

Gabriel visits Mary

Luke 1:26-38

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 1:37

“For with God nothing will be impossible.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A pre-made banner or crown or a special pin or ring from home to use in class for one day and as many small prizes as the number of children in your class (i.e. bookmarkers, pencils, etc.).

A sturdy chair.

A small box, containing one Hershey's Kiss or other pre-wrapped treat, decorated in such a way to make the children not want to eat the contents.

A towel or strong piece of fabric.

As many quarter sheets of white paper as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

“Getting To Know You”

Pair each child up with another child they do not know very well. Have them ask as many questions of each other as they can in a 5 minute period. You may need to give the younger children sample questions. For example, “How old are you?” “What's your favorite color?” “How many brothers and sisters do you have?” etc.

When time is up, regain the attention of your class with the attention-getting signal. Have each child introduce his partner to the class, revealing as much information as he learned during the interview time. Tell the class that you will refer to this activity later on in the lesson.

LESSON TIME!

God used Luke to write this story. He was a disciple of Jesus, but not one of the original 12. Luke probably received all the details of the story from Mary, the mother of Jesus. God inspired Luke to write these details down for all of us to understand today. Luke was a doctor. Doctors, by trade, are accustomed to examining the smallest of details. So, Luke gave great care to detail as God had him write down this wonderful story in order that we could know and understand all that occurred.

LUKE 1:26

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

It was the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy. If you remember from our last story, the angel Gabriel told Zacharias that he and Elizabeth would have a son who would be used by God to announce the messiah. This baby was to be John the Baptist, who would point the way to Jesus. God now sends this same angel, Gabriel, to another place, a little town called Nazareth. Nazareth was not the nicest of towns. In fact it was known for its sin. Why do you think God would want His angel of good news to go there?

LUKE 1:27

to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to bring a message to Mary. Even though she lived in a city that wasn't very nice, she was faithful to the Lord and willing to obey and be used by Him. Mary was a girl who lived a life very much like ours. She cried and laughed; she had hopes and dreams just like us. She was at an exciting place in her life.

She was betrothed to a young man named Joseph. They were promised to each other as husband and wife. They were not yet married, but being betrothed was a very serious thing, more serious than when people are engaged today. They did not live together yet as a family, but this time of betrothal was a time (usually a year) for growing as friends and developing the important and strong emotional bonds of a husband and wife.

LUKE 1:28

And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

The angel told Mary to be happy, because she was a highly favored young girl. She must have had a beautiful heart, a heart that did what was pleasing to God. She was about to receive the greatest blessing a young girl could have.

God has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives, and He desires to use us to do His will. If like Mary, we desire to please God and offer our lives to be His instruments, He will do wonderful works in and through us.

Special Honor: The Chosen One

Select one child in the class to receive the honor of wearing a special item. The item can be a hand made banner or crown or even a special pin or ring you have brought from home for the day.

Allow this child the privilege of being your helper in class today. Have your "chosen one" pass out a special prize (bookmark, pencil, etc.) to each member of the class. Explain that Mary was "chosen" by the Lord, but she was still a servant and did not expect any special treatment. Jesus taught in Matthew 20:27-28, "And

whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom.”

LUKE 1:29

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

Mary was not used to angels appearing. She was very surprised and even afraid! She probably wondered what this visit meant. What would you think if all of a sudden you saw an angel before you?

LUKE 1:30-33

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The angel tells Mary not to be afraid of him or his message. God was giving Mary a very special honor. The Jewish girls of Mary's day all hoped and dreamed and desired to be the mother of the Messiah. They longed to be the one God would use as His chosen girl to give birth to the Christ. Now, here is the angel to tell Mary that it is she! She was the chosen girl! Gabriel told Mary she would have a son. He told her what name her baby should be called.

What was it? (Jesus). Gabriel told her about her son. What were some of the things he said?

1. He would be great.
2. He would be called the Son of the Highest.
3. He would be given the throne of David.
4. He would rule His people forever.
5. His kingdom would have no end.

Mary may not have fully realized what Jesus would do, but when Gabriel spoke to her, she understood that her son, Jesus, would be the prophesied Messiah, come to save His people. How incredible!

LUKE 1:34

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

Mary was different than Zacharias in her response to the angel's news. He had doubted because it seemed impossible to him that he and Elizabeth could have a baby. It was equally impossible for Mary to have a baby. She was not married and had never had a relationship with a man that would make having a baby possible. Yet, even though it looked impossible, Mary knew that **God is worthy of our trust.**

Mary does not ask her question out of doubt, like Zacharias, but in faith. She asked how this wonderful thing would come to be. She did not say, "if this can be," but instead, she asked, "how can this be?" She was not rebuked for her question, as Zacharias was, because she asked a question in faith not doubt. God had said it would happen; Mary believed it would. Mary trusted God, because **God is worthy of our trust.**

We need to trust God when He calls us to do something for Him, even if it seems strange or impossible. God can do the impossible. Let us be like Mary in our response to God the next time He asks us to do something for Him.

