# Welcome to Wisdom and Stature

*A year of Come, Follow Me for the whole family, one skill at a time.*

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52). Jesus grew a little at a time. Your family can too. Each week follows the 2027 Come, Follow Me New Testament schedule and teaches one real-life skill that someone in that week's reading shows us. Every lesson points to Jesus.

## What's in each week

### Sunday: Feast on the Word

Three pages for an after-dinner lesson, about 20 to 30 minutes. Serve a treat, teach the skill, play a short game, meet the people in the story, and talk it over.

### Monday to Friday

A 5-minute morning devotional each day. The front page is a short story intro and a passage to read together. The back page has questions for every age.

### Table tent

Fold it on the dashed lines and set it on the table. It holds the family verse, the week's invitation and each day's dinner question.

### Fridge sheet

One page for the fridge with the verse, the skill, each day's reading and a box to check when you finish.

## Questions for every age

Each set of questions comes in four levels: Little Learners (3 to 5), Kids (6 to 11), Youth (12 to 17) and Adults. Pick the level for each person, or read all four and let everyone answer. Each level climbs four steps: Notice, Step in, Connect and Commit.

## How to use it

1. **Print the week before Sunday.** The 15 pages print on regular letter paper. Cardstock works well for the table tent.
2. **Sunday after dinner,** do the Feast on the Word pages together.
3. **Each morning,** take five minutes for that day's devotional. Read the story intro, read the passage together, then ask the questions.
4. **At dinner,** ask the question on the table tent and check off the day on the fridge sheet.

## If you miss a day

Just pick up where you are. Every day stands on its own, and the skill repeats all week.

## A few notes

Scripture is quoted from the King James Version. Each week shares a summary of what a Church leader taught, with the talk title and date so you can read the full talk on churchofjesuschrist.org. Those summaries are in our own words, not quotes.

We pray to Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ, and the questions are written that way.

**Our hope for your family**

Small, steady moments with the scriptures, and kids who learn to love the Savior and treat people the way He does.

Marc and Emily

## Need help?

Visit inlovewithlearning.com.

Sunday, Dec 27 · Matthew 1; Luke 1

# Ask Honest Questions

*Zacharias and Mary both asked an angel a question. One wanted proof. The other wanted to understand.*

## Set the table

Serve any treat as you start. Phones away. This is the one night a week we sit down just to talk about the Savior. About 20 to 30 minutes.

## Teach the skill

**When you wonder about something, ask to understand, not to demand proof.** An honest question sounds like "Help me understand." A doubting one sounds like "Prove it, or I won't." Mary asked the honest kind (Luke 1:34). Heavenly Father welcomes honest questions, and so do we. When you catch yourself saying "prove it," stop and ask again the honest way.

## Play: Turn it around

Read each "prove it" question out loud. The first person to turn it into an honest question gets the next bite of treat.

"Why should I even do chores?"

→ "Help me understand why chores matter."

"If God is real, why doesn't He just show me?"

"Why do we have to go to church?"

## Preview the week

Meet the people on the next page first. Then read Luke 1:26–38 together and try the questions on page 3. Monday through Friday, a 5-minute morning devotional keeps the story going.

FAMILY VERSE

**"For with God nothing shall be impossible."**

Luke 1:37 · say it every night

LATTER-DAY PROPHETS TEACH

President Russell M. Nelson taught that personal revelation is for each of us, not only for Church leaders. The Restoration began with a 14-year-old's honest question.

Read: "Revelation for Our Lives," Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Russell M. Nelson, ch. 14 · Joseph Smith—History 1:10–13

Sunday, Dec 27 · read these aloud before the story

# Meet the People and Their World

## Zacharias

NAME MEANS "THE LORD REMEMBERS"

A priest from the division of Abia, one of 24 groups that each served at the temple about two weeks a year (Luke 1:5; 1 Chronicles 24:10). He and Elisabeth were "both righteous before God" and had long prayed for a child. At stake: whether God still remembered them.

## Elisabeth

NAME MEANS "MY GOD IS AN OATH"

From a priestly family herself, one of the "daughters of Aaron." In her culture, being childless was often treated as a public disgrace. She calls it "my reproach among men" (Luke 1:25). At stake: years of quiet shame.

## Gabriel

NAME MEANS "GOD IS MY STRENGTH"

The same angel who came to Daniel centuries earlier, at the time of the evening offering (Daniel 9:21). The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that Gabriel is Noah. God sends him with news at the biggest turning points.

