** Luke 1:26-56 The Hope of the Messiah

**Mon** 1 Samuel 1:9-18 Hannah Dedicates Samuel

**Tues** 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah's Prayer

**Wed** Genesis 18:1-15 A Child Promised to Abraham

**Thurs** Isaiah 7:13-17 A Sign of Immanuel

**Fri** John 1:1-13 The Word Became Flesh

**Sat** Luke 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus

**Sun** Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds Learn the Story of Hope

Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows. More discussion questions are on the back side.

**A prayer for the week:** God of the Most High, You sent your angels to deliver a message to the world—a message not to condemn the world but to save it through your son, Jesus. Help us to share this message of Good News with others. Amen

Point your finger:

**"for YOU—a Savior has been born"**

## More resources for being the church at home this week

Away from home, and without proper lodging, a woman delivers a baby. Has this odd story of unconventional family, inconvenient birth, and unexpected rural visitors been so repeated that it loses some of its wonderful strangeness? Listen again—for the first time.

### A meal time prayer:

As the light grows dim, we wait for our King. As the days grow shorter, we gather around the table. As the food is presented before us, we give thanks — for friends and family, for drink and food, and for the baby Jesus yet to come. Amen.

### More questions for conversation:

God sent an angel to deliver a message to Mary. The first words the angel tells Mary is to not be afraid. What would you do if an angel appeared to you? What do you think angels looks like?

What is it about babies that brings out the best in us? How do babies evoke faith, hope, and love?

What are you waiting for? What might you do while you wait to make the waiting less agonizing?

### Ideas for putting faith in action:

By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive.

Pick up a box of candy canes and hand them out to family members, friends or neighbors. As you share one, turn the candy can upside down like the letter 'J'. Remind them the joy of Christmas comes from Jesus!

Before you open gifts in the morning, share with your friends or family the story of Jesus' birth as you know it. Listen to the telling as others share it. What are the similarities? What are the differences? What does the telling of Jesus' birth story say about the person sharing it?

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