



A LESSON AT ADVENT: AN ANGEL VISITS MARY

BEFORE YOU READ:

- The Bible tells us all about God sending the world a special gift. That gift was Jesus!
- Before Jesus was born, special messengers of God, called prophets, told the people that Jesus was coming. Jesus was coming to save the world because it was broken due to sin.
- When our Bible Story begins, it had been hundreds of years since the prophets told about Jesus.
- God chose earthly parents for Jesus. Their names were Mary and Joseph.

Read the following Bible Story to learn more about Mary!



READ: BIBLE STORY-LUKE 1

God sent the angel **Gabriel** to Nazareth, to a **young** woman named **Mary**. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings, you are favored by the Lord, and He is with you!" **Mary was confused and afraid and wondered what the angel could mean.**

"Don't be afraid, Mary!" the angel said. **"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High."** "How can this happen?" Mary asked. "I am not married yet." The angel replied, **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The baby will be God's Son. God can do anything!"**

The angel told Mary that one of her family members, **Elizabeth**, was pregnant, even though she was old and did not have children of her own. **Mary said, "May everything happen just as you said." The angel left.**

Afterwards, Mary hurried to the town where Elizabeth lived. When she went inside and greeted her, the Baby inside Elizabeth leaped for joy! Then the Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and she told Mary that she and her baby would be blessed. **Mary was full of joy, and she praised God with a song about how Great God is!**

DISCUSSION:

- What was the name of the angel sent to Mary? What was the name of the town the angel went to?
- What did the Angel tell Mary?
- How did Mary respond to what the Angel told her?
- In choosing earthly parents for Jesus, God chose ordinary people. Mary was young and poor. Why do you think God uses ordinary people to do great things? How does it make you feel to know that God's plans include regular people?
- If God doesn't do something, does that mean God can't? Is anything impossible for God? Why?
- God gave Mary a special task, and she agreed to do it! Her obedience required that she trust God. Is trusting God easy or difficult? Why? How can you demonstrate trust in God each day?



ACTIVITY: LUKE 1:46-55 "MARY'S MAGNIFICAT"

Mary's famous praise song is called the *Magnificat*. Can you rewrite Mary's song using your own words? Use the text below to try.

"My soul Magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending the angel Gabriel to tell Mary about the baby she would have. Thank you for having a plan to save the world through Jesus. Thank you for using ordinary people to do extraordinary things! Just like Mary did, help me joyfully obey all you ask me to do. In Jesus' name, Amen!