## Mary

MIRIAM IN HEBREW, LIKE MOSES' SISTER

Likely a young teenager from Nazareth, a tiny farming village people looked down on (John 1:46). She was betrothed to Joseph, which was legally binding. At stake: her reputation, her marriage, even her safety.

## Joseph

NAME MEANS "HE WILL ADD"

A descendant of King David and a tekton, a craftsman or builder (Matthew 13:55). Matthew calls him "a just man" (1:19). At stake: his honor in a town where everyone would talk.

## Their world

HEROD'S JUDEA AND A LONG SILENCE

Rome ruled through Herod the Great, "the king of Judaea" (Luke 1:5). He was known for rebuilding the temple and for violence. Jewish tradition counted about 400 years since the last prophet, Malachi. His last promise was that Elijah would "turn the heart of the fathers to the children" (Malachi 4:6). In Luke 1:17 Gabriel echoes those words. Heaven's silence was breaking.

Sunday, Dec 27 · read Luke 1:26–38 together, little ones answer first

# Talk It Over

## Ask

After every answer: "What makes you say that?"

### Little Learners ages 3–5

**Notice.** What did the angel say first?

**Step in.** Show me Mary's face when the angel came. Now show me her face when she said yes.

**Connect.** When do you feel scared? Who helps you?

**Commit.** Can you say "Yes!" like Mary the next time Mom or Dad asks for help?

### Kids ages 6–11

**Notice.** What question did Mary ask the angel?

**Step in.** If you were Mary, would you be more scared or more amazed? What makes you say that?

**Connect.** What's a question about God you've wondered about?

**Commit.** Will you ask it in your prayers, maybe starting with "Heavenly Father, I've wondered..."?

### Youth ages 12–17

**Notice.** Read verses 18 and 34. What's different about the two questions?

**Step in.** Mary was probably a teenager. What would people in her town say?

**Connect.** Is it ever wrong to question God? What makes you say that?

**Commit.** What honest question will you write down and bring to Heavenly Father?

### Adults parents answer first

**Notice.** What does Mary not know yet when she says yes?

**Step in.** What was she risking?

**Connect.** What question have you carried a long time, and how do you hold it?

**Commit.** Tell the kids one question you've asked God and what happened.

### WHEN YOU HEAR "I DON'T KNOW"

The jump was too big. Go back one rung: offer a choice ("scared or amazed?"), give a starter ("I think Mary felt..."), or answer first yourself.

### THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

**Ask Heavenly Father one honest question, then watch for an answer.**

Share what you noticed next Sunday

Monday morning devotional · front · Luke 1:5–17 · about 2 minutes

# A Prayer Heard

## Before you read

It was Zacharias's turn to serve at the temple. The priests drew lots, a little like pulling names out of a hat, and Zacharias was picked. He would go into the Holy Place, a special room in the temple, and burn incense. A priest might get that chance only once in his whole life. Outside, a crowd prayed (Luke 1:10). Inside, Zacharias stood alone by the altar. Then an angel appeared.

## Read together

**Luke 1:5–17.** Listen for the words "thy prayer is heard" (v. 13), and what Gabriel says John will do (vv. 16–17).

## Word to watch

**Zacharias + Elisabeth.** Zacharias means "the Lord remembers." Elisabeth means "my God is an oath." An oath is a promise God keeps. After John was born, Zacharias praised God for sending a Savior "to remember his holy covenant; the oath" (Luke 1:68–73). Their names were a promise all along.

## Culture note

**400 years of silence.** In verse 17 Gabriel uses words from the very last verse of the Old Testament, Malachi 4:6. People had waited about 400 years for a new prophet. Now an angel picked up right where Malachi left off.

POINTS TO JESUS

**John's whole life was about getting people ready for Jesus. When God answered Zacharias and Elisabeth's prayer for a baby, He was also getting the whole world ready for its Savior.**

LATTER-DAY PROPHETS TEACH

President Henry B. Eyring taught that answers to our prayers come in ways that fit what we need and how ready we are to receive them.

Read: "The Faith to Ask and Then to Act," October 2021

Monday morning devotional · back · about 3 minutes

# A Prayer Heard

## Ask

After every answer: "What makes you say that?"

