

December 1: Zechariah & Elizabeth

- 1. Can you share a time when you experienced an extended period of silence? What's good about silence? What are the downsides?
- 2. How does Zechariah respond to the angel's message, and what are the consequences of his response? Why do you think God did this in Zechariah's life?
- 3. Zechariah and Elizabeth had been praying for a child for many years. Have you ever experienced a long period of waiting for an answer to prayer? How did it affect your faith?
- 4. How is the birth of John, and then the birth of Jesus a way in which God spoke to the world? What was He saying to us?
- 5. Is God really silent? What are some other possibilities? How can we gain a better understanding of how God does speak to us, or helps us in our life day to day?

- 1. Have you ever been in a really quiet place? What was it like? What do you like/not like about being quiet?
- 2. When an angel told Zechariah he would have a baby, how did he react? What happened to Zechariah because of how he responded?
- 3. When baby John and baby Jesus were born, God was telling people something important. What do you think God wanted people to know?
- 4. How do you think God speaks to us in our everyday life?



December 8: Elizabeth & Mary

- 1. Can you share a time when you faced a situation that seemed impossible, but somehow it worked out?
- 2. The angel told Mary she would conceive a child as a virgin. How would you describe Mary's reaction to the angel's message?
- 3. In what areas of your life do you find it difficult to believe that "nothing will be impossible with God"?
- 4. How does Mary's faith and obedience challenge or inspire you in your "impossible" situations?
- 5. What steps can you take to cultivate a faith like Mary's, who trusted God even when faced with an impossible situation?

- 1. Has something really difficult or impossible ever turned out okay in the end? What made you think it wouldn't work out?
- 2. When the angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby, how do you think she felt?
- 3. Mary believed God even when something seemed impossible. What can we learn from her? When has it been hard for you to be brave like Mary?
- 4. What helps you remember that God can do amazing things?



December 15: Simeon & Anna

- 1. Have you ever had a "gut feeling" about something that later came true? Share your experience with the group. What's the difference between this kind of experience, and the prophecy found in Luke 2?
- 2. How would you describe the reactions of Simeon and Anna when they saw the baby Jesus?
- 3. How does Anna's response to seeing Jesus differ from Simeon's? What might this tell us about different forms of prophecy?
- 4. Simeon and Anna had been waiting for the "consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25). Is there something you're currently waiting on God for in your life?
- 5. Try setting aside time each day to listen for God's voice during the holiday season. Keep a journal of any impressions, scriptures, or insights you receive.

- 1. Have you ever had a feeling something would happen, and then it did? What happened?
- 2. How is that different from how Simeon and Anna knew about baby Jesus?
- 3. Simeon and Anna were both happy to see Jesus, but they showed it differently. What did each of them do?
- 4. How do you think God talks to people today?
- 5. Take some time to make a special holiday notebook. Each day, write down or draw:
 - Things that made you think about God
 - Special Bible verses you heard
 - Times you felt God was close to you



December 22: John the Baptist

- 1. What similarities and differences do you notice between John's approach to ministry and how we typically share our faith today?
- 2. How does John respond to the different groups of people who come to him in Luke 3:10-14? What does this tell us about his message?
- 3. John's ministry was characterized by boldness and a clear message. How comfortable do you feel sharing your faith in your daily life? What challenges do you face?
- 4. John was described as "a voice of one calling in the wilderness" (Luke 3:4-6), living his entire life on mission for God. In what ways might God be calling you to be a voice in the "wilderness" of your own environment, at work, school or in your community?
- 5. As you look toward Christmas, what opportunities might you have to share Jesus with others?

- 1. John told people about Jesus in his own special way. How do we tell others about Jesus today? What's different about how we do it?
- 2. John was very brave when he told people about Jesus. Where could you tell people about Jesus? Maybe at school? With your friends? In your neighborhood?
- 3. John spent his whole life helping people know God. What are some ways you could help people know about Jesus every day? Even little things can make a big difference!
- 4. Christmas is a great time to tell people about Jesus! Can you think of someone you'd like to tell about Jesus this Christmas?