LEADER BIBLE STUDY

God chose Mary to be Jesus’ mother.

Mary did what God told her to do. Those sound like simple Bible truths. But these statements also reflect the great love of God and the obedience of a young woman. Read Luke 1:26-56.

God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. Gabriel declared mind-boggling news: Mary would be the mother of the Messiah. Gabriel told her that the baby’s name would be Jesus. Why this name? Read Matthew 1:21. The name Jesus means “Yahweh is salvation.” Jesus is God’s plan of salvation, saving people from their sins.

Isaiah gave other names for the Messiah. Read Isaiah 7:14. Isaiah proclaimed the coming of Immanuel, meaning “God with us.” Read Isaiah 9:6 for other names for the coming Messiah. Gabriel also told Mary that Jesus would be called Son of the Most High (Luke 1:32). Thank God for His Son and worship Jesus by calling on these names.

Mary asked a serious question after she heard Gabriel’s announcement: How (v. 34)? She sought to understand what was happening. The angel’s news did not make sense to her because she was a virgin. The angel gave a clear answer; God’s Holy Spirit would impregnate her.

Write Mary’s response (v. 38) on an index card. Mary voluntarily submitted to God’s will. Does God’s call to teach preschoolers sometimes seem overwhelming? Place the card with Mary’s words in your Bible or on your desk. As you pray for God’s guidance this week, read these words aloud. Ask God to help you submit to His will in your life.

Mary worshiped God with her cousin Elizabeth. Read Mary’s praise (vv. 46-55). Her song expressed her joy, adoration of a loving God, and sense of humility. As you think about Christmas, ask God to show you how to communicate His love to the preschoolers you teach. Thank God for Mary’s obedience. Ask Him to help you obey as you teach children about His love and His plan for sending Jesus.
MARY TOLD ELIZABETH
Luke 1:26-38

One day a young woman named Mary heard some wonderful news. An angel said, “Mary, God is with you.”

Mary was surprised that the angel was talking to her. She was afraid. But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. I have good news for you. God has a special plan for you. You will have a baby. You will name the baby Jesus. He will grow to be a great man.”

Mary did not understand what the angel was telling her. The angel explained everything to her again. The angel told Mary, “God is making this happen. Nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary said, “I will do what God wants me to do.” Then the angel left. Mary was going to be Jesus’ mother! She wanted to tell someone this good news. So Mary went to visit Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard that Mary was going to be Jesus’ mother, Elizabeth was happy, too! Mary sang a thank-you song to God.

GROUP TIME

- **Make music together.** Distribute the jingle bells to the children. Tell the kids you are going to play the song “Tell Everyone About Jesus” (track 8). Encourage the boys and girls to march in place and shake their bells as you play the song. When the song ends, lead the kids to place the bells under their seats.
- **Learn the Life Verse.** Open your Bible to the Life Verse. Say the verse “God said Mary would have the baby Jesus” Luke 1:31. Guide the kids to say it after you. Lead the children to stand with their bells and shake the bells as they say the Life Verse three times. When they are finished, collect the bells.
- **Tell the Bible story.** Open your Bible to Luke 1:26 and tell the Bible story.
- **Recall the Bible story.** Hold up the Teaching Picture. Ask for a volunteer to recall one detail from today’s Bible story. Allow the child to hold the Teaching Picture as she recalls the detail. Continue with other volunteers until the Bible story is reviewed.
- **Make the Life Point and pray.** Show the Teaching Picture again. Ask the children to tell you the name of Jesus’ mother. Allow a volunteer to come and point to Mary in the picture. Ask the children if this is a picture of Mary before or after she had the baby Jesus. Pray, thanking God for sending His Son, Jesus.

**Notes**

- Teaching Picture
- CD
- Large jingle bells, name cards (index cards with a child’s name on each one), gift bag
- Print the Life Verse on a strip of paper and place it in your Bible.
**LIFE VERSE**

*God said Mary would have the baby Jesus.*
—Luke 1:31

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**BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

**MAKE MUSIC WITH JINGLE BELL**

- **Christ Focus:** Mary was Jesus’ mother.
- **Bible Focus:** Mary sang a song to God.
- Guide preschoolers to thread several jingle bells, alternated with straw sections, on the chenille stems. Then help each child wrap a chenille stem around his wrist or ankle and twist the ends together to make a bracelet or anklet.
- Invite preschoolers to shake their arms and/or march as you play “Who Jesus Was” (track 2).
- Lead the preschoolers to work the maze on the Kids Activity Page. *(Nature and Science)*

**CREATE A BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

- **Christ Focus:** Mary was Jesus’ mother.
- **Bible Focus:** The angel told Mary that she would have a special baby.
- Print in the middle of the poster the Bible phrase “God said Mary would have the baby Jesus.” Allow space around the text for the children to work.
- Read the words on the poster. Invite children to glue pictures on it and decorate it with markers. Find a place outside your room to display the finished birth announcement.
- Show the teaching picture and tell the Bible story as preschoolers work.
- Allow pre-kindergartners cut out the pictures they want to glue. *(Art)*

