

Week 2

Day 1: God Sees You & Loves You

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-30

Devotional:

Mary lived in a small town called Nazareth—a place most people didn't think was very important. She was an ordinary girl living an ordinary life. But God saw her. God knew her name. God knew her heart. And God had a wonderful plan for her life. God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. Imagine Mary's surprise! One moment she was going about her day—maybe doing chores or helping her family—and suddenly an angel stood before her! The Bible tells us Mary felt startled and confused. That makes sense—angels don't usually show up. But the angel spoke kindly to her. He said, "Don't be afraid. God is with you." This is something you can remember too. Even when things feel scary, new, confusing, or lonely...God sees you. God knows you. God is with you. God knows your heart. He knows your thoughts, your dreams, your fears, and your feelings. And He loves you more than anyone ever could. You are never a "nobody" to God—you are His treasure.

Discussion:

- 1. How does it make you feel to know that God knows your name?
- 2. When have you felt afraid? Can you remember God being with you?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for always being near me. You see me and know me yet You love me so much. Help me to remember that I am Your treasure. I love You! Amen.

Welcome to Week 2 of our Holly Jolly Kitchen Devo!! This week we are continuing to learn about the story of how Jesus came into this world. God can do ANYTHING and how He chose for Jesus to enter this world was so crazy and exciting. This week we will be learning about Mary and how she found out she would be Jesus' earthly Mom!

Day 2: God Can Do the Impossible

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:31-37

Devotional:

Gabriel told Mary that she would have a baby named Jesus—God's Son! Mary had never been a mother before. She was not even married yet. Nothing about this made sense to her. So she asked Gabriel, "How can this be?" Maybe you've had moments where you wondered the same thing: How will I get through this? How will this problem be solved? How will things ever get better? Gabriel answered Mary with truth and hope: "Nothing is impossible with God." God can do what no one else can do. God can make a way when it feels like there is no way. God can bring light into dark places. God can turn worries into peace and sadness into joy. Think about all God has already done: He created the world from nothing. He made your body to breathe, move, laugh, and love. He keeps the stars in the sky and the oceans in place. He brought Jesus into the world through a miracle. If God can do all that, He can help you with anything you face.

Discussion:

- 1. What is something in your life that feels big or difficult right now?
- 2. Can you talk to God about it and trust Him to help you?

Prayer:

Dear God, sometimes it is hard to trust You when things look hard and impossible. Help me to fully trust You and remember that You can do anything...even the impossible! Amen.

Day 3: Saying "Yes" to God

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:38-45 Devotional:

After hearing the angel's message, Mary made a choice. She didn't know how everything would happen. She didn't know what others would say. She didn't know how challenging things might be. But she knew God was good and loving, and that was enough for her. So Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. May it happen just as you have said." Mary said YES to God. Sometimes, God asks us to do things that don't feel easy...things like: Forgiving someone who hurt us. Being brave when we feel scared. Telling the truth, even if we might get in trouble. Being kind when others are unkind. Obeying God doesn't always feel simple—but it is always good. When we say "yes" to God, we are showing Him that we trust Him. Mary didn't know every part of God's plan, but she trusted the One who did. And we can too. We can trust and know that God has good plans in mind for us. He wants the best for us and He knows what the "best"

for us is! **Discussion:**

- 1. What is something God may want you to do today?
- 2. What would it look like for you to say "yes" to God?

Prayer:

Dear God, help me to trust You always. Even when I don't know what the future looks like...You do! Help me to have the courage to say "yes" to what You have for me. Amen.

Day 4: Praise God for His Goodness

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-49 Devotional:

After Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and saw how God was also working in her life, Mary's heart was overflowing with joy. She couldn't keep quiet—she praised God! Her heart felt full of thankfulness and amazement. Mary sang a song, saying: "My soul praises the Lord. My spirit is joyful because of God my Savior!" Mary praised God not because everything was easy, but because God is always good. Praise is when we say or show how great God is. We can praise God: When we sing worship songs, when we pray and say "thank You", when we tell others about His goodness, and when we choose joy. When we remember everything God has done for us, our hearts fill with peace and happiness.

Activity:

"God Knows My Name" Name Craft

- 1. Have each child write their name big across the top of a page.
- 2. Around their name, they can draw things they like (pets, colors, activities, foods).
- 3. At the bottom write: "God knows me and loves me!"

Just like God knew Mary, God knows them personally and loves them very much.

Prayer:

Dear God, I know that You are always good. Even when life isn't good or when bad things happen I know that You work all things together for Your good. I trust You! Amen.

Memory Verse

"Thanks be to God for His gift that is too wonderful for words." 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NCV)



