

DECEMBER 2020 | WEEK 2

# Secret Samaritan

FAMILY ADVENT 

## THIS WEEK

Draw names Sunday night to find out who you will be focusing on for your "Secret Samaritan" acts of kindness! Throughout the week, surprise the person whose name you drew with things to brighten their day! At the end of the week, sit down as a family to read the Bible verses and discussion points on page two. See if you can guess who your Secret Samaritan was! Here are a few suggested acts of kindness to get you started:

- Bake cookies and hide them for your person to find.
- Secretly do a chore for them (shoveling the walk, cleaning the kitchen, feeding your pet).
- Draw a picture for them and hide it under their dinner plate.



## BIBLE READINGS

Luke 1:26-38

Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 2:1-7

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

We read how Mary and Joseph, a young couple who were engaged to be married, both received a surprise visit from an angel. The angel gave each of them equally surprising news: Mary was to have a baby. But that baby would be the very Son of God.

Mary and Joseph couldn't stay in their hometown to have their baby. Instead, they had to travel to the town of Bethlehem. In Bible times, travelling on foot or by donkey, the trip would have taken somewhere between four days to a week. That's a long and very tiring journey for anyone, but especially for a woman expecting a baby.

When Mary and Joseph finally reached Bethlehem, they couldn't kick back and relax. The whole town was bustling with activity. People were rushing here and there, buying extra food, cleaning and making room for relatives who would be coming to stay during the census. No one paid any attention to Mary and Joseph because they were just one more weary couple straggling into town.

We don't know if this really happened, but it's not hard to imagine Mary and Joseph thinking, "Lord God, why is everyone ignoring us? Didn't You let anyone know that we're special?" Around the holidays, you might feel like everyone's too busy to pay much attention to you, as if you aren't very important or special. People may get tired and a little grumpier than usual, but that doesn't mean they don't love you just as much as always.

Will you do something for Jesus? When you're upset or disappointed during this busy season, or feeling a little neglected, will you try to be a bit more patient with others? A little bit more forgiving too? Will you make that your special gift back to Jesus this Christmas? Try to remember times when you felt special, like a birthday or being someone's Secret Samaritan this week.

*Talk about some of the fun events and activities your family is looking forward to this Christmas, then close in prayer.*