

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 5th December
Second 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.

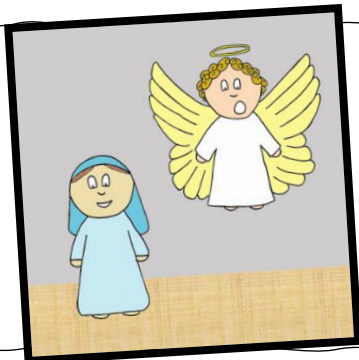
Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of the Angel 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.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of Mary who you chose to be the mother of your son Jesus. Help us to learn from her example, to be obedient and servant hearted as we live for you.

Help us to be brave as we face scary and uncertain times, trusting in you to protect and guide us. Help us to praise and worship you in the middle of the challenges we face.

This Christmas may we listen to your voice and seek for ways to serve you in our families and communities, offering our lives to you in obedience just as Mary did.

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?

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 and take turns being the leader. You might also like to talk together about what it means to be obedient and to commit ourselves to serving God.





A verse to remember

Luke 1:38

"I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said."

Mary was a poor girl living in a rural village in an occupied country. Everyone around her discounted her. But God did not. God valued Mary and had work and a plan for her. God values us and has work and a plan for each of us, too. Like Mary, may we be ready and willing to do our part.

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

Just like Mary we are invited to offer our lives to God in worship and service. God has a role and mission for each one of us. Why not take on these worship and service challenges during the second week of Advent?

You could do one each day or do them all at once.

Dec 6th

Draw a picture of yourself in your dream job, what area of work would you like to serve God in?



Dec 7th

Add to the picture to show you using a skill or talent that God has given you. How could you use that skill to serve and worship God today?



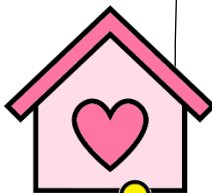
Dec 8th

Draw a heart on your picture, pray and ask God to help you be servant hearted, happy and willing to love and serve others.



Dec 9th

Add a house to your picture, what ways can you think of that you could serve others in your household today?



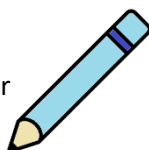
Dec 10th

Add a friend to the picture how can you serve them today and share God's love with them?



Dec 11th

Write or draw some worship today, tell or show God what makes Him AMAZING!



Dec 12th

Ask God if there are any areas in your life where you could serve Him better or be more obedient.



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.

A Prayer of Peace

As we light the second Advent candle, we remember the peace of God brought to us through the birth of Jesus.

We thank You for reminding us that Your peace is for everyone who puts their faith in You.

Help us to trust You and to live Your way every day so that we might not only understand Your peace, but also share it with others. Amen.