### Little Learners ages 3–5

**Notice.** Who came to visit Zacharias in the temple?

**Step in.** Walk like a very old man. Slow and careful!

**Connect.** What do you pray for?

**Commit.** What will you ask Heavenly Father for in your prayer tonight?

### Kids ages 6–11

**Notice.** What did the angel say about Zacharias's prayer (v. 13)?

**Step in.** If you'd prayed for years with no answer, would you keep going? Why?

**Connect.** What's something you've prayed for that hasn't happened yet?

**Commit.** Will you keep praying for it, and tell Heavenly Father how you feel about waiting?

### Youth ages 12–17

**Notice.** Priests usually burned incense once in their life. Why does that make this day huge?

**Step in.** Do you think Zacharias still expected an answer? What makes you say that?

**Connect.** What do you do with prayers that seem unanswered?

**Commit.** Which long-term prayer will you keep praying every day this week?

### Adults parents answer first

**Notice.** Gabriel says "thy prayer is heard." How long might that prayer have been going?

**Step in.** Elisabeth lived with a painful label for years. What would that do to a person?

**Connect.** What long prayer are you carrying right now?

**Commit.** Share one prayer you're still waiting on with your spouse or a child.

TRY IT TODAY

**Name one question you've been carrying, and give it to Heavenly Father in prayer.**

Tuesday morning devotional · front · Luke 1:18–25 · about 2 minutes

# Proof or Understanding?

## Before you read

Zacharias had just heard the news he prayed for. And he asked for a sign. Meanwhile, the crowd outside waited. After the incense, the priest would come out and bless the people (Numbers 6:24–26).

## Read together

**Luke 1:18–25.** Listen for what Zacharias asks (v. 18), what happens to him (v. 20), and what the waiting crowd sees (vv. 21–22).

## Word to watch

**"Reproach" (oneidos).** The Greek word means disgrace, or public shame. When Elisabeth says the Lord took away "my reproach among men" (v. 25), she means years of people whispering about her.

## Culture note

**The blessing he couldn't give.** The people waited for the priest's blessing. But Zacharias came out and couldn't talk. All he could do was make signs with his hands. Months later, when his voice came back, the first thing he did was praise God (Luke 1:64).

POINTS TO JESUS

**God kept His promise even after Zacharias doubted. Jesus is the proof that God keeps His promises, even when we're slow to believe.**

LATTER-DAY PROPHETS TEACH

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf taught that when doubts come, we should question our doubts first, before we question our faith.

Read: "Come, Join with Us," October 2013

Tuesday morning devotional · back · about 3 minutes

# Proof or Understanding?

## Ask

After every answer: "What makes you say that?"

### Little Learners ages 3–5

**Notice.** What happened to Zacharias's voice?

**Step in.** Try telling Mom something with no words at all!

**Connect.** Was that easy or hard?

**Commit.** What kind thing will you say with your words today?

### Kids ages 6–11

**Notice.** What did Zacharias ask the angel?

**Step in.** Was he asking to understand, or asking for proof?

**Connect.** Turn "Prove it!" into "Help me understand..." Try it with: "Why do I have to do chores?"

**Commit.** When will you use "Help me understand" before Sunday?

### Youth ages 12–17

**Notice.** Compare verse 18 with verse 34 again. What's the real difference?

**Step in.** Why might God answer them differently?

**Connect.** When do your questions to parents sound like demands?

**Commit.** Which demand will you turn into an honest question this week?

### Adults parents answer first

**Notice.** God kept His promise even after Zacharias doubted. What does that tell you about Him?

**Step in.** What might Zacharias have thought about during those silent months?

**Connect.** When has God kept a promise to you in spite of your doubt?

**Commit.** Tell your family that story at dinner.

TRY IT TODAY

**Turn one "prove it" question into a "help me understand" question.**

Wednesday morning devotional · front · Luke 1:26–38 · about 2 minutes

# How Shall This Be?

## Before you read

Six months later, the same angel went somewhere nobody expected: Nazareth, a tiny village. Mary was betrothed to Joseph. That was a promise to marry, and the law treated it like marriage. If Mary was expecting a baby before they lived together, she could lose Joseph and her good name. Under the old law, she could even lose her life (Deuteronomy 22:23–24).

## Read together

**Luke 1:26–38.** Listen for how Mary feels (v. 29), the question she asks (v. 34), and her answer (v. 38).

## Word to watch

**"Highly favoured" (kecharitomene).** It comes from charis, grace. It means something like "one who has been given grace." Mary didn't earn this moment. God gave her grace, and then she chose to say yes.

## Culture note

**A teenager's yes.** Girls were often betrothed around 12 to 14. So Mary may have been about the age of many of our kids when she said "be it unto me." And she had everything to lose.

