

The Great Promise

Big Idea: Jesus is my God, my promised Savior.

Memory Verse

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Word of the Week

"Promise" - When a person agrees to do or not do something, they are making a promise. When God makes a promise, He keeps it every time!

This week's lesson

is based on **Luke 1** and **Matthew 1:18-24**.

Sunday

The Right Time!

King David thought about the words of the song. A smile spread across his face. "I wait for the Lord to help me. I trust His word" (Psalm 130:5, ICB).

Yes, the king decided, *that's what I'll do. I'll wait.* He knew that God always keeps His promises.

Waiting for something really good isn't easy. Waiting for birthdays, a playdate with your friend, or even a yummy treat can be hard! But this waiting was even harder. This waiting was for . . . Jesus!

God had made a promise to send His only Son on the biggest rescue mission ever. Jesus would come and save us from sin.

King David had learned all about God's promise from his father, Jesse. And Jesse had learned about it from his father, Obed. And Obed had learned all about it from his parents, Ruth and Boaz. Now King David would tell his children and the people in his kingdom. Together they would wait.

God's people waited . . . and waited . . . and waited. God sent other kings and leaders to remind the people to keep being patient. Their Rescuer was coming—when the time was right.

How might the words from the song in **Psalm 130:7, 8** have encouraged them?

Many, many, many years went by. God's people waited for a long, long time.

Finally the waiting was over! The right time had now come.

I Wonder

- » When have you waited for a very long time for something good? What did you wait for?
- » What helped you to be patient while you waited?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for keeping His promise to save us.

Mission Challenge

Pray each day that Jesus will help you to be a good friend to others. Talk with your family about what a good friend sounds like and how they act.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you had to wait for a special blessing from God.



Monday

The Helper

The time had come! The waiting was over! God was ready to send His Son to save the world. But first He would need a helper—someone to tell everyone that the Son of God was coming.

This helper would need parents who would teach him God’s ways. What parents did God chose? Read **Luke 1:5, 6**.

One day an angel suddenly appeared to faithful Zacharias while he was working in the temple.

“Do not be afraid, Zacharias,” the angel said kindly, “your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John . . . He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:13-15). The angel said that John would make people ready to meet the Lord.

Zacharias couldn’t believe it! He and his wife, Elizabeth, were very old; way too old to have children. “How can I know that what you say is true?” he asked doubtfully. “I am an old man, and my wife is old too” (Luke 1:18, ICB).

The angel told Zacharias that Elizabeth would have this promised baby. But because Zacharias doubted, he would not be able to talk until baby John was born.

Zacharias stepped outside the temple. He opened his mouth to speak to the people, but . . . nothing! No sound came out at all. Quietly Zacharias headed home with his wife, Elizabeth. He thought a lot about the angel’s words.

Sure enough, Elizabeth soon became pregnant with her little miracle baby. One day this baby would grow up to become God’s special helper. He would help people get ready for Jesus!

I Wonder

- » Why do you think God chose Zacharias and Elizabeth to be the parents of this special helper?
- » Can you remember another husband and wife in the Bible whom God promised to give a baby to, even though they were very old? (Abraham and Sarah.) Zacharias should have remembered them too and not doubted God’s promise.

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His promise and plan to save us.

Do

Go outside in nature and be silent, as Zacharias was. Look and listen for God’s little miracles.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Mother of God's Son

Mary jumped in surprise. Standing before her was a beautiful, shining angel! "Greetings!" said the angel. "The Lord has blessed you and is with you" (Luke 1:28, ICB).

Mary's heart raced. Why was this special messenger of God talking to her? She was just an ordinary young woman from Nazareth. *What did it all mean?*

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you.

"Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. . . . The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:30-35, ICB).

Mary could barely believe it. God was choosing her to be the mother of the promised Savior of the world! Then the angel smiled and told her something else exciting: "Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son" (Luke 1:36, ICB).

What did the angel say next, to help Mary believe? Read **Luke 1:37**.

Mary was amazed at everything the angel said. Most of all she was amazed that she would be Jesus' mother! God was doing what He had always promised. His plan to save sinners was finally happening.

"I am the servant girl of the Lord," she humbly answered. "Let this happen to me as you say!" (Luke 1:38, ICB).

I Wonder

» Why did God need to send Jesus? (Read your memory verse, Matthew 1:21.)

Prayer Idea

Thank God that nothing is impossible with Him.

Do

Make a plan and a promise to share God's love with someone today. Maybe you could let someone ahead of you in line at the store, or make a meal for someone who is pregnant or has a new baby.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

Exciting News

Mary had very exciting news. An angel had just told her she would be the mother of the Son of God, the Savior of the world! Mary couldn't wait to tell someone. And she knew just whom to tell. Mary "got up and went quickly to a town in the mountains of Judea" (Luke 1:39, ICB).

Who was she going to visit? Read **Luke 1:40**.

