



St. Andrew's Family Ministries Advent Devotions

Week Two: God Has a Plan

This devotion (and those to follow it) are designed to be done as a family, no matter what that means for you! The content will be related to the readings and themes that will be found throughout all our church curriculum during this Advent season. Feel free to toy with the order, format, or whatever else; we at St. Andrew's just hope that these small pauses will bring you and your family closer to our Savior this season!

Opening Prayer:

Make it up! Thank God for the time you're about to spend with Him in fellowship with your family, thank Him for His promise of a Savior, or bring anything else to Him you think He needs to hear.

Readings:

Luke 1:5-19

In the days when Herod was King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. He had a wife named Elizabeth. Both were good people in God's eyes. They observed all the commandments and laws of the Lord. The couple had no children because Elizabeth was unable. And now they were too old to conceive a child. One day, Zechariah was chosen to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the people gathered outside to pray, Zechariah prayed inside and burned the incense. Then, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. At first, Zechariah was afraid of what he saw. The angel spoke to Zechariah, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth is going to give birth to a son and you will name him John. His birth will bring joy and gladness to you and many others. Your child will be great in God's eyes. He will be filled with the Spirit. He will help others to love God." Then Zechariah spoke to the angel, "How can this be true? My wife and I are much too old to have children." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I was sent to announce to you this good news.

Explain It:

Zechariah was a priest who was alive before Jesus came to earth. Priests at this time had a lot of rules and traditions that they had to follow. Every year a priest would enter the inner chamber of the temple, and at this time, Zechariah was the priest chosen for this. Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have any children, so when the angel Gabriel told them they would, it was very hard to believe. The child they would have would grow up to be John the Baptist, who was a very important part of Jesus' story. This couple likely had many plans for what the rest of their lives would look like, and having children wasn't part of the picture. God broke into Elizabeth and Zechariah's plans to bless them with His perfect plan.

Talk About It:

1. Put yourself in Zechariah's shoes. Why would it be so hard to believe what the angel told him? Has someone ever told you something that was hard to believe?
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth were a couple who had all their plans figured out. Have you ever had a plan that got changed by something out of your control? How did that make you feel?
3. Why do you think God sometimes changes our plans?
 - a. God loves us very much, and He is all-knowing and all-powerful. This means that He can see us and find a better path forward than we can see. It is important to always remember that God's plans for us are always made out of love.

Closing:

You can continue discussing the questions or just pray everyone out! Maybe invite someone else to do it. Thank God for the goodness of God's plans and ask Him to grant you patience as we wait for Christmas.