

God can do
everything!
Luke 1 v 37

Dec 6th: Mission Impossible?

Talk

In the book *Through the Looking Glass*, the White Queen tells Alice, "Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast". Have fun with your child making up six impossible things that could never happen before breakfast (like a spaceman riding an elephant through your kitchen!).

Read

Mary knew that it was impossible for her to be pregnant—but Gabriel told her something amazing about God...

Read Luke 1 v 36-38.

Talk

What was Elizabeth's sad problem? (v36) (*She was unable to have children.*) But that wasn't a problem to God! How pregnant was Elizabeth? (v36) (*Six months*

pregnant) Why was God able to help Elizabeth? (v37) (*Nothing is impossible for God!*)

Do (optional)

Copy verse 37 onto a large sheet of paper. Stick it where you will all be able to see it, to remind you that God can do anything.

Pray

Nothing is impossible for God—he can do anything! How does that make you feel? Talk to God about your answers.



Don't be afraid to
take Mary as your
wife. The baby
in her is from the
Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1 v 20

Dec 7th:
J Is For...

Talk

In one minute, how many names
can you think of that begin with **J**?
(1-5: Not bad; 5-10: Well done; 10-
15: Terrific; 15-20: Superstars; 20+
Mega-brains!)

Read

Was Joseph on your list? Joseph
was engaged to Mary. But then he
found out that she was going to
have a baby...

Read Matthew 1 v 18-20.

Talk

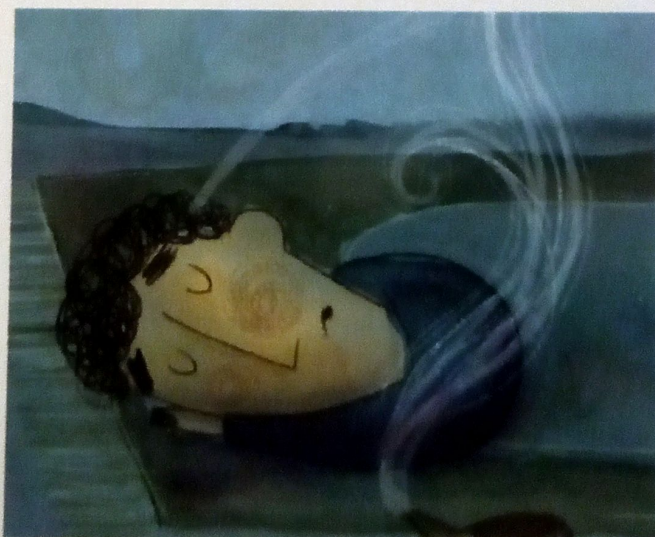
When Joseph heard that Mary was
having a baby, what did he decide
to do? (v19) (*Divorce her quietly—
in Bible times, an engagement was
legally binding and could only be
broken by a divorce.*) But what did
the angel tell Joseph to do? (v20)
(Marry Mary)

Find two things that we learn
about Joseph from verses 19-20.

(v19—Joseph was a “righteous”
man, which means he did what
God said was right; v20—Joseph
came from David’s family.)

Pray

Joseph wanted to do the right
thing, so God sent an angel to
explain about Mary’s baby and
reassure Joseph that marrying
Mary was the right thing to do.
Do you want to do what God says
is right? If so, ask God to show
you what’s right (you can find out
from the Bible), and to help you
to do it.



You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1 v 21

Dec 8th: What's In A Name?

Talk

Talk about your names. Who chose your name, and why? Do you know what your name means? (e.g. Sarah means "princess", Ruth means "compassionate friend", John means "gift of God", and Mark means "large hammer"!)

Read

An angel has just told Joseph to marry Mary, and that the baby she is going to have is God's Son. Then the angel tells Joseph what the boy is to be called.

Read Matthew 1 v 21.

Talk

What was Mary's baby to be called? (Jesus) Why? (v21) (Because he will save his people from their sins)

Think

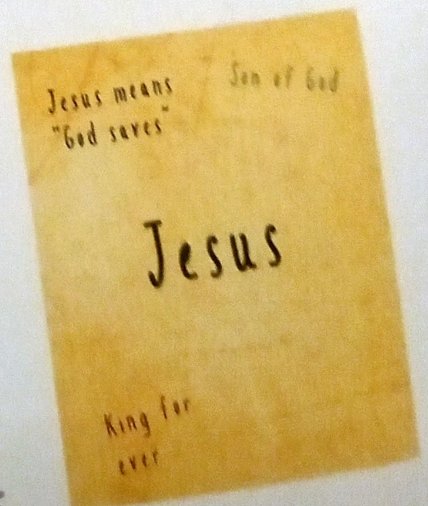
In Bible times, the meaning of a name was often very important. The name Jesus means "God saves". It tells us *who Jesus is*: he is **God**. It tells us *what Jesus does*: he **saves** us. We'll find out more about how Jesus saves his people on December 15th.

Do: (optional)

If you have been making a poster about Jesus, add "**Jesus means 'God saves'**" to it.

Pray

Unless Jesus saves us, our sins (wrongdoing) will stop us being God's friends and living with him for ever. So let's thank God for sending his Son to save us.



"They will name him Immanuel." This name means "God is with us".

Matthew 1 v 23

Dec 9th: God
With Us

Jesus means
"God saves"

God with us

Jesus

King for
ever

Immanuel
God with us

Talk

Do you go to church? If so, what is it called? Do you know the names of any other churches nearby?

Read

There are two churches near me that are called Emmanuel. But long before this was the name of a church, it was a title for a very important person...

Read Matthew 1 v 22-23.

