



# AN ANGEL VISITS MARY

Young Preschool • #NT2 • December 8, 2024

## Concept

God has good news for everyone.

## Goal

Children will learn that God sent His news to Mary through an angel. She believed God and said yes. They will learn that God's good news for them is His offer of salvation through Mary's son, Jesus.

## Passage

Luke 1:26-38

Key Verse: "Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Playdough</i></li><li>• <i>Angel cookie cutters</i></li></ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The First Step Bible, by Mack Thomas</i></li></ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Laminated, magnet-backed pictures:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <i>Mary</i></li><li>◦ <i>Gabriel</i></li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>Learning Activity #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Printed angel Gabriel, 1/child</i></li><li>• <i>Star and jewel stickers, several/child</i></li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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While Gabriel's message to Mary does include prophecy, next week's lesson will include how Jesus fulfilled prophecy in His birth. In this exchange between Mary and Gabriel, it is important to note that Mary does not take issue with anything the angel says except that this child would be "conceived in her womb." While most preschoolers are not yet ready to deal with the full significance of this statement for Mary, they do understand that babies typically have mommies and daddies.

Mary did realize that this baby would be the Messiah (Lk.1:46-55) based on what Gabriel told her. She did not question this. She does question the impact this event would have on her life. Note how tenderly God deals with her through Gabriel. First Gabriel recognizes and assures Mary, as her initial reaction to him is fear (not unusual, see Dan. 8:17, Lk. 1:12). When Mary questioned Gabriel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" she looked at her love of the Lord being pitted against her reputation in her little village of Nazareth and the relationship with her betrothed, Joseph. Gabriel recognized her heart toward God and, rather than strike her dumb (as he did at Zacharias' question), he gently answered her questions.

He reminded her of God's ability and His presence in her life: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overpower you . . ." (Lk. 1:35). He then gave news of a cousin's coinciding miraculous pregnancy and in so doing sent Mary to possibly the only person who was ready to hear the message that Mary was given. Elizabeth was able to affirm Mary in her choice to follow God's will for her life in spite of the possible consequences.

Despite Mary's youth she took a "scary step of faith." God's blessing is immediately evident in Lk. 1:46-55, where Mary realizes the significance her life would have in the rest of history and into eternity. In addition, Mary was cultivating a faith that would transition her from the mother of Jesus to a disciple of Christ (see Jn. 19:25-27 and Acts 1:14).

Mary's choice here raises several questions for us. "What do I hold dear? Am I willing to sacrifice worldly things to be a bonds slave of the Lord? Do I view the choices I make to follow Christ as having great significance?"

## Incorporation Lg. Group

## Introduction Lg. Group

## Lesson Lg. Group

## Transition

## Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

## Learning Activity#2 Sm. Group

### Activity stations:

- **Playdough – Angels**

- **Instructions:** Use the angel cookie cutters to make angels out of playdough to play with in class. (These are not to be taken home.)

Have you ever gotten good news from someone? Maybe your mommy told you the good news that after dinner you can have a big ice cream cone. Or maybe your daddy told you the good news that a friend is coming over to play with you. It is very fun to get good news. Do you know that the Bible brings us the best news of all? Today we're going to learn about an angel who brought good news from God.

### "The Best Gift Ever"

**Instructions:** Read the story from The First Step Bible, pages 178-189. Follow with commentary below.

God has good news for everyone. We can read about God's good news in the Bible. The Bible tells us that God's good news for everyone is that He loves us so much that He sent Mary's baby, Jesus, to earth. Jesus grew up to be an adult and died on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for all our bad choices. God's good news for everyone is that He wants to be your friend. All who ask that Jesus' death be the punishment they deserve for their bad choices, Jesus will be their friend.

You can believe God like Mary did. You can tell other people that God has good news for everyone.

Let's pray that God will help us to tell someone His good news. And let's thank God that He sent Jesus to earth for us.

Let's make an angel to remind us that the angel, Gabriel, told Mary she was going to give birth to baby Jesus because, "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

### Craft – Angel

**Instructions:** Give each child a printed angel to color. Put star and jewel stickers on the wings and robe.

**Instructions:** Gather a small group of children who would like to hear the story again. They can put the provided laminated figures on the white board as you tell the story.

God sent the angel, Gabriel, to visit a young woman named Mary. Gabriel had good news for Mary.

## Learning Activity#2 Continued

When Mary first saw Gabriel, she was frightened. (Make frightened face; have children mimic.) The angel said, "Don't be frightened, Mary. God has good news for you. You will have a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great. And he will rule forever!"

Mary did not understand how this could happen since there was no one to be the father. (Make puzzled face; have children mimic.) So Mary asked Gabriel, "But how can I have a baby?"

Gabriel said that this baby would be God's son. He was sure this would happen because "Nothing is impossible with God."

Mary loved God and trusted God, even though this all seemed impossible. (Make happy face; have children mimic.) Remember that Gabriel told her, "Nothing is impossible with God." Mary believed him and said, "I am God's servant. I will do whatever He wants." And Mary had a son named Jesus.