POINTS TO JESUS

**Mary's yes made room for the Savior to come into the world. Years later her Son would pray the same way: "not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).**

LATTER-DAY PROPHETS TEACH

Sister Tracy Y. Browning taught that our sincere gospel questions give Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ opportunities to help us grow.

Read: "Seeking Answers to Spiritual Questions," October 2024

Wednesday morning devotional · back · about 3 minutes

# How Shall This Be?

## Ask

After every answer: "What makes you say that?"

### Little Learners ages 3–5

**Notice.** What was the angel's name?

**Step in.** Make Mary's face when she heard the news. Now make her face when she said yes.

**Connect.** When is it hard to say yes?

**Commit.** Can you say yes the first time someone asks you for help today?

### Kids ages 6–11

**Notice.** What were Mary's exact words in verse 38?

**Step in.** Act out verses 34 and 38. Where does she decide?

**Connect.** If you could ask the angel one question, what would it be?

**Commit.** What's one thing you'll say yes to without complaining today?

### Youth ages 12–17

**Notice.** Find where Mary is troubled (v. 29). Then find where she asks (v. 34). Then find where she decides (v. 38).

**Step in.** She said yes before she knew how it would work. Brave or risky? Where's the line?

**Connect.** When have you said yes before you knew how it would turn out?

**Commit.** What's one thing you've been avoiding that you will say yes to this week?

### Adults parents answer first

**Notice.** What did Mary actually understand when she said yes?

**Step in.** What would her yes cost her?

**Connect.** What has God asked of you that you said yes to before you understood it? How did it turn out?

**Commit.** Share that story with the kids.

TRY IT TODAY

**Act out verses 34 and 38 together. Notice the moment she decides.**

Thursday morning devotional · front · Luke 1:39–56 · about 2 minutes

# Go to Someone Who Understands

## Before you read

Mary went "with haste" to see Elisabeth in the hill country of Judea. It was a long trip, probably 80 miles or more, and she likely walked. The angel had told Mary that her cousin Elisabeth was going to have a baby too (Luke 1:36).

## Read together

**Luke 1:39–56.** Listen for what happens when Elisabeth hears Mary's voice (v. 41), what Elisabeth calls Mary (v. 43), and how long Mary stays (v. 56).

## Word to watch

**"Magnify" (megalyno).** It means to make great. Mary's song is called the Magnificat, from its first word in Latin. To magnify the Lord is to make Him bigger in your life, not bigger than He is.

## Culture note

**A song she already knew.** Mary's song echoes Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1–10. In the biggest moment of her life, the words Mary reached for were scriptures she knew by heart.

POINTS TO JESUS

**Unborn John leaped for joy at Jesus' presence (v. 44). Even before He was born, Jesus brought joy to the people around Him.**

LATTER-DAY PROPHETS TEACH

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland taught that we can be completely honest about our questions while still making our faith the first thing we feed.

Read: "Lord, I Believe," April 2013

Thursday morning devotional · back · about 3 minutes

# Go to Someone Who Understands

## Ask

After every answer: "What makes you say that?"

### Little Learners ages 3–5

**Notice.** Who did Mary go to visit?

**Step in.** Jump for joy like baby John!

**Connect.** Who do you love to visit?

**Commit.** Who will you hug today, and what happy thing will you tell them?

### Kids ages 6–11

**Notice.** What did Elisabeth say when Mary arrived?

**Step in.** Why do you think Mary went to Elisabeth and not someone else?

**Connect.** Who's someone older you could ask about faith?

**Commit.** What question will you ask them?

### Youth ages 12–17

**Notice.** Read Mary's song, then Hannah's (1 Samuel 2:1–10). What sounds the same?

**Step in.** Why would Mary reach for words she already knew by heart?

**Connect.** Who in your life understands what you're going through?

**Commit.** When will you reach out to them?

### Adults parents answer first

**Notice.** Mary stayed with Elisabeth about three months. What do you think they talked about?

**Step in.** Who are your Elisabeths, the people who get it?

**Connect.** Who might need you to be their Elisabeth right now?

**Commit.** Visit or call them this week.

TRY IT TODAY

**Ask a grandparent or older friend one question about their faith.**

Friday morning devotional · front · Matthew 1:18–25 · about 2 minutes

# Joseph Thought, Then Obeyed

## Before you read

Matthew starts with Jesus' family tree. It includes four women with unusual stories: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba (Matthew 1:3–6). Matthew doesn't say Bathsheba's name. He calls her "the wife of Urias." Then came Mary's story, the most unusual of all. Joseph found out Mary was expecting a baby. And he knew the baby wasn't his.

