



God Keeps His Promises (Part 2) Mary and Joseph (Part 2)

December 5–6

Bible Passage: Luke 1:26–56

The Big God Story

God Keeps His Promise: Mary and Joseph

In The Big God Story, God made animals and people. He made the sky and the ocean. God also made a big promise. God promised to send us a very special person—a Savior. That special person is Jesus!

Jesus forgives us when we make bad choices, and because of Him, we can know God and be with Him forever! Wow! Jesus is God's special Promise.

God's helpers, the prophets, told people all about God's special Promise. People wondered when The Promise would come. They could hardly wait! After many years of waiting, something wonderful happened.

God sent an angel named Gabriel to talk to a girl named Mary.

Hello, Mary," Gabriel said. "God is with you and loves you so much." Mary was surprised and a little scared.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. You're going to have a baby, and His name will be Jesus. Jesus is God's own Son."

Let's pretend that we're holding a baby. *Model how to hold a baby in your arms.* Let's rock our babies.

Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. When Elizabeth saw Mary, she was excited. She blessed Mary and her baby. Mary was so thankful, and she sang a praise song to God. Do we sing songs to God?

Yes, we do. Mary sang to God because He is strong and good and kind. And because He kept His promise to send Jesus to the world to love us and save us. God always keeps His promises. Can we sing a little song to our babies? (*Sing Jesus Loves Me*)

Mary was going to marry a man named Joseph. He was a good man. He loved God so much. But he didn't know Mary was going to have a baby.

One night, while Joseph was sleeping, God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Joseph. You can marry Mary. God gave Mary the baby who is growing inside her.

The baby will be a boy, and you must name Him Jesus. He is going to save people from their sin." Joseph did everything the angel told him to do.

Joseph and Mary were married and waited for the baby to be born. They knew the baby, Jesus, would be special. Jesus is God's own Son. God sent Jesus to save us, just like He promised.

Blessing

Have children assume a receiving posture; holding their hands out, palms up to receive their blessing. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

Always remember to rejoice in God because He keeps His promises.

Activities

Family Journey

Mary and Joseph went on a very long family journey together. Joseph walked and Mary probably rode a donkey. It took them several days to get to Jerusalem. Take a family journey together in your car and talk about where you are going and how you'll get there so much faster than Mary and Joseph. Count the Nativity scenes along your way.

Let's get on our shoes and socks and get ready to go on a family journey. We're going to ride in our car to Costco. Do you think that it will take a really long time or a really short time to get there? Mary and Joseph didn't have a car to get to Bethlehem. "How long do you think it took them to walk there? Anywhere from 4 to 7 days!

A Very Special Day

The day Jesus was born was special in so many ways. Talk to your kids about the day they were born and came into your family. Tell them about their first Christmas and all the people around.

On Christmas, we celebrate a very special day. That was the day Jesus was born. There was another very special day – it was the day you were born! Do you want to hear about all the special things that happened on that day?

Angels at Home

Give kids two coffee filters. Have them color the filters with markers (the more coverage the better). Then, using a spray bottle, give each colored filter 2-3 squirts of water. After the colors have spread and everything is dry, fold both filters in half. Fold the first one in half, again, and snip off the tip with scissors. Unfold to ½, again. Wrap that one around a clothespin or a Popsicle stick and glue together in the back. It should be shaped like a cone with the clothespin or stick sticking out. Next, glue the second filter onto the back with the straight edge up (it should look like a big, friendly smile). Use a pen to make two dots for eyes and draw in a smile. There's is your homemade angel.

Let's go make some angels. Color both of your filters as much as you can. Now, let's spray them. Only a couple of squirts or it will wash off (after they dry). Fold both pieces in half. Let's fold once more to cut out a head hole. Let's glue this on like a robe. Now comes the wings, and lastly, let's draw a small face.

Manger Minutes Puzzles

Print the provided puzzles onto card stock. Cut out along the lines. Lay the pieces out and solve them with your family. After each one, talk about which part of the Christmas story this is and why it's important.

Came help me put these puzzles together. I can't wait to see what it's a picture of. I'll go first, then you can go.

