



3 Share Hope

WAYS TO PRACTICE SHARING HOPE AT HOME

We can notice and experience hope through Jesus Christ internally on our own, but sharing hope brings good news to others and becomes a communal experience of hope. Mary and Elizabeth shared hope with each other, and Mary shared the hope she was given through her song.

- Watch one or more of the following YouTube videos about Mary's song of praise and hope. Listen to the words and talk together about what Mary's song hopes for the world.
 - "The Magnificat—Christian Music with lyrics—Christmas Song with Lyrics" (bit.ly/FMMagnificatWords, 4:20)
 - "Mary's Canticle" (bit.ly/FMMarysCanticleDance, 4:45) Sing along and/or follow the motions with the refrain of this song.
 - "John Rutter—Magnificat—Anima Mea—Practice" (bit.ly/FMMagnificatRutter, 6:55) This video shows the Latin words to Rutter's *Magnificat*. *Magnificat* means "magnify," "glorify," or "praises"; *anima mea* means "my soul"; and *Dominum* means "the Lord." This is the opening sentence of Mary's song.
 - "Magnificat (Taizé)" (bit.ly/FMMagnificatTaize, 2:41) This is a Taizé version of the Magnificat, which repeats the first sentence in Latin, *Magnificat anima mea dominum*. Sing along.
 - "Canticle of the Turning—Rory Cooney" (bit.ly/FMCanticle, 3:32) Dance along with this Irish folk tune.

God of hope, Mary shared, through song, her hope that would come through Jesus to the world. May we use our voices and our actions to share hope with others as well. Amen.

To find what we can share, on each shape, use the numbers or letters to connect the dots.





BIBLE STORY



Based on Luke 2:1-7

Hello! It's Abe again. Remember me? I'm Mary's donkey; we had an angel visit us, and then we went to see Mary's cousin Elizabeth. But there's more to the story!

Let me catch you up. The angel told Mary she was going to have a

baby. Mary told Joseph, who she was engaged to, and both of us thought he was going to stomp right out of the stable and never see her again. But he didn't. He told Mary that he had a dream and an angel told him about the baby named Jesus too!

Mary and Joseph got married, and we moved into Joseph's house. He was a carpenter, so sometimes he put boards and nails in my

pack and we went to do a job somewhere.

It got close for that little baby to be born. Mary was walking a bit

slower, and Joseph was definitely getting a bit more nervous. Then Joseph and Mary got an official message from the Roman government saying that everyone had to go to the village that their ancestors called home. For

Joseph, this was Bethlehem. It was a journey that would take several days from our home in Nazareth. I was excited to go on a trip, but I was worried about Mary. I would have to be very careful with my footing as we traveled. After many days' journey, we finally reached the city of Bethlehem. I

was looking forward to a good long rest and some grasses and straw to eat and to lie in, but it seemed we were having trouble finding a place to stay. Each place that we stopped had no rooms for them. There were so many

people who had journeyed to this hometown that all the guest rooms were

full. Then one kindly innkeeper looked at Mary and saw how tired she was and how near to having a baby she was and shared some hope with them. "It is not a guest room, but you may stay in my stable," said the

innkeeper. "I'm sure the animals would be happy to share their home with you."

So Mary and Joseph went to the stable, and it turned out to be just in time, because baby Jesus was born and wrapped in bands of cloth, so that he would be warm in his manger bed. I was glad to see that birth and the hope that this one small baby named Jesus would bring to the world.