

This week we are learning about

Mary Visits Elizabeth



READ IT

This week's Bible story is
Mary Visits Elizabeth
from Luke 1:39-58

God gave us Jesus as a gift!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Mary
- Elizabeth
- Mary's song
- Elizabeth's baby

Mary's song in this story is called the "Magnificat." It talks about how Jesus will turn the world upside-down, bringing peace, justice and prosperity for all people.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 202-207

Spark Bible pages 1128-1129

Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus. As we celebrate His birth, give us the gift of amazement as we see all that you are doing in our world. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Parents: start a story like this: "I remember when we found out you would be our child..."
- 2 What kinds of good news have you shared with people you love?
- 3 Can you think of amazing things God still does for God's creation today?
- 4 Mary's song is a prayer. As a family, try to write a prayer—a vision—for what God wants the world to be.



Eye Spark

When you see a baby wiggle, remember how Elizabeth's baby wiggled inside of her when Elizabeth heard Mary's voice.



Ear Spark

Listen for songs that talk about what God is doing in the world. Remember the song that Mary sang.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Jesus was born to a very poor couple. During this season in which you're getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth, take time to remember babies born in poverty today. Gather some baby supplies for your community's crisis nursery or foodshelf as a special Christmas gift from your family.

For younger kids

Do you know someone who has recently had a baby? Make a card and say a prayer for this family.

For older kids

Research different ways that people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth. What Christmas traditions can you find? How many of them have a service component to them?



Mary Visits Elizabeth



Mary was so full of joy that her words sounded like a beautiful song.

Mary Visits Elizabeth



The sound of Mary's voice even made the baby inside Elizabeth wiggle and squirm for joy!

Mary Visits Elizabeth



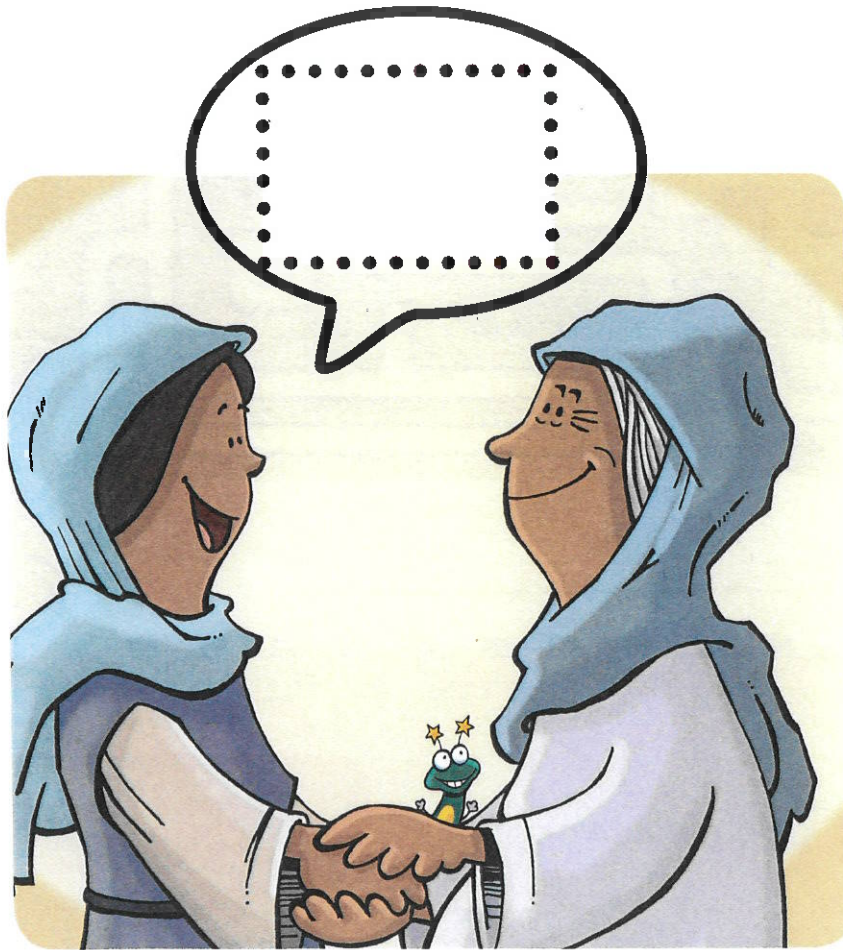
Luke 1:39-58

Name _____

God sent Jesus for all of us.

