

God's Special Message for Mary **Luke 1:26-38**



Why did God send his angel to Mary?



God sent his angel to tell Mary that she would be the mother of the promised Savior.

Application: God speaks to us through his Word.

Response: We trust in God and the things he tells us in his Word.

Lesson Summary: The time had come for God to keep his promise to send Jesus, the Savior of the world. God sent his angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Savior. Mary listened to God and was willing to do what God wanted.



Psalm 56:11



sins—any things we think, say, or do that disobey God



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 1, pages 8-11; The People's Bible: Prange, *Luke*, pages 10-12.



Dear Lord, thank you for loving me and for speaking to me through your Word. Help me always trust in you and the things you tell me. Help my students see you as their loving God who forgives all their sins and gives them life in heaven. Help us always love and trust you. Amen.

Looking Ahead at 1B

John the Baptist Is Born

Luke 1:5-23,57-80

Aim: What special plan did God have for John?

Truth: God planned that John would tell people about the Savior.

Application: God gives us people who teach us about the Savior.

Response: We thank God for those who teach us about the Savior.

Lesson Summary: God sent his angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah that he and his wife would be blessed with a son. Their son, John, would get people ready for the coming of the Savior. Because Zechariah doubted God's message, God made him unable to talk. After John was born, God restored Zechariah's speech. Then Zechariah praised God and spoke of God's special plan for John to be his worker who would prepare people for the Savior.

Memory Treasure: Mark 16:15

A

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing the following words to the tune of "The More We Get Together."

Let's learn about Jesus, our Savior, our Savior.
Let's learn about Jesus, our Savior from sin.



Have the children tell what they know or have heard about angels. [*Responses.*] *Suggestion:* Explain that angels appeared with or without wings; God has far more power than angels; we don't worship angels; we don't become angels after we die.



Long ago God sometimes sent one or more angels to people. **Let's learn why God sent his angel to Mary.**



WORSHIP Sing the following words to the tune of "Praise Him, Praise Him, All You Little Children."

God sent Jesus here to be our Savior.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
God will give me heaven forever.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!



Have volunteers do the following:

- Get a certain item for you.
- Look out the window and check the weather.
- Close (open) the classroom door.



I just sent some children to different parts of the room to do things for me. In our Bible lesson, we will hear about a time long ago when God sent an angel to do something very important. **We will learn why God sent his angel to Mary.**



Copy and cut out figures made from **Copy Master 1**. On the **board** or a large sheet of **paper**, draw a large square to represent a room in Mary's house. Attach the figure of Mary inside the room. Add the angel to the room when telling about Gabriel appearing. Then point to the appropriate figure each time Gabriel or Mary speaks. Remove the angel when telling about Gabriel leaving.

Long, long ago, **God promised to send his Son**, Jesus, to earth to **save all people** from their sins. **Many years passed** before God kept that promise. When it was **finally time** for Jesus to be born, **God sent his angel Gabriel** to a young woman named **Mary**. Gabriel said to her, "You have been **chosen for something very special**. The Lord is with you."

Mary was surprised to see the angel. She **felt afraid** and **wondered** what the angel's words meant.

But Gabriel said, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary. God has a **special plan** for you. He is going to **give you a baby boy**, and you will **name him Jesus**. Your baby will be the **Son of God** and the **Savior** of all people."

"**How** can I have a baby?" Mary asked. "I am **not married**."

The angel answered, "**God will give** you this child, his Son, because **God can do anything** with his **mighty power**."

Mary said, "**I will do** whatever God wants me to do. May everything you have said **come true**." Mary **believed what God told her** through the angel. She was **ready** to be the **mother of baby Jesus**.

Then the angel **went away**.

Note: You'll need to use the story in the adjacent column.



Give each girl a **figure** of Mary made from **Copy Master 1** and each boy a **figure** of

Gabriel. As you tell the story, have the girls hold up Mary whenever you say her name and the boys hold up the angel whenever you say Gabriel's name.



Dress as Mary (**robe, sandals, towel** head covering) and tell the story

from her perspective. Tell:

- your feelings and reactions upon suddenly and unexpectedly having God's angel appear to you.
- your feelings and reactions to the news that God had chosen you to be the mother of the promised Savior.
- your joy in knowing that God was about to keep the promise he had made long ago—a promise God's people had been telling family members about for years and years.

Optional: After telling the story, say that you will come back another time to tell about when your baby, the promised Savior, was born. Then use this same technique in NT1, 2A (and possibly 2B).

A



You need a **Bible** and figures made from **Copy Master 1**. Cut

out pictures made from **Copy Master 2** and complete them according to the directions in the discussion. (This may also be done for **Activity 4** [God Says . . .] under **Lesson Activities**.)

