

AMAZING ADVENTURES

Amazed and Dazed

Adventure 1

1

LUKE 1:26-38 CEV

A long time ago in a town called Nazareth, there was a special girl named Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph from the family of King David. An angel named Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her, "You are truly blessed, and God is with you. Don't be scared. You will have a son named Jesus, and He will be the Son of God."

Mary asked, "How can this happen? I'm not married!" The angel said, "The Holy Spirit will make it possible. Your child will be called the holy Son of God. Your cousin Elizabeth, who everyone thought couldn't have a baby, will have a son too. Nothing is impossible for God."

Mary agreed, saying, "I'm God's servant. Let it happen as you said." And the angel left. So, Mary knew something incredible was going to happen.

2

Angels are special messengers from God. In the Bible, there's an AMAZING story about an angel surprising Mary with some really incredible news! She was amazed.

Make angel wings, decorate or colour them. Chat and think about how Mary felt when the Angel visited.

Imagine if an angel came to you with a special message.

3

Mary's baby was very special. The angel said that they should name the baby Jesus. Jesus' name meant Saviour.

Collect twigs, and rocks, or use LEGO blocks to spell JESUS on the ground or in the air with your fingers. Talk about why Jesus is so special!

4

Mary heard the angel and followed God's plan even though she was a little dazed. Just like Mary, God has a unique and AMAZING plan for your life.

Play the "Follow the Leader" game.

Go for a walk or play outside. Choose a leader, watch and listen carefully, and follow them wherever they go.

Think and talk about how you can follow Jesus.

AMAZING ADVENTURES

Awful to Amazing

Adventure 2

1 MATTHEW 1:18-25 CEV

A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone, so he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. You can marry her. Then, after her baby is born, name him Jesus. He will save people from their sins."

Joseph listened, and he and Mary were soon married, naming their baby Jesus. And that's how Jesus Christ came into the world.

2

At first, when Joseph found out about Mary and the baby, he thought it was awful and a big problem. But, after the angel showed up, he changed his mind and listened to what was asked of him. He trusted in God.

Chat and think about what Joseph ended up doing. How did he trust in God? How amazing was it?

Do you have a problem that seems too big? Talk to God and ask Him for help. You can trust in Him, just like Joseph did.

3

When Joseph followed the angel's instructions from God, it helped him. In the Bible, God spoke to people in different ways to guide them. Think of people in the Bible and how God spoke with them.

How many ways can you name that God can talk to you today? Make a list.

4

It was important for Joseph to obey and follow God's plan, just like Mary did.

Play "Simon Says" – players must follow instructions from the leader, but only if they start with "Simon says." Don't get tricked into following the wrong move.

Talk about why it's important to follow God and the right people and to not follow the wrong ones.



AMAZING ADVENTURES

Really Sore Feet

Adventure 3

1

LUKE 2:1-5 CEV

There was an emperor named Augustus. He wanted to know the names of all the people, so he told everyone to go to their own hometowns to be counted.

Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, but they had to travel to Bethlehem in Judea because that's where Joseph's family was from, a long time ago.

Mary was going to have a baby soon, and they went on this important journey together.

2

Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem. It was a very long journey to make, and Mary was pregnant too.

Go for a walk, and count your steps. When you reach 100, chat and think about why Mary and Joseph had to leave their home in Nazareth and how they felt.

3

Mary and Joseph must have been very tired with really sore feet, dirty and dusty but they were happy and grateful because they remembered what the Angel told them.

You can also be grateful even when things are tough or difficult.

Write down two or three things that you are thankful for today.

4

Despite the long journey and its challenges, God's plan was unfolding. Mary and Joseph's travels to Bethlehem were part of God's greater purpose. No matter how tired they were they did not give up. They kept going.

Play a Christmas carol, when the music stops, stand on one leg. Keep your balance till the music starts again. Don't give up. Hold on, as long as you can, even when it gets hard.



AMAZING ADVENTURES

Surprising Roommates

Adventure 4

1 LUKE 2:7 CEV

Mary became a mum for the very first time, and her baby boy was born. She took the sweet little baby and carefully wrapped Him in soft, warm baby clothes. Then, she made a soft bed for Him using hay because, at that time, there was no place for them to stay in the busy inn.

So, in a humble stable, Mary and Joseph welcomed their precious baby into the world.

2

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem there was no room at the inn. The only space they could find was a stable, which is where something amazing happened. Jesus was born in that stable, and guess who His first roommates were? Animals! They were probably pretty surprised to have a new baby friend in their home.

Chat and think about that even though baby Jesus was so important, He was born surrounded by animals. Why do you think that was?

Play "Guess This Animal" - either by playing charades or making the animal sound.

3

When Jesus was born, they put Him in a manger. Mary had filled it with soft hay and gently laid Him down in it.

Chat and think about what the birth of Jesus means to you.

4

Mary and Joseph thought about when the angel had visited them. The angel had said, "You will have a Son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High." Mary and Joseph named Him Jesus.

The name Jesus means "Saviour". Chat and think about what that means for you and for the world.

Think about how you would tell someone about who Jesus is?



AMAZING ADVENTURES

Shepherd's Shaking Knees

Adventure 5

1

LUKE 2:8-16 CEV

That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel from the Lord appeared, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were scared. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news. This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will find Him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."

Then many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God saying: "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God." After the angels left, the shepherds said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.

