



Week 15: Angel

**Luke 2:10** (NIV)

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

In the Bible, angels are messengers from God and messengers of God’s love. Angels are in the Old Testament- the Jesse Tree times- and in the New Testament - the Jesus times. Remember when Daniel was safe all night in the lion’s den? In that story, it was an angel that came to shut the lions’ mouths.

As the birth of Jesus, the Savior, the Messiah, comes closer and closer, a special messenger angel named Gabriel appears, to bring three special announcements. The angel first visits a priest named Zechariah. The angel tells Zechariah to expect a baby boy for Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth. He announces that their son will grow up to get the people ready for Jesus’ message. The angel tells Zechariah to name his son John. Later, the angel Gabriel made a very special visit to a young woman named Mary. The angel told Mary that she would have a baby boy, too. Mary’s baby, Jesus, would be the Son of God. At first, Mary was afraid, but this was God’s own angel telling her that God had chosen her to be the mother of His son! Mary praised God for this gift.

And then an angel visited Mary’s partner Joseph. The angel directed Joseph to take care of Mary and of her baby.

So the angel’s messages prepared Jesus’ family for his birth, and for His life as the son of God.

We know that when Zechariah’s son John grew up, he did prepare followers for Jesus. John even baptized Jesus. And we know that Jesus, the Son of God, was born to Mary on that first Christmas, and that Jesus stayed close with his mother Mary his whole life. And we know that Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem, his family’s city, to have her baby, and he kept Mary and Jesus safe.

Jesus came into the world and into their hearts and lives, as the angel foretold.

Every Christmas, we remember the angel’s messages, too. We celebrate Jesus coming into our world and into our hearts and lives.

