

2. The Angel's Message to Mary

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The Angel's Message to Mary

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. (*Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.*)

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? (*Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.*)

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "The Angel's Message to Mary" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Offer a simple prayer thanking God for the promise that Mary would bring Jesus, God's Son, into the world.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #81* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.

*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.

Easy Extra

Use [this bookmark](#) to teach children the meaning of the name of Jesus. Pass out the bookmarks that you've printed out ahead of time (note that you need to print on both sides) and read the meaning of Jesus' name—"the Lord saves." Point out that the location of Jesus' birth story is on the back. Encourage kids to color their bookmark and use it to mark this important story in their Bibles.

NOTE: If you're leading a video session, consider sending the bookmark file to parents ahead of time as an optional extra activity.

Story: The Angel's Message to Mary [Luke 1:26-56](#)

It had been years since God's great big, important promise of a Savior. Not just a few years—but a lot of years! God's messenger Isaiah first announced that God would send the Messiah—Jesus—who would save people from their sins. The people told their kids about the promise, and then those kids told their kids and grandkids. Everyone waited. But they all wondered, "When will the promise come true?"

I wonder what the people were thinking when the Savior still hadn't been born and they'd been waiting so long. (Pause for responses.)

Of course God hadn't forgotten the promise—God never forgets! One day God called a messenger, the angel Gabriel, and gave him the very important job of announcing that it was time—God was ready to send the Messiah. God gave Gabriel very specific instructions about how this would happen and who he should talk to.

How do you think the angel Gabriel felt about going to earth to bring this big, important news to a human? (Pause for responses.)

Gabriel went to the town of Nazareth, to the house of Mary, a young woman who was getting ready to marry a man named Joseph. Gabriel found Mary alone in the house. Maybe he took a deep breath, because this was the big moment for the very big announcement! Gabriel said, "Greetings, Mary! The Lord is with you. God has chosen you out of all the women in the world to do something very special."

I wonder what Mary thought when she saw the angel and heard his words. (Pause for responses.)

Gabriel could see that Mary was confused about what was happening and what he had said, so he continued, "Don't be afraid, Mary, God is very happy with you. Soon God will send you a baby, and you will name him Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves.' He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord will make him King, and he will rule forever."

I wonder what Mary thought after the angel told her about God's plans. *(Pause for responses.)*

Mary's mind was full of wondering questions. The most important thing she was wondering about at the moment was how she could have a baby when she wasn't even married yet. And so she blurted out, "What does this mean? How will God make this happen?"

Gabriel knew the answer to that question because God had explained it to him. "God will be his Father. The Holy Spirit will do this for you, because the baby will be God's Son. God can do anything, Mary! Do you remember your cousin Elizabeth, Zechariah's wife? She's very old—who would have thought that she could still have a baby? But God made that happen too. God can surprise people in wonderful ways. Nothing is impossible for God!"

Mary bowed her head. Quietly and humbly she said, "I am the Lord's servant. May it happen just as you have said." Then Gabriel disappeared.

What do you think Mary did after the angel left? What would you have done? *(Pause for responses.)*

I wonder if it took Mary a long time to fall asleep that night and what kind of things she thought about. *(Pause for responses.)*

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Mary Learns about Jesus](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: The Angel's Message](#)
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