



SARAH MUNNS

The Story

This term we're looking at the first few chapters of Luke's true story about Jesus. We're going to dig deeply into the Nativity story. In the first few verses of his gospel Luke outlines how and why he is writing. He carefully investigated all things about Jesus. Then he wrote them down so that we might know that Jesus was born, he lived, he died, and he rose again.

The activities to do

- 1** Head to this link and watch the Dr Luke video. When you've finished, discuss the 'Dr Luke' questions.
<https://youtu.be/s-BWFJIVJCw>



Dr Luke
How did Luke go about writing his story about Jesus?

Luke 1:1-4
How do these verses help us to trust Luke's gospel?

- 2** Using Playdough or Lego create all the elements of the Christmas story. Pull out a kids Bible or CEV and use that for inspiration. When you've finished, discuss the 'Luke's Nativity' questions.



Luke's Nativity
What's your favourite part of the Christmas story?

How did Luke know what to include in his Christmas story?

How can we help each other to remember the true meaning of Christmas this year?

Luke's Gospel
What's your favourite story from Jesus' life?

Why did Luke write his true story about Jesus?

Why should we trust Luke's story?



- 3** Read through the whole of Jesus' life in the Big Picture Bible or Beginners Bible. You could do this in one go or in small chunks over the week. When you've finished, discuss the 'Luke's Gospel' questions. (N.B. if you have really little ones you could just pick a few stories from Jesus' life to read)

Share the News
Why do we need to share the good news of Christmas with our friends that we've drawn?

How can we share the true Christmas story with our friends and family this Christmas? (try to think of concrete example e.g. have a sleep over and invite them to Christmas Eve Carols)



- 4** Get each family member to draw a picture of one person they know who doesn't know Jesus. As you draw discuss the 'Share the news' questions.

The things to pray about

- Thank God for his word the Bible. Thank God for Luke who carefully investigated and wrote down all about Jesus so that we can be sure
- Thank God for sending Jesus, his promised king, to save us from sin
- Pray that we would love learning about the Christmas story. Pray that we would be more sure about who Jesus is and what he's done for us.
- Pray that we would be bold and share the good news of Christmas with our friends and family.

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

44 Jesus said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen." **45** Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them: The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. **47** They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, **48** you must tell everything that has happened.

The Story

After Luke has introduced his letter he begins telling about the events surrounding Jesus birth. An angel comes to both Zechariah and Mary. The message is that they will both have a baby. Zechariah and Elizabeth's baby will be the one who prepares the way for the Lord. Mary's baby is going to be the promised king! Both these promises seem impossible! (Zechariah and Elizabeth are OLD and Mary is unmarried). But the angel says nothing is impossible for God. And sure enough both women become pregnant just as God promised!



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The activities to do

- 1** Head to this link and watch the Zechariah video (watch up until 2mins). When you've finished discuss the 'Gabriel and Zech' questions.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1JzbiUpi6s>



Gabriel and Zech

- What impossible promise does the angel bring from God for Zech?
- Why does it seem so impossible?
- What do we learn about his son?
- How does Zech respond?
- What happens to him because he doesn't believe?
- Does God keep his promise? How?

Gabriel and Mary

- What impossible promise does the angel bring from God for Mary?
- Why does it seem so impossible?
- What do we learn about her son?
- How does Mary respond?
- Does God keep his promise? How?



2

Read the story about Gabriel coming to Mary from a Luke 1:26-38 from a CEV Bible or choose a Kids picture Bible and read the story. When you've finished, discuss the 'Gabriel and Mary' questions.

- 3** Straight after dinner or over afternoon tea try a few of these 'impossible' activities.
- Lick your elbow
 - Stand against the wall with heels touching the wall. Place a coin 30cm away from you. Stand up straight (check your heels). Then try to pick up the coin without moving your heels away from the wall or falling forwards.
 - Fold a piece of paper in half more than 8 times.
- When you've finished, discuss the 'Nothing is impossible for God' questions.



Nothing is impossible for God

What promises has God made to us?

- Do you think he will keep them? Why/why not?
- What things make it hard to trust God?
- How can we help each other to trust God, especially when we doubt?
- Think about your friends from last week – what might they find hard to believe about this story? What could you say to them?



