

# Together @ Home

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 Mary's visit to Elizabeth.

You can find it in your Bible in:

**Luke 1:39-56**

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



## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Mary and Elizabeth. Help us to learn from their examples, to rejoice in Your blessings.

We thank you that Jesus came to be a light in the world, a light that brings joy and hope for all. Help us to be lights in our own communities, to find reasons and ways to celebrate and rejoice together this season.

We pray that those who are feeling lonely or sad may they know your comfort and joy!

Amen.

## Discussion

### Questions for adults to ask children:

Why did Mary visit Elizabeth?

What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth?

What did Elizabeth tell Mary?

### A question to discuss together:

In verses 46-55 Mary praises God with a song. What are some things that Mary praises/thanks God for?

### A question for children to ask adults:

When was a time in your life where you experienced joy?

## A prayer of joy



As we light the third Advent candle, we choose to rejoice even in difficult times!

We thank God that He fills us with joy and praise in place of sorrow and despair.

God, we ask for Your help this advent as we mourn some of our Christmas traditions that cannot take place. Help us find reasons to rejoice and ways to celebrate together. Amen.



## A verse to remember

Luke 1 v 50

**God will show his mercy forever and ever  
to those who worship and serve him.**

Read this verse from the 'Magnificat', Mary's song of praise. What do you think it means to worship and serve God? To learn this verse you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it somewhere you can see it during the week.

### Active Advent

Why not take on these light and joy challenges during the third week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once.

#### Dec 13th

**A** – can you name something beginning with the letter A that fills you with joy? Why not try to put a smile on somebody's face with an **amusing** joke today!

#### Dec 14th

**D** – can you name something beginning with the letter D that fills you with joy? Why not put on some of your favorite worship music and praise God with some joyful **dancing** today!

#### Dec 15th

**V** – can you name something beginning with the letter V that fills you with joy? It might not be **valentines** day but don't let that stop you writing a message of love and joy to somebody today!

#### Dec 16th

**E** – can you name something beginning with the letter E that fills you with joy? Christmas may look different this year but we can still get **excited** about it, why not pray and ask God to fill you with **enthusiasm** for your family plans this year!

#### Dec 17th

**N** – can you name something beginning with the letter N that fills you with joy? Why not head out into **nature** today, go on a walk and ask for a fresh joy as you explore God's beautiful creation.

#### Dec 18th

**T** – can you name something beginning with the letter T that fills you with joy? What are some of the **tastes** that fill you with joy? Why not prepare some of your favorite foods together today?

#### Dec 19th

Spend some time waiting on God today and listening to His voice. You could ask God to share with you some of the things about **YOU** that bring **HIM** joy!

### Family Activity 1

#### Dance for joy!

Put on some music and play a game of musical statues. When the music plays, dance for joy together. When the music stops, freeze. You could take it in turns shouting out a thank you prayer to God when you are frozen!



### Family Activity 2

#### 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.



## Mary Visited Elizabeth Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 15 things that are different.



# Coloring Page





# Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town 40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

O Y T R Z R P O C B R M X J Z  
N W C G A Z E C H A R I A H Q  
M I H R A B G B D B W S M R B  
I Y I E Q O D I H Y F U M T Y  
D S L E T H O U S E L I J T I  
O H D T C T L M H O C W H O W  
P U H I E N F T E A J F R G Y  
R G E N T E E H H U T K O L D  
F Z P G M B D Z B M Z D I E F  
R L Y F A N M O T H E R H A H  
K C X Z A L N H T S J V O P N  
D F I F E Z O P S S W J E E F  
G L I A M H F E C T O W N D T  
E N L Z M G L E N C E K Q G Y  
M E Z M H B Z Q Y O L A Y R U

GREETING  
ZECHARIAH  
MOTHER

LEAPED  
MARY  
CHILD

JOY  
ELIZABETH  
HOUSE

TOWN  
BABY  
BLESSED