Materials needed for completing the copy master: **small adhesive bandages, crayons, and either paint or cross stickers**. *Optional: dry cereal.*

Say The time had finally come for God to keep his promise to send his Son, Jesus, to take away our sins—all the naughty things we do and say each day.

Ask What message did God have his angel (*show angel*) tell Mary? (*Show Mary*). [*Mary would be the mother of Jesus, the promised Savior.*]

Say God spoke to Mary through an angel, and she trusted God's message.

Do Show a Bible. Read the memory treasure.

Say God speaks to us through his Word. He wants us to trust his message too.

Do Repeat the passage with the children.

Say Let's look at some pictures that remind us of things God tells us in his Word.



discuss

You need a **Bible** and a figure of Mary made from **Copy Master 1**. Prepare to give each child a **Jesus** or **cross sticker** or another inexpensive item.

Say Pretend you are Mary and you suddenly see an angel. Show with your face how you might look.

Ask Who sent the angel to Mary? [*God.*]

What did the angel tell her? [*Mary would be the mother of Jesus, the promised Savior.*]

Say Please stand. I'm going to read some sentences. If the sentence really happened, sit down.

Do Read each of the following sentences:

- Mary told the angel, "I don't believe you." [*Stay standing.*]
- Mary believed the angel's news that she would be the mother of the Savior. [*Sit.*]

Say Mary trusted God and trusted in the message he gave her through the angel. God does not speak to us by sending angels with messages.

Do Show a Bible.

Say Instead, God speaks to us through his Word. In his Word, God tells us many, many things, including the good news of Jesus, the Savior from sin. God's Word tells us how Jesus came and did everything to take away our sins—the naughty things we do and say each day.

Do Set the Bible aside. Then show the stickers (other items).

Ask If I say I will give each of you one of these stickers (other items), what do you believe I will do? [*Keep your word and give the gifts.*]

Say You know I will do what I tell you. So you trust, or believe, in me and the things I say. And I *will* give each of you a sticker (other item) at the end of our Bible time.

Do Show a Bible. Read the memory treasure.

Say We trust, or believe, in God and the things he tells us in his Word.

Do Repeat the passage with the children. Open the Bible and point to a section. Say that in his Word, God tells us he is always with us. So we trust, or believe, that God is always [*with us*].

Turn to another part of the Bible and point to a section. Say that in his Word, God promises to give us what we need.

- Ask** So what do we trust God will do? [*Give us what we need.*]
- Do** Turn to one more part of the Bible and say that in his Word, God says he gives us life in heaven when we die because Jesus suffered the punishment we deserve for our sins.
- Ask** So where do we trust God to take us when we die? [*To heaven.*]
- Do** Show Mary.
- Say** Mary trusted in God and his message that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Savior.
- Do** Show a Bible.
- Say** We trust in God and the things he tells us in his Word.
- Do** Lead the children in saying the memory treasure. Distribute stickers or other items after **Close**.

CLOSE You need a **Bible** and an **angel** made from **Copy Master 1**.

- Say** The time had come for God to send his Son, Jesus, to take away all the naughty things (sins) people do and say each day.
- Do** Show the angel and a Bible. Have a volunteer point to the one that correctly answers each of the following questions:
- Whom did God send to tell Mary the good news that she would be the mother of Jesus, the promised Savior? [*The angel.*]
 - What shows how God speaks to us? [*The Bible.*]
- Say** God (*point up*) speaks to us through his Word (*hold hands like an open book*), and we (*point to self and children*) trust him and the things he tells us there.
- Do** Lead the children in saying the memory treasure.
- Pray:* Dear God, thank you for speaking to us through your Word. Thank you especially for telling us the good news that Jesus took away our sins. Help us always trust you and the things you tell us. Amen.

Do Show and discuss the first picture on **Copy Master 2**. Have the children tell what they think the things represent. [*Bible, house, clothes, food.*] Point to and read, "I trust God to give me what I need." Lead the children in saying the memory treasure. Then have a volunteer finish the pictures. (*Optional:* Provide dry cereal to glue to the bowl.) Repeat the process for the remaining pictures.

- Picture 2: I trust that God forgives my sins. (Draw or paint a cross or add a cross sticker.)
- Picture 3: I trust that God will help me when I have troubles. (Give the sick girl a frown, trace the lightning, and then draw a cut on the hand and put a real adhesive bandage on it.)

Say God is our powerful and loving God. He does whatever he says. He forgives our sins through Jesus. Like Mary, we trust God and the messages he tells us.



Have a child point to the angel on a **student lesson picture**.

Ask What did God's angel tell Mary? [*Mary would be the mother of Jesus, the Savior God had promised to send.*]

Say Mary trusted God and his message. She believed she would be the mother of the promised Savior.

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Ask What does God use to speak to us: angels or his Word?
[His Word.]

Say We trust God and the things he tells us in his Word.

Do Say each line of the following prayer, and have the children repeat it.

Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus.
Thank you for your Word.
Help us trust in you
And what you tell us.
Amen.



Parent Idea: Lead your family in doing the second activity on the student lesson so your child can tell our class more about your family members' names.



Some children may feel unsure about being away from their parents. Help those children feel more comfortable during Bible time by inviting them to sit near you.

**at Home**

Parent Idea: Read the Bible story with your child. Then do the first activity on the student lesson to help prepare your child for when we use that action rhyme in class.

**MEMORY
TREASURE**

Psalm 56:11

Day

2

- Say that God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother, and God has chosen us to be his people. We are happy God loves us and has made us his dear children! Then sing the refrain of Psalm 34 (hymnal, page 80).

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

- Use **Activity 1** (Missing Words) under **Lesson Activities** to review the story.
- Recall that we trust in God and the things he tells us in his Word. Then give the children copies of **Copy Masters 1S** to **4S**, one at a time, and follow the suggested directions to teach (review) the basic plan of salvation.
 - **Copy Master 1S:** Have the children glue pieces of **blue plastic wrap** to the lake and add spots to the giraffe. Discuss: God created a perfect world with two sinless people, Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God's command not to eat from a certain tree. Now all people are sinners who deserve to die and live with the devil. But God still loves us and promised to send his perfect Son to take away all our sins so we can live with him in heaven.
 - **Copy Master 2S:** Have the children glue dried or fake **grass** or **raffia** to the manger as hay. Discuss: Jesus came to earth as a baby (born to Mary). He lived as a person on earth and never sinned. At just the right time, he suffered and died on a cross. He did all those things to suffer the punishment we deserve for our sins.
 - **Copy Master 3S:** Give each child a **gray paper circle** the size of the stone on the picture. Have the children crumple the circle (for texture), smooth it out, and glue it onto the stone. Discuss: Jesus did not stay dead. On Easter morning, he came alive!
 - **Copy Master 4S:** Have the children glue **cotton** to the cloud. Discuss: Later Jesus went back to heaven. Someday he will return to earth and take us to heaven to live happily with him forever.
- *Pray:* Dear God, thank you for telling us the good news that Jesus saved us from our sins. Help us always trust in our Savior and the forgiveness he earned for us. Amen.
- Choose and use the **Lesson Activities** that best meet the needs of your students.

A**Lesson Activities****1. Review****Missing Words**

Purpose: To assist the teacher in telling the story.

Procedure: Tell the story, leaving out important words for the children to supply. Example: “Long ago, when it was time for Jesus to be [born], God sent his angel [Gabriel] to a young woman. The woman’s name was [Mary].”

Story Dramatization

Purpose: To act out the story.

Procedure: Have children act out the story in one of the following ways:

- Have a girl dress as Mary (robe, sandals, towel headdress) and a boy as Gabriel (white sheet as clothing, bare feet) and act out the story.
Suggestion: Narrate most of the story. Have the actors speak the characters’ dialogue.
- Attach a craft stick to the back of each figure made from **Copy Master 1**. Have volunteers hold and manipulate these figures as they tell the story. *Variation:* Have each child make a set of puppets. Pair up the children and have the partners use their puppets to tell each other the story.

2. Application**Trust in God**

Purpose: To learn about a believer who trusted in God and the things he said.

Procedure: Briefly tell (review) one or more events from Abraham’s life that showed his trust in God. (*Optional:* Show pictures.) Possibilities include Abraham moving to a new land (Genesis 12:1–8), Abraham giving Lot first choice of the land (Genesis 13), God’s promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:1–7), and/or the Lord visits Abraham (Genesis 18:1–15).

Two Women

Purpose: To compare how two women responded to God’s message.

Procedure: Briefly tell (review) the account of the Lord and two angels visiting Abraham (Genesis 18:1–15). Emphasize Sarah’s disbelieving laughter after hearing the Lord’s news that she would give birth to a son. Contrast that to Mary’s trust in God and her belief in his message. Point out that although it seemed impossible for either of those women to have a baby at that time, nothing is impossible with God. We also want to trust the Lord’s words that nothing is impossible with him.

3. Music**Sing About the Savior**

Purpose: To sing about the birth of the promised Savior.

Procedure: Teach any of the following songs:

- Teach the following words to the tune of “When Christmas Morn Is Dawning” (hymn 48).
An angel came to Mary
To share God’s plan of love:
“You’ll have a baby—Jesus,
The Savior from above.
You’ll have a baby—Jesus,
The Savior from above.”
- Teach the following words to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” Note: A second stanza is found in “Jesus the Savior Is Born” (NT1, 2A, Activity 3 [Good News Song] under Lesson Activities).
An angel came to say,
An angel came to say,
“The Savior Jesus will be born.”
Oh, what a happy day!
- Teach or review “Away in a Manger” (hymn 68:1) or the refrain of “The King of Glory Comes” (hymn 363).