As soon as Mary stepped through the front door, she happily greeted Elizabeth. The moment she spoke, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. The baby inside Elizabeth's round tummy leaped and wriggled with joy. Instantly Elizabeth knew that the Savior of the world was growing inside of Mary!

"God has blessed you more than any other woman," Elizabeth said. "You are the mother of my Lord" (Luke 1:42, 43, ICB).

The two women hugged each other tightly and smiled with joy.

"My soul praises the Lord; my heart is happy because God is my Savior," Mary said to Elizabeth. "God has done what he promised" (Luke 1:46, 55).

Yes! God's plan was happening—Jesus was on the way. Aren't you glad? For "He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

I Wonder

» How do you know that God loves you?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His big plan to save us.

Do

Tell someone the exciting news found in your memory verse. You might tell them in person, on the phone, over video chat, or in a letter/drawing.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Baby John

Babies are such amazing miracles from God. Mary and Elizabeth's babies were miracles too—extra-special miracles. Especially the baby growing inside of Mary. This tiny baby was the Son of God, the Creator of the universe, and the Savior of the world. Wow! What a miracle.

After a nice long visit with Elizabeth, Mary returned home to Nazareth. Soon Elizabeth gave birth to her little miracle boy. Their friends and family were so happy. They wanted to call him Zacharias, just like his daddy.

"No, he shall be called John," Elizabeth said (Luke 1:60).

Their friends disagreed. "But no one in your family has this name!" (Luke 1:61, ICB). They asked Zacharias. What would he like to call his son?

What did Zacharias do? Read **Luke 1:63**.

Suddenly Zacharias could talk again! After months of being silent, Zacharias' voice worked, "and he spoke, praising God" (Luke 1: 64).

Looking down at his precious son, Zacharias said, "Now you, child, . . . will go first before the Lord to prepare the people for his coming. You will make his people know that they will be saved" (Luke 1:76, 77).

What an important job John would have.

I Wonder

» Can you think of any other promises God made and kept in the Bible?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for being the Savior of the world.

Do

Make and decorate a colorful banner together that says, "Jesus has come!"

Memory Verse





Friday

A Message for Joseph

Joseph tossed and turned in his bed. He was so upset. He was supposed to be marrying Mary soon. But he was so confused.

He thought about what Mary had told him. The story seemed impossible! She had told him that an angel had spoken to her. That she was pregnant with the promised Savior, the Son of God! Could he believe her? What should he do?

Finally Joseph fell into a restless sleep. While he slept, God sent an angel to encourage him.

“Joseph, . . . don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit,” the angel said (Matthew 1:20, ICB).

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Mary’s story was true! God wanted Mary and Joseph to be the parents of the promised Savior of the world.

What did Joseph do? Read **Matthew 1:24**.

Joseph chose to trust God’s plan. He knew that God would be with them. God would be their helper as they raised this special baby, Jesus. One day He would save the world from sin and death!

I Wonder

» Do you want to trust in God’s plan to save you? If you do, you can invite Him into your heart right now.

Prayer Idea

Thank You, Jesus, for being my God, my promised Savior.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Sing or say your memory verse and think about God’s big plan to save you. Place an object in your memory box, to remind you.

For You, Parents

“Christ took upon Himself human nature, a nature inferior to His heavenly nature. Nothing so shows the wonderful condescension of God as this. He so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16)” (Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 246).

Fire! Help!

Crack! An odd noise woke up little Amy late at night. Lifting her head, she smelled something unusual. She decided to take a look.

Peeking out of the door, Amy saw that the television looked like a big ball of fire. The TV was in a wooden cabinet in the living room. On top of the TV cabinet was a big flower vase.

Amy's eyes opened wide in fear as she saw the hot orange flames reaching up to the ceiling. The fire was quickly spreading toward the kitchen and garage.

"Fire!" Amy screamed. "Help! Help!"

But the fire was so hot that no one dared come out of their rooms. Her father, mother, and brother quickly ran to a window at the back of the house and jumped out. But Amy did not run. Quickly, just for a moment, she fell on her knees.

"God, please save us," she prayed.

At that moment the big flower vase sitting above the TV began to wobble. Then . . . crash! Amy watched as the vase of water fell straight onto the fire. The flames instantly died down. They stopped climbing up the ceiling. They stopped racing toward the kitchen and garage. The fire shrunk down until it disappeared completely.

God had heard and answered Amy's prayer.

Sin is a lot like that big fire. It began in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Since then, sin has spread like fire. It has caused pain, sadness, and even death. It is a problem we just can't fix ourselves.

That is why God made a plan to send Jesus to destroy sin and death forever. "For God loved the world so much that he gave His only Son. God gave His son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, ICB).

This story is adapted from "Fire! Help!" by Andrew McChesney, *Children's Mission*, copyright (c) 2022 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Used and adapted by permission.

Fast Fact

In Laos, where Amy is from, they speak Lao. To say "Help! Fire!" Amy would have said, "Suay dae! Fái mài!" Can you say that?

