

## Week 1: Hope



Introductory Question: ***What is something that you're hoping for?***



*We all have things that we're hoping for. (Incorporate your family's or group's answers to the Introductory Question – for example,) Just like Jenna hopes that she will pass her test, and Samuel hopes that he will be able to see his friends, the people of Israel were hoping for a messiah, a savior – someone who would rescue them. The Israelites had been waiting for thousands of years, and during those years many prophets had told them how the savior would come:*

- **Is. 7:14** – “...The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”
- **Is. 9:6** – “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

*Many times, we don't know how or when what we hope for will happen. But the Israelites had been told through the prophets that the Savior would come as a baby, through a virgin birth. Hundreds and hundreds of years passed, and the people who heard these words held on to them and passed them on to their children, who then passed them on to their children, and so on – until what God had told them through the prophets finally happened (**Luke 1:1-2**). Our story today begins with an angel appearing to Mary, a virgin...*

Tell the story from **Luke 1:26-38**, including main events such as:

- God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, in Galilee (you may want to find Galilee on a map).
- The angel said, “...Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...”
- “How will this be?” Mary asked. The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God...For no word from God will ever fail.”
- “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”



Invite your family to spend a few minutes in Listening Prayer and Journaling: *As we've listened to these words from the Bible, God has been speaking to us through them. What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, others, and what to do? You can talk to God about anything.*

Additional prompt: What is something in God's Word that you are hoping to see fulfilled?



When everyone begins to finish Journaling, give each person an opportunity to share what God has been speaking to them. After each person shares, pray for them.

**KEY VERSE:** Luke 1:38 “...May Your word to me be fulfilled...”

**Additional verses:** Hebrews 11:1, Micah 5:2