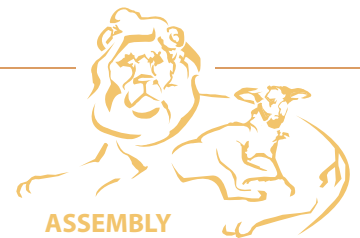


THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 1:26-45



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

ACT OUT THE STORY

Read Luke 1:26-38, then act out the story. Pick a person to play Mary and another to play Gabriel. Coach them in their lines and have them recreate the moment. The rest of the class can hold hands and form the walls to Mary's house where the drama unfolds.

For effect, have Mary sitting down in her home without Gabriel present. Then have all the children close their eyes while Gabriel enters into the room. (Silently signal two of the children to lift their hands and allow Gabriel to enter. When you say, "Open your eyes," Mary can start with a look of astonishment. Some of the children may wonder how Gabriel got in without being noticed.

MARY'S VISIT WITH ELIZABETH

Read Luke 1:39-45. Help the children to comprehend some of the amazing points of the story:

- Elizabeth knew of the baby before Mary had told her!
- The baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's voice.
- Elizabeth knew it was the Lord at work in Mary's life and that the child would be her LORD!

AN OLD PROPHECY FULFILLED

Read Isaiah 7:14:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Explain that Isaiah wrote these words more than 600 years prior to the birth of Christ! Tell them how this points to God's sovereign control.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 1:26-45

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Mary sang a song after meeting with Elizabeth. In Luke 1:46-47 Mary sings, "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Even Mary knew she needed a Savior. The baby Jesus would be a human child but also "Immanuel," which means God with us. The baby Jesus would be both fully man and fully God. Jesus would die for the sins of the world that many might believe and be saved.