Mary's Happy Tune!

Mary was so full of joy that her words sounded like a beautiful song. Sing these words about the story to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" or read them like a poem:



Mary had good news to share,
news to share, news to share!
 Mary had good news to share
 that she would have a boy.

And everywhere that Mary went,
Mary went, Mary went,
 Everywhere that Mary went, her
 face shone bright with joy!

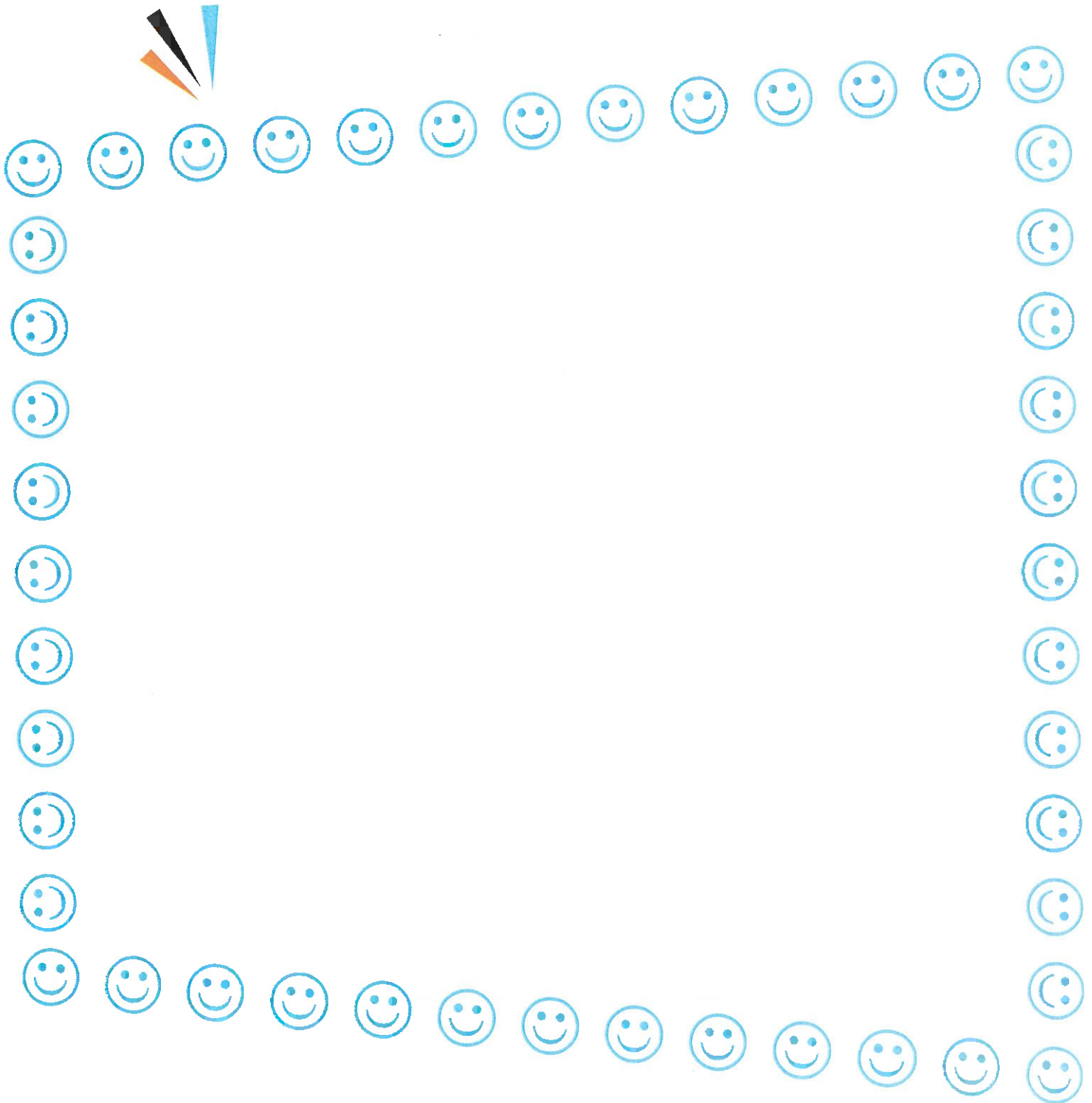
She traveled to Elizabeth,
'Lizabeth, 'Lizabeth,
 She travelled to Elizabeth to sing a
 happy tune.

