

MinistryPlace.net

The Angel Visits Mary

Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

Theme: God keeps His promises — Jesus is coming!

1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: "God Keeps His Promise!" , The Angel Visits Mary (Based on Luke 1:26, 56) This lesson helps young children explore God's faithfulness through the story of Mary and the angel Gabriel. Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother, showing how God always fulfills His promises, just like He will send His Son to save us! The lesson can include simple props (like a crown or star for Mary), a retelling with movement, or a prayer circle to reinforce that we can trust God's plans. Key Points for Teaching: 1. God's Big Promise , The angel told Mary, "Do not be afraid!" because God had a wonderful surprise for her. Today, we can learn to trust God, just like Mary did. 2. Mary's Joy , She sang about how God helps the poor and strong, just like He does today! We can tell others when we see God at work in our lives. 3. God's Love , Even when things seem confusing, God keeps His promises. Jesus is coming soon to make everything right, just like He promised! Application for Kids: - End with a simple activity: "If God asked you to do something big, like being Jesus' first friend, what would you say?" (Let them share: "I trust You!") - Close with a prayer, like Mary did: "Thank You, God, for being faithful. Help us to trust You too!" This keeps it warm, interactive, and full of hope for little hearts! Optional reflection: children can draw a picture of Jesus helping their friends, then share one way they can help someone else this week. This extra activity supports the lesson's theme and gives teachers a simple, lowprep option for extending the discussion.

Bible Story

Mary's Special Job

A long time ago, in a town called Nazareth, there lived a young girl named Mary. One day, the angel Gabriel came to her with a very exciting message. The Lord had chosen Mary to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. The angel told her, "Greetings, very favorite!" and explained that she would soon have a baby, who would be called Son of God. Mary was very surprised but also very happy, because she knew God was with her. (Luke 1:26-31)

Mary wondered, "How will this happen?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will help you, and nothing will be too hard for you." He reassured her that she would have a son who would rule over many nations and be called "the Son of the Most High." Mary was filled with wonder, but she agreed quickly, saying, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord. Let it happen to me as you said." (Luke 1:38)

Later, Mary traveled to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was already expecting a baby, John the Baptist! When Mary greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth's baby kicked inside her! Elizabeth recognized Mary as the one the angel had talked about and exclaimed, "You are the most blessed woman, and God is with you!" Mary then sang a song of praise to God, thanking Him for His kindness and strength. (Luke 1:39-56)

This story shows us that God often chooses little things to do big things, like choosing a young girl to be Jesus' mother. Mary trusted God fully, even when she didn't understand. Just like her, we can trust God with our lives, knowing He will always keep His promises. When we follow God's will, He works in amazing ways, just like He did with Mary!

Key Verse

Luke 1:31 , 'You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus.'

The Christmas Story of Jesus The Bible tells us a very special story about a baby named Jesus. One day, a very kind woman named Mary was told by an angel that she would have a baby, and she was to name him Jesus. This name means "God saves" in Hebrew, so Jesus was chosen to help people find hope and love in God. Imagine how Mary must have felt, she was excited but also a little surprised to hear this amazing news! Just like Mary, when we hear good news, we can trust God and wait with joy. Mary knew God was in control of everything. Even though she wasn't sure how this would happen (she was a young girl who hadn't married yet!), the angel told her, "Don't be afraid!" The Bible says God is always with us, so we can trust that He will help us in big and small ways. Maybe you're feeling nervous about something, like starting a new school or sharing your toys. Just like Mary, you can remind yourself: "God is good, and He loves me!" When we trust God, we feel safer and happier. This baby, Jesus, would grow up to teach us how to live kind and loving lives. He showed others that even when things seem tough, God's love can fix everything. Mary and Joseph were wise parents who cared deeply for their son. We can learn from them by being kind, sharing our toys, and helping others, just like Jesus taught! Maybe you can make a little toy box for your siblings or draw a picture to share with a friend. Small acts of kindness make the world a better place! Jesus was born to give us a gift, His love and forgiveness. Just like how Mary trusted God's plan, we can also trust that God loves us and wants us to be happy. If you ever feel unsure about something, remember: God is always there to hold your hand. You're never alone, and His love is stronger than any worry. Now, who can think of a way to share God's love today? Maybe a hug, a smile, or a prayer? Let's spread kindness!

Activities

Activity 1:

1. Draw the Star: Have kids trace a star shape (teacher cuts from paper) or draw one themselves with crayons. Add glitter glue (optional) for shimmer like the sky.
2. Cut Out and Glue: Let them glue the star onto another sheet of paper as a "background." Write "The Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28) on the back of their star.
3. Create a Message: On a smaller piece of paper, they draw or write how they'd "tell someone good news" like Mary did, using words like "God loves you!" or "He's preparing something wonderful!"
4. Share and Hang: Read the story from Luke 1:26, 38 aloud. Kids share their messages with the group (or hang their stars on a board as a class "angel announcement").