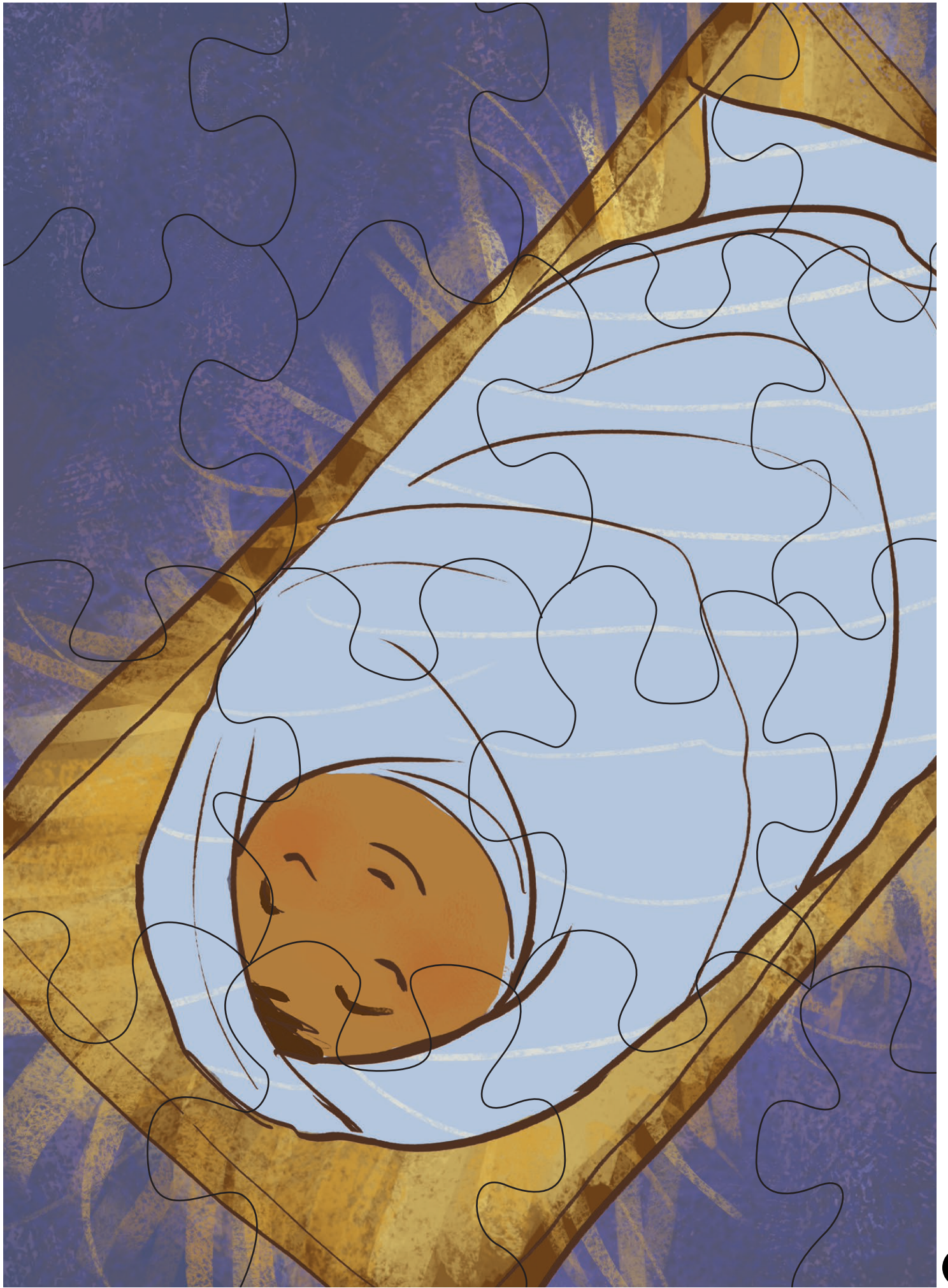
Put Mary on the Donkey

Play this game just like Pint the Tail on the Donkey, except, Mary goes on the donkey's back. Tape the donkey on the wall and put a pieces of tape on the Mary figure (one for each child playing). Have kids try to get Mary as close to the donkey's back as possible.

Today in our Bible story, Mary & Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Mary rode on the back of a donkey. Let's see how close we get while we play.