And this is what she had to say,
had to say, had to say,
 This is what she had to say, that
 Christ was coming soon!

Today's Bible story, **Mary Visits Elizabeth**, is from the book of **Luke**.
 The book of Luke is in the **New** Testament. Luke tells the full story of Jesus' **birth**,
 including the shepherds and the angels.

Jump for Joy!

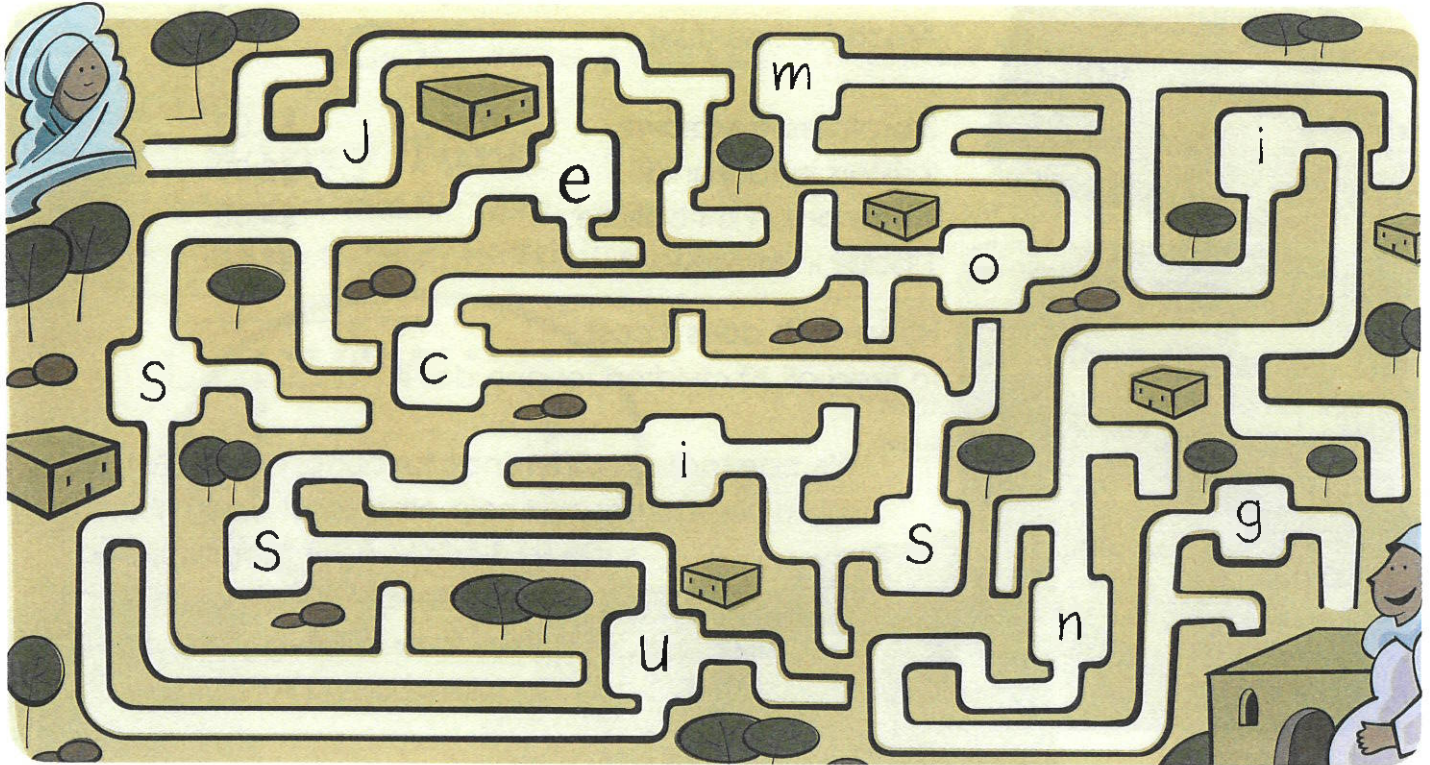
The sound of Mary's voice made the baby inside Elizabeth wiggle and squirm for joy! Here is a picture of something that makes me so happy I want to jump for joy:



TRY IT!

