

Chapter 8: The Savior Has Come: The Incarnation of Jesus

God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.

Chapter Summary

In the Old Testament, we see that the Chosen People could not remain faithful to God. Because of Original Sin, all of humanity was cut off from God's friendship and grace. Their souls were wounded by the inclination to sin called concupiscence. Because of this, they repeatedly failed to keep God's covenant. All of humanity needed a Savior in order to be reconciled with God. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the coming of this Savior. Gabriel told Mary of God's plan to make her the Mother of Jesus. Mary said yes to God's plan, and "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14). Mary became the Mother of God. When Jesus was born, He was visited by wise men from the East, which foreshadowed that Jesus came to save all people. Only Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, was able to save us from our sin, an infinite offense against God.

More for Parents

The world was never the same after the Annunciation. God had become incarnate, and our salvation was at hand. When we encounter Jesus personally, our lives are never the same either. Like at the Annunciation, Jesus enters into our daily lives to make Himself known and to call us into communion with Him. If we take intentional time in *silent* prayer each day, whether it is ten minutes or an hour, then we make space for an encounter with Jesus and welcome Him into our hearts. We can then become like the shepherds, who left an encounter with Jesus "glorifying and praising God" (Luke 2:20). The joy of encountering Jesus is meant to be brought to our children. Because we have encountered Him personally, we are able to tell our children about who Jesus truly is. For us and them, Jesus' salvific work becomes a present reality.

Virtue in the Family

Our Mother, Mary, is the perfect model for us as Christians and the perfect model of the virtues. When we strive to be more like Mary, we can live more virtuous lives in conformity to God's will. How do we become more like Mary? Through spending time with her in prayer and reflection.

Living like Mary

- Prayer activity
 - Find a favorite statue or image of Mary. Display it in a location where your family can gather together to pray.
 - Kneeling before the statue, pray for faith, hope, and charity like Mary's.
 - Pray three Hail Marys together as a family.
- On a night when the sky is clear, take your children outside to admire the moon. Point out that the moon has no light of its own. It merely reflects the light of the sun. Mary is sometimes compared to the moon because she reflects the love of Jesus. Like Mary, we should strive to bring the love of Jesus to all we meet.
- Take your family to a grotto or a Marian shrine. As you look at Mary's statue and the beautiful scenery, explain how she is famous and changed the world because of her Yes. It was not because of how much money she made or anything else. Reflect on how our obedience to God and lives of virtue are what matter most.
- Pray the first decade of the Joyful Mysteries, the Annunciation, as a family. Reflect on the Incarnation. Go to www.wordofliferies.org/parent for instructions on how to pray the Rosary.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **Annunciation**
- **Incarnation**

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For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.