4. Art

God Says . . .

Purpose: To illustrate some things God says in his Word.

Procedure: Give each child a copy of **Copy**

Master 2. Have the children complete the copy master as directed in **Discuss** (Alternate). Read the sentences for the children.

The Angel's Message

Purpose: To illustrate and reinforce the truth of the lesson.

Procedure: Try one of the following activities:

- **Shape Angel:** For each child, write these words at the top of a large sheet of paper: "God sent his angel to tell Mary that she would be the mother of the promised Savior." Read the words to the children. Then have the children glue a lacy paper doily to the paper background as angel's wings. Give each child a tall, narrow paper triangle (sized to be the angel's body) and a paper circle (sized to be the head). Demonstrate how to glue the triangle body and the circle head to the doily so the wings show at the sides. The circle should rest on the top point of the triangle (the angel's neck). The children could use crayons to add hair and/or facial features and glitter glue to add sparkle.
Variation: Demonstrate how to cut the shapes and make an angel. Then have the children do the entire project independently, with no triangles or circles provided.
- **Angel Outline:** Have each child complete the dotted outline of the angel from **Copy Master 3.** Have the children add the angel's face, hands, and feet. The children could also add wings made from paper, foil, or doilies. After the children have completed their angels, read the words at the bottom of the page to review the angel's message for Mary.

Christmas Chain

Purpose: To help the children focus on the upcoming celebration of Jesus' birth.

Procedure: Note: You could save this activity for the Advent season. If you are teaching this lesson at a different time of the year, explain that the chain is pointing to the day when you'll teach the story of Jesus' birth (not the celebration of the Christmas holiday). Do one of the following paper chain activities:

- Provide a large number of precut $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" red and green paper strips. Demonstrate how to glue or tape the ends to form a ring. Then demonstrate how to make the next link so it is attached to the previous one. Have the children make sections individually and then link each student's chain to the others. When the links are completely dry, hang the chain in the classroom.
- Use a paper chain to count down to Jesus' birthday. Make the number of links on the chain equal to the number of days until Christmas. Hang the chain in the room. Cut off one link at the end of each day and say the following rhyme. If you do not have class each day, snip off the appropriate number of links and say the alternate words.

Snip! A day is gone, you see; (Alternate words:
Snip! More days are gone, you see;)
Ev'ry day's Christmas for you and me!

5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles

Purpose: To celebrate the angel's message to Mary.

Procedure: Have the children pretend they are messengers who are spreading the good news the angel told Mary. Have the children march single file around the room. As they do so, lead them in saying the following rhyme and doing the actions.

A

Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! (*cup hands around mouth and call out the good news*)
 Celebrate the news! (*stop marching; clap and cheer*)
 Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!
 (*resume marching; cup hands around mouth and call out the good news*)
 He'll save both me and you!
 (*stop marching; point to self, then others*)

Finger Play

Purpose: To do a finger play that summarizes the story.

Procedure: Teach the following words and actions:

Here is God's angel; to Mary he flies.
 (*fly one hand to the other hand*)
 Mary is listening; there is a surprise!
 (*cup hand by ear; show surprise*)
 "Jesus is coming to save everyone!
 (*make a cross with index fingers*)
 You'll be the mother of God's only Son."
 (*pretend to rock baby*)

Preparations

Purpose: To discuss how we prepare for celebrating Jesus' birth.

Procedure: Discuss what parents do to prepare for the arrival of a new baby and how they might feel. Then discuss what we do and how we feel as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. You could set up an Advent wreath and explain how it is used. Discuss special Advent services, as well as the preparations for the Christmas service. Emphasize that our Savior's birth is the most important part of Christmas and it is something we remember and celebrate each day of the year.

Basic Bible Truths

Purpose: To assist parents in teaching their children some basic Bible truths.

Procedure: Send home copies of **Copy Master 4**. Encourage the parents to use it to teach (review) God's plan of salvation. *Optional:* Do the copy master activity suggested in **Day Two**. Send home the completed pictures along with **Copy Master 4**.

Christmas Bells

Purpose: To make bells to ring while singing Christmas songs.

Procedure: Provide the following for each child: one large craft stick (with a hole drilled in each end), one jingle bell, a pipe cleaner cut in half, Christmas stickers, and two identical bell shapes (sized to fit on the craft stick between the two holes) cut from either red or green construction paper. Have the children:

- Make a hanger. Pull the end of one piece of pipe cleaner through one hole in the craft stick and twist the ends together to form a loop.
- Use the other piece of pipe cleaner to attach the jingle bell at the opposite end of the craft stick.
- Decorate each side of the bell.
- Glue one bell shape to either side of the craft stick between the hanger and the jingle bell.
- Shake the bells while singing Christmas songs or other songs about the Savior.