



The Holy Family's Story

(A skit for four characters that can be paired with readings from Luke 1:39–55.)



Elizabeth and Zechariah: We are old. We are faithful. We have been married for many years and have accepted the blessings we have received, though we have never been blessed with a child.

Mary and Joseph: We are young and full of hope. We aren't married yet, but are excited for the big day.

Zechariah: I am astounded and cannot speak. After all these years, Elizabeth is pregnant.

Joseph: I am hurt and confused! Mary is pregnant but we have not yet married.

Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph: I was visited by an angel!

Elizabeth: I was visited by my young cousin. She is pregnant as well and she is overjoyed.

Mary and Joseph: We are afraid; we must travel far to uncertain destinations.

Elizabeth and Zechariah: We are surrounded by neighbours and relatives who are celebrating with us. They have brought food and are helping us with our newborn.

Mary and Joseph: We don't know where we will stay. Our child will be arriving soon. Hopefully, we can find shelter.

Elizabeth and Zechariah: We took John to be circumcised. We were welcomed, celebrated, listened to, and cared for.

Mary and Joseph: Our child sleeps in a feed bin. We are surrounded by strange men who have come to worship our child. Some are shepherds, some are from faraway lands.

Joseph: I was visited by an angel!

Mary and Joseph: We are running away because we have heard that Herod has planned terrible things. He will take out his wrath on young children because of our child.

Mary, Zechariah, and Joseph: I was visited by an angel!

Elizabeth: We were told that our son would do incredible things.

Mary: We were told that our son would be like no other.

Elizabeth and Zechariah: We are old and established. But we trust in God.

Mary and Joseph: We are young and just starting out. But we trust in God.

Unwrapping the Holy Family's Story

Sharing gifts inspired by the Holy Family's story.

ACTIVITY 1: Thinking Aloud

Ages

12+

Supplies

Pens, paper

Activity

a Imagine you are one of the four parents: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, or Zechariah. Write a journal entry or letter to a friend about what you have experienced in learning about the pregnancy and having the child. Explain how you found out, how you are feeling, and what you end up going through.

b Think of a time when something significant changed your life, e.g., a new baby, a move to a new city, ending a relationship, finding a new partner. While reflecting on your emotions at the time of the event and considering what has happened since, write a poem or song celebrating and reflecting on all that the event brought into your life. Perhaps your poem will be to God, or about God at work in your life, or focused on your personal faith journey. Share your poem/song on social media using hashtags #UCCan #AdventUnwrapped.

ACTIVITY 2: Knitting or Crochet Party

Ages

All ages

Supplies

Yarn, knitting needles, and crochet hooks; patterns; cardstock and markers; holiday movies or music

Activity

a Invite those who are experienced to come to a “Knitting/Crocheting Party” to teach beginners how to make squares. The squares can be pieced together to form baby blankets for expectant parents in your community. Or try finger knitting or arm knitting. Check the YouTube video “Arm knit blanket” (<https://youtu.be/cMYRrOG27C0>).

b Create gift cards to go with the blanket.

Note: Before you begin, bless the supplies that will be used, especially the yarn and cards, by asking people to name their hopes and prayers for the people who will receive these gifts. As you create the baby blankets, imagine all the hopes, dreams, and fears that parents might be experiencing as they welcome a new child into the world.

c Watch a holiday movie or play Christmas music while you all work together.

ACTIVITY 3: Storytime**Ages**

All ages

Supplies

Storybook; materials to make your own storybooks

Activity

a Read one of the following stories together:

- *The Nativity* by Julie Vivas
- *Mary* by Brian Wildsmith
- *Father and Son: A Nativity Story* by Geraldine McCaughrean

b Create your own story. Share your version of the Holy Family's story on social media using hashtags #UCCan #AdventUnwrapped.

ACTIVITY 4: Gifts for a King**Ages**

All ages

Supplies

Art supplies—especially materials that enable you to match an existing crèche

Activity

a Modernize a traditional crèche.

b Considering all the challenges that new parents face, think of and craft some practical gifts that you think Mary and Joseph may have appreciated. Create these for a crèche that already exists in the church and add them throughout Advent.

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