

30 A.D.

THE JESUS STORY

Two Special Babies Are Coming

THE PROMISE OF SOMEONE TO PREPARE THE WAY

- Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; cf. Isaiah 40:3-5

JOHN THE BAPTIST IS COMING (Luke 1:5-25)

① Setting

- ▶ During the reign of Herod the Great (40-4 BC)
- ▶ In the Temple (or House) of God at Jerusalem

② Recipient ▶ Zechariah & Elizabeth

- Priestly family
- Upright / Blameless
- Childless
- Elderly

PRINCIPLE #1: God is in control of your story.

PRINCIPLE #2: God works best in "impossible" situations.

③ Messenger ▶ The Angel Gabriel (vv.11,19)

④ Message ▶ A special baby is coming

⑤ Response ▶ Fear, doubt & unbelief (vv.18-25)

PRINCIPLE #3: God expects His people to believe His Word & walk in faith. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

JESUS CHRIST - THE MESSIAH - IS COMING (Luke 1:26-38)

- ① SETTING ▶ Nazareth (Galilee)
- ② RECIPIENT ▶ Mary
- ③ MESSENGER ▶ The Angel Gabriel
- ④ MESSAGE ▶ Divine Conception of the Messiah
- ⑤ RESPONSE ▶ Fear + Confused Belief & Surrender

PRINCIPLE #4: God-pleasing faith can show up where you least expect it! (Hebrews 11:1, 6)

THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO GOD'S REVEALED WORD...

- ▶ Belief & surrender

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Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

DISCOVER

God's plan is surprising.

READ

Luke 1:5-38

The stories of John the Baptist and the coming of Christ burst with surprises. "Mary, you're going to have a baby." Surprise! "God is the father."

These may have seemed like surprising events, but each twist and turn was part of God's plan. God's plan is surprising! We just need to believe and surrender and trust that God is in control, even when things happen that we don't expect.

SHARE

Plan a quiet surprise for someone. Deliver hot chocolate to a friend at work, make and send a Christmas card to someone who lives far away, or drop off Christmas cookies for an elderly friend who lives alone. Don't make a big fuss- just quietly share Jesus' love. After you're finished, talk about this:

What quiet surprise would you like to receive from someone?

PRAY

When everyone has shared, pray and thank God that he's quietly at work in our lives.

MORE FAMILY ACTIVIES



Memory Maker

Use the paper bag to make a stable for Jesus.

Color and cut out the Manger Scene and arrange it into the Nativity. Remember to wait until Christmas Day to put baby Jesus in the stable.

Each day, parents hide the star around the house. Children "seek" to find the star (just as the shepherds needed to follow the star to find Jesus). On Christmas day, the star is placed on top of the paper bag stable.

Digging Deeper

1. What was the name of the angel who visited Mary?
2. What did the angel tell Mary?
3. What are some things Gabriel said about Jesus?
4. How do you think Mary felt about giving birth to the Son of God?

Hands & Feet

As you write out Christmas cards pray for each family to whom you are sending it to. As you receive cards, pray for the families that sent them.

Recommended Resources

Book: "Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration"
by Ann Voskamp

Child friendly Nativity:
http://www.izzness.com/postpic/2014/11/printable-paper-nativity-scene_455614.jpg