

# Week 3: Joy

## Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

## Activity

### Angel Cookies

Use a favorite cookie recipe, such as a sugar cookie or shortbread cookie recipe, and use an angel cookie cutter to shape the cookies as angels. Use icing and sprinkles to decorate your cookies. As you enjoy your "Angel Cookies," talk about how you have experienced joy this Advent season.

## Share

Read "Mary's Story" together. What was the good news that the angel shared with Mary? What is the best news you have ever heard? How did it make you feel?

## Advent Wreath

If you are using an Advent wreath, light three candles or color the third candle.

## Liturgy/Prayer

Today, we are going to join in a litany that reminds us of the joy of Christmas. Your response will be, "Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus!"

**Leader:** The angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her she was going to have a baby.

**Children:** Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus!

**Leader:** Mary visited her relative, Elizabeth, who was also pregnant. Elizabeth's baby jumped for joy at the sound of Mary's voice.

**Children:** Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus!

**Leader:** Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem to enroll in the tax lists.

**Children:** Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus!

**Leader:** Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and Mary laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the guestroom.

**Children:** Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus!

**Leader:** The angels told the shepherds of Jesus' birth, and the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus.

**Children:** Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus!

**Leader:** Amen.