

# Mary Meets an Angel

Winter • Lesson 1

## Who?

Mary, angel, Mary's cousin Elizabeth

## What?

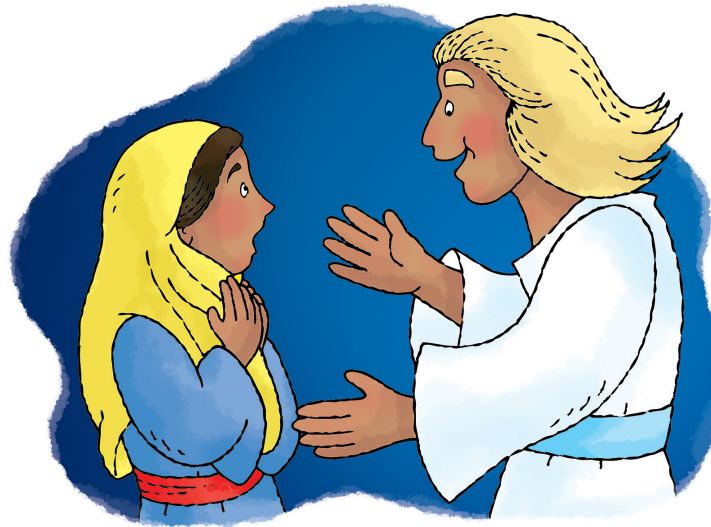
God sent an angel to tell Mary that God's Son, Jesus, would be born (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56)

## When & Where?

When Herod the Great ruled the land of Israel, in the city of Nazareth

## Why?

To help children feel anticipation as they hear about God's promise to send His Son, Jesus



**Teacher Challenge:**  
Read Matthew 1:18-25;  
Luke 1:26-56.

How can this story impact your own life and the lives of the children you teach?

Hope is trusting that you will see the fulfillment of what you long for. The Israelites had hoped for thousands of years that the Savior God had promised would come. And it was this hope of a Messiah that caused ordinary people to do extraordinary things. God did fulfill His promise. He sent His own Son as the Messiah to live among the people and to die in our place for the punishment of our sins in order to reunite us forever with God.

## Goals For each child

- 1** Answer a question to tell who talked to Mary
- 2** Tell that Mary was glad to hear God's promise to send Jesus
- 3** Thank God for His promise to send Jesus

- What does the coming of the Messiah mean to you?
- How do you celebrate the coming of the Savior?

The fulfillment of God's promise expresses so much love for us that it's beyond our understanding. No matter what happens, you have God's promise of help today and eternal life tomorrow. God's love exhibited by you can help others and prove that Jesus is alive and desires a personal relationship with them. Share the joy and excitement of the reality of Jesus with the children in your class. Celebrate the promise and gift of God's love.

## Bible Verse

"God loved us and sent his Son."

(See 1 John 4:10.)

# Prepare

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## 1 Play to Learn 20-30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

### Blocks Center

Use blocks to build Mary's house and talk about how an angel visited her  
**Materials:** Bible, Figures 2 and 3 from *Visual Resources*, masking tape, blocks

### Art Center

Make construction-paper angels and talk about God's promise to send Jesus  
**Materials:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, marker, glue sticks

### Dramatic Play Center

Arrange Christmas decorations and talk about God's promise to send Jesus  
**Materials:** Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*, a variety of Christmas decorations

### Game Center

Choose and match colored papers and thank God for sending Jesus  
**Materials:** Bible, colored strips of paper in a bag, colored sheets of paper

## 2 Listen to Learn 10-15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

### Come Together

**Materials:** None

### Bible Verse

**Materials:** Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*

### Prayer

**Materials:** None

### Song

**Materials:** *Preschool Music #1* CD and player

### Puppet Time

**Materials:** Daffodil puppet, hat, scarf

### Bible Story

**Materials:** Bible, Figures 1-4 from *Visual Resources*, angel ornament or figurine, flannel board

## 3 Talk to Learn 15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity pages and other activities as time allows

### TalkTime Activity Page

**Materials:** Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons

### Bible Story Game

**Materials:** None



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play "Come On In!" (track 1) as children arrive and "Are You Ready?" (track 15) during cleanup time

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Check off one  
or more options for  
each step of the lesson

## Blocks Center

### Collect

Bible, Figures 2 and 3 from *Visual Resources*, masking tape, blocks.

### Prepare

Use masking tape to outline a house shape on the floor.

### Do

Children stack blocks on masking-tape outline to build Mary's house. Children play with Angel and Mary figures from *Visual Resources*.



### Teaching Tip

Set out a few blocks on the masking-tape outline to get children started.

