

Week 2: Joy



Introductory Question: ***Tell us about a time when you were excited.***



*Last week, we focused on the theme of hope and read about the angel Gabriel appearing to the virgin Mary. This week, we will continue the story in **Luke 1:39-56**, when just like Jane was excited that her family was going on vacation, and James was excited when his baby brother was about to be born (incorporate your family's or group's answers to the Introductory Question – for example), *Mary and her cousin Elizabeth were overjoyed at the news that Mary would give birth to the Savior...**

Tell the story from **Luke 1:39-56**, including main events such as:

- Mary went to visit her relatives, Zechariah and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also expecting a baby (John the Baptist), which was a miracle because of her old age.
- “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!’”
- Mary said, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm...He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”
- Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.



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 Prompts: What is something you can rejoice about and thank God for?



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 1:47-49

“My spirit rejoices in God my Savior...for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.”

Additional Verses: Philippians 4:4, Romans 15:13