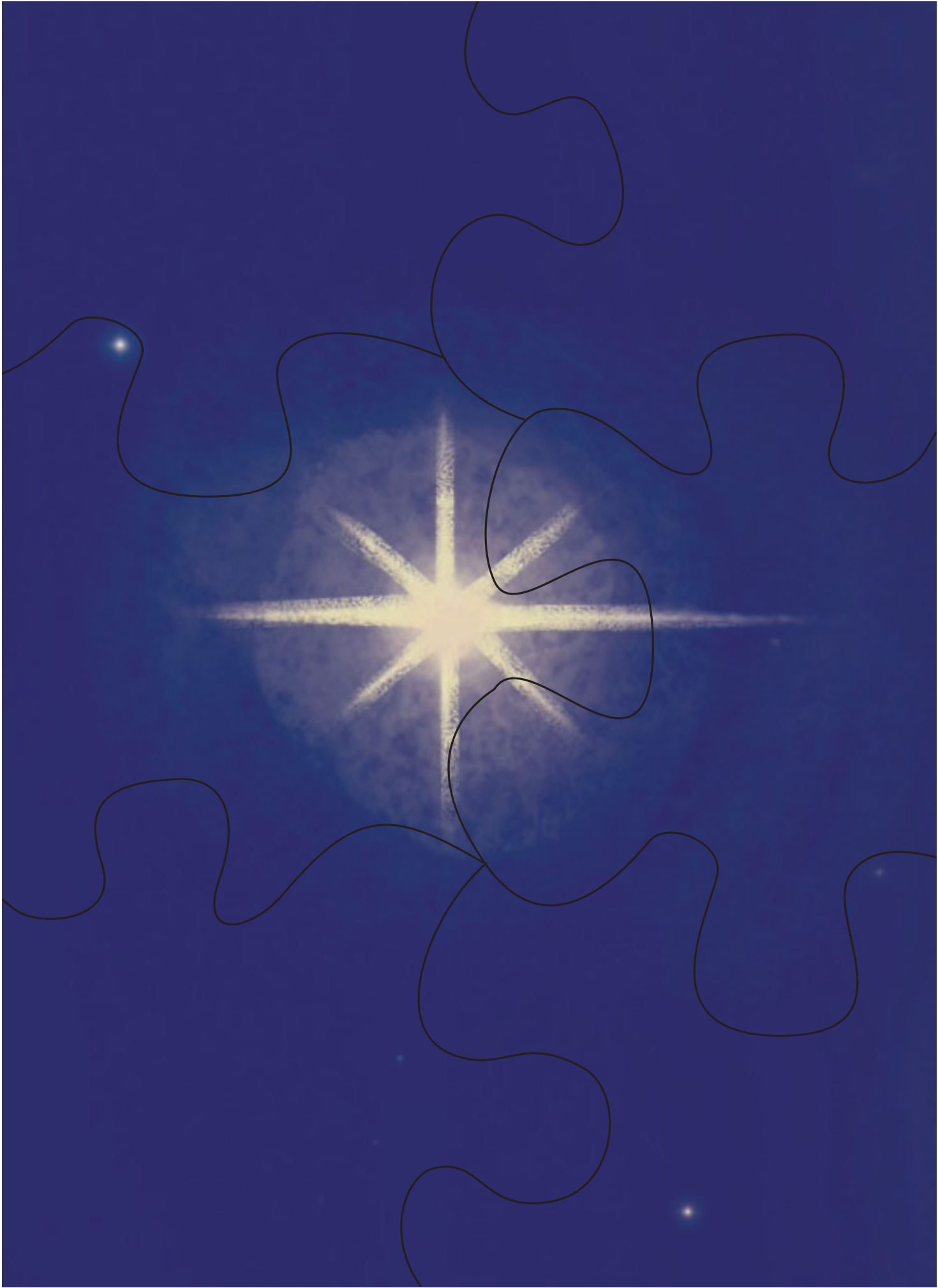












© 2016 David C Cook. TruResources are developed in partnership with **ROCK-HARBOR** Church and a national network of family and children's ministry leaders. All rights reserved.

TW Bonus

Reproducible for church use only.