**MAKE AND DELIVER CHRISTMAS CARDS**

- **Christ Focus:** Mary was Jesus’ mother.
- **Bible Focus:** Mary told Elizabeth about her good news.
- Talk about people sending Christmas cards to tell the good news about Baby Jesus. Invite children to select Christmas cards to sign and deliver to friends in the room.
- Offer the paper, markers, and stickers for those who wish to make cards for their friends.
- Ask the boys and girls to name a favorite Christmas song about Jesus; sing it as you work.
- Print friends’ names or other words for older children to copy. *(Dramatic Play)*

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**Kids Activity Page**

**CD**

- Assorted colors of long chenille stems, jingle bell, plastic straws (cut in 1-inch lengths)

**Teaching Picture**

- Poster board, washable markers, manger-scene pictures cut from Christmas cards, glue sticks, scissors

**Poster board, washable markers, manger-scene pictures cut from Christmas cards, glue sticks, scissors**

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**Bible, bag for delivering mail, inexpensive assorted Christmas cards with envelopes (no fantasy themes), washable markers, construction paper, red and green circle stickers, appropriate Christmas stickers such as Nativity stickers; Pre-K: paper**

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**PLAY BABY BOTTLE BOWLING**

**Christ Focus:** Mary was Jesus’ mother.

**Bible Focus:** Mary was going to have a special baby

- Cover the cans with construction paper. Trace copies of the baby bottle shape pattern. Cut the shapes out and tape them to the cans. Set up the “baby bottles” on the floor in bowling pin formation.
- Invite preschoolers to take turns rolling the ball and trying to knock over the “bottles.”
- Open the Bible to the marker and read the Life Verse “God said Mary would have the baby Jesus.” *(Blocks)*

**MATCH LIDS TO BOXES**

**Christ Focus:** Mary was Jesus’ mother.

**Bible Focus:** Mary was going to have a special baby.

- Place all of the lids on one baby blanket and the boxes on the other blanket.
- Invite preschoolers to match the lids to the boxes. When they discover the lid with the Life Verse taped to it, read the Life Verse aloud.
- Tell the Bible story as a child works the puzzle.
- Challenge an older preschooler to work the puzzle outside the frame. *(Puzzles and Games)*

**BONUS ACTIVITIES**

Make “Gift-Wrapped” Pictures Provide Christmas gift wrap that is white on the back. Cut it into 12-by-18-inch sheets. Lead the kids to draw pictures on the white paper to give to their families. Help each child roll the picture and tie it with yarn. Note that God gave baby Jesus a family.

**BUILD ROADS**

Lead the kids to build block roads and use toy cars to visit relatives. Note that Mary traveled and visited Elizabeth to tell her the good news about Jesus.

**CLEAN UP**

Play a song from Enhanced CD as the kids straighten the room.

**LIFE VERSE**

*God said Mary would have the baby Jesus.*

—Luke 1:31

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**Notes**

- Construction paper strip with the Life Verse printed on it, empty potato chip cans, construction paper, glue, masking tape, soft foam or rubber ball
- Trace or draw a baby bottle on a piece of construction paper. Use it as a pattern.
- Boxes with lids, strip of paper with the Life Verse printed on it, puzzle *Mary’s Good News*
- *Construction paper strip with the Life Verse printed on it, empty potato chip cans, construction paper, glue, masking tape, soft foam or rubber ball*
Trace Mary’s Trip

Mary went to tell Elizabeth her good news. Trace Mary’s trip to Elizabeth’s house.

LIFE VERSE

God said Mary would have the baby Jesus.

—LUKE 1:31
Mary Told Elizabeth

—Based on Luke 1:26-38

One day a young woman named Mary heard some wonderful news. An angel said, “Mary, God is with you.” Mary was surprised that the angel was talking to her. She was afraid.

But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. I have good news for you. God has a special plan for you. You will have a baby. You will name the baby Jesus. He will grow to be a great man.”

Mary did not understand what the angel was telling her. The angel explained everything to her again. The angel told Mary, “God is making this happen. Nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary said, “I will do what God wants me to do.” Then the angel left.

Mary was going to be Jesus’ mother! She wanted to tell someone this good news. So Mary went to visit Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard that Mary was going to be Jesus’ mother, Elizabeth was happy, too! Mary sang a thank-you song to God.

PARENTS:

► Show your preschooler baby items you have saved; explain that she used them as a baby. Point in the Bible to Luke 1:31; say, “God said Mary would have the baby Jesus.”
► Pray, thanking God for your preschooler and for Jesus.