

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



A series of horizontal dotted lines for journaling.



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

Go to bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreteen and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

1. You liked:

.....

2. You learned:

.....

3. You'd like to know:

.....

Day 2

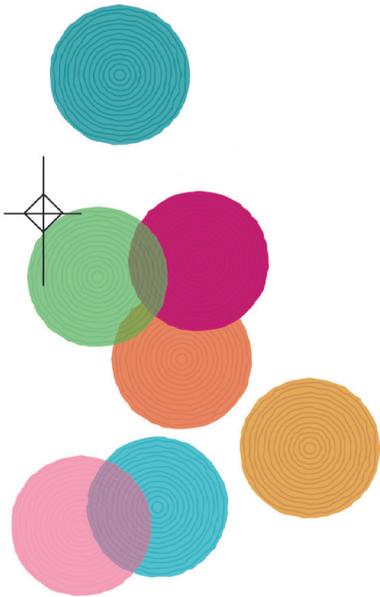
Read Luke 1:26-56

As you read Luke 1:26-56, put a box around the sentences or paragraphs describing Mary's plans.

Then put a circle around the places where God's plan for Mary is revealed.

Lastly, highlight the places where Mary accepts and even celebrates what God has planned. If you can, you can even put exclamation points, smiley faces, and any other happy emojis next to the celebratory passages.

Sometimes we tend to box God in—including His plans for us. But when we start to see—and accept—the plan God has for us, it leads to something truly worth celebrating!



Day 3

There is probably no better time to talk about God's plan, which may be very different from ours, than Christmas.

Probably everyone has experienced the letdown of high expectations when it comes to Christmas. Whether it's a plan to decorate your house or room a certain way, expectations of certain gifts you'll receive, or a plan to save up and give a lot of gifts to others that they will absolutely love, sometimes those plans just don't turn out the way we expect. In those times, it's important to remember that Christmas means that God had a plan to send us a Savior, and that same God has a plan for YOUR life!

Walk around your house and find some things that remind you of God's plan—and how that is worth celebrating: maybe it's a nativity set your family sets out every Christmas, or some Christmas cards sitting on the counter that remind you of the wonderful people God has put in your life.

Find a couple of examples of God's plan, and as you take it all in, read this prayer out loud:

"Dear God, thank You for the plan that You have for me! Sometimes it's hard to celebrate when the things I plan don't turn out the way I expected, but when I remember that You have a plan and that Your plan is good—and for our good and Your glory, I can celebrate! Help me celebrate because You have a plan. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen."

Day 4

We don't know what was going on in Mary's head the day before she had a visit from Gabriel, but we know for sure that it wasn't a plan to be the mother of the Savior of the world.

But when her plans changed, she chose to celebrate because God has a plan. She even wrote a joyful song about God's plan!

What is something about God's plan that you can celebrate? It could be something personal in your life—something that you didn't expect that is awesome or even challenging. Or it could be the miracle of Christmas: that God sent Jesus to be our Savior!

Grab a friend or family member and a Christmas treat (hot chocolate is always a win!) and talk about what you're intentionally celebrating. Ask them to share what they can celebrate because God has a plan, and share what you wrote down yesterday. Together, brainstorm ways you can celebrate that plan and pick a date to check in to see how the celebrating is going.



Day 5

When has something worked out differently than you expected?

Christmas is just a week away, and chances are, some things have already worked out differently this month than you expected. Sometimes things turn out better than you ever dreamed.

When things work out differently than we expect, it can be hard to think about celebrating. But the truth is, there is always something to celebrate—some times we just have to look at it a different way to see it!

When you look at this illustration, what do you see?



Depending on how you see things, you might see a vase, or you might see two faces looking at each other. But now that you know that the other perspective exists, you can fix your mind on that way of looking at things and voila!—it's a whole new world.

Hang this illustration up somewhere you will see it this week to remind yourself that God's plan is at work. But when you see it, be sure and celebrate because God has a plan!