The things to pray about

- Thank God for his word the Bible. Thank God for Luke who carefully investigated and wrote down all about Jesus so that we can be sure
- Thank God that he is faithful and always keeps his promises! Thank God for sending Jesus.
- Say sorry for the times that we don't trust God. Pray that he would help us to keep trusting him.
- Pray that we would be bold and share the good news of Christmas with our friends and family.

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

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The Story

After Gabriel visits Mary she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Mary comes to her house Elizabeth's baby John leaps inside her. She is full of joy and thankfulness because she knows that Mary's child is special. Mary sings a song of praise. She praises God for his kindness to her and his faithfulness to his people in showing mercy to them and keeping his promises.



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The activities to do

1

Read Luke 1:46-55. Talk about some of the things Mary praises God for. Then put on your favourite Christian kids CD and have some fun singing God's Praises. When you've finished, discuss the 'Mary's Praise' questions.



2

Play a game of naughts and crosses. Instead of using naughts and crosses use different coloured jelly babies to show the two teams. Ask the following questions. If your team gets it right, they get to play a jelly baby. If they get it wrong the other team gets a turn. When you've finished, discuss the 'Who is this child?' questions.



Mary's Praise

Why did Mary praise God? What does her song tell us about God?

How have we seen God's faithfulness, salvation and mercy?

Pick one of your favourite Christian kids songs. What does it tell us about God?

How can we help each other to praise God for who he is and all the things that he has done for us?

When can we praise God?

1. How were Mary and Elizabeth related? (cousins)
2. Who was Elizabeth's husband? (Zechariah)
3. What crazy thing happened to Zechariah? (he couldn't speak until his baby was born because he didn't believe God)
4. Where did Zechariah and Elizabeth live? (The hill country)
5. What was the name of Elizabeth's son? (John)
6. What happened when Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house? (The baby jumped)
7. Why did Mary sing? (because she wanted to praise God for his goodness)
8. What was the name of Mary's husband? (Joseph)
9. What was the name of Mary's son? (Jesus)
10. What was Jesus coming to do? (Save God's people)

Who is this child?

How does John respond to this baby?

How does Elizabeth respond to having Mary and her baby in her house?
Why do they respond this way?

How should we respond to Jesus?

The things to pray about

- Praise God for who he is and what he's done for us.
- Say sorry for the times that we don't trust God and don't treat him as he deserves to be treated. Pray that we would help us to keep trusting him.
- Pray that we would be bold and share the good news of Christmas with our friends and family.

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

44 Jesus said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen."**45** Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them: The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. **47** They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, **48** you must tell everything that has happened.

The Story

In this part of Luke, we see God keep his promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth. They have a baby boy and name him John. Suddenly Zechariah is able to speak again! He praises God because he is faithful. Not only has God kept his promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth, he is also keeping his promises to Abraham and King David and one he spoke through the prophets. God is faithful! He keeps his promises!



Play a game of Christmas Charades. Allow each family member to have a turn acting out the following words. Everyone else has to guess what they're saying. When you've finished, discuss the 'Zechariah's silence' questions. N.B. little kids may need help acting out

2

The activities to do

1

Around the dinner table or over afternoon tea share the meaning of your name (if you're not sure the you could google it) When you've finished, discuss the 'His name is John' questions.



11. Angel
12. Baby John
13. Christmas tree
14. Elizabeth is pregnant
15. Christmas presents
16. Baby Jesus in the manger
17. Gingerbread house
18. Donkey
19. Christmas lights
20. Zechariah not allowed to talk



His Name is John

What name did Zech and Elizabeth give to their baby?

What did everyone think the baby should be named? Why? (v59-61)

What happened when Zech said "his name is John"?

How did the crowd respond? How would you have responded if you were there?

What do we learn about John from this part of the story? (v76-77)

What do we learn about Jesus from this part of the story? (v78-79)

Zechariah's silence

What do you think it would have been like not to be able to speak for 9 months? How do you think Zech felt when he could speak again?

What promises can we see God keeping in this part of the Nativity story (See Luke 1:13,19-20, 2 Samuel 7:11b-16, Psalm 132:11-12,17)?