Talk

What title was Jesus given? (v23) (*Immanuel/Emmanuel—these are different spellings of the same name.*) What does Immanuel mean? (v23) (*God with us*)

Do: (optional)

Add "*Immanuel: God with us*" to your poster.

Think

Which part of the Bible tells us about Jesus—the Old Testament or the New Testament? (*Ask your child. If they said the New Testament, they're right, because the New Testament tells us Jesus' life story. If they said the Old Testament, they're also right! The Old Testament tells us loads about the King God had promised to send.*)

One of God's messages about his promised King is quoted in today's reading. It comes from Isaiah 7 v 14. (*If you have time, look this up for yourselves in the Old Testament book of Isaiah.*)

Pray

God kept every Old Testament promise about Jesus. Thank God that he always keeps his promises. That means we can always trust him!

He did what the
Lord's angel had told
him to do. Joseph
married Mary.
Matthew 1 v 24

Wedding Bells

Talk

Talk about any weddings you have been to recently. What did you enjoy the most?

(You may want to look at some photos if you have any.)

Read

2,000 years ago, in Nazareth, it was time for a wedding...

Read Matthew 1 v 24-25.

Talk

Who got married? (v24) *(Joseph and Mary)* Why did Joseph marry Mary? (v24) *(Because God's angel had told him to)* When Mary had her son, they named him Jesus. Why? *(Both Joseph and Mary had been told what name to give him—Matthew 1 v 21 and Luke 1 v 31.)*

Joseph and Mary both did exactly what God had said they should do. Do you think it was easy for

them to obey God's words? Why/why not?

Think

The Bible is God's word to us and shows us how he wants us to live. For example, the Bible tells us to love other people, to obey our parents and to pray for our enemies! *(These examples come from Luke 10 v 27, Ephesians 6 v 1 and Luke 6 v 27-28.)*

Do you find it easy to obey God's words in the Bible? Why/why not?

Pray

We all find it hard to obey God sometimes. If you want to live for God, tell him so and ask him to help you when it's hard. He will!

Joseph left
Nazareth, a town
in Galilee. He went
to the town of
Bethlehem in Judea.

Luke 2 v 4

Dec 11th: Who's In Charge?

Talk

Talk about people in authority by asking your child: Who's in charge of your school? Who's in charge where Dad/Mum works? Who's in charge of America? And so on.

Read

At the time of the first Christmas, the country of Israel was part of the Roman Empire. The Roman emperor, called Caesar Augustus, was in charge...

Read Luke 2 v 1-4.

Talk

The emperor ordered a census of the whole Roman Empire. That means that everyone living in the empire had to register and be counted. Where did everyone have to go to be registered? (v3) *(Their own town)* Where did Joseph and Mary go? (v4) *(To Bethlehem)*

Do

Mary and Joseph travelled from **Nazareth** to **Bethlehem**, just before Jesus was born. Find both towns on the map in the **Check It Out** section on page 4.

Think

It looks as if Jesus was born in Bethlehem because the Roman emperor was in charge. BUT God had already said that his promised King would come from Bethlehem. *(For example, in Micah 5v2)* Jesus was born in Bethlehem because **God** said so. God is really in charge!

Pray

God is in charge of everyone and everything. Talk to him about how that makes you feel.

She wrapped the
baby with cloths
and laid him in
a box.

Luke 2 v 7

Dec 12th: A King Is Born

Do

Ask your child to put a **tick** (✓) by the sentences that come from the Bible and a **cross** (X) by the ones that don't:

1. Jesus was born on Christmas Day.
2. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
3. Jesus was born in a stable.

Read

Check the answers in today's reading.

Read Luke 2 v 5-7.

Talk

1. Do these verses tell us what **day** Jesus was born on? (No) Christmas Day (December 25th) was chosen as a day to celebrate Jesus being born—but it's not his real birthday. The Bible doesn't tell us the date when Jesus was born.

2. Do the verses tell us which **town** Jesus was born in? (Yes) As we saw yesterday, Jesus was born in Bethlehem because God said he would be.

3. Do the verses tell us what **building** Jesus was born in? (No!) Instead, the verses tell us which building Jesus *wasn't* born in (v7—the *inn*) and what Jesus slept in (v7—a *manger*, which is an animal's food box). In Bible times, people kept their animals inside at night, often at one end of their main room. Jesus *might* have been born in a stable, but it's more likely that he was born in the animals' part of someone's home.

Pray

Jesus is God's Son and God's promised King. But his crib was an animal's food box! What does that tell you about Jesus? Talk to him about it now.

An angel of
the Lord stood
before them.

Luke 2 v 9

Dec 13th:
Good News!

Talk

Imagine you have some good news to tell people. How many ways can you think of to pass on your news? (e.g. In person; by phone, email or letter; via a messenger...)

Read

The birth of Jesus was good news too—so God sent a messenger to pass the news on. **Read Luke 2 v 8-10.**

Talk

Where were the shepherds? (v8) (*In the fields near Bethlehem*) What did they see? (v9) (*An angel of the Lord and the glory of the Lord*) But angels are scary—so what's the first thing the angel said? (v10) (*"Don't be afraid!"*) What did the angel tell the shepherds about his news? (v10) (*It was good news and would bring great joy to everyone.*)

Think

Usually, the birth of a baby brings joy to a few people—the family and friends of the parents. Why would the birth of *this* baby bring joy to everyone? (As we saw on Dec 8th, Jesus was God's Son, who had come to save his people. That's great news for everyone!)

Pray

People all over the world are getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thank God that the good news about Jesus has spread all over the world, and brings joy to people in every country, including yours!

