

Luke 1. 23-25, 39-45

Working from home

You'll be looking forward to the Christmas holidays now!



And when you think back over the past year, you'll remember how strange it's been.



Some of the time at school, and some of the time at home.

And some of the time your home got turned into your school ...

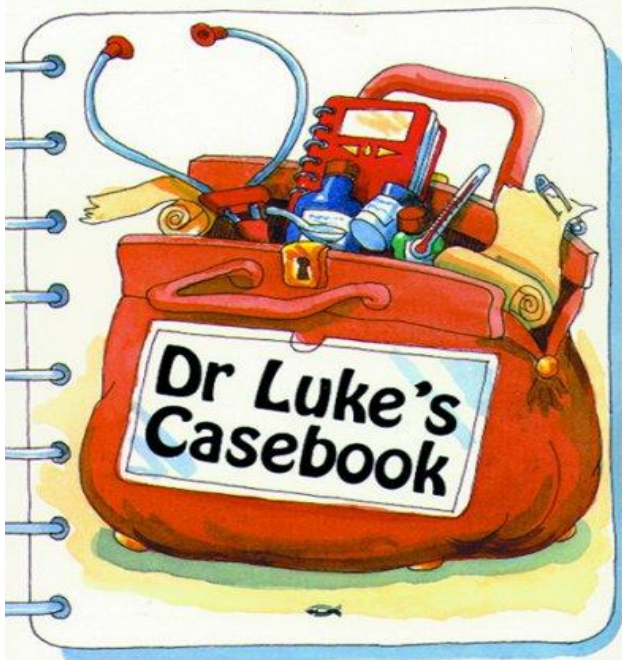


.. and you had your school at home ...



Today's passage ...

.. is about a couple who were having to work from home!



Christmas according to Luke

In these weeks before Christmas, remember, we're reading how Luke tells the story of what happened leading up to the birth of Jesus.

Luke was a doctor and took a lot of care to note all the details of the story.

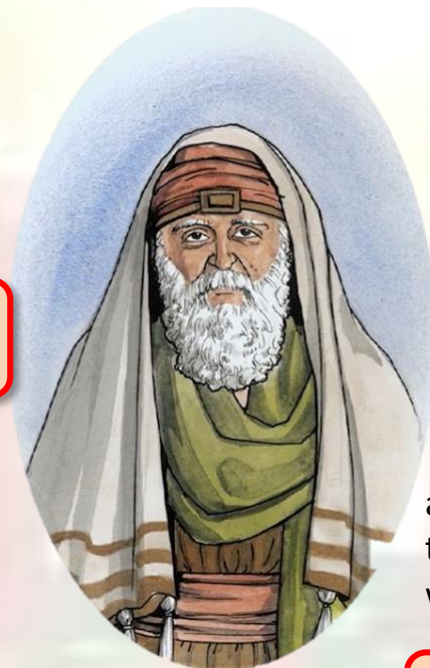
He begins the story with ...

an odd old couple ...

Can you remember their names?

