

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 1:26-38



## The STORY

Read about the foretelling of Jesus' birth in Luke 1:26-38.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Who came to Mary and what did he say? (The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that the Holy Spirit would give her a child who would be the Son of God.)
- How did Mary answer the angel? (She said that she was God's servant and that the Lord could use her to carry the child.)
- What else did the angel tell Mary? (The angel told her that her relative Elizabeth, who was very old, was going to give birth to a child. This was an amazing work of God because Elizabeth was thought to be too old to have any more children.)

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### CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: angel appears to Mary. Engage the children by asking:**

- Do you think there really are angels? (When the Bible tells us that an angel visited Mary and that there are angels in heaven we can believe what the Bible says. Yes, there really are live angels and we will see them in heaven!)
- Why do you think Mary was a bit afraid when the angel first appeared? (Angels just don't appear everyday in our lives. How do you think you would react if an angel popped into our classroom right now?)
- God asked Mary to carry the baby Jesus and she joyfully embraced what God was calling her to do. What is God calling us to do? (God is calling all of us to believe and trust in Jesus. Though Jesus came as a baby, He grew up to be the Savior of the world and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. God calls all of us to believe.)

### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- How do we know that God is all-powerful from this story? (God sent an angel to Mary to tell of things that had not yet happened. The Bible calls this prophecy. Also, God was able to heal Elizabeth of her barrenness and give her a child.)
- What do we learn about Mary from this story? (Mary is betrothed to Joseph and is soon to be married; Mary is favored by the Lord and the Lord is with her; Mary is a servant and is willing to do whatever God asks her to do. It is important to know that Mary has a relationship with God and it is this quality which enables her to be used of God for such a special task.)



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### 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.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

