

An illustration of a tomb entrance in a rocky landscape. The tomb is a dark, arched opening with a white cloth folded on a stone slab inside. In the background, three wooden crosses stand on a hill under a blue sky with light clouds. The foreground shows large, dark brown rocks and a sandy ground.

**New Era Church - SON Shiners Children's Ministry**

## **Small Group Table of Contents**

- **Pages 2-3** → Younger Children's Material
- **Pages 4-5** → Older Children's Material

# Vowel Swap






INSTRUCTIONS: Use the vowel code to complete each word. Then cross out words beginning with I, O or U to see the Main Point.



G d n s d c h s M r y n d

J s p h t b r n g J s s

m b r l l r t h l y f p r n t s w l

				
A	E	I	O	U



KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**ANGELS SPOKE TO MARY AND JOSEPH**

- An angel told Mary that she would be Jesus' mother.
- She visited her cousin, whose baby jumped in her belly!
- God gave Joseph a dream explaining that Mary's baby was from God.
- Joseph obeyed God and became Mary's husband.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- How do you think it felt to be Mary or Joseph?
- Why is Jesus' earthly family important?
- What about being Jesus' earthly family would be hard? What might be easy?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Celebrate Advent with your family. Find instructions for making an Advent wreath and read through a devotional. Light the appropriate candles and sing carols together.



**MAIN POINT: GOD CHOSE MARY AND JOSEPH TO BE JESUS' EARTHLY PARENTS.**

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*Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph*  
Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



- FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**
- How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about their role in God's plan?
  - Why is Jesus' earthly family important?
  - What about being Jesus' earthly family would be hard? What might be easy?



## Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24

**MAIN POINT: GOD CHOSE MARY AND JOSEPH TO BE JESUS' EARTHLY PARENTS.**

One day, God sent an angel named Gabriel to visit Mary. She was engaged to be married to Joseph. The angel said to Mary, "Rejoice! You have found favor with God." Mary was very afraid and puzzled.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said. Then he told Mary that she was going to have a very special and unique baby, and they would call the baby Jesus, which means "the Lord saves."

Mary asked the angel, "How can that happen? I am not married yet."

The angel replied, "God will be the father of the baby. The baby will be God's Son." Then the angel told Mary, "Nothing will be impossible with God!"

"May everything happen just as you said," Mary replied.

Mary hurried to her relative Elizabeth's house. When she arrived, the baby inside Elizabeth leaped for joy!

Mary praised God with a song about how great God is. God was keeping His promise to bless the whole world through Jesus.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Then she went home.

Now Joseph found out Mary was going to have a baby, but Joseph knew it was not his baby. Joseph decided to quietly break his engagement with Mary.

Soon after Joseph thought these things, an angel appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph," the angel said. "Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby she is carrying was put there by the Holy Spirit. Name Him Jesus because He is going to save His people from their sins!"

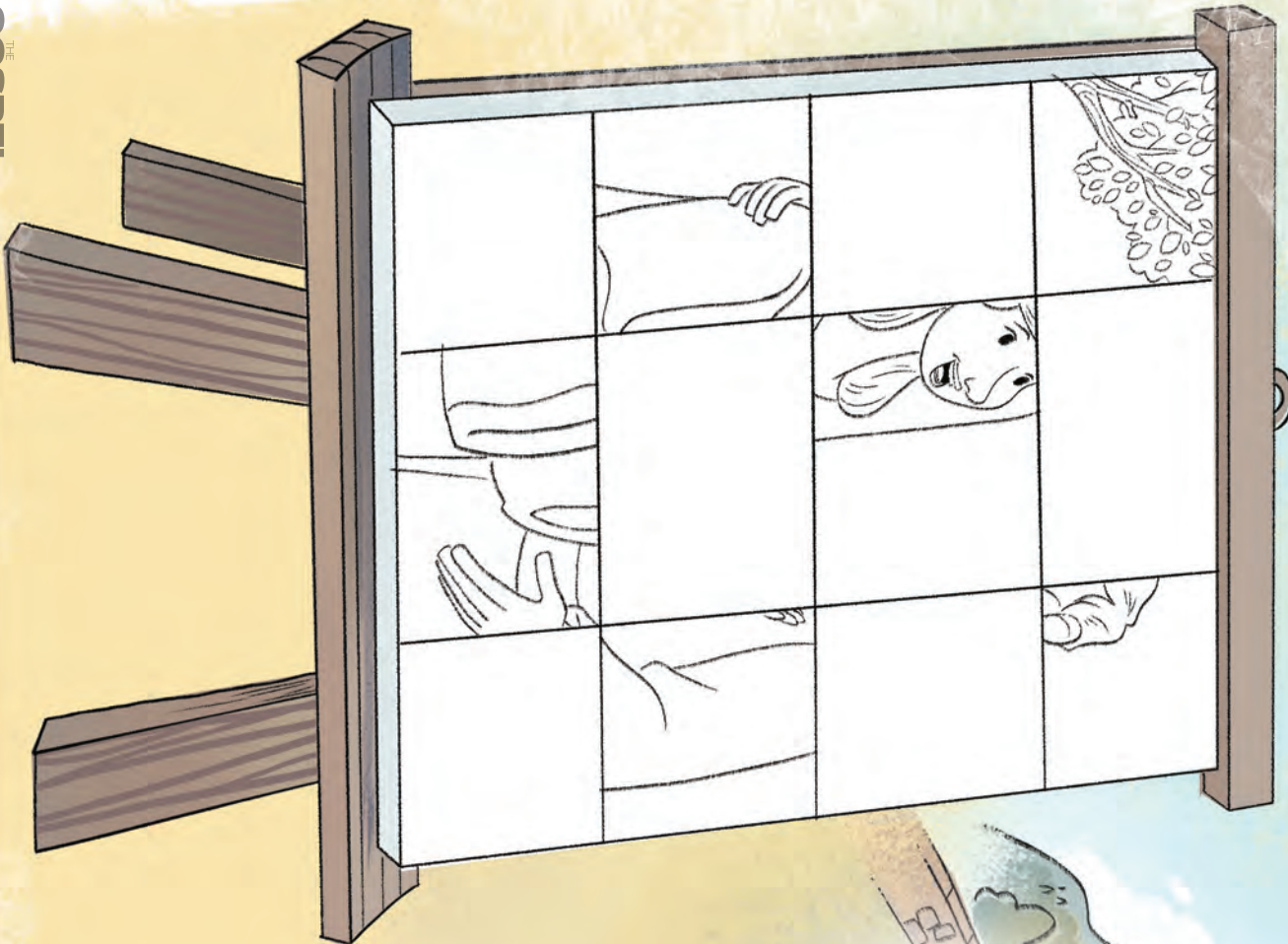
When Joseph woke up, he did exactly as the angel commanded. He married Mary, and when she had a son, Joseph named Him Jesus.

*Christ Connection: The baby Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, as well as other Old Testament prophecies, about the coming Savior. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God planned before the world began.*

FOLD

# Be the Artist

This Bible story picture is missing a lot of pieces! Can you fix it? Draw in the missing parts.



## Secret Message

Use the key to decode the secret message.

- 1:A      5:E      9:L      13:P
- 2:B      6:G      10:M      14:R      17:U
- 3:C      7:H      11:N      15:S      18:Y
- 4:D      8:J      12:O      16:T

