

Church at Home Pack – 20th December 2020

Join us for our 10:30am online service on Sunday on www.ccwsm.org.uk

There is no morning service in the church building today.

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.



GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Lord Jesus,
We are ordinary people
Help us to follow Mary's example and be extraordinary for you.

Amen

Action reminder –

From the top of my head
(*Touch head*)
to the tips of my toes;
(*Touch toes*)
from the lobes of my ears
(*Touch ear lobes*)
to the end of my nose;
(*Touch nose*)
from my back, to my front
(*Turn round*)
to my wiggly fingers,
(*stretch out arms and wiggle fingers*)
God loves me!
(*jump up and down*)

READ TOGETHER

Luke 1: 26-38



International Children's Bible (ICB)

²⁶⁻²⁷ During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."

²⁹ But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

³⁰ The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. ³¹ Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. ³³ He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!"

³⁵ The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. ³⁷ God can do everything!"

³⁸ Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

WATCH TOGETHER



The Story of Christmas – Saddleback Kids

Watch this video and see that Mary and Joseph were both visited by God's Angels!

<https://youtu.be/XkEypzmHwCI>

TALK TOGETHER

- John shared one of his favourite carols with us. What's yours? Why?
- Mary is described as a 'most highly favoured lady' in the carol John sang. What does highly favoured mean to you?
- As a young child, John's son got one of the words in this carol slightly wrong! If a blessing from God had a flavour, what do you think would it be?

STUDY TOGETHER

As you read the passage, try to imagine what your reaction would have been if you were in Mary's place.

- What do you think being blessed or favoured by God might mean?
- In what ways did Mary's blessing from God cause her pain and hardship?
- Have you ever been called by God to do something difficult or that was misunderstood by friends or family?

In **verse 29**, we read that Mary questions how this could happen to her. Sometimes God calls us to do difficult things. Sometimes we have no idea how we will get through a situation.

- Have you ever been in a difficult situation and you were unable to see a way forward? How did you get through it?
- How does your faith and knowledge of God help?

From the ***Life Application Study Bible***:

Motherhood is a painful privilege. Young Mary of Nazareth had the unique privilege of being mother to the very Son of God. Mary was the only human present at Jesus' birth who also witnessed his death. She saw him arrive as her baby son, and she watched him die as her Saviour.

Until Gabriel's unexpected visit, Mary's life was quite satisfactory. She had recently become engaged to a carpenter, Joseph, and was anticipating married life. But her life was about to change forever.

In **verse 38**, Mary responds to the angel's message with acceptance.

Even though she didn't understand how it would happen.

Even though she could not really understand why she was chosen.

Even though she could not know what being the mother of Jesus would really mean for her.

Even though she could not know what she would go through.

She said 'Yes'.

How does Mary's example of faith help you?

PLAY TOGETHER

Play the story

Very young children can explore and wonder about Bible stories through play. Use their own toys to act out the story! Or use an Angel from the **Make Together** section.

It's impossible!

Mary's story seems impossible to us but we are reminded that with God, nothing is impossible! Just for fun try these apparently physically impossible things!...

- Twitch your nose without moving the rest of your face!
- Kiss your own elbow!
- Rotate your right leg in a clockwise motion while drawing a number 6 in the air with your right hand!
- Wiggle your ears!
- Place the palm of your hand on a flat surface with your middle finger curled underneath, then raise only your ring finger!

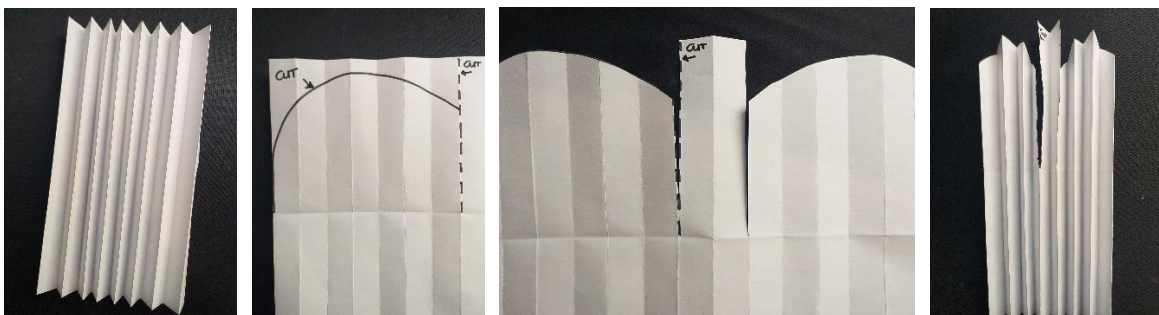
Can you do any of them?!

MAKE TOGETHER

Paper Angels

To turn an ordinary A4 sheet of paper into an Angel. You will also need a glue stick and some string or ribbon.

- Fold the paper along the short edge into a concertina.
- Unfold the concertina and flatten the paper.
- Fold the paper in half and then into quarters.
- Unfold and cut as shown in the picture instructions.
- Re-fold the concertina.
- Fold down the 'wings' and glue to the sides. Glue the middle together as shown.
- Fold the 'head' strip over once and glue down.
- Fold the 'head' strip for a second time, this time adding string or ribbon to hang your angel from and glue down.
- Fan out your angel and hang it up!





Our Toddler Group have been making a **Cardboard Tube Nativity** – Perhaps you might like to have a go, starting with **Mary and the Angel!**

SING TOGETHER

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came – Emmaus Music <https://youtu.be/dKlc8JvxGbU>

Mary did you know – One Voice Children’s Choir <https://youtu.be/F1H1-scfD1s>

Nothing is Impossible with God – Lifetree Kids https://youtu.be/yF_5QZxm6rs

REFLECT TOGETHER

John reminded us the Jesus comes to us in 3 different ways.

Reflect on these:



Firstly – as a baby in Bethlehem at Christmas time.
Born to ordinary people in an extremely ordinary place. Born for an extraordinary purpose.

Secondly – at the end of the age.
Jesus will come again. It is promised. He will come into our ordinary lives and the result will be extraordinary.

Thirdly – in the lives of believers.
As followers of Jesus, he is with every one of us. He is with us in our ordinary, everyday lives.

Are you ready for him to do something extraordinary in your life?



PRAY TOGETHER

Extraordinary Angels – Prayer Bunting

Mary was an ordinary person used by God in an extraordinary way.

Make some simple paper Angels. Put up a length of string or ribbon to hang them from.

Each day, take a paper Angel and write on it all the ordinary things you will do.

As you hang it back up on the string or ribbon, ask God to use those ordinary things for his extraordinary purposes.

With God, nothing is impossible!



DO TOGETHER

Look for God in the ordinary

At the end of each day, think back over the things you've done and the places you've been. Where did you see God in the ordinary, everyday stuff?

Share it with the people you live with or a Christian friend over the phone.

You might like to keep a journal or you might like to draw a picture over Christmas of what you notice.

Email: family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder taken from

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