Mary's A-Mazing News!

Mary hurried to Elizabeth's house to share her exciting news. Help Mary find her way. Pick up letters along the way and write each one, in order, on the lines below to discover Mary's exciting news!



.....!



**Faith
on the Go!**

Today's Bible story, **Mary Visits** , is from the
book of . The book of Luke is in the Testament.

Luke tells the full story of Jesus' **birth**, including the shepherds and the angels.

Feeding the Hungry

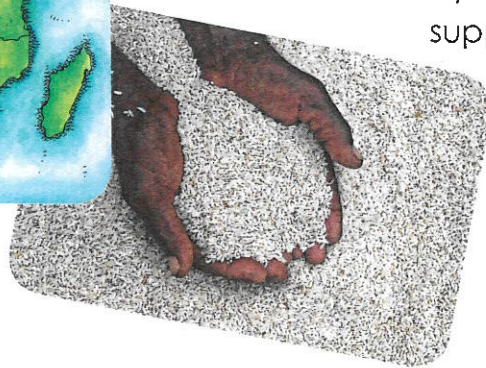
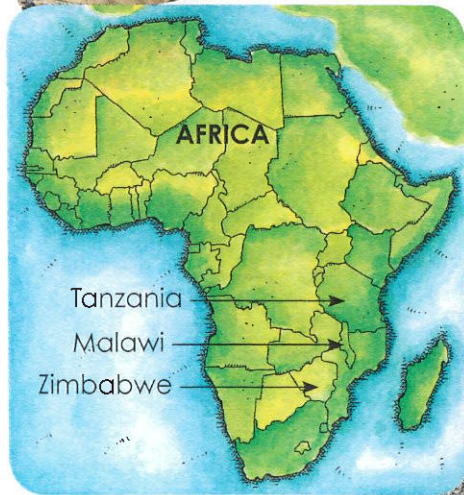


Mary sang a song to praise God. She sang about God giving power to the poor and feeding the hungry. God gives us power to help feed hungry people too.

This is what it costs to help feed poor and hungry children in Africa for one day:

3 brothers in Malawi:	\$3.00
2 sisters in Tanzania:	\$2.00
4 orphans in Zimbabwe:	\$4.00
1 baby in Malawi:	+ \$1.00

How much does it cost
to feed all 10 children for one day?



We can make a difference for hungry kids. We can share our money and help other kids! Many churches support world hunger programs and donate millions of dollars each year to help hungry people, including kids in Africa!

God sent Jesus for all of us.

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

I want to:

- ___ Tell you about Mary's visit
- ___ Share some happy news
- ___ Look at my baby pictures
- ___ Help feed hungry people
- ___ Sing a song for you

- ___ Invite you to church
- ___ Give you a big hug
- ___ Say "I'm sorry"
- ___ Pray for you
- ___ My own idea: _____

Share the Good News!

What good news do you have to share? Write it on the lines below, and draw a picture to illustrate it!



Luke 1:39-58

We can **do** God's **work**.



Angels Among Us

I wonder...

- If Mary was ever worried about having Baby Jesus.
- If Mary's song made people angry.
- How I can help Mary's song come true.



Ricky stacked the last blanket into the back of Aunt Sheila's pickup. "There must be a hundred blankets here," she said. "Where'd you get all these?"

"One hundred nineteen, actually," he answered. "People from school, from my soccer team, and from mom's work brought them."

"And why are we taking them to downtown?"

"Well, remember when Mom took me to the museum? It was cool and everything, but did you know about all the homeless people down there?"

"Yes." Aunt Sheila said. "It's a shame so many people go without."

"Yeah. I never saw people who were living on the streets before. And when we left, the people were all huddled around the vents in the sidewalk. They were going to sleep outside in the cold."

"So you decided to help?"

"Well, I didn't sleep well that night. I kept wishing maybe an angel or something would come along and drop blankets over all those people. Finally, I just figured I'd have to gather up some blankets."

Aunt Sheila finished the story, "And now an angel named Ricky really is dropping blankets on some cold people in the city."

Unjumble!

Each of these jumbled up words comes from today's Bible story about Mary and Elizabeth, who were both expecting babies. First unjumble the words. Then find them in the word grid.

