



Adults & Teens—Listen to or sing the song “The Magnificat” from Holden Evening Prayer (or another source) Here is a link to a video with the words: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nABzv_TInaI or google it!

What does this song tell you about Mary? What does it tell you about her role in the story of Jesus?

Children and families: Listen to the song too if you like! Or write the word Mother and together think of words and/or pictures that describe a mother. What do you imagine Jesus’ mother was like? Let’s draw a picture of her together.



Mary

Read Luke 1 and 2 to get the bulk of Mary’s story at the birth of Jesus. A children’s Bible will have this story as well.

Other passage that tell us about Mary are John 2 and John 19

Walter Wangerin Jr has a great book called Mary’s First Christmas that is a different perspective of Mary telling Jesus his story. This could be a good one to read a part of each night as a family. Adults will like it too!

Conversation Starters:

Adults & Teens:

- What do you imagine it was like to be Mary? What challenges would she have faced? What joys would she have experienced?
- When you think of the day to day life of raising a child or being part of a family, how can you relate to what life might have been like for Jesus as a child?
- Why do you think it is that we know so little about this part of Jesus’ life with Mary?
- compare what you read with the song you heard or read the lyrics for in the Magnificat—what is the same and what is different?
- We often think of Mary as young and meek and mild—what are some other descriptors that we might use when we pay attention to her song?

Children and Families:

- What do you think Mary was like as a mother to Jesus?
- What kind of child do you think Jesus was—think of some descriptive words together and say why you think that.
- What is important to you about the people who take care of you? Name them together!
- Mary trusted God—what ways did she do that? How can you trust God?

Activity suggestions:

- * Get out your nativity set no matter what time of year it is! Adults and teens—set it up in a new way from what you have learned—how would you show the story of Mary differently? Children and families, spend some time retelling the stories of Mary with the nativity set pieces.
- * Look up a women's shelter, prison ministry, or domestic violence helping agency for women or another way to contribute or volunteer to strengthening women's needs in the world. They may be a project locally or you can look to ELCA global ministries or Lutheran World Relief for ideas.
- * Look up pictures online for ways that Mary is depicted in art, social media, and from various places around the world. How do these pictures tell her story? How do they tell the story of the people sharing them?
- * Think of a woman or women in your life who are important to you in either in their love, strength, courage or challenges they face. Write them a note of appreciate and tell them how they have impacted your life. Have younger children tell you what to write or make a simple thank you card.
- * We often think of God as 'male' which is not the only way God is portrayed in the Bible. Make a list of 'feminine' images or words for God or draw what you imagine God would look like as woman.



Pray together—Look at a newspaper and find a place in the world that is in conflict and needs prayer. Or pray for a place for women in your area. Share your highs and lows of the day and say a prayer of thanks for the women in your life.



+God our mother blesses in you in strength, peace, and love+