### Talk About

- **Our Bible story today is about a special promise. God sent an angel to tell Mary about this promise.**
- **The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby. This baby would be God's Son. The baby's name would be Jesus.**
- **God promised to send Jesus because He loves us. Refer to open Bible. The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son." Thank You, God, for your promise.**
- **We're getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday. What do you like to do at Christmas-time?**

### Tip for Younger Children

Stack a two-block high wall around a child. Then invite child to knock down the wall.

## Art Center

### Collect

Bible, construction paper, scissors, marker, glue sticks.

### Prepare

Cut construction paper into several circles and triangles.

### Do

Give each child a circle and a triangle. Child draws a face on the circle and colors the triangle. On a separate sheet of construction paper, trace both of the child's hands with thumbs touching. Cut out the wings shape. Children use glue sticks to attach circle head and triangle body to the handprint wings.



### Teaching Tip

Provide additional decorating materials (wiggly eyes, yarn for hair, tissue paper, etc.).

### Tip for Younger Children

Draw the angel face on the circles ahead of time. Invite children to scribble on the triangles and the handprint wings.

## Dramatic Play Center

### Collect

Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*, a variety of Christmas decorations (candles, wreaths, unbreakable nativity set, tablecloth, garlands, etc.); optional—unbreakable ornaments, small Christmas tree.

### Do

Show Bible Verse Poster 1 and talk with children about poster. Children arrange Christmas decorations on table or floor. (Optional: Children decorate small Christmas tree.)

### Teaching Tip

If possible, keep decorations available throughout the Christmas season, encouraging children to rearrange the decorations each week.



### Tip for Younger Children

Make sure decorations you bring are large enough not to be a choking hazard. (Choke testers are available from educational supply stores.)

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## Game Center

### Collect

Bible, colored strips of paper in a bag, colored sheets of paper.

### Prepare

Set out sheets of colored paper around the room.

### Do

Volunteer chooses a strip of paper from the bag. Child finds sheet of paper that matches that color. The whole class moves together to the matching colored paper. Continue until each child has chosen a strip of paper. Set out papers and repeat the activity.



### Talk About

- **At Christmastime we remember God's promise to send Jesus.**

- Open Bible to 1 John 4:10. **The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son." God promised to send Jesus. God loves us.**
- **I like to decorate my house to show that I am glad God promised to send His Son. What are some decorations you have seen?**
- Pray, **Thank You, God, for sending Jesus. We love You. Amen.**

### Teaching Tip

Have children move in different ways to the colored papers (hop, skip, crawl, etc.).

### Tip for Younger Children

Move to the colored paper with each child.



# Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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## Collect

Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 and Figures 1-4 from *Visual Resources, Preschool Music #1* CD and player, Daffodil puppet, hat, scarf, angel ornament or figurine, flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

## Come Together

Children sit in a circle, feet stretched toward the center. Say, **I see three children who are wearing tennis shoes.** Children try to identify the three children. Continue game, varying the number and type of item that is the same (clothing colors, clothing types, hair bows, etc.).

## Bible Verse

Open your Bible to 1 John 4:10. **The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son."** Repeat Bible verse several times. **That means God loves Megan, and God loves Darren.** Continue, naming each child. Then lead children to clap once for every other word as you repeat the verse. **God promised to send Jesus. We can thank God that He kept His promise.** Show Bible Verse Poster 1, and repeat verse one more time.



## Prayer

**Dear God, we're glad You promised to send Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for keeping Your promise. Amen.**

## Song

**This song tells us good news. It's good news to know that God kept His promise to send His Son, Jesus.** Play "God Loved Us" (track 5 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you.



## Teaching Tip

As you sing the song, name children in your class in place of the word "us." Invite children to stand up and clap when they hear their name.

## Puppet Time

Use Daffodil puppet, hat and scarf to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

## Bible Story

Use angel ornament or figurine and Figures 1-4 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

Tear out this Bible Tuck-In™ and place it in your Bible for class use.

# Listen to Learn

Mary Meets an Angel  
Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56

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## Introduction

Show angel ornament or figurine. **We use angel figures like these as decorations. But in the Bible, God sometimes sent real angels to tell people special messages. Listen to find out the special promise that an angel told Mary.** (Hold Bible open to Luke 1 as you tell the following story.)

## God's Promise

A long, long time ago, God promised He would send His Son. God's people waited and waited and waited. They wanted God to send His Son. One person who waited for God's special promise to come true was a young woman named Mary.

## Mary's News

One day Mary was alone. She looked up. Standing right there beside her was an angel! Mary had never seen an angel before!

"Hello, Mary," the angel said. "God is with you." Mary was surprised and afraid. Mary wondered why the angel had come to talk to her.



"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel said. "God loves you. He has chosen you to be the mother of a very special baby. You will name the baby Jesus. This special baby will be God's own Son!" Mary was glad to hear this promise!