2

While the shepherds were tending to their sheep, suddenly an angel appeared and said, "Don't be afraid! Today, a Saviour is born for you in King David's hometown. He is Christ the Lord, and you'll recognise Him because He'll be dressed in baby clothes and lying in a bed of hay."

Isn't it amazing how the angels knew all about baby Jesus?

Can you remember the town where Jesus was born, where He was lying, and the wonderful meaning of His name?

3

After the first angel's message, many more angels came from heaven, praising God: "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to all who please Him." Seeing one angel scared the shepherds – imagine how their knees shook when more angels arrived!

Play a "Game of Freeze" – pretend that's what the shepherds did when they got scared... they froze!

4

Have a picnic outside. As you are eating, imagine a group of angels turned up and gave you a message about Jesus' birth and who He was.

Would you leave your picnic to spend time with Jesus and learn more about Him, like the shepherds left their field?

Think about how important it is to spend time with Jesus and to learn more about Him.

Talk about how you can learn more about Jesus.



AMAZING ADVENTURES

Oh So Sneaky!

Adventure 6

1 MATTHEW 2:1-9 CEV

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, some Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem and said to King Herod, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

King Herod was worried. He asked his chief priests, "Where will the new king be born?" They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem... from your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for the people of Israel."

Herod secretly met the Wise Men and he asked them to find the baby and tell him where He was.

2

When the Wise Men arrived in Jerusalem, they began telling people they had seen His star and they wanted to find baby Jesus so they could worship Him.

Make a list of three different ways you can worship Jesus. Do you have a favourite?

3

When King Herod heard that baby Jesus would be the King of the Jews, he was jealous and worried, as he was a King. He was "oh so sneaky," like a spy, trying to get the wise men to say where Jesus was. The Wise Men followed the star and found baby Jesus but didn't go back to Herod because they knew he didn't really want to worship Jesus.

Play a game of "Eye Spy" and afterward talk about what ways King Herod was being sneaky.

4

King Herod told the Wise Men, "Find baby Jesus and let me know so I can go and worship Him." We know this wasn't true because he didn't like Jesus.

Why do you think King Herod didn't tell the truth?



Chat and think about why telling the truth is important even when it might be hard to do.



AMAZING ADVENTURES

Knock, Knock Who's There?

Adventure 7

1 MATTHEW 2:9-12 CEV

The star the Wise Men had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the stable and saw the baby Jesus with Mary, they knelt and worshipped Him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to Him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home on another road.

2

The Wise Men knew where to find baby Jesus. They knew exactly where to find him. How was that possible since no one told them where to go?

If it is a starry night, look up to the sky. Imagine what it would have been like for the Wise Men to see a star.

Make a star. While drawing, colouring, or decorating it, chat or think about how the star had helped the Wise Men find baby Jesus.

3

The star acted as a sign for the Wise Men to follow. It helped the wise men know the right way to go. They did not wait for a "knock, knock", or a "who's there?" They went right in to see baby Jesus.

Go for a walk and see how many signs you can see. Watch out for the signs just like the Wise Men did. A stop sign, a road sign... How many can you spot?

4

The Wise Men brought baby Jesus three gifts. Can you name them?

If you were one of the Wise Men, what gift do you think you would have taken for baby Jesus? Draw it, make it, or bake it!



Worship is like giving a gift which is an amazing way to show our love and thankfulness to God.

AMAZING ADVENTURES

Get Up! Hurry!

Adventure 8

1 MATTHEW 2:13-15 CEV

After the Wise Men had gone, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and His mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill Him."

That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So, the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my Son out of Egypt."

2

An angel appeared in a dream to Joseph again, this time warning him to "Get up! Hurry and take baby Jesus and Mary to Egypt!"

Go for a walk and chat and think about how important the warning was and why they had to hurry away so quickly.

Have a speed walking challenge. See who can get to the finish line the fastest.

3

Joseph and Mary had to wait until the Angel said it was safe to return. They had to wait patiently.

Patience is one of the "Fruits of the Spirit." Can you remember any others? Make a list... Check here if you get stuck... Galatians 5:22-23

4

Chat or think about what happened to Herod. Do you think it would have been safe for Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus to go home? If yes, why?

Play a game of "Go Home, Stay Home" – one person counts to 100 while others hide. The goal is to get back to "home base" without getting tagged. Say "Go home, stay home 1, 2, 3" before you're tagged. If you get tagged, you become "it" for the next round.

Talk about how Joseph and Mary had to trust God during their journey and stay in Egypt, and how you can trust God in your own life too.



AMAZING ADVENTURES

The Promise Was True

Adventure 9

1

MATTHEW 2:19-23 CEV

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up and take the child and His mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill Him are now dead."

Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream, he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth.

So, the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

2

The angels spoke to Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the Wise Men at different times. All that they said came true. God kept His promise.

Think and chat about what promises were made and how God kept them.

Make a list of His special promises and see how amazing God is.

3

After baby Jesus was born, He was wrapped up in a cloth. Jesus wants to wrap up the world in His love too. He wants everyone to know Him as their Saviour.

Play 'Pass the parcel' - as you unwrap the parcel, chat and think about how much Jesus' loves you and all the people in the world.

4

When Jesus was born it was an AMAZING day!

Memorise this Bible verse to help you remember the true meaning of Christmas.

"This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born for you. He is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11 CEV

How did Jesus show everyone how much He loved them?