What does that tell you about God?

What does Zechariah do when God opens his mouth and allows him to talk again?

Do you ever find it hard to trust God? Why?

How can we help each other to keep trusting God?

The things to pray about

- Praise God because he is faithful! He always keeps his promises.
- Say sorry for the times that we don't trust God and don't treat him as he deserves to be treated. Pray that we would help us to keep trusting him. Pray that we would look forward to him keeping all his promises through Jesus
- Pray that we would be bold and share the good news of Christmas with our friends and family.

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

44 Jesus said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen." **45** Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them: The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. **47** They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, **48** you must tell everything that has happened.

The Story

Caesar Augustus wants to count all the people in empire. So, Mary and Joseph must go to Joseph's hometown Bethlehem. Long ago the prophets spoke of God's ruler coming from the town of Bethlehem. While they are there Mary has the baby and they lay him in a manger because there's no room for them in the house. Angels visit shepherds that night and tell them that a saviour has been born for them. The shepherds meet the baby Jesus and are amazed because all that the angel says is true!



The activities to do

1

Around the dinner table or over afternoon tea put together your Christmas Wish Lists. When you've finished, discuss the 'Toys N Tucker' questions.



Toys N Tucker

What's your favourite thing about Christmas?

What's at the top of your Christmas Wish List?

What is Toys N Tucker?

(Watch the Toys N Tucker video if you need a reminder)

How can you as a family be involved? (What on your Christmas list could you give up so that someone else could have a toy at Christmas?)

Why would we want to be generous to others?

Baby Jesus

Why is it good news that Jesus was born?

What did he come to do?

Why is this important for us? How should we respond?

How can we help each other remember Jesus at Christmas time?



Using 5 strips of paper draw the story of Luke 2:1-21. When finished either glue or staple the pieces together to make a paper chain. This can be used to decorate your Christmas Tree. While you're decorating ask the 'Baby Jesus' questions.

2

3

Jump on google maps and look up the following places

1. Bethlehem (where Jesus was born)
2. Nazareth (where Mary and Joseph lived)
3. Directions from your house to Bethlehem.

When you've finished discuss the 'Promises' questions.



Promises

Why is it important that Jesus was born in Bethlehem?

Read Micah 5:2

What is God promising here?

How can we see God keeping this promise in the Christmas story?

What does this teach us about God?

The things to pray about

- Praise God because he is faithful! He always keeps his promises.
- Say sorry for the times that we don't trust God and don't treat him as he deserves to be treated. Pray that we would help us to keep trusting him.
- Pray that we would be bold and share the good news of Christmas with our friends and family.
- Pray that we would be generous in giving to Toys N Tucker.

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

44 Jesus said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen." 45 Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them: The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. 47 They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, 48 you must tell everything that has happened.



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The Story

8 days after Jesus' birth Mary and Joseph take him to the temple to be dedicated. While they are there, they meet Simeon. Simeon has been told he will not die until he sees God's salvation. When he meets Jesus, he praises God saying that this baby will be the promised saviour king. Anna, a prophetess who is in the temple, praises God and tells others of his salvation after meeting baby Jesus.

The activities to do

1

Check out the Toys N Tucker video at the link below. When you've finished, discuss the Toys N Tucker questions.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFvUa4i4sBw&t=4s>

Toys N Tucker

How would you feel if we said there would be no Christmas presents or Christmas food this year?

Why would we want to be generous at Christmas time?

How can we as a family be involved? (What on your Christmas list could you give up so that someone else could have a toy at Christmas?)

Simeon

What amazing promise did God give to Simeon?

How did he feel when he met Jesus?
What did he say about him?



Watch this video together as a family and then answer the 'Simeon' questions.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_3gvIWzwb

2

Jesus

What do we find out about Jesus in this story?

How do you feel about knowing Jesus?

How can we share the good news of Jesus with others this Christmas?

3

Build the temple using Lego or Duplo. Retell the story from Luke 2:22-40. When you've finished discuss the 'Jesus' questions.

Waiting

How did it feel to be waiting?

What were Simeon and Anna waiting for?
How do you think Simeon and Anna felt waiting for God to send his promised saviour king?