The man →
was called

--- A ---



and the woman →
was called



--- A ---

Read

Luke 1.23-25

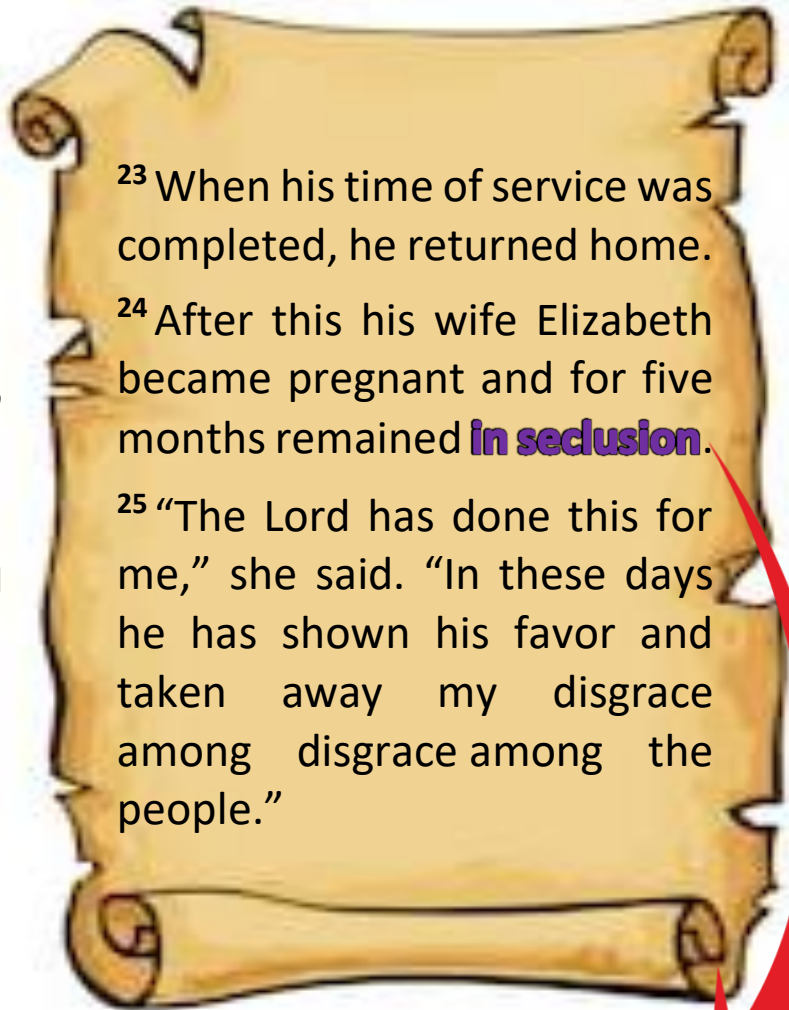
The man was a priest, and the angel had told him –

“.. now you will be silent and not able to speak ..” (Luke 1.20).

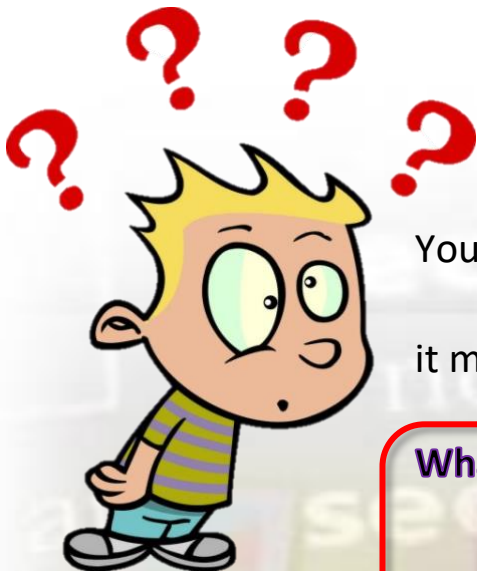
Can you remember why this had happened? God said it was

“.. because

— **O** — — **I** — — **O** —
— — — **I** — — — — **Y**
— **O** — — — ”



“.. in seclusion”



You're maybe wondering what the word 'seclusion' means:

it means **having little contact with other people**

What do you like about being on your own?

What do you not like about being on your own?