## Read together

**Matthew 1:18–25.** Listen for what kind of man Joseph is (v. 19), what he plans to do, and what he does when he wakes up (v. 24).

## Word to watch

**"Just" (dikaios).** Joseph was righteous and law-keeping, but his justice showed up as mercy. He was "not willing to make her a publick example" and planned a quiet divorce instead (v. 19).

## Culture note

**Jesus and Emmanuel.** Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, Yeshua in Hebrew: "the Lord saves" (v. 21). Emmanuel means "God with us" (v. 23). Matthew ends his whole book with Jesus' promise, "I am with you alway" (Matthew 28:20).

POINTS TO JESUS

**The angel told Joseph exactly who this child was: the one who "shall save his people from their sins" (v. 21).**

LATTER-DAY PROPHETS TEACH

Elder D. Todd Christofferson taught that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, and that as we follow Him we help bring others to Him so they can feel His redeeming love.

Read: "Redemption," April 2013

Friday morning devotional · back · about 3 minutes

# Joseph Thought, Then Obeyed

## Ask

After every answer: "What makes you say that?"

### Little Learners ages 3–5

**Notice.** How did the angel talk to Joseph?

**Step in.** Pretend you're Joseph. Wake up and say yes!

**Connect.** The name Jesus means "the Lord saves." What does Jesus save us from?

**Commit.** Will you thank Heavenly Father for Jesus in your prayer tonight?

### Kids ages 6–11

**Notice.** What was Joseph planning to do before the dream?

**Step in.** What would you have done if you were Joseph?

**Connect.** What answer did you get to a question lately, big or small?

**Commit.** Who will you tell about it at dinner?

### Youth ages 12–17

**Notice.** Joseph "thought on these things." What was he weighing?

**Step in.** He chose to protect Mary before the dream. What does that say about him?

**Connect.** How do you make decisions when you're hurt or embarrassed?

**Commit.** Next time you feel a big reaction coming, what will you do first?

### Adults parents answer first

**Notice.** Joseph obeyed quickly and quietly (verse 24). What does that look like for you?

**Step in.** Jesus grew up with this man as His father. What might He have learned from him?

**Connect.** What do our kids learn by watching how we make decisions?

**Commit.** Share one answer you received recently.

TRY IT TODAY

**Share one answer, big or small, that you received lately.**

Fold on the three dashed lines. Overlap this flap with the bottom flap so the sheet stands as a tent, then tape the flaps together. Keep it on the dinner table all week. Cardstock works best.

OUR FAMILY VERSE THIS WEEK

# "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Luke 1:37

THIS WEEK WE'RE TRYING

## Ask Heavenly Father one honest question, then watch for an answer.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Mon Dec 28** | What's something you've prayed for that hasn't happened yet? |
| **Tue Dec 29** | When do your questions sound like "prove it"? |
| **Wed Dec 30** | When have you said yes before you knew how it would turn out? |
| **Thu Dec 31** | Who's someone older you could ask about faith? |
| **Fri Jan 1** | What answer did you get this week, big or small? |

**Tape flap · overlap with the top flap**

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Week 1 · Feast on Sunday, Dec 27 · devotionals Dec 28–Jan 3

# "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37

THIS WEEK'S SKILL

## Ask honest questions

Say "Help me understand..." instead of "Prove it."

THIS WEEK WE'RE TRYING

**Ask Heavenly Father one honest question, then watch for an answer.**

| DAY | READ | DINNER QUESTION | DONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sun** Dec 27 | Luke 1:26–38 | What honest question do you have about God? | ☐ |
| **Mon** Dec 28 | Luke 1:5–17 | What's something you've prayed for that hasn't happened yet? | ☐ |
| **Tue** Dec 29 | Luke 1:18–25 | When do your questions sound like "prove it"? | ☐ |
| **Wed** Dec 30 | Luke 1:26–38 | When have you said yes before you knew how it would turn out? | ☐ |
| **Thu** Dec 31 | Luke 1:39–56 | Who's someone older you could ask about faith? | ☐ |
| **Fri** Jan 1 | Matthew 1:18–25 | What answer did you get this week, big or small? | ☐ |

### Who said the verse from memory?

Sign your name when you can say Luke 1:37 by heart.

### Answers we noticed

Big or small. Share them at next Sunday's Feast.

LATTER-DAY PROPHETS TEACH

President Russell M. Nelson taught that personal revelation is for each of us, not only for Church leaders.

Read: "Revelation for Our Lives," Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Russell M. Nelson, ch. 14



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