LIBEDEVE

MEGAFINSI

DEBLESS

BLAZEHEI

ARCHHAZEI

CRYME

YAMR

LYOH

LOUS

ROLD

S	I	H	M	U	V	F	G	R	X
E	D	A	U	J	O	V	M	G	G
E	M	I	N	Z	M	D	C	S	Y
Y	E	R	V	H	I	P	O	V	O
A	U	A	D	M	Z	U	V	K	W
N	G	H	B	B	L	E	V	X	S
P	W	C	Y	L	D	M	I	S	S
Y	E	E	R	Z	E	X	M	E	I
G	H	Z	A	B	V	S	I	D	M
U	A	H	M	Z	M	F	S	I	T
W	U	T	C	S	I	H	U	E	H
T	S	E	D	N	D	R	O	L	D
R	S	B	G	R	M	Y	Z	G	B
X	X	A	U	R	E	S	L	Y	W
D	M	Z	K	S	R	B	B	O	J
D	K	I	Q	W	C	X	C	R	H
R	W	L	J	R	Y	J	Z	V	F
H	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	D	Z
V	O	Q	C	D	P	T	E	Z	B
R	U	F	R	C	T	S	C	I	C



Look It Up!

Read **Luke 1:11-20** to hear the angel Gabriel announce another birth. What happened when someone didn't believe the angel's words?



Memory Verse

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." **Luke 1:46-47**

Fun Facts

Mary was probably about 15 years old when the angel Gabriel visited her. The angel **Gabriel** also visited Zechariah and announced that his wife Elizabeth would have a baby.

Mary and Elizabeth were related, perhaps as cousins.

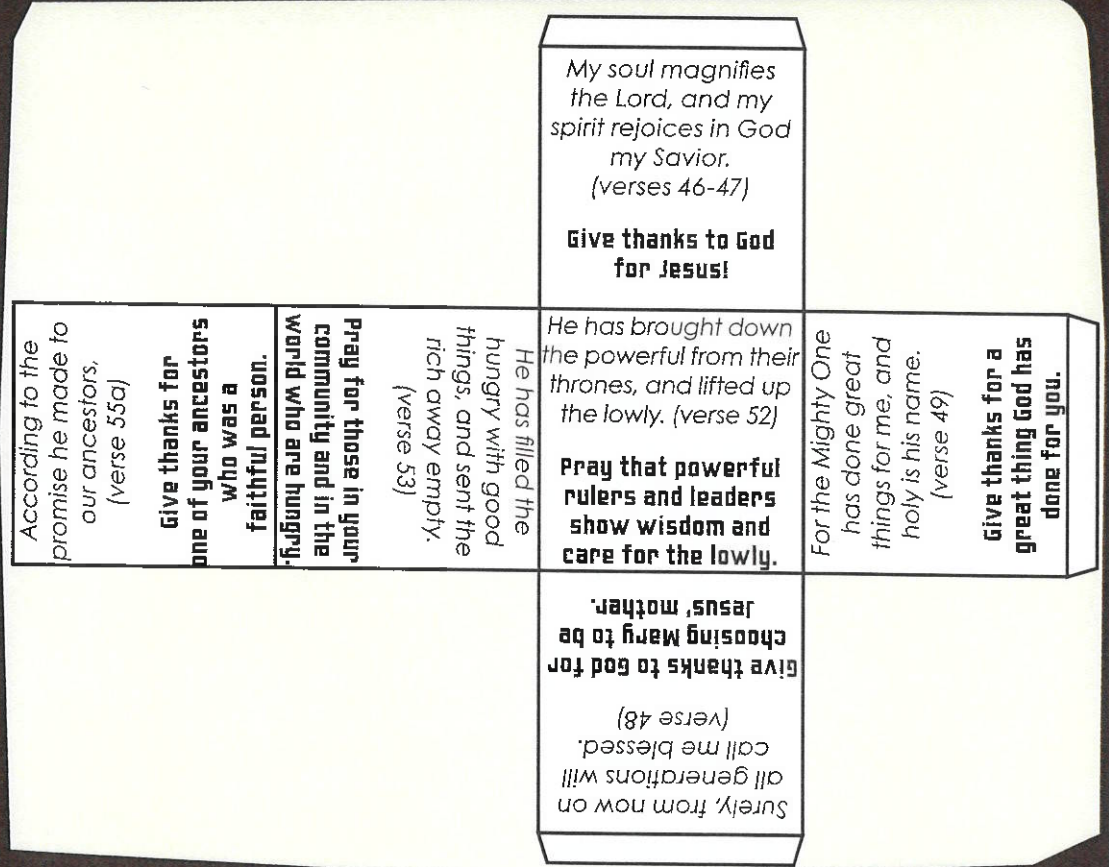
Mary's **Magnificat** is often used during worship in the season of Advent.

