

Mary Meets an Angel

Winter • Lesson 1

Who?

Mary, angel, Mary's cousin Elizabeth, Joseph

What?

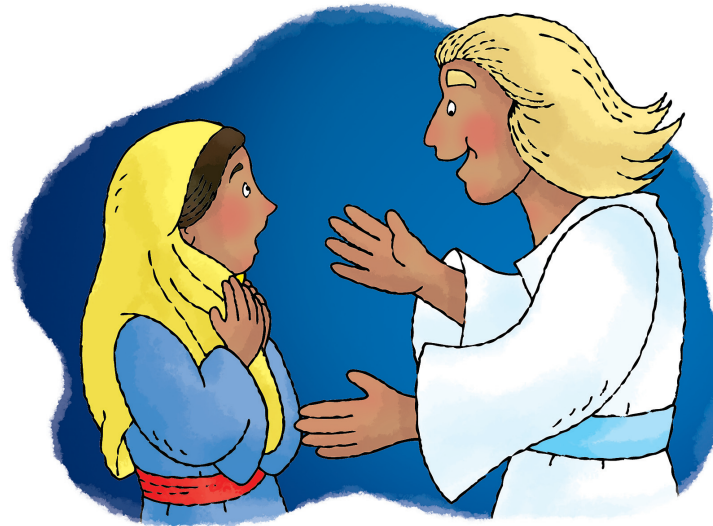
God sent an angel to tell Mary and Joseph that God's Son, Jesus, would be born (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56)

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 Tell that God sent an angel to tell good news to Mary and Joseph**
- 2 Repeat God's promise to send His Son, Jesus, to be born**
- 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

Art Center
Make an angel bell and talk about the news the angel told Mary
Materials: Bible, index cards, scissors, chenille wire, Styrofoam cups, jingle bells, large wooden beads, glue, markers

Dramatic Play Center
Dress up like angels and act out telling good news
Materials: Bible, items for angel costumes, angel figures from unbreakable nativity sets

Blocks Center
Build and decorate houses for Christmas to celebrate God's promise to send Jesus
Materials: Bible, blocks, a variety of Christmas decorations, self-stick gift bows

Game Center
Play a game to follow different lines and repeat God's promise to send His Son
Materials: Bible, large sheets of construction paper, marker

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 1-5 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 page 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: Figures 1-5 from *Visual Resources*



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

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

2

Art Center

Collect

Bible, index cards, scissors, chenille wire, Styrofoam cups, jingle bells, large wooden beads, glue, markers; optional—stickers.



Prepare

For each child, make wing pieces by folding a card in half and cutting it into a wide heart shape.

Do

Each child makes an angel bell by pushing a chenille wire end through bottom of cup, pulling wire through to thread bell onto wire inside cup. Child twists wire to secure bell, adds bead (for angel's head) to other end of

wire, and then loops and twists end of wire to make a hanger. Child adds glue to center of wing piece, lays cup onto glued area and decorates cup with markers. (Optional: Child decorates angel with stickers.)

Teaching Tip

Attach wing pieces ahead of time, using brads instead of glue.

Kindergarten Challenge

Child lays a hand next to the fold on a folded sheet of paper, outlines hand and then cuts out and unfolds hand shape for wings.

Dramatic Play Center

Collect

Bible, items for angel costumes (large white T-shirts, scarves, old ties for belts, purchased haloes, etc.), angel figures from unbreakable nativity sets; optional—other items for Bible-times costumes.

Do

Children dress up as angels and play with angel figures to act out telling good news. (Optional: Children use other costume items to dress up as other story characters and act out Bible story action.)

Teaching Tip

Check with your church's choir and/or drama department for available costume items.



Talk About

• **In our Bible story today, an angel talked to Mary and then later to Joseph. The angel told good news: God's Son, Jesus, would be born. Mary would be the mother of Jesus.**

- Hold open Bible. **The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son." Mary was glad to hear God's promise to send His Son, Jesus. We're glad to hear God's promise, too.**
- **I'm thankful for God's promise to send Jesus. Pray, Thank You, God, for Your promise to send Jesus. Amen.**

Kindergarten Challenge

Children dressed as angels repeat the Bible verse with you several times. Challenge them to repeat the verse in a variety of ways (loudly, whispering, etc.).

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, blocks, a variety of Christmas decorations (garland, unbreakable ornaments, etc.), self-stick gift bows.

Do

Children build houses and then add Christmas decorations and bows, decorating their houses for Christmas.



Teaching Tip

Encourage children to tell what items their families use to decorate their houses.

Game Center

Collect

Bible, large sheets of construction paper, marker.

Prepare

On separate sheets of construction paper, draw different simple lines (zigzag, curve, straight line, etc.).

Do

Children stand on one side of the room. Hold up one of the papers you prepared. Children walk across the room in a line that looks like the line on the paper you hold up. When children reach the other side of the room, they say the verse together. Repeat several times.



Teaching Tip

For the first few rounds of the game, show the paper and then lead children in walking in a line that looks like the line on the paper. Then challenge children to walk on their own.