If Simeon and Anna were excited to meet Jesus why should we be even more excited to know Jesus?

If there is a time during the week where you have to wait for something (e.g. waiting for an appointment, waiting for parent to come home from work, etc) discuss the 'waiting' questions.

4



The things to pray about

- Praise God because he is faithful! He always keeps his promises.
- Pray that we would remember his faithfulness to us in Jesus this Christmas
- Pray that we would be bold and share the good news of Christmas with our friends and family.
- Pray that we would be generous in giving to Toys N Tucker.

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

44 Jesus said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen." **45** Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them: The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. **47** They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, **48** you must tell everything that has happened.

The Story

Jesus is now 12 years old. He and his family travel to Jerusalem to for the Passover. On the way home his parents realise that Jesus is not with them. They hurry back and search for him. Finally, they find him in the temple listening and talking with the leaders. Everyone is amazed the answers he gives. When Mary questions him he says she shouldn't have been surprised to find him in his Father's house. Jesus returns home and continues to learn and grow.



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The activities to do

1

At the dinner table or over afternoon tea allow each family member to share a time when they got lost. When you've finished, discuss the 'Lost' questions.



Watch the rest of the video from last week that covers this section of Luke also. Here's the link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_3gvlWzbw

When you've finish discuss the 'Who is Jesus?' questions.

2



Lost

How did you feel when you were lost?
How did you feel when you were found?

Who was lost in this true story from the Bible?

How did Mary and Joseph feel when Jesus was lost?

Where did they find him?

What was Jesus doing in the temple?

What did he say to his mum and dad when they found him?

What did Mary and Joseph think of this?

Who is Jesus?

Read Luke 2:48-50

What do these verses tell us about who Jesus?

Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son?
Why/why not?

The good news of Christmas is that God sent his Son into the world to save us from sin. Who can you share this good news with this week?

How can you as a family make the most of Christmas this year to share that news?

The things to pray about

- Praise God for sending his Son to earth to save us from our sin.
- Say sorry for the times that we don't trust God and don't treat him as he deserves to be treated. Pray that we would help us to keep trusting him.
- Pray that we would be bold and share the good news of Christmas with our friends and family.

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

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The Story

It's about 20 years later and both Jesus and John have grown into men. John is preparing people from God's Messiah, Jesus. John is telling people that they need to turn back to God and be baptised in order to be forgiven. When some Jews come to be baptised, he gets angry. He knows that God wants all people to truly repent and that true repentance produces fruit. It's not good enough to just 'be Abraham's children', you must turn fully from your sins, turn to God and produce fruit.



The activities to do

1

Time how long it takes you to get ready for one of the normal things you do each day e.g. getting ready for school, getting ready for dinner, getting ready for bed, etc) When you've finished, discuss the 'Everybody get ready' questions.



Everybody Get Ready

Who was John getting people ready for?

What did he say people needed to do in order to get ready for Jesus?

What does it mean to turn back to God?

How does Jesus make it possible for us to turn back to God?

Have you turned back to God? Have you put your trust in Jesus? Why/why not?

How can we help each other to keep turning away from sin and turning back to God?

What would you like to say to Jesus today?

Who do you know who needs to hear this message? How could you tell them this week?



2

If you've got some time, make honey jumbles together. Add all kinds of fruit together. Alternatively, you could make a fruit salad or eat anything with fruit in it.

As you eat discuss the 'Produce Fruit' questions.



Produce Fruit

How are we saved from sin?

If we're saved through trusting in Jesus alone, then why do we need to produce fruit? (see James 2:14-17)

What kind of fruit is John talking about?

Read Galatians 5:22-25

Which of this fruit do you find it hard to produce? How can we help each other to produce the fruit of the Spirit?

The things to pray about

- Praise God for sending Jesus so that we can be forgiven. Thank Jesus for dying in our place.
- Say sorry for the times you don't turn away from sin. Ask God to help you to always turn back to him
- Pray that God's Spirit would grow his fruit in your life!
- Pray for your friends who don't know the good news of Jesus. Pray that you would be bold to tell them

Memory Verse (Luke 24:44-48)

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