Elizabeth called Jesus **"Lord"** even before he was born.

The **Magnificat** is also a prophecy. It announced what God would do for the world.

Magnificat Prayer Cube

Cut this shape on the lines. Fold the tabs and then tape the edges to make a cube. When you roll it, you'll see different ways you can pray the parts of Mary's Magnificat.



The logo features the text "Faith on the Go!" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. "Faith" is on the top line, "on the" is on the middle line, and "Go!" is on the bottom line. The text is set against a green background that has a jagged, torn-paper edge on the left side. Above the text, there are several thin, overlapping lines in shades of red, orange, and yellow, suggesting motion or a burst of energy.

**Faith
on the Go!**

Pray for someone in your church or a family friend who is expecting a baby.

Go online and search for art work inspired by Mary's Magnificat.

Find stories in the newspaper or a news magazine that match parts of Mary's Magnificat.

Live out Mary's Magnificat by **volunteering** at or **donating** to an organization that helps people who live poverty.

Read Mary's Magnificat again. Then write your own Magnificat, remembering the good things God has done for you and the world.

Magni-Find the Words

Use the letters from the words, "My soul magnifies the Lord" to see how many other words you can create.

My soul magnifies the Lord!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of three columns of horizontal lines for writing.



Mary Visits Elizabeth



Luke 1:39-58

God works
through **US** to do
awesome
things.



Am I special?

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Born Ready



Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps is a world-class athlete. After the 2008 Summer Olympics, with 14 gold medals and 7 world records

under his belt, one could argue he's the best swimmer of our time. Did you know he was literally born to swim?

When Michael Phelps was young, he was diagnosed with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. This means he had a hard time sitting down and paying attention. It also meant that he had lots and lots of energy.

So, at the age of seven he started swimming as an outlet for his high energy.

As he grew up, his body became perfect for a swimmer. Phelps is 6'4" (1.9 m) but has an arm span of 6'7" (2 m), which makes his arms like windmill blades. And he's able to kick in the water so well because his ankles are super flexible, giving him a wide range of motion.

In any other job, these details wouldn't mean much. But for Michael, they're what make him so special. It's his God-given physical attributes and skills that have made him so well suited (no pun here!) for swimming.

Gifted

God calls everyone to do something. What are you good at? How do you think God can use that talent?

I'm Good At

Ways to Use It



Did You Know?

Athens, Greece hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. The tradition of awarding medals—gold for first place, silver for second, and bronze for third—began at the 1904 Olympics held in St. Louis, Missouri.



Look it Up!

Another mother named Hannah prayed to God when Samuel was born. Check out 1 Samuel 2:1-10 to hear what she had to say.

Hitting the Right Note

The Bible says Mary said the words in today's Bible text.

But people in the church have been putting these words to music for hundreds of years. It's easy to imagine Mary singing in celebration. The musical note in the hint will help you find the answers to the following questions.

Who are scattered? C

Who is looked upon with favor? A

Who is filled with good things? F

Who is brought down? D

Who is lifted up? E

Who are shown mercy? B

Who are sent away empty? G

The rich	The hungry	The servant	Those who fear God	The powerful	The lowly	The proud
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Magnificat

Magnificat is an unusual word. What does it mean? Check out the bottom of page 1128 in your Spark Bible. Which of the following words do you think have the same Latin root?

