

## **Blessed is the Child**

### **Introduction:**

Before the miraculous birth of Jesus, the angel Gabriel brings a message to a priest named Zechariah, telling him that his wife Elizabeth, who is rising in age, will give birth to a son. He will be called John and will carry in him the spirit of Elijah the prophet. Elizabeth and her relative Mary, together share the news of these children to be born, John and Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, a proclamation is made about Jesus. He is the blessed child, the son of God. This passage is full, pregnant with hope and expectation. It is clear that God is doing something new in the lives of these women, but also in the world. May we too be captured by the sense of wonder and excitement of the Christ child, a savior who will come for us.

### **Read Your Bible**

- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Luke 1:39-45

### **Apply God's Word to Your Life:**

1. When is a time in your life that you have heard exciting news? How did you respond? Who did you tell?
2. What news do Mary and Elizabeth share? Why is it important for them? Why is it important for the world?
3. How does the Holy Spirit nudge these women to know that something holy is happening?
4. How do you think Mary and Elizabeth felt being part of God's plan of salvation for the world?
5. How does the Isaiah passage point to God's salvation?

6. Mary and Elizabeth lived in a world of Roman occupation, religious struggles, poverty, and fear. What kind of world do we live in? How does the message of a blessed Child speak to that world?
7. In what ways do you hope Jesus will bring new life to you?

**Reflecting on the text:**

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

**Pray**

Blessed are you O Lord, the one who was and is and is to come. We await the birth of Jesus with hope and expectation, knowing that you are coming into this sinful world to make all things new. Today may we be caught up in the wonder of your Son. May we know that he is coming into the world for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.