

# Connecting Church and Home

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## Christmas :: Fulfilling the Prophecy

**Treasure Story:** Genesis 3:15; Luke 2:22-35

When we think of Christmas, we tend to think of things like Christmas trees, manger scenes, angels, gifts, candles and wreaths. Yet, rarely do we examine all of the backstory that led to the miraculous coming of our Savior. To look closely at this backstory is to find a miraculous account of God working His plan of redemption long before the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

In today's Treasure Story, instead of focusing on the more traditional Christmas passages, the children will learn about the fulfillment of a prophecy. When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised that He would send a Deliverer to defeat sin and begin the process of restoration for all of creation. Thousands of years later, this prophetic promise was fulfilled and confirmed by Simeon, a righteous man who had waited his whole life to play the important role of confirming the fulfillment of the prophecy. In this story, God not only keeps His word but He attends to the very details necessary to do so.

### Connect

"It is here, in the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the most profound unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. God became man; nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the incarnation."  
- J. I. Packer

It is very easy to get sidetracked by the activity that surrounds the season. Many of the traditional and fun things that we do this time of year are perfect and have their place, but instead of the ordinary encourage your family to look at Christmas this year from a different perspective. Listed below are a few of the lesser known players in the coming of Christ. Read their stories and consider the corresponding questions. Think about what it would have been like to be in their shoes. Also ponder how God worked through the small details of these people's lives to accomplish His purpose for Christ's coming.

- Elizabeth: Luke 1:5-24, 39-45
  - What role does Elizabeth play in the story of Jesus' birth?
  - What about her story is miraculous?
  - How do you think she felt about her role in God's story?
- Anna: Luke 2:36-38
  - What role does Anna play in the story of Jesus' birth?
  - What about her story is miraculous?
  - How do you think she felt about her role in God's story?
- Herod: Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18
  - What role does Herod play in the story of Jesus' birth?
  - What about his story is miraculous?
  - How do you think he felt about his role in God's story?

### My Mission As Parent

As parents, it is easy to let your faith and what you teach your children be abstract. Be sure to use the stories in this lesson to help them see how God intersects in the practical aspects of our lives to point us to Christ. Use the examples of Elizabeth, Anna and Herod to talk with your children about how Jesus inserts Himself into our lives so that we will accept and honor Him.

Try and fight the urge to get caught up in the gift-giving aspect of Christmas to the detriment of focusing on Christ. If His main focus was to sacrifice and give, we want to do this as well and teach our children to do so.

### Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord for a clear understanding of how He works through even the smallest details of your life to glorify Himself and to do you good.
- Pray that He will help you and your family understand the eternal significance of Jesus coming to be born as a baby and to live and die and be resurrected to save us.