Mag•ni•fic

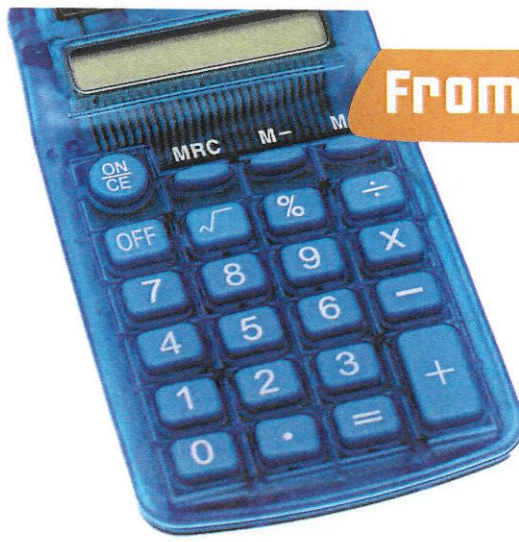
Mag•ni•lo•quent

Mag•no•lia

Mag•ni•fi•cent

Mag•ni•fy

Mag•ni•tude



From Hannah to Jesus

How many generations separate Hannah from Jesus? Matthew 1:6b-17 gives Jesus' family history. Jesus can be traced to King David. Samuel was the priest who anointed David and Hannah was Samuel's mother. Check it out in 1 Samuel! Then figure this out! If each generation is 30 years, about how many years went by between Hannah and Jesus?

Between Hannah and Samuel = 1 generation

Between Samuel and King David = 1 generation

Between King David and Jechoniah = 14 generations

Between Jechoniah and Jesus = 14 generations

Faith on the Go!

When our talents, interests, and abilities are used by God to do something awesome, we can tell people about it! It's okay to be happy and proud of the awesome things God does in our life. Once the angels told Mary that she'd been chosen to be Jesus' mom, she hurried to tell her cousin Elizabeth the good news.

This week when you do something you're really proud of, tell someone about it. Maybe you tell your parents or call a friend. Maybe you send someone an email. Whoever you tell, be sure to give thanks to God for giving you the opportunity and the talent to accomplish whatever you did!

Memory Verse



Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Luke 1:42b

Funky Fingerprints

Each person has their very own set of fingerprints.

No two people, not even twins, have the same ones.

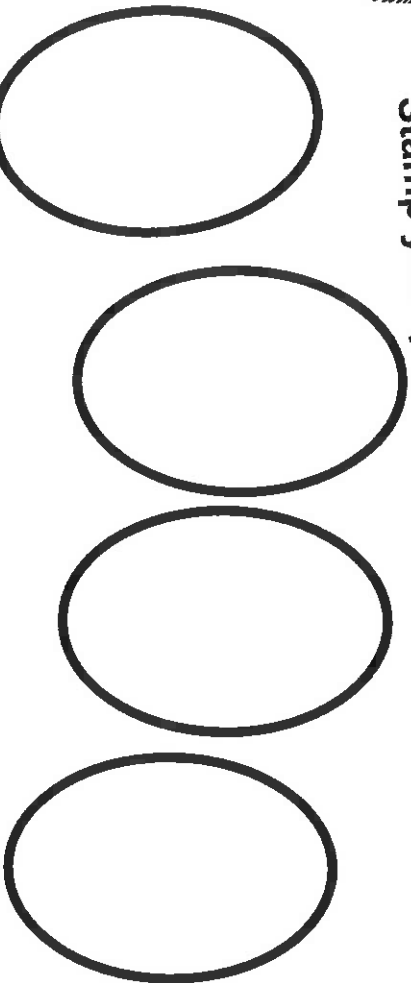
Fingerprints are made from tiny ridges underneath the skin, which form when a baby is still in the womb.

Humans aren't the only ones with fingerprints—all primates and some other mammals (like the koala bear) also have them.

The tiny grooves on the skin of the hands and feet make it easier to grip things. We humans use fingerprints mostly for ID-ing people.



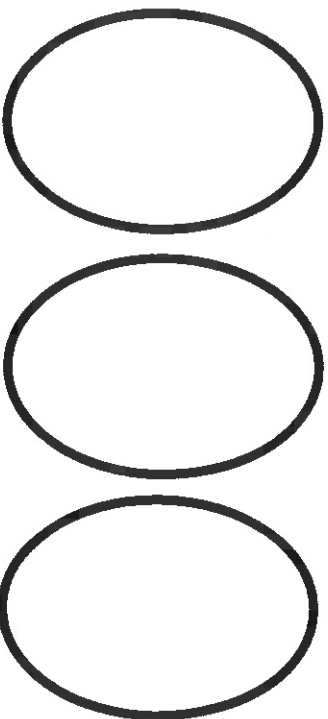
What do your fingerprints look like?
Stamp your prints here:



Do you notice similarities in your fingerprints?

Do you notice similarities in your friends fingerprints?

What do your friends fingerprints look like?
Ask your friends to stamp their prints here:



What else is unique about you?