## Mary's Visit

How exciting! Mary wanted to tell her cousin Elizabeth the good news. Mary

quickly packed for the long trip to Elizabeth's house. She walked all the way to Elizabeth's house.

When Mary arrived, Elizabeth said, "Mary, you're a special woman, and your baby is very special."

Mary was glad. She thanked God. She told God she loved Him. God's promise made so long ago was now going to come true!

## Conclusion

**We're glad to know about God's promise, too. We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus. We're getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmastime! The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son."** (Optional: Review story by using pages 272-275 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

## Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Dress up in a Bible-time costume. As you tell the story, use as much expression as possible.

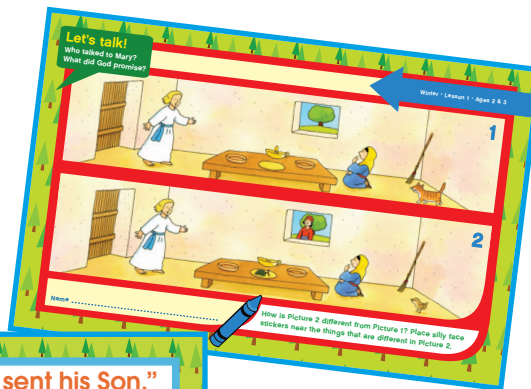
## TalkTime Activity Page

### Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons.

### Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and sticker pages, and markers or crayons. Demonstrate how to complete the page. Then as children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



### Talk About

• Who talked to Mary? What did God promise? Who did Mary tell about God's promise?

- Mary was glad to hear God's promise. Mary thanked God. She told God that she loved Him.
- We can thank God for His promise, too. We can tell God that we love Him.
- Pray with children. **Thank You, God, for Your promise to send Jesus. We love You. Amen.**

### Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

## Bible Story Game

### Collect

None.

### Do

Mary was glad to hear the angel's good news. The good news was God's promise to send His Son, Jesus. Mary went to tell Elizabeth the good news. Let's play a game to tell good news.

Invite a volunteer to stand on one side of the room. Other children stand on the opposite side of the room. With children, take giant steps to walk to the volunteer, counting how many steps are taken.

**One step, two steps, three steps, four steps—here we are! Good news! God promised to send Jesus!** (Optional: Invite all children to call out "Good news!" to the volunteer.) Repeat with baby steps, hops, etc.



### Music Fun

During large-group or transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "God Loved Us" (track 5), "Come On In!" (track 1) and/or "Wave Good-Bye" (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1* CD.

# Puppet Script

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## Good Promises?

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

**Daffodil:** (*Enters, shivering.*) Brrr!

**Leader:** Hi, Daffodil! You look very cold today.

**Daffodil:** (*Talks while shivering.*) Yes. It's freeezing at the pond today.

**Leader:** (*Looks concerned.*) Didn't your mom give you a new hat and scarf?

**Daffodil:** (*Continues to shiver.*) Yes, but the weatherman said that it would be warm and sunny all week long, so I left my scarf and hat here last week.

**Leader:** Oh. (*Looks around and sees hat and scarf nearby.*) Well, here they are! Can someone help Daffodil put her hat and scarf on? (*Pauses to allow a volunteer to put hat and scarf on DAF-FODIL.*) Is that better?

**Daffodil:** (*Gives one last shiver and then takes a deep breath and sighs.*) That IS better! I was sooo cold yesterday AND today! (*Speaks faster, getting upset.*) I bumped my head on ice in the pond, and I couldn't catch any fish, and—

**Leader:** (*Interrupts.*) It sounds like you are upset.

**Daffodil:** (*Speaks sadly.*) The weatherman PROMISED it would be warm and sunny all week long. But it wasn't!

**Leader:** Oh. You are upset because something that the weatherman promised didn't come true.

**Daffodil:** Yes!

**Leader:** The weatherman isn't right all the time. But there is someone who always keeps His promises.

**Daffodil:** (*Speaks excitedly.*) Really?

**Leader:** Yes. God gave us many promises in the Bible. And God always keeps His promises.

**Daffodil:** But God doesn't come on the news and tell us what the weather will be like so we'll know what to wear.

**Leader:** (*Laughs.*) No. God knows that your mom will tell you when to wear your hat and scarf and when to stay inside.

**Daffodil:** But what promises did God make for this time of year?

**Leader:** Well, God promised to send His Son, Jesus. And it's almost Christmastime, isn't it?

**Daffodil:** Yes, but—

**Leader:** And we celebrate Christmas because it is Jesus' birthday. It's the time that God sent Jesus to be born as a baby!

**Daffodil:** Oh. That's a much better promise than warm and sunny weather, isn't it?

**Leader:** Yes, it is!

