

## Family Time 2: Jesus' Story Begins

In this session, your child read three Gospel stories: the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), the announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus; the angel's announcement to Joseph that Mary would have a son (Matthew 1:18-25); and the account of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20) to shepherds tending their flocks.

These stories help us to understand how God began to reveal his plan for the salvation of all people through Jesus. Talk with your child about why the coming of Jesus into our world is good news. Talk about traditions your family shares that help you to celebrate Jesus' coming into our hearts on Christmas. For example, the lights on the tree remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World, and the star at the top of the tree is a reminder of the star the Magi followed to Bethlehem to greet the newborn King.

Emphasize that Jesus asks us to keep the good news of Christmas alive in our hearts all year long. As you pray together the following prayer, invite each family member to share one way they can bring peace and joy to others in Jesus' name.

### Rejoice in Jesus' Birth

God our Father,  
Help us to rejoice in Jesus' birth.  
and to live as he has taught.  
In Jesus' name, help us to bring peace and joy to others by  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amen.

(Adapted from the *Roman Missal*,  
Mass at Midnight, Prayer After Communion)