Read

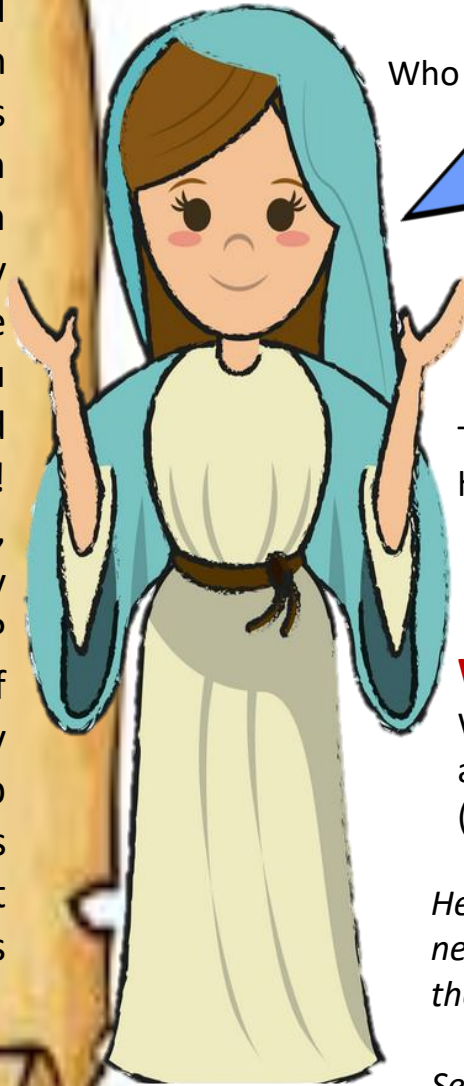
Luke 1.39-45

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

A visitor ..

After many months on their own the couple had a visitor.

The visitor was a relative.



Who was the visitor?



The visitor wanted to share her news with her relative.

What was her news?

What was the message the angel had told her?
(Read Luke 1.26-38)

Here are all the words you'll need for the answer – but they're in the wrong order!

See if you can put them in the correct order!

**N A M E T O A R E T O B E H I M W I T H Y O U W I L L J E S U S
S O N A N D A B I R T H A N D G I V E G I V E Y O U T H E C H I L D**

**_ O _ _ I _ _ _ E _ I _ _ _ I _ _ A _ _ I _ _
_ I _ _ _ I _ _ _ O A _ O _ A _ _ O _
_ _ E _ O _ I _ _ _ I _ _ _ E _ A _ _ _ _ U _**

Spot the difference!



There are 6 differences between these two pictures: can you spot them all?

Now spot the difference between

what the angel had said (v.20)

and

what the lady said to her visitor (v.45)



²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”



⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!”

What we were learning last week is repeated again in a different way this week.

The ‘odd old couple’ of the priest and his wife had had a long time to think about the lesson they had learned the hard way. Now they wanted to tell everyone else what they’d learned!

Always believe what God has said!

A prayer

Think about what you've been learning today.

Now try praying this prayer (or making up your own prayer!)

Thank You, Jesus, for the Bible which helps me learn about You.

Thank You for all the promises that You have made: I'm glad that You have promised always to be with me.

Thank You, too, for reminding me in the Bible today how important it is always to trust You, to believe everything You have said.

Please help me to do just that!

Please help me to learn how to read the Bible well, and how to hear You speaking with me through it.

Thank You for the older people who love You and who help us children learn as they teach and encourage us.

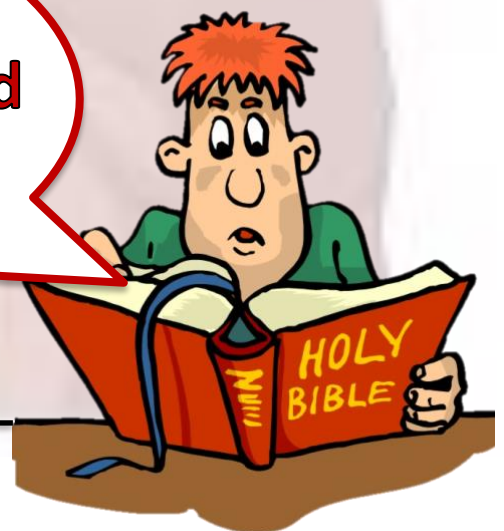
Please help me to encourage them by the way I trust You!



Today's verse for you to try and remember!

**“Blessed is she who has
believed what the Lord has said
to her will be accomplished**

Luke 1.45



(quite difficult!)