Active Waiting

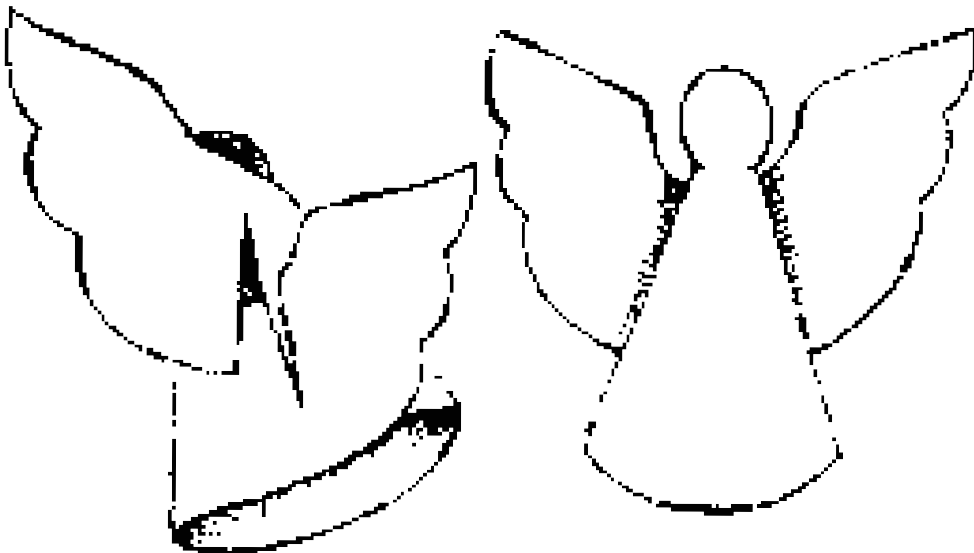
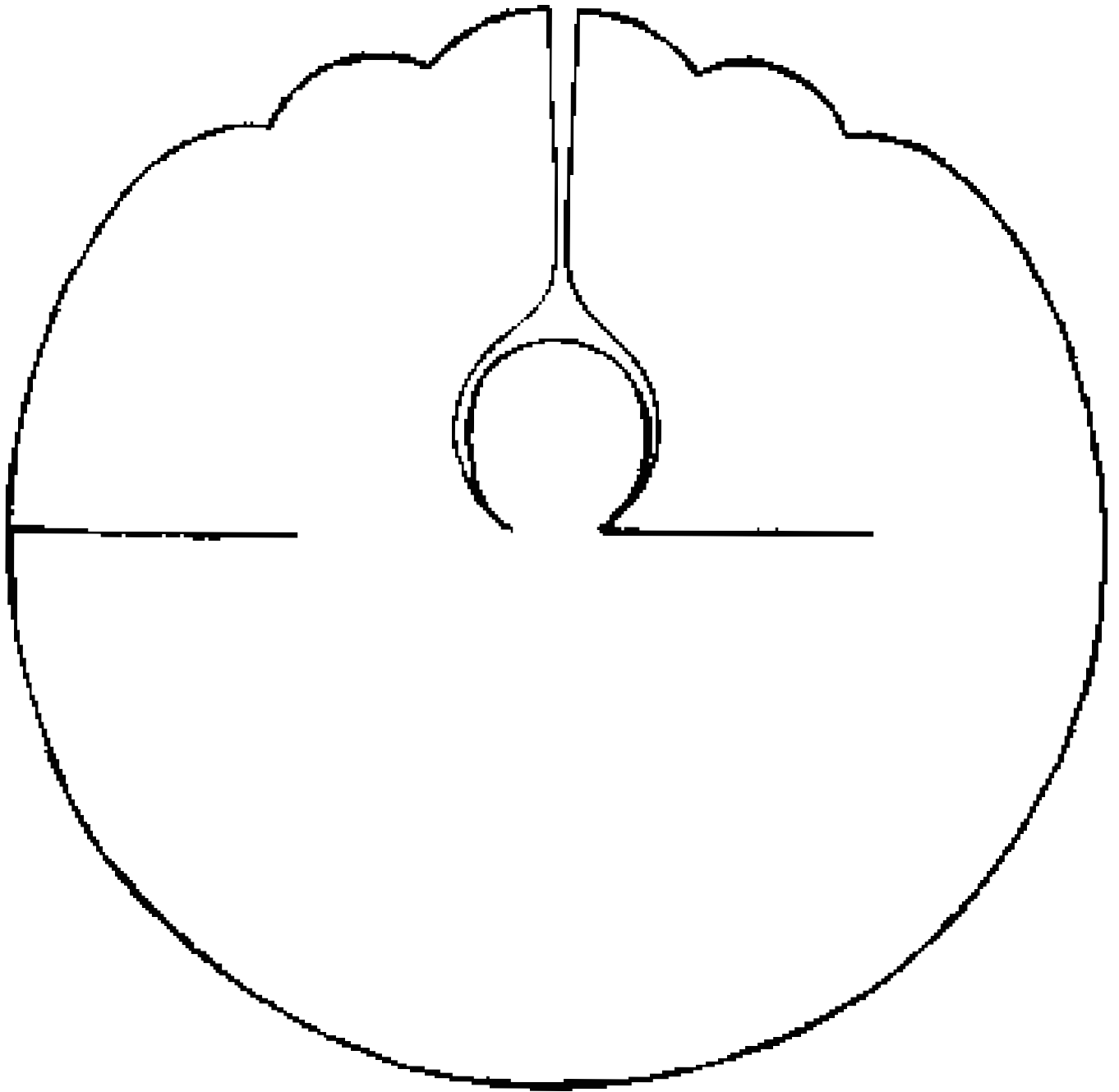
Spend some time waiting on God together as a family and listening. Why not ask for God to speak to you about how you can serve Him this week.

You can download a 'Listening to God' resource at :

www.TatH.co.uk/other-resources



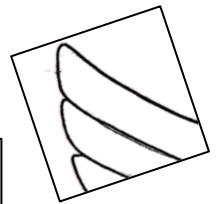
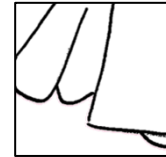
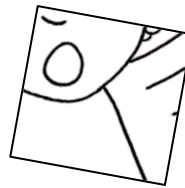
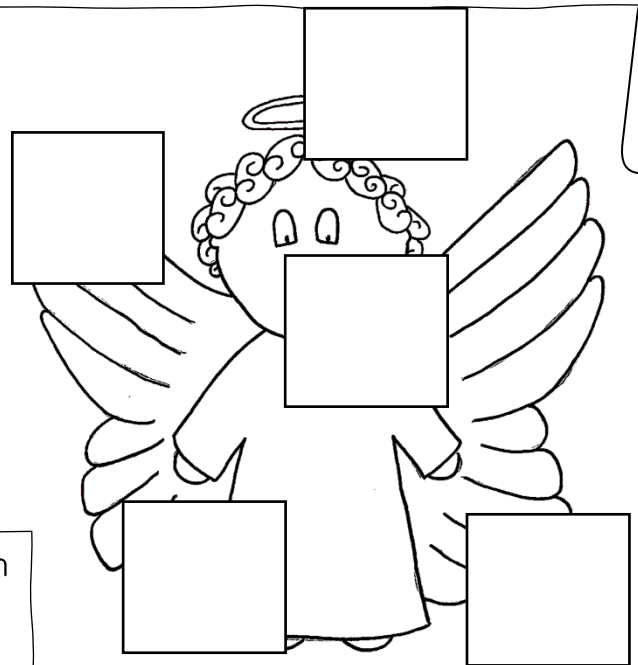
Cone Angel Template



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

a

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



Can you find these words in
the word search?

Mary	baby
Gabriel	Nazareth
angel	Joseph
Jesus	blessed

z

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 Mary's relative who is also going
to have a baby.

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





a c d g h i n o t y



b