



AN ANGEL VISITS MARY

Preschool-K • #NT2 • December 10, 2023

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>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley</i>• <i>Playdough</i>• <i>Angel cookie cutters</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bible</i>• <i>Laminated, magnet-backed pictures:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>Mary</i>◦ <i>Gabriel</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>7 angel Gabriel cards with questions on the back, 2 sets</i>	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Angel and Mary pictures copied on cardstock, 1/child</i>• <i>Craft sticks, 2/child</i>• <i>Star and shape stickers, 3-4/child</i>• <i>Glue sticks or masking tape</i>

*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

Preschool-K • #NT2 • December 10, 2023

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?"

Set Up

- The week before class – Read and pray through the lesson.
- The day of class – Cut out angel pictures for Learning Activity #1. "Hide" the 14 (2 sets) angel Gabriel cards around the classroom for Learning Activity #3.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations

- **Read Aloud – "The Angel's Secret"**
 - **Instructions:** Read "The Angel's Secret," pages 267-271 in The Beginner's Bible.
- **Playdough – Angels**
 - **Instructions:** Use angel cookie cutters to make angels out of playdough. (These are not to be taken home.)

Introduction Lg. Group

It is very fun to get good news. 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. What good news do you like to get?

We usually get good news from our friends and family. 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.

Lesson

Lg. Group

Gabriel Visits Mary

Instructions: Put laminated figures on the white board as you tell the story.

Many, many, many years ago, even before your mommy and daddy or grandma or grandpa or even your great grandma and great grandpa were born, God sent the angel, Gabriel, to visit a young woman named Mary in a little town called Nazareth. Gabriel brought good news to her, although Mary wasn't so sure about it at first.

When Mary first saw Gabriel, she was frightened. (Make frightened face; have children mimic.) The angel said, "Don't be frightened, Mary, for God has sent good news. He is going to bless 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 because she was not married and had no husband to be the daddy. (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 own son. "Nothing is impossible with God," the angel told her.

Lesson Continued

Mary loved God and wanted to help the whole world know that God has good news for everyone even though this 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.

God has good news for everyone. We can read about God's good news in the Bible (hold up 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 good friend. If you ask that Jesus' death be the punishment you deserve for your bad choices, Jesus will be your good 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.

Transition

Let's make an angel puppet 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).

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Angel puppet

Instructions: Give each child two craft sticks, Mary and an angel. Color and decorate the puppets using the jewel and star stickers. Glue the puppets each to a craft stick. As children work, discuss God's message of love for all people. Talk about God's desire for everyone to know that "Nothing is impossible with God."

Transition

Let's put on our own puppet show about the angel Gabriel going to Mary to tell her about baby Jesus.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Group

Drama – Angel puppets visit Mary by children and teacher

Instructions: Divide the class into groups to do Learning Activity #2 and Learning Activity #3. Put laminated Mary from the Lesson on the white board. Children will use their angel puppets to talk to Mary as in the lesson. Teacher can use a puppet to help start the show and use prompts to engage the children.

Learning Activity#3 Sm. Groups

Instructions: Send children to look for the 14 (2 sets) "hidden" pictures of angel Gabriel around the classroom. When they find an angel tell them to bring it back. The teacher will ask the question on the back of the picture for the children to answer.

Learning Activity#3 Continued

Questions for angel cards:

- What did the angel tell Mary?
- What good news does God have for everyone?
- What is this angel's name?
- Who did the angel talk to?
- Gabriel said to Mary, "Nothing is impossible with God." Can you think of another time in the Bible that God did something the people thought would be impossible (manna, plagues, rescue baby Moses)?
- Did Mary believe that "Nothing is impossible for God?"
- How does God want your bad choices paid for (ask for forgiveness)?