A WORDSEARCH

The Story of Mary and Elizabeth

N U Y W T Q G N O S S Y R A M G J L J A N W P Q
A Y I N D Y W G A B R I E L F Y O D L W C D C Z
D Y J V B W M P M J T A J F C N F D R S R B E A
A M P D N O R G T J N E I R T L O R S O W C L E
I T C S A P I I C O S Y E L N P C S W S H M I R
Y T I S O R E N E G F M K E Z J Q S S A O L U Y
P B L O W O R S H I P R U G W W D O R E L N W F
I P R C M A R Y L O N B N N Y O U I Q F W Y A M
C M O G D D D Q S G L R X A G L A Z J E D I E Q
Q W I J J E P J E O L Y C Q Y H W W D F T S L W
F P O O R S T S U R T V S D P I U H U H S Q G J
H H J S F S H A I A S I L P H Q F D S I I L J O
N U Z D P E J T Z S N D L L I G L J A W K H W E
A R N N L L J O S E P H I F A R P H V J X Q G C
E M C D Q B M K Q Q P M I E F P I H X R G C V Z
X F V O R K N V C U Q Q J H L X L T X L N S I N
S T N E M E C N U O N N A A P I N Q G C U U J N
K P A C J S D R M H W N M D A F Z R R A O S N J
Y O J X M Y K M S U M K A P S Q R A R U Y E Z O
K N Q G D M L M I Y H P G L Y S F M B H C J V I
A N J Q X I Y S E L E L C A R I M F E E Z J B U
H H K X D G B L P P E F L O Y O D W M Q T L R U
D J W N G H A Y M P B S G B N P L D S N D H D D
P D H O V T B J Y F D V S H C M W D N G B U N X

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| mercy | might | generosity | soul |
| trust | worship | Mary's song | unwed |
| blessed | angel | announcements | Holy Spirit |
| God's Word | Messiah | joy | hundred miles |
| baby | young | Elizabeth | faith |
| Gabriel | God's Son | Isaiah | Jesus |
| John | Joseph | Mary | Miracle |
| old | Zechariah | | |

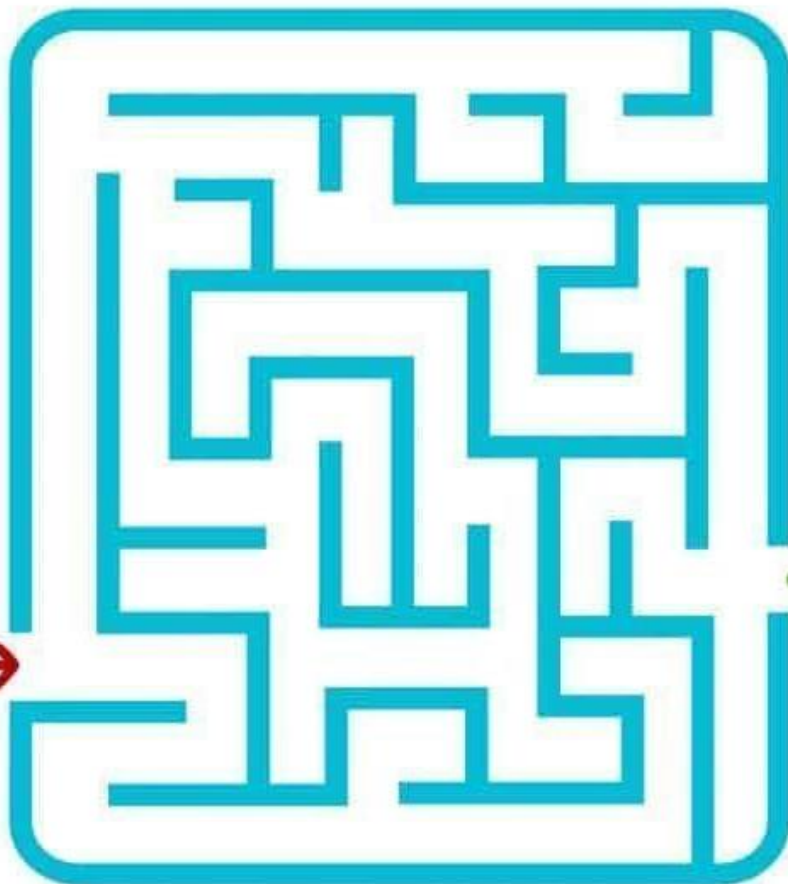
Find the right way!

See how quickly you can help Mary reach Elizabeth and Zechariah!

“At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth”

(Luke 1.39)

Help Mary find her way to visit Elizabeth.



For you to COLOUR IN

Here's a picture of Elizabeth welcoming Mary to her home

