



MARY'S GREAT FAITH | December 6

Bible Story: Matthew 1; Luke 1

Key Passage: Galatians 4:4-6

Big Picture: Jesus is here, exactly as God promised. So I can trust He will always be here.

Context:

People had been waiting a long time for Jesus. God hinted at His coming in the garden of Eden when He promised a seed to conquer the serpent. (Gen 3:15) The prophets told of His coming hundreds of years before His birth. God was working out His plan to bring His people back to Himself.

In the Bible, God sometimes used angels to communicate His message to people. Angels spoke to Abraham in Genesis 18. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Balaam in Numbers 22. Now Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents of Jesus, each received a special visit from an angel to announce the birth of God's promised Messiah.

The angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary surprised her. By His grace, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. The angel's message revealed much about this promised child.

First, He would be great both in being and nature. He would be the Son of the Most High. Jesus is the Son of God, and the Lord God promised to give Him the throne of His father David. These words fulfilled the prophecy given to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. He would reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom would have no end.

The good news that Jesus was coming into the world was good news because of why He was coming. An angel revealed Jesus' purpose to Joseph in Matthew 1:21, "He will save his people from their sins." The gospel is the good news of what God has done for us through Christ."

The announcement of Jesus' birth is not the beginning of the gospel; God has been planning for this moment since before the beginning of time. (Eph 1:3-10) Help kids understand that God's plan has always been to save sinners and bring them back to Himself. Jesus, whose name means "Yahweh saves," is the culmination of that plan.

Babies - 4 year olds activities

Social: Tell the Christmas Story with Toy Manger scenes

Sing a Christmas Song

Play the Bible Story Video

Brown Bag Gift: Before group, place a few pieces of candy in a small box and wrap it with plain brown paper. Then take a few pebbles and place them in a colorful gift bag with tissue paper. Invite kids to speculate what they think might be in each of the gifts. Choose a volunteer to choose a gift to open. If he chooses the bag with the rocks, allow a second kid to open the other gift. Then give a few pieces of candy to each kid. "It is tempting to choose a gift based on how it looks. God doesn't work that way. God chose unlikely people- not the most powerful or most wealthy- to be the earthly parents of His Son."

Pray and Dismiss- Share the Key passage with families and invite them to come back next week to hear more about the Christmas story.

Coloring Page: Jesus' Family and activity page

Discussion Questions:

- What did the angel say was going to happen to Mary? (She was going to have a very special baby named Jesus.)
- Whom did Mary go see after the angel told her the special news? (her relative Elizabeth)
- What part did Mary and Joseph have in God's plan? (to be Jesus' parents on earth)
- What did Jesus come into the world to do? (to save people from their sins)
- Why was Jesus born? He was born to rescue us and give us the best gift ever, forgiveness of sins and life with God forever.
- How did Mary and Joseph show faith in today's story? (Lead kids to recognize that Mary humbly submitted to God's plan and praise Him with a song. Joseph believed the angel's words and married Mary- Heb 11:1)
- If God doesn't do something, does that mean He can't? Is it impossible for God? (Encourage kids to explain their answers. Emphasize that nothing is impossible for God. God can do all things according to His character- Jer 32:17)
- In what ways is it hard for you to trust and obey Jesus? (Invite kids to share their thoughts. Explain that trusting and obeying Jesus requires us to trust Him every day with everything. Luke 6:46)