Talk About

- Open your Bible to 1 John 4:10. **God's Word, the Bible, says, "God loved us and sent his Son." We can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.**
- **At Christmastime, whose birth do we celebrate? (Jesus'.) I'm glad God kept His promise and sent Jesus to be born.**
- **Sometimes we use fun things like wreaths and lights to decorate our houses at Christmastime. What else does your family do to celebrate Jesus' birth?** (Gives presents. Sings Christmas songs.)
- **Let's thank God for His promise to send Jesus to be born.** Lead children in a brief prayer.

Kindergarten Challenge

Provide colorful Christmas wrapping paper and scissors. Children make decorations of their own as they play.

Kindergarten Challenge

Give children an instruction about the way to move (tiptoe, slide, walk on heels, etc.) together in the line.

Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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Collect

Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 and Figures 1-5 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

Begin this activity as first children come to the area. Lead children in marching in a circle around your large-group area. While marching, direct children to repeat after you, **We're glad Christmas is coming!** Lead children to say the words loudly, then softly and then loudly again.



Kindergarten Challenge

Invite volunteers to take turns directing the other children to say the words loudly or softly.

Bible Verse

Show Bible Verse Poster 1 and open Bible to 1 John 4:10. **The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son."** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, guiding children to clap as each word is said.



Kindergarten Challenge

Before class, print each child's name on a separate sheet of paper. In class, choose one or more papers. Children identify their names and insert names in place of the word "us" as verse is said. Repeat until each child is named.

Prayer

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, we're glad Christmas is coming. Thank You for Your promise to send Jesus to be born. Thank You for loving us. We love You. Amen.**

Song

God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born. Let's sing about God's love! Play "God Loved Us" (track 5 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you, clapping along with the music.

Puppet Time

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

Bible Story

Show angel ornament or figurine and Figures 1-5 as you tell the Bible story on the next page.

Introduction

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

God's Promise

A long, long time ago, God promised that someday He would send His Son to be a wonderful Savior and friend. God's people thought a lot about God's promise. They waited and waited many years for God to keep His promise.



Mary's News

One of the people who knew about God's promise was a young woman named Mary. One day Mary was alone. She looked up. Standing right there beside her was a shining angel! Mary had never seen an angel before!

Mary was surprised and frightened! "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her. "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 boy will be God's own Son."

Mary's Visit

This was exciting news! Mary must have thought a lot about this wonderful baby that God had promised! Mary wanted to tell someone this news. So she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Mary walked into Elizabeth's house, God told Elizabeth the very important news that Mary was going to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. Elizabeth said to Mary, "You are a special woman, and your baby is very special." Mary was happy to hear Elizabeth's words! Mary thanked God and told God she loved Him.

Joseph's Dream

A man named Joseph was going to be Mary's husband. One night while Joseph was sleeping, an angel came to talk to him in a dream. "Joseph," the angel said, "Mary is going to have a baby. This baby is God's own Son. You will name Him Jesus."

Joseph probably told Mary what he knew about God's wonderful promise because he was excited, too! God's promise made so long ago was now going to come true!

Conclusion

God sent an angel to tell the good news about His promise to send His Son, Jesus. We're glad to know about God's promise, too. We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus. 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

As you tell the story, use a scarf to help you represent each person in the story. Wear scarf over your head as you tell about Mary. Wrap the scarf around your shoulders like a shawl as you tell about Elizabeth. Ball the scarf up and use it as a pillow as you tell about Joseph.

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.



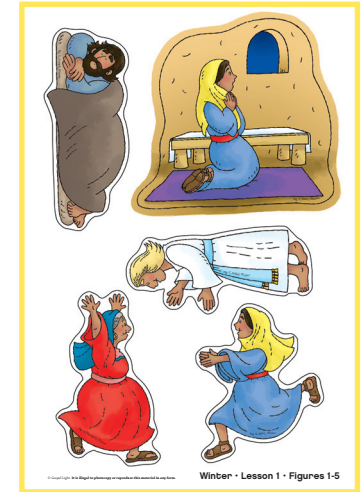
Bible Story Game

Materials

Figures 1-5 from *Visual Resources*; optional—flannel board.

Do

Today in our Bible story, God sent an angel to tell good news to Mary and Joseph. God's promise to send His Son, Jesus, to be born was going to come true! Place figures on floor or table, inviting volunteers to identify each figure. (Optional: Place figures on flannel board.) Children cover their eyes. Remove one figure, hiding it from children. Children open eyes and tell which figure is missing. Repeat



game as time permits, removing a different figure or two each round. Occasionally ask questions about the actions of the figures in the story.

Talk About

- What did the angel tell Mary? What did the angel tell Joseph? What was Joseph doing when the angel came to talk to him?
- What did God promise?
- Read verse with children. **Why did God promise to send His Son, Jesus?** (Because He loves us.)
- **I'm glad to know about God's promise. Let's thank God for His promise to send Jesus.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

Family FunTime Page

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

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. My mom told me that I needed to find them.

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 then I got the sniffles, and my mom wouldn't let me go out to play and—

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

Daffodil: Yes. The pretty flowers shriveled up around the pond. All the fish are hiding, and my friend Todd the Toad won't come out of his hole.

Leader: It IS wintertime. Your mom and dad make sure that you always have plenty of food to eat, even when you

can't catch fish. And Todd the Toad would get sick if he came out in the cold. He doesn't have nice warm feathers like you do.

Daffodil: *(Speaks sadly.)* I know. But 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?

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!