Activity 2:

1. Read the Song: Read Luke 1:46, 55 ("Mary's Song") aloud. Ask: "How do you think Mary felt when she heard God's plan for her?" (Answer: joy, excitement!)

2. Movement Game: Pair kids (or have small groups). Call out phrases from the song (e.g., "Mary was happy!", "God is strong!"). They mimic the movement, clapping for "the mighty One," spinning for "great things have been done!"
3. Act It Out: Give each pair 1, 2 words from the song (e.g., "God has remembered his kindness"). They act it out dramatically (e.g., hugging a stuffed animal for "kindness").
4. Write Together: On poster paper, write the first line of the song ("Mary was greatly favored...") in giant letters. Kids add their favorite line from the song or how they'd "sing praise" in their own words. Hang it as a class reminder.
5. Why These Work for Ages 6, 8:
6. Both activities use visuals and movement to engage young learners, avoiding passive listening.
7. They tie the Bible story to real-life application (sharing news, praising God in action).
8. Supplies are simple and reusable (e.g., stars can decorate the classroom for weeks!).
9. The 10, 15 minute timeframe lets kids focus without frustration, with plenty of interaction.

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for early elementary children (ages 6, 8) about the story of The Angel Visits Mary (Luke 1:26, 56). Each question encourages reflection, application, and conversation while keeping the language simple and engaging:
- Mary's Big Surprise
 - The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would be very special because God had chosen her to help with a big plan. What do you think that means? How do you think Mary felt when she first heard this news? What would you do if someone told you you were chosen for something important, like helping someone or doing something brave?
 - (This question invites them to imagine Mary's emotions and consider how God's choices surprise us too, even when they're not easy to understand.)
- Mary's Prayer of Praise
 - Later, Mary sang a song of thanks to God (called the Magnificat). What are some things in your life that make you feel grateful to God? Maybe it's when you helped a friend, learned something new, or even just felt safe and loved. What would you sing or say if you could thank God for those moments?
 - (This connects the story to real-life gratitude and encourages them to reflect on their own blessings.)
- God's Promise and Ours
 - God promised Mary that He would keep His word, even though she was afraid. What are some promises God has made to you? For example, He promises to be with you always, to protect you, or to help you grow in love. How do you think Mary felt when she realized God would keep His promise? How do you feel when God tells you He's with you, even if it feels scary?
 - (This helps them see God's faithfulness and encourages them to trust Him in their own lives.)
- Mary's Kindness to Elizabeth
 - After Jesus was born, Mary went to visit Elizabeth, who was also expecting a baby. They both knew God was working in their lives. What are some ways you can show kindness or care to someone who might be going through a hard time, like helping a friend feel welcome, sharing a toy, or praying for someone? Why do you think Mary did what she did? How can you be like Mary in small ways?
 - (This encourages them to apply kindness to their daily lives while reflecting on how the story shows God's love in action.)
- Each question is open-ended, invites storytelling, and ties back to the story's themes of God's surprise, trust, gratitude, and kindness. Would you like any adjustments to match a specific lesson focus?

Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus for Early Elementary: The Angel Visits Mary Dear Heavenly Father, Today, we remember how You sent a special message to Mary through an angel, so kind and gentle! Mary was very young, but she trusted God, just like we can trust You too. Just as Mary listened and believed, we can ask You to help us listen to You in our hearts. Show us how to be brave like Mary, even when things feel a little scary or different. Help us believe in You, just like Mary believed in Your plan for her and for us. Thank You, Lord, for being with us always. When we feel unsure, remind us that You are always watching over us, just like You did for Mary. Help us to open our hearts to hear Your voice, just like she did. Amen. Our hearts are full of love for You, and we trust You to guide us every day, just as You guided Mary. Let's pray together: "Father, teach us to be like Mary, trusting, brave, and full of wonder in You. Help us to listen for Your love in our hearts today!" (Teacher can close with a simple response like, "Yes, let's always trust in You!" and repeat the words together.)

>> Missions Spotlight

In many parts of Central and South America, the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth (the Visitation) is deeply cherished. Missionaries working among Quechua-speaking communities in Peru share this story to show that God chose an ordinary girl for an extraordinary purpose.

-> To the Cross

The angel told Mary she would have a baby who would be called the Son of the Most High. This was the moment God entered human history as a baby, the first step toward the cross. Jesus came as a baby so He could grow up to be our Savior.