

Welcome to Worship with us! Please take a moment to fill out the Communication Card inside this guide and place it in the offering box. We're so glad you've decided to worship with us this this morning!

Nicaragua Mission Trip March 8-17, 2014 and the plan is to take a medical team and children's ministry team. If you're interested in going, see Billy. The cost of the trip is \$1500 and the first deposit of \$500 is due Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.



2014 Vision Weekend will be December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have 2 services on that day. Part 1 will be our 9:30am worship service, where I'll aim to lay out the big picture of the direction God is leading. Part 2 will be at 5:00pm. We'll have a meal and I'll unpack more of the nuts and bolts of how we'll accomplish what we believe God has planned for 2014.

Giving can be done in the box in the back of the room or online at [www.encounterlifechurch.org/give](http://www.encounterlifechurch.org/give). Thanks for faithfully giving and supporting the work God is doing through ELC!

Need Something this week? Please call the Leadership Team:

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## Family Worship Guide

November 24, 2013

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

Family Worship Night  
Week of November 24, 2013

**LUKE 1:39-56**

**INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>**

The angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son, and she believed it. He said that her elderly and childless cousin Elizabeth would have a baby too, and she believed it, and hurried off to see her. Mary was very special. She was special not because she was smarter or prettier or better than anyone else. Mary was special because God chose her to carry and give birth to the Savior of the world. Mary believed God would do what he promised, because she knew God was always trustworthy. Elizabeth also trusted God and her unborn baby John leaped with joy when Mary arrived.

**DISCUSSION** Does God always keep his promises? Why or why not?

**EXPLANATION**

- Where did Mary go? *She went to a town in Judah to see her cousin Elizabeth.*
- Why did she go to see her? *To see the special thing God had done for Elizabeth & Zechariah.*
- What would Elizabeth's pregnancy mean for Mary? *It was a sign that nothing is impossible with God. If God could make it possible for Elizabeth to have a baby, he could certainly do what he promised for Mary too.*
- What happened when Elizabeth heard Mary's voice? *Elizabeth's baby leaped for joy in her womb.*
- What happened to Elizabeth next? *She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and said that Mary was blessed.*
- What does it mean that Mary is "blessed"? *To be blessed is to receive special favor from God.*

- Why, according to Elizabeth, was Mary blessed? *Mary was blessed because she would give birth to God's son, and because she believed that God would do what he promised.*

**APPLICATION**

God is faithful. That means that he always keeps His promises. Because God loves us and keeps his promises, we can trust him and be joyful. Trusting is simply believing that God keeps his promises. Mary shows us what it looks like to trust God, and Elizabeth shows us the joy we can have when we think about how God has saved us from our sins, and made us his children. A big part of trusting God comes from remembering what he has already done. It helps us to believe that he will keep his promises in the future. Parents, talk with your children about all the times God has been faithful to you in the past. Like the memorial stones in Joshua 4, help your kids write some of them down on rocks to keep and look at. Or keep a scrapbook of God's fulfilled promises to you. Add new ones when they happen, and go through them periodically in your times of worship, to remember that God always keeps his promises.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Luke 1:45b - "You have believed that what the Lord has said to you will be done!" (NIRV)

*Prayer Thought: Thank God for keeping his promise and sending Jesus!*

*For more information on how to have a  
Family Worship Night please visit,  
[www.encounterlifechurch.org/fwn/FWNPrepGuide.pdf](http://www.encounterlifechurch.org/fwn/FWNPrepGuide.pdf)*

<sup>1</sup> Taken from:  
[http://cdn.marshall.com/files/collection/documents/luke\\_9097\\_document.pdf](http://cdn.marshall.com/files/collection/documents/luke_9097_document.pdf)  
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