

Week One Hope.

Read Micah 5:2

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

God told his people their Savior would be born in Bethlehem. But how can a baby save the world? Babies can't do much, they can't even talk!



Question

What do you think people thought this baby might one day do?

Jesus was born and did many, many great things. At the beginning of advent, we can have the hope of the coming of Jesus. We make an advent calendar to help us count down the days until Christmas. UNTIL JESUS' BIRTHDAY! Jesus' birth in Bethlehem was a gift to us.

Read Luke 1:26-38

26 *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28* *And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29* *But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30* *The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31* *And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32* *He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33* *He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34* *Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35* *The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36* *And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37* *For nothing will be impossible with God." 38* *Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

Things to do this week

At Home: Each morning at breakfast, think about or discuss your plans for Christmas. Think/Discuss how anticipating this special family time is like or unlike what Mary and Joseph hoped for as they awaited Jesus' birth.

In your Community: The color yellow often represents hope. Tie yellow ribbons around candy canes and give to your neighbors. Leave a note with the candy cane explaining that the yellow ribbon symbolizes hope.