Trust Illustration

Set a chair in the middle of the room. Have a couple of volunteers sit in the chair one at a time.

Ask the children the following questions:

1. Why did you sit in the chair?
2. Did you trust that I was asking you to do something safe?
3. Did you trust that the chair would hold you?
4. Have you ever had a chair collapse when you sat on it?

Sometimes it is hard to trust in God. But we do not have to be afraid. God will always give us the strength we need. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” It is when we are weakest but continue to trust in God that His strength is made perfect in us to do what He asks. **God is worthy of our trust.**

LUKE 1:35-37

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

For with God nothing will be impossible."

The coming birth of Mary's Son, Jesus Christ, was to be a miracle. The Holy Spirit would actually place baby Jesus in Mary's womb. Why do you think it was so important that God place Jesus in Mary instead of Him being born like every other baby?

Every person born into this world is a sinner. The sin nature is passed on from parents to children. It has happened this way ever since Adam. We know from the Bible that Jesus was without sin. The only way for this to happen is for Him to be born a different way than every other person.

Another reason Jesus' miraculous birth was so important was to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies which said the messiah would be born to a young girl who had never had a relationship with a man. God wanted to bring His son into the world in a wonderful way to bring Him glory and honor, to prove Himself faithful and show that **God is worthy of our trust.**

LUKE 1:38

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

What did Mary say regarding all this amazing news? She said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." Mary said yes to God! She submitted to God's plan for her. She did not doubt or argue with God about it. She just accepted what God wanted her to do.

How important it is when God comes to us that we say YES to Him. If we do not, we can miss out on some pretty awesome blessings. When we are obedient, God is able to bless our lives. Let us remember to always tell the Lord, YES!

Submission Game

Prepare before class a small box with one Hershey's Kiss or other pre-wrapped candy or treat in it. Decorate the box in such a way that the children would never want to eat the contents of the box. The more ominous and menacing the appearance of the box, the more effective the illustration will be.

Pick one child from the group and ask him if he will submit to eating whatever is in that box. If he asks what is in it, tell him he can not ask you any questions about the contents; all he has to do is choose whether or not he will submit to eating it. If the child refuses to submit, go to another child. Continue asking children if they will submit to eating the contents of the box until one agrees.

When the contents are revealed and it turns out to be a treat, explain to the children that submission to God, even when the circumstances seem scary, always turns out for our benefit.

Mary submitted to her part in God's great plan. She called herself God's slave, not by force but a willing slave for God. She was willing to do anything for Him. She didn't say, "First, tell me what will happen. I need to know all the details before I will say yes to you." She put all her plans, all her young dreams in the Lord's hands and trusted Him. Mary said yes and left the rest to God. She didn't know how all of it would work out, but she knew that **God is worthy of our trust.**

Her life would not be without difficulty and hardship. Her "yes" to the Lord did not mean everything would be easy, but she knew it was better to say yes to Him and experience some difficulty than to say no and live with the consequences.

Mary's "yes" would mean opposition from people. Sometimes people do not understand why we would do what God wants. It would mean difficult travel and uncomfortable conditions for Mary. Life would be simple and poor. She'd have to live in a strange land for a while as King Herod hunted for her baby to kill him. She'd have tears and sorrow at times. She would have to see her baby grow up and die a cruel death on a Roman cross, but she knew that God's plan was perfect and that it was best. The world needed a savior and Mary was chosen to be His mother. There were many things she did not know; so she held on to what she did know. **God is worthy of our trust.**

"Getting To Know You" (Part 2)

Refer to the pre-class game to explain that we get to know one another by spending time together and asking questions about one another.

You need to know someone before you can trust him or her. What do we know about God? Have the children answer. The answers you are looking for will include "He made everything," "He is love," "He is faithful," and "He is worthy of our trust." How do we get to know God?

- 1) Read and know His word.
- 2) Pray to Him.
- 3) Obey what He says.

PRAYER

Have each child write or draw a picture of something they want to entrust to the Lord, believing that **God is worthy of our trust.**

Fold and staple the paper and attach it to the other work being sent home with each child.

Direct the children to pray for what they've entrusted to Him as often as they see the stapled paper. When the Lord answers their prayer, tell them they can open up the paper and write the words across "**God is worthy of our trust.**"

Lead the children in prayer for the Lord to reveal Himself:

1. As we read His word.
2. As we pray